



## MAHA Express newsletter

November-December 2015

Hello Tammi,

The summer has flown by and I'm sure you all are all enjoying this wonderful fall we are having.

The MAHA shows and trail rides are done, and the Arabians Unplugged awards banquet was recently held. What a successful year MAHA has had. Our shows were up in numbers and we owe it all to you as members, those people, farms and business that sponsored class and most of all, the volunteers that give their time and energy over and over again to make MAHA a success.



How is your MAHA "Gives Back" to it's members perk? Have you gotten your *Arabian Horse Times* magazine yet? Members began receiving their FREE subscription in August. What a great bonus for all of you! If you know someone who would like to belong to a club, have them join MAHA and get a one year subscription to the *Arabian Horse Times* magazine FREE. Please encourage your friends and family to support the club that "Gives Back."

Coming up soon is the MAHA Board of Directors and Officers election. We have a couple Board slots open and are looking for hard working, enthusiastic, horse loving people! If you would like to be nominated for a position on the Board or as Membership Chair, please let our Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Brook Mattheisen know as soon as possible. We need to get the ballots finalized before the end of the year, and the voting ballot set up and sent out to you.

Speaking of Volunteers, I'd like to thank the MAHA Horse Shows volunteers: Teresa LeFever, John Diedrich, Nathan Hastad, Van Jacobson and Jill Frieders; the Arabians Unplugged volunteers: Toni Marie O'Daniel & Anita Grant, the MN Horse Expo volunteers: Annie Slavic and Kristin O'Daniel and our Trail Ride division: Pat Swenson. These are BOD's also and they work hard to make these events a success for MAHA.

Two of the hardest working members of the Board are behind the scenes doing tons of work on the computer. One is our Secretary, Brook Matthiesen and the other is our Membership Chair, Liz Steffes. They log a lot of hours on our behalf and I hope when you see them, you will let them know what a great job they are doing.

So, where and what do we do from now till next year? The AHA Convention just wrapped up and our Delegates Van, Anita, Toni Marie O'Daniel, Nancy Sawyer and myself represented MAHA well. You can check out the Resolutions on the AHA Website.

What should we do next? Do we want to have a clinic? Get me your ideas and suggestions and we will get on it right away.

So, a quick recap....We need more Volunteers, We are looking for enthusiastic people to run for the Board. We need someone who would like to be the Membership Chair. What should we do next for our members?

Call, write or email. I'd love to hear from you.

Best regards,  
Lori Conway

## Get involved in MAHA elections

MAHA Officer, Board nominations due Dec. 6; online election Dec. 10-27



Volunteer for an Officer or Board position for the second largest club in the Arabian Horse Association.

One-year Officer positions include: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, **three** two-year board positions are open, including the MAHA Membership Chair. Nominations for these positions are due Thursday, Dec. 6 and must include:

- 1) A photo and bio
- 2) Answers to these three questions: Why do you want to serve on the MAHA Board of Directors or in an Officer Position? What is your past and/or present involvement with Arabian horses, MAHA and/or Region 10? What strengths special skills, abilities and experiences can you contribute?
- 3) The position volunteering for.

Send nominations to [Brook Matthiesen](#). Nominees must be current MAHA members.

### Vote online

An email will be sent to all MAHA members by Dec. 10 with online voting information and bios for all individuals who are running for a position. Voting will be open Thursday, Dec. 10 through Sunday, Dec. 27 to all CURRENT adult MAHA members. Paper ballots will only be mailed to members without email addresses on file with AHA and must be postmarked by Dec. 26.

## ISO: WSCA/MAHA Coordinator

MAHA has a great deal for one lucky member

- Receive a free 2015 membership to the largest Arabian/Half Arabian club in Minnesota (and 2nd largest club nationally within the Arabian Horse Association)
- A complimentary 12-month digital and print subscription to the Arabian Horse Times magazine
- A network of nearly 1,000 Minnesota Arabian horse owners and enthusiasts.



Volunteer to be the MAHA/WSCA secretary and play a pivotal role in organizing and promoting the Arabian horse involvement on the WSCA show circuit.

If you have a passion for the Arabian and Half-Arabian breed this is a great way to get involved and change the way others view them. If you're interested, contact [Laura Mickelson](#), the former Arabian Horse Association Region 10 Director, who is currently managing this relationship.

## Just over 30 days left to renew with MAHA for your free AHT subscription

Earlier this year, MAHA announced its latest method of "giving back to its members" through a complimentary 12-month print and digital subscription to the *Arabian Horse Times* magazine. Be sure to renew your membership with MAHA in 2015—which means there's only about 30 days to take advantage of this offer.



ArabianHorseTimes

Each month, feel free to drop off issues you've read at your dentist or doctors office so we can further expose the public to the Arabian horse.

## States' Equine Activity Liability Acts Know the rules now to save legal headaches later

As of February 2015, forty-six states have a version of an Equine Activity Liability Act (EALA) whether or not it is specifically titled with that name. Each of these statutes while similar, have various state determined differences. In each of their various forms, the base line is that a person may not bring a lawsuit if the accident resulted from the inherent risk of equine activities.

Very broadly, the EALAs protect horse owners, but it can also protect veterinarians among others depending on the state. In general, they keep individuals (and their family) who have participated in equine activities, from bringing suit/recovering from a filed suit if an injury or death results from an "inherent risk of an equine activity." The definition of "equine activity" or "inherent risk" varies widely again by state, but generally are fairly broad.

Please note that because of the existence of EALA in their state, some equine operators mistakenly believe that they are now fully protected and don't need to use a written agreement, liability release, insurance or warning signage notices.

Many states require very specifically worded notices to be posted or included in contract language and that state's statute and must be used verbatim. For example, Florida requires the following notice posted:

**"WARNING: Under Florida law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities."**

A similar notice is not a valid notice, for example:

**"WARNING: Under Florida law, if you participate in an equine activity, you do so at your own risk."**

Iowa's notice is much more specific, including the requirements of where posted and what color and size the typeface must be.

Specifically, Iowa Statute 673.3 states: "A domesticated animal professional shall post and maintain a sign on real property in which the professional holds an interest, if the professional conducts domesticated animal activities on the property. The location of the sign may be near or on a stable, corral, or arena owned or controlled by the domesticated animal professional. The sign must be clearly visible to a participant. This section does not require a sign to be posted on a domesticated animal or a vehicle powered by a domesticated animal. The notice shall appear in black letters a minimum of one inch high and in the following form:

**"WARNING: UNDER IOWA LAW, A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL**

PROFESSIONAL IS NOT LIABLE FOR DAMAGES SUFFERED BY, AN INJURY TO, OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF DOMESTICATED ANIMAL ACTIVITIES, PURSUANT TO IOWA CODE CHAPTER 673. YOU ARE ASSUMING INHERENT RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS DOMESTICATED ANIMAL ACTIVITY."

Warning signs abound and can be purchased from many vendors, the vast majority of these are not "official" and they do not protect your clients in the same manner. Read them carefully whether you buy one in the store, online or are given one from a trusted source.

Also note in the various statutes that horses may be categorized as companion animals or as livestock (or both as in the State of Minnesota) so be sure all applicable statutes are researched. Note too that the rules are typically applicable to other "livestock" animals. Livestock can include everything from the obvious cattle, to goats, donkeys, llamas and ostriches.

There are six basic exceptions that could allow liability to extend, which include:

1. Faulty Tack/Equipment-this means that the equipment placed on the horse or used with the horse for control were knowingly faulty (the known or should have known standard);
2. Improper matching of the Horse and Rider based on the representations of skill made by the rider and the horse was beyond their capability to control;
3. Be using land or facilities that have dangerous latent (not obvious) conditions of which they were aware but did not post or warn the participant;
4. Gross Negligence/"Willful and Wanton" Misconduct-lack of concern for participant's safety
5. Intentional Misconduct
6. Negligence-failure to use reasonable care

In addition, even if a release was signed, liability can extend if the equine activity release was intentionally false (untrue as to the actual law), poorly drafted as to parties and limited as to the activities covered. So tighten the girth and read the rules!

Brief Bits©, submitted by MAHA Board Member Becky Bell, Esq.

## MAHA Arabians Unplugged season ends with Championship show

MAHA's Arabians Unplugged season ended Sept. 13 with the Arabian Open Championship show, judged by Pam and Hoyt Rose, and included many new faces and great support for those just beginning in our sport. It was a great time for all Arabians and their beloved owners.



This show would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors and MAHA's dedicated support of a show at this level. We simply could not put on this show without your support!

### Sponsors

Argent Farms, Andy and Angie Sellman  
 Cedar Ridge Arabians, Dick, Lollie, and Lara Ames  
 Conway Arabians, Peter & Lori Conway  
 Dan McConaughy Training  
 Eleanor's Arabian Farm, Eleanor Hamilton  
 Heston Park, Larry & Jody Hoffman  
 Zsuzsa Larson  
 LeFever Training Center, Teresa and Don LeFever  
 Maple Ridge Ranch, Diane and Paige Nolte  
 Midwest Station II, David Boggs

Maryla and Zac Miller-Feldheim  
Pineview Arabians, Chuck & Chris Rickert  
SHADA Inc, Roxanne and Jeff Schall  
Signature Farm, Dean and Roberta Lembke  
Treadwell Insurance Services, Debbie Treadwell  
Weitz Equine Services, Paul Wietz DVM  
Westridge Farms, Jenna Ball

### **Volunteers**

Hoyt and Pam Rose, judges  
Show committee: Anita Grant, Lisa Lewis, Toni Marie O'Daniel, Linda Selchow  
Show Secretary: Tami Bagley  
Announcer: Sheri Erickson  
Ring Master: Brian Fueling  
Ring Secretary: Sandy Fueling  
Gate and Awards: Elaine Yungerberg, Lezlie Claire-Grant, Sarah Mahler, and Laurie Marte-Ohland

## **Youth corner: Farago is Region 10 Youth Vice Director; pens AHYA Convention Report**

MAHA member Emily Farago became the Region 10 Youth Vice Director earlier this year. Congratulations, Emmy.

Farago attended the Arabian Horse Youth Association Convention earlier this year and has provided a recap of the event below:

This year's AHYA Convention theme was "horsin' around the world." Region 10 represented Canada as other regions represented other countries. Youth from all regions came together to elect the new youth board, share regional reports, listen to inspirational guest speakers and discuss committees at convention.

All of the attending youth participated in discussion of some of the ideas that were addressed at the youth board meeting. This gave youth the opportunity to have a voice and be active in the association. Working with adult directors gave us insight on how our voices impact the association and what being an involved youth in the AHA can bring to our future. We are looking to increase youth memberships and keep youth involved in and outside of the AHA by incorporating fun activities and TAIL programs. Youth voted on their 2015-2016 Executive Board of Directors: Taylor Kyse from Region 3 for President, Emily Barker from Region 1 for Vice President, Flora ElmColone from Region 2 for Secretary, and Sydney Young from Region 17 for Treasurer.

Throughout the week, there were many youth fundraisers and activities. Youth were invited to the welcome dinner, decorated golf carts for the parade of regions, and invited to the ice cream social. Youth could also compete in the hippology contest, stall decorating contest, stick horse workshop, and dog costume class and race. Some fundraising activities included the pink flamingo flock and flying pigs. Everyone was welcome to stop by the AHYA booth for daily activities or to purchase AHYA merchandise. Social media promoted the AHYA through Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat. The youth fundraisers and activities brought the youth together and promoted the association.

The AHYA convention was a success and much was accomplished in a short amount of time. We are continuing to find ways to increase youth membership in the association. As a new board of executive and regional directors, we hope to have a successful year and promote youth in the AHYA.

## MAHA Spring Fling 2016 changes dates to avoid Easter conflict



The MAHA Spring Fling show will change its 2016 dates to March 18-20 to avoid conflicting with the Easter holiday weekend. Please update your calendars.

## MAHA membership report

We're happy to announce our club is going strong with 251 adult members and 73 youth members!

## Horsin' around the internet

### Blogs and websites

- [Anoka Equine Veterinary Services blog](#)
- [Hoyt Rose, Fat Bald Cowboy blog](#)
- [Horse Channel](#)
- [The Horse](#)
- [Horse Digests](#)
- [University of Minnesota Horse Extension](#)
- [Minnesota Board of Animal Health](#)

### MAHA Facebook Group

- [May Jefferson, Wisc. show looking for comments on adding Sport Horse classes](#)
- [For sale: 4-year-old Chestnut Half-Arabian Mare](#)
- [ISO: Info on a black Arabian filly bought at auction in Waukon, Iowa](#)
- [More...](#)

MAHA does not endorse any specific person or content offered through these resources.

## Calendar

- Dec. 6: Deadline to get your name on the MAHA Board of Directors election ballot
- Dec. 10-27: MAHA Board of Directors elections
- March 18-20, 2016: MAHA Spring Fling, Minnesota Equine Center, Winona

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