



MAHA Express

March 2011



President's Letter

Dear MAHA Members,

As I look out the window at the horses in the pasture and then walk into the barn and see all the beautiful horses in their stalls, I am reminded of how lucky we all are to own Arabian & Half-Arabian horses! They are truly amazing creatures and it is our job and our duty to do all we can for this wonderful breed.

MAHA is celebrating our 57th Anniversary this year. I am proud to begin my third term as President, and to be involved with this club. I appreciate all of our great members and all the hard work and effort so many people have put into making this club a success!

Our motto since I became President was to "Give Back" to all our members and we will continue to do that! We started our year off with the Ray LaCroix clinic. This event was a huge success for the spectators and participants. Lifetime MAHA members Dick, Lollie & Lara Ames were kind enough to provide their excellent facility for us to use. It was perfect for this event and a huge thank you goes out to the organizer Hillary Hoffman, the Ames's and all the Cedar Ridge staff!

To "Give Back" to all our members, we must include all facets of horse involvement. We have purposely diversified MAHA's Board of Directors in order to ensure that all the bases of Arabian horse ownership are covered. It does not matter if you are the casual trail rider or the ambitious show ring aficionado, MAHA offers something for everyone!

What else can you do? Every MAHA member can help with our "give back" program to build a better club. Like every organization, we can always use your help. You can contribute by sponsoring classes at our horse shows, volunteering at any of the events, attend the meetings, supplying pictures and content for our website, or just encourage others to join our great club!



Sincerely,

Lori Conway

The 2011 MAHA Officers are Lori Conway, president, Annie Slawik, vice president, Jill Frieders, treasurer, Carol Carlson, secretary, plus 10 Board Members. <http://www.mnarabhorse.com/about/officers.html>



2010 MAHA Awards Banquet & Ray LaCroix Clinic Report

The 2010 MAHA Awards Banquet and clinic with nationally renowned clinician Ray LaCroix, hosted at Cedar Ridge Arabians in Jordan, Minnesota, on Saturday, January 22, was a screaming success!

<http://www.mnarabhorse.com/about/meeting.html>

Scroll down that same website page to read about the MAHA Awards Banquet.

The winners of the 2010 MAHA High Point Program were also announced:

<http://www.mnarabhorse.com/about/highpoint/highpoint2010.html>

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 9, to attend the daylong clinic with lunch and MAHA Membership Meeting at Conway Arabians in Chatfield.

www.conwayarabians.com As details come together in the coming weeks, information will be emailed to members and posted on the MAHA website home page.



Arabian Horse Times Readers Choice Award Winners

Minnesota Arabian Horses and people came away big winners in the Arabian Horse Times Readers Choice Awards! Congratulations to Lori Conway for being voted Judge Of The Year, pictured here at Scottsdale with husband and Peter.

We also salute breeder, Laura Mickelson, and owners, Shuster Arabians LLC, for Lord Of The Ring++++, as Half Arabian Sport Horse Of The Year (pictured). Shut Up and Dance, owned by Terry Anne Boggs, won Half Arabian Halter Horse Of The Year.

Our hats off to Shada, Inc. for its Best Team (Farm) Spirit Award. Our kudos to Justify, photographed by April Visel while standing at Midwest Station I with Bobby and Janine Boggs, for winning the Favorite AHT Front Cover (January 2010). And our final congratulatory salute is Sire Of The Year, DA Valentino, standing at Midwest Training Centre!

To see the entire winners list, please visit the Arabian Horse Times site:

<http://ahtimes.com/content/2010-aht-readers-choice-award-winners>





More 2010 AHA Convention Delegate Reports

The 2010 AHA Convention was held in Orlando, Florida November 17-20. MAHA sent Lori Conway, Laura Mickelson, Anita Grant, Toni Marie O'Daniel and Ann Benson as delegates.

To read all MAHA delegate convention reports please click here:

<http://www.mnarahorse.com/about/minutes/>

All members are encouraged to view AHA president, Lance Walters, State of the Association speech that can be found at http://www.arabianhorses.org/membership/convention/2010/convention_presidentpres.asp

The 2011 AHA Convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, November 16-20. Read more about how you can be involved:

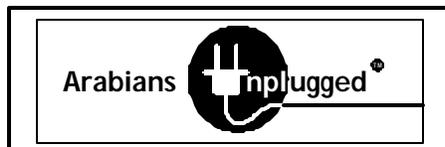
<http://www.arabianhorses.org/membership/convention/2011/>



MAHA, WSCA & Open Show Calendar

Did you know...MAHA is a member of the Western Saddle Club Association (WSCA) <http://www.wsca.org/>. MAHA members are WSCA members at no additional cost, but must submit their name, address, phone number and date of birth to Laura Mickelson to add them to the WSCA member list, which is due at the end of May.

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 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 or 651-423-5871.



MAHA Spring Fling: March 25-27

Everything you need to know about attending the Spring Fling at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona is available on the MAHA site: <http://www.mnarabhorse.com/calendar/springfling/index.html>

Important request: More items are needed for the silent auction held on Saturday, March 26, during the MAHA Spring Fling. The auction's proceeds benefit the MAHA Youth Members, and they greatly appreciate your support.

Please consider these suggestions: gift certificates, gift packs, artwork, restaurant cards, baked goods, horse grooming items and/or tack. Contact Teresa LeFever ASAP by phone 715-386-5473 or email lefevertc@aol.com with information on the item(s) you intend to pledge.

Please come and join us. It is a fun show, at a lovely facility with nice people and gorgeous horses!



News from the Minnesota Horse Council

By Anita Grant



Minnesota Horseperson Of The Year

MAHA is very pleased, proud and honored to report that on January 15th, 2011 at the annual meeting and banquet for the MN Horse Council; President Mark Ward Awarded Mary Taylor with the honor of representing the Horse council as the 2011 MN Horseperson of the Year. Mary Taylor was one of the founding members of the Minnesota Arabian Horse Assn and was nominated by Anita Grant on behalf of MAHA. Below please find the letter of nomination and the timeline for Mary's involvement with the horse industry.

Mary was one of the founding members of the Minnesota Arabian Horse Association. MAHA was founded in 1954 and from 1954

through 2009, Mary has continuously supported the club. In those early days she gave of her time and resources to see that the club grew and prospered. One could find Mary changing hats quite often, whether she was show secretary, barn manager, gate keeper, or exhibitor Mary was always available to help wherever it was needed. Mary tells me that she was always a horse girl and from as far back as she can remember wanted a horse. Growing up in Minneapolis, a horse was not a possibility. In 1943 she moved to the Hopkins area onto a hobby farm with her parents and two brothers who were both serving in WWII at the time. She bought her first horse in 1944, a black grade gelding named "Amos." The next adventure in her horse career was to join the "Steeplechase Riding Club at Campbell Farm in Hopkins, where she learned to ride, show and organize equine events. Whenever the Minneapolis Saddle & Bridle Club needed help Mary was there and helped at many of the shows at the Hennepin county Fairgrounds in Hopkins. For the next few years Mary owned and showed a variety of different breeds and mixed breeds.

To read more about Mary Taylor, please visit the MN Horse Council site:
<http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org/2010%20mary%20abbott%20taylor.php>

Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarship Recipient

McKenna Caspers was awarded the Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarship to support equine education at the MN Horse Council Annual Meeting & Banquet. Out of 29 applications a total of eleven \$3,000.00 scholarships were awarded. McKenna has ridden with Cedar Ridge Arabians and has appeared at the MN Horse Expo with MAHA. McKenna is a freshman at Colorado State University majoring in Equine Studies with an interest in Reproduction and Genetics.

<http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org/2011%20scholarship%20recipients.php>



Scholarship Information & Deadlines

By Laura Mickelson, Region 10 Director

The following horse organizations offer scholarships available to MAHA members.

Arabian Horse Foundation

Application deadline: April 1, 2011

The Arabian Horse Foundation offers several scholarships for youth members of AHA or AHA Clubs like MAHA. Many of these are memorials to well known people in the Arabian industry, such as Russ Vento and Patrick Swayze and his wife Lisa Niemi. One form is all you need to fill out to apply for all of them. For additional information and an application, go to <http://www.arabianhorsefoundation.org/scholarship.html>.

Western Saddle Clubs Association

Application deadline: May 2, 2011

WSCA offers several scholarships to members of WSCA clubs such as MAHA. Applications will be available in March in the forms section of www.wsca.org. Contact Kelly Nelson, Scholarship Committee chair, at 763-434-5678 with questions. No information about age of applications is currently available online. Check in March.

Region 10 Mary Anne Grimmell Scholarship

Application Deadline: May 6, 2011

One Scholarship for \$750 will be awarded in 2011.

This year marks the first year that the Region 10 (MN & WI) scholarship will be presented in the name of Mary Anne Grimmell (1926-2010), a lifelong MAHA member, former MAHA President, Director of Region 10 and President of IAHA. During her term as Region 10 Director, Mary Anne spearheaded the establishment of this scholarship program. Region 10's scholarship program offers opportunities to Region 10 students of all ages; youth and adults are both welcome to apply. For additional information go to www.region10arabians.com and then access the scholarship page.

Mark Larscheidt Scholarship

Application Deadline: May 13, 2011

The Mark Larscheidt scholar FUND is proud to announce that again this year a scholarship will be offered to members of Region 10 in the amount of \$500. This scholarship honors a young, charismatic, energetic and talented trainer, Mark Larscheidt, who died tragically in an automobile accident in 1999. For more information, contact: Gay Jeanne Bower, PO Box 6, Johnson Creek, WI 53038. Phone: 920.699.3690 – gayjbower@yahoo.com. For an application go to: [Larscheidt Scholarship application form-2011](#)

Minnesota House Council/Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarships

Application Deadline: November 1, 2011

Several educational scholarships of up to \$3,000 are available to Minnesota residents, high school seniors or older, who are currently majoring in or planning to major in any equine-related field of study are offered each year. In 2010, 12 scholarships were awarded. Scholarship availability is announced in July. For additional information and an application, go to: <http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org/scholarship-application-procedures.php>

Minnesota Horse Expo 2011

By Anita Grant



This year's MN Horse Expo dates are April 29 & 30 and May 1. Want to join in the fun at the MN Horse Expo this year? Contact me as soon as possible. We have openings for a few horses and riders and as usual wide open for volunteers to meet the public and introduce them to the Arabian horse. Arabian horses coming to Expo need to be well trained, people friendly and groomed as if they were in a horse show. It is a lot of fun and every year we meet new friends and have the joy of introducing the public to the impeccable Arabian Horse.

You can reach me at 507-663-1977 or by email: anitaagrnt@gmail.com



Wright County Judging Team at US Nationals

This fall the Wright County Judging and Hippology Team accepted two exciting trips to national level competitions in horse judging and an equine-related knowledge contest. One of these trips was to the Arabian Youth Judging Contest, which takes place during the U.S. Arabian National Championship Horse Show.

The team, none of whom had ever attended the show before, described it as a "wonderland" of fun. They delighted in all of the vendors and sights to see and described the grandeur of the ring as breathtaking.

This year's qualifying team, pictured left to right, consisted of Julie Anne Quandt and Emily Zins, both of Annandale, Alexandra Schoneson of Maple Lake, and Keri Schneider of Delano. The team, along with their coach, Cindy Schneider, made the trip to Tulsa together.

The team was 5th place High Point Performance, 5th place Overall Oral Reasons, and 5th place Overall High Point Team in the 4-H/FFA division of the competition. The competition itself is divided into three sections of competition; 4-H/FFA, Collegiate, and AHA Teams.



The team would like to thank Lori Conway and MAHA for its kind donation to the team as it helped greatly to make the trip a reality for the team.



Training Advice: The Hard To Catch Horse

By Lori Conway

Some horses that get handled on a regular basis are still difficult to catch. Often they have been inadvertently “taught” to run away. Their handler chases them around for awhile and either gives up, which rewards the horse for running away, or upon successfully catching him, promptly does something that from the horse’s perspective is punishment. Examples would be administering wormer, or putting the horse right to work.

The hard to catch horse must be retrained to learn that it is easier and more pleasant to be caught, than to go to all the effort of continually running away. Pick a day when you have plenty of patience and plenty of time. The ideal place for the lesson is in a more confined area such as a small paddock, corral or arena. It can be done in an open pasture but it requires much more effort.



Approach your horse in a non-threatening manner. Body language is important. Your posture should be somewhat slumped and shoulders should not be square to the horse. As you approach, be prepared for your horse to turn away and leave. As it does so change your posture to a more aggressive stance, square your shoulders maintain eye contact and drive your horse away. Make him canter if possible and at the very least trot. Wave your halter and lead rope for added effect if needed. It is important to make your horse expend energy; if you are in a confined area you can push him around you in circles almost as if you are lunging him. This can be accomplished even if there are other horses. Keep your shoulders squared up with the horse you are after and maintain eye contact with him. You will be surprised at how quickly the whole herd knows who you are interested in. After a while, soften your body language, drop your shoulder and let him stop. Approach him again in a non-threatening manner. Once again you should be prepared for him to leave and when he does simply repeat the process. Some horses will give up after just a couple of times being pushed, while others may take as much as a couple of hours before they let you walk up to them.

Once your horse lets you walk up to him simply scratch his withers or pet his neck and then turn and walk away. He may choose to “join up” and walk with you or more likely he will let you leave. Walk about 20 yards, wait a minute or so and then once again approach your horse. If he leaves repeat the earlier process, if he allows you to walk up to him then stroke his neck and let him relax. This time halter him and lead him for a short distance. Then turn him loose, walk a short distance away and then repeat the whole process. This should be repeated until your horse is completely at ease with you approaching him. Lesson over; award him with a carrot and leave him for the day.

This entire lesson should be repeated the next day and again the next. You will find the time required shortens dramatically each time. Remember that at some point in his life your horse learned that getting caught is an unpleasant experience. Be sure not to reinforce that thought. Reward him for allowing you to catch him and allow some interval between getting caught and anything unpleasant. You will soon be glad you spent the time to retrain him for it will save you hours and hours down the road.



The Business of Horses: Jurisdiction of IRS Appeals

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

[John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He serves clients in all 50 states, and can be reached by telephone at (310) 278-0203 or by e-mail at JohnAlanCohan@aol.com. Website is www.JohnAlanCohan.com]

Many taxpayers fear being audited, for good reasons. An extended period of deductions for horse activities, livestock ranching, or other farming ventures can easily trigger an audit. Even with the best of records, IRS auditors are inclined to deny these deductions if there are ongoing losses. Although these industries are crucial to the American economy, the IRS takes a skeptical view towards taxpayers who have a history of losses in these areas.

There are remedies available after an adverse audit decision. Most often, the remedy is to file an appeal with IRS Appeals. Information about this is set forth in IRS Publication 5, "Appeal Rights and Preparation of Protests for Unagreed Cases." Once the case is with IRS Appeals, your returns are re-evaluated by a different staff, and you will have the opportunity to present new evidence, oral clarification, witnesses, and negotiate a settlement with the appeals officer. If you have a good case and a formal business plan that makes economic sense, you even stand a chance of getting the entire matter dismissed in your favor. About 86% of the cases in IRS Appeals end up being settled.

According to the IRS Appeals mission statement, their mission is: "to resolve tax controversies, without litigation, on a basis which is fair and impartial to both the Government and the taxpayer in a manner that will enhance voluntary compliance and public confidence in the integrity and efficiency of the Service."

Section 6662 of the IRS Code imposes various penalties that almost always are assessed by the IRS auditor if the audit goes against you. These penalties include an accuracy-related penalty, a separate penalty for negligence, and other penalties. These can also be contested in IRS Appeals. The negligence penalty is based on the notion that your tax deductions were attributable to negligence or disregard for rules or regulations. As mentioned, these penalties are also at issue in IRS Appeals, so that you can provide evidence to show that you reasonably relied on advice given you by your accountant or attorney.

Filing an IRS Appeal keeps open the option of going to Tax Court if your case is not settled in Appeals. Filing an IRS Appeal is time sensitive. It must be done within 30 days of the date of the 30-day letter that informs you of the adverse audit decision.

Often the Appeals officer will ask for additional information. The Appeals officer will evaluate how credible you and other witnesses are, how likely you will be able to prove the legal points of your case, and how good your documentary evidence is. If, for example, you have a formal business plan that makes sense and sets forth how you expect to make a profit, this will be important evidence in your favor. If you have evidence of significant sales or evidence of efforts to reduce costs, this also will be helpful to your case.

Tax planning in advance is always the best approach in operating an activity in the horse, livestock or farming industries, but there is still always the risk of an audit especially if tax deductions are used to offset other sources of income. One of the worst things you can do is to try and get advice from one of the IRS "hot lines" in which you can pose questions to IRS agents. The problem is, first, the information given over the phone is not binding on the IRS. Second, you will likely get different answers to the same question, depending on whom you speak with. Third, IRS agents may not be able to answer complex questions, and how you frame a question will be a factor in what answer you get. And fourth, you will have no documentary evidence to prove what the IRS agent told you.



Toot Your Own Horn!

By Janet de Acevedo Macdonald

Please send your horse show news and accomplishments with details and photos to me at deacevedo@yahoo.com for posting on the MAHA website's new (soon to be uploaded) Hall Of Fame page. Please provide as much info as possible and a phone number in case I need to clarify something with a quick phone call.

We want this to be fun, informational and inspirational. To kick this off, let's reach back into the 2010 show season and plug in the 2011 accomplishments as you have them. I'll work at keeping it as fresh as possible.

You can also friend me on Facebook and share your news with me that way.
<http://www.facebook.com/deacevedomacdonald>



Mark Your 2011 Calendars!

March 19	St. Croix Horse & Carriage Society, 'Tools For Better Communication', \$5 includes lunch, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Montrose, www.stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org
March 25-27	MAHA Spring Fling, Minnesota Equestrian Center, Winona
April 9	MAHA Membership Meeting, Lunch & Clinic, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Conway Arabians, Chatfield. More details coming soon
April 29, 30, May 1	MAHA at Minnesota Horse Expo, MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul
May 6-8	Sahara Sands Spring Classic, MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul

Watch the MAHA website (www.mn.arabhorse.com) for details and more information about these MAHA events. The Region 10 website (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 Designate club #10063 MN Arabian Horse Association or visit our website at www.mnarabhorse.com and download a membership form.

* For more WSCA information, please contact: LauraMickelson@aol.com or 651-423-5871

* For more MAHA Information, please contact: 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 * 651-436-7151

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