





# 2018 U.S. NATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Text by Beth Ellen Hunziker | Photos by Howard Schatzberg*

*Sponsored by Rae-Dawn Arabians, Murray and Shirley Popplewell  
Scottsdale, Arizona | Saskatoon, Canada*

This year marks the 52nd Anniversary of the U.S. Arabian Horse National Championships. Once again the show was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a city with some of the kindest, most hospitable people you would ever want to meet.

The judging panel for the Halter and Breeding classes included Dr. Bruce McCrea, Isaac Taylor and Greg Knowles; all are experienced professional horsemen and judges. Bruce McCrea comes from a family with a long, rich history with Arabian horses. “It was an honor and pleasure to judge the U.S. Nationals Halter division again,” stated McCrea. “I thought it was a great show - very positive. We had a lot of beautiful winners and some very competitive classes. I especially thought the two yearling filly class winners were outstanding! The purebred gelding classes were also very deep. We got to see quite a few performance classes and they were also wonderful. We are probably getting a little too specialized, but the breeders are doing a fantastic job! Over all, I thought it was a superb and enjoyable show!”

Isaac Taylor was born into the breed. His family has owned some of the most important Arabian horses in history including the legendary sire Muscat. Isaac brought his lifetime of experience to his role as a judge at the Nationals and shared his impressions of the show, “It was my first opportunity to judge the U.S. Nationals and it was an amazing experience. I was very impressed with the high quality of horses we had across the board to judge. For me, the highlight was being able to see so many stellar individuals all in the ring together and seeing them give such amazing performances. It was an honor to judge some of the best production from the best breeders in the world.”

Greg Knowles also shared his thought about the show, “First of all, what a great honor to judge the U.S. National Halter classes. This is the first year that the show went back to the comparative scoring system after many years using the point system, and I thought it created a more engaged and energized horse show. I want to thank all the exhibitors for presenting their horses with such dignity and sportsmanship.”

Overall, the show was very positive and the focus was on the exceptional horses there to compete. The following is some insight into the champions in the Halter and Breeding classes. Time and space do not allow for all the winners or competitors to be showcased, which is why breeders really should come and see them for themselves. After all, the breeding classes represent the future of our beloved Arabian horse breed...











*Top: U.S. National Reserve Champion Open Yearling Filly, Fallan AC (Nofal NK x Love At Firstcyte AC), bred and owned by Andrew and Christine Steffens and presented by Ted Carson.*

*Bottom: U.S. National Reserve Champion Open Yearling Colt, JR Francois (Kavalle MI x JR Francesca), bred by Joanne Gunabalan, owned by the JR Francois Partners LLC, shown by Andrew Sellman.*

Giana Leah PCF (Polidoro FC x Aliyah Vision PCF), bred by PCF Arabians, and owned by Murray and Shirley Popplewell, was the judges' unanimous choice for the U.S. National Champion Open Yearling Filly presented by Bruno Guiraldelli. Giana Leah PCF was also the 2018 Scottsdale Arabian Classic Yearling Fillies of January 1 – April 15 First Place Winner, as well as the Scottsdale Arabian Classic Junior Champion Filly, again presented by Bruno Guiraldelli. Giana Leah PCF's pedigree is deep with quality. She has two lines to DA Valentino, which brings forth the champion producing lines of Versace, El Shaklan and Padrone Psyche, as well as two lines to Marwan Al Shaqab. Her sire, Polidoro FC, is out of Abha Palma, U.S. National Reserve Champion Junior Mare, a daughter of El Perfecto and U.S. National Champion Mare, Abha Hamir.

The U.S. National Reserve Champion in the Open Yearling Fillies was Fallan AC (Nofal NK x Love At Firstcyte AC), bred and owned by Andrew and Christine Steffens and presented by Ted Carson. Earlier this year, Fallan AC was named the Region XII Champion Yearling Filly, which speaks to her high quality. Fallan AC also has a power packed pedigree with national champions and champion producers.

Antares RCF (Barzan Al Shahania x Forever Mi Dream), bred and owned by Jack and Elizabeth Milam of Regency Cove Farm, and presented by Sandro Pinha was the judges' choice for the U.S. National Champion Open Yearling Colts. Antares RCF was also this year's Arabian Breeders World Cup Gold Champion Yearling Colt in Las Vegas. There is no doubt of this colt's exceptional quality and breeding potential. His sire, Barzan Al Shahania is a three-time U.S. National Champion out of the legendary NW Sienna Psyche, herself a four-time U.S. and Canadian National Champion. Antares RCF has a bright future in the show ring and the breeding shed.

The U.S. National Reserve Champion Open Yearling Colts was JR Francois (Kavalle MI x JR Francesca), bred by Joanne Gunabalan, owned by the JR Francois Partners LLC, and presented by Andrew Sellman. This handsome young colt was also 2018 Region VII Champion Yearling Colt.





Top: Giana Leah PCF (Polidoro FC x Aliyah Vision PCF), bred by PCF Arabians, and owned by Murray and Shirley Poplewell, unanimous U.S. National Champion Open Yearling Filly presented by Bruno Guiraldelli.

Bottom: U.S. National Champion Open Yearling Colts, Antares RCF (Barzan Al Shahania x Forever Mi Dream), bred and owned by Jack and Elizabeth Milam of Regency Cove Farm, and presented by Sandro Pinha.



U.S. National Champion ABS Arabian Yearling Filly Aphrodite ENB (Titan AS x Carenza), bred and owned by Psynergy Enterprise Developments LLC, was presented by Sandro Pinha. This lovely filly owned the ring with her extreme beauty, movement, poise and confidence. She certainly made an impression. Even in the warm up arena, people stopped and stared – it was clear she was the filly to beat, and indeed she came away with the top prize. Through her sire, Titan AS, and her dam, Carenza, Aphrodite ENB combines the beautiful structure of El Nabila B, the grace of Om El Beladeena, the fire of Enzo, and the exotic beauty of HED Caramba.

The U.S. National Reserve Champion ABS Arabian Yearling Filly was the glorious Gloriana MJMD (Conquest BR x RH Triana), bred by Triana Holding and owned by Triana Holding, Oak Ridge, A.J. Marino, and Maureen and Dan Grossman, presented by David Boggs. Gloriana MJMD may have one of the most famous mothers in the breed – Scottsdale Champion and four-time U.S. National Champion, RH Triana, also called the black swan for her exotic beauty. Gloriana's sire, Conquest BR, by Ver-

sace and out of a Padrons Psyche daughter, is also a Scottsdale, Regional and twice U.S. National Champion.

The judges chose the exotic Brazilian import, Al Malikk (Shangrila Baltazar x RD Tora), bred by Dr. Nelson Moreira, owned by Black Horse International LLC, and presented by Rudolfo Guzzo as their choice for National Champion ABS Arabian Yearling Colt. Al Malikk's sire line is deeply rooted in Brazilian breeding and includes such luminaries as Cajun Prince HCF, Lyphard, Hafati Express and Hafati Bel Charm. His dam, RD Tora, bred by Rae-Dawn Arabians, is a daughter of leading sire Vitorio TO and out of a Falcon BHF daughter.

The National Reserve Champion ABS Arabian Yearling Colt was Aria Majesty (Marwan Al Shaqab x Honey's Delight RB), bred and owned by Aria Prestige Holdings LLC, presented by Andrew Sellman. His sire, Marwan Al Shaqab, is a multiple World Champion and sire of World Champions and his dam, Honey's Delight RB, bred by Adriana Espindola De Moura of Brazil, is a U.S. National Champion Mare.







Facing page: 2018 U.S. National Champion ABS Arabian Yearling Colt Al Malikk (Shangrila Baltazar x RD Tora), bred by Dr. Nelson Moreira, owned by Black Horse International LLC, and presented by Rudolfo Guzzo.

This page: 1) The U.S. National Champion ABS Arabian Yearling Filly Aphrodite ENB (Titan AS x Carezza), bred and owned by Psynergy Enterprise Developments, presented by Sandro Pinha.

2) The U.S. National Reserve Champion ABS Arabian Yearling Filly was the glorious Gloriana MJMD (Conquest BR x RH Triana), bred by Triana Holding and owned by Triana Holding, Oak Ridge, A.J. Marino, and Maureen and Dan Grossman, presented by David Boggs.

3) The National Reserve Champion ABS Arabian Yearling Colt was Aria Majesty (Marwan Al Shaqab x Honey's Delight RB), bred and owned by Aria Prestige Holdings LLC, presented by Andrew Sellman.





One of the most extraordinary classes of the show was the Arabian Two-Year-Old Fillies. Many of us were in Scottsdale when Exxaltress (Excalibur EA x Vesperra) was named unanimous champion there. Since then, she has been named Eastern Arab Horse Show Champion Mare, and East Coast Champion Mare. However, these victories certainly did not ensure her success in Tulsa. But she did prevail. In fact, she was the judges' unanimous choice for U.S. National Champion Two-Year-Old Filly. Exxaltress was bred by Frances Butler, Sybil Collins and Sandra Smith, and is now owned by Orrion Farms LLC. She was presented by Ted Carson. The cross of Excalibur EA and Vesperra, a daughter of SF Veraz, a son of Gazal Al Shaqab and out of Veronica GA, by Versace, has been extremely successful as Exxaltress is the full sister to the 2017 U.S. National Champion Futurity Colt, Exxalt. It will be interesting to see if Exxaltress's breeders repeat the cross again.

The U.S. National Reserve Champion Two-Year-Old Filly was the extraordinary Princess Marwan RC (Marwan Al Shaqab x Al Princess Aliha), bred and owned by the Royal Cavalry Of Oman, and presented by Michael Byatt. Princess Marwan RC has genuinely regal bearing and her exceptional quality cannot be denied. Princess Marwan is aptly named as a daughter of her multiple World Champion and multiple National Champion sire. However, a large amount of the credit for this filly's beauty must be given to her dam, Al Princess Aliha, a daughter of the legendary WH Justice, who traces back on her tail female line to the mare Gahari, who is by Abha Harim, son of U.S. National Champion Mare Abha Hamir. Gaha-

ri continues on the dam side to Ibn Gala1-8, whose pedigree includes such great Egyptians as Hanan, Galal and Alaa El Din.

The title of U.S. National Champion Arabian Two-Year-Old Colt was presented to Lahab Albidayer (Vervaldee x FS Madeline), bred and owned by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Al Qasimi, Albidayer Stud, and shown by Michael Byatt. Lahab Albidayer's pedigree provides insight not only to his own special qualities, as well as his future breeding potential. His sire, Vervaldee, is by Versace, who is out of the glorious El Shaklan daughter, Precious As Gold. Vervaldee's dam is Giavanna, a Bey Shah grand daughter who is also out of Precious As Gold. Lahab Albidayer's dam, FS Madeline, is a daughter of Magnum Psyche, a stallion who combines the Russian lines of his sire Padrons Psyche and Spanish lines through his dam, A Fancy Miracle. FS Madeline's dam, Christina JD is also a daughter of Padrons Psyche and out of the Spanish mare GG Gardenia. Perhaps it is the doubling up of these bloodlines that contributed to Lahab Albidayer's brilliance.

The U.S. National Reserve Champion Two-Year-Old Colt was Benicio PCF (Psyttanium x GP Beyonce), bred by Green Pastures Arabians, owned by PCF Arabians, and presented by Sandro Pinha. Benicio PCF has a pedigree full of champions and leading sires beginning with U.S. National Champion Psyttanium, a son of Padrons Psyche and out of a Bey Shah daughter. Benicio PCF's dam, GP Beyonce, is a daughter of Botswana, the leading sire at the Egyptian Event for over 15 consecutive years, and out of a Padrons Psyche grand daughter.

*Facing page: 1) U.S. National Champion Two-Year-Old Filly Exxaltress (Excalibur EA x Vesperra) bred by Frances Butler, Sybil Collins and Sandra Smith, owned by Orrion Farms LLC and presented by Ted Carson.*

*2) U.S. National Reserve Champion Two-Year-Old Filly Princess Marwan RC (Marwan Al Shaqab x Al Princess Aliha), bred and owned by the Royal Cavalry Of Oman, presented by Michael Byatt.*

*3) U.S. National Champion Arabian Two-Year-Old Colt was presented to Lahab Albidayer (Vervaldee x FS Madeline), bred and owned by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Al Qasimi, Albidayer Stud, and shown by Michael Byatt.*

*4) U.S. National Reserve Champion Two-Year-Old Colt was Benicio PCF (Psyttanium x GP Beyonce), bred by Green Pastures Arabians, owned by PCF Arabians, and presented by Sandro Pinha.*







The judges made another unanimous choice with National Champion Arabian Futurity Filly, Pink Rose SRA (Baahir El Marwan x DM Valencia), bred and owned by Dan and Maureen Grossman, and presented by David Boggs. There can never be any question about the Grossman's enthusiasm for their horses or passion for breeding. The lovely Pink Rose has earned a very impressive resume for her young age. In addition to her latest victory, she was also named 2018 Canadian National Champion Mare and U.S. National Reserve Champion Yearling Filly. Her dam, DM Valencia, is a daughter of six-time National Champion DA Valentino, also owned by the Grossmans, and the highly influential mare from Argentina, HED Caramba.



*Facing page: 1) National Champion Arabian Futurity Filly, Pink Rose SRA (Baahir El Marwan x DM Valencia), bred and owned by Dan and Maureen Grossman, and presented by David Boggs.*

*2) U.S. National Reserve Champion Arabian Futurity Filly Harielle XX (Hariry Al Shaqab x Jullye Al Gazal XX), bred by Larry Schopf, owned by Dan Whitenack, and presented by Keith Krichke.*

*3) U.S. National Champion Futurity Colt Delacroixx (RD Dynamo x HED Caramba), bred by Laura Koch and Bert Sanders, owned by Delacroixx Holdings LLC, and presented by Andrew Sellman*

*4) U.S. National Reserve Champion Arabian Futurity Colt was Atticus ENB (El Nabila B x Om El Benedine), bred and owned by Psynergy Enterprise Developments LLC, and presented by Sandro Pinha.*

National Reserve Champion Arabian Futurity Filly Harielle XX (Hariry Al Shaqab x Jullye Al Gazal XX), bred by Larry Schopf, owned by Dan Whitenack, and presented by Keith Krichke demonstrates the power of a small breeder. Harielle XX was bred by Larry Schopf, as was her mother, Jullye Al Gazal XX, a U.S. National Reserve Champion and a daughter of SF Veracruz, out of the mare Beautiful Juell V, a daughter of Jullyen El Jamaal, a son of Jullye El Ludjin – talk about a powerhouse pedigree! Larry also bred Crown Juell XX, and Royal Juell XX, both full brothers to Jullye El Gazal and both National Champions – Crown Juell won two National Championships - in performance at the same show.

The Argentina influence was felt again when Delacroixx (RD Dynamo x HED Caramba), bred by Laura Koch and Bert Sanders, owned by Delacroixx Holdings LLC, and presented by Andrew Sellman was named U.S. National Champion Arabian Futurity Colt. This time HED Caramba was crossed with Canadian and U.S. National Champion RD Dynamo, by Bey Ambition and out of a Falcon BHF daughter. Delacroixx is a very classic looking Arabian that reflects the extreme qualities of his pedigree and with the strength these lines demonstrated at this show and else where, his breeding potential is undeniable.

The U.S. National Reserve Champion Arabian Futurity Colt was Atticus ENB (El Nabila B x Om El Benedine), bred and owned by Psynergy Enterprise Developments LLC, and presented by Sandro Pinha. Atticus ENB is a very stylish and captivating colt. Hopefully his win here will encourage others to breed to El Nabila B, a stallion now in his 20's that has a body structure of incredible strength and correctness, which we truly need to maintain the quality of horses for the future.







An exotic beauty from Argentina claimed the red roses and title of U.S. National Champion Junior Mare. SM Miss Finesse (Faara Al Shaqab x SM Finesse), bred by El Tesor, and owned by Jorge Milne, was presented by David Boggs. SM Miss Finesse is a daughter of a Faara Al Shaqab, a stallion with a reputation in South America for producing exceptional offspring – and now that reputation is spreading to the global scene. He is a son of Marwan Al Shaqab and out of a double Bey Shah grand daughter. SM Miss Finesse's dam, SM Finesse, goes back to Magnum Psyche, Padrone Psyche and El Shaklan on her sire side and to Padrone Psyche and Bey Shah through her dam, LC Psychesfinesse, who is also the dam of U.S. National Champion Junior Stallion, SM Azraff, owned by Al Nayfat Stud, Saudi Arabia.

U.S. National Reserve Champion Junior Mare RD Marciea Bey (Bey Ambition x RD Marciena) was presented by Bruno Guiraldelli for breeders and owners Murray and Shirley Popplewell, Rae-Dawn Arabians. RD Marciea Bey comes from a long line of National Champions and champion producers. Her sire, Bey Ambition, is a U.S. and Canadian National

Champion. Her dam, RD Marciena, sired by World Champion QR Marc and out of the U.S. National Champion and National Champion producing mare, NW Sienna Psyche, is a two-time U.S. National Champion as well as a Brazilian National Champion. It will be exciting to see which stallion the Popplewells select for RD Marciea Bey to produce their next generation of champions.

The 2018 U.S. National Champion Junior Stallion was Turismo RA (Trussardi x Marlene Dietrich), bred by Rojo Arabians, John Brown and Dr. John Williams, owned by Merrilee Lyons Silver Stag Arabians LLC, and presented by David Boggs. This latest victory makes it a total of three national championship titles for Turismo RA who was also named 2018 Scottsdale Champion Stallion. In addition to his stellar show record, Turismo RA has a star-studded pedigree, which includes such luminaries as his double National Champion sire, Trussardi, by Stival and out of Precious As Gold, and his dam, Marlene Dietrich, a daughter of double National Champion Bey Fire-shah, by Bey Shah and out of the Bask grand daughter Bint Miss Fire.

*This page: 1) U.S. National Reserve Champion Junior Mare RD Marciea Bey (Bey Ambition x RD Marciena), presented by Bruno Guiraldelli for breeders and owners Murray and Shirley Popplewell, Rae-Dawn Arabians.*

*2) U.S. National Reserve Champion Junior Stallion Mansour AM (EKS Alihandro x ABHA Palma), bred by HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Fahad Al Saud of Al Mohamadia Stud, owned by Lee Melchi, and presented by Andrew Sellman.*

*Facing page: 1) U.S. National Champion Junior Mare SM Miss Finesse (Faara Al Shaqab x SM Finesse), bred by El Tesor, and owned by Jorge Milne, was presented by David Boggs. 2) SM Miss Finesse 3) Merrilee Lyons, owner of Turismo RA, and friends. 4) U.S. National Champion Junior Stallion Turismo RA (Trussardi x Marlene Dietrich), bred by Rojo Arabians, owned by Merrilee Lyons, Silver Stag Arabians LLC, presented by David Boggs.*









The 2018 U.S. National Reserve Champion Junior Stallion was Mansour AM (EKS Alihandro x ABHA Palma), bred by HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Fahad Al Saud of Al Mohamadia Stud, owned by Lee Melchi, and presented by Andrew Sellman. Mansour AM has a pedigree full of champions and historically important individuals. His sire, EKS Alihandro, by Marwan Al Shaqab and out of OFW Psylhouette by Padrone's Psyche, has won the top honors in international show rings. Mansour's dam, Abha Palma is also by Marwan Al Shaqab and out of the straight Spanish mare Abha Ghazali, sired by El Perfecto and out of U.S. National Champion Abha Hamir. Mansour AM's pedigree represents genetic strength through and through.

The lovely vision in white, Baviera HVP (Marwan Al Shaqab x HB Bessolea), bred by Jaime Pinheiro, owned by Aria Prestige Holdings LLC, and presented by Andrew Sellman was named this year's U.S. National Champion Senior Mare. Her quality and beauty comes as no surprise as she is a full sibling to international champions Baanderos, Baahir El Marwan, and U.S. National Reserve Champion Mare, Bessolina El Marwan. The possibilities are endless with this exquisite, Brazilian beauty!

Aria Qatars Angel, (Abha Qatar x BHF Dark Angel), bred by Desert Horse Partners LLC, owned by Manny Vierra, and presented by Sandro Pinha was named U.S. National Reserve Champion Senior Mare in a beautiful class. Aria Qatars Angel is a lovely representative of her sire Abha Qatar, a multiple international champion stallion bred by Marieta Salas of Spain, whose breeding program had significant influence at the show. Aria Qatars Angel's dam, BHF Dark Angel, sired by RSD Dark Victory

and out of Crown Narada, is a three time National Champion. Owner Manny Vierra has an eye for beauty and a list of National Champions to his credit. Aria Qatars Angel has flourished under his care and it will be exciting to see what is next for this young beauty.

The final halter class of the show was for senior stallions. The class was full of fun, excitement and good-humored competition. But when it came down to the results, it was all business. The judges' choice for U.S. National Champion Senior Stallion was Polidoro FC (DA Valentino x Abha Palma), bred by HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Fahad Al Saud of Al Mohamadia Stud, owned by Stuart and Sue Larsen, and presented by Michael Byatt. Polidoro FC is also the sire of the U.S. National Champion Yearling Filly, Giana Leah PCF (Polidoro FC x Aliyah Vision PCF), bred by PCF Arabians, and owned by Murray and Shirley Popplewell. Once again, the influence of Abha Palma and the breeding program of Marieta Salas was seen. With this latest victory, Polidoro now has four National Championship titles to his credit and a National Champion offspring – a claim few stallions can make.

The U.S. National Reserve Champion Senior Stallion title went to Bey Ambition (Regal Actor JP x Bey Shahs Lady), bred by Lucy Whittier, owned by Murray and Shirley Popplewell of Rae-Dawn Arabians, and presented by Bruno Guiraldelli. Bey Ambition now has three National Championship and four National Reserve Championship titles to his credit. Perhaps equally or more important, he is the sire of National Champions in both halter and performance, an achievement that is very important to his owners, Shirley and Murray Popplewell.

*Facing page: 1) U.S. National Champion Senior Mare Baviera HVP (Marwan Al Shaqab x HB Bessolea), bred by Jaime Pinheiro, owned by Aria Prestige Holdings LLC, and presented by Andrew Sellman.  
2) U.S. National Reserve Champion Senior Mare Aria Qatars Angel, (Abha Qatar x BHF Dark Angel), bred by Desert Horse Partners LLC, owned by Manny Vierra, and presented by Sandro Pinha.*









After all was said and done, it was a more upbeat show than in past years. The entries in the purebred halter classes were up slightly, but the quality was really very high. This bodes well for all facets of the industry in the U.S., where there is still a very high demand for performance horses. Breeders in the U.S. continue to seek the balance of beauty, correct conformation, disposition and athletic ability. They want to breed beautiful horses that can go on to a career in performance and that also have the potential to produce high quality Arabian horses for the future. ~ FINI ~







*Facing page, top & bottom: U.S. National Champion Senior Stallion Polidoro FC (DA Valentino x Abha Palma), bred by HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Fahad Al Saud, owned by Stuart and Sue Larsen, presented by Michael Byatt.*

*This page, top and bottom: U.S. National Reserve Champion Senior Stallion Bey Ambition (Regal Actor JP x Bey Shahs Lady), bred by Lucy Whittier, owned by Murray and Shirley Popplewell, presented by Bruno Guiraldelli.*

