

Diablo Arabian Horse Association

By Mary Jane Parkinson

Three factors put the Diablo Arabian Horse Association on the map: the members think big; they've got the energy, talent, and organization to implement their ideas; and they're willing to take some risks. Here's an Arabian horse club that works... and because it works, makes a difference, both to the membership and to the Arabian Breed.

"If you can see Mt Diablo, you're in DAHA territory," says Cory Soltau, D.V.M., president of DAHA in 1988 and 1990. "Diablo is a little hard to miss – the highest peak in California's San Francisco Bay area at about 4,000 feet, and our radius extends to the cities of Stockton, Tracy, and Lodi in the central valley, 30 miles to the east; Walnut Creek, Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon to the west; Martinez, Concord, Pittsburg, and Antioch to the north; and Livermore, Pleasanton, Fremont, and Sunol to the south." That's John Rogers and *Serafix country, Murrel Lacey and *Karadjordje country, Lee and Bette Vinson and top cutting horse country, Carl and Pat Hendershot and TW Forteyna country, Jim and Yvonne Ranger and Don Hansen and Royal Binis and Ibn Awad country, Ed Hubbert and Ben Rabba country, Charles and Marie O'Brien and Litigator country, Lorraine and Bud Soltau and Benraz country, and more recently Cory Soltau and Ralph Sessa Jr. and 1987 U.S. National Champion Mare Shahteyna country – to name a few of DAHA's well-known personalities, equine and human.

DAHA has about 350 members, making it the largest IAHA affiliate in California. Multiply that membership figure by several hundred to count the number of persons in Mt. Diablo's shadow who, thanks to the DAHA effort, now own – or are saving the grocery money to buy – an Arabian. Several-annual shows, an energetic youth program, trail rides, and a fine collection of other horse-related interests keep DAHA members entertained... and the ranks swelling. "As the balloon of Arabian horse popularity deflated in the mid-1980s, it became apparent that the driving force would have to come from within," says Cory Soltau. "We realized that we couldn't be passive; couldn't maintain the level of interest and enjoyment we'd had without great effort from within. That became our philosophy: Don't wait to let it happen; make it happen. We were long past the days when an annual all-Arabian show was enough for the members and for the community. Northern California is one of the top recreational areas in the world, and the Arabian competes with many wonderful lifestyle activities. Naturally, we have members with many other interests, so it was critical that we diversify, that we offer something for everyone, never forgetting the peripheral interests. That's when DAHA really took off."

DAHA was born in 1969. About six couples – not rebels or mavericks, just simply members of an existing club (the Arabian Horse Association of Northern California) who were tired of driving several hours to club functions and who recognized that the quality of the local horse and member population could support an affiliate club. "We didn't have a cent in our pockets and we badly needed some kind of financial backing. Nor-Cal became our mother club," says Lorraine Soltau.

The club started out as most clubs do by sponsoring a show. The show put on by the Delta Horsemen of Antioch at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds was in need of a sponsoring group, so it was taken over. The show functioned as a class C show, finally outgrowing the Antioch Fairgrounds in 1976 when more

than 600 horses were shown in the largest Class C show in the country. The show moved to the Solano County Fairgrounds at Vallejo in 1977 and went to a Class A show in 1979. In club talk, it's referred to as the "summer show," held in July or August, and attracts about 350 entries per year. Well-known Arabians have put notches on their halter lead shanks at the show over the years, among them Fame VF who went on to 1987 U.S. Champion Stallion and TW Forteyna who produced Shahteyna, the 1987 U.S. National Champion Mare.

The 1992 show, the twenty-second annual, scheduled for August 27-30 at the Solano County Fairgrounds at Vallejo, offered 179 classes and features amateur, dressage, and junior-to-ride classes, plus a Jack Benny class (riders 39 years and over), an Anything But an Arabian Costume Class, and a Barn Dog Class (open to all breeds).

"We had some years of ups and downs, forward and backward, and even some sideways motion," Lorraine Soltau remembers, "but those shows finally put some money in our jeans, and the club had proven its ability to handle its own affairs. Nor-Cal set us free and we got an independent charter with IAHA in about 1973 or 1974."

In the meantime, DAHA members developed other ways to make money and, more important, ways to promote the Arabian horse. In 1969 and 1970, DAHA hosted the Arabian Horse Expo, a one-day event in a park in the city of Walnut Creek. Admission was free, parking was easy, and hundreds of people walked into the world of the Arabian horse, and made aware of its history, romance, and usefulness. Another good idea came from Willodean Brown, an early joiner of DAHA, who created and carried off the Arabian Stallion Sweepstakes, which soon became an annual event. Tickets were sold for breedings to club members' stallions in a special all-breed parade at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, and this money kept the fledgling club going. Also in the late 1970s, benefits were held for the Equine Disease Research Laboratory at U.C. Davis.

All these efforts sent DAHA happily loping into the boom years of the early 1980s, and the club continued in its promotional and money-making ways. "Even through all the hoopla of those years, DAHA always maintained its local flavor," Cory remembers. "I don't think any of us ever got so big that we didn't enjoy ourselves and our horses. The fun element is basic to DAHA."

Then came the realization in the mid 1980s that what made DAHA successful in the first place – a grassroots approach, plenty of initiative, and an understanding that the resources of the membership must be utilized to the maximum to continue to enjoy and promote the breed – would help to ensure its survival during the tough times in the horse economy. DAHA activities of the late 1980s were focused on communicating an awareness of the Arabian horse not only to non-Arabian persons, but to non-horse persons. The club became even more community involved than it had been in the past, and its activities were not limited to the show ring.

"Club activities were split into two parts," says Cory. "Activities to catch people's interest – to hook 'em – and activities keep 'em interested. An analogy: A family may buy a speedboat but unless they have a nice lake to run it in, it's going to be sitting in the driveway, and pretty soon the 'For Sale' sign goes up. We try to offer exciting events that will attract new people and then make sure that we balance that

with enough ongoing activity to keep people interested. We're well aware that we're competing for people's discretionary income. We make sure that the Arabian horse community is portrayed in a very positive way – not just a bunch of people with a little too much money who have chosen to spend that money on horses. That's not the case in our club. There are certainly people of wealth, but most of us are non-millionaires; and regardless of income, we all sincerely love and enjoy the horses. Members own horses for themselves, and they own horses for their kids in recognition of the benefits of the discipline and responsibility of horse ownership.

DAHA approach intensified community involvement by getting involved in the business communities of the local towns and cities, and the shortest route to that involvement was joining chambers of commerce. "The chambers are set up, they're active, and all we have to do is plug into them with our Arabian breed image," says Lorraine Soltau who was the first Chair of the Public Relations Committee. "We started with Danville. First, Bud and I joined as an Arabian farm to see if it was right for the club, then DAHA joined. In 1991, after one year on the waiting list, DAHA presented a mixer, at member Tom Estes' Summit Farms (now Summit Ranch in Alamo), for the Danville Chamber of Commerce. Biggest turnout for a mixer – more than 250 – that the chamber had had in years. We presented a mini-horse show, fast on and fast off, showing the many abilities of the Arabian horse, mares and foals, and 'petting horses.' The crowd was just swept away – especially when Meghan Sapp (daughter of new members) was called on stage and presented with a yearling filly, a surprise gift for her thirteenth birthday. We've been invited to do another mixer soon. The event was catered, thanks to the help of the late Margaret Lescher, a new member of the club and a valued member of the Public Relations Committee," Ruffled items included T-shirts, subscriptions to World, a trail ride, a picnic lunch for a trail ride, and riding lessons.

In the Livermore area, DAHA is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Livermore Horsemen's Association in an all-breed presentation. "The mystique of the Arabian horse is not diminished, and the people who come to see the horses are in awe," says Mike Brown, Chairman of the Planning Task Force. "Let me give you an example. As part of the Livermore mixer, one of our juniors took a costume horse, and it wasn't used to a new bit; nonetheless, it stood there being perfectly well-behaved, well-mannered horse while representatives of some of the other breeds were, shall we say, antsy. All manner of people came up to talk to the costume horse and the rider, and the horse's behavior was flawless. This is the flighty fidgety Arab?"

This participation in an all-breed event was particularly important as it sent clear signals to the Livermore community that DAHA supported the plan for the development of a new first class equestrian unit (of the Griffith Park caliber) to be built there. When the facility was completed, DAHA has been able to horse major shows there, rather than go outside the community, like before. The facility can accommodate 1,000 horses, and DAHA members have hosted big events there.

DAHA's Public Relations Committee, started in 1991, expanded from two members (Lorraine Soltau and Katy Swan) to 15, and functions as a working resource for every club activity by providing publicity material to the media, coordinating advertising, and providing personnel in support of chairpersons.

DAHA's best effort in community relations is concentrated each year in a three-day Arabian Horse Event. Dates for 1992 were October 2-4. The first event of the 1992 event was "An Arabian Night Benefit," a black-tie affair billed as "An evening of fine wine, exquisite art, and a beautifully choreographed presentation of Arabian horses." Local wineries (and several from the Napa area) conduct the wine-tasting, local restaurants donate hors d'oeuvres; the art show is an all-equestrian and all-media collection of works of renowned artists in the Arabian horse field. Later in the evening, guests move to a cabaret-like setting where horses are presented with fanfare and spotlights and music reminiscent of the Scottsdale sales of the early 1980s. "We don't try to sell anything at these benefits, except the excitement of the Arabian horse," Cory says. "The benefit nights have legitimized our club, our being: the idea that we can contribute something to our community."

Tickets, usually sold out long before benefit night, are \$50 each, and all proceeds over expenses are donated to a community resource. That year's gala benefited the AIDS Project of Contra Costa. The first benefit in 1990 contributed to the Hospice of Contra Costa County and to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley for the "Save the Danville Railroad Depot" project. The 1991 benefit was again for the Hospice of Contra Costa and for the All Season Riding Academy for the Disabled.

The second evening, the Saturday night of the weekend, features demonstrations of various performance disciplines, commercial exhibits, a barbecue, and an old-fashioned barn dance.

But it's the Sunday program – the Arabian Horse Extravaganza – that wins the most new friends for the breed. In 1991, the event brought in about 3,000 persons, only a small percentage of them already Arabian horse owners. Those thousands of people witnessed a presentation of Arabian stallions, visited the commercial exhibits and the sale barn, had their photos taken with a native costume horse, and found a well-stocked food tent. They did the same in 1992 and cheered for the ten stallions in the "Challenge of Stallions," a liberty competition for \$1,000 in prize money, winner takes all.

The locale for all this? The beautiful and easily accessible Lacey's Arabian Ranch in the Tassajara Valley near Danville, owned by Dean and Sheri Lacey. "The weekend events would not even be remotely possible without the club volunteers that come out and help get the ranch ready," says Dean. "They do everything from stage lighting and sound systems to moving dirt with the tractors to framing and hanging drapes. When they're finished, the whole ranch looks like a theater – beautifully decorated and ready for the crowds. The juniors get involved, handling the spotlights, selling food."

"We make it appealing and easy for people to just drop in on the weekend," Sheri notes. "The Extravaganza is well publicized in the newspapers and on the radio as a fun activity featuring beautiful horses. Many visitors come out of curiosity and we get many drive-bys."

Stallions are presented in a well-dressed indoor arena – in halter, under saddle, whatever the owner wishes, along with a narrative listing accomplishments. The liberty event moves to the outdoor arena to accommodate more spectators close to the action.

"The great strength of the extravaganza weekends is that the club doesn't try to target people that already have Arabians," says Dean. "The event is tailor-made to bring in new people, to sell them on the

Arabian horse. It's an expression of the imagination of the movers and shakers of the club – innovative thinkers who are not afraid to try new approaches to generating interest in the Arabian breed.”

“The fascination of the general public with the Arabian horse is undiminished,” DAHA Task Force Chairman Mike Brown notes. “All you have to do is expose people to the horse and they fall in love. We won't sell 100 horses through the Extravaganza – often five or ten – but we've exposed several thousand people to the breed, and the word gets around. Then put someone on an Arabian horse, and it's not long before they're shopping. It just happens. The Arabian horse community can be much too incestuous: we all talk to ourselves and we market among ourselves. The benefit is a great way to reach out – and each year it sells out quicker.”

Katy Swan, a staunch community worker for many years, is the coordinator for the Arabian Horse Event. Sarah Morrill and Myrlan Magness are co-chairs of the Public Relations Committee.

What's the overall impact of DAHA's extensive efforts in community involvement? Minimally, the club members have the image of willingness to put themselves out to benefit the community. Then, in contrast to many clubs that never venture into the business world until class sponsorships are needed, DAHA has an easy and congenial approach to solicitation from the community. That's one of the differences – the two-way street that results from DAHA's continuing investment in the community.

Now to the second part of DAHA's approach to putting Arabian horses and people together – the “keep 'em busy and interested” activities. As noted, the club is based on diversity, here meaning a recognition that not all Arabian owners are show-oriented and Nationals-bound. Surveys of members show more and more are interested in just plain using their horses.

“I haven't shown my horse for two years, but I'm happy because we've got great trails on and around Mt Diablo,” says Mike Brown. “After work, I get on my gelding and go up there and all the cares of the world melt away. With every ride I get back every dime I've spent in this business and God knows there's been a ton of those. The rest I don't care about because this is the most relaxing, more invigorating, more refreshing and most peaceful feeling there is”

For like-minded folks, the options are many, on or off the back of an Arabian horse. In May of 1991, about 140 “dudes and dudettes,” as the club newsletter states, rode to the Diablo Ranch on Mt. Diablo where chefs Ralph Sessa and Ed Magness served a rancher breakfast, flipped thousands of pancakes, and poured gallons of very strong coffee. A fall dinner trail ride is scheduled for next fall by Ride Master Jim Sours.

The DAHA First Annual Barn Dance in May 1991 benefited the Equine Research Center at University of California at Davis. Almost 200 members and friends showed up, learned the “Cotton-Eye Joe” and the “Texas Two-Step” from an ace instructor, and took home door prizes by the armload.

The interest in racing is recognized by an annual “Day at the Races.” Last year, at Bay Meadows, club members had dinner, sponsored a race, crowed into the win photo, and, as Cory says, “bragged about our Arabians and watched other people race.” Arabian Racing Adventures, a race training and breeding

facility located at Clayton, California, will host the 1992 event on July 11 at the Pleasanton Racetrack at Pleasanton.

The NATRC and Region 3 Championship Competitive Trail Ride took place late June 1992, beginning at Bort Meadows in Anthony Chabot Park. "One of the prettiest rides in the country," says Chairperson Kellie Vincent. "Lots of redwood trees and miles of trails through three parks in the area." About 80 riders signed on, 40 in the novice division, 30-40 in the advanced novice (open) and 20-25 in competitive pleasure. Novice riders tackled a 25-mile ride; the open and competitive pleasure riders, 50-60 miles. A crew of about 40 DAHA volunteers functioned as safety riders, point riders, drag riders, cooks, pulse and respiration takers, spotters, water persons, and raffle and awards persons. The 1992 ride is the fourth sponsored by DAHA and the second year for sponsoring the Region 3 championships.

Endurance racing clinics are headed up by seasoned endurance riders Cory Soltau, Becky Hart and Teresa Cross, three of the country's best. "We hope to bring about the realization that endurance horses are quality horses and that they're doing things out there that Arabians are meant to do better than any other breeds," says Cory. "We get them acquainted with the endurance terminology so that they're no longer intimidated by this discipline. A few are venturing out."

Monthly club meetings, September through May, often feature speakers of note – IAHA's president Norm Dunn, for instance, and Sheila Varian, who drew a crowd of more than 350 in a 1991 appearance. Barbecues, pleasure rides, any event where owners can get together and socialize, with or without their horses, make a full calendar.

Not only are the adults kept pleasantly busy in this Arabian club – about 75 junior members of DAHA enjoy the same innovative planning for their activities as do their parents. Bubbles Hiller of San Ramon, California, a trainer and judge, worked with Carolyn Bell in 1991 in developing a horsemanship program through a series of clinics. Eventually, all the trainers in DAHA were involved in the clinics. Summit Ranch, Denny Hansen Stables, the Sherman Ranch, and the Blackhawk Equestrian Center hosted the clinics. "The kids take a written test, a riding test, and a grooming test," Bubbles says. "The goal of the clinics is winning scholarship money. Our program is based on the 40-year old California State Horsemen's Association Horsemastership program. Club members handy with computers helped to adapt the program, and it's all on computer.

"Whenever I can arrange it, I take a few youngsters with me when I judge local shows or benefit shows," Bubbles continues. "We need to start our Arabian judges right. We stress appropriate dress and good grooming, fit them out with their clipboards, expose them to a number of judging methods, and teach them the etiquette and rules of the show ring. After the classes, there's time for discussion of opinions, and we certainly don't expect all to come up with the same reasons for their choices."

The educational effort has paid off for the DAHA youngsters: the DAHA team has won the last three Regional Youth Team Tournaments. Team members compete all year in the various disciplines and accumulate points on a team basis. "We have some sharp kids, and we're all proud of them," says Cory Soltau who works with the youth group in several capacities. "The common denominator of these kids is just one fact – they all own Arabian horses. We have about eight now that are very serious and Kati

Swan and I are coaching them in a youth judging team. We have our eye on the youth judging at the Nationals 1992, our first try at that level. These kids study like crazy, really intense. I have to respect that, but we have to tell them to lighten up once in a while. They're going to be great horse persons in the future."

DAHA youth leaders are looking ahead to the 1993 Youth Nationals and note several serious contenders from this distance of time. All points earned in 1992 shows count towards qualification for the 53 classes offered.

Fun events for the juniors include breakfast rides, clinics, play-days, ice skating parties, overnight trail rides on Mt. Diablo, and polo-cross. Fundraisers run the gamut from decorating and selling sun visors and show cones at shows, having a used tack and show attire sale, a book swap, and a car/rig/trailer wash.

For DAHA members working up to the show scene, the club offers three to four non-intimidating, low pressure schooling shows each year. Debbie Compilli, 1992 president of DAHA, chairs the effort. "For our first 1992 show last February, we had 66 horses. The second had fewer horses, but the advantage was the entries went in more classes. Rich Doran of Sherman Ranch judged the first show, Jay Daniels of Jakar Arabians, the second. There's a new emphasis on schooling shows this year, and we plan two more, one in August and one in October or November. We write in classes for maximum participation, for first-time riders, first-time horses, in a variety of disciplines, and we had a number of people there on their own horses for the first time at their own shows. Lots of good feedback." Schooling shows reflect DAHA's ability to go back into the community for support for club functions: Eighteen businesses and professionals – some horse-oriented, some not – sponsored the February show.

Graduates from the schooling shows can comfortably move on to the All-Gelding Show. "The show has remained a low-key, family-oriented show with a few trainers bringing their junior and amateur riders," says Colleen Swift who chairs the show. "The show staff and the judges try to retain a 'good-old-days' atmosphere for the show, and the fun includes barbecues and wine and cheese parties." Since 1986, the All-Geldings Show has been scheduled back-to-back with another one-day show. Currently the Region 3 Gelding Promotion Committee, spearheaded by DAHA member Sylvia Hanson, hosts a Saturday show, followed by the DAHA show on Sunday, offering exhibitors two chances for points at two Class A shows for one stall fee.

In recognition of its members' success in the show world, DAHA embellishes the glow of trophies and ribbons and prolongs the ecstasy with its High Point Program. In 1992, Arabians and Half-Arabians tally points in non-rated shows, Class A and B shows, futurities, Breeders Sweepstakes, Pacific Slope, Regional and National shows, Endurance, and Competitive Trail and other disciplines. Junior competition is divided into 13 and under and ages 14 through 17, plus a third category of all juniors in showmanship and equitation. The Ibn Skovdue High Point Gelding Award (a senior award and two junior awards) and three Grand Champion Show Horse Awards (high point purebred, high point Half-Arabian, and High Point Junior Horse/Rider Team) added to the program. The grand rush for points is on as the show season winds down in mid-November and awards are presented at the splashy Christmas banquet.

From the days of John Rogers, the Diablo area has brought in a hefty share of the U.S. and Canadian National wins that came back to California. In 1958, long before DAHA was conceived, one of the founding members, the late Lee Vinson, showed the first U.S. National Champion Mare, Surita. She was owned by Jedel Arabians at Santa Rosa, just a short distance out of the shadow of Mt. Diablo.

A strong unifying element of DAHA is the monthly newsletter, edited by Roxi Sater, who was president of the club in 1990. If IAHA ever sponsors a contest for quality and content of club newsletters, this one – like the club itself – should surely rate a top ten or better. The May 1992 issue is 52 letter-size pages of information on all aspects of the club and of horse ownership. “I edit the newsletter for fun,” says Roxi. “Just sit down at my home PC and fantasize.”

Then there’s the essential element of quality membership, the persons that make DAHA work. “Find out what people are good at and then turn them loose,” says past President Cory Soltau. “Then people give their all and are excited. I was never turned down when I asked for help, and I was never disappointed. We have a great diversity of talent within the group, so no one feels unneeded or left out.”

Mike Brown and his task force committee further ensure that members do not feel left out. “Over the next several months, we’ve scheduled two or three meetings a month with club members – the show people, the endurance people, the trail people, the old-timers, the race people – for brainstorming, what-do-you-think sessions on the future of the club,” Mike says.

The progressiveness and the quality and character of the DAHA members are the DAHA activities are not limited to the shadow of Mt. Diablo. Owners and breeders from some distance have joined the club to be a part of the action and benefits of club membership. Bey Shah, Inc. JJ Arab Farms, Liberty Valley Arabians, RiverDale Arabian Park and Parkside Arabians find the distances are no obstacles when the benefits of membership are many faceted. These faraway members are not just takers, however; they contribute well to the industry and creativity of the club.

Continuity plays a big part of DAHA’s enduring success. For instance, founding members Carl and Pat Henderson have never let up: Carl served as president twice and managed some of the early shows, and Pat has been a doer in a variety of roles for the past 23 years and is the club historian. The late Lee Vinson served as the second president of the club; and in 1992, Lee and Bette Vinson’s daughter, Debbie Compilli, is DAHA president. Bud Soltau was an early president of the club, and his wife Lorraine has been irrepressible cheerleader for the club since 1969; their son, Cory Soltau, was club president in 1988 and 1990. “Husbands put up with the little-girl wish for an Arabian horse with an amazing amount of patience,” comments Lorraine, “and they never seem to get enough credit. You know how they’ve become involved, and they’re out there for lots of hours supporting that family interest.” Another active DAHA family: Jay and Kathi Daniels, who have both served as club presidents (Jay in 1977; Kathi in 1987), and son Jason, an active junior member of the club.

The late Marvin (“Jim”) Swift is remembered by the High Point Purebred Arabian Trophy. “Jim was never a famous breeder, trainer or horseman, but he touched a lot of people with his willingness to do whatever it took to make a show or event a success,” says Colleen Swift, who has contributed time, effort, and skills to the summer show and the gelding show from their beginnings. The late Charlene

Harmon Lambert is honored by one of the club's five perpetual trophies. Her energy and many years of dedication to club efforts were recognized through a DAHA lifetime membership.

Some horse-and-rider teams to salute for their accomplishments outside the show world: Becky Hart and RO Sultan, two-time World Champion Endurance Horse; Teresa Cross and Amon Tu, IAHA U.S. National Champion Endurance Horse; Judy Ogus and Al Marah Tamarind, IAHA U.S. National Champion Endurance Horse; Stagg Newman and Rumeqna Drubin, IAHA Reserve National Champion Endurance Horse; and Cory Soltau and Gwalyf, IAHA U.S. National Champion Endurance Horse (bred by club member Joy Pritchard); Cory Soltau and Master Charge, IAHA U.S. National Champion Half-Arabian Endurance Horse; Joy Pritchard and Couronata, IAHA National Champion 100-Mile Ride, Best Condition; and Georgene Cox, who won the silver medal in the 1991 Special Olympics in a limited dressage test with her Arabian mare.

What difference has DAHA made? The sale of horses that are generated by the community events may be tallied with some precision, the increased attendance at club and community events may be measured, and the growing membership in the club may be calculated...but perhaps it's the intangibles that spawn the difference. "Maybe it's the contagious atmosphere we create," says Cory Soltau. "Perhaps a mood, an air of excitement, the feeling that the Arabian horse is for all to enjoy. The image we portray to the general public – whether the occasion is a show, a black-tie dinner, or a youth group pizza party – is critical. When people see others having fun and finding worthwhile values in their experiences with horses, they just naturally want to become involved and experience those same feelings. Soon that bank executive who came to one of our mixers is listening more carefully to his daughter's pleas for a horse; friends are joining friends on first time trail rides; and the Extravaganza dates are marked on a calendar months ahead."

Ralph Sessa, Jr., one of DAHA's so-called "big event" people because of his implementing and expediting skills, senses the pioneer spirit of club members makes the difference. "We've put our necks out quite a few times just in the past few years. For example, some people said we'd bankrupt the club by having benefits that no one would pay \$50 to watch Arabian horses perform for an hour. Now we're turning people away and club members are begging us to include them and their horses in the program. The risks are often worth the taking."

Where from here? From the peak of Mt. Diablo, the view is superbly endless...and DAHA's outlook is equally expansive. The resourcefulness of the club's membership ensures that future planning will be thoughtful, innovative and productive, and that the fun element will pervade. Says Roxi Sater, "I find there's a great deal of generosity and energy within our association. People who come together because of their common adoration of the Arabian horse, people who share the enjoyment their horses bring and people who enjoy other people with similar sentiments. People who want to assist the Arabian horse community and help to make it better for the generations to come. I like that about us."

The History of the Diablo Show

The first Diablo Show held in 1970 was a small benefit event put on by long time club member Colleen (Coke) Swift and the late Charlene Harmon. The show grew considerably the next year and a great tradition was underway. In 1971, Bud Soltau was our President and ringmaster. Ben Rabba++/ was crowned Champion Stallion. The show remained in Antioch at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds along with the stock car racing and circus events through 1976. In 1977, an ever-increasing entry list forced Diablo to move the show to the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, where it remained through 1993. For the next 5 years the show was held at Robertson Park in Livermore, but again size and logistics forced the show back to Solano County Fairgrounds. Finally in 2002 the show found its perfect home at Brookside Equestrian Park in Elk Grove. Thanks to the vision of Mark Schuerman, Dr. Cory Soltau and Pam Jimenez the show had found its forever home!!!

Many of the horses presented at the Diablo Show over the years have become local and regional heroes of the breed, others have started their illustrious halter careers at the show and progressed to the top, such as 1987 U.S National Champion Stallion Fame VF & 1987 U.S. National Champion Mare Shahteyna. Our show committees have always emphasized that showing our Arabians should be a fun and enjoyable experience. You will find highly competitive classes mixed together with “first timer” and “just for fun” classes. You will also notice that 41 years later some things are different and some are very much the same. Ben Rabba++/ & Fame VF are gone, but their get and grand get are well represented. Charlene Harmon’s memory lives on through the Charlene Lambert Harmon Memorial Trophy presented to our Champion Stallion.

We welcome all of you to our 41th Annual Spring Horse Show at the beautiful Brookside Equestrian Park. Thank you for participating and helping us carry on a great tradition.

Now let the show begin!!!

THE DIABLO SHOW OVER THE YEARS

1 st Annual	Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch, CA	July, 1970	
2 nd Annual	Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch, CA	July, 1971	
3 rd Annual	Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch, CA	July 15-16, 1972	273 horses
4 th Annual	Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch, CA	July 28-29, 1973	219 horses
5 th Annual	Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch, CA	July 20-21, 1974	245 horses
6 th Annual	Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch, CA	July 19-20, 1975	340 horses
7 th Annual	Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Antioch, CA	July 17-18, 1976	275 horses

8 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	July 23-24, 1977	366 horses
9 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	July 28-30, 1978	235 horses
10 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 10-12, 1979	560 horses
11 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	Jul 31-Aug. 3, 1980	592 horses
12 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August, 1981	
13 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 19-22, 1982	472 horses
14 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 25-28, 1983	529 horses
15 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August, 1984	
16 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August, 1985	
17 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 14-17, 1986	323 horses
18 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 20-23, 1987	
19 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 19-21, 1988	338 horses
20 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 25-27, 1989	
21 st Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 23-26, 1990	385 horses
22 nd Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 22-25, 1991	
23 rd Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	August 27-30, 1992	
24 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	May 27-30, 1993	267 horses
25 th Annual	Robertson Park Equestrian Ctr, Livermore, CA	May 20-22, 1994	264 horses
26 th Annual	Robertson Park Equestrian Ctr, Livermore, CA	May 19-21, 1995	260 horses
27 th Annual	Robertson Park Equestrian Ctr, Livermore, CA	May 17-19, 1996	220 horses
28 th Annual	Robertson Park Equestrian Ctr, Livermore, CA	May 16-18, 1997	210 horses
29 th Annual	Robertson Park Equestrian Ctr, Livermore, CA	May 15-17, 1998	186 horses
30 th Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	May 20-23, 1999	300 horses
31 st Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	May 18-21, 2000	315 horses
32 nd Annual	Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA	May 17-20, 2001	
33 rd Annual	Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA	May 16-19, 2002	300+ horses
34 th Annual	Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA	May 15-18, 2003	340 horses

35 th Annual	Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA	May 20-23, 2004	320+ horses
36 th Annual	Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA	May 18-22, 2005	351 horses
37 th Annual	Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA	May 18-21, 2006	351 horses
38 th Annual	Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA	May 17-20, 2007	350 horses
39 th Annual	Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA	May 15 – 18, 2008	392 horses
40 th Annual	Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA	May 14-17, 2009	288 horses