

DIABLO ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER



Diablo Arabian Horse Association
www.diabloaha.org

Editors: Meghan Johnson
Sidney Simpson

Letter from the President

By Debbie Compilli

Dear Members:

Wow! What a summer it has been--fast and furious. DAHA members have been busy with their horses both in our area and across the country. Here are some of the highlights of our summer activity, with in-depth articles included in the Fall Newsletter.

July 3, DAHA demonstrated the influence of our Arabian horses to a large crowd at the Danville Hay Days.

Reno, NV, was the site of the Region III Championship show, with many of our members traveling east to both compete and cheer on their friends.

Then off to Youth Nationals in Albuquerque, N.M., for the more horse show competition at the national level.

DAHA's annual ride to BBQ Terrace on Mt. Diablo was well attended. The riders and their friends were served a delicious lunch catered by El Balazo of Danville.

DAHA's trail ride chairman, Jill Mitchell, has scheduled the next ride at Pt. Reyes National Seashore at the Five Brooks Staging area in Olema on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 10am.

DAHA is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Board of Directors. If you are interested, or have a nominee in mind, please give me a call at 925-519-1082.

DAHA is holding our Class "A" Fall Fling show at Brookside Equestrian Facility, in Elk Grove,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President	1
DAHA Calendar of Events	2
High Points, BBQ Terrace Ride & Mt Diablo Endurance Ride	3
Family Horse and Shows	3
Varian Arabian Jubilee and Hay Days	4
DAHA High Point Standings	5
AERC Pard'ners Award: Mike Tracy and Aron Moon+//	6
DAHA Tribute	7

September 26-28th. DAHA will again produce a showcase for the Arabian horse commingled with fun classes, which are enjoyed by everyone, including the barn dogs. Participating in this show is a great way to earn double points in our High Point Program.

And don't forget to send in your points for DAHA's High Point Program. This is a great opportunity to participate in our great year end awards. All points are due to Sherry Pedder by November 15.

Mark your calendars! Our DAHA Annual Membership Banquet is Sunday, January 25, 2009.

We all appreciate the support of all of our club members. You are what keeps DAHA growing and going.

Happy Trails,

Debbie Compilli,
President



Hay Days photo of Blacky(left) and Harley(right)

DAHA Calendar of Events

Save Mount Diablo "Moonlight on the Mountain"

One of a kind banquet fundraiser on the mountain
Saturday September 13, 2008
RSVP: (925) 947-3535

DAHA Fall Fling Show

Brookside Equestrian Center -We need volunteers!
Friday-Sunday September 26-28, 2008
Contact: Nancy Goertzen (559) 625-2631
e-mail: goertzenarab@surfside.net

DAHA Point Reyes Trail Ride

Sunday, October 5, 2008 - 10a.m.
Five Brooks Staging Area, Olema, CA
RSVP 925-250-1371

DAHA Annual Membership Banquet

Sunday January 25, 2009 at TBA
Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Hall
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549

DAHA Mt Diablo BBQ Terrace Trail Ride

On Sunday, August 10th at 10a.m, 12 or so DAHA members and friends set out from Summit Ranch for Barbeque Terrace for a day of trail riding, spectacular panoramic views and a wonderful catered lunch from El Balazo. Vice President Jill Mitchell led the ride to Barbeque Terrace through Pine Canyon on fire roads. This was a great opportunity to meet other DAHA members and enjoy the beautiful summer day. Barbeque Terrace was the perfect place for lunch and conversation. We're looking forward to it next year!



Nancy Justin and Elizabeth Hudson on the 2008 DAHA Mt Diablo BBQ Terrace Ride

Do you have news? Email Meghan Johnson at MZara75030@aol.com

What is High Point?

Ever wonder what our High Point Program is all about? DAHA established the High Point Program for members who compete in horse shows and other events. In recent years, the program has expanded from an emphasis on Arabian events, to include open shows and competitions at all levels. DAHA offers Class A Arabian shows, as well as all-breed, CSHA-sanctioned shows annually. Many other organizations also sponsor competitive events in our area and in regions nearby. We encourage our members to present their purebred and half-Arabian horses to the horse world at large. Championship awards are presented at an annual dinner in January. High Point class sponsorships and entry fees help to defray the cost of the awards presented. Please consider sponsoring one or more classes to help support the High Point Program. We look forward to seeing you and your horses in competition this year, whether you aspire to Regional or National levels, or prefer to compete locally. Forms and information can be found on at www.diabloaha.org under High Points and Awards. **All Points are due on November 15 to Sherry Pedder.** Remember that DAHA sponsored shows count for DOUBLE POINTS towards our High Point Program. Please contact Sherry Pedder for more information (925) 254-2493 or sherry.pedder@gmail.com

1st Annual Diablo Trail Endurance Ride 25/50!

In 104 degree heat, over 115 riders came out to Castle Rock to participate in the June 21, 2008 event. There were 36 riders who participated in the 30 mile ride with 17 finishers and there were 68 riders who participated in the 50 mile ride with 53 finishers. The riders headed out on the course at 5:30 a.m. The course traveled through Diablo Foothills, Shell Ridge Open Space and Mt. Diablo State Park. The ride management and vets kept all horses and riders safe in the hot weather conditions, and many riders commented on what a great experience they had. Save Mount Diablo raised \$12,000 to preserve the mountain. DAHA's own Mike Tracy and Shannon Mahoney won Top 5 in the 50 mile AHA Championship for Arab and ½ Arab. DAHA was happy to help sponsor such a worthwhile event along with Mancini Sleepworld, Lumiplexion Skin Care, and Marx & Assoc to name a few. We hope this becomes an annual event!

2008 Family Arabian Horse

DAHA is looking for Family Arabian Horse nominations for the 2009 Winter High-Points Awards Banquet. It will be to honor the "Family Arabian." There is no need to be showing or earning high points to be eligible for this new award. All you need to do is tell us your story about your special family horse. Everyone is eligible—children, adults, new riders, old pro's, colts and fillies, our horsey angels as well as old horses that have been put out to pasture. Send your story, along with a picture, Outreach Chair Sidney Simpson. We will publish them throughout the year and then choose one special horse for the Family Arabian of the Year. Want more information? Check out our website at www.diabloaha.org under "High Point and Awards." **All nominations are due December 1, 2008. Do you want to nominate your horse? Send your story, along with a picture, to sidneysimpson@comcast.net**

Region III Championships

By Amanda Kelley

Region III Championship was held at the Reno Livestock Pavilion July 6th through 12th, 2008. Region III was especially fun this year. Even though the air was smoky and hot, everyone seemed to be enjoying it as always. As always, it really seemed to be a show for all ages. There were stick horses and crafts tables for the kids, as well as a silent auction and the annual poker tournament for adults. One of my favorite parts had to be babysitting all of the kids while their parents played poker. I think the best part about the show was really being able to spend an entire week with the people you usually only see for a couple days at other shows. The competition was of course amazing as well.

DAHA at Youth Nationals

By Amanda Kelly

Youth Nationals was even more fun than Region III! The level of competition in Albuquerque is almost ridiculous and the highlight of my trip was not only competing there but just watching the classes. Also me and five or six DAHA Youth attended the AHYA Convention there and represented Region III, which was incredibly fun! We got to play games, vote on AHYA officers, and listen to the famous Joel Kiesner speak. He was really inspiring and talked about how it's really not the end of the world if we come home without a ribbon. Another highlight was riding on the racetrack! It made me realize that I could never be jockey.

But all in all, youth nationals was and will always be an amazing experience that anyone would be lucky to be apart of.

DAHA Fall Fling Show

Our Fall Fling Show will be at Brookside Equestrian Park, September 26 - 28, 2008. Entries close September 7, 2008. Last year we received record entries for 194 horses, a huge increase from the previous year which was entries for 163 horses. We will be hosting 200 classes including some "Fun Classes" on Saturday afternoon. There will be a pizza party Friday night and an ice-cream social Saturday afternoon. We are still looking for volunteers to give out ribbons, help run the office and administrative duties, be Ring Stewards and Scribes for the judges. Class Sponsorships are available, \$15 per class, \$25 for two classes. Please call Coke Swift at 209-464-1932 or willowjewelfarm@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring a class. Your support will make this show a success!

DAHA Point Reyes Ride

By Meghan Johnson

As promised, a second DAHA sponsored trail ride at Point Reyes is Sunday, October 5, at 10 a.m. We will be meeting at Five Brooks Trailhead for a spectacular six mile trail ride through the redwoods to the beach where we will enjoy lunch with the horses. Please bring halter/leadrope and bagged lunch. RSVP to Jill Mitchell by Oct 1st 925-250-1371 For directions, contact Jill.



Board Member Lynne Chavelle and friends riding through the redwoods

Varian Arabian Jubilee

By Sidney Simpson

Our Varian weekend on August 9–10, was fabulous. I had wanted to show Loren, my rather non-horsey husband-- what an amazing facility it is--beautifully landscaped with flowers everywhere, clean, state-of-the-art, and gentle. It is a facility with gorgeous barns and grounds that are impeccable. It's like wandering into a storybook--no flies, no odors...everything is elegant. I wanted him to see the animals--all breath taking, well kept--spirited and athletic and at the same time calm and unafraid--no jittery animals. Sheila has both the mares and the stallions all barefoot, and she has let all of their bridle paths grow out so that their manes drift into the forelocks without interruption. It has a wild, free look. I loved it.

All of them--mares, stallions, and babies alike--are friendly, curious, interested in the people around them. Clearly they have been treated kindly, gently-- never having had a reason to be fearful. I wanted him to see the training--Jaime and Mike--two talented Mexican fellows who began about 15 years ago mucking stalls and are now her primary trainers--excellent horsemen, with calm, gentle ways about them--men who clearly love their work.

I wanted Loren to get a sense of who Sheila Varian is--a one-of-a-kind, down-to-earth icon--cowgirl hall of fame and your next door neighbor all rolled into one--fabulous stories to tell...quick to laugh and tease...and quick to well up with emotion. This was palpable when she presented Desperado V-- (Cheyenne's dad) her beloved stallion for well over 20 years--a stallion who has bred over 1,000 foals and made her millions of dollars --a massive, muscular, athletic, multi-talented Arabian who has been on the cover of Horse and Rider. His breeding days are done and there is now a hint of arthritis as he moves. Yet he is still clearly the king--you sense that in him and also in Sheila. It is clear how much she loves him and he her. He has now retired from the stallion barn and is in his own very large, grassy pasture. The stall that was his is now filled with another equally beautiful, talented stallion--waiting to pass along his traits to other babies. When she presented Desperado along with the other stallions at liberty, he still strutted his stuff, tossing his mane and playing with Sheila. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

I know I had a lump in my throat. Each horse has his own music that Sheila has carefully chosen to complement the horse's attitude and movement, and he moves to it when shown at liberty. For over 20 years Desperado's has been the song Desperado. At this point in the stallion's life, it takes on a particular sense of pathos.

Sheila did everything first class--wonderful food, a beautiful presentation, her fabulous staff, classy vendors, her own warmth and experience--and of course the amazing horses.

I had wanted to give my husband some understanding of why Arabian horses are such an important part of my heart--to share that love with him. It could not have been more perfect.



DAHA at Danville's "Hay Days" Celebration

By Sidney Simpson

Just a note to say that I was delighted with the way Danville Hay Days turned out. What a lovely, old-fashioned celebration--couldn't have been nicer. Initially we were concerned at the inadequate horse parking and congestion, but all of those concerns quickly vanished when we saw the bright-eyed, enthusiastic crowd who were so taken with our horses--2 Arabians, a quarter horse (in native Arabian costume), and a miniature horse that is used in a children's hospice program. I would rate it 100% success! What a thrill to see so many people clamor around to see our horses up close and to touch them. Our full table of flyers and brochures was well received and well manned with volunteers, answering questions, etc. I understand that a lot of flyers were taken. The folks from Kiwanis seemed thoroughly pleased with what we presented. This is something we can build on for next year.



2008 High Point Standings

By Sherry Pedder
August 5, 2008

PB WESTERN PLEASURE:

OK.Formally Attired	22
Buckaroo MA	
Lucille Ball	5

PB ENGLISH PLEASURE:

PB HUNTER PLEASURE:

Buckaroo MA

PB VERSATILITY:

OK.Formally Attired	7
Buckaroo MA	37
Lucille Ball	9
Way Cool Zee+/	300

PB HALTER MARES:

PB HALTER STALLIONS:

PB HALTER GELDINGS:

HA ENGLISH PLEASURE:

HA HALTER GELDINGS:

HA HALTER MARES:

JUNIORS: 10 & UNDER – WALK/JOG

C.Edwards/OK. Formally Attired	24
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JUNIORS: 13 & UNDER

M.Engelhart/Lucille Ball	133
A. Edwards/Pati Cake	28

JUNIORS: 14 – 17

A.Engelhart/Lucille Ball	6
A.Engelhart/Buckaroo MA	135
A.Engelhart/Citrine	82
K. McKillop/Citrine	50

IBN SKOVDUE–ADULT

Amy Edwards	22
Debbie Bartman	316

IBN SKOVDUE–JUNIORS

Alexa. Engelhart	35
Caroline Edwards	24

HA WESTERN PLEASURE:

ISHI CP HAHR	
PATI CAKE	
CITRINE	71

HA VERSATILITY:

PATI CAKE	9
CITRINE	

HA HUNTER PLEASURE:

DREAM IN COLOR	138
ISHI CP HAHR	
CITRINE	12

SPORT HORSE UNDER SADDLE:

DREAM IN COLOR	48
Way Cool Zee+/	16

SPORT HORSE–IN–HAND (PB&HA) ISHICP:

ENDURANCE:

MAKAYLAA	73
STELLE FIRE 11+ /	345
ARON MOON+//	137.50

COMPETITIVE TRAIL:

ARON MOON+ / /

DRESSAGE:

SHAMELESS BEY–/	30
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AMATEUR EXCELLENCE PERF:

DEBBIE BARTMAN	316
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AMATEUR EXCELLENCE HALTER:

EMERALD VIXEYN SENIOR (PB & HA):

PATI CAKE	37
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TRAINER INCENTIVE:

JILL MITCHELL	5
JUDI JACKSON	1
DEBBIE COMPILLI	1

Thanks for joining the DAHA 2008 High Point Program.
Remember that DAHA–Sponsored shows count for double points! All points are due November 15.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN
GOOD LUCK!

DAHA's Mike Tracy and Aron Moon+// win 2007 AERC Pard'ners Award!

Reprinted from Endurance News, the monthly magazine of the nonprofit American Endurance Ride Conference, www.aerc.org,
By Troy M. Smith

A year after winning the Arabian Horse Association's Distance Horse of the Year Award, Aron Moon+// and his owner, DAHA member Mike Tracy, were awarded one of the American Endurance Ride Conference's top honors: the 2007 Pard'ners Award. Named for Mae Schlegel and her longtime mount, Pard, this award honors those horse and rider partners who engender a spirit of friendship, enthusiasm and championship – yet always keep good sportsmanship their first priority. The bond between Mike and Aron Moon+// has been strengthened over 19 years of competing together – not only in endurance, but in ride & tie, competitive trail, and triathlons as well. In their first year of competition, when Aron Moon+// was 5, Mike recalls, "We were both green, and I got thrown off a number of times. It took quite a while for us to bond. "Their early years were a definite challenge. They had rides marred by a tumble into a creek and near-drowning (Western States 60) and a split coronet band after falling during a river crossing (AHA National Endurance Ride, 2000). The latter necessitated repair (with chewing gum and a torn-off jacket sleeve!) that allowed the duo to make the six miles to the next vet check. When presenting the award at the 2008 national awards banquet, Robert Ribley gave a humorous account of Aron Moon+// and Mike's first ride. "They came down the trail and the horse looked great, but the rider was bouncing every which way," recounted Robert. "Luckily they have improved over the last 19 years." Mike recalls thinking, "When Robert started talking about a rider who kept getting thrown off his horse, a rider who used a Thoroughbred racing saddle, a rider who pulled his horse in a single-axle wooden horse trailer in which his horse rode backwards, I thought, "that sounds like me and Moon." "It was an honor" to have Robert and Melissa present the award, said Mike, who has crewed for the Ribleys at Tevis. "You won't find nicer people," he said. In his acceptance speech, Mike noted that it's all about the horse. "You take care of him or her and they will take care of you down the trail," he said. "In my case, I just happened to get an exceptional animal. In fact, in the Bible at 1 Corinthians 4:7 it says, 'For who makes you to differ from another? Indeed, what do you have that you did not receive? If, now, you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as though you did not receive it?' So, I don't boast at any accomplishment. I just give thanks to Jehovah God for the gift of Aron Moon +//." Moon, a 15'1 hand half-Arabian gelding born in 1983, has averaged 6/1 rides started per season, with an average of 5.2 completions.

His total career mileage stands at 5,625. He has completed 15 100-milers. All this with a 215-pound – well, except for one ride in 1998 when Judy Houle took a turn on Moon. Mike and Moon have watched out for each other for all their years in competition. On Moon's first Tevis ride, in 1992, the pair came into a checkpoint late in the ride. "The volunteer said they didn't have any horse water, just people water. So I took the water and put it in my scoop and gave it to Moon," said Mike. "The lady said that we were real partners. I ended up running a lot that day–so much so that I finished the ride with two sprained ankles." After a year off, Mike and Moon are back on the trail in 2008, already completing an LD ride in March. "Its funny you hear about giving you horse some time off all the time, in 2007 after 18 straight years of completion, I decided to take some time off. It works wonders; in 2008 I'm raring to go." The Pard'ners Award was a culminating accomplishment for Aron Moon+//, sired by Ha Shah Ghalleb and out of a grade bay mare. He has already been honored by International Arabian Horse Association as a half-Arabian Legion of Excellence award-winning horse. Other highlights of this team's career have been six Tevis Cup and two Race of Champions in 111 starts, with 39 top tens. They were also winners in the 2000 short-course World Ride & Tie Championship, have won in competitive trail, and completed the Almaden Triathlon four times. When Aron Moon+// was honored for completing 5,000 AERC miles, Mike wrote, "Aron Moon has God-given ability. He has been too successful to say that I had a large part in his success....I'm sure the way I rode him, his diet, shoeing, etc, had something to do with his long, successful career. But you can't buy hear. Jehovah gave him that." "He exemplifies what endurance is all about," said Mike, "when you are tired, hungry, sore, and you still strive to finish, because to finish is to win."



A DAHA Tribute

Reprinted from Contra Costa Times and by Evelyn Call
DAHA lost two long time members couple of months.
President Debbie Compilli's mother, Bette Hill Vinson and
Jan Braun Williams.

Bette Hill Vinson – July 27, 1918 – June 20, 2008

Bette and her family has lived in Contra Costa County since 1950. The couple settled in the Seattle area during WWII, invested in real estate, and showed horses in their spare time. With their four children, they moved to Walnut Creek, as trainers at the John Rodgers Arabian Ranch, and in 1954, founded Vinsons' Western Wear. The annexation of Heather Farms as an equestrian center was a project they supported and is a memorial to their vision. In 1965 the Vinsons retired to devote full-time attention to Diablo Arabians on their Danville ranch. Widely known as a horsewoman and breeder of champion Arabian horses, there was none tougher than Bette, with lighter hands or a softer heart. In her quiet, confident manner, she won various North American Trail Ride Conference rides, and swept the Lightweight, Best Conditioned, and the Sweepstakes Divisions of the 1958 Mount Diablo Trail Ride, a grueling eighty-mile ride over the summer-hot/rugged terrain on the Arabian gelding, Shamus. The couple competed in working horse events, concentrating on cutting horse competitions. Both won national championships. After Lee's death in 1992, Bette and daughter Debbie Compilli continued their successful boarding and training operation. Bette was a gracious, hard-working lady, a word that may be out of vogue, but perfectly defines her manner with family, friends, or strangers. Her influence will be felt through the generations. She never abandoned her simple country roots but she made her own place in the world.

Janice Braun Williams –December 22, 1941 – July 13, 2008

It was a considerable shock that we learned of the passing of our friend and long-time D.A.H.A. member, Janice Williams. She had been ill for most of the past year, but it still seemed so sudden and was years too soon. Jan was too young and had many things she wanted to do with her beloved husband, Karl, including travel and enjoying their grandchildren. Jan was a bright, enthusiastic, woman of faith, who loved her family and all animals, especially her horses. She had managed thoroughbred breeding facilities and eventually became an Arabian horse owner while raising six children. They lived for many years at their ranch in Livermore, during which time Jan joined and became active in D.A.H.A. She showed her horses and served on the Board of Directors and on various committees, helping with most of the club's horse shows as well as other activities.

She was twice chosen to be President, taking her duties seriously and prodding us all to better efforts on behalf of our members and, more importantly, our beautiful horses. Jan always looked for opportunities to promote Arabians and welfare of horses that had been mistreated and giving them the care and love they needed. Jan was a published author of childrens' books and Christian romance novels. When Karl retired and they moved to Newcastle, Jan made certain that her horses were settled into good homes. We offer our love and sincere sympathy to Jan's husband, Karl, to her children and grandchildren, and to Jan's mother Olive Braun. We join you in missing her.

In Memory of Pati Cake+// 1992–2008

By Amy Edwards

It is with deep sadness that I report to the members of DAHA and Region III of the passing of one of the greatest mares ever to grace our arenas with her presence, Pati Cake+// at the age of 16. She became ill at Youth Nationals and was euthanized in surgery just 24 hours from the time she exhibited her first symptoms. She had a perforated duodenal ulcer, a very unusual, one in a million case. Pati Cake+// had a bright and long career with seven National Titles including two National Championships and 3 National Reserve Championships, with multiple Regional Titles including Championships in Half-Arabian Trail, Half-Arabian Western Pleasure, Side Saddle, Showmanship, Walk-Jog Western Pleasure, and Walk-Trot Hunter Pleasure. She earned her Legion of Excellence in 2007. She had been under the gentle hands of Jill Mitchell for her entire career, and owned by two families that loved her dearly. But the biggest job she had was the one she did at home. She was the first horse for not one, but two little girls. She cared for them through some of life's biggest tragedies, and all those little disappointments that little girls have to go through. She was a perfect listener, and kept all their secrets without fail. All she required in return was a few extra carrots, a soft hand, and those sweet words that little girls have for their very special horses. We were not prepared to lose Pati Cake+// so soon, and we will carry her in our hearts forever. What we learned from her, we will always cherish. She was a once in a lifetime mare and our lives are richer for having known her.



Alison Edwards and Pati Cake

DAHA Classifieds

For Sale: Pure Arabian Pony
Dreamfire WR

“Butch” is 2 ½ years old and ready to start. He has been brought in from pasture, clipped and is learning to longe. An all-black gelding with a left rear white sock, a star and a tiny snip. His sire is the champion black Dreamcatcher. Butch is pony size at 14.1 hh, ideal for a 4-H or Pony Club rider. He loves people, is gentle and curious and ready for a job. Registered AHA and Sweepstakes nominated. See him at Jesse Saldaña Training Center, 5425 Stony Point Rd, Santa Rosa, tel (707) 665-9932 or Audie (510) 541-1600.



Price (after 30 days, training): \$3500.

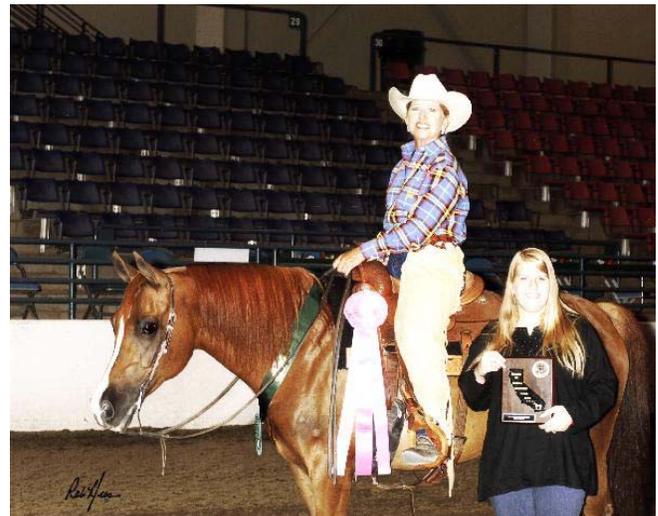
National Champion Mare for Sale

**Princess Husseri +
1995 Purebred Arabian Mare
(Hussar x HH Meri-Maid)
Breeders Sweepstakes**

Distinguished show record in open and amateur reining and hunter pleasure. Big, beautiful chestnut 15.2h, Princess Husseri+ won her Legion of Honor in 2007 and has a superb laid-back disposition. She is talented, quiet and excellent on the trail! Started on cows. \$13,000 Currently in training with Crystal McNutt

Would make outstanding Youth or Amateur horse!

Please contact: Jessica Mattson (925) 330-0574



Diablo Arabian Horse Association

Is proud to present our annual

Fall Fling Horse Show

September 26 - September 28

Class A - Arabian & Half- Arabian

Region III Qualifying Show

Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA

Western, Hunter, Country English, English, Reining, Trail, Sport Horse In
Hand & Under Saddle, Showmanship & lots of FUN classes

All youth classes Saturday & Sunday

Judge: Shannon Armstrong

Trail and Sport Horse Judges: Renee Baker and Carlton Brooks

Patron Sponsorships are \$150 and include a full page ad, prime stabling and RV placement. Full page ads are \$75 and 1/2 page ads are \$50. Class sponsorships are \$15 a class and \$25 for 2 classes and \$25 for all championship classes.

For information or a premium list contact:

Coke Swift, Show Manager 209 464-1932

Email: willowjewelfarm@yahoo.com

Nancy Goertzen, Show Secretary 559 625-2631

email: goertzenarab@surfside.net