

HOOFBEATS

A monthly publication to encourage, promote and develop the owning, training, breeding and enjoyment of the Arabian Horse.

AHAN Members:

The new year is upon us and with that said we are headed for some changes. First being the fact that the 2009 Great Plains Arabian Classic show will be a three day show. May 15, 16, 17th at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. The show committee has been working diligently to get a class schedule together that will accommodate the needs of the youth, amateurs and trainers to get their needed points for Regionals and Nationals. Also included in the show schedule will be classes for the NSH. You will notice later start times and longer breaks between sessions. With approval from the Regional Director of Region 6, we are tentatively planning a Region 8/Region 6 qualifying show. The premium book will not be mailed. It will be up on the AHAN website around the end of February or the first of March. TBA classes will be first come/first served. If you are needing a class on the TBA list be sure to call to get those added to the class schedule. Anyone wishing to place advertising in the premium book should contact me as soon as possible. Deadline for advertising is the 15th of February but that can be extended if you let me know.

Another change for 2009 will be an added Class A show August 15 & 16th. This show will be held at the Lancaster Event Center and we will be combining our show with the Morgan Association of Nebraska. There will be several different breed associations showing during this time and this is an excellent opportunity for AHAN to promote our Arabian horses.

In closing, I would like for everyone to take time to read the following notes drawn up by the Board of Directors.

It is no surprise to see that as an association, we are in some challenging economic times and that this impacts the Arabian horse industry as a whole, and also the Arabian Horse Association of Nebraska.

The Board of Directors has a commitment to provide value for your dollar despite declining membership and revenues. Decisions have been made recently which reflect those concerns.

AHAN will not be offering the Bonnie Whalen Memorial Scholarship for 2008. This decision was made to reflect a better use of resources with the intent of providing services for the membership as a whole, rather than directing those same resources to benefit one or two members. Additionally, JAHAN membership allows for access to scholarships through Region 8 and the AHA Foundation for those youth

members that are interested. Funding for the Bonnie Whalen Memorial Scholarship will be discussed on a year to year basis.

An exciting concept has been brought to our attention courtesy of the Morgan Horse Association in Nebraska. AHAN has been approached to participate in a joint class A show held at the Lancaster Event Center August 15-16 2009, with a tie in to the Lancaster County Fair in 2010. It is our understanding that the Lancaster County Fair Board will be trying to capitalize on the exit of the State Fair from Lincoln and offer a string of breed shows at the Event Center. It is our intent that by becoming a part of this "festival of breeds" that perhaps new people (and potential owners) can discover and embrace the Arabian Horse. This show would be considered a High Point show. Because of scheduling conflicts with the dates that Christensen Field is offering, we will not be holding any high point shows in Fremont this year. The BOD is researching facilities to hold a local high point show in September. However, finding a facility that is cost effective for 25-30 horses is a challenge in itself.

In closing, the Arabian Horse Association of Nebraska depends on an active, interested membership. We invite your ideas, welcome your participation and encourage your support.

~from your 2009 Board of Directors

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If you are not receiving AHAN News announcements via email throughout the month from me, please send me your correct email address so you can be included in any news that comes up throughout the month after the publication of the Newsletter. The news about the Meeting/Awards went out to all members via email. If you did not receive it, I do not have your email address.

Newsletter dates & deadlines 2009

January/February combined. Ads due by February 1st.

March. Ads due by March 20th for April issue.

April. Ads due by April 20th for May issue.

May. Ads due by May 20th for the June issue.

June. Ads due by June 20th for the July issue.

July. Ads due by July 20th for the August issue.

August. Ads due by August 20th for the September issue.

September. Ads due by September 20th for the October issue.

October/November combined. Ads due by October 31st.

December. Ads due by December 20th.

Due to the rising cost of printing and postage on the newsletter, we have revised the printing schedule and mailings of your Hoofbeats.

The Oct. 7, 2008, AHAN board meeting at the Engine House Café in Lincoln was called to order by president DeAnne Allen at 7:15 p.m.

Officers and board members present were: DeAnne Allen, Jim Carr, Julie DeBoer, Julie Koch, Linda Brown and Mike Pieters. Those absent were: Shellee Kotera, Denise Shickell and Pam Inman. Elli Rogan was present as a guest.

Minutes of the Sept. 2 board meeting were read. Julie Koch moved that the minutes be approved as presented and Mike Pieters seconded. Motion passed.

Julie DeBoer presented the treasurer's report. The club has \$19,671.34 in its accounts. Julie Koch moved to transfer \$1,000 from the GPAC show account to the restricted fund and \$1,000 from the GPAC show account to the general fund. Linda Brown seconded. Motion passed.

The board then discussed the annual high point awards banquet, which will be combined with the fall meeting this year. It will be held Nov. 2 at the Misty Isles reception hall in Lincoln. Instead of having the banquet at a restaurant, food will be provided by AHAN members. The board discussed covering the food expense, but decided instead to take freewill offerings. Instead of members bringing in their own beverages, there will be a cash bar. Julie DeBoer said she and her husband will donate the cost of having a cash bar. Nominations for volunteer of the year were taken. The nominees are Judy Krohn, Donna Wemhoff and Jane Ehrlich. Voting will be held at the awards banquet.

Membership chairman Julie Koch reported that as of Oct. 6, 2008, AHAN had 95 regular adult members, 4 life members and 25 youth members.

Publications chairman DeAnne Allen reported that the Hoofbeats newsletter now appears on the AHAN Web site.

DeAnne Allen presented the show report. The GPAC show in May had a profit of \$1,900+. Final approval of the show financials was withheld until they were completed. The Blast Off Show in Fremont on June 29, 2008, had a profit of \$444.50. The AHAN Double Your Fun show on Aug. 9-10, 2008, in Fremont showed a profit of \$930.35.

DeAnne Allen mentioned that the Morgans are planning a two-day show on Aug. 15-16 at the Lancaster Event Center and wanted to know if AHAN was interested in taking part. The board asked DeAnne to get further information and bring it to the next board meeting. There was discussion that the show would be just one week after our shows in Fremont and that may preclude us from participating.

Elli Rogan presented the Queen/King contest report. The contest will be held Oct. 12 at Prairie Gem Stables in Blair. There are two queen contestants and one princess contestant. A simple box lunch will be served, with interviews at 1 p.m. and the riding portion of the competition at 1:30 p.m. There was discussion about funding the queen scholarship. Gail Jensen had previously donated \$500 for the queen scholarship but there are no funds for this year. Elli said she would contact Gail about possibly donating funds again.

In old business: Region 6 director Deb McGuire had been asked about the possibility of AHAN holding a Region 6 qualifying show. She said that Region 6 was not interested in giving AHAN the OK to do so.

In new business: DeAnne presented the slate of officers and board members that will be presented at the awards banquet/fall meeting.

Julie Koch presented information about an online gift store (www.horseandwildlifegifts.com) that will give AHAN a 3 percent rebate for purchases made by AHAN members at the Web site. AHAN members can order from the Web site and will get 10 percent off their purchase if they use the AHAN code (AHA8075). The store also offers gift certificates. Elli Rogan suggested that instead of purchasing belt buckles for the queen and princess that AHAN possibly give gift certificates from that Web site instead.

As there was no further business, Julie Koch moved to adjourn. Julie DeBoer seconded. The motion was passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES FOR AHAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DEC. 9, 2008

The meeting at the Engine House Café in Lincoln was called to order by President DeAnne Allen at 7:30 p.m. Officers and directors in attendance were DeAnne Allen, Jim Carr, Julie DeBoer, Julie Koch and Denise Shickell. Directors absent were Shellee Kotera, Pam Inman, Mike Pieters and Linda Brown. Guests were Sigourney Inman, Kandice Rasmussen, Ron and Janet Kreie and their granddaughters Sam and Cindy.

Julie DeBoer presented the treasurer's report. AHAN has \$19,391.20 in six accounts. The breakdown is as follows: GPAC: \$7,958.32; General fund: \$1,254.44; High Point show, \$2,188.38; Restricted fund: \$3,015.58; Fiduciary fund: \$2,490.30; Certificate of deposit: \$2,675.18. There was discussion on the fiduciary fund, which included \$154 for the futurity, which AHAN discontinued some years ago. Julie Koch moved that the \$154 be transferred to the general fund. Jim Carr seconded. The motion passed. Julie Koch then moved to approve the treasurer's report and Jim Carr seconded the motion, which passed.

There was no high point report.

Julie Koch presented the membership report: As of Dec. 9, AHAN had 95 adult members, 4 life members and 25 youth members.

DeAnne Allen reported on the Hoofbeats: The Jan/Feb issue will be mailed in February.

The show report included financials for the three shows AHAN held in 2008. The Great Plains Classic shows, with 118 horses, had a profit of \$1,482.85. The Summer Blast Off show had a profit of \$444.50 and the August Double Your Fun show made \$907.40. Julie Koch moved to approve the show financials and Jim Carr seconded. Motion passed.

There was no report on the queen/king program.

In new business, the Kreies made a presentation about AHAN possibly joining with the local Morgan horse club to put on a Class A show at the Lancaster Event Center

Aug. 15-16. AHAN would have to pay its share of expenses, including the USEF approval fee, and the entire AHA approval fee. Ron Kreie had a list of 12 judges that held both Arabian and Morgan cards. He proposed the show include carriage driving classes, which are an Arabian discipline. He said that the show will be held at the same time as a Quarter Horse show and would be held under the auspices of Diane Olsen, who controls the dates for the show. He asked that the board make a decision ASAP.

In other new business, Region 6 director Cecile Hetzel Dunn has given AHAN approval to hold a Region 6 qualifying show. Jim Carr moved that AHAN switch the Great Plains Classic shows to one three-day double-judged, Region 6/Region 8 qualifying show to be held at the Lancaster Event Center May 15-17. Julie DeBoer seconded the motion and it passed.

DeAnne Allen asked board members to submit 10 names of judges for the May show. She would compile them and ask Jean Todd to contact these chosen to see if they could judge the show. DeAnne said she would contact AHA and USEF to change the dates for the May show and get written approval from the Region 6 and Region 8 directors.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 6 at the Engine House Café.

Julie Koch moved to adjourn and Julie DeBoer seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes respectively submitted by Julie Koch.

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Julie Koch, Jim Carr and Pam Inman represented AHAN at the AHAN annual convention in Denver Nov. 19-23. This is Julie's report.

There were 533 eligible delegates and 375 attended the convention.

Here are some of the highlights:

FINANCING: Treasurer Frank Galovic reported that for fiscal year 2008, AHA made \$204,000 profit. But for FY 2009, there is projected 10 percent decrease from the budget. AHA is considering selling rights (to the national shows, etc.). The board also voted to set aside 10 percent of each year's profits or \$50,000/year for an emergency fund.

SHOWS: At the show secretary/manager forum, new EVP Glen Petty had some interesting ideas about shows. He emphasized that a show's location is very important, as we well know, and that show officials need to be exhibitor-friendly. Hopefully AHAN can implement some of his ideas for our May show. One of the items that came up is that USEF will no longer accept affidavits. You must have a copy of your card or pay the non-member fee.

MARKETING: The MDP has allocated much of its funds to the Arabian Horse Galleries project at the Kentucky Horse Park. The Galleries are under construction and expected to open in late 2009. Fundraising to pay for the exhibits is ongoing, with \$4 million the goal. ... Arabian Community Shows can get \$200 from the MDP. The goal is 90 shows, and there are already 68 planned. ... The MDP also give matching funds to clubs putting on educational/promotional events. ... AHA is advertising on TV on Saturday mornings, during Horseland and other programs aimed at youth ages 5-13. ... At least 13 Class A shows were cancelled in 2008. ... The Leg Up program is geared toward 4-H leaders, incorporating the Arabian into lesson plans. The MDP

will have judging tapes for 4-H and college teams. ... AHA has pages on Youtube, Facebook and MySpace.

BREEDERS' FORUM: There were approximately 7,000 Arabian foals registered in 2008. In 1986, there were 34,800. Of all Arabians, 73 percent are 16 or older. AHA has reinstated stallion reports. Last year, there were approximately 6,000 mares bred, to 2,300 stallions, for a ratio of 2.2 mares per stallion.

REGION EIGHT CAUCUS: Jim Hitt reported that the regional show made \$6,600 above budget despite entries being down. So each club was given \$2 per member. Show commissioner Chuck Mangan said the decision to keep the regional show in Colorado was based on history, a centrally located site, not based on bids received or whether Nebraska could host the show. The region voted to adopt a program to increase membership. Clubs can earn money from the region by signing up new members. A stair-step method lets club earn more money the more members they get.

MEMBERSHIP: AHA membership has dropped 3,300 in the last year, a 9 percent decline. And the turnover is 35 percent. The membership committee discussed resolution 7-08 at length. That resolution proposed switching the membership year back to the calendar year. The proponent presented the resolution to get AHA to update its notification process. AHA officials said that they would change the way membership renewals are sent, and make sure that club membership secretaries are notified of whose membership are about to expire.

SCORING SYSTEM FORUM: This was one of the best-attended meetings of the convention. It was standing-room-only. It was moderated by Stan Morey and Bill Melendez of the Equine Evaluation Committee. Since this year was the first of the halter scoring system, they wanted to make sure everybody knew how it works. The committee members said the new system leveled the playing field and led to more balanced judging. One thing that I found interesting was that a horse no longer could be penalized for its size, because size is not one of the judging criteria. Committee members said that the procedures may be fine-tuned: Horse can leave the paddock after being judged; having sections, without announcing scores; having a presentation on the final weekend. They also said that the scorecard for Half-Arabians would be changed to read suitability to division instead of Arabian type. As for the idea of having trainers show more than one horse, USEF rules would have to be changed by resolution.

SWEEPSTAKES: The sweepstakes fund is back up to \$7.5 million after a low of \$4.5 million in 2005. The payback for the points program is approximately \$20 per point. Breeders will earn \$2 per point and nominated sire owners \$1 per point. However, in 2010, owners of new nominated sires will no longer be eligible for the 5 percent payback. Instead, it will go to the nominator of the foal. In 2009, endurance and competitive trail at nationals can earn money.

GENERAL SESSION: Convention in 2009 will be held in Reno, Nevada, and in Orlando, Fla., in 2010. ... The Arabian Horse Foundation awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 53 applicants. Everyone who applied received a scholarship. The foundation also gave funds for equine research. ... Lance Walters was elected president and Dale Harvill vice president.

RESOLUTIONS: Of the 37 resolutions, 23 were approved either in original or revised form, nine withdrawn and five disapproved. Among those withdrawn were resolutions for changing the membership year to the calendar year, and rescinding the Arabian scoring system.

Resolution 18-8, to make the scoring system optional for AHA recognized shows, was disapproved. So was 25-08, which would have rescinded concurrent judged shows. There was much discussion on both resolutions, with many valid observations.

One of the resolutions approved was 29-08, which clarified class specs for Hunter Pleasure, and 30-08, to clarify Hunter Pleasure attire specs.

A complete list of the approved resolutions is available on the AHA Web site.

The Web site also has a list of nationals judges for 2009.

If you have any questions about convention, you can contact me at (402) 794-4974 during the day or by e-mail at sk65258@windstream.net.

**AHA 2008 Convention
Denver, Colorado,
November 19-23**

We arrived in Denver on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, in time to attend the 5:00 p.m. Plenary Session. The Plenary Session presents the opportunity for delegates to review resolutions with the resolution's proponent. Delegates may ask the proponent questions relating to their resolution but the moderator's job is to insure that delegates ask questions, not begin any actual dialogue about the resolution during the Plenary Session. That sort of discussion takes place in committee. With the rules firmly enforced, the Plenary Session ended well before 8:00 p.m.

The Thursday General Session began promptly at 8:00 a.m. with Dale Harvill giving the invocation which was followed by the presentation of colors. Myron Krause gave the President's State of the Association Address. There were a number of convention business issues to take care of including accepting and closing nominations for officers and various committees and boards. Frank Galovic gave the treasurer's report. (A copy of the AHA Financials will be at the AHAN Spring Meeting for interested membership)

Each day, we split up to attend various committee meetings. At each committee meeting, a number of resolutions that have been passed to that specific committee are discussed and voted on by the committee members. Additionally, some committee business will be taken care of as well. Delegates can look at their resolution package prior to convention and see where specific resolutions will be discussed and therefore attend the open committee meetings relating to any specific resolution. Business to be taken care of at specific committees can be viewed on the committee's agenda.

As an example, **Resolution 36-08 SUBJECT: Creating Opportunities for "R" Judges** went before five different committees. In a nutshell, the object of this resolution is to help r judges get their large R. As the r judge must judge a 250 horse show as a small r before they get the R status, the proponent wanted to allow the r judge to judge on a three judge panel at Regionals as long as the other two judges were R. The Professional Horseman Committee agreed this was a good idea and sent the Resolution forward with their approval. However, three committees out the five voted not to approve. The resolution went to the convention floor for the delegates to vote on Saturday where it failed by a narrow margin. This is one that will probably come up again next year.

Committee business relates directly to the individual committee. For example, The Amateur and Professional Committee discussed their Horseman's Distress Fund, the APAHA website and the US National show. Then, some committee business taken care of at the Working Western Committee included the Reined Cowhorse Classes. Next year at Nationals, the Reined Working Cowhorse will have its own class, rather than the combination of their reining scores and cowhorse scores as was done this year where the exhibitor paid two entry fees. In 2009, there will be one class run like the open shows. Qualifications can be earned either in Reined Cowhorse classes or by earning 3 points in a combination of reining and working cowhorse classes.

In addition to the committee meetings, there were several educational forums, including one for Show Secretary/Managers, Arabian Horse Galleries Forum, The Black Stallion Literacy Project Forum and the Meet the Candidates Forum. There was an in-depth discussion and education effort on Friday regarding the Arabian Halter Scoring System. That forum was packed and there was actually standing room only.

Each Region has caucus meetings on Thursday night where the Regional delegates go over the year's financial status and plan for the next year's business. Prior to the caucus meetings, Jim, Sigourney and I managed to visit with many of the Region 6 delegates as well as the past and present Region 6 Directors regarding the potential advantages of allowing us to have a Region 6/8 Qualifier this spring. They approved our combined show Thursday evening at their meeting.

At the Region 8 caucus meeting, Chuck Mangan informed the assembled that the location for the 2009 Region 8 Championship Show was chosen based upon location. In other words, AHAN's bid for the Regional was disregarded entirely in order that the show remain in Denver. Further, the Region 8 Officers announced that they will only give \$3 per member this year. They declined vehemently a request that they make that disbursement larger based upon the financials of Region 8.

Finally, on Saturday, the resolutions are brought before the delegates to vote upon. The location for the next convention is decided then there is the election of Officers for the following year.

This report is respectfully submitted by AHAN Delegates Pam Inman and Jim Carr.

To Have a Horse in your life...

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horse's teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horse's dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice.

Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you—you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to

humor will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people—which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive."

In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences—if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership—and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn.

And, while some people think the horse "does all the work", you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses—it's about love, life and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case

of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow.

We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle.

Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion.

In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses—or our horses to us. Does it matter?

We're grateful God just loaned us the horse in the first place.

~author unknown

AHA & USEF Show Rules for 2009

A few years back, AHA discontinued the need for affidavits. If you didn't present your membership card or a copy of the card when you entered at the show office, you had to pay a Single Event Membership fee (SEM) of \$10. For 2009 that fee will now be \$30. It will save you a lot of money if you make sure you have a readable copy of that card when you send in or present your entries for the show. Also, please double check that you have a "Competition" card. If your membership card says "Member" then you must contact AHA and have your membership upgraded to the "Competition" level. Every owner, trainer, rider, driver, and handler on the entry form must have a competition card. The only exception is for a horse that is registered in the name of a youth. Then the parent or guardian can sign on the entry form as trainer without having any membership. Horse registration papers that are in a business, trust or farm name: the "Member" card must be in the same name of the business, trust or farm and is used only for the owner on the entry form. Youth, that are 10 years of age or younger and enter walk/trot and showmanship classes, are exempt from having an AHA membership card, except for Regional and National shows where AHA membership is required.

Join or renew your AHA membership now in order to avoid having to pay the \$30 SEM at the show office.

AHA has become very strict on how the information is submitted for show records. Your show entry form should be as complete and accurate as possible. You must record the exact horse name and exact owner name as it appears on the horse registration papers. The trainer/rider/driver/handler information must be the exact name that is on the AHA Competition Membership card –no nicknames. If you can not find your membership card, one can be printed from the AHA website as long as your membership is current.

USEF rule changes: All memberships, (junior & senior) are now \$55 for the year. There is no need to choose a discipline as you can show in all disciplines/divisions. If you have previously shown in more than one division (ie. Arabian/NSH/dressage etc.) this will save you money. Youth showing in Hunt Seat Equitation classes must be a member of USEF & USHJA and their horse must be registered with USHJA as well. Please check with USEF if you have any questions on this. USEF has also discontinued the affidavit, so if you don't show your card or a readable copy of the card, you will have to pay a non-member fee (NM) of \$30 per show (no discounts for juniors). If you are a non-member and enter an amateur class (ATH, ATR, AOTH, AOTR, etc.) you must pay an additional \$30 for the amateur certification. This will cost you \$60 for non-member/non-amateur status. You will save a lot of money by just joining USEF before your first show. Youth that show walk/trot and showmanship and are 10 years of age or younger are exempt from USEF membership. This also applies to Regional & National shows.

If you forget your cards or copies of your cards, it will cost you more in just non-member fees per show. If you plan to compete at more than one show for 2009 you will save money by joining AHA & USEF in the beginning. Also, by joining an Arabian local club as a full member vs. joining AHA direct, you will save money and enjoy some additional member perks from the club while supporting our local Arabian associations.

www.ArabianHorse.org lists all the clubs for the region .

The Great Plains Arabian Classic in 2009 will be a 'double-judged' show instead of two, two-day shows. In addition, the double-judged show May 15-17 will also be unique in that one judge's placing will qualify for Region 6 and the other for Region 8. AHAN has frequently held double-judged High Point shows but 2009 is the first year it can be done at Class A shows. The following are answers to some of the commonly asked questions asked about the new format (thanks to Bob James of the Arabian Horse Association of New Mexico)

What does double-judged mean? A double-judged show is a format that has two judges placing each class independently. They are in the show ring

at the same time and are placing the class individually. They are often referred to as Judge A and Judge B.

Does the exhibitor receive two awards? Yes. The exhibitor receives a placing and a ribbon from each judge. Essentially, the exhibitor is showing at two shows concurrently. Ribbons, awards, and paybacks are given for each judge.

What is the advantage of a double-judged show? If the exhibitor went to two separate shows, he/she would have to pay the overhead of travel and time off from work/school. This overhead is incurred only one time for a double-judged show, but the exhibitor receives all of the benefits of going to two shows. Some other expenses such as stall fee, office fee, USEF fee, etc., are paid only one time.

What benefits does the exhibitor receive? The exhibitor receives points from each judge for qualifying for regional and national shows, high point programs and Breeders Sweepstakes. The exhibitor receives all of the points, payback, ribbons and awards that they would receive from competing at two shows.

Why did the show committee decide to go to the double-judged format? The double-judged show format gives the exhibitor more “bang for the buck”. All costs associated with putting on shows have been increasing. The cost of facilities is increasing — the airfare and lodging for judges is increasing, etc. By paying for certain overhead costs (for example, the facilities cost) only one time while essentially offering two shows, the exhibitor is getting more for his/her money. The cost to travel to multiple shows is becoming a financial strain on exhibitors.

Will the number of classes be reduced from previous years? No. Because the show will be three days instead of two, the second schedule has been expanded. In addition, there are numerous TBA slots for classes that someone may request be added to the show. However, because there are two judges, the time it takes to hold a class may be longer than previous because both judges’ placing have to be announced.

What is the downside of a double-judged show? There is no downside for the exhibitor that is striving to qualify for national shows and competes in multiple shows. The downside is for the small number of exhibitors that are not competing for any qualifications or awards. If these exhibitors are showing in a few classes just to get experience and have fun, the class entry fee is higher than the previous fee for the single-judge format. The Show Committee believes that most exhibitors fall in the first category and are striving to serve their needs.

More Questions? There was about a 10% decrease in participation at Class A Arabian shows across the country in 2008. The troubled economy is going to put more stress on horse shows to produce a quality show at a reasonable cost to the exhibitor in 2009. The double-judged show format is a logical step in that direction.

New Stuff for Great Plains Arabian Classic Show in May:

- 1) We will be utilizing Pavilion III this year. This is the arena that is directly to the South of the stalling barn and practice arena that we used last year. There is room in this barn for 60-75 stalls which will be premier stalling for Patron's if they so choose to stall in the main arena. My show office is still undecided on to which one to use. There is a show office in the main arena as well as the one that we used last year. Guess I should say, I will choose whichever is the nicer of the two. With the fact that there will be a dressage show being held the same weekend as our show at the Lancaster Event Center is the reason we have chose to use the new arena. Our stalls will still be set in the stalling barn and we have use of that practice arena. There is a practice arena set outside between Pavilion II and Pavilion III.
- 2) Instead of our Back-To-Back double show we will be having a three day show which will be double judged. This will be a Region 8/Region 6 qualifying show which means that you will be judged by two judges at the same time in the same arena. Judge A will judge for Region 8 points and Judge B will judge for Region 6 points. You will receive two placing in one class.
- 3) Given the fact that it will take a little longer for the announcer to recognize the winners because she will be announcing the placing for Judge A and then the placing for Judge B, it has been decided that your ribbons/awards will be handed out in the show office.
You will need to come to the show office to pick up your ribbons.
- 4) We will be having our Progressive Barn party on Saturday evening following the last class of the show.
- 5) Julie Koch will, once again, be the show photographer.
- 6) New for the Patron's this year will be a Sunday Breakfast. As a patron you will be served a lunch meal on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well as a breakfast Sunday morning. Even if you are not showing horses at the show you can still participate in the Patron's package. Contact DeAnne if you are not showing and would like to be a Patron Sponsor. Email da63439@windstream.net