



SYVAHA Newsletter: Winter 2011

I hope the New Year is starting our well for all of you. I wish to extend a huge thank you to Henry & Christie Metz for hosting our fabulous Christmas Party at their home—we had a terrific turnout, with outstanding & varied culinary offerings and a good time was had by all—see inside for photos.

As I write today, our 2011 SYVAHA Ranch Directory has gone to the printers, and will hopefully—last minute snafu's notwithstanding-- be available for distribution at the Scottsdale show Thursday afternoon this week. We had something of a learning curve in putting the Directory together this year, but I am very proud of the result & I hope you will all be pleased, as well. We did play with the format a bit—so please give us your feedback. As so few people submitted horse listings to us, we decided to eliminate that aspect, this year & going forward. Since we are able to keep the ranch ad rates very low—the people who wish to promote their bloodlines have the reasonable option of taking out a ranch ad. The 2012 edition should go much more smoothly on all fronts. One request to all of you: we would like to build a stock library of great photos for cover and editorial content consideration in the 2012 edition—so please—if you have a beautiful photo which you feel would be useful—great Santa Ynez scenery, preferably with a beautiful Arabian[s]—please email it to me in high-resolution format with photographer credit. This would be a terrific use for those artsy photos you just love which perhaps don't quite work for an ad. Our goal is to produce the most beautiful and collectible club directory in North America, and to make sure it is well distributed here in the Valley as well as at most of the major Arabian events all over the world. Several of our members have volunteered to help make this goal achievable, however, the more the merrier. Should you be attending a major Arabian event in a foreign locale—please consider taking 20 or so directories with you to strategically place! I particularly wish to thank all our advertisers, our board members who worked to gather advertising, Kelly Elm who did a huge amount of late night typing, our members who contributed editorial photos, and our Art Director, Cherie Virden of Purebred Associates in Los Olivos, who burned the midnight oil all last week getting this project completed.

We have several excellent show and event reports for your enjoyment in this issue—many thanks to our contributing writers Katie Russell, Janina Merz, Carol Steppe & Christie Metz. **Our 2011 Officer Installation and Brunch is scheduled for March 13th at the beautiful Montanaro Farm in Los Olivos, with Dr Doug Herthel as our guest speaker—please see inside for details & plan to join us. Joe & Katie Russell will be hosting a Wildflower Ride from their Happy Canyon ranch Saturday April 16th, complete with gourmet box lunch. The scenery should be spectacular this year, so don't forget your camera!** Several Farms will be hosting post-Las Vegas open houses in April, and Carol Steppe is hosting an Open House on Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. We are also planning a “State of the Union” discussion panel event this fall, open to all of Region 2 and coordinated by Carol Steppe.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on March 13th at our brunch!

Nancy Eklund-Hunsicker



2011 Calendar of Events

March 13th 11:00am [time change the night before!!] Installation Brunch, Montanaro Farm, 2531 Grand Ave, Los Olivo. Guest Speaker: Dr Doug Herthel-- Topic: "Biological Solutions for both Prevention and Rehabilitation; discussion of both athletic injuries as well as metabolic disorders" Brunch, \$15, water will be provided, but BYOB if you prefer something stronger. RSVP Sylvia Beverly 688-2000 dbeverly4@aol.com

April 16th, "Wildflower Trail Ride" at Joe & Katie Russells, 8001 Happy Canyon Rd, Santa Ynez. Arrive 10:00 am, ride out 10:30, gourmet box lunch approximately 12:30, price details forthcoming. RSVP Katie Russell 650-279-5392 katierussell1239@yahoo.com

April 18th-21st Arabian Breeders Celebration. RSVP directly to individual host farms; for more information visit www.arabianbreederscelebration.com

May 2nd 6:00pm Board of Directors meeting rsvp Nancy Eklund-Hunsicker fair oakfarm@hughes.net

May 12th-15th AHASFV 48th Annual Show& Pacific Slopes Championship, Santa Barbara

May 29th Open House at Day Dream Arabians RSVP Carol Steppe csteppe@gmail.com 510.599.9843

June 15-18 Region 2 Sport Horse Championships, Santa Barbara

June 21-25 Region 2 Championships, Santa Barbara

July 18th 6:00pm Board of Directors meeting rsvp Nancy Eklund-Hunsicker fair oakfarm@hughes.net

October 3rd 6:00pm Board of Directors Meeting rsvp Nancy Eklund-Hunsicker fair oakfarm@hughes.net

September: date TBA "State of the Union" Discussion Panel, details forthcoming

November 4-5-6th Competitive Trail Ride, Sage Hill info Kathy Stegman kkstegman@cs.com

December: Date TBA, SYVAHA Christmas Party & Election



Please join us!

For the

2011 SYVAHA Installation Brunch

Sunday March 13th, 11:00 am

at

Montanaro Farm

2531 Grand Avenue, Los Olivos

Special Guest Speaker:

Dr. Doug Herthel

"Biological Solutions for both Prevention and Rehabilitation"

Discussion to cover athletic injuries as well as metabolic disorders

\$15/person

Includes Brunch, dessert & bottled water

BYOB if you prefer to consume a non-water alternative ☺

Member-invited guests welcome

RSVP by March 10th to Sylvia Beverly

805.688.2000 or dbeverly4@aol.com



SYVAHA 2010 Christmas Party Photos:



Miss Flora Elm-Colone



Leslie Gillies looking smashing in red!



Kelly Elm, Nancy Hunsicker & Claire Hanssen//2 Lovely Ladies with their favorite dates!



Our host Henry Metz kept the bar scene lively



Ron Colone & Brett Ellingsberg



Sayed Badraya & Sigi Siller



Horse Show Happenings

By Katie Russell



Happy 2011 fellow SYVAHA enthusiasts! I am hoping that 2011 brings you much enjoyment and success with your wonderful Arabian horses. Aren't we just the blessed ones to have these incredible animals in our lives? And, that we all share our love and passion for them together – how lucky are we? I look forward to seeing you all at the shows this year and once again, sharing your achievements with the club members via the SYVAHA Newsletter. Please don't be shy, I really want you to email, call or grab me at a show to tell me ALL about your wins!

I ended last year's newsletter with an update from the Nationals in Tulsa. Unfortunately, I neglected to share with you one of our local Arabian farms' incredible results from U.S. Nationals. So, I'd like to take this article to fill you in on **RANCHO SONADO'S** tremendous success last year in Tulsa. **Dick and Nan Walden** own **Rancho Sonado** and it is located at 1475 Edison Street in Santa Ynez, and they also have another location in Amado, AZ, south of Tucson. Nan and Dick sent five horses to Tulsa and came home with a National Championship, a Reserve National Championship and six Top Tens. Wow, way to represent the Valley, Nan! Nan's win on Agracie Girl V was her first U.S. National Championship and second time showing at Nationals. What a great win, Nan- we are so very proud of you and thrilled at your big win. Listed below are the Walden's horses and their wins:

Agracie Girl V +++/ (Sundance Kid V x Amazing Grace V)

National Champion Trail Horse AAOTR with Nan Stockholm Walden

Res. National Champion Trail Horse Open with Amanda Borduin

Neiman JCA (Jake Jamaal JCA x TheAnglesRejoice)

Top Ten Western Pleasure Select Rider with Brandi Scimone

Top Ten Western Sidesaddle Open with Ali Brady

Stars and Stripes SF+ (Allionces Knight x Starry Spumoni)

Top Ten H/A Trail AAOTR with Nan Stockholm Walden

Calypso PE (Armani FC x PaulettaB)

Top Ten Hunter Select Rider with Jennifer Earles

Nan and Dick have a new trainer this year. Her name is Courtney Spicer, she is from Tucson and is well known especially in the working western circles. Her new assistant trainer is Sarah Shawcroft. They are both based at the Arizona ranch. Our own local talent, Ali Brady, will continue to train her Santa Ynez horses and Ali will be taking three of Rancho Sonado's horses to Scottsdale in February. Courtney will be taking five to Scottsdale. Meanwhile, Raul Uribe, runs his own boarding and training program at **Rancho SonadoOeste** on



Edison, having been in the valley more than 25 years. He starts many of the Walden's babies, and conditions them for show and trail.

Nan wanted to give a special thanks, not only to Ali for her accomplishments at Nationals, but to Kelly Elm and Pam Turnbull, who both gave some lessons to Nan while she was in Santa Ynez before Nationals. Nan says both Dick and his daughter, Deb Walden Ralls, have been riding since they could walk, so now she can finally hold her head up in the family! (Deb was Reserve National Champion Working Cow Horse ATR on SC Chipawa Chinks (Desperado V x Carnation) in 2006. Nan and Dick's is truly a very special story. They met late in life; she was 47 when she married him, her first time, and almost 50 when she got her first Arabian! And, more importantly, as Nan says, "he is the love of my life." What a heartwarming story. I look forward to following the Waldens' Rancho Sonado and Rancho Sonado Oeste at Scottsdale in February and sharing their successes with you in the next newsletter.



Dick & Nan Walden with Gracie



Nan enjoying her victory pass!

Please do not hesitate to share YOUR results with me too. I really do not want to miss anyone! My email is: katierussell1239@yahoo.com

Thank you again for taking the time to read the Newsletter and more importantly, for your love and passion of your gorgeous, talented Arabian horses and our spectacular Santa Ynez Valley. As I said earlier, we are so fortunate to share those two things together. See you in Scottsdale!



The World Championships: Paris 2010

By Janina Merz

The World Championship in Paris was especially magical this year. Adding to the enchantment of beautiful Arabian horses gathered in the most glamorous city in the world, an unusually chaotic snow storm hit Paris two days before the show began, covering the entire city in a pristine, glittering blanket of white.

For those of you who haven't yet attended this show, I highly recommend it. The quality of horses is exceptionally high and so is the fun factor. The people who attend the show generally dress beautifully, (except Sigi and I, since we didn't get our luggage until the last day of the show due to the above mentioned snow storm!) the alcohol flows readily and there is great food aplenty. All in all, the Salon du Cheval is an event every passionate Arabian horse lover deserves to experience at least once in their lifetime.

The show is structured with just a few classes: Junior Female, Senior Female, Junior Male and Senior Male. Each of these categories is further broken down by age into groups A and B. The Top 5 of each Section goes back into the Championship on Sunday, thus a total of 10 horses are called back into each of the 4 Championships. The judging panel, comprised of eight international judges, selects a Top 5 and out of this group emerge the Gold, Silver and Bronze World Champions.

Junior Female World Champion (Gold) was the ethereal **FT Shaella**, sired by **Shael Dream Desert**. She is owned by Dubai Stud and was beautifully presented by her Italian handler, Paolo Capecci. The Reserve World Champion Filly (Silver) was the Italian owned **Alma Al Tiglio** by **Ajman Moniscione**, an incredibly typey and very flashy chestnut filly shown by Frank Spoenle of Germany. The Bronze Champion filly was the one that made my heart putter-putter; she didn't yet have the ethereal beauty of the winner nor the refined face of the Silver filly but what she *did* have was *incredible* presence; the kind of star quality every breeder dreams of producing but rarely achieves. Her name is **Almasa** by a relatively unknown stallion named **Mornarcos**. She is, however, royally bred and owned by the Royal Stables of Jordan. We will hear much of this filly in the future.



The World Champion Junior Male Colt (Gold) was one of my favorites in the Championship: **Aja Justified** by **WH Justice**. He was bred and is owned by Jane and Malcom Hickford of the United Kingdom, and is presently on lease to Athba Stud of Saudi Arabia. The reason this colt is close to my heart is two-fold: There are five Om El Arab bred horses in his pedigree and I consider any horse that has any Om El in it to be part of my family. Secondly, **Aja Justified** is incredibly Om El Arab in phenotype as well as genotype and it made me very proud when he won. The Silver Champion was a **Besson Carol** son named **Fadi Al Shaqab**, presented by Michael Byatt and owned by Al Shaqab Stud. He is a flashy bay colt that is very **Marwan** in type through his dam. Bronze Champion colt was **RFI Farid** by **RFI Maktub**, bred in Brazil and shown to the win by Frank Spoenle.

The Senior Females were very beautiful this year and the placing could have been switched around to any of the top mares without causing controversy. On the day of the Championship it was Ajmaan Stud's **Bess Fa'izah**, by **WH Justice**, that won the Gold. This mare has an incredible face and gave it her best in the Championship. The famous Polish mare **Emandoria**, by **Gazal Al Shaqab**, had to settle for Silver on this day. Bronze Champion was the stellar **Lady Veronica**, by **Versace** who is out of an ***El Shaklan** daughter. **Emandoria** ruled the ring on the day of her class but was a little too sleepy in the Championship to be placed above the other two mares. Another mare I would like to mention is **SF Shaklina** by ***Sanadik El Shaklan**. She was actually produced here in Santa Ynez on our farm but foaled in Belgium. She is owned by Kuphal de Mato of Argentina and Johanna Ullstrom and was shown by Johanna to the Top 5 in the World Championship. **Shaklina** was my favorite mare of the show. It was as if her sire **Sanadik** were standing in the ring in female form. She would have made her daddy very proud!

The Senior Male Championship was an interesting class. **Banderos**, by **Marwan Al Shaqab** won the Gold Champion honors. He is owned by Al Khalediah of Saudi Arabia and has won almost every show he's ever entered—globally. Silver Championship honors went to the incredible **QR Marc** by **Marwan Al Shaqab**. **QR Marc** has one of the most amazing faces I've ever seen on an Arabian stallion-- he is in the flesh what artists of old have created on paper, and absolutely magnificent to see in the flesh. The Bronze Championship went to **Marquis**, by **Marwan Al Shaqab**, also owned by Al Khalediah.

Sigi and I spent two wonderful days after the show sightseeing in Paris. We went to the Rodin Museum for the first time, saw a Monet exhibition one evening and tried but didn't make it to the Opera. Sometimes it's nice to leave something you really want to do for the *next* trip to Paris...

Scottsdale Tours

By Carol Steppe



Christmas is over and our minds and hearts begin to dwell on the new show season ahead. We begin thinking of Scottsdale: warm days, blue skies and the excitement of seeing the horses show. I always feel that I can't wait to get to Arizona and get started; most of us would agree that the anticipation can consume us. We wish we could just get a sneak peek into the year that lies ahead.

The Scottsdale Farm Tours has become the perfect answer. This is now one of my favorite events of the year, and I am not alone. Hundreds of Arabian horse lovers travel to the desert to begin "the season", not to compete, but instead to get a glimpse of the competitors. Many people have also come to buy a special show horse, a gorgeous brood mare or a breeding to a stallion that will be presented. It is extremely special to see the electric atmosphere that happens when an extraordinary horse comes out, or a group of past National Champions is presented, or we see a gorgeous little yearling awaiting her big debut.

The tour includes visits to ten different trainers and/or breeders facilities and the atmosphere is upbeat, energetic and friendly. The different farms all entertain beautifully and people have plenty of time for visits, for meeting new friends and also for having a chance to see the show string that each farm will present at Scottsdale in about 6 weeks. There is a bond that begins to be formed as everyone travels from one barn to the next and it is like being at a fantastic progressive dinner party, but with gorgeous horses everywhere over the span of 5 days. Oh the Joy!

Doha, Qatar, January 2011

By Christie Metz

In January Henry and I attended an Arabian Horse Festival in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and afterwards flew to Doha, Qatar to visit Al Shaqab Stud, a member of the Qatar Foundation along with several other Arabian breeding farms. The city of Doha continues to grow in an amazing way with a beautiful Islamic Art Museum designed by architect I.M. Pei, the crown jewel in the blue waters of the Arabian Gulf. The city is bordered on the shore side by a very long and waving "corniche" that sets the tone for this modern city. For traffic control the city has utilized roundabouts with sculpture pieces of an Islamic nature in the center. Traffic rivals Italy and possibly Egypt! The Qatar Foundation is comprised of university members in the US including Cornell, Georgetown and Texas A & M as well. It also includes a sports arena that is second to none in the world; they will be hosting the World Cup Soccer Games in 2022. And most interesting to us; the impressive new stables of Al Shaqab, 982,000 square meters of space, home to world famous stallions Ghazal Al Shaqab, his son Marwan Al Shaqab and the straight Egyptian stallion, Al Adeed Al Shaqab. They have a show and breeding team responsible for this group of horses, headed by Mohammed Al Sulaiti, Abdulla Al-Kuwari and Ali Misnaud and assisted by Broderick Levens of Australia. While in Qatar we also visited Nasser Stud, Al Naif Stud and Al Rayyan and another new but very focused breeding farm in the north of the country. All of these studs have very successful breeding programs with multiple generations of horses. Only Al Rayyan



remains strictly focused on straight Egyptian strains while the others have their “Show Horses” breeding programs too. The hospitality shown to us is always very kind, warm and generous. Doha is also the home of our Central Command for the United States armed forces. It could easily be “the” destination spot in the Mideast with the beautiful white sand beaches, waving palm trees, blue skies, welcoming people and of course all the amazing Arabian horses.



Henry & Christie Metz visiting the brand new Al Shaqab Stables in Qatar

Al Khaladiah International Show: Saudi Arabia

By Janina Merz

In late January Sigi and I travelled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the 4th annual Al Khalediah International Show. My expectations before embarking on this trip were not terribly high, to be quite honest I wasn't too thrilled to be going. I had lots of work to do at home with the Scottsdale show just around the corner. I also felt that as a woman I wouldn't really be able to experience much of Saudi Arabia. What I learned is that having no expectations can be a good thing at times because I was totally taken by surprise by how much I enjoyed this trip.

Sigi and I were greeted upon arriving at the airport in Riyadh by Guest Services of the Al Khalediah Festival. We were immediately given our Abayas, which we put on and never really took off for the rest of the trip. We had given our measurements to the show organizer a while back and they had the Abayas custom tailored for us and every foreign guest. They were all black but many of them had beautiful, colorful



embroidery and beads on them. We were also given a headscarf that matched each Abaya. It was the oddest feeling at first to walk around covered up from head to toe. I soon got used to it, however, and enjoyed the loose comfy clothes I had on underneath! I have to admit that I've never packed for a trip abroad as quickly as I did for this one.

We stayed at the official hotel for the show, the Radisson Blue, and soon met up with friends from all corners of the world. We women complemented each other on our different Abayas and took the opportunity to take many photographs.

Our first day there was Arabian race day. The Al Khalediah farm is about an hour by car or an hour and half by bus away from Riyadh. That afternoon we all piled into the bus and headed out to the farm to watch the races. Al Khalediah is owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. The farm is a paradise built in the middle of the desert. The race track is state of the art with an incredible viewing area for the royals and other spectators. We found ourselves in the royal area and were spoiled all evening with tea, coffee and hors d'oeuvres that seemed to circulate endlessly. It was quite a special evening.

The next day the International Horse Show began in another area of the farm. Prince Khaled built a show arena with incredible viewing areas specifically for this event. We sat in a VIP area on one side of the show arena and the royals were directly opposite us in their slightly grander viewing area. To the left of us was a grandstand for local people and to the right of us another fancy area. I never figured out who was allowed to sit there and why but it didn't include us. We each had our designated tables decorated with trays of handmade chocolates and again waiters circulated endlessly with cardamom coffee, black sweet tea, wonderful fruit juices, pastries, cakes and every other hors d'oeuvres you can imagine. The "coffee guys" would swarm in as a team with their little cups and Arabic kettles filled with cardamom coffee dozens of times every day. They seemed so disappointed when we would wave them away that I drank more than my fair share just because it made them happy. The first day of the show consisted of just four junior classes but the show managed to take nine hours with the coffee breaks, the prayer breaks, the yummy lunch break held in a traditional tent out back, and whatever other break. It was a true spectacle!

Sigi and I were lucky to have our good friend, Mohammad, who lives in Saudi Arabia show us around. Through him we met many people and experienced some things that were not on the agenda for everyone else. We had the opportunity to spend an evening in a classic Bedouin tent eating traditional food and making new friends. It was an honor to be invited. We spent another evening at a traditional Arabic restaurant. We sat on the ground on exotic cushions and chatted with each other while the meal was laid out in the middle of the room in two long rows on the floor. The food was fabulous and so was the company. Again it was an honor to have been invited.

The highlight of our trip for me was visiting the two beautiful Om El Arab mares that live at Al Khalediah. We visited Om El Bernadette (Om El Shahmaan x Om El Benedict) first. She recognized us instantly and we spent a long time kissing, hugging and shedding some happy tears. Bernadette looked happy and is in wonderful



show shape. She was Egyptian National Champion Mare last fall. She will be competing on the international show scene again this year. Our second reunion, with Om El Shadina (*Sanadik El Shaklan x Om El Shaina) was harder and more emotional. Shadina left our farm as a mature mare and it is always bittersweet to see the horses with which we've had a strong bond again. She also seemed so happy to see us. It is with a heavy heart that I recall our time spent with her.

The championship classes were very interesting. I have to say that in my opinion the six international judges did an excellent job. The championship classes were full of outstanding individuals. The Om El Arab influence was evident in several horses. The Junior Champion colts were ranked in the following order: Gold Champion was Kahil Al Shaqab by Marwan Al Shaqab, Silver Champion was AJ Fenjan by Ajman Moniscione, who carries El Shaklan blood through his paternal grandmother and Bronze Champion was Aja Adonis by WH Justice and out of a *Sanadik El Shaklan daughter bred by Doug Dahmen.

The Junior Champion fillies were ranked as follow: The typey Alma Al Tiglio by Ajman Moniscione won the Gold Championship title, the stunning Stival daughter, Stivalery BJ won the Silver Champion honors and the Eden daughter Ganyah Athbah won the Bronze Championship.

The beautiful Champion Mare, Panarea by Palawan, owned by Ajman Stud, is by Justice who is out of an *El Shaklan granddaughter. Venetzia, the beautiful chestnut mare who is double *El Shaklan through a full brother/sister pairing of Versace to his full sister, was Silver Champion Mare. Bronze Champion was the lovely Laheeb daughter, Badawieh.

Sig and I were very proud of the Senior Gold Champion Stallion LVA Maximus who's pedigree we've influenced a lot. He is by the stallion Espano Estopa whose sire and dam were both bred by Om El Arab and out of a mare named Challon Salana. We sold her dam, Bur Sable to England many years ago. Challon Salana's sire is *Carmargue who we had on lease at our farm for two years. The Silver Champion Stallion Was Bashir Al Shaqab by Marwan Al Shaqab. The Bronze Champion was Eternety Ibn Navarrone-D who is also an Om El Arab relative through his famous mother Navarrone P.

It is such a joy for us to go to horse shows around the world and to see the influence of our great, big "family". Any horse that has some Om El Arab blood in it we consider family and it makes us so proud to see them succeed.

I've completely revised my opinion on travelling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It was an adventure that I would not have missed for the world, everyone we met was kind, they were proud of their horses and were excited to meet like-minded people that enjoyed their same passion-the Arabian Horse. I look forward to going back for another visit soon.



Janina Merz & Sigi Siller with Om El Bernadette in Saudi Arabia



Maximus—Gold Champion Stallion

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