



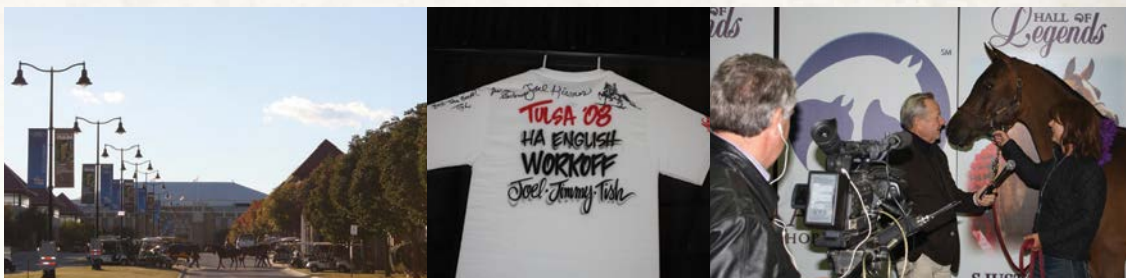
2013 U.S. Nationals—

The Grand Finale

Of The Arabian Show Season

by KARA LARSON

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At the 47th annual U.S. Nationals, new ideas, premier horses, exciting classes, and growing support turned the show into a positive and unique event. Standing as one of the biggest and certainly one of the most important Arabian shows of the year, U.S. Nationals delivered on past promises and future potential as the best of the Arabian show industry came together in Tulsa at the end of October. With numbers reaching nearly 2,000 horses, the show brought together Arabian horses, trainers, amateurs, owners, and breeders from all around the world to appreciate and compete for a national championship. With this high prize on the line, everyone brought their top show string, their game face, and most importantly, an excitement and anticipation unique to this end of the year “last chance” horse show.



Show Chairman Bill Hughes offers his take on what made this year’s U.S. a step in the right direction for the show. “I think my main takeaway was that it was an excellent show. I can’t understate the fact that I think it just had a whole different feel to it. It’s becoming more of an event, rather than just a horse show. We’re a positive group and we’ve got some good people on our side. This year, the professionals worked hard, the decorations were great, and the new backdrop in Ford Arena really sped up the presentations while still offering a wonderful place to showcase those horses and their wins.” Bill continues, “There were a lot of things that the Arabian Horsemen’s Distress Fund people did that helped. We had an event on Wednesday night where we showcased private treaty horses and we had stallion stations and I’ll tell you, it was packed. People had a nice party and I understand that a lot of horses were sold. We also had the new feature of ranch sorting and we expect about 20 teams ended up with, I think, 46 or 47, which is very exciting.”

As these new events and many more changes broke the show out of its mold, the Arabian horse remained at the core of the show’s concern while the people worked hard and played hard. And as positivity and an upbeat attitude spread throughout the Tulsa fairgrounds, a new chapter began in the grand novel of the Arabian horse.

So, in an attempt to summarize the magnificent marathon that is U.S. Nationals, the upcoming pages chronicle the defining moments of the show, the perspective of a few judges, the charitable efforts of the Arabian Horsemen’s Distress Fund, and a few wins that made this year’s U.S. a truly special one.



Stanley White III and PA Lillith.

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Before we jump into the coverage of this finale event, one influential group of Arabian horse enthusiasts must be offered the gratitude they have afforded themselves. Without our loyal breeders, who continue to bring new life into our industry year after year, our beloved Arabian horse, our memories, and our U.S. Nationals would become an unrealized and unfulfilled dream. So, as we extend a big thank you for their grand visions of creating the next great horse, we too revel in the knowledge and love they have for the Arabian horse. As for the breeders responsible for making the 2013 U.S. Nationals a reality, the top five Leading Overall Sires for the show were Afire Bey V, owned by Maroon Fire Arabians, Baske Afire, owned by Strawberry Banks Farm, Versace (deceased), formerly owned by Rojo Arabians, DA Valentino (deceased), formerly owned by Stone Ridge Arabians, and Mamage, owned by Beth Jupp. Your efforts are much appreciated by all involved with the Arabian horse!

Another major breeder of today, Frank Chisholm of Palmetto Arabians, offers his take on breeding in reference to U.S. Nationals. “We think of U.S. as our litmus test to measure how well our breeding program is doing. If you’ve got horses that are going to nationals and performing well, it’s really a good indicator of how successful your breeding decisions are and whether you have a good breeding stallion. Based on how things went this year, we’re pretty pleased with where we are.” Of his favorite win of Sundance Kid V’s get, this honor awarded to the Arabian Western Pleasure Futurity champion PA Lillith (Possession PGA x Lily Dancer V) with Stanley White III up, Frank states, “Lily Dancer V is one of Sundance’s daughters and Lillith was one of our favorites coming up. So, at the show this year, we went over to congratulate Stanley and the owners, and Stanley informed us that it was the first national championship of his career. I was stunned to hear that because I’ve seen him in the winner’s circle so many times, and Stanley and Stanley White Jr. have always been really big supporters of ours, so it meant an awful lot to us that Stanley had won his first national championship on one of our horses.”



Katie Garland and ROL Divine Style.

One of the recent additions to the U.S. Nationals is the \$100,000 AEPA Arabian Saddle Seat Futurity class. This year's class, full of amazing 4-year-old Arabian English horses, was one of the most exciting and impressive classes of the show. The top two horses were the same two who took home champion and reserve in last year's Arabian Saddle Seat Futurity, Heirs Noble Love and Joel Kiesner, and ROL Divine Style and Katie Garland. As we focus in

on Katie and "Duke," the dynamic pair was quite a sight both in and after the class had finished. As Katie stood on her 4-year-old English horse's back in the middle of Ford Truck Arena after being called Reserve National Champion, their trust in one another took center stage. Katie shares, "Going reserve national champion is such an honor and doing it on the same horse two years in a row in one of the biggest classes in the show is truly a dream come

"You Had To Be There" MOMENTS OF THE SHOW

If you happened to see a grinning man walking around the Tulsa fairgrounds wearing his filly's national championship ribbon in the collar of his sweater, you may already know the story of champion yearling filly Donna Molta Bella SRA. Dan Grossman was certainly proud of the filly he and his wife, Maureen, bred and raised. A deserving and surprised couple, the Grossmans had a vision just over a year ago to breed Valentino and a Falcon daughter named RD Fabreanna. And this came in the form of an embryo purchase to benefit St. Jude's Children Hospital.

In reference to the amazing win, Dan shares, "I was thrilled. Thrilled maybe isn't the right word. I was ecstatic that we had finally bred a horse that produced a national champion. And the best part is that St. Jude's Hospital benefitted out of it." Grossman adds, "To brag, yes I'm going to brag, she had the highest score a female has ever had at the U.S. Nationals—391.5. So, to be honest, we couldn't sleep that night! We were just on Cloud 9."

Maureen adds, "The thrill of seeing her win two national championships as a yearling was absolutely awesome. She was special from day one with a beauty and perfect conformation that just kept getting better. We have had lots of horses shown by David Boggs at nationals, but he had never communicated as frequently and as enthusiastically prior to this nationals as he did about Donna Molta Bella SRA. Every other



day for six weeks leading up to the show, David would send a new video or text report. Her pedigree is royal with her sire, 6-time national champion DA Valentino, and her dam RD Fabreanna, also a national champion. Obviously, the breeding was very outstanding, but as all breeders know, that alone does not ensure greatness. She is the total package and then some!"



Dan and Maureen Grossman with Ed and Marie Horton at the Valentino Book Signing at the AHT booth.



Morgan Kelly and MM Sabe.

true. It has always been my dream ever since I was a little girl to show and train English horses and now I can say I'm truly living the dream! Every time I show this horse, it is the best feeling in the world. As soon as I hit the arena, a smile comes on my face and I can't stop! Duke gives me 150 percent every time we show and we leave it all out there."

The versatility of our Arabian horse is certainly something to boast about, and especially at the premier level, we have wonderful examples of this range of talent. For Morgan Kelly, her horse MM Sabe exemplifies what the Arabian horse is capable of in and out of the show ring. With Morgan, Sabe was Champion Arabian English Show Hack AAOTR, Reserve Champion Arabian Country Pleasure Driving AAOTD, and Top Ten Arabian Ladies Side Saddle English AAOTR. Additionally, with trainer Larry Hoffman, Sabe took home Champion Arabian English Show Hack Open and Reserve Champion Arabian Country Pleasure Driving Open. On his show, Morgan offers, "He was a pretty busy boy at the show, but he loves it! I feel that he is so pretty and makes whatever he does look so effortless. He also genuinely has a great time showing and was getting kind of bored with only doing country, so adding show hack and driving gave him something new to learn and keep it fresh."

Morgan's family purchased Sabe 10 years ago, so these wins add to their special journey together as a truly dynamic horse and rider pair. "It is hard to pick a favorite class with Sabe because I always enjoy it, but driving would have to be my favorite from this year. It was our first year driving and going reserve our first time out was amazing!" Morgan adds, "I think that anyone who has won



Jessica Medved and SA Sophisticated Lady.

a national championship can say that it isn't an easy thing to do in any regard. It takes a lot of time and dedication to come out on top of all of the great competitors. With Sabe and I, it only feels more special since I have won national championships with him as a 13 & under rider, 14-17, and now as an adult in 18-39."

In Tulsa, the Half-Arabian Park Championship fills up the seats in Ford Truck Arena, puts a smile on everyone's face, and showcases some of the most talented horses in the U.S. and beyond. After Jessica Medved took home the amateur park championship with SA Sophisticated Lady, she was set to head into the show ring with the big boys for a chance to win the open championship. Jessica shares what it's like to ride the special and well-known mare. "Sophisticated Lady is a blast to ride. She is a true show horse. When she gets into the ring, I can just feel that she loves it. Sophie has a huge heart, and will give everything she has when she performing. Sophie is also very sassy, very high energy, and sometimes just does what she wants! She keeps me on my toes."

And in the unbelievable and well-deserved outcome of the class, Jessica shares, "Winning the Half-Arabian Open Park as an amateur was unreal! I never thought that it would happen. We gave it everything we had—it was probably one of our best rides ever. There was a lot of emotion when they called us champion, bringing it to five national championships in the open for Sophie! The competition could not have been better. There is no greater feeling than trotting out of the ring with the crowd cheering and winning a unanimous national championship on a once-in-a-lifetime horse!"



Pawel Kozikowski, David Boggs and Marek Trela.



A SUPREME STALLION: *POGROM

He won Scottsdale. He won Vegas. He won Nationals. Polish stallion *Pogrom finished his 2013 season in the U.S. undefeated and is leaving a great legacy behind as he heads home to Poland. Marek Trela of Janów Podlaski State Stud in Poland, shares his appreciation of this special stallion. “This stallion is very important for us and after his wins in Scottsdale and Las Vegas, he was for sure one of the favorites to bring home the U.S. National title, which made the whole thing even more stressful for me. Ultimately, David had a great show and Pogrom showed a, not only perfect standup, but also great movement. His points from the class were the highest in U.S. Nationals history, so we hoped for good results in the finals.”

Trela adds, “Pogrom’s victories in the USA have made him well known in the Arabian horse scene and everyone is now awaiting future shows, and watching his offspring and hopefully, their successes. Pogrom’s trilogy in the USA was possible due to the very professional promotion, training, conditioning, and showing by David Boggs and the great staff of Midwest Training Centre. For me, the last two years are filled with many great moments, big emotions, and new friends; all because of our big bay boy Pogrom.”



Katherine Kirby and CP Shenanigan.

KATHERINE KIRBY

Up-and-coming amateur Katherine Kirby proved her show ring prowess as she took home three national championships in some of the toughest amateur classes of the show. Her powerful Arabians, especially CP Shenanigan, have already shown much promise, and for Katherine, it's a dream come true. On her amazing success at this year's Nationals, Katherine shares, "I showed our junior horse ROL Lets Dance for the first time ever at U.S. Nationals in the Arabian country English pleasure 19-39 class. It was only about a month before nationals that we decided to enter her in the class, and with the combination of Ashley Robert's training and Dance's willing heart, we won amongst a sea of beautiful horses. I was filled with so many emotions because she truly gave me all she had and she's only five. I also showed CP Shenanigan in the English pleasure maturity and the English pleasure amateur division, which were on the same day. It was such a short amount of time between classes, so I was a little worried, but my trainer Jim Stachowski knew he could do it. To win both of them unanimously was a true reflection of "Shane's" stamina and talent. It was definitely a nationals to remember!"

A MOMENTOUS MARE: HONEY'S DELIGHT RB

The 4 & 5 Year Old Mare class was one of the most competitive classes of the show and Honey's Delight RB came out victorious. Up against successful mares like Valori TRF and JJ La Baronesa, Honey's Delight RB and Greg Gallún took the class with a stunning performance. On the experience leading up to this win, Greg shares, "We were only able to take her to Region 3 to qualify her for U.S. Nationals and to be honest, she was in suspect condition due to arriving just weeks before from Brazil. We all had an interesting perspective going in because we knew of the fantastic depth of the horses that were going to be there; not only in her age division, but in all ages—there were some really formidable mares to go up against. So, with Honey, we knew she had great potential, but we went with the goal of having fun and doing the best we could."

With all this in mind, the emotion behind Honey Delight's win was heightened and even more impressive. Her win became that of a mare whose future was promising; her big moment coming much sooner than anyone had anticipated. And Honey didn't stop there. As she was crowned the title of U.S. National Champion Mare, friends and family poured into the arena, shouting and smiling with genuine joy—a contagious sight. In a field of wonderful mares, Greg offers, "We were ecstatic with how she was received as a relatively unknown mare in the United States. She got great marks from the judges in a great class as we were respectful of the quality that was there. It was humbling; I mean that was a beautiful class. We were fortunate to end up in the top spot."

For Greg and the ownership, it wasn't necessarily a question of *if* Honey's Delight would be a National Champion Mare, but *when*. So in her amazing U.S. Nationals debut, she simply realized her goal earlier than anticipated. Honey's journey to the championship, however, started long before her regional qualification. For owners and partners, Jeff Sloan, Rich Sloan, and Neil Braverman, Honey is truly a special horse. Jeff Sloan shares, "I've been aware of Honey's Delight for a little over a year, tracking her career since she was 2012 National Champion Mare in Brazil. And, of course, I saw both of her daughters go junior national champion filly at the same time in a record-setting competition, also in Brazil. I even remember when Guzzo posted a photo of her on Facebook© in her national championship class in Brazil, and I remember



Greg Gallin and Honey's Delight RB.

feeling that this mare was really something special. When I heard that she might be available, I jumped on it—I remember the moment clearly. It was a very quick decision for us. We're very thankful that Guzzo brought her to our attention and gave us the opportunity to own her."

Part owner, Braverman, was thrilled with the win as well, adding, "I was surprised—everybody was surprised that Honey was embraced so quickly, and it was truly a special time for me. I knew this was a great mare and we could expect great things, including national titles with her, but we just didn't expect all of this success in such a short period of time—obviously we're thrilled."



Inside The Halter Division



One of this year's Halter Panel Judges, Joe Polo, offers some insight into the halter realm of the 2013 U.S. Nationals. A respected judge and stand-up guy, Joe was happy to share what it is really like to judge the most important show of the year.

AHT: Have you judged U.S. Nationals before?

JP: This was my first time.

AHT: Did it meet your expectations?

JP: It did. The quality of the horses was supreme, the management was excellent, and Stan Morey really kept tabs on how we were doing to make sure everything was running smoothly regarding the judges. I want to give Stan accolades for being a great asset in the judging community and in overseeing the judging system in which we're currently operating.

AHT: Since it was your first time judging, what did you think made it different from the other shows that you've judged?

JP: For me, it was the historical part—it's the U.S. Nationals. There's just so much history, and it was such an honor to judge it.

AHT: Did you feel more pressure because it was U.S. Nationals?

JP: There wasn't as much pressure as there was a building anxiety. I wanted to get to Tulsa and get started; the anticipation of being able to judge it was exciting.

AHT: Do you prefer judging halter to other disciplines?

JP: I love it all. Of course, I showed halter, so I truly enjoy that, but on the performance side of it, there are just so many great horses to see. At Nationals, we had the opportunity to watch just a few performance classes and there was such a high quality of horses. We didn't get to see a whole lot, but the little bit we did see was just incredible.

AHT: The iPad system seemed to work well this year.

JP: Yeah, the iPads helped. We had one situation on Thursday night that created a few challenges, but the exhibitors, the judges, and everybody else made the best of the situation. With the points system the way it is, the iPads certainly make it a bit more efficient.

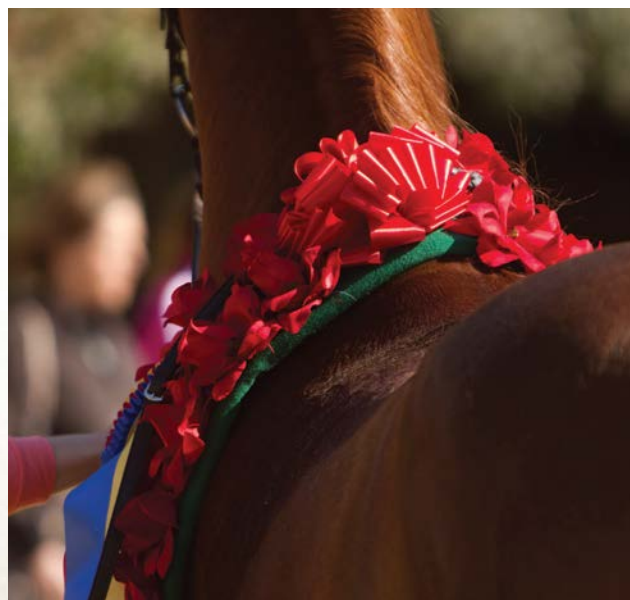
AHT: Talk about the amateur halter versus the professional handlers at the show.

JP: There were definitely some great amateur horses. In particular, there was a gelding from Florida that showed with Rohara—just a wonderful horse that won quite a bit. There were so many good amateurs that did an excellent job.

However, I must say, that I think it really became evident to me, that after judging Nationals this year, I would rethink the process of judging the amateurs using the point system. I think we should keep the point system for the open, but maybe go back to the comparative for the amateurs.

AHT: Do you have anything else that you want to address about the show?

JP: I would like to say that whether you agreed or disagreed with my assessment, in the end, the best horses rose to the top of the classes and each horse had an honest assessment.





TRAINER DAVID BOGGS

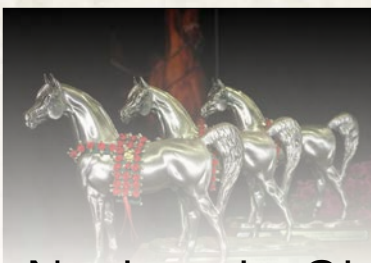
With 21 national championships, David calls this year's U.S. Nationals "the show of a lifetime. There's no doubt that all of these were special; when you win a national championship, it is so dear to your heart because this is not an easy feat. This is the Olympics for the games that we play. It is a dream come true, I am pinching myself every day and thanking God every day."

David begins with the Polish treasure, *Pogrom. "One of the most significant wins was with *Pogrom. He completed the third jewel of his triple crown here in the United States; he was never beaten. It is just an amazing journey. It was very special to have this horse in the United States and to win with the breeders and the owners from Poland made it very memorable. He is a fabulous, fabulous horse, and of course, a show horse, but my seven year old son Jake can lunge and groom him; he is as sweet as can be."

Considering another very special and internationally owned stallion, *Hariry Al Shaqab, David relishes in the

promise and potential of this winning Arabian. "Another dynamic show horse is Hariry from Al Shaqab in Qatar. A son of Marwan Al Shaqab, he was Unanimous National Champion Junior Colt. He is one of the most beautiful Arabians I have ever seen in my life. I believe he will become the replacement for Marwan in many people's eyes. He is stunning, just a portrait of classic beauty, perfect balance, type, athleticism; he had the crowd on their feet for his unanimous national champion victory. I am excited to go forward with him as we aim towards Las Vegas and the future of this great horse."

Other big wins included Sultan ORA in the Arabian 2-Year-Old Colt class, Kharisma M in the Arabian Futurity Filly class, and so many more. Grateful of every opportunity to expand the success of Midwest Training Centre, David would like to acknowledge every win at the show as the incredible gifts they are. And for every special moment shared with each owner and amateur, he thanks his Midwest family.



2013 U.S. Nationals Show Results

Arabian Halter



Arabian Stallion Adult 4 & Over Champion **POGROM** (QR Marc x Petla), shown by David Boggs for owner Janów Podlaski State Stud Farm.



Arabian Colt (1-3 Years) Champion **HARIRY AL SHAQAB** (Marwan Al Shaqab x White Silkk), shown by David Boggs for owner Al Shaqab Member Qatar Foundation.



Arabian Stallion 8 & Over Champion **MARHAABAH** (Marwan Al Shaqab x Shalina El Jamaal), shown by Andrew Sellman for owner The Marhaabah Legacy Group.



Arabian Stallion 6-7 Champion **FSF DAKAROS ENCHANTER** (Dakharo x Enchantingly Shai), shown by Chris Anckersen for owner Ann Riles.



Arabian Stallion 4-5 Champion **POGROM** (QR Marc x Petla), shown by David Boggs for owner Janów Podlaski State Stud Farm.



Arabian 3-Year-Old Colt Champion **HARIRY AL SHAQAB** (Marwan Al Shaqab x White Silk), shown by David Boggs for owner Al Shaqab Member Qatar Foundation.



Arabian 2-Year-Old Colt Champion **SULTAN ORA** (Vegas DPA x Raherra), shown by David Boggs for owners Carlos and Christiane Roizner.



Arabian Yearling Colt Champion **TRUSE** (Trussardi x Julia B), shown by Austin Boggs for owners Robert and Janene Boggs.



Arabian Futurity Colt Champion **POLIDORO FC** (DA Valentino x Abha Palma), shown by Michael Byatt for owners Stuart and Sue Larsen.



Arabian Stallion AAOTH Champion **SPITFYRE VF** (TF Psymreeke x Red Flame BRSB), shown by owner Mike Steinhart.



Arabian Mare 4 & Over Champion **HONEY'S DELIGHT RB** (JJ Senior Magnum x Honeymoon FHP), shown by Greg Gallún for owner Masterpiece Arabian Partners LLC.



Arabian Filly (1-3 Years) Champion **DONNA MOLTA BELLA SRA** (DA Valentino x RD Fabreanna), shown by David Boggs for owners Dan and Maureen Grossman.

"I always love the U.S. Nationals. It is the finale for the year and this year was certainly a top quality show with great quality horses—getting a top ten really means something."

"Our eight horses all placed in the top ten, and we had two reserve champions in there as well. Breeding-wise, a Bey Ambition baby, went reserve champion in the futurity western in a really tough class. We continue to aim for the performance market as Bey Ambition's babies are four years old now, so stay tuned!"

—Murray Popplewell, Rae-Dawn Arabians





Arabian 3-Year-Old Filly Champion **RASIKA** (Aria Impresario x Marrisah), shown by Ted Carson for owner Neverland Arabians LLC.



Arabian 2-Year-Old Filly Champion **BADIAA AL SHAHANIA** (Marwan Al Shaqab x Majalis), shown by Michael Byatt for owner Al Shahania Stud.



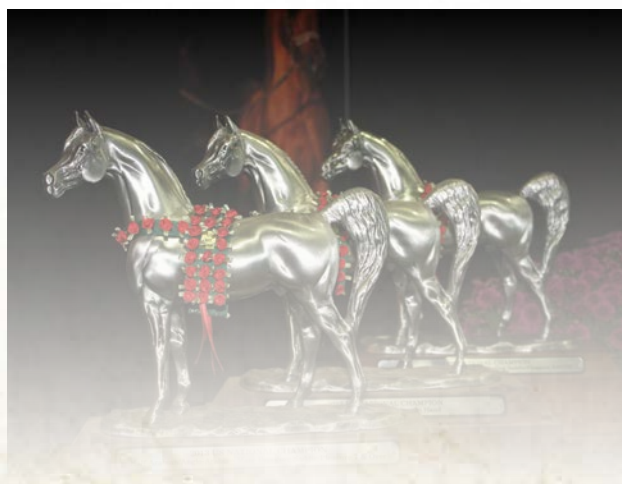
Arabian Yearling Filly Champion **DONNA MOLTA BELLA SRA** (DA Valentino x RD Fabreanna), shown by David Boggs for owners Dan and Maureen Grossman.



Arabian Futurity Filly Champion **KHARISMA M** (DA Valentino x Kharmel BR), shown by David Boggs for owners Anthony Marino Sr. and Anthony Marino Jr.



Arabian Mare AAOTH Champion **KHARISMA M** (DA Valentino x Kharmel BR), shown by owner Anthony Marino Jr.





Arabian Gelding Adult 4 & Over Champion **DC BENEDICT** (Besson Carol x Z LOOK), shown by Andrew Sellman for owner Rica Mendel.



Arabian Gelding (1-3 Years) Champion **OCTAVIUS NA** (Ever After NA x Psylk Obsession), shown by Rodolfo Guzzo for owner Michael Bills.



Arabian Gelding 8 & Over Champion **DC BENEDICT** (Besson Carol x Just One Look), shown by Andrew Sellman for owner Rica Mendel.



Arabian Gelding 6-7 Champion **FIDENZIO** (Enzo x WN Infinity), shown by Greg Gallún for owners Diane and Jennifer Lavalée.



Arabian Gelding 4-5 Champion **ALLESIO** (Besson Carol x MFA Annies Song), shown by David Botha for owner Michael Byatt.



Arabian 3-Year-Old Gelding Champion **BLACK OPZZ** (Aria Impresario x Miss Enzo JB), shown by Jeff Schall for owner Shuster Arabians LLC.



Arabian 2-Year-Old Gelding Champion **SHAQS LEGACY MH** (Maserati WR x Legacys Treasure), shown by owner Jeff Schall.



Arabian Yearling Gelding Champion **OCTAVIUS NA** (Ever After NA x Psylk Obsession), shown by Rodolfo Guzzo for owner Michael Bills.



Arabian Futurity Gelding Champion **CONVICTION CA** (SF Veraz x Denalia), shown by Ted Carson for owners Kentley and W. Kent Dean.



Arabian Gelding AAOTH Champion **FIDENZIO** (Enzo x WN Infinity), shown by owner Jennifer Lavallee.



“For us at Al Shaqab, Hariry represents our goal of breeding a worthy successor to both Marwan Al Shaqab and Gazal Al Shaqab, Hariry’s sire and grandsire. With Gazal a 2005 U.S. National Reserve Champion Stallion, and Marwan a 2003 and 2005 U.S. National Champion Junior Stallion—unanimous on both occasions—Hariry’s win, a second national title in consecutive years, couldn’t be more gratifying.”

—Mohammed Al Sulaiti,
Manager at Al Shaqab

U.S. Nationals Happenings ...



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Dedicated to the Arabian Horse for over 40 years.

The Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund

At U.S. Nationals



At its core, U.S. Nationals is about unity. Bringing together the best Arabian horses, trainers, exhibitors, and breeders from around the world to Tulsa, Okla., we celebrate the abilities of our horses through honest competition. We catch up with friends we see so seldom, at exciting events we've come to look forward to, like the Wine Walk, and new events that really made an impact, like the Wednesday night Sales and Stallion Presentation. Events like these, outreach programs done prior to the show, and the Arabian Western Pleasure Calcutta were events conceptualized and carried out by a couple of very determined individuals.

For Trainer Mary Trowbridge, the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund has a very clear job to do. "While the AHDF is a separate charitable arm, unconnected financially to any of our other Arabian organizations, it has purposefully been built to be available to any Arabian horse community member. It is essentially an AHA member service in that it is available to any member in good standing with the Arabian Horse Association during times of unexpected crisis, but it also has a second charge in its bylaws, as it was

Facing page: Meeting an Arabian for the first time.

Right: Tulsa kids enjoying Arabian horse handpainting.



also designed to promote the horse and our community, and educate people about this breed. There's no question in my mind that we have the best, most giving, most diverse community of people involved with the Arabian horse—I don't think there's any other community of horsemen like it around, and it comes very naturally to all of us to promote it."

Planning for this year's expanded events for the AHDF began literally as last year's horse show finished, and many people jumped in over the course of the year to help make the events fly. About six months before the show, Mary Trowbridge and Becky Nash, the AHDF Fundraising Chairman, got in contact and partnered with the Tulsa Junior League (TJL). This group of established and well-connected women is affiliated with multiple different charities within the community of Tulsa, so their influence and volunteer help was greatly appreciated in conjunction with bringing the Arabian horse out into the public of Tulsa. Becky shares, "Earlier this year, Mary and I were talking about how we can do outreach in the community to expose the Arabian horse. And the thought was to share our horses to reach out to the community and do some charitable work with them. In Tulsa this year, we really wanted to show the community what a great horse and event we have in U.S. Nationals, and that in return for their community support of the show, we are invested in giving something back to Tulsa."

With their partners on board and a plan beginning to take shape, the scope of their undertaking began to appear. "It was obvious that we were going to need a LOT of help," Mary laughs. "Luckily, we ended up having angels in both of our immediate circles. Holly Azevedo is a client of ours who entered through our lesson program, and went

to her first Nationals last year, where she was top ten in the hunter select class, and with an extensive corporate background, she volunteered to help us all the way through the show, which was a Godsend. She managed all of the details for me with the TJL and the Outreach events, as well as helping Becky with the rest of the week's events. We ended up visiting five charities the week before the horse show: The Little Lighthouse, an organization for mentally or developmentally disabled children, which ended up being just the best day of the year for me; and then we went to two community action program projects, which the Junior League runs at two of the local elementary schools. We followed that up with horses taken to an afterschool program that The Junior League also runs and then also to a foster children placement home, which is the spot in Tulsa where children go after they've been removed from a family situation. That was probably our toughest visit by far, because all of the children there come from a variety of different situations and they're at a holding facility just basically waiting to either get placed, adopted or fostered."

She goes on to explain the visits a bit further. "The Junior League was crucial to the success of the Outreach. Besides identifying the charities, helping with media contacts and press releases, and providing volunteers for each event, they went a step (or ten!) further when they purchased "Black Stallion" books for all of the younger children and presented them to each child that fit the age range. The first hands-on interaction was when we took the horses to the school to meet the kids, and then for the second interaction, the kids came back through the Tail program the first weekend of the horse show. When they came to the show, each child went to one of the horse barns and read their favorite page to a horse." Mary



First annual "A Night With Arabian Horses" sales and stallion presentation.

continues, "I believe we had about 300 kids that went through the horse T.A.I.L. literacy project with the "Black Stallion" books, and we figured that we had hands-on with over 650 kids."

"I ended up with 14 horses at the show, and six visits off the grounds scheduled in the four days before the show started, so it was obvious I was NOT going to be able to do as much as I wanted to. Luckily, our phenomenal group of horse trainers and owners all stepped up to take over that part, so we had great volunteers who were instrumental in pulling the whole pre-show outreach work off. Among them, and forgive me if I forget even one of you, were: Karla Jackson, Josh and Jenn Quintus, Corky Sutton, Carrie Fritz, Leslie Doran, Pepper Proffit, Meg Casey, Ken and Kathy D'Auria, Russ Brown, Crystal McNutt-Brock and Mike Brock, Jr., Mike and Terrie Budd, Carla Moffitt, Brian Galbraith, Lester Martin, and Gail Grubb. And taking everyone, horses and people alike, to each visit, were Pat Trowbridge and Matt Conway, who both made sure, as always, that everything came off without a hitch. It surely would not have happened without all of these great people and many more!"

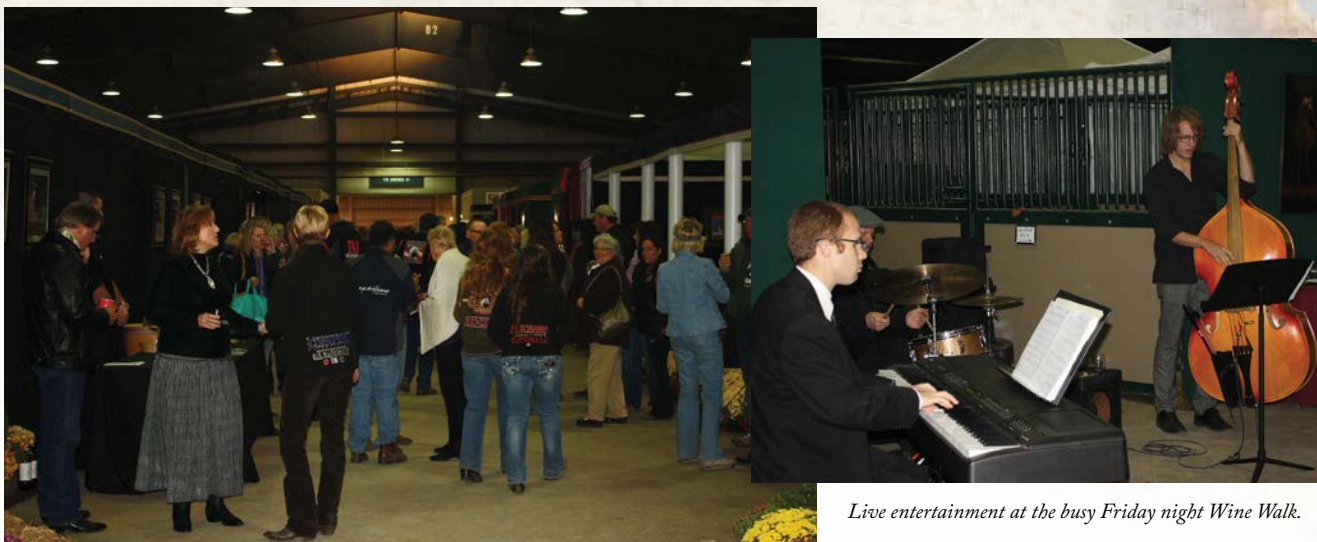
Beyond bringing our horses to schools and charities and offering T.A.I.L. programs for outside community members to feel welcome at the show, there were three major events put on by the AHDF in its effort to support the Arabian horse community, promote the breed and hold fun, meaningful events as fundraisers.

Becky Nash has been in charge of the Friday night Wine Walk since its inception, and this year, with a challenge on the mind, she decided to attempt to plan something for the dark night of the show, Wednesday night. As the night unfolded, 30 plus sales horses of all venues—trail, reining, western, hunter, English, and halter horses—were presented for a couple of minutes by their owners or

their trainers with a description read off by Mike Neal and Josh Quintus. As the opportunity arose for members of our own community to enjoy an exciting time and view sale horses in one spot, there was also great success in bringing the outside public into the venue. Markel Insurance donated money for outside advertising in Tulsa newspapers, and a new breed promotion flyer to hand out, while Hennessey Arabians donated dollars for the bright red, Arabian Horse Ambassador, jackets and coolers that the volunteers and horses wore during their outings around Tulsa and at the show. An added bonus was the help from KGB Texas' marketing department to assist the AHDF and the TJJL in the week before the show to get the horses and volunteers to the news stations in town, resulting in great pre-show publicity as well as subsequent visits during the show.

"When Bert Sanders and Laura Koch, owners of Zefyr, heard about the evening, they got excited along with everyone else, and took it a step further," reports Becky. "A couple of nights after I first approached them, they called me up to see if they could sponsor a favorite band of theirs to entertain during the event, and did just that, paying for the band's time, travel and accommodations to get to us from South Carolina to Tulsa." The band added incredibly to the excitement of the evening, arriving just as the sale horses finished their presentations and put on a concert in the pavilion—a perfect ending to a successful evening. Mary offers, "Everybody had a really good time; it was a tremendous evening. We had 11 stallion bars during the gala where each stallion owner came up with a signature cocktail drink and everybody got a few free drink tickets. Each stallion owner decorated their bars and put out their own information on their stallions, fun promotional items and literature."

As for the brains behind the evening, Becky Nash shares, "I've had really good feedback. The only thing I think I



Live entertainment at the busy Friday night Wine Walk.

would do differently is probably to have fewer horses. I ended up having more horses than I thought I was going to have.” Becky continues, “And the biggest challenge was in getting the word out for the event. Once people get to nationals, they don’t read their e-mails, but it was still well attended. In the end, I think people loved it. They loved the idea of the diversity of all the different horses that were in the sale and the venue in the pavilion; the music, the food and the stallion part. It was all very positive.”

The proven Wine Walk also showcased Friday night, brought the staples of past years back as well as some new additions. As live music from a jazz trio from Tulsa played, Arabian legends, A Temptation, S Justadream, Spyrit, and NDL Pericles, were present, and people were able to see them up-close while they connected with old friends and met new.

The inaugural Arabian Western Pleasure Calcutta was the final major event from this year’s U.S. Nationals, taking place on Saturday night with some very worthwhile prizes at stake. Some great items, including national championship spurs, top ten coolers and hats, were sponsored by many Arabian enthusiasts, including: CSC Ranch (Chad and Susan Abbott Chance, Shamrock Farms (Leslie Doran and Carrie Fritz), Robin Porter’s Crescent Creek Farm, Frierson Custom Suits, Show Season, Woods Western. Purina Feeds even donated a ton of feed to a random top ten winner. Most exciting, however, were the two top prizes for champion and reserve—the reserve prize a hunting trip to Canada to the Budd Family hunting camp in Canada, and the first prize seven days at a very exclusive condominium resort on Waikiki Beach, donated by Larry Jerome and his family of Jerland Arabians.

On his choice to donate this trip, Larry shares, “When you give a gift, you want something that you would want

for yourself. When my wife and I were young and just married, we’d been struggling to raise a bunch of little kids, so when we had an opportunity to take our first trip, it was always my dream to go to Hawaii. When I went there, I kept saying to myself, if I could only own something here—that would be my dream, my ultimate goal—and it took me 25 years to do it, but I was able to acquire something. We purchased this for our family and friends, and I felt that the Calcutta was a perfect opportunity to share something that is really special to me.” To top off his donation, Larry went the final step and flew in, directly from Hawaii, over sixty fresh Hawaiian lais that were presented to the top ten, champions, owners, show officials and judges Saturday night.

As months of hard work culminated into a wonderful and meaningful U.S. Nationals, Mary, Becky, and all of their loyal volunteers take a breath after a big year, and yet, look forward to bringing everything back next year as they continue to build something in which the Arabian community can be proud. Mary adds, “One of the things I want to stress is that the show commission and AHA have been tremendous partners for the HDF and they have helped us every step of the way. Glenn Petty, Lance Walters, Stan Morey—all of these people and many more, have been advocates and supporters of our efforts. U.S. Show Commission Chair, Bill Hughes, has been a huge proponent and behind the Horsemen’s Distress Fund since the very beginning. When we first started doing events at nationals, I guess it’s been about five years now, nobody was doing these kind of events, and Bill stepped up to the plate and made it happen and spoke right up for us. Each year, AHA has really assisted the HDF in putting on fundraisers at their premier events. In return, what we want the AHDF to do is to make those events better and more fun through some real meaningful fundraising. I think both things have come to fruition.” ■

U.S. Nationals Happenings ...

