

2011 U.S. National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show

by KARA LARSON

In its 45th year, the 2011 U.S. National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show set out to fulfill its prestigious reputation as a premier exhibition of the Arabian industry's finest. Hoping to once again showcase the most talented horses, trainers, and horsemen in the Arabian industry, the 2011 U.S. Nationals confirmed its place as a show unlike any other. Held in Tulsa, Okla., with 1,805 Arabians and Half-Arabians competing in 171 classes over a span of nine days, the show proved to be just what it set out to be—a *national event*. "I think it was probably one of the best Nationals we've ever had," says Marty Shea. "The quality of horses was off the charts. The show was well-run, the judging was fair, and I think it was a great representation of what the Arabian breed is trying to portray."

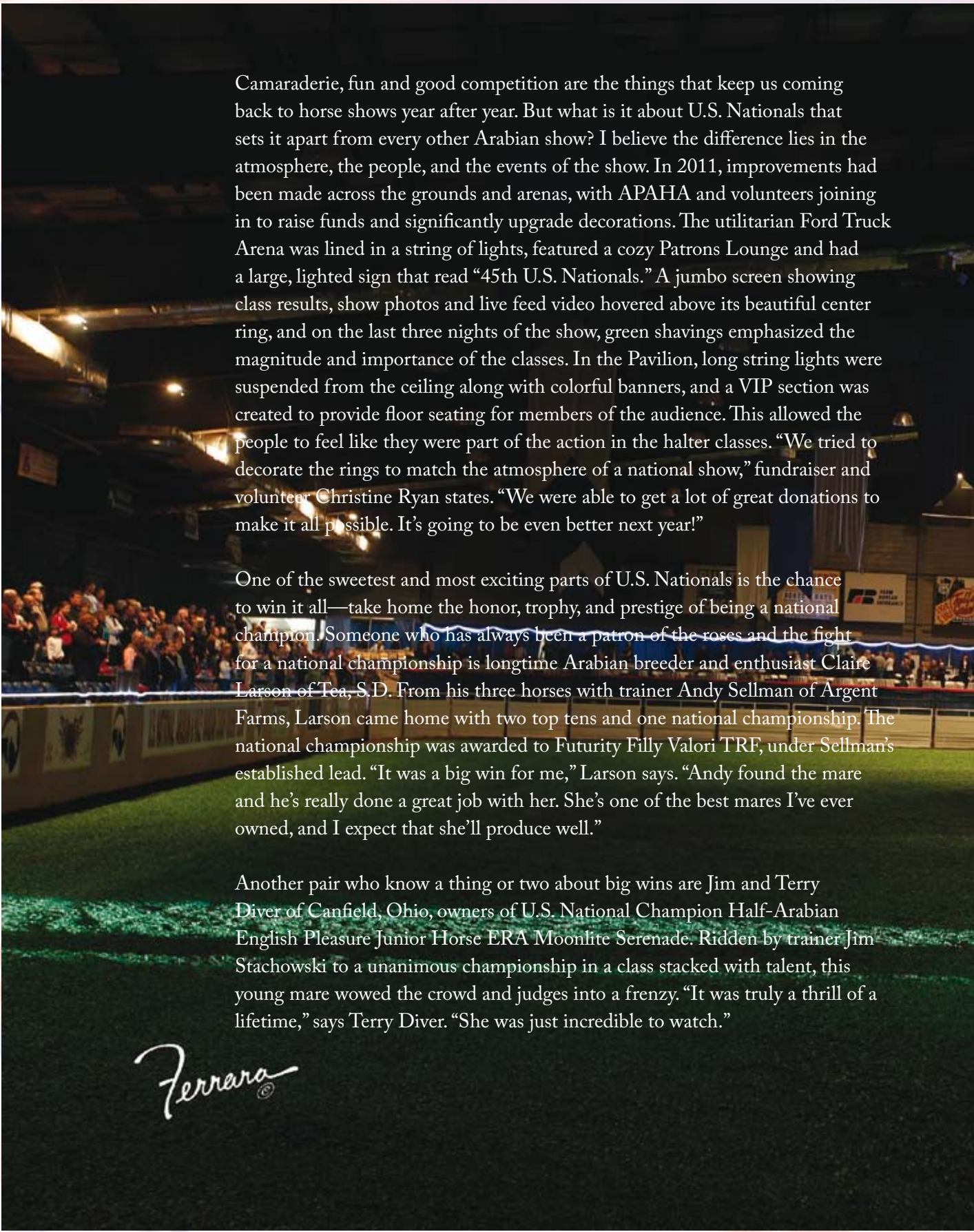
Complete with big wins, touching stories, charitable causes and a captivated crowd, there is much to be said about this year's U.S. Nationals. This was my first experience in Tulsa, and from the very beginning of the week, I felt something in the air—something unique that only a show of its caliber could offer. I'd been yearning to attend since my youth career ended, and it was everything I expected it to be. Along with many other Arabian enthusiasts, I felt the excitement and witnessed some very special moments.

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TULSA



Brandy

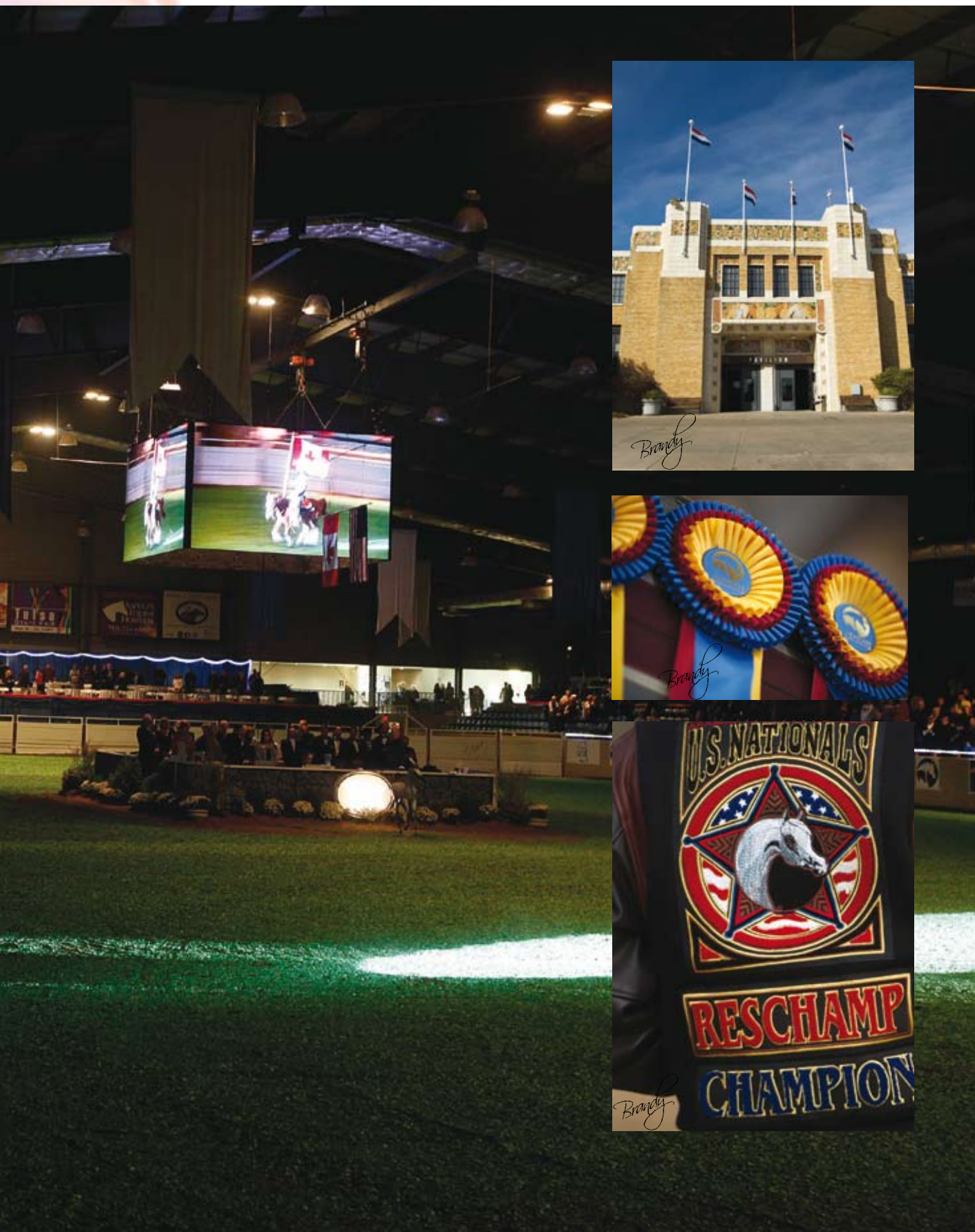


Camaraderie, fun and good competition are the things that keep us coming back to horse shows year after year. But what is it about U.S. Nationals that sets it apart from every other Arabian show? I believe the difference lies in the atmosphere, the people, and the events of the show. In 2011, improvements had been made across the grounds and arenas, with APAHA and volunteers joining in to raise funds and significantly upgrade decorations. The utilitarian Ford Truck Arena was lined in a string of lights, featured a cozy Patrons Lounge and had a large, lighted sign that read “45th U.S. Nationals.” A jumbo screen showing class results, show photos and live feed video hovered above its beautiful center ring, and on the last three nights of the show, green shavings emphasized the magnitude and importance of the classes. In the Pavilion, long string lights were suspended from the ceiling along with colorful banners, and a VIP section was created to provide floor seating for members of the audience. This allowed the people to feel like they were part of the action in the halter classes. “We tried to decorate the rings to match the atmosphere of a national show,” fundraiser and volunteer Christine Ryan states. “We were able to get a lot of great donations to make it all possible. It’s going to be even better next year!”

One of the sweetest and most exciting parts of U.S. Nationals is the chance to win it all—take home the honor, trophy, and prestige of being a national champion. Someone who has always been a patron of the roses and the fight for a national championship is longtime Arabian breeder and enthusiast Claire Larson of Tea, S.D. From his three horses with trainer Andy Sellman of Argent Farms, Larson came home with two top tens and one national championship. The national championship was awarded to Futurity Filly Valori TRF, under Sellman’s established lead. “It was a big win for me,” Larson says. “Andy found the mare and he’s really done a great job with her. She’s one of the best mares I’ve ever owned, and I expect that she’ll produce well.”

Another pair who know a thing or two about big wins are Jim and Terry Diver of Canfield, Ohio, owners of U.S. National Champion Half-Arabian English Pleasure Junior Horse ERA Moonlite Serenade. Ridden by trainer Jim Stachowski to a unanimous championship in a class stacked with talent, this young mare wowed the crowd and judges into a frenzy. “It was truly a thrill of a lifetime,” says Terry Diver. “She was just incredible to watch.”

Ferrara



One of the toughest divisions of the horse show is Half-Arabian English Pleasure, and one of the most exciting classes was the one for amateur owners 18-39. (I know, because I was in it.) When the announcer called for a work-off between Polkapalooza with Nicole Lawrence and Papa Rhazi with Brie Reiter, I had the greatest view in Ford Arena—center ring. As both English horses powered around the arena, the crowd showed their admiration with cheers, while the horses that remained in the line-up danced around with nerves. Although they are very different in build and motion, both Polkapalooza and Papa Rhazi proved that they deserved to hold the top spots in the class. In an emotional twist, this would most likely be Brie and Papa Rhazi's last ride together, making it a special class for her, regardless of the outcome. When the judges finally called them in, Papa Rhazi was a stride ahead of the rest. "Papa Rhazi is always a joy to ride," says Brie. "I can't actually think of anything more fun than showing him. When we lined up in the final, I was completely relieved; the potential of having to ride in a work-off never even crossed my mind. And when they did announce this work-off, relief vanished and a combination of anxiety, terror, and excitement took over. I was a little concerned that we were both exhausted, but he felt as good as ever. It was a terrific grand finale!"

From small barns to large and everything in between, U.S. Nationals offered a show that everyone could participate in and enjoy. Take for example Texie and Scott Lowery of Cherryhills Village, Colo. With no trainer to steer the ship, these two are in charge of their own horses and accomplish this feat with great success. Their hard work paid off at the Canadian Nationals, where they took home two national championships, three reserve national championships, and 14 top tens with only four horses. When it came down to U.S. Nationals time, they brought three horses, and through these, a total of three top tens were won



with the 7-year-old Half-Arabian country English pleasure horse, My Name Is Earl. “Earl has won seven national titles in his career, and he truly loves to show,” Texie relates. “I’m an amateur at Nationals against some big training stables, so it was really special for Earl to get top ten in all his classes. He has really become a great country and costume horse for us.”

A show isn’t simply about the ribbons and trophies you acquire. At the end of the day, it is about the obstacles that had to be overcome in getting there. One trainer with a mountain-sized obstacle that occurred just 10 days before U.S. Nationals was Tish Kondas of Showtime Training Center. After going through a career-threatening accident while riding, Tish’s right arm was in no condition for competition, let alone showing at U.S. Nationals. However, she simply wouldn’t let an injured arm hinder her chances of going to Tulsa and doing her best. Her 24 horses, crew and equipment already had left for Tulsa when Tish was hospitalized for six days, then released a mere day before she too headed for Oklahoma. She knew that her injury couldn’t be taken lightly. “I went to Tulsa hoping I would be able to show a couple times; I really just expected the worst and hoped for the best,” she says. “I ended up showing all but two of my horses. When it came down to show time, I found myself saying, ‘If I can get through this one, then I’ll be happy.’ We just had such a great group of horses that it was difficult for me not to end up showing them.” Behind the curtain of success was a group of people supporting Tish and her horses with unprecedented assistance and encouragement—her fellow Arabian horsemen stepped up to help. “I couldn’t have done it without the help of my staff, clients, the vet who rewrapped my arm every day, and other trainers who helped work and show my horses throughout the week. It was really special to see how much the Arabian community was pulling for me, and was willing to help me as much as they did.”

In today’s Arabian industry, it is never easy to keep a horse show like the U.S. Nationals running at top levels of success, participation and enthusiasm. However, this year’s event proved that the show is definitely on course—and maintaining its edge as the home of the breed’s most prestigious honors.





Arabian Senior Stallion 4 & Over Champion and Arabian Stallion 8 & Over Champion **LD Pistol** (Magnum Psyche x Halana), shown by David Boggs for owners Carlos and Christiane Roizner.



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Arabian Stallion 6-7 Champion **FA El Shawan** (Marwan Al Shaqab x Foxbriar Shakita), shown by Greg Gallún for owner FA El Shawan Group.



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Arabian Junior Colt 3 & Under Champion and Arabian Yearling Colt Champion **Barzan Al Shahania** (Stival x NW Siena Psyche), shown by Greg Gallún for owner Al Shahania Stud.



Arabian Stallion 4-5 Champion **Eccentric Valentino** (DA Valentino x Amelia B), shown by Rodolfo Guzzo for owner Fazenda Floresta.





Arabian 3-Year-Old Colt Champion and Arabian Futurity Colt Champion **Vitorio TO** (DA Valentino x Sol Natique), shown by David Boggs for owner Oak Ridge Arabians.



Arabian Stallion AAOTH Champion **Tribute Thyme SA** (Pryme Thyme x Diamond Tribute), shown by owner Jason Tackett.



Arabian 2-Year-Old Colt Champion **AAS-Elishahh** (Eden C x Sempre), shown by Rodolfo Guzzo for owner Luciana Fasano.



Arabian Junior Filly 3 & Under Champion and Arabian Yearling Filly Champion **RH Triana** (ROL Intencyty x Sylvia WLF), shown by Rodolfo Guzzo for owner Freeland Farm LLC.

Arabian Senior Mare 4 & Over Champion and Arabian Mare 8 & Over Champion **Panarea By Palawan** (WH Justice x Palawan), shown by Frank Frank Spönle for owner Ajman Stud.





Arabian Mare 4-5 Champion **Dulcinea BHF** (Denali BHF x Felisha BHF), shown by Michael Byatt for owner Nelson de Oliveira Prata Pinto Moreira.



Arabian 3-Year-Old Filly Champion **Abha Raipur** (El Perfecto x Abha Zenobia), shown by Michael Byatt for owner Al Shahania Stud.



Arabian Mare 6-7 Champion **Star Of Marwan** (Marwan Al Shaqab x GW Natorious Star), shown by Andrew Sellman for owner Mystica Arabians.

Arabian Mare AAOTH Champion **Suzanna MPA**
(Versace x Fortune In Gold), shown by David
Merlau for owners Joe and Kathleen Monroe.



Arabian 2-Year-Old Filly Champion **Festywa ALSA** (FA El Shawan x Festyna
SA), shown by David Boggs for owner
Carlos and Christiane Roizner.



Arabian Futurity Filly Champion **Valori TRF**
(DA Valentino x Satin Chall LL), shown by
Andrew Sellman for owners Claire and
Margaret Larson.

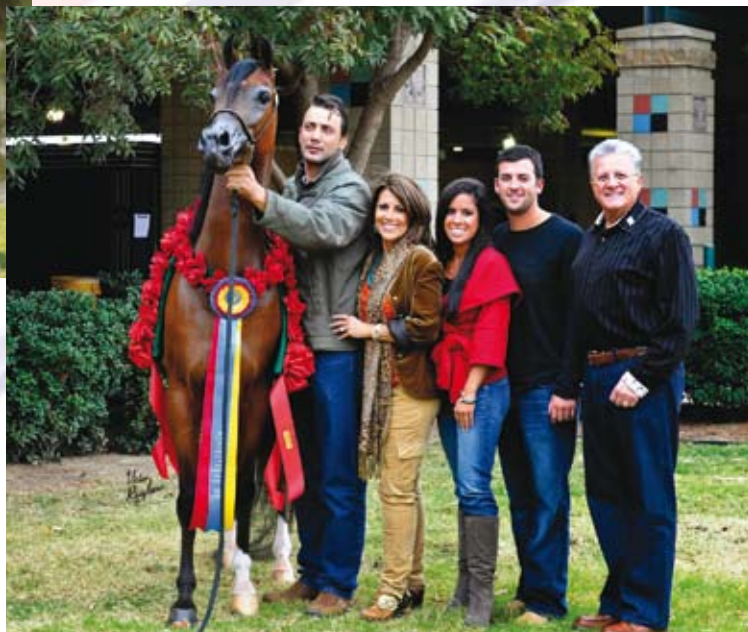


Arabian Senior Gelding 4 & Over Champion and Arabian Gelding 6-7 Champion **DC Magnum Storm** (Magnum Psyche x Rohara Eclipse), shown by owner Terry Anne Boggs.

Arabian Junior Gelding 3 & Under Champion and Arabian Yearling Gelding Champion **Conviction CA** (SF Veraz x Denalia), shown by Ted Carson for owner Edwin Crain.



Arabian Gelding 8 & Over Champion **Relentlyss** (First Cyte x Padrone Nike), shown by Jeff Schall for owner Shuster Arabians LLC.



Arabian Gelding 4-5 Champion **PA Millan Always** (Always A Jullien V x Milleah), shown by Dagmar Gordiano and Arabian Gelding AAOTH Champion, shown by owner Anthony Marino Jr.



Arabian 2-Year-Old Gelding Champion **Paladin LL**
(Magnum Chall HVP x NV Gypsy Dancer), shown by
Gilberto Valdez for owners Sandro and Gabriela Pinha.



Arabian 3-Year-Old Gelding Champion **Ducati T**
(Magnum Chall HVP x Savannah Psyche T), shown by
Steve Heathcott for owners Daniel and Suzanne Acevedo.



Arabian Futurity Gelding
Champion **Righteous BHF**
(Falcon BHF x BHF Anna
Tevkah), shown by owner
Keith Krichke.

HA/AA Senior Mare Saddle/Pleasure 4 & Over Champion **CF Coming Up Roses** (Majesteit x French Seduction), shown by David Bilgrien, and HA/AA Mare Saddle/Pleasure 7 & Over Champion shown by owner Cynthia Crawford.



HA/AA Senior Mare Stock/Hunter 4 & Over Champion and HA/AA Mare Stock/Hunter 4-6 Champion **ZA Magnumoiselle MTC** (Magnum Psyche x Affluent Affair), shown by Joe Alberti, and HA/AA Mare Stock/Hunter AAOTH Champion shown by owner Carolyn Weiler.





HA/AA Junior Filly 3 & Under Champion and HA/AA 2-Year-Old Filly Champion **Ebony By Valentino** (DA Valentino x CF Mamies Night Out), shown by David Boggs for owner Sally Bedeker.



HA/AA Mare Stock/Hunter 7 & Over Champion **Drama Dot Com LRA** (ATA Bey Starr x Khabernet Fire), shown by Joao Rodrigues for owner Jodie Surerus.



HA/AA Yearling Filly Champion **Shes Still Jammin** (Monogramm JD x She Be Adiva KBS), shown by David Boggs for owner Jeff McAlpin.

HA/AA Mare Saddle/Pleasure 4-6
Champion **JB Hometown Hottie**
(Baske Afire x Petite Sweet), shown by
Jerry Schall, and HA/AA Mare Saddle/
Pleasure AAOTH Champion shown by
owner Michael Bills.



HA/AA 3-Year-Old Filly Champion and HA/AA Futurity Filly Champion
Rohara Hermes (Magnum Psyche x Flameworthy), shown by Joe Alberti
for owner Marikate Matthews.



HA/AA Gelding Saddle/Pleasure AAOTH Champion
VSH Dominic (Majesteit x O Katie), shown by
owner Lindsay Rinehart.

HA/AA Senior Gelding Saddle/
Pleasure 4 & Over Champion and
HA/AA Gelding Saddle/Pleasure
7 & Over Champion **VSH Dominic**
(Majesteit x O Katie), shown
by Keith Krichke for owner
Lindsay Rinehart.

HA/AA Senior Gelding Stock/
Hunter 4 & Over Champion and
HA/AA Gelding Stock/Hunter 7 &
Over Champion **Ima Cool Cat CB**
(Majesteit x Catherine X),
shown by Greg Gallún for
owner Elaine Finney.



HA/AA Junior Colt/Gelding 3 & Under Champion and HA/AA 3-Year-Old Gelding Champion **Mai Oh Mai** (Majesteit x Marysia), shown by Keith Krichke for owner Jessie Szymanski.



HA/AA Yearling Colt/Gelding Champion **He Be A Badazz** (JRA Azul x She Be Noble), shown by Dagmar Gordiano for owners David and Terry Anne Boggs.

HA/AA Gelding Saddle/Pleasure 4-6 Champion **Wasted Nights** (Allience x CF In A Rare Mood), shown by Robert Bick for owner Burrline LLC.



HA/AA Gelding Stock/Hunter 4-6
Champion **Maghnus Z** (Magnum
Chall HVP x The Sweet Rose),
shown by Joe Alberti, and
HA/AA Gelding Stock/Hunter
AAOTH Champion shown by
owner Amelia Hruban.



HA/AA Futurity Gelding Champion **The Image Of Fame**
(The Color Of Fame x SHL Cool Mistique), shown by
Keith Krichke for owner Brian Measel.

HA/AA 2-Year-Old Gelding Champion **A Major Design**
(Star Ghazal x A Lovely Design), shown by Sandro
Pinha for owners Sherrie Jean and Shannon Gowey.



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