



# MAHA Express

August 2011



## President's Letter

August 27, 2011

Hello MAHA Members,

Where has the summer gone? Before long, the trees will be changing and our horses will begin transitioning to their winter hair. Before that happens though, we have a few more months of trail riding and a few more shows that we can still attend. I hope you take this opportunity to enjoy your beautiful horses. I know I will.

**Congratulations to all the MAHA members that attended Youth and Canadian Nationals!** We were well represented in all age groups and divisions and many of our MAHA members came home with Roses, Trophies & Ribbons. The shows were both fun and the weather was wonderful. I thought the Canadian Nationals Brandon facility was excellent and with a few minor changes, it will be even better next year.



I am excited for the **MAHA Fall Classic**. We will have a great horse show and in keeping with the MAHA theme of "Giving Back" to our members, **SHEILA VARIAN** is coming on Saturday afternoon (9/17), to give a clinic and presentation just for you! Invite your friends. It is free for MAHA members, and youth. We are charging \$15 for all other adults. We always have a catered dinner on Saturday night, during the show, so you don't want to miss this event.

Make sure you check out the rest of the newsletter! MAHA is working hard for our members and I am proud of our Board members and the great effort by everyone.

**I have one final request. We have been asked to do a "Tack Swap" during the Fall Show. Is anyone up for organizing and running it? If so, let me know.**

All the best,

**Lori Conway**



## MAHA Fall Classic & Sheila Varian Clinic

The Fall Classic show will be held Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18, at the Minnesota Equestrian Center in Winona. There is an exciting full slate of classes. The premium book can be by clicking here.

<http://www.mnarabhorse.com/calendar/fallclassic/index.html>

**MAHA "Gives Back" to its Members! We are proud to present:**

**Sheila Varian from San Louis Obispo, California as our clinician!**

The clinic is FREE for ALL MAHA Members, Youth, & Fall Classic participants and \$15 for all other adults.

A FREE catered dinner is included with the clinic!

Do not miss this opportunity listen to and see this presentation by Sheila Varian! She is the legendary breeder and trainer of Arabian horses, & a Cowgirl Hall of Fame Inductee. Seventy percent of the show horses winning today carry Varian bloodlines and Varian Arabians is the all time leading breeder of English and Western horses. If you have seen the "V", you have seen a Varian-bred horse!



Sheila Varian has more than 50 years of breeding success, including stallions Bay-El-Bey, Barbary, Bey Shah, Huckleberry Bey, Desperado V, Sundance Kid V & so many others.

A special thank you to David May, for providing MAHA with this great opportunity to have Sheila Varian!

**Will you and a friend volunteer to organize and run a tack swap at the Fall Classic? Please contact Lori Conway ASAP! Thanks.**





## Region 10 News

---

From Laura Mickelson, Region 10 Director

Next Region 10 meeting is on Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Eau Claire with the show committee meeting at 11 and the delegates meeting at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Region 10 show was a great success this year. Both shows were very successful with both horses and entries up double digits from 2010. The classes were well filled with excellent quality. Entries were also up for the Region 10 Dressage and Sport Horse show held at the end of June in Waukesha WI.

Many people commented on how much energy was in the air. This was due in part to the fabulous Think Pink! activities on Saturday added excitement and energy to the show while raising almost \$7000 for the fight against breast cancer through donations to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

There were two main fund raising events:

Three classes Saturday night were THINK PINK! Calcutta classes with people 'voting' for their choice to win the class. Each of the Top 5 winners got a pink rose. In the Arabian Country English Pleasure classes each of the top 5 winning trainers put the rose in his teeth and rode to the end of the ring. It was so much fun! Once the Champion was named, a ticket was drawn from the winning entries for that entry. While the plan was for the Calcutta winner to get 30% with the other 70% going for the cause, all of the winners donated the money back! They did keep their pink roses however.

Calcutta: Hunter Pleasure - Gary Holliday

-Country English - David Bilgrien

-Western Pleasure - Matt van Handel

In addition, there was a Battle of the Barns to see who could raise the most money. Fundraisers included a silent auction and 'team' t-shirt sales.

The results:

Champion: Cedar Ridge Farms

Reserve Champion: P and H Cattle Company

Top 5: Golden Ridge Stables

-Westridge Farm

-Fox Hollow Farms

Thanks to the Arabian Breeders and Halter Alliance, Region 10's newest member club, which provided the man and woman power to get this done and especially to Chris Rickart and Ann Benson and for their hours of effort and leadership. Also thanks are due to Dean Meier for both championing the concept and donating t-shirts, caps, etc. If all goes as planned we will have a second show arena at the Minnesota Fairgrounds and will take advantage of it to improve the schedule for the 2012 show.

I am happy to report that the Region 10 Youth took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Parade of Regions. Thanks to Kara LeVenture for organizing this and to Joan Rose, the Region 10 Youth Director.

### Highlights from the August AHA Board of Directors Meeting, August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Denver.

\*Starting after the 2013 convention in Lexington KY, all non-hosted conventions will be in Denver. If a Region wants to host a convention, the host region must pay all of the extra costs (shipping, staff travel, etc) incurred by not being in Denver.

\*Working on a strategic plan that will guide AHA for the next 5 years.

\*Focus needs to be on attracting youth to Arabian Horses. Studies show that the most impressionable age is under 10 and that children tend to stay with the breed that they start with. Discussion on the need for more lesson programs in the Arabian industry and ways to increase funding for youth programs. We will be discussing this at the next Region 10 meeting.

## Region 10 News continues ....

- \*An excellent presentation was given on the threat posed by animal rights organizations such as PETA.
- \*Materials will be on the Region 10 website soon: <http://www.region10arabians.com>
- \*Financially AHA is maintaining but we are not out of the woods yet. Much better financial controls are in place. Registrations and memberships continue to decline.

A complete report from this meeting will be coming soon. All Directors' reports are available at [http://www.region10arabians.com/director's\\_report.htm](http://www.region10arabians.com/director's_report.htm)



## 2011 Youth Nationals Report

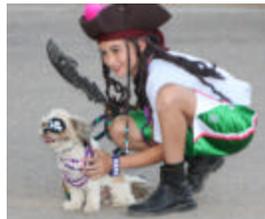
---

By Teresa LeFever

Once again MAHA was well represented at Youth Nationals in Albuquerque, New Mexico (July 23-30). This year's theme was "Under the Sea" and MAHA members eagerly rose to the challenge. LeFever Training Centre secured a win in the small barn stall decoration contest with their shipmates and tropical fish display. Region 10, strongly represented by MAHA youth, received a Reserve Championship with their choice of the theme "Pirates of the Caribbean" in the golf cart decoration contest in the Parade of Regions.



This year, 837 horses were entered in a variety of disciplines and MAHA youth earned many Top 10s, Reserve Championships and National Championships. Riders and handlers from Cedar Ridge, Hesten Park, LeFever Training Centre, Midwest Stations 1 and 2, and St. Croix Equestrian Centre participated in the fun.





## 2011 Canadian Nationals Report

---

By Laura Mickelson

This was the first year for the Canadian Nationals to be in Brandon, Manitoba (August 15-20). Once it was clear that Regina was not going to be the site, the Canadian Show Commission and staff did a great job putting this show together in only four months. Of course there were issues with a new facility but the staff there was extremely accommodating. In fact, they made a point of talking to many exhibitors about ways to improve things. On the whole, it was a positive experience and should be even better next year. Minnesota had the greatest number of exhibitors of any state or province! I started to refer to this as the 'Northern Nationals'! Region 10 members were well represented in the winner's circle.

On the negative side, the rings are on the small side, some people had to be stabled outside in temporary stalls, some of the temporary stalls were really old and didn't open and close easily, the floors were all cement, ventilation was not good, it was really hot in many of the barns on the few humid days early in the week, and there was too much congestion and mixing of equipment, horses and people in the main aisle. I have been told that Ring 1 will be widened and that a new barn will be built that will take care of several problems.

On the positive side, the horses were amazing! Friday night was especially exciting with a real duel in the Arabian English Pleasure class and an excellent HA/AA Park class with real park horses! People learned to deal with the small ring and some even quit riding up and down the middle. The overall quality of the competition was quite high. It is a fairly short drive to Brandon—I got there from Rosemount in a little over nine hours with two stops and a wait at the border—and a more interesting drive than to Regina, at least in my opinion. For those who could stay in the hotel attached to the facility, it was very convenient. Brandon is a very compact town with good restaurants. The people of Brandon came to support the show and were very friendly and pleased that we were there. On the whole, I would say that the positives far outweighed the negatives and I predict that the show will be larger next year.

Following is a report from AHA President Lance Walters that sums up his experience at the show.

*I was able to visit with many exhibitors at the Canadian Nationals last week. I was blown away by the positive conversations I had. Yes there are some things that can be done to improve the show for the future, but everyone I talked to was positive about what had been done about the show for this year. In the end the trainers were very positive about the show. I was not able to be there for Friday and Saturday nights, but I am told "the show rocked and rolled" like it never has before on those nights. In the end, there was huge excitement about the show.*

*Also I could not be more pleased with the job the Canadian Show Commission and staff was able to pull off in 4 short months. As with all our show commissions, I am greatly honored to be associated with the Canadian National Show Commission. It appears to me this show has landed on its feet. And the support we received from the facility and town was wonderful. For example, at the last minute, the facility came to the Commission and said to use the Jumbotron. When told they had no money in the budget for it, they said "Oh no, it's free".*

*We are crunching figures on the show as we speak, but initial numbers indicate we are going to be OK. At this point, there have been very few surprises which generally are to be expected with a new venue. As soon as our numbers are together, I will share them with you.*

*But for now, I wanted to give you a quick preliminary report from my visit.*  
**Lance Walters**



## MAHA Trail Rides!

By Pat Swenson

MAHA's fall trail is scheduled for Saturday, October 8th, at Lebanon Hills in Eagan. It is a beautiful park with good parking.

Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Dakota County:

<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LeisureRecreation/CountyParks/Locations/LebanonHills/HorseTrail.htm>

**There is a slight chance that I will not be able to be at this ride and I would appreciate it if someone would volunteer ahead of time to help me out.** I have two adult sons deployed to Iraq and one of my daughter-in-laws is due to have a baby about that time and I may have my 2.5 year-old granddaughter visiting too, so on the outside chance that I am busy with family I would like to know that the Fall MAHA Trail Ride is being taken care of.

All that is involved is getting everyone together as a group and deciding how everyone wants to go out; as a large group or a couple of smaller groups. Each ride that we have had has been a little different depending on the number of people showing up to ride, the weather, and the park. As most people know that have participated in our rides, we are pretty casual. When we come in from riding we share snacks, I bring a variety of drinks, and we talk about the ride and our horses.

**If you can help me out please e-mail at [swens@earthlink.net](mailto:swens@earthlink.net) or call me at 507-645-9223.**



Our June trail ride was held at Hay Creek and we had a fun group of riders who went out in two groups. That Saturday was predicted to be mid-80s and sunny, the first nice Saturday, but the weather man was off a little...it rained. Actually, the light rain felt nice and cooled us off and since it wasn't a thunderstorm we had a great time. After our ride we ate our snacks at the picnic table under a pavilion while it drizzled.





## One of our many MAHA Youth Stars

---



In June, Ayla Spry won overall Region X Regional Youth Team Tournament Award, and presented in center ring at the Region X Championship Show. The following weekend, she rode in the Region X Endurance Competition and took the title of Region X Champion Endurance Rider. Ayla's disciplines include Halter, Sport Horse in Hand, Sport Horse Under Saddle, Dressage, Endurance, Native Costume and Hunt Seat. She is qualified and will be showing at US Nationals in Tulsa in October, in Sport Horse Under Saddle, Costume and Endurance!

Let's be sure to cheer Ayla on!



## Equine Leasing

---

By Rebecca Bell

Leasing is a wonderful opportunity for a potential new owner to expose themselves to multiple horses before buying. It can be a rewarding experience for both the leaser/lessee and the horse. Planning ahead in a lease agreement will ensure a smooth transition for everyone involved.

### **Why lease your horse to someone else?**

There are a variety of reasons that owners choose to lease their beloved animal to someone. Often it promotes a sale in the future, the owner is away and would like to keep the horse's training current, defray costs for later personal use, or as simple as the owner is not ready to sell his/her horse. A person wanting to lease their horse should be upfront and make sure the leasing individual has full disclosure of their intentions for future consideration.

### **Why lease a horse for yourself?**

There are a myriad of reasons for someone to choose to lease a horse; affordability, change in discipline, or ability in the rider and horse. Usually there is a specific reason a person chooses to lease; full disclosure should be given to the owner to assure a cooperative understanding between the two parties. Many leases just require taking over all expenses of the owner. In some cases it is recommended to have a full vet check before leasing a horse from an outside party.

### **The Trainer's role**

In many cases a trainer will be involved. Their expertise can prove to be invaluable when looking to find a horse to lease or leasing to a potential leaser. They know other trainers, are familiar with the rider's ability, and often times they will be currently working with the horse in training for current events, or the horse may return to them for future training. It is important to involve your trainer with your decision to move forward; whether leasing the horse to someone or leasing for yourself. Many training pitfalls can be avoided in the future by involving them.

### **So let's lease!**

Leasing a horse is much like buying a horse except there are not as many people willing to do so; especially from an owner standpoint. It is more than handing off a lead rope a waving goodbye. A formal agreement is imperative between the two parties, this is the lease agreement. Many considerations to this document are important so in the

### **Equine Leasing continued ...**

future there are no ramifications for either party involved. It is advantageous to consult an attorney with equine leasing agreements. The amount is nominal and in the end can prove to benefit both parties.

### **Verbal Agreements**

Verbal agreements should never be entered into, someone will not be happy and it can be very detrimental in the long run. The liability issues can be astronomical to both parties involved.

### **Written Agreements**

It's always best to have your agreement in writing. Considerations in a lease should include but not limited too are; length of contract, minor or major vet care, farrier, show schedules, training schedules, nutritional diet and supplements and insurance. All of these things must be agreed upon as well as a ceiling cap for medical treatment, termination of contract due to one party failing to adhere to lease agreement, or in a mare lease, breeding rights and embryo retrieval.

Sometimes a very loving owner can offer too much input and cause friction between themselves, the lessee and the trainer. Everyone usually means the best, but in this triangle it is just too easy for feelings of intrusion, confusion or miscommunication to happen. It is important to discuss the expectations of involvement with all parties before completing the agreement. Often the parties are just trying to make the transition smoother, but it can feel controlling. Put the parties' expectations into writing and no one will have hurt feelings in the end.

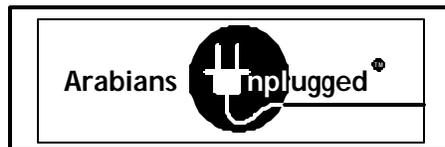
This may sound like an overwhelming amount of information, which is why you need an equine attorney specializing in all aspects of horse ownership including leasing, that will ensure a smooth transition between all parties involved and a successful leasing experience. I do this, but there are a couple others in the area that do so as well. Find someone you are comfortable to work with and understands the issues.



## **MAHA, WSCA & Open Show Calendar**

---

The Open Show Calendar, started in 2005, is a MAHA project that is emailed to an ever growing list of people who are interested in open shows. If you are interested in being added to that email list or if you are on the list but have a new email address, please contact Laura Mickelson at [lauramickelson@aol.com](mailto:lauramickelson@aol.com) or 651-423-5871.



Arabians Unplugged is a group of Arabian clubs dedicated to the promotion of **affordable, fun, family friendly** showing of Arabians, Half Arabians and Anglo Arabians 'unplugged' from the current rated shows scene. Arabians Unplugged qualifying shows allow Arabian exhibitors to show against their true peers and in their own breed with (free) automatic enrollment for the year-end circuit high point.

For a calendar listing all open shows with Arabian classes visit Arabians Unplugged at its website <http://www.arabiansunplugged.com/> and/or become a fan on our Facebook page.

For additional information contact Laura Mickelson at [lauramickelson@aol.com](mailto:lauramickelson@aol.com) or 651-423-5871.



## Racino's Impact on Legislation

---

As you may well be aware, Minnesota's legislative leaders are currently trying to find a solution to the current budget deficit, Vikings Stadium, etc. For many years, Minnesota's racing community has been in favor of Racino legislation. We are hopeful that this is the year for this legislation to become a reality given the current political landscape.

Racino legislation would help increase purses by installing video lottery terminals at Minnesota's racetracks. As the legislation is currently written, a significant amount of money would be made available for Minnesota's non-racing breeds.

The legislation would set aside money to be distributed through the Minnesota Racing Commission. The Commission would then create an 11 person advisory board including non-racing breed representatives. All non-racing breeds would then be able to apply for grants that could be used for futurity prizes, fair purses, horse rescue and rehabilitation, educational projects, facility upgrades, etc.

Based on the most recent projections from the Minnesota State Lottery, the amount of money Racino legislation would provide to non-racing breeds would total nearly \$1.3 million per year when the facilities are in full scale operation. If legislation were to be passed this year, it is most likely that facilities could be open by January 1, 2012 and full scale operation could begin as soon as January 1, 2013.

Therefore, if this legislation were to pass this year, Minnesota's non-racing equine breeds would be eligible to receive approximately \$250,000 during the first fiscal year of operation, \$1 million in the second fiscal year and \$1.3 million every year thereafter.

We appreciate any support you can offer on this effort. This legislation would have a significant positive impact on Minnesota's entire equine industry.



## Mark Your 2011 Calendars!

---

September 10 — MAHA All Breed Schooling Show, Washington County Fairgrounds, Lake Elmo, MN

September 11 — MAHA Arabian Open Shows Championships and WSCA Show, Washington County Fairgrounds, Lake Elmo, MN

September 17-18 — MAHA Fall Classic & Sheila Varian Clinic (17th), MN Equestrian Center, Winona

Watch the MAHA website ([www.mnarabhorse.com](http://www.mnarabhorse.com)) for details and more information about these MAHA events. The Region 10 website ([www.region10arabians.com](http://www.region10arabians.com)) also has information on all the shows and events within our region.



**MINNESOTA ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  NEW MEMBER  RENEWING MEMBER  
AHA# \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
FARM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

\_\_\_\_\_ \$80.00 – 1 YEAR AHA/Affiliate/WITH a COMPETITION CARD & WITH MAHA Voting  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 – 1 YEAR AHA/Affiliate/MAHA Voting Membership. NO COMPETITION CARD  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 – 1 YEAR MAHA Associate - NO Voting/ NO AHA Membership/ NO Competition Card  
\_\_\_\_\_ + \$10.00 – 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO AHA's *MODERN Arabian Horse* magazine

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (17 years or younger as of December 1st)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 – 1 YEAR AHA/Affiliate WITH a COMPETITION CARD & WITH MAHA Voting  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 – 1 YEAR MAHA Associate WITH voting rights – NO AHA/ NO Competition Card  
\_\_\_\_\_ + \$10.00 – 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO AHA's *MODERN Arabian Horse* magazine

\*\*All MAHA Memberships include the *MAHA EXPRESS* newsletter and WSCA Membership.

\*\*\*Online Membership is available at [www.arabianhorses.org](http://www.arabianhorses.org) Designate club #10063 MN Arabian Horse Association or visit our website at [www.mnarabhorse.com](http://www.mnarabhorse.com) and download a membership form.

\* For more WSCA information, please contact: [LauraMickelson@aol.com](mailto:LauraMickelson@aol.com) or 651-423-5871

\* For more MAHA Information, please contact: [Lori@ConwayArabians.com](mailto:Lori@ConwayArabians.com) or 507-867-2981

MAHA is an organization operated entirely by volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated in any capacity. We want to know about you and what MAHA can do for you and where you could help us. Please circle what your interests are:

\* Trail/Competitive Riding \* Local Horse Show Competitions (4-H, WSCA etc) \* Class A Shows

\* Attending Clinics \* Regional &/or National Shows \* Horse Expo \* Membership

\* Horse Show Management &/or Involvement (Ribbons, Announcing, Gate, Barn Manager)

\* Promotions &/or Club Publications \* Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Circle all that apply: Owner \* Trainer \* Amateur \* Parent \* Youth \* Non-Owner

Do you want to be contacted as a Volunteer? YES or NO

To complete this form via mail: Please make checks payable to MAHA and mail to:

\* Shirley Theede \* 2341 Itasca Ave. S, Lakeland, MN 55043 \* [slick332@aol.com](mailto:slick332@aol.com) \* 651-436-7151

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING MAHA - THE CLUB THAT "GIVES BACK!"**