



KHS Ragtime

Our horse, Ragtime, is without a doubt the quintessential family horse. I don't mean this to sound trite in any way but it's true. Ragtime joined our family when he was 8 years old and until that time, he had not experienced much; Ragtime had spent most of his life in a stall despite having a wealth of natural talent.

It has always been my dream, my fantasy really, to have a horse that I could trail ride with – just the two of us – for hour upon hour. My daughter, Jamie, on the other hand loves riding in the arena, refining her equitation and participating in shows. Very different styles. When Ragtime joined our family, we knew he had raw talent but I don't believe we really understood the depth. To fulfill my dream, I began riding Ragtime on Mount Diablo a few days a weeks – and boy did we have crazy experiences and mishaps! Because Ragtime had led such a sequestered life, he had never crossed water, seen foxes or coyotes, or cows for that matter...being exposed to these things and others on the trails made for some VERY exciting trails rides! But he kept his cool and learned to trust me, or maybe we learned to trust each other. Either way, Jamie began riding Ragtime with our trainer, Leigha Perry, working on her Hunter Pleasure seat and equitation. If you've seen Ragtime, you know that he is poetry in motion and despite his large size (especially for an Arabian) he is incredibly gentle with kids. Whether my daughter or someone else's child, as soon as they are on his back, he carries them around as if they were precious cargo with incredible finesse.

Last spring we decided to enter Jamie and Ragtime in a show and much to our pleasure, they got a Blue Ribbon...and many, many accolades for how well they worked together! Jamie was thrilled and I knew she was hooked! About this same time, the Save Mount Diablo Endurance Ride came to my attention. With little contemplation of what it would entail, I signed up for it and put together a 6 week training regime that would prepare us for the 30 mile Endurance Ride. Although neither myself nor Ragtime had ever undertaken anything of this magnitude, we stuck with the training program and come June 25, 2010, we rode 30 miles across Mt. Diablo in 6 hours in 15 minutes. Not exactly a record-breaking time but for two newbie's....not bad! Despite his sheer exhaustion on

the last 4 miles of the ride, we crossed the finish line with smiles, a positive demeanor and surprisingly, a spring in his step. Ragtime slept the next 3 days solid after that ride!

With the Endurance Ride under our belt, we turned our focus back to Jamie and showing. Jamie and Ragtime rode in the DAHA show in September and although they did not get any Blue Ribbons this time, they did a fantastic job in the show ring! Ragtime was tuned into Jamie despite her small size and they were a great team.

Now that you know a little bit about our family and Ragtime, I hope you agree that he is a tremendous family horse. Ragtime has proven through his heart-felt effort in his first show with Jamie in May, to his stellar performance in the Endurance Ride in June and his return to the show ring 2 months later that he is as committed as we are. Whether he is gingerly gliding across the show ring with a 9 year old on his back, or carrying me across Mount Diablo, he does it with a clear head and a heart of gold. Just thinking of him makes me smile and look forward to our next adventure on the trail, and I know that love is reciprocated when he puts his head on my chest and heaves a big sigh. He's one in a million, our Ragtime, he is that special guy who does it all and makes our family complete. Our lives are greatly enhanced by having him share the journey with us.

P.S. My husband, Brad, has been so inspired by our experiences with Ragtime that he is starting to ride too. Go Brad and Ragtime!



Jamie and Ragtime before their first show.



Ragtime, Jamie and their Blue Ribbon!



Tracey and Ragtime at the beginning of the Save Mount Diablo Endurance Ride



Jamie and Ragtime at DAHA, September 2010

Gabriela Burshteyn
Family Arabian Award



“When riding a horse, we borrow freedom.” That teacup nose, those beautiful eyes, and the delicate little ears that always seem to flick back and forth remind us of that freedom that we borrow. These are all the characteristics of the magnificent Arabian horse. SQR Karee obtains all of these traits and even more. The fact that she sniffs you every time you enter that stall to make sure that it is you and the fact that she twitches her lip every time that you kiss her, as if she were returning the favor just proves how fantastic Karee is. When she glides around the arena with her powerful strides, it is just

too overpowering to see such a beautiful creature in motion. The two-beat trot is so smooth that it should make any judge melt and say, “this is the one, this is the champion.” The achievements that lie in the past of this horse are too remarkable to list. Karee has accompanied me, a 12-year-old girl to the regional level in just one year. I wouldn’t call Reserve Champion for your first time at regional’s pure luck. Every time I entered that stall, clipped on that halter, and gently landed the saddle on her back, Karee would turn around and look at me with those eyes. Those big brown eyes that always seemed to say, “I love you” or even “Can you saddle me up faster, I’ve got food waiting for me.” In addition, Karee was the favorite in many Castle Rock Arabian Ranch camps. She was always seducing those little children with her charming personality and flawless behavior. She even trudged up those hills, always faithful to her owner, Nancy DuPont with no complaint. Not a single buck or rear, only that sure-footed walk that would make even a two-year-old child feel safe. Now, Karee isn’t just any horse. She has had years of training thanks to Dean and Sherry Lacey including the weeks, months, and years from my loyal trainer, Leigha Perry. If I were to describe everything about this horse, obviously that is all good, I would use more than a million words. But, let me just say that there will never, ever be a horse that could replace SQR Karee.

My Family Arabian

EC Artists Proof #337402 (Mr Americah x Emerald Vixeyn)

Most of us who have had horses for any length of time have enjoyed them, loved them and have spent our most enjoyable hours in their company. Those of us who are really lucky have realized a particular bond with a horse that goes beyond just enjoying his or her company. Artie is that horse for me. When he was a yearling, I remember going into his pen, looking him in the eye and suddenly thinking "He's the keeper". I don't know why. I already had his older brother and sister. His mother, Emerald Vixeyn (a special horse, herself), would go on to produce two more sons.

Artie became my riding horse, trained by Debbie Compilli. We haven't done anything special. Showing was not our thing, though he looked good enough for it. He has a very willing attitude and has seemed to enjoy our time together. Having previously been dumped a couple of times by his uncle and my not getting any younger or quicker to heal, I appreciated that even when Artie got excited or scared by something, he never jumped out from under me.

Artie will soon be 27 years old. Though he is slowing down, we still enjoy easy rides. This past year, when I brought a small group of artists to Diablo Arabians to paint horses or whatever, it was a very hot day. So we set up our easels in the covered arena. I brought Artie in and turned him loose. He wandered around, stopping to visit the artists and inspect their work. Afterward they remarked on what a friendly gentleman he was and how beautiful Arabians are.

When not being ridden or acting as an artist's model, Artie spends his days in his field with his sister and visiting with his brothers over the fence and enjoying the sun. He has never been stalled or blanketed and has enjoyed good health. When I come out to his field, he still acts pleased and is always ready to spend some time together. What more can you ask of a friend?
Evelyn Call