

# ARABIAN FOAL festival

## THE BEGINNING OF A HOPEFOAL FUTURE!

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Emma Maxwell, Henrike Hoermann

***A**lready since years, Bart van Buggenhout had the idea to organize a show which will bring the Arabian horse world back to the early days. Where there were no separate VIP area's and where the breeders, horse owners and new comers could sit together and talk. To the time where we were all in it for the love of a horse. The relaxed and friendly atmosphere where the horses were proud to be in the ring. Bart found a group of fellow horsemen that were*

*interested to follow his idea's. Together with Kelly Elm, Greg Gallun, Henry Metz, Michelle Kelly and Doug Dahmen he organized the Arabian Foal festival in the Santa Ynez Valley, California, USA. The Santa Ynez Equestrian Center in the middle of the Valley, fondly known as the Valley of the Arabian horse, makes a perfect location for this event. The Santa Ynez valley has had a large number of Arabian farms in a concentrated area already since the 70's and holds a tre-*





asure of Arabian Horses from different lines and pedigrees. This first ever Arabian foal festival is a unique show as it is meant to show weanlings and yearlings that have not previously been shown before. They are handled by an amateur handler without a hard standup, focusing on the natural beauty of the Arabian horse. This way, both the handler and the horse can get a positive first experience with the show world. The classes are divided between performance type classes and show type classes. With the show, they also support the Santa Ynez Therapeutic Riding program.

Judges invited to judge for this event were Mark Wharton, Bill Melendez, Cynthia Richardson and Becky Rogers. All experience horsemen that know their way in the Arabian Horse community. With Robin Hopkinson as announcer, the show started at 10am on Saturday morning. The arena was nicely set up with on the side all the banners in the same natural green color, giving a peaceful and quiet environment to the foals and yearlings that were to be shown. On the side of the arena was a large grandstand and a nice sitting area with tables, seats and beautiful sofa's made out of hay which were really comfortable to sit in, due to the soft blankets Michelle arranged brilliantly. The big oak trees provided shadow and there were drinks available for everyone.

The show started with the filly foal weanling performance class. To keep the classes relaxed, there were only a few entries a class allowed. In case of multiple entries, the class were

divided in section A and B. In total 70 horses were entered in the show! At every placing, the judges not only announced the placing, but also why they choose the first placed horse over the second placed horse and so on. Giving a positive feedback on every horse participating.

Winner of the first performance class – section A was Zenyatta JCA (ZT Marwteyn x Jacline Jamal JCA) – a well build filly bred and owned by Jade Creek Arabians. At the second place came the good moving Hello I love you (Hi Hello Boy x KO Unforgettable) – bred and owned by Laughing Dog Ranch.

The section B of the performance fillies showed some promising babies as well. The very typy, well build filly Ameena Aljassimya (Besson Carol x Athina el Jamaal) took the lead, leaving a second place for EVG Alera (Saladins Allon x EVG Ashlyn). Ameena is bred and owned by Aljassimya Farm while EVG Alera was bred and owned by Evergreen Arabians.

The colt foals of the performance classes were an interesting group. Many entries so again divided in section A and B. Winner of the A-section was Jabbahr Aljassimya (WH Justice x Ariande PASB) – bred and owned by Aljassimya farm. A gorgeous colt with a beautiful dam at his side and very well handled by his amateur handler! Second in this class was another Aljassimya bred and owned foal named Fazaa Aljassimya (Vitorio TO x Sanegors Lady D).









The B-section showed a victory for Velvet Revolver (HRL Kareem x JJ Annies Song) – bred and owned by Lowe Show Horses. A big moving colt that looks to have a great future ahead! Second in this class was Chadwick TDF (Pstrategy x PGN Charizima) – bred and owned by Trevor Miller and Arlene Padilla.

After seeing the first performance classes it was now time for the show classes of the filly foals/weanlings. It is good to see both performance and show classes and to ascertain that they don't look so much different. They all look like Arabian horses as they should and also the show foals look like you can put a saddle on them one day. Which is how it should be as the Arabian horse is of course first a performer and then a show animal! This show foal class section A was won by the very beautiful Adiya (WH Justice x Diya Forx) – bred and owned by Psynergy/Hennessey. This filly had a gorgeous front with a very beautiful face. Nevertheless she faced a hard competition from the second placed foal: Sapphire Aljassimya (Om el Bellissimo x MG Saffire) – bred and owned by AlJassimya Farm!

The B-section was won by the absolutely stunning Juma-na Aljassimya (Wh Justice x Toscana PGA). Runner up was their stable mate and a personal favorite of mine Arwa Aljassimya (Besson Carol x Athina el Jamaal) – who's full sister Ameena won the class of performance fillies! Both bred and owned by AlJassimya farm.

As sixteen show filly foals were entered, a section C & D was up next. Again very correct foals were shown. Winner of this c-section was Bella Edena (Eden C x AJ Basma) – bred and owned by Gallun Farms. Runner up was the beautiful Blissful Juell V (Audacious PS x Breathless V) – who showed a very nice trot. He was bred and owned by Sherry Conrads/ Sheila Varian.

The D-section was won by AJ Farha (Vervaldee x Felicia RLC) – a very interesting filly with as real 'wow' factor. An incredible face and overall well balanced. She was bred and owned by Ajman Stud of the UAE. Second in this class was Bella Reina N (Om el Bellissimo x Psychedelic RB) – bred and owned by Newport Arabians.

Another large number of show colt foals/weanlings were up next. Section A was a very interesting class and all colts were very similar in quality. Very difficult to choose! Winner was Om el Bilal (WH Justice x Om el Beladeena) – bred and owned by Om el Arab. Second in the class was the big moving Emphatic DDA (Emphasis DDA x Yours to show) – bred and owned by Day Dream Arabians. I also want to mention the third placed horse Empire VO (Emigrant x Afire Chime VO) – as he was accompanied by a really gorgeous dam and was a very nice looking fellow himself!

The B-section of the show colts was again a very nice class. Winner was NW Darius (Stival x NW Shantelle) – bred and owned by Doe/Gallun. Second in this class was Om el Shabir (Om el Bellissimo x Om el bint Shaina) – bred and owned by Om el Arab.

Next up was the yearling filly performance class. The be-

autiful Khantarina Jullyen (Jullyen el Jamaal x Khantina Girl V) – bred and owned by Varian Arabians took the lead, closely followed by the big moving EVG Brianna (Stival x Bey Julie Anne) – bred and owned by Evergreen Arabians. The show continued with the yearling gelding performance class which had only one entry. HS Excuse my Dust (ML Afire Dream x HS Biance Rose) – bred and owned by High Star Farms was a beautiful gelding who also got a lot of positive comments from the judge.

The yearling show filly class was up next. Divided in section A, B and C. The A-section was won by the gorgeous HDC Rijima (Eden C x Reyna JCA) – bred and owned by Haras de Cardenas. Second in this class was Mouneera SMF (Magestic Noble SMF x Ansata Majdiya) – bred and owned by Silver Maple farm.

The B-section was filled with very pretty yearling fillies of which all could have been the winner. The judge however choose the typy Ludjina (Ludjin el Jamaal x Eva C) – bred and owned by Gallun Farms as their winner and noticed the potential breeding qualities this filly could have in the future. The second placed was Southern Belle MP (Eden C x Belle Song HVP) – bred and owned by Mindy Peters. The third placed horse also needs mentioning as she was a personal favorite of mine. Baraka MP (Alfabia Ajib x Om el Belinda Estopa) – bred and owned by Mindy Peters was also a great filly, underlining the great quality of foals and yearling that were entered in this show.

The C-section was won by a gorgeous black filly named HDC Pianella (Eden C x HDC Piaffs Dream) – bred and owned by Haras de Cardenas. A very refined filly with a beautiful face. At the second place was Saskia VO (Silverado VO x Ernestyna) – bred and owned by Valley Oak Arabians. The yearling show colt class what was up next, did many visitors of the festival shiver. As there was shown a son of the world famous and long time ago deceased Ibn Khemosabi. A result of a frozen semen foal but collected in a time when frozen semen was still an uncommon procedure. Most shocking was the resemblance of this foal and Khemosabi. Although Khemosabi has been dead for nearly twelve years, it was like he was there all over again. Ibn Khemosabi is out of Kally Thyme SA and was bred and owned by Ruth Husband of Haifa Arabians – also the breeder and previous owner of Khemosabi. Although Ibn Khemosabi gave a great show, he had to give up his top placing to two full brothers. Om el Salmaan (Om el Exquisit x Om el Shaina) at the first position and Om el Sultan who was placed second. Two beautiful typy colts, so much alike that it was difficult for the judge to decide who was the better one!

The B-section of the yearling show colt classes was the last class of the day. Again a class with some very nice colts! Placed first in this class was Petros MP (WN Ultimate Star x Petronella SRA) – bred and owned by Mindy Peters. The second placed horse was Santino V (Audacious PS x Satine LA) – bred and owned by Varian Arabians. Two gorgeous colts who of which either of them could have been the winner.



After the classes it was time to relax, talk to all the visitors and to visit some locally based farms. My experience in Europe is that once the classes are finished, the people disappear to the hotels and will not be seen till the next day. However here at the foal festival, people stayed to chat and to drink a wine together. The ones that went to see other farms close by, all made sure they were back in time to enjoy the barbeque the show organizers had prepared. The atmosphere was great with live guitar music and late chats in the warm evening sun. It was exactly as it should be. All people together, enjoying the Arabian horse and telling each other the best horse stories. Maybe the best horse story was told prior to the barbeque, where Doug Dahmen told everyone the story of Raffon. The great darkbay stallion sired by Gazon out of Vadraff. Raffon was a stallion of great influence and it was great hearing the story told by Doug in front of who had been the long time owner of Raffon; Paul Hemming and his wife Carol. Also the stallion BA Bey Elation (Huckleberry Bey x Eletta V) was honored and afterwards some of his offspring was shown in Western pleasure and English Park riding.

The next day started again at 10am with the trail classes. In this class, all exhibitors had to follow a certain trail that led them over a several obstacles. They had to go backwards, lift a foot, trot, walk and stand still. The horses participating were all yearlings and showed great concentration. Winner of this trail class was Letisha (FA el Shawan x BHF Shabl Lullaby) – bred and owned by Gallun farms.

After this trail class it was time for the championships. During this championships, the horses were ranked by points. Gold champion yearling performance filly with a total of 174 points was EVG Brianna from Evergreen Arabians. The silver medal was given to Khantarina Jullyen V of Varian Arabians.

Next to go were the yearling filly show championships. Winning the gold medal with 187 points was HDC Rijima, leaving the silver medal for her stable mate HDC Pianelle. The bronze medal was awarded to Ludjina.

The show continued with the yearling colt show championships. Winner with 183 points was Santino V, followed by Om el Salmaan, who got awarded with the silver medal, scoring a total of 182 points. The bronze medal went to his full brother Om el Sultan.

The next championships was the filly foal/weanling performance championship. It was nice to see that during the wait for the announcement who was the champion, the handlers took this waiting time to comfort their foals. Scratching and cuddling, making them feel relaxed and at ease. It was really great to see the interaction between the handler and its horse! The gold champion of this category was Zenyatta JCA, scoring a total of 174 points. Silver medal with 171 points was Ameena Aljassimya. The bronze medal, scoring 166 points was for EVG Alera.

The colt foal/weanling performance championship showed a clear choice of the champions, seen the difference in points

between them. Gold medal winner with 171 points was Jabbahr al Jassmiya, leaving the silver medal for his stable mate Fazaa Aljassimya, scoring a 168 points. The bronze medal with 153 points was for Velvet Revolver.

The filly foal/weanling show championship was an exciting one as the gold and silver champion had only one point of difference! Gold medal winner with 187 points was the gorgeous AJ Farha. Silver medal winner was the showy Bella Edena. Bronze medal winner with 183 points was the very typy and balanced Arwa Aljassimya!

Next to go were the colt foal/weanling show championships. Clear winner with 186 points was NW Darius. The silver medal with 182 points went to Emphatic DDA, leaving the bronze medal with a total of 181 points to Om el Shahir!

Besides the medals for all the participating horses, there was also an award given to the best small breeder. A trophy given to the best small breeder producing five foals or less a year. Winner of this trophy was Gallun farms of Nancy and Greg Gallun! Silver medal winner was Evergreen Arabians and at the bronze medal position was Nicasio Winds Arabians.

The winner of the best large breeder who produces at least six foals a year and up was Aljassimya Farm. The silver medal was for Om el Arab and the bronze medal for Haras Cardenas!

Also the handlers were given points during the show which in the end pointed out Martin Valdez as the Gold champion! Silver champion amateur handler was Anita Broers, leaving the bronze medal for Proferio Sevalle!

Last but not least was the award for the best Arabian mare at the show. This award was for the most beautiful mare that accompanied their foal at the show. Gold medal winner was Om el Belladeena! The silver medal went to Ariadne, leaving the bronze medal for the showy Afire Chime!

After the excitement of all the championships and award it was time for an even larger spectacle. The stallion presentation! Some great stallions were asked to come here to entertain the crowd. And what an entertainment it was. Wow!

The first horse to be presented was Sidon SMF. A beautiful grey son of Ali Sarouk and out of Shaboura. Bred and owned by Silver Mapple farm. This young straight Egyptian stallion captured the hearts of many with his dark grey coat and his long snow white mane.

The next stallion came in with an unbelievable trot. Snorting, blowing, owning the ring. It was US National Champion Aria Impressario. A dark bay trotting machine, sired by Marwan al Shaqab and out of GC Echlectica by Echo Magnifico. Having seen him only at pictures, it was great to finally see him real life!

Another great stallion was shown next. MPA Giovanni, a US National and Scottsdale champion and with his eleven years still in perfect shape. Sired by DA Vinci FM and out of Glitzy by FS Ritz.

The next horse came in fully awake and ready to show! Enzo showed off his extended trot, snorting, blowing, bringing the excitement to the next level. Enzo, sire of champions, is











himself a son of Padrons Psyche and comes out of RD Bey Shahmpane by Bey Shah. Fourteen years old but wow! In what a great condition he is! Still proving to be a true show-horse!

The young stallion Emphasis DDA was to be shown next. A son of Signifikaynce and coming out of the beautiful WR Jullane by Jullyen el Jamaal. This stallion had a gorgeous type with tiny little ears and a beautiful face. He showed his motion perfectly and obviously loved to show himself! Still a young stallion, I am curious to see what he will produce in the nearest future!

Then it was time for my personal favorite. Dakar el Jamaal. Seventeen years old but wow! What a presence and charisma he still has. This beautiful snow white stallion was presented by Doug Dahmen. Dakar is a son of the legendary Ali Jamaal and comes out of Sonoma Lady. He was US National champion and the sire of many many champions worldwide. He was presented together with Ecabo. Another legendary stallion sired by Pepton and out of Etruria. Ecabo himself Polish national champion and US National top ten stallion in 2005. More famous he became by his production of international (world) champions. To see these two stallions here who sired many quality offspring all over the world and to see them here life at the Foal festival was truly special!

The list with stallions was not finished yet and another legendary stallion made his entrance. The nineteen years old Ali Saroukh. A son of the influential Ruminaja Ali and out of Glorietasayonaara by Ansata Abu Nazeer. A very classic pedigree and Ali Saroukh has really made his stamp on the Straight Egyptian breeding. Great to see his owners brought him here for our enjoyment!

Last to be shown was the chestnut stallion Signifikaynce. He is by Its sshow time out of Aristokayte by Shah Azim. Signifikaynce was the 2005 US National Reserve Champion colt and showed the public that he still got it!

This last stallion presentation was a great way to finish the Arabian foal festival. Perfectly organized with a nice and positive atmosphere. A good way to enjoy the horses and interact with all the breeders and visitors of the event.

We asked the show organizer Bart van Buggenhout how he came up with the idea to organize the Arabian Foal event which attracted so many visitors from all around the globe.

"The Arabian foal Festival is organized to enjoy the beautiful foals but also to get the breeders back together in a close working relationship and most of all to showcase our breed to the local community and hopefully stimulating sales of these horses. The foals represent the future, we all love them and everybody is excited about the possibilities in store for them. Their destiny does not have to lay just in being a top halter horse in an international market. We will hopefully encourage families to enjoy our Arabians and performance-minded individuals may find their next superstar in younger age and the beginnings of new breeding programs may also result. By opening a new market we will enable our current breeding farms to keep the bloodlines that are so valuable

without the sacrifice of selling their best stock to ensure the rest of the farm is fed."

That his idea turned out to be a very successful one was clear when I spoke to Jennifer Taylor, one of the local visitors of the event. "I have been involved with horses since I was young, but I never thought about an Arabian horse. In my believing they were only the pretty faces I saw on the cover of magazines. I now experienced today that Arabians can also be real family horses with performance skills. It is great to be introduced to this breed in such a nice and friendly way. The atmosphere is great and everyone loves to share their horse stories with me. It has been a great and fun weekend!"

When we spoke to Elayne of Whitegates Ranch, Riverdale she told us what a great show it was! "Met some friends and had a wonderful time. Very well done, quaint comfortable surroundings. Very close to Solvang and the Santa Ynez Café ;) the show was a gentle, professional and honest presentation of foals and weanlings..Hope to take a baby myself next year!!"

We also had the privilege to speak with Wayne Newton, who is a familiar face in the Arabian Horse World. Once having hundreds of horses at his farm in Las Vegas, he now downsized to a total of 65 high quality individuals. Today, the breeding program of Wayne Newton counts already seven generations of breeding. 96 that has been named National Champions and 7 that claimed International titles, like WN Fawn Obsession, WN Ultimate Star and many more. To Wayne Newton, the Arabian foal festival is a great initiative. "Nowadays the Arabian horse shows is facing more and more political influences. The good thing of this Arabian foal event is that no political features are involved. Everybody has a fair chance. By letting the amateur handlers show the horses, they get a good view on what professional handlers are going through. With the judges explaining the placing, the judging becomes more transparent and fair. Nowadays, most judges are focusing too much on certain parts of the Arabian horse. What they should be doing is seeing if the horse actually looks like an Arabian horse as this must be the basic of all judging. We also see that more and more breeders are focusing on one part of the horse and only using certain bloodlines. With this, we are narrowing the breed. With the Arabian Foal Festival, showing horses in both show and performance sections, all types of Arabians get a chance!"

Also to Manny Lawrence, owner of Jade Creek Arabians, The foal event was a great success. "The idea of this Arabian foal event is great. It is good to see the amateur handlers back in the ring and most of all it is great to see the Arabian horse being shown in a natural way. They don't need the hard stand up with their eyes popping out. When they are just being left in their natural beauty, the eyes will be big from excitement anyway. They are pretty enough on their own! I also like the way they are judging the show. The Judge explains the placing of the horse in a nice – not too critical – way which makes you understand more why your horse was placed as it was. I think this show is a very good concept



for the future. It gives a lot of positive vibes and brings the smaller breeders back involved. I am sure this event will be even bigger next year!

Also to Sheila Varian, the Arabian foal event was a great initiative. "We need to give a different impression to the 'new' breeders and Arabian horse enthusiasts." She says. "it is important to let them see that Arabian horses are for everybody, not just the VIP's who are sitting far away at their expensive table. In this way everybody has a chance. It is fun and educational and a great opportunity for the farm workers to experience and participate at the show with the horses they work with on a daily basis. The service during this show has been excellent. Also for the grooms. When we arrived with the horses, the stables were already prepared with straw and there were water facilities at every corner. You can really feel that the organizers were true horse people and deeply involved with all the work." Sheila continues with saying how she loved the trail classes. "I think that next year they should expand the trail classes," Sheila says. "It is a great way for the horses to get used to a new environment and deal with obstacles in a calm and no stressy way."

At the showground, we also spotted Manny Viera. Owner of Valley Oak Arabians and also for a long time involved with the Arabian horses. "For the foals and yearlings, this Arabian foal event gives them a great first experience," Manny tells. "They have a chance to experience the show world in a positive way. Without any pressure or stress. They learn that showing can be fun and there for have a benefit for later on. Also the judging have been really good and consistence. I like how they explain their choices and placing afterwards. It makes you understand why they placed you there. Also the organizers are really easy to work with. They think along and very reachable and open to ideas. The location of the event is excellent. There are a lot of good breeders in the valley with great quality of horses and an event like this really gives them the possibility to come out and show their production! I think it will really work in other states as well!"

Joaquin Bin of Haras Cardenas; "I believe that the Arabian foal event really helps the Arabian horse industry and gets people back involved. The show is less stressful to the horses. They are handled by amateur handlers that most of the time have worked them at a daily basis at the farm as well. It is an event that can easily be held more often like twice a year." Another important breeder present at the Arabian foal festival was Joel Desmarteau of Markelle Arabians. We asked him how he experienced the festival; "Fun, Fun, Fun..... What else can I say? There were new people experiencing the Arabian horse for the first time, breeders new and old mingling and catching up under the shade of a large Pepper tree,... I was able to catch up with Wayne Newton and his lovely wife Kat and hear about their 2013 foal crop, visit a few local breeding farms with friends from Europe and I sipped a nice glass of California wine with Shelia Varian.....Does it get any better than this at a horse show? I hope the success of the Foal Festival will encourage more of

us to start similar events in our corners of the world. The Arabian Foal Festival proves there are opportunities out there for more breeders and owners to show their horses in an affordable manner, a way for us to attract new people to our breed and it provided an educational experience to everyone. Congratulations to the team that put this together. Your hard work ignited something special our breed will prosper from for years to come"

The Arabian foal Festival has been a great initiative. It is a great idea to take away the boundaries between VIP and normal seating's. To get back in the field, talk with the Arabian horse lovers that are still new to this world. For me personally, I love to speak to the older breeders. To hear their stories about the great stallions and mares back in the old days. I can listen for hours to the most funny stories people experienced with Ruminaja Ali or Bey Shah or any other stallion of significance. To hear about that great foal Bint Magidaa once had at her side and how sick Ali Jamaal was when he was young and almost no one noticed because he was that though! Or to speak about the future of the breed. It is true that we are narrowing the breed and there for I think it is important for us breeders to keep communicating with each other. To be less concurrent and more colleagues. To visit each other's foals, follow each other's breeding program. support each other at the shows. Leasing out mares and stallions to each other. This is how it has been done in the old days and it worked brilliantly. Now it is more and more everybody for its own. Another positive aspect of this show was for me the natural way of showing the horse. No pressure, no chains and no hard standup. I think that in this modern world we forget that also show babies are just babies. To me, they do not need to have a perfect stand up in the ring. Just let them be young and have a good first experience of the show world. Spoken to many judges I have come to understand that also the judges prefer the foals to be standing in a natural way without the shanking and the usage of the whip. These handlers at the foal festival might have been amateurs, but it was a joy to see them show! I believe that this Foal Festival could work not only for other states in America but in Europe as well. I am definitely looking forward to the next Arabian foal Festival! □









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**GOLD FILLY YEARLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP**

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**GOLD COLT YEARLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP**

**SANTINO V**  
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**GOLD FILLY FOAL/WEANLING PERFORMANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**ZENYATTA JCA**  
JADE CREEK ARABIANS



**GOLD COLT FOAL/WEANLING PERFORMANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**JAHBAHR ALJASSIMYA**  
AL JASSIMYA FARM





**GOLD FILLY FOAL/WEANLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP**

**AJ FARHA**  
AJMAN STUD



**GOLD COLT FOAL/WEANLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP**

**NW DARIUS**  
DOE/GALLUN