

SYVAHA Newsletter

2nd Quarter 2010



It's Sunday April 11th, and I'm taking productive advantage of a stormy day to write to all of you. Somehow the thought of schooling horses in gale force winds lost its appeal as I listened to the winds screeching outside the house early this morning. So, although I hate to miss a day of riding, it's nice to get caught up on indoor projects. Recent events bring the principal of enjoying every day we're given, sharply into focus. We received the sad news of long-time club member and breeder Jim Turk's passing this month, and, just a few days ago, Dr Van Snow perished in a tragic plane accident. Dr Snow was an internationally respected equine veterinarian, and his loss is a severe blow to our local horse community.

It's important to take time out of busy lives to smell the proverbial roses—which is exactly what many of us did last month on our SYVAHA Wildflower Trail Ride, graciously hosted by Joe & Katie Russell at their Hidden River Ranch in Happy Canyon. Approximately 16 members & guests experienced a spectacular trek through the hills of Running Springs Ranch, and were joined afterward by several non-riding club members for a delicious lunch on the Russell's patio. See inside this issue for photos! We particularly wish to thank the Webster family who generously allowed us trail access to their beautiful ranch.

Please join your fellow club members at Om El Arab, International, on Wednesday April 21st at 2pm, for their Open Barn and Presentation of Horses as part of the Arabian Breeders Celebration being hosted by several farms in the valley. Attendance at many of the events is by invitation-only, however Sigi & Janina have specifically extended a welcome to all SYVAHA Club members for their event. This is a terrific opportunity to view the globally successful Om El Arab breeding program as well as meet and mix with fellow breeders and Arabian enthusiasts from all over the world.

In other news of note, our SYVAHA Summer Meeting will be held at Ann & Tony Pejsa's Rancho La Vista, and will feature internationally renowned photographers Darryl Larsen & Kimerlee Curyl presenting "The View from Behind the Lense." If you would like to take better pictures of your own horses, improve the results of your professional photo sessions and hear some great stories—don't miss this meeting! Date is TBA; we are planning on July/August, subject to speaker scheduling.

Also, we are working on putting together an SYVAHA Club Directory for 2010-2011 and will have the details out to you within the next 30 days. Since it takes awhile to pull the material together, we thought it made sense to make it "bi-annual" thus giving advertisers longer term exposure. Please start pulling together your photos and material; we'll be in touch shortly.

We post our Club newsletters at www.syvaha.com so if you received this letter via "snail-mail" in black and white, you can view the photos in color on the web. In addition, we are working hard to conserve costs and preserve trees by sending out the newsletter via e-mail; if we don't have your current email, please send it to Kathy Stegman, kkstegman@cs.com.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at Om El Arab on April 21st!

Nancy



NEWS

COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE

Due to scheduling conflicts the Helen Logan River Romp CTR is canceled this year. The Sage Hill ride is scheduled for November 5-7, 2010.

CALENDAR

April 17 th	Gymkhana #2, SYVEA, www.syvea.org for info
April 18 th	Jumper Play Day, SYVEA, www.syvea.org for info
April 21 st	Open House @ Om El Arab, details forthcoming
April 24 th	Sorting Series #2, SYVEA, www.syvea.org for info
April 30 th -May 1	CCRHA #1, SYVEA, www.syvea.org for info
May 13-16	AHASFV Show & Pacific Slopes Championships, Santa Barbara
June 16-26	Region 2 Championships, Santa Barbara
July/August TBA	"The View From Behind the Lense" Ranch La Vista
September	"Casablanca "Theme Party @ Ron & Mila Hart's, Date TBA
November 5-7	Sage Hill Competitive Trail Ride
December	SYVAHA Christmas Party

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Open invitation to SYVAHA Members:

Om El Arab, International

Open Barn & Horse Presentation

Wednesday, April 21st

2:00 pm

Your hosts: Sigi Constanti & Janina Merz

RSVP 805.688.6958



Running Springs Ranch Canyon



Five horses were Om El Arab-bred!



L-R Ann Pejsa, Nancy Eklund-Hunsicker & Claire Hanssen //Riding through the meadow



Our gracious hosts: Joe & Katie Russell



Members & Guests enjoying lunch.



Janina Merz, Doug Beverly & Polly Walker



Sigi Constanti & Sheila Varian

Dr. Van Snow [excerpted from The Santa Maria Times]

A mechanical malfunction apparently caused the plane crash Thursday afternoon in San Diego County that killed Santa Ynez Valley veterinarian Van Snow, according to his sister, Gayle Snow Stevens.

“We haven’t received any other information because the investigators are still looking into it, but he said to me just last week if he ever died flying he would go doing what he loved,” she said Friday.

Federal Aviation Administration officials said the crash was under investigation and that Snow had reported mechanical troubles before he crashed just short of the runway at Borrego Valley Airport in Borrego Springs, in the Anza-Borrego desert area near the Salton Sea, south of Palm Springs.



Snow, 58, was a prominent equine veterinarian who was an early pioneer in shock-wave therapy to treat soft-tissue injuries and stress fractures in horses.

He was planning to compete in an air show this weekend in San Diego County and was practicing flying his experimental Harmon Rocket when it crashed, his sister said. "His family was very important to him, and we are all having a tough time dealing with his death. Van lived life to the fullest, and we will all miss him," she said.

Snow was raised in Glennville, near Bakersfield, and graduated from UC Davis in 1978 with his doctorate in veterinary medicine. He moved to Virginia to specialize in equine medicine and then to the Valley in the early 1980s, Stevens said.

"Van as a mentor and veterinarian was unparalleled," said Renee Smith, a spokesperson for Snow's Santa Lucia Farm. "He stood in a class all his own when it came to knowing the inside and outside of the horse. He was creative, passionate, ingenious and brilliant. His presence and knowledge will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues all over the world."

Colleagues at UC Davis were saddened to learn of Snow's death, and said he had made innovative discoveries that moved equine medicine forward.

"Dr. Snow's contribution to equine medicine and surgery was invaluable. His findings are what veterinarians use today for reference material. Dr. Snow was a valued member of the equine community and we are proud to have him graduate from UC Davis," said Dr. John Madigan, director of the veterinary medicine teaching hospital.

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Arabian Horse Galleries Opening Ceremonies June 12th at Kentucky Horse Park

April 6, 2010--The new \$10 million addition to the Kentucky Horse Park's International Museum of the Horse will be hosting its Grand Opening on June 12, 2010 after nearly 2 1/2 years of design and construction. The Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries will be the first major addition to the 52,000 square foot International Museum of the Horse since its opening in 1978, and will expand its permanent exhibition space by nearly 30 percent.

Spearheaded by the Purebred Arabian Trust (PAT), the Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries will showcase the journey of the world's oldest breed of horse through pages of history utilizing art & artifacts from around the world, and technologically enhanced interactive exhibits geared toward youth visitors ages 8-14. The Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries have been completely funded by the PAT and generous support from Arabian enthusiasts and interest groups. Among many ceremonious activities on June 12, it will be gifted to the Commonwealth of Kentucky under the stewardship of the Kentucky Horse Park. The Arabian Horse Galleries recently



donned the name Al-Marah in honor of Al-Marah Arabians—the vision, lifelong love and work of Mrs. Bazy Tankersly, a luminary in the Arabian horse industry worldwide, and a dedicated shepherd of the breed since the 1950’s. Mrs. Tankersly has shown generous support for the Arabian Horse Galleries out of her passion for promotion and education of the Arabian horse.

Basic Facts of the Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries include:

- 8,000 square foot, two-story permanent attachment to the Kentucky Horse Park’s International Museum of the Horse
- Centrally located near the Park’s entrance for prime positioning
- Exhibits are being designed by nationally acclaimed Hilferty & Associates (London, OH)
- Its architecture displays a modern interpretation of the Bluegrass architectural style found throughout the Kentucky Horse Park

Among the many unique experiences found in the Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries, a few include:

- A media-enhanced desert cave entrance experience with whispers in Arabic, blowing sand sounds and fleeting images of Arabian horse cave drawings
- Discovery Oasis interactive kids kiosks that evoke a personal interaction and learning experience by a magnetic card they insert at each kiosk and turn in at the Galleries’ exit
- An “Arabians of the Stars Theater” that shows clips of movie stars and famous Arabian horses
- The Black Stallion Experience, an area dedicated completely to the literary and cinematic magic of the most famous fictional horse ever created—Walter Farley’s The Black Stallion

The long-awaited Opening Ceremonies will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park on Saturday, June 12 from 5-7pm in the lobby of the International Museum of the Horse. Activities include the ribbon cutting, presentation of the museum to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, organized first tours of the Arabian Horse Galleries and a cocktail reception. Exclusive Sunday Celebration Tours are also available on June 13. The Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries will open to the public on June 14th, and is included in regular admission to the [Kentucky Horse Park](#).

For inquiries on media passes and tickets to the Opening Ceremonies, please contact Evie Tubbs Sweeney, project manager of the Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries, at evie@PurebredArabianTrust.com.



KY Horse Park Arabian Art Exhibit Opens May 29 (By: Cindy Rullman for the Kentucky Horse Park)



The largest and most comprehensive collection of exotic Near Eastern and Arabian equine art and artifacts ever assembled will be on view when "A Gift from the Desert: The Art, History and Culture of the Arabian Horse" is presented May 29-October 15, 2010, in the Kentucky Horse Park's International Museum of the Horse—a Smithsonian Affiliate.

"A Gift from the Desert" will be the first major exhibition to explore the impact of the horse on Near Eastern civilization, with particular emphasis on the Arabian, the first true breed of horse. It will concentrate on the Near East, covering the modern states of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, India and Iran. It will begin with the arrival of the first horses in the Near East and culminate in the spread of the Arabian breed throughout the world and the renaissance of purebred breeding in its ancestral homelands today.

This breathtaking exhibition, presented by the Saudi Arabian Equestrian Federation, will feature nearly 400 artifacts and works of art from 25 museums and private lenders, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the British Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Oxford University, Ashmolean Museum, Carnegie Museum of Art, National Museum of Warsaw, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, American Museum of Natural History, and many others.

John Nicholson, Executive Director of the [Kentucky Horse Park](#), observed, "Throughout history, horses have had a unique ability to dismantle the walls that exist between people and nations, particularly when those horses are possessed of extraordinary beauty, as are Arabians. Those who love and admire horses share a deep connection with each other regardless of age, class, race or religion. So we are very proud that the Kentucky Horse Park has developed this exhibition as a way to honor and celebrate the Arabian horse."



Among the priceless works of art and artifacts in "A Gift from the Desert" are the Standard of Ur (circa 2,600 BCE), the first depiction of equine driving, and the Kikkuli tablet, the world's earliest known treatise on horse care and training from the Hittite civilization. Some items are expected to be particularly popular with equine enthusiasts, including an outstanding collection of Orientalist paintings by Delacroix, Schreyer and Fromentin; early depictions of the earliest Arabian-type horses from Egypt's New Kingdom; and a stunning selection of saddles, tack, armor and arms (many bejeweled), from the Ottoman Empire.

Other pieces of interest include:

- Faience horse trappings from a Nubian horse grave dating to 700 BC
- Egyptian 18th dynasty bas-reliefs depicting horses during the reign of Pharaoh Akhenaten (1353-1336 BC), who was married to Nefertiti and was believed to be the father of King Tutankhamen
- Rock drawings from Jordan with early depictions of Arabian horses, as well as rare depictions of horses on rock art from Arabia
- The Mleiha golden bridle excavated from a horse burial in Sharjah, UAE
- The Abbas Pasha Manuscript, a legendary 19th century document prepared by the emissaries of the Viceroy of Egypt relating the history and strains of Arabian horses
- Original sketches by the famed cartoonist and early Arabian horse breeder Homer Davenport, as well as original documents relating to his historic importation of horses
- A large selection of the 19th century equestrian works of Polish painter Juliusz Kossak
- Rare lithographs from the collection of Dr. Karin Thieme, including the work of Gericault, Adams and Vernet as well as eight images from the famed Caroussel, originally given as a wedding gift for the future King of Germany upon his marriage to the daughter of the Russian czar
- A rare book of original watercolors from the Emile Hermes collection, depicting the famous horses of the stud of the King of Wurttemberg in Germany

"These rare artifacts will be united for the first and only time in one location," said Bill Cooke, Director of the International Museum of the Horse. "The story of the Arabian breed is a thread of continuity throughout the exhibition, but our art and artifacts also explore the rich and varied cultures of the peoples that treasured them and the vast contributions the ancient Near East and Arab world have made to civilization."



This will be the third international blockbuster exhibition at the International Museum of the Horse* and is expected to draw 300,000 visitors. It will be on exhibit during the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games at the park—the largest sporting event in the United States in 2010—to attend as the cultural heart of the games for hundreds of thousands of national and international visitors. "A Gift from the Desert" is one of Kentucky's two biggest events in 2010, alongside the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, and one of the most prestigious art events in North America.

Nicholson concluded, "Considering the inexpressible beauty of the Arabian horse, the rich and ancient culture surrounding it, its impact on nearly every modern breed of horse and its continued popularity around the world, it's easy to understand why we are so excited and extremely pleased and proud to offer this exhibition to the world."

Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$11 for children. For information on the exhibition or the museum, contact the International Museum of the Horse, (859) 259-4232 or go to the [Kentucky Horse Park](#). For group tour information, contact Ali Mihankhah, (859) 259-4225, ali.mihankhah@ky.gov.

**Other blockbuster exhibitions in the International Museum of the Horse were "Imperial China: The Art of the Horse in Chinese History" in 2000 and "All the Queen's Horses: The Role of the Horse in British History" in 2003.*



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