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Life

Issue 5 • 2018

The Official Magazine of the Arabian Horse Association



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Issue #5. 2018

On the cover:

Our cover models for this issue are a mother and daughter duo from Washington state. Rider Susan Durr, age 71, isn't slowing down and neither is her 24-year-old stallion, Apaladin (AA Apollo Bey x Amada Of Aerie, by El Magato).



Susan and her daughter, Rebecca Durr, live near Seattle and drive to Whidbey Island every Saturday (two hours each way) to spend the day with Apaladin.

Both Susan and Apaladin have had to overcome major obstacles during their shared journey; she is a two-time cancer survivor, and he broke his navicular bone as a five-year-old. Apaladin was able to heal from the break and go on to win multiple titles, including a 2006 U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten Stallion and 2002 U.S. National Top Ten Open English Pleasure, in addition to Scottsdale Champion Liberty. Together, they epitomize the axiom that it's never too late to pursue a dream.

Photography by Stuart Vesty, stu@vesty.com



GET INVOLVED

Determined Women "of an Age" Stay in the Saddle

Women discuss how they keep riding and working with horses as they get older.

By Janet de Acevedo Macdonald

Second Acts: Enter the Horses

Meet several individuals who have given Arabian horses a starring role in their middle-aged lives.

By L.A. Sokolowski

IN EVERY ISSUE

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PARTNERSHIP

Equine Athlete Veterinary Services

This month's column addresses a reader's question about what to consider when an OCD is found on a radiograph.

By Ty Wallis, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS

IMPACT

John M. Rogers & the *Serafix Legacy

Here is part two of a two part series that looks at the influence John Rogers had on the Arabian horse in the U.S.

By Andrew Steen

U.S. National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championships: A Snapshot

How our National Championship show and trophy developed into the crowning achievement it is today.

By Colleen Scott

WHOA

Conquering Obstacles

Trainer and judge Michael Damianos shares his secrets to success in Trail class.

By Katie Navarra

Freeze Frame

Kriss Phelps points out the main focus of the lengthened jog in Western Dressage.



HERITAGE

Polish Arabians: Their Enduring Influence

Part 5 of a yearlong series focusing on different Arabian countries of origin.

By Tobi Lopez-Taylor

THE NOW

Cayucos & Heather Reynolds Win 2018 Tevis Cup Endurance Ride

In a ride impacted by the wildfires in California, Cayucos and Heather Reynolds stay strong to emerge victorious.

By Merri Melde

Help From the Horse Family

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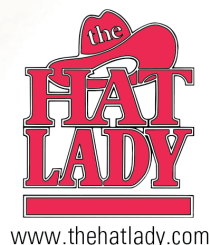
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Johanna Ulstrom Photo

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Current Endeavors & Future Efforts



DEAR MEMBERS:

Just like that – summer is over!

The Youth National Show was again a success, and the Canadian Nationals was as well. Sport Horse Nationals, from entries in so far, is well on its way too. As you know, the National shows represent a significant portion of AHA's operating income, and we could not put on a show without the help of our tireless volunteers. As I write this, I know the commissions for the shows that just finished are working on plans to improve their shows for 2019. What great people we have!

In addition to the shows, many of our Regions, clubs and individuals have been busy with outreach programs. Canadian Nationals alone hosted over 400 visiting athletes at the show and TAIL tours. However, for this letter, I would like to focus on BreyerFest as this was the coming together of many different individuals and groups (*see page 14 for more*). BreyerFest, if you don't know about it, is Breyer Animal Creations' annual celebration of horses at the Kentucky Horse Park — a fabulous three-day family festival with over 15,000 in attendance that combines the excitement of a horse fair with model horse activities. What you may not know is that it includes live horses. The Arabian was well represented at this event with a live horse demonstration organized by Lorie Henderson of Firelight Arabians along with the help of many Region 14 members. Spectators were able to see the horses show off the great versatility of the Arabian. The horses and their owners performed demonstrations and signed autographs. This is such a highlight for both the attendees and the participants who show off their amazing Arabian horses.

Representatives of the Arabian Jockey Club spent tireless days introducing the attendees to the world of Arabian racing.

In addition, Arabian Horses for Humanity's statue, Goldie, was in attendance for photos, and one of the new Breyer horses, an Arabian named *Empres++++//, owned by Prue Critchley from Canada, attended the event and signed autographs as well. I can't say it any better, so I will quote Lorie: "Our volunteers in the booth worked tirelessly and gave out 5,000 wristbands and over 3,000 bags of information created by our talented people. The booth was mobbed — all day every day. We had many donations of old magazines, etc. that are now in the hands of new people. It was an unbelievable task for that group of volunteers to undertake." Thank you all for your hard work on behalf of the Arabian Horse.

In addition to the outreach programs that members and clubs are doing, we have an exciting new program that is being spearheaded by Joel Gangi in the southern area of the country. This program is designed to be the next step after the initial outreach. The idea is to have the instructors or "teachers" go to the people to get them interested in riding. At this point, the instructors are reaching out to local groups like PTA, churches and home-schooled youth. Instead of having them come to us, we go to them by attending events either with or without a horse in tow. Currently, the instructors are tracking what works and what doesn't in relationship to contacting prospective clients and getting them involved with horses. Longer term, we see this as a great link to the first touch that we do well with TAIL tours and events; to move from the first touch to the first lesson and so on. The program is in its early stages of testing, but I must congratulate Joel on this project and look forward to the next steps.

Two new Ad-Hoc Committees are working diligently on changing the way we work as an association. The Regional Structure Review Committee is planning a forum at the 2018 Convention to get feedback on the current structure of Regions and Regional shows in order to move forward with changes. The Ad-Hoc committee is looking at the structure of our National shows and reviewing other shows to see what they do well compared to what we do well and make our National events run even more efficiently and effectively. I would like to thank them for their dedication to these projects.

In closing, as I have said previously, your leadership continues to be committed to respect those horsemen who have come before, build a foundation for those who follow and maintain a strong and healthy Association. 🐾

Sincerely,

Nancy Harvey

Nancy Harvey, AHA President
nancy.harvey@arabianhorses.org

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Organizational Structure: Sister Organizations



DEAR MEMBERS:

For close to 10 years now, the Executive Vice Presidents (EVPs) of the breed associations for Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, Paints, Pintos and Arabians have been meeting once per year. AHA hosted that annual meeting this year on August 20 and 21. This meeting provides the five EVPs an opportunity to learn what is working and not working within the sister organizations; talking and sharing with each other in a frank manner. It has been interesting over the years to learn that while we all share the same goals and have boards, clubs, regions, and conventions, our governance structure, particularly in numbers, is different for each organization; yet we all have the same mission. Currently, AHA has an ad hoc committee studying our regional structure so I thought it might be interesting to take a look at comparable organizations.

AHA's structure is that we have 29 Board Members with an Executive Committee of seven, and this past year there were 287 registered delegates for our November Convention. We are also broken up into 18 regions in the U.S. and Canada. Our rules are passed both by the delegates at convention as resolutions and by our Board through motions. Resolutions cannot be undone by the Board; only by the delegates at the next convention. Registry rules are under the control of the Registration Commission, not the Board. In addition, AHA has 217 clubs.

In comparison, the **American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA)** has a Board of 275 which effectively functions similarly to our delegates. Their Executive Committee of five functions throughout the year more like our Board. In AQHA's case, for rules to become effective, the Executive Committee has final approval after the Board has approved them. AQHA has 10 regions in the U.S. and Canada with Europe being number 11. Their convention

meets in March with rules becoming effective January 1. Registry rules are under the authority of AQHA's Registration Committee. Finally, they have 120 clubs or associations.

The American Paint Horse Association (APHA) is similar to AQHA in that they have approximately 120 Directors and an Executive Committee of seven. The actual number of directors is calculated based on overall APHA membership. The Paints are divided into 14 regions. Their annual convention is in February, and they have 148 clubs.

The **Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC)** has 13 board members with the board setting all rules. They have no membership convention. Their Executive Committee numbers six, and they have seven territories. The ApHC has 118 regional clubs. The **Pinto Horse Association of America (PtHA)**, on the other hand, has 48 board members with seven Executive Committee members. Their convention is held in March. They have 14 regions (or zones) and 53 clubs.

The **American Saddle Horse Association** has a board of 18 and recently changed its bylaws to do away with the Executive Committee. They are divided into 13 regions and have 41 clubs. For Morgan horses, the **American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA)** has a board of nine, only three regions, and 56 clubs.

For discipline organizations, the **National Reining Horse Association (NRHA)** has a board of 21, is divided into 14 regions, and has 90 clubs. For the **United States Hunter/Jumper Association (USHJA)**, they have 21 board members with 11 Executive Committee members and are divided into 12 regions with 45 affiliate H/J associations. For the **United States Dressage Federation (USDF)**, they have a 16 member Board and five Executive Committee members. They have nine regions.

There are more organizations I could describe, but I think the takeaway is proven. Even though there are many organizations with similar missions, all operate differently. That means each organization needs to structure itself to fit its own needs. What we all need to do is self-evaluate every so often to make sure we are keeping up with the times. Thus AHA's Regional ad hoc Study Committee was formed and is currently analyzing our structure. This committee is looking at items such as the number of regions, reshaping borders, and regional championships to see if after some 50 years it might be time to do some tweaking. 🐾

Sincerely,

Glenn T. Petty
Executive Vice President
glenn.petty@arabianhorses.org



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AT THE KENTUCKY HORSE PARK FROM

July 13 to 15, there was this little event called BreyerFest, which is Breyers Animal Creations' annual celebration of horses. Except for that it wasn't little. It was massive. Tens of thousands of children and their parents came from all over the country. If you want to know where the future of the horse industry is...they are at BreyerFest. This fabulous three-day family festival combines the excitement of a horse fair with model horse activities, and this year it had an "Off to the Races" theme celebrating all different types of racing competitions.



Spin Doctor, a successful racehorse turned Champion Dressage horse, strikes a pose for admiring onlookers.

BREYERFEST RULES!

A Horse-Crazy Kid's Dream Come True



*Empres++++//, who was honored with his own Breyer model earlier this year, being exhibited in native costume by Lorie Henderson of Firelight Arabians.

For 29 years, BreyerFest has been bringing the model horse world to life with spectacular equine performances, the largest model horse shows in the country and the unique opportunity to meet the horses that inspire their models. And the people come out in droves. There were lines everywhere and a constant stream of people wanting to get up close and personal with the horses.

The Arabians were well represented at this event. First and foremost was the presence of *Empres++++// who himself was a Breyer model released earlier this year. *Empres's owner, Prue Critchley, stated that the 23-year-old stallion "thoroughly enjoyed himself and handled the crowds beautifully." She went on to proclaim that BreyerFest "is probably the very best promotion possible for our horses. The Arabians did us proud — incredible horses."

Representing the "Off to the Races" theme was Spin Doctor, a successful Racehorse who earned over \$50,000, turned National Champion Dressage horse. His owner, Kathy Smoke, was overwhelmed by the sheer number of people attending the event and how many of them wanted to visit with her horse. She, too, was proud of Spin Doctor and how he handled the crowd — the likes of which he had never before seen.

In addition to those two, Firelight Arabians organized a number of Arabians that represented a variety of disciplines, and they were all well received. Probably the greatest moment was after their presentations in the arena, many of the Arabians lined up under the trees along the road and stood there for hours while children and adults visited with them. The horses' patience was incredible, and the people who presented these horses did a great service to the breed by showing their Arabians so well.

The weekend was tremendous and exhausting for those that attended. However, it was an incredible opportunity for the Arabian horse to be introduced to a new generation of horse crazy kids. As one little girl exclaimed, "I'm going to tell my dad that my first horse is going to be an Arabian." 🐾

Photos by Cathleen V. Duffy

U.S. Eventing Team Includes Anglo-Arabian at 2018 WEG

THIS YEAR, THE U.S. EVENTING

team will be represented by five riders and their horses, including an Anglo-Arabian. Lauren Kieffer and her horse, Vermiculus (aka "Bug"), were named a part of the U.S. Eventing Team for the 2018 World Equestrian Games at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, N.C. Bug is the only part Arabian on the Eventing team this year.

Kieffer says riding "just stuck" after she received lessons from her parents as a gift at six-years-old. She got her first horse, Snooze Alarm ("Snooze"), from her trainer when she was 11-years-old.

"Who would have thought he'd take me all the way to my first four star?" Kieffer said.

Little did she know that she would later be contacted by Lawson Williams, the breeder of Snooze, about his full-brother, who she would end up taking to the 2018 World Equestrian Games. She purchased Bug as an unbroken three-year-old.

Vermiculus (Serazim x Wake Me Gently) is a 2007 Anglo-Arabian gelding owned by Jacqueline Mars. Some of his recent accomplishments include:

- 3rd Place, Maryland CIC2* (2018)

- 5th Place, Land Rover Kentucky CCI4* (2018)
- 7th Place, Ocala Jockey Club CIC3* (2017)
- 3rd Place, Chattahoochee Hills CIC3* (2017)

"Bug is just a cool dude. He's happy doing his thing. He doesn't fuss," Kieffer said about her horse. "The Anglo-Arab has the grit. They have the endurance and the drive; got to love a horse that wants it just as much as you do."

She says it's an honor to have the opportunity to represent her country and sport on one of the highest international stages.

"There are a lot of nerves and pressure and excitement that go along with it, but I have a great village at home of grooms, owners, vets and farriers that all help keep everything running as smoothly as possible."

Kieffer said in preparation for WEG, the team has a mandatory outing at Bromont — a three-day CIC event held in Bromont, Quebec — an event she says they are lucky to have near them.

"Being a part of any U.S./Nations Cup team is really special. I've been lucky enough to be on teams with them already, and there is a good sense of camaraderie," Kieffer said.



Cindy Lawler

She says she would love for the U.S. Eventing team to show off their skills and horses during WEG, and hopefully, bring home a medal.

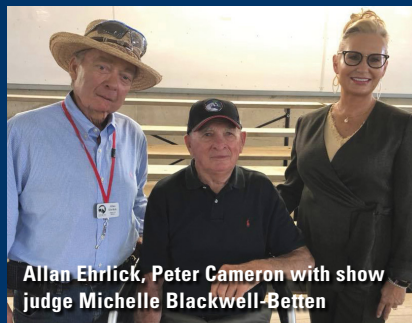
"We have very strong horses going for the U.S. and some very experienced riders; a medal would be the absolute pinnacle," Kieffer said. "I just want my horse, Bug, to be feeling his finest going into it and to give him the best rides in every phase that I can."

~ Alleynah Cofas

Regional Recognition:

2018 Shaping Up to Be a Great Season for Region 18

WE HAVE SOME EXCITING MOMENTUM BUILDING IN Region 18 and are so appreciative of the tremendous support that the Arabian Horse Association of Eastern Canada and Region 18 received with our 2018 Region 18 Arabian Horse Championships held in Ancaster, Ontario. This year, our show moved back to Ancaster at a sensational new facility at the Ancaster Fairgrounds. The location is the perfect site for our Canadian exhibitors and visitors from New York, Michigan and Ohio. Our Summer Sizzler, Eastern Canadian Breeder Championships and Regional Championships successfully combined main ring, sport horse and dressage classes. We are always so proud to draw the support of amazing horses, excellent exhibitors, our outstanding club membership and, of course, the company of the great Peter Cameron.



Allan Ehrlick, Peter Cameron with show judge Michelle Blackwell-Betten

We are so very proud of the wonderful feedback that we have received on the show's execution and our exhibitors' intent to bring even more horses in 2019.

Our 2019 show will again be held in Ancaster, Ontario. A sincere thank you to our membership for their support in this endeavor, our faithful exhibitors and our sponsors. A heartfelt THANK YOU to our volunteers who helped make this collaboration happen. We are so appreciative of the time you took out of your busy schedules, and you are the core of our greatness.

We always love to highlight our sponsors who help make our show happen. Our sponsorship program allows us to recognize the efforts and uniqueness of some of the great horses who have graced us with their successes and presence in our club's rich history and in our association as a whole. We are so thankful for your ongoing support and look forward to this continued celebration of the Arabian horse in Region 18.

The year will close in November with the prestigious "Battle of the Breeds" at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario. There will be \$20,000 in prize money offered in four Saddle Seat classes. This invitation-only event draws horses from all over Canada and the United States and is an unparalleled experience for both spectators and exhibitors alike.

Both of these events help spread the word and celebrate the joy that is the Arabian horse, and we look forward to our 2019 show season. For more information on our show and offerings, please reach out to Allan Ehrlick or Joshua Schildroth or visit ahaec.on.ca or royalfair.org.

Dates TO REMEMBER

Sept. 22 – Arabian Horse Judging & Hippology Contest Entries Due

Oct. 19-27 – U.S. Nationals, Tulsa, OK

Oct. 25-26 – Arabian Horse Hippology Contest, Tulsa, OK

October 26 – Arabian Horse Judging Contest, Tulsa, OK

Some horses will test you, some will teach you,
and some will bring out the best in you.



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youth@arabainhorses.org or 303.696.4505 with any questions.



Meet Your New Board

Welcome 2018-2019 AHYA Executive Committee!

President: Sarah Porter, Region 9

Vice President: Savanna DeMott, Region 11

Secretary: Ashley Lounsberry, Region 11

Treasurer: Morgan Vaughan, Region 8

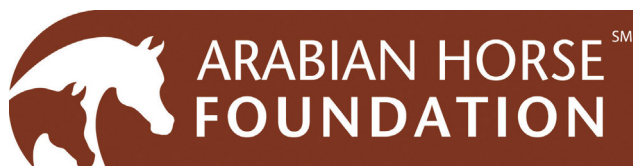
The AHYA Executive Committee is in charge of running AHYA Board Meetings, discussing changes within the Youth Association and bringing important decisions to the AHYA Board.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Equine Athlete Youth Rider Scholarship

Equine Athlete Veterinary Services has generously dedicated \$1,000 to fund the Equine Athlete Youth Rider Scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded based on financial need, and any youth rider participating in the Arabian Horse Youth Nationals Championship Horse Show is eligible.

- **To apply, please complete the Arabian Horse Foundation Scholarship Application form and reference Equine Athlete Youth Rider Scholarship**
- **Applications due by October 1!**



The Arabian Horse Foundation is giving away multiple scholarships at Youth Nationals and has already given away over \$30,000 this year. **Easily donate to the Foundation every time you purchase on Amazon.** Use Amazon Smile and designate the Arabian Horse Foundation as your charity. Amazon will then give a portion of your purchase to the Arabian Horse Foundation.



ARABIAN HORSE HIPPOLOGY CONTEST



Full Team Contest at
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New!

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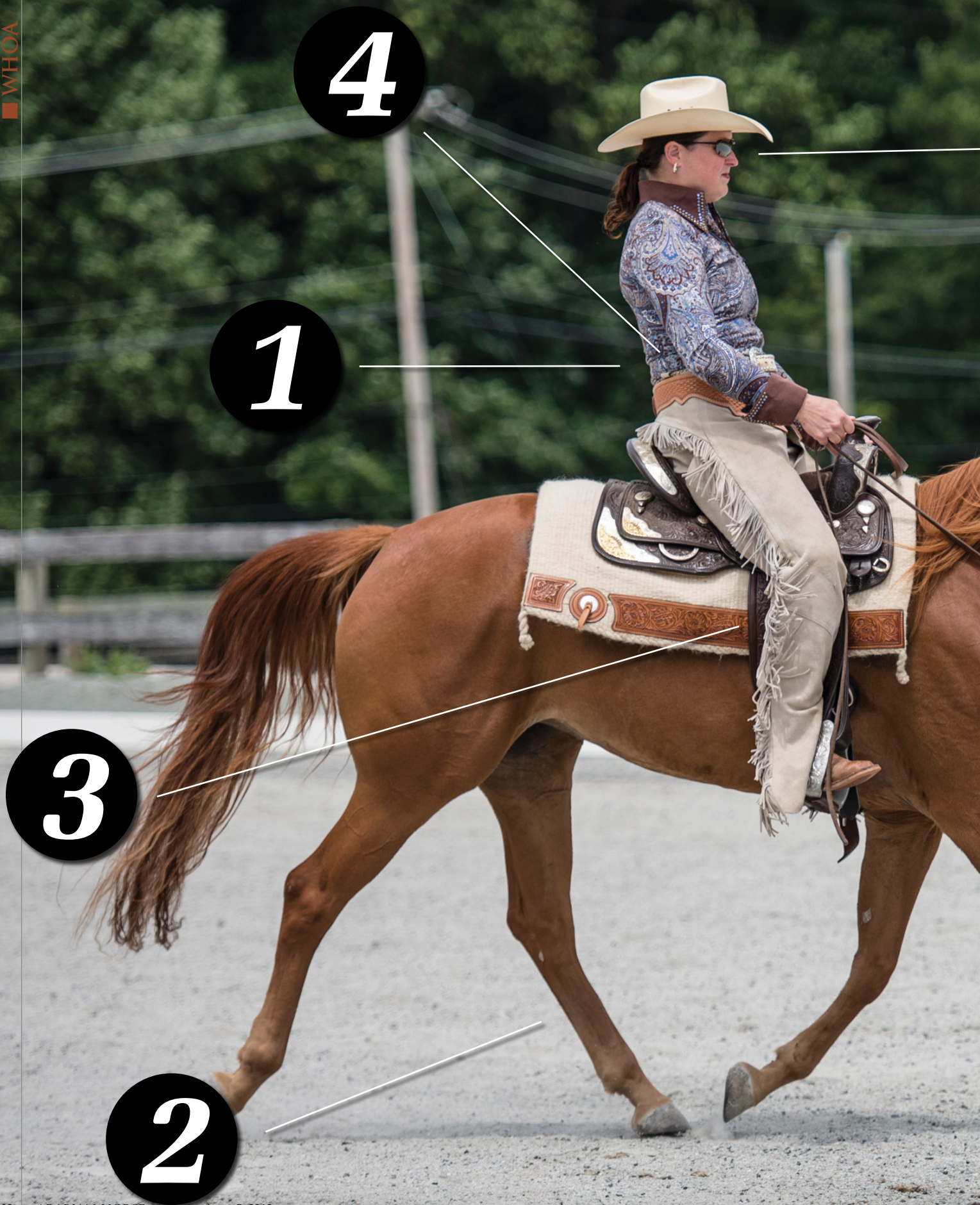
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5

AHL FREEZE FRAME:

KRISS

Phelps

Pictured here is the 2011 Half-Arabian mare *Crescendos Allegro+* (Magics My Dad x LF Jubilee, by Laddinns Fire) and owner/trainer Kriss Phelps. This pair won the National Championship last year at Sport Horse Nationals in Western Dressage Level One, Test 4. This is the same test shown here, and they are performing the lengthened jog from S to P.

1. The most obvious thing seen here is that I'm too far back with my upper body, attempting to get more of a lengthening out of the horse. This is an ineffective method for getting more lengthening. We call this waterskiing position. It tends to push the horse quickly out in front of the rider instead of getting the longer stride that is desired.
2. The horse is not getting an overstride like she should be for a lengthening.
3. On a more positive note, my leg is in the proper position to cue for the lengthening and support the horse throughout the movement.
4. There is a straight line from my elbow to the bit, thus allowing the horse to use my back to support her so she can perform the lengthening.
5. My eyes are looking forward as they should be. I always joke and tell students "the human head weighs eight pounds." You need to have your head up and looking ahead or it will affect the horse's front to back balance, as well as her ability to engage the hindquarters.
6. The horse's expression is soft and relaxed. She is attentive and listening to her rider, but not tense.

6

Kriss Phelps started riding a pony in 1974 and began showing 4-H in 1980. She got her first Half-Arabian in 1983 and started competing on the Arabian Class A circuit in 1984. Kriss began giving riding lessons in 1984 and started training horses in 1985. She founded Crescendo Training Centre, LLC in 1987. She was granted her first judge's card (Michigan 4-H) in 1995 and now holds a PA 4-H card as well as a USEF/AHA "R" National/Regional and "r" Western Dressage Judge's license. www.crescendotrainingcentre.com.

Ask the Vets

Equine Athlete Veterinary Services



QUESTION:

When you find an OCD on a radiograph, how do you determine which are “safe” and which have to be removed?

~ Katherine Clayton, TN

ANSWER:

Thank you for a great question that is commonly discussed during pre-purchase examinations. Osteochondrosis is a developmental orthopedic disease involving a small defect in the normal maturation process of bones. Bones are formed from a cartilage model, and typically this model calcifies/ossifies and turns to bone before, or shortly after, birth. When there is an alteration in this process, a small area of cartilage can fail to ossify. This weakened area then sustains trauma with exercise, and an osteochondrosis lesion forms. The area can either collapse inward, allowing joint fluid to flow into the bone forming a cyst (called a bone cyst or subchondral cystic lesion), or a flap, which is only partially attached, called an osteochondritis dissecans (or OCD lesion) can form. In the former instance, the lining that forms inside the cyst is responsible for enlargement of the cyst. In the latter instance, the OCD flap, once free from the parent bone, becomes mobile and inflamed and then ossifies, and it is this osteochondral fragment that is seen on radiographs.

Subchondral cystic lesions have been described in almost every bone in the horse, but are most frequently found in the medial femoral condyle. In Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds, these are most often clinical, meaning they cause observable symptoms, but in Arabians and Half-Arabians they are commonly sub-clinical, meaning they don't cause any symptoms such as joint effusion, lameness, or arthritis. When they are found during a lameness exam, and the lameness has been isolated to the joint involving the cyst, treatment is recommended. When they are found as an incidental finding on a pre-purchase exam, there are many factors to consider, such as age, appearance of the remainder of the joint on radiographs, presence of a

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Dorsal P1 OCD found in RF fetlock of a three-year-old Half-Arabian during a PPE.



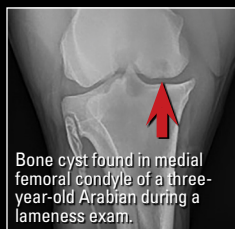
OCD of distal intermediate ridge of tibia in the left hock of the same Half-Arabian.



Intra-op radiograph confirming removal of fetlock fragment arthroscopically.



Intra-op radiograph confirming removal of hock fragment arthroscopically.



Bone cyst found in medial femoral condyle of a three-year-old Arabian during a lameness exam.



Intra-op radiograph confirming placement of transcondylar lag screw across cyst.



Follow-up radiograph eight months post-operatively, mare was sound and in training and cyst beginning to decrease in size.

good shelf of subchondral bone between the cyst and the joint cavity, the horse's short-term and long-term goals and schedules, and the desires of the owner. Many times no treatment is performed. However, treatments which have been described include debridement (removal) of the cyst, with or without regenerative techniques to replace what is removed; injection of corticosteroid behind the lining of the cyst via arthroscopic, radiographic, or ultrasonographic guidance; and placement of a lag screw across the cyst. The lag screw technique, which is the most newly described, is currently showing the most promise in early clinical reports and the technique we currently perform in our practice.

OCD lesions are also described in almost every joint in the horse, but are most frequently seen in the hocks and fetlocks. Like cystic lesions, when OCD fragments are found in a joint which has been isolated as a source of pain during a lameness examination, surgical removal via arthroscopy is recommended. When they are found incidentally on a pre-purchase examination in the absence of lameness or a positive response to a flexion test, arthritic changes in the joint, or effusion of the joint, then a similar decision tree is followed as for incidental cysts described above. These are usually found in three- and four-year-olds, and they typically haven't caused a clinical problem. Since these are most often in an area that is non-weight bearing within the joint, they don't actually get caught between the bones making up the joint. The trouble they could potentially cause in the future is related to them being slightly mobile in the joint, causing the lining of the joint to become inflamed. The inflamed lining produces low quality joint fluid, and over time the cartilage, which relies heavily on high viscosity fluid for protection from wear and tear, becomes damaged by the fragment and leads to osteoarthritis. Therefore, removal is often recommended at a convenient time in the horse's competition and training schedule to avoid damage in the future and to preserve value on resale, but it is not an emergency. In various locations in some joints, they may not cause a problem and may be left alone. Finally, in some instances, typically when identified in older horses, they may be ignored and the joint treated medically with corticosteroids and hyaluronic acid or IRAP II as needed. 🐾

~ Ty Wallis, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS
Board Certified Surgeon and Co-Owner of
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Trails West

DETERMINED WOMEN “of an age” STAY IN THE SADDLE

By Janet de Acevedo Macdonald

It should come as no surprise that as we get older, we want to keep doing the things we’ve always done or return to doing activities we did in our youth. Who wants to realize we’re old?! In this age of social media, we have venues to share our ideas and to ask women like ourselves how they’re continuing to successfully ride.

Two groups for women of a certain age, say 50+, most recommended by Facebook algorithms are “Aging Horsewomen International,” created by Sharon Roberts, with a 44,000+ membership, and the 7,000+ member, “Gals Over 50 and In The Saddle,” started by Marty Phillips as a group for “fun, encouragement, support, and ideas for horsey gals, almost, and way beyond 50.” As an active member of both groups, I reached out for volunteers to share their aging experiences, determination, and confessions as horsewomen.

This thread of determination that binds us takes many forms, and its inspiration comes from myriad sources. One such inspiration is the 2018 book, “Confessions of a Timid Rider,” authored by Certified Equine Sports Massage Therapist, Heather Wallace, who encourages her readers to “Let your passion be greater than your fear.”

“Confessions” is an easy, inspirational read with very good messages. If you’re inclined to social media, Facebook groups abound discussing all things horse that can give you a daily, online avenue for confessions — your own and others.

Stress Relief

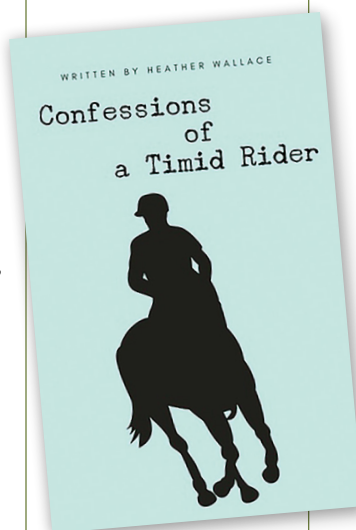
After years of life on one acre in San Diego, Calif., Therese “Teri” Bensch, and her retired USMC F-18 fighter pilot husband, Bill, graduated to 36 acres in North Texas,

15 minutes from the 20,000 acres of the LBJ National Grassland. Rocking Bensch Ranch has seven mules, one Thoroughbred, and a 15.2hh chestnut, 2010 model, Purebred Arabian gelding, Maxemillion RA, aka “Milo.”

Raised on a Santa Cruz ranch, Teri’s early introduction to Arabian horses ignited a life-long enjoyment that glowed during her three-year tour of duty in Sicily when she owned two Anglo-Arabians and guided trail rides on Mount Etna. In 2014, with a Scottsdale twist familiar to many, Teri went to purchase and pick up the 2009 Half-Arabian chestnut mare, MC Princess Leia. Once there, she was wooed by the trainer to “just have a look” at her now beloved Milo. Driving home with two purchases versus the expected one, she admits to using the eight hours of travel time to compose her explanation to Bill.

Serving her country for 23 years as a U.S. Navy Meteorologist and Oceanographer, Teri retired in 2010. “After years of physical readiness tests every six months, I was happy to get fat,” admits Teri. “Doing my doctorate at age 50, I was sitting all the time. I was feeling old, and I really felt my hip and back problems,” says Teri. Diagnosed with scoliosis as a kid, she has always found horseback riding to be what she calls her “flow activity” where she can really let the stress go.

Today, at 53, Teri limps because her knees aren’t good. Yet, when she’s home in Decatur, she rides five days a week. An active member in The Aging Horsewoman International Facebook group, to stay comfy and feeling safe aboard Milo, Teri wears ankle braces for stabilization, uses cushioned trail stirrups, and rides with long stirrups. She advocates using an abdominal board to build core strength and notes as she and her husband lose weight,



Resources

Facebook Groups

www.facebook.com/groups/AgingHorsewomen/

Gals Over 50 and In The Saddle:
www.facebook.com/groups/1304086869637792/

www.facebook.com/groups/RidingFearFree/

www.facebook.com/WomenofAgeRidingHorses/

www.facebook.com/groups/AgelessInTheSaddle/



“Nothing is impossible to a determined woman,”

~ Louisa May Alcott



they understand how being overweight can really mess with a rider's balance.

Overcoming Fear

Another native Californian, self-described as “63-years-young, not five-foot-tall,” Robin Whiteman also retired to Texas. Her two Arabians and grade, rescue Palomino live on Robin's 10-acre dream in the quiet burg of Hallettsville, smack dab in the middle between San Antonio and Houston.

Tonibyah, “Tony,” Robin's 15-year-old Straight Egyptian chestnut gelding, is helping her conquer serious fear issues. An Endurance rider who competed in AERC 25-milers, two years ago she was jettisoned and broke her hand. In a June 2018 post to the Facebook Riding Fear Free group hosted by Laura Daley and Jennifer Becton, she shared, “I do not ride that horse any more. He is not a good fit for

Upper left —
Therese Bensch and
Maxemillion RA aka Milo

Upper right —
Cathy Clark and CL Bey
Beret aka Button

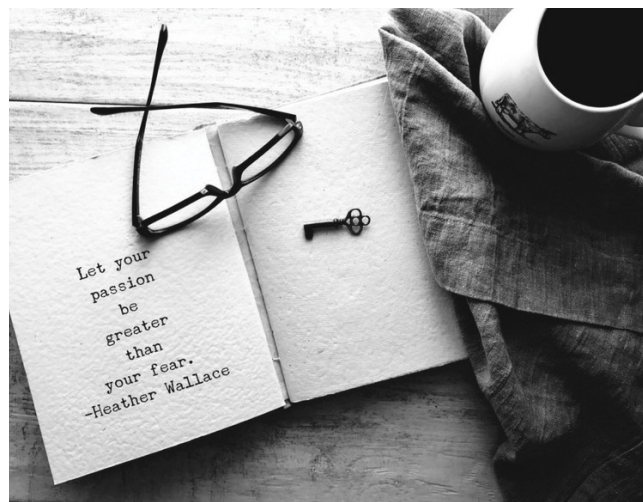
Lower left —
Kellie Callaway and Anda
Beat Goz On aka Sonny

Lower right —
Robin Whiteman and
Tonibyah aka Tony

me.” Robin suffered stitches, a concussion, and other physical reactions to the fall. This was followed by too much self-imposed isolation and letting in the cycle of fear.

“It took a long time to get back on. I had to begin mentally from square one; to learn to block out what happened and work out my fear little by little,” shares Robin. Once she did get on, she spent many, many months riding in her arena and pasture. At the beginning of July, her husband Gary, who walks beside Tony and Robin as they ride, mowed a mile-long stretch along the road so horse and rider didn't have to walk on the gravel as they expanded their riding away from home. Sharing the triumph together, the trio traveled two, incident-free miles.

To be more physically confident in the saddle, Robin opts for the comfort of an Endurance seat. She works out at the gym to



build strength and does light running with her husband. She's been recently diagnosed with the beginnings of osteoporosis, so bone health is a priority. Rather than mounting from the ground, Robin bought a three-legged, 10-inch stepping stool she can pull up once mounted and slip into a saddle bag.

Equine Motivation

Not far from the Daniel Boone National Forest sits Russell Springs, Ky., the home of newly-retired forklift driver, Kellie Callaway. A member of the Society for the Arabian Horse in the Bluegrass Area (SAHIBA), and Aging Horsemembers group, Kellie and her Half-Arabian palomino gelding, Anda Beat Goz On ("Sonny") that she's raised from three months of age, have come through a lot together. They've competed in Reining, Western Pleasure, Western Dressage and in more recent show seasons, Ranch Riding and Western Trail.

After the loss of her husband three years ago, plus a car accident and a knee replacement two years ago that she freely admits she fought having for two years, Kellie says Sonny keeps her going. "I got the surgery done in October and was back riding Sonny walk/trot by the following Valentine's Day," she says.

"I love Ranch Riding. It's all I want to do," laughs Kellie. She and Sonny took third in HA/AA Ranch Horse Riding at the 2018 Region 14, as well as two Reserve Champions in HA/AA Western Trail Open and plenty of other accolades.

Heart Horse

Lima, like the bean, Ohio, is the home of the Varian-bred 2001, bay mare, CL Bey Beret ("Button") and her owner, Cathy Clark. A 66-year-old retired English Pleasure trainer who road Saddle Seat all her life, she now enjoys the comfort and security of a Western saddle and conducts Western Dressage clinics.

Cathy was born with an irregular heartbeat, but rather than see his daughter live a limited life, her dad bought her a pony to keep her happy and active. Unbeknownst

to most in 1960, Cathy's childhood riding was the best medicine.

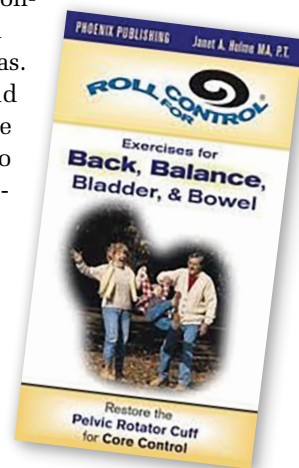
Four years ago, Cathy had a Transient Ischemic Attack, also called a TIA or mini-stroke. Immediately, her protective, loving sister said the horses had to go. However, Cathy's family physician of 10 years, Gregory Parranto, MD, had a different view. He'd observed Cathy in times of high emotional pressure and said Cathy being in the barn with Button was a good outlet for her stress. "When Button's good, Cathy's good." The horses stayed. A week later Cathy was riding Button in 15-minute sessions to start, and the time built from there. Now she rides Button for an hour, four to five times a week. She cleans three stalls a day, does isometric exercise, and goes to her local Curves gym three times a week. She uses a mounting block and finds her grooming time with Button to be meditative and believes the two are even more in sync.

A Delicate Matter

"I leak" was the confession to physical therapist, Janet A. Hulme, M.A., P.T., by an elite female equestrian training four to six hours daily for an upcoming Olympic competition. What to do about urinary incontinence and staying dry in the saddle is still a recurring topic today — one that is revisited time and again in Facebook riding groups. Women riders are very forthcoming about their conditions and remedies. Surgery. No surgery. Botox injections. Pads. Pee-proof undies. Adult pull-on panties. Plus discussing the merits of water-based versus silicon-based lubes to prevent chaffing from said pad on delicate in-the-saddle areas.

"The muscles used to balance and control your horse can imbalance the muscles in the pelvic area, leading to leaking," shares Janet. "The hip mid-range rotation exercises I developed in 'Roll For Control' can reduce frequency and urgency." Janet's work has had a major impact in the fields of incontinence and women's health. She encourages trying her "Roll For Control" set of 10 reps of exercises done twice daily with a ball and a stretch band. This simple regime aides a healthy back, steady standing without falls, plus optimal bladder and bowel function. No surgery, no pads, no adult diapers. "We're stronger through our core, which helps us as riders, and we can laugh without worry too."

Heather Wallace asks her rider fans, "What will you confess?" From these determined women, we learn their inspirations to stay in the saddle. 🐾



Janet de Acevedo Macdonald blogs about horse show city destinations at arabianhorsetravel.com.



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Polish Arabians

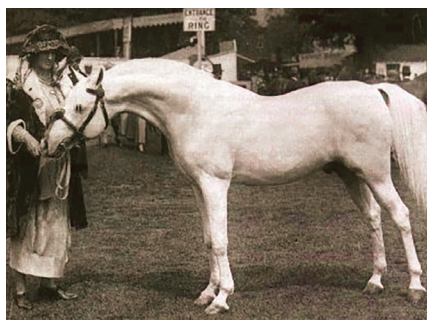
Their Enduring Influence

Part 5 of a yearlong series focusing on different Arabian countries of origin

By Tobi Lopez Taylor

The Polish people are renowned for their love and respect for horses — and the Arabian horse, in particular, is practically their national symbol. As one Polish saying goes, “A man without a horse is like a body without a soul.” One observer recalled visiting an elderly Polish couple who “lived in a fairytale setting in the woods...[but] in great poverty [and they] sacrificed everything for their nine pure and part-bred Arabians.” The country’s famous Janow Podlaski State Stud Farm, established in 1817, is one of the oldest extant horse-breeding facilities in the world and the birthplace of such famous Arabian stallions as *El Paso, Miecznik, Ofir, Piolun, Trypolis, Wielki Szlem, *Witez II, and Witraz.

Polish Arabian breeding stock has played an often quite significant role in several of the other breeding programs discussed in this year’s series of *Arabian Horse Life* articles: Crabbet, Russian, French, and Spanish. Conversely, Polish Arabian breeders have always sought to upgrade their stock, bringing in horses from other countries, including England, France, Germany, Hungary, Russia, the U.S., and Yugoslavia. It also should be said here that a pure Polish horse is defined as one whose pedigree traces back in every line to horses registered in the Polish Arabian Studbook.



The worldwide influence of Skowronek (Ibrahim x Jaskolka) cannot be overstated. Shown top and above with Lady Wentworth.



Skowronek great-grandson *Naborr.

In the 1920s, the introduction of Polish blood to the U.S., via the offspring of the stallion Skowronek, radically transformed American breeding programs. Skowronek, born at Poland’s Antoniny Stud in 1909, sired no offspring in his native land. Instead, he was purchased by an American, Walter Winans — artist, writer, and gold-medal-winning marksman at the 1908 Olympics in London — who took him to England. There, the stallion changed hands a few times before coming into the ownership of Judith Blunt-Lytton, Lady Wentworth, of Crabbet Arabian Stud. From 1920 until his death in 1930, Skowronek sired fewer than 50 registered foals, none of them out of Polish mares. Interestingly, his last foal, Uadyah, was an in-utero import to Poland, as her dam, Sardhana, was sold to that country in 1928. Unfortunately Uadyah was used only in breeding Half-Arabians. A male-line Skowronek descendant was finally returned to his homeland in 1955, when Skowronek’s great-grandson *Naborr (originally Nabor) was purchased from Russia by the Poles.

In 1926, cereal magnate W. K. Kellogg purchased four Skowronek offspring from Lady Wentworth: *Raida, *Raseyn, *Raswan, and *Rossana. Kellogg later imported two more Skowronek daughters, *Incoronata and *Crabbet Sura. *Raseyn — sire of Ferseyn, Sureyn,

Ronek, and other splendid breeding stallions — was the paternal great-grandsire of the stallion Ferzon, the herd sire of Gainey Fountainhead Arabians. Although Kellogg's other Skowronek son, *Raswan, sired only three foals (all in England) and died soon after his importation to the U.S., his name appears in pedigrees worldwide, thanks to descendants like Carmargue, *Padron, *Pietuszok, *Serafix, and *Silver Vanity.

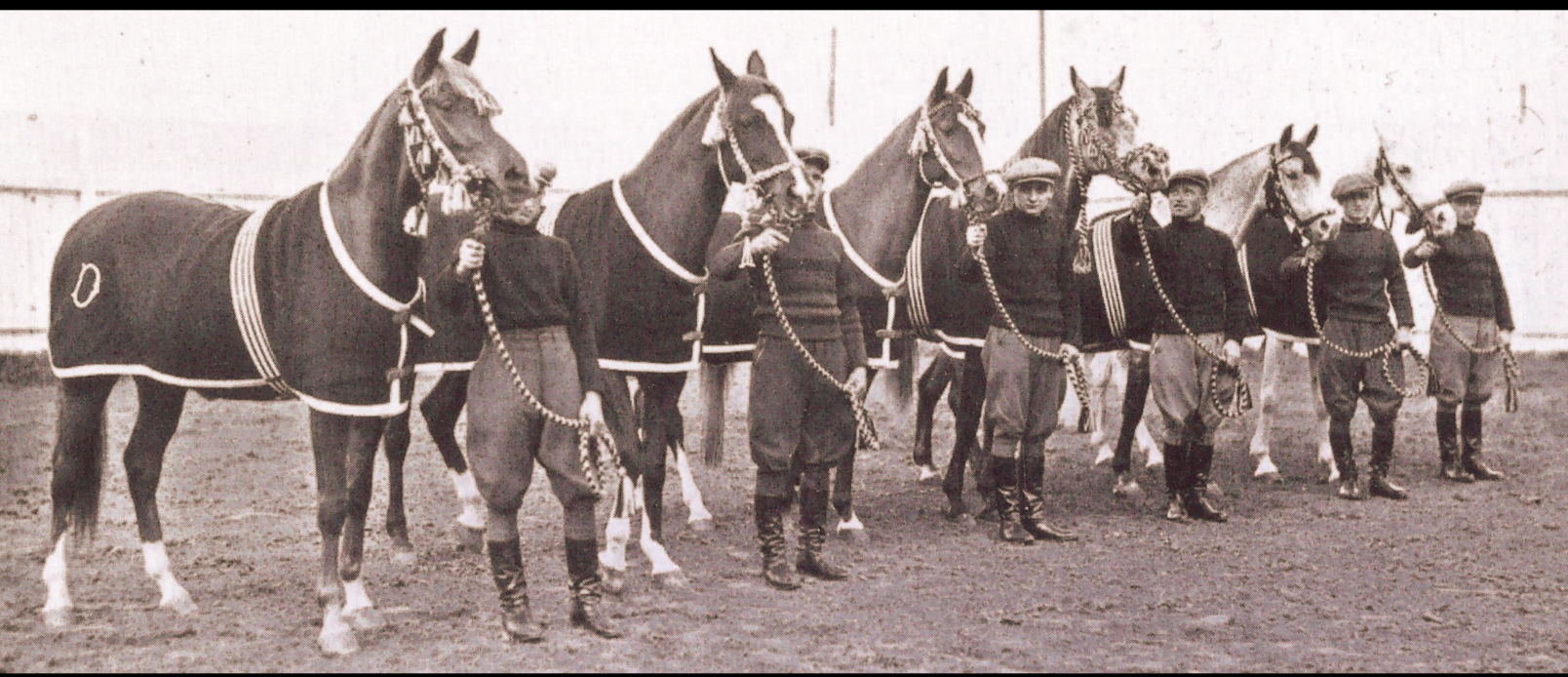
Around the same time as the Kellogg importations, Roger Selby, president of the Selby Shoe Company in Portsmouth, Ohio, purchased the Skowronek daughters *Rimini and *Rifala, as well as the latter's diminutive son *Raffles, by Skowronek.

In 1937, General Dickinson was the first American to import Arabians from Poland. The six mares were *Przeziorka (Almanzor x Jaskolka II), *Lassa (Koheilan I x Zulejma), *Nora (Hardy x Dora), *Niwka (Fetysz x Dziwa), *Liliana (Lincoln x Czapla), and *Mattaria (Kafifan x Koncha). Photo courtesy of Andra Kowalczyk Martens.

*Lassa (carrying *Latif), *Liliana (carrying *Sielanka), *Mattaria (carrying *Derazne), *Niwka, *Nora (carrying *Janow), and *Przeziorka. Three years earlier, Dickinson also had been the first American to export a horse to Poland, when he'd sent Antez, a stallion of all-Davenport bloodlines, to that country to be used in its breeding program. (Antez sired the 1940 wartime Polish Derby

winner Haschim Bey; look for an article about Antez coming soon in *Arabian Horse Life*.)

In 1938, Dickinson imported the stallion *Czubuthan and the mares *Aeniza, *Babolna, *Ba-Ida (carrying *Kaszmira), and *Ugra. Also included in this 1938 importation were horses



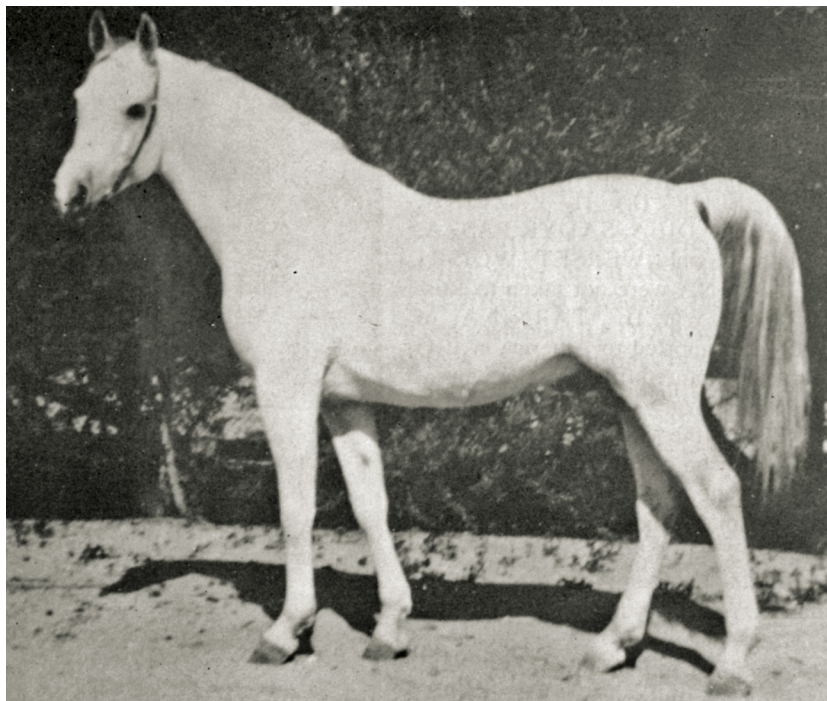
As breeder Denise Borg wrote, the Skowronek horses "were, to a great extent, the beginning of serious Arabian breeding in the U.S., and the foundation stock of the largest breeding farms, Kellogg, Al-Marah, Selby, etc. The Skowronek son *Raffles was to the Eastern U.S. what the Skowronek son *Raseyn was to the West Coast; the supreme sire!"

The next decade saw the very first importation of pure Polish Arabians to the U.S. In 1937, General J. M. Dickinson, of Travelers Rest Stud in Nashville, Tenn., purchased six mares:



Skowronek son *Raswan died shortly after his importation to the United States.

purchased by Illinois breeder Henry Babson. These included the stallion *Sulejman and the mares *Azja IV, *Kasztelanka (carrying *Warsaw), *Kostrzewa (carrying *Zewa), and *Rybitwa. *Sulejman — whose sons included the breeding stallions Tobruk, Jasul, and Komsul — also sired some useful broodmares for Bazy Tankersley of Al-Marah Arabians. *Azja IV, bred to *Raffles, produced the well-known stallion Azraff. *Kasztelanka, bred to Babson's Egyptian stallion *Fadl, produced Fadheilan, sire of Fadjur and great-grandsire of Khemosabi++++//.



Above — *Lotnik (Opal x Mokka) was considered among the best of the “prizes of war” imported by the U.S. government.

Below — This 1963 advertisement shows four early 1960 imports: *Mohacz (Trypolis x Mimonka), *Mirzaz (*Naborr x Mira), *Ardahan (Trypolis x Adis Abeba), and *Muzulmanin++ (Doktryner x Mufta).

Dickinson did breed some pure Polish Arabians, but generally the Travelers Rest program produced excellent horses with pedigrees that blended the best of the Polish, Egyptian, and domestic-bred horses that Dickinson could acquire. However, a pure Polish filly, Yaquta, bred by Dickinson, was among the first Arabians acquired by Gerald Donoghue for his influential breeding program.

The next imported Polish Arabians were not brought to America by private individuals, but instead were prizes of war taken from the Germans during World War II. As breed historian Gladys Brown Edwards wrote, “The Arabian horses captured from the Germans were mostly those originally captured by the Germans from the Poles after the first blitz into Poland that fateful September of 1939....At this and other studs the Poles tried to save their horses by hurrying them off to safety, but many were lost en route or placed with farmers. The Germans, methodical always, took note of the brands of the various stud farms, publishing the list in the German magazine *Sankt Georg* so that all horsemen could be on the lookout for horses so branded....A carefully chosen group of stallions and mares was shipped to a German stud in Czechoslovakia.”

After the German army surrendered to the Allied forces in May 1945, U.S. Army officers selected a number of horses, of a variety of breeds, to be shipped to America in October of that year. These included a group of Arabians, some of whom would go on to greatly influence the breed.

Among these prizes of war were the well-known stallions *Witez II and *Lotnik, along with mares such as *Iwonka III (granddam of *Bask++, Bandola, and Arfa), *Wierna (granddam of Bay-Abi++), and *Chloe (granddam of U.S. National Champion Mare Chloette++ and her full sister, U.S. National Reserve National Champion Mare Fixette).

No Polish Arabians were imported to the U.S. in the 1950s. However, while reading a 1958 *Arab Horse News* article titled “Arabian Breeding in Poland,” by a young British breeder named Patricia Lindsay, Edwards made a startling discovery. She learned that “not only were there fine individuals of the breed in that country [Poland] but that it was also possible to buy them, since some had already been exported to England.” Edwards

contacted Lindsay about importing Polish Arabians to America, and, according to historian Mary Jane Parkinson, the two women “created what they called the Threadbare Import Company, a mail-order service, in effect, for importing horses from Poland.”

By the 1960s, many American breeders had long been

Leaders of the Polish Parade
First Arabian stallions imported from Poland
since World War II

*MOHACZ No. 18277
(Trypolis-Mimonka)

*MIRZAZ No. 20454
(Naborr-Mira)

*Mohacz won both the half-mile races during the recent Del Mar show, with *Mirzaz a fast-closing second each time. Both are accustomed to longer races, of at least a mile and a half, so the time of 52 seconds, under import of 135 lbs., is good considering the different type of training. *Mirzaz won the 1961 Polish Derby, and *Mohacz won several stakes races.

*ARDAHAN No. 18278
(Trypolis-Adis Abeba)

*MUZULMANIN No. 20485
(Doktryner-Mufta)

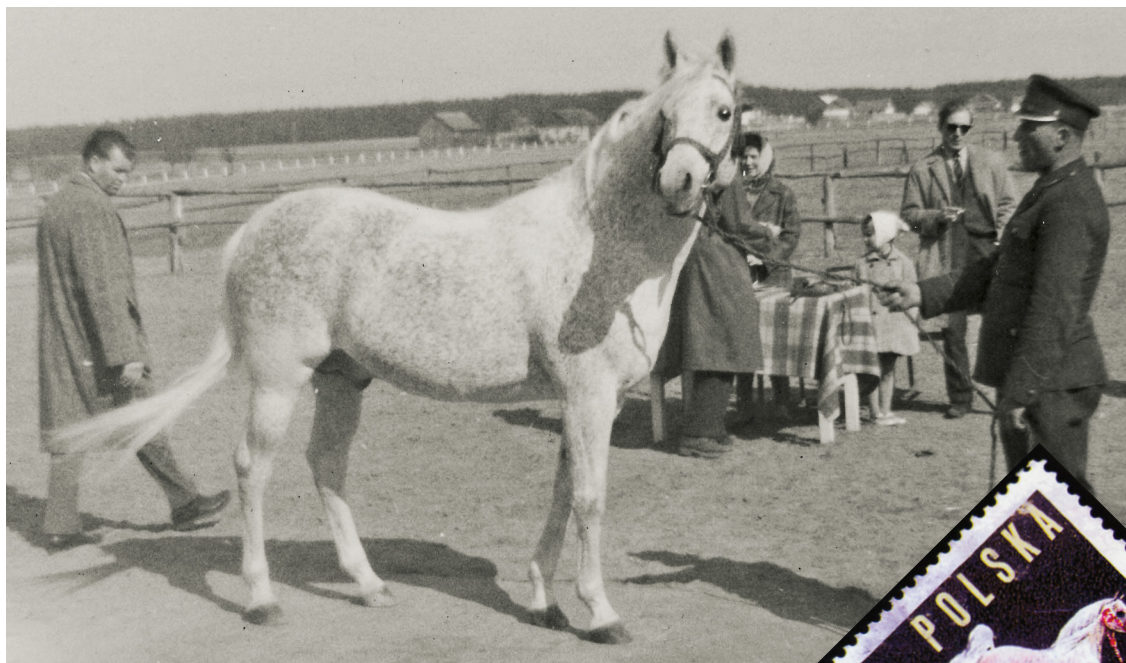
*Muzulmanin is also a race winner, and was second in a strong class (14) at his first show. *Ardahan did not race, having been given “3-day-event” training, which includes jumping, both showing and cross-country. His first foals are of exceptional quality.

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Left — A 1963 photo of Dr. Eugene LaCroix examining the stallion Comet (Abu Afas x Carmen) during one of his many trips to Poland. Photo courtesy of Shelley Groom Trevor.

Below — A Polish postage stamp featuring the legendary Arabian stallion Comet. Artwork by Ludwik Maciag.

Bottom — *Bask++ (Witraz x Balalajka), imported by Lasma Arabians.



familiar with Skowronek's descendants, and perhaps even had copies of Dickinson's book *A Catalog of Travelers Rest Arabian Horses*, which featured extensive Polish pedigree information. Some Arabian owners, particularly on the West Coast, had seen *Witez II and many of his progeny at horse shows. However, for those who wanted to import Polish horses, there was no translation of the Polish studbook for them to consult for pedigree information. Often, they had to rely solely on the pictures and descriptions provided by Lindsay — unless they made the journey to Poland themselves, which some hardy souls did.

Purchasing a horse from Poland in those days was an expensive, time-consuming ordeal, which involved dealing with the Poles themselves, who often didn't know much English. Time was spent wiring money overseas, arranging for transport, and then making sure each horse's original papers were in order when it came time to register a horse with what is now the Arabian Horse Association. The earliest importations by the Threadbare Import Company "had been purchased by Miss Lindsay for her clients and since political forces were in a bit of an upheaval at the time, they were shipped [from Poland] to England rather than directly to America," recalled Edwards. "There they were joined by two others and shipped to the United States by two different routes — part went directly to New York and were vanned across the country. The others took the scenic

route through the Panama Canal up to the Port of Los Angeles. All arrived in fine fettle and excellent shape, which is more than can be said for a number of later sea voyages."

One of the 1960s shipments of Polish horses to which Edwards alluded was downright perilous. In January 1963, a ship bound for New York, whose equine passengers — among them both *Bask and *Naborr, as well as several





others — encountered terrible weather, including a punishing 10-day storm in which the ship was tossed about like a toy and made no progress toward its destination. As a consequence, the hay supply ran low, horses lost a great deal of weight, some colicked, and one mare aborted her foal aboard ship and then died not long after arriving in the U.S. The voyage wound up being two weeks overdue. The tight-knit Arabian-owning community, hearing of this disastrous crossing, then explored the possibility of using airplanes to fly their purchases from Poland to the U.S. In May 1963, Ed Tweed became the first Arabian breeder to import a planeload of Arabians from Poland, and others followed his lead.

John M. Rogers is credited as the earliest individual importer of Polish Arabians since the 1938 Dickinson/Babson importation. In 1960, he purchased the mares *Sakwa (carrying *Ibn Czort) and *Caliope (carrying *Gaypolka++). Rogers recalled that he asked Lindsay “for the best mare she could find of Ofir breeding, to mate with [Rogers’ stallions] *Serafix and Natez.... We have seen most of the top Polish mares imported from 1945 to date [1971]. We rate *Caliope in the top five of these Polish mares including National Champions.” Caliope’s son *Gaypolka was later named 1965 U.S. Top Ten Stallion.

Above — After some harrowing sea crossings, beginning in 1963, Polish Arabians were often transported by airplane. Shown is *Genua (Grand x Gwara), a future Racing Hall of Fame mare, being led onto American soil by trainer Steve Spalding. Photo courtesy of Shelley Groom Trevor.

Opposite top — *Dornaba++ (*Naborr x Darda), imported by the Kales, was considered one of the most beautiful mares of her era.

Opposite bottom — The pure Polish stallion Bask-O-Zel (*Bask++ x Brusally Orzeluba) was 1980 U.S. National Champion Racehorse.

Through the end of 1969, about 200 Arabians had been imported from Poland. Although they constituted only a small percentage of the Arabians in America at the time, they had already begun to exert what proved to be an outsized influence in the show ring, on the racetrack, and as breeding stock.

At the 1962 Scottsdale Show, the mare *Arwilga, imported in 1961 by Robert Aste (who also owned *Lotnik), made a splash when she

was named Reserve Champion Mare. Four years later, *Dornaba was named Scottsdale Champion Mare. The stallion *Muzulmanin++, imported in 1961 by Charles Doner, got the ball rolling for the males by being named 1963 Scottsdale Champion Stallion. For the next 25 years, during the height of pure Polish breeding in the U.S., the list of Scottsdale Champion Stallions read like a Polish Who’s Who, featuring names like *Bask, *Czester++, *Gwalior++, *Orzel++, *Buszmen, *El Paso, *Aladdin, AAF Kaset+, and Strike.

*Bask, who’d lost a great deal of weight during that difficult voyage across the Atlantic in 1963, had recovered sufficiently by 1964 to be crowned U.S. National Champion Stallion, becoming the first pure Polish stallion to achieve this honor. He would go on to be the first National Champion Stallion to also win a National Championship in

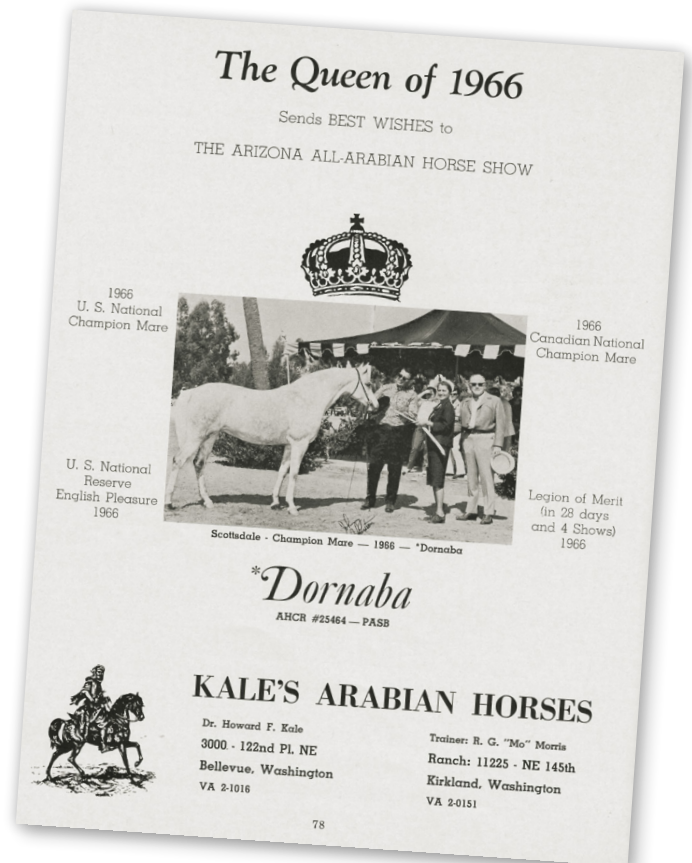
The Polish people are renowned for their love and respect for horses — and the Arabian horse, in particular, is practically their national symbol.

performance — in 1965, he was named U.S. National Champion Park. Within only a few years, his offspring began amassing numerous National titles themselves.

Some of the breeders who acquired Polish horses in the 1960s and early 1970s, such as John Rogers, Anne McCormick, Frisco Mari, and Sheila Varian, purchased them with the intention of crossing them on the Crabbet and domestic-bred horses they already owned. Others — like Denise Borg, Kay and Richard Patterson, Ruth Simms, and Ed Tweed — became converts and began to breed almost exclusively pure Polish horses.

While Polish horses were making an impact in American show rings, they were also cleaning up at racetracks around the country. The first U.S. National Champion Racehorse, *Orzel, a Polish import, was soon followed by *Sambor++, the brothers *Algorab and *Allahabad++, Samtyr, and *Orzel's grandson, Bask-O-Zel. Polish-bred horses had a great deal of success on American racetracks from the late 1960s to the mid-1990s, when the “second wave” of French imports came on the scene (see *Arabian Horse Life* Issue 2, 2018). The pedigrees of today's stakes winners tend to feature a combination of racing lines from French, Polish, Russian, Egyptian, and domestic breeding.

Likewise, while relatively few of today's American show horses are pure Polish, many of them nevertheless have a large infusion of Polish blood — both “old Polish”



breeding from the 1960s and earlier, and “new Polish,” which often incorporates stallions whose ancestors were bred in the U.S. from programs using horses of domestic, Crabbet, Egyptian, Spanish, Russian, and other bloodlines. Various programs throughout the world, as well as in Poland itself, continue to keep pure Polish breeding alive.

It seems fitting to conclude this article with an anecdote by Patricia Lindsay from 60 years ago, when she was captivated by her first sight of Polish Arabians in their native land. As she traveled from stud farm to stud farm, viewing beautiful horses with uniformly correct conformation and good temperaments, she heard the same breeding philosophy expressed by a number of Poles: “It is not sufficient for an Arab to be an excellent horse. He must also ‘Look like an Arab,’ which is to possess that extra beauty of form, head, action and spirit, which we who love the breed recognize instantly in any country.” 🐾

Tobi Lopez Taylor's most recent book is Orzel: Scottsdale's Legendary Arabian Stallion (The History Press, 2016). She can be reached at www.tobitaylor.com.



By Merri Melde

Cayucos & Heather Reynolds

Win 2018 Tevis Cup Endurance Ride

Cayucos and Heather Reynolds captured the 63rd running of the 100-mile Tevis Cup Endurance ride on July 28, in a ride time of 14:45. It was the 10-year-old Arabian gelding's second Tevis finish (in 2016 he placed 30th with Mark Schuerman); Reynolds earned her seventh Tevis buckle and third win in the prestigious ride that starts above Lake Tahoe and finishes in Auburn, Calif., with a 24-hour time limit.

Bred by Betty Jo and Paul Richards' Lone Chimney Ranch in Oklahoma, this former racehorse by Virgule Al Maury x Tikis Wing Beat, by Flaming Streak, is owned by Hillorie Farace di Villaforesta and trained by Mark Schuerman. Farace di Villaforesta expressed high praise for Reynolds' tactical win, after having partnered with Cayucos in just one 50-mile ride in 2016.

"It was a team effort — but it's Heather. I think she's one of the best riders in the world. No other rider can get on a horse like that, ride him to that level, never override him, and know when to make the move. She was extremely strategic. She calculates the course, the terrain, the heat, the humidity, the horse, where the competitors are — she just is the best."

Heather shrugs the praise off onto her mount. "He



Photo by Bill Gore of Gore/Baylor Photography

was so amazing. It literally felt like I was being pulled by a magnet all the way to Auburn. It was an incredible feeling.”

Farace di Villaforesta and Reynolds met in their late teens at a California stable where three-time World Endurance Champion Becky Hart became an early mentor. “We were like those two nerdy kids that ended up creating something brilliant because we loved Endurance so much,” Farace di Villaforesta said.

“Heather’s so smart. She’s had such a foundation. You can learn a lot, you can know a lot of people, and you can educate yourself, but some people just have a natural gift, like a horseman, and she’s got that gift.”

This year’s Tevis was particularly challenging with high heat and humidity, and smoky air from California wildfires. Normally, Cayucos has great pulse recoveries, but the weather took a toll on him during the day. Accordingly, Reynolds rode 20 to 30 minutes behind the leaders early in the ride, reining in Cayucos during the heat. At the “Cal 2” water stop at 78 miles, Cayucos had moved into third, just four minutes behind Lindsay Fisher and Monk (who finished second last year and would finish fourth this year). Reynolds and Cayucos left the final Gate-and-Go vet check at Lower Quarry at 96 miles with a seven minute lead, which increased to 18 minutes at the finish.

“There was never any falter or hesitation on the horse’s part. It was always, ‘We can go faster, we can go faster.’ I thought, geez, really? It’s so hot and we’re this far in, and you’re still saying that? It wasn’t a neurotic, anxious thing. It was a genuine, voluntary, ‘I’m capable, we can do this.’”

Cayucos is just the latest in a string of superior Endurance horses that Farace di Villaforesta has developed an eye for over the years. Since 2003, she has collaborated with the Reynolds — Heather and husband Jeremy — to win five Tevis Cups and two Haggin Cups with four different horses. (The Haggin Cup is awarded to the Tevis Top 10 finisher deemed to be in superior condition; horsemanship is taken into account. This year, for the first time, a Mustang won — MM Cody and Mykayla Corgnell).

Farace di Villaforesta picked Cayucos out as a 2-year-old on the farm of Helen Shelley, an Arabian owner and race trainer from California. “Helen has been a friend for over 20 years. I always go to Helen. She’s like a candy store.”

After his final race as a 5-year-old, Farace di Villaforesta bought Cayucos from the Richards, brought him to her home in Winters, Calif., gave him six months off, then sent him to Mark Schuerman to start transitioning — through Dressage training — to Endurance. (Schuerman’s training was also integral to the 2014 Tevis Cup win with Farace di Villaforesta’s gelding French Open, with Heather Reynolds aboard.) Five years later, Cayucos won the big one.

“I love finding the champions,” Farace di Villaforesta said. “I love finding them young, building them, training them, and turning them into champions. I just love to do that.” 🐾

Author Merri Melde has ridden over 8,000 Endurance miles, mostly on Arabians, without ever owning or leasing her own Endurance horse.

Tevis Cup Winners

YEAR	RIDER	HORSE	BREED	SEX	AGE	TIME
1955	Wendell Robie	Bandos	Arabian	S	15	NOTE: The Lloyd Tevis Cup was first awarded in 1959. Recorded timing began in 1961.
1956	Wendell Robie	Bandos	Arabian	S	16	
1957	Wendell Robie	Molla	Arabian	M	9	
1958	Wendell Robie	Molla	Arabian	M	10	
1959	Nick Mansfield	Buffalo Bill	TB Cross	G	11	
1960	Ernie Sanchez	Marko B	Mustang	G	13	
1961	Drucilla Barner	Chagitai	3/4 Arabian	G	10	13:02
1962	Paige Harper	Chief of Tahmaroo	3/4 Arabian	G	6	14:33
1963	Pat Fitzgerald	Ken	Arabian	G	7	13:30
1964	Neil Hutton	Salalah	Arabian	M	10	14:10
1965	Ed Johnson	Bezatal	Arabian	S	7	11:38
1966	Bud Dardi	Pancho	1/2 Arabian	G	10	12:46
1967	Ed Johnson	Bezatal	Arabian	S	8	11:42
1968	Bud Dardi	Pancho	1/2 Arabian	G	12	11:18
1969	Marion Robie Arnold	Haila	Arabian	M	8	12:57
1970	Donna Fitzgerald	Witezarif	Arabian	G	7	11:49
1971	Donna Fitzgerald	Witezarif	Arabian	G	8	12:35
1972	Donna Fitzgerald	Witezarif	Arabian	G	9	12:42
1973	Donna Fitzgerald	Witezarif	Arabian	G	10	11:53
1974	Hal V. Hall	El Karbaj	Arabian	G	8	13:55
1975	Donna Fitzgerald	Witezarif	Arabian	G	12	12:04
1976	Donna Fitzgerald	Witezarif	Arabian	G	13	11:59
(Tie)	Sam Arnold	R.C. Champ	Arabian	G	8	11:59
1977	Hal V. Hall	El Karbaj	Arabian	G	11	14:15
1978	Kathie Perry	Prince Koslaif	Arabian	G	12	12:17
1979	Boyd Zontelli	R.C. Eaton	Arabian	G	9	11:33
1980	Loreley Stewart	Don Van Witt	Arabian	G	9	12:30
1981	Boyd Zontelli	R.C. Hans	Arabian	G	7	10:46
1982	Marjorie Pryor	Fritz	Arabian	G	11	14:00
1983	Marjorie Pryor	Fritz	Arabian	G	12	12:21
1984	Becky Hart	Grand Sultan	Arabian	G	8	13:41
1985	Boyd Zontelli	R.C. Hans	Arabian	G	12	14:45
1986	Loreley Stewart	Risque Rocket	Arabian	M	8	13:57
1987	Kathy Ray	Easter Charm	Arabian	M	9	14:00
1988	Becky Hart	Grand Sultan	Arabian	G	12	13:27
1989	Lari Shea	Sur Sherif	Arabian	G	12	12:48
1990	Hal V. Hall	HCC Zarlusko	Arabian	G	9	15:56
1991	Erin McChesney	Cougar's Fete	3/4 Arabian	M	9	15:19
1992	Shellie Hatfield	AM Xanthium	Arabian	M	9	15:30
(Tie)	Marcia Smith	Harry	Arabian	G	14	15:30
1993	Chris Knoch	Saxx	Arabian	G	7	14:44
1994	Chris Knoch	Saxx	Arabian	G	8	14:48
1995	Matthew Mackay-Smith	W.C. Freiheit	Anglo/Arab	G	11	13:56
1996	Erin McChesney	Cougar's Fete	3/4 Arabian	M	14	15:38
1997	Marcia Smith	On A High	Arabian	G	13	14:32
1998	Potato Richardson	Fille de Cailana	Arabian	M	14	15:44
1999	Rebecca Fiedler	BRR Aurber Lights	Arabian	G	14	14:00
2000	Judy Reens	Benjih+	Arabian	G	9	15:13
2001	Marcia Smith	Saamson CC	Arabian	G	12	14:48
2002	Potato Richardson	SMR Fayette de Cameo	Arabian/Shagya	M	7	15:23
2003	Heather Reynolds	Master Motion	Arabian	G	9	16:23
2004	Jeremy Reynolds	CV Eli	Arabian	G	10	15:59
(Tie)	Becky Spencer	Oritos Sonny	Arabian	G	7	15:59
2005	Cathy Rohm Richardson	SMR Fifi d'Or	Arabian	M	8	15:51
2006	John Crandall III	Heraldic	Arabian	G	8	15:08
2007	Jeremy Reynolds	CV Eli	Arabian	G	13	14:28
2008	NO RIDE					
2009	Sarah Engsborg	K-Zar Emmanuel	Arabian	G	15	15:05
2010	John Crandall III	Heraldic	Arabian	G	12	14:59
2011	Jeremy Reynolds	Riverwatch	Arabian	G	7	10:31
(A modified Auburn-to-Auburn course was used due to weather)						
2012	Garrett Ford	The Fury	Arabian	G	13	14:50
2013	Rusty Toth	Take A Break (Quake)	Arabian	G	8	14:57
2014	Heather Reynolds	French Open (Hadea)	Arabian	G	14	14:17
2015	Potato Richardson	SMR Filouette	Arabian	M	14	14:50
2016	Karen Donley	Royal Patron	Arabian	M	14	14:33
2017	Tennessee Lane	Auli Farwa (Far)	Arabian	G	17	14:45
2018	Heather Reynolds	Cayucos (Cayu)	Arabian	G	10	14:45

Winners List Courtesy of www.teviscup.org



Submitted by Jennifer Hurst

An evening walk with a good friend and golden light.



Submitted by Victoria Webb

A kiss for the champ and a smile for the camera!

Submitted by Brandy Yi
Brandy's daughter and the 25-year-old stallion, Shah Al Adhem, owned by Ariel Westberg.



Submitted by Laurel Pollock
Eyes, and ears on the finish line!



Submitted by Allie Koss
Lean on me, I'll take care of you!



Submitted by Madeleine Hofmeyer
A proud and pretty pair!



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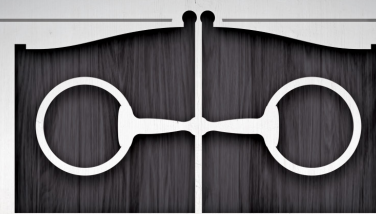
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