

by Emma Maxwell ■ photos by Emma Maxwell
and Debbie Wass Fuentes

The US Arabian Open was the first time Arabians have been shown in New York City, let alone the glorious surroundings of Central Park. The ambitious idea was carried through by Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani of Aljassimya Farm who sponsored the evening at the Rolex Central Park Horse Show, adding Arabians to an already existing equestrian event featuring Olympic winning riders in showjumping and dressage.

The show was pulled together in the last three months with the help of the AHA and its president Cynthia Richardson. The date arrived rather late on the calendar for many exhibitors, but while class numbers were low this year, the quality certainly was not, for both the halter and ridden horses that attended. Many thanks are due to those who made it a priority to attend this event and show off the breed to a new audience. For years to come it should become a jewel in the crown of Arabian shows with a backdrop and urban location second to none.

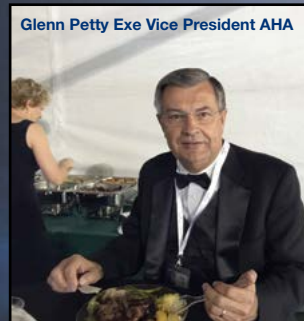
The horses came from far and wide with the yearling fillies won by Vedette J (Saiaf Al Shaqab –MM Starlite Jullyen) owned and bred by Larry Jerome a breeder of 35 years standing from Wisconsin. Yearling colts went to Jalal Aljassimya (WH Justice – Annaiss) one of two horses shown on this first event by Aljassimya Farm who flew in from California. As the main sponsor they will not attend with horses next year.



The

US ARABIAN OPEN





Glenn Petty Exe Vice President AHA

Andrew and Angie Sellman



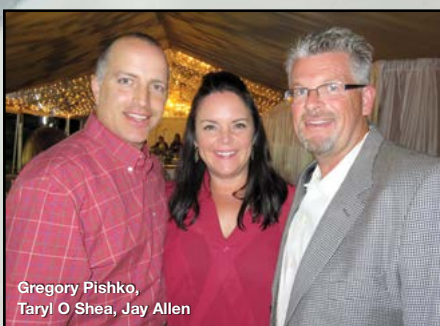
Anna Bishop and Nasr Marei

Bill Shelton

Lara Ames



Debbie
Wass Funetes
Kim Jarvis



Gregory Pishko,
Taryl O Shea, Jay Allen

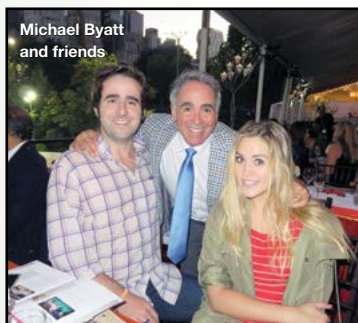
From the left: Ted Carson, Javan Schaller, Randi Clark



Isaac and
Jessie Taylor

Larry Jerome
Jerland Famrs

Judges: Fabio Amorosino, Nasr Marei, Lisa Blackstone,
Corky Sutton, Koenraad Detailleur

Michael Byatt
and friendsSheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa
Al Tani

Yvonne Van Stiphout



Junior fillies were very sparse and won by Edens Mandalay (Eden C – Rebecca R) bred and owned by Shelley Macmillan and presented by Ted Carson who brought a team up from Florida and was notable for his excellent presentation of the horses in movement. He also presented the winning Junior Colt in a very competitive race. SF Verazs Camar (SF Veraz – Sobo Honey Serenade) owned and bred by Sycamore Farm LLC, just edged out Falah Al Shagab with David Boggs. Both colts won Silver titles in Scottsdale this year.

The Senior mares was a much anticipated class featuring CR Jasmeenah, Aljassimya Farms' wonderfully classic World Champion mare, but perhaps a little out of practice after 3 years in the pasture she had to concede to a younger mare this time. Winner was refined chestnut Valentinus Angel Mi (DA Valentino – Always An Angel), bred in Australia by Mularwa Stud, owned by Al Mohamadia Stud of KSA and presented, full of energy, by Andrew Sellman.

The Senior Stallions was a clean victory for Om El Al Azeem, (Al Lahab – Om El Beneera) also presented by Andy Sellman, a bright white stallion reminiscent of his sire and already a title holder at many of the USA's main shows. Runner up was Miracle of Marwan built on very American lines.

The three ridden classes displayed some of the top US contenders, again few in number, but they all gave a very professional showcase of their division and showed the ridden Arabian at his best. Black stallion Klint Black (Desperado V – Windsong Bey) won the Hunter Pleasure in a foot perfect style ridden by Wendy Shelton and owned by Cindy Burrows. Western Pleasure was won by Monticello V (Jullyen El Jamaal – Mosquerade V) ridden by Joe Reser. They are already 2015 and 2013 Scottsdale Champions in Open Western Pleasure. Owned by Lesley Farms LLC, Monticello V was bred by Varian Arabians, whose bloodlines were apparent on almost all the performance horses forward. The last class of the night was handed over to four ladies in full regalia for the Costume Class, won by a very athletic bay gelding gelding HL Sanction (The Chief Justice – Overlook Seratifa) ridden by Cathy Vecsey. HL Sanction was in fact 26 years old and a great advert for the longevity of the Arabian horse.

Four entries high stepped around the ring for Country English Pleasure with the winner Noble Grace (XL Noble Express –

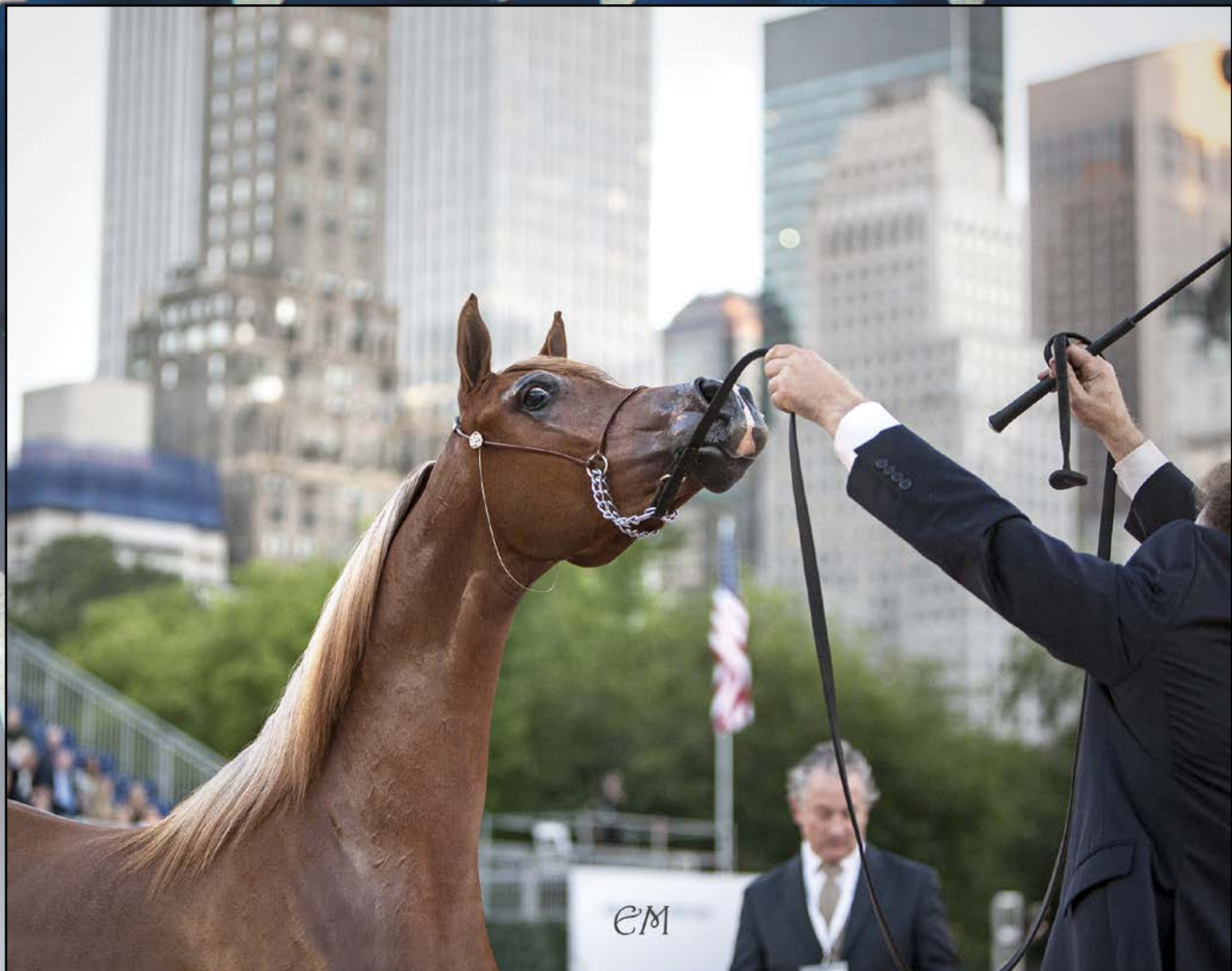


AHA Team

Gina Afire) owned and ridden by Carol Skeuse Hart of New Jersey. Silver Champion in this class as in the Costume was Captain Courageous PA (Bucharest V – Autumn Tapestry) ridden by Sally Wheeler Maier.

Many people were excited to be present at the show and are looking forward to next year. From outside the breed the New York State Horse Council passed on the news that "We were amongst the audience on Wednesday night. Thank you so much from us for sponsoring the Arabian Horse Show at the Rolex Central Park Horse Show! It was a treat." Meanwhile a comment from Virginia Godwin, one of the riders competing sums up how it felt to ride in such an arena. "I have finally been able to process the Central Park Horse Show experience. There are no words to describe the beauty and emotion of this event. It is however totally ADDICTIVE !! The energy was so powerful, the backdrop mesmerizing and the preparation extraordinary. I encourage all horse enthusiasts to participate or attend next year! □





Champion Yearling Fillies

Vedette

Saiaf Al Shaqab | MM Starlite Jullyen - O&B: Larry Jerland



Champion Yearling Colts

Jalal Aljassimya

WH Justice | Annaiss - O&B: Aljassimya Farm





Champion Fillies

Edens Mandalay

Eden C | Rebecca R - B&O: Shelley Macmillan



Champion Colts

SF Verazz Camar

SF Veraz | Sho Honey Serenade
O&B: Sycamore Farm LLC





Champion Mares

Valentinos Angel Mi

DA Valentino | Always An Angel - O: Al Mohamadia Stud - B: Mulawa Stud



Champion Stallions

Om El Al Azeem

Al Lahab | Om El Beneera
O&B: OM El Arab International





EQ Escalade

Bucharest V | Allurience CG
Rider: Kimberley Butler



Noble Grace

XL Noble Express | Gina Afre
Rider: Carol Skeuse Hart

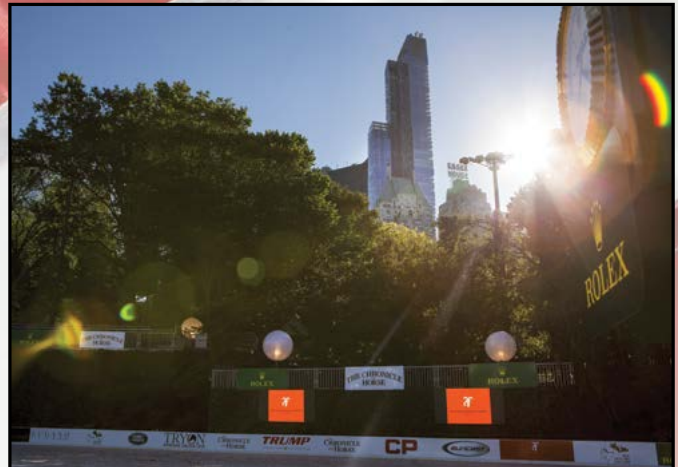
Klint Black

Desperado V | Windsong Bey
Rider: Wendy Shelton



Monticello V

Jyllyen El Jamaal | Mosqueuerade V
Rider: Joe Reser



Captain Courageus

Bucharest V - Autumn Tapestry
Rider: Sally Wheeler Maier



HL Sanction

The Chief Justice | Overlook Seratifa
Rider: Cathy Vecsey



I Bellatore

JJ Bellagio | TR Scarlett Ginger
O&B: Isaac and Jessica Taylor



CR Jasmeenah

WH Justice | Fforget Me Not
B: Carole Ratcliffe - O: Aljassimya Farm



Miracle of Marwan

Marwan Al Shaqab -Majalina
B: Michael Byatt & Nora Tatum
O: Miracle Maker Group.



Xpectation

Excalibur EA | MC PsynammonRider
O&B: Cecil Butler, Jeff & Sybil Collins Isaac
and Jessica Taylor

