

News From GAHA

Bringing Arabian Enthusiasts Together Since 1965

Members and Friends Gather as GAHA Celebrates 50 Years



GAHA

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There is always a sort of a feeling of joy and accomplishment when a group of people come together to celebrate an event. That was so true on Saturday, September 26, 2015. Members and friends of GAHA came together at Vicki Humphrey's Training Center in Canton, GA to celebrate a milestone for the club. Club members have spent months planning the celebration but could not get a break from the weatherman.

But, not to worry! The new covered arena at Vicki Humphrey's Training Center made the weather a non-issue

for the group who gathered for the event.

The patrons who came out were all treated to a wonderful presentation of horses from VHTC. From stallions, to foals, to prospects to finished sale horses we watched for about 45 minutes as Vicki talked about horses, breeding, lesson programs and the recent arena and 50 stall addition to VHTC.

Everyone was also treated to great BBQ and Fixin's from Low Country Caterers while folk singer and guitarist, Lucy Billings sang and entertained. Then, of

course, there were three wonderful 50th anniversary cakes for dessert.

After dinner Region 12 Director, Lisa Blackstone, spoke from notes sent by her mom, Jean Blackstone, about the early days of what was to become both GAHA and Region 12. Lisa concluded with her thoughts about the future of the Arabian horse community.

The event was also an opportunity for GAHA to raise over \$500 for the Ryan Melendez "Ryan's Warriors" fund.

Friends of GAHA—Mike Moak

This year, when GAHA members renew their memberships, there will also be an opportunity for members to offer another level of support to allow the club to plan and continue to offer activi-

ties and programs for members.

This support will be set up in two ways. One, of course being financial support. But the other way is volunteering in specific areas of expertise that would

lend assistance to our leadership team in planning events and keeping the club functions moving forward. **Look at our new logo...**Designed by a talented volunteer !!

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"This year, when GAHA members renew their memberships, there will also be an opportunity for members to offer another level of support ..."

GAHA Youth Corner—Carolyn Duncan



Gracie Mogelnicki proudly displays her awards from an afternoon in the saddle with JHP Khrsma.

Even with all of the great moments I have had working with youth riders, I would like to take just a moment to honor a horse that has played a silent but large part in GAHA's youth.

JHP Khrsma began my love of Arabians and was my start with GAHA. Khrsma not only was my first horse but was a first for several little girls. Khrsma will be 29 in January and has continued to show for over

two decades. During that time she taught several riders not only to ride but to love. Khrsma has been a teacher for several of GAHA's past, present and possibly still a few that could become youth members even though she is recently retired.

To me, this is something really special to share.

Carolyn Duncan
GAHA Youth Director

Tim and Beverly Ross, along with AHA Region 12 Director, Lisa Blackstone, browse through some of the historical memorabilia at the 50th Anniversary Celebration



GAHA President, Mike Moak, recognizes Ann Stover, one of the early members of GAHA.



Lucy Billings Performs at GAHA 50th Celebration



Members and guests were treated to songs from folk singer and guitarist Lucy Billings as part of the festivities of the GAHA 50th Anniversary Celebration. Lucy lives in Nashville, TN where, after retiring from 20 years as a corporate lawyer she now pursues

her "other" interests. Growing up in Tucson, AZ Lucy was never far from horses or her guitar. Lucy currently has three CD albums available through her website.

Lucy Billings treats everyone to a couple of songs during the GAHA 50th Anniversary Celebration at Vicki Humphrey's Training Center

AAHA Sponsorship—Mike Moak

One of the most touching moments of the 50th Anniversary Celebration came when Molly McGraw and Marla Flynn asked for the microphone. Molly and Marla have been long time members of the Alabama Arabian Horse Association. Both Molly and Marla gave talks about how much GAHA has meant to them over the years.

Molly stated that there was a run of six years in a row that she

came and showed her horses at the Summer Classic.

Marla told everyone present that GAHA members have always been great sponsors of the Alabama All Arabian Horse Show when she called for sponsorships.

What happened next was what our AHA clubs are about. Molly and Marla presented GAHA with a \$500 sponsorship check.



GAHA members truly appreciate our sister club members in Alabama.

"GAHA members have always been great sponsors of the Alabama All Arabian Horse Show"

Help Wanted by Leigh Meyer

Recently I received this email

- "I am trying to locate pictures of a horse from the 1950's through '70's. He was owned by a former GAHA president, Val Beatty.. Val is the person that introduced me to Arabians back in 1969-ish. I bred my QH mare to her stallion, Bandar. I have searched and can't find a photo any-

where and am hoping that someone might have one."

Leigh Meyer is a member of the Alabama Arabian Horse Association and along with her husband, Randy and son, Jonathan, own and operate Rhapsody in Blue Training Stables in Chatom, AL.

If you have information about Val Beatty or her stallion Bandar

you can contact Leigh by email at:

winningarabians@gmail.com
or through her website
www.winningarabians.com

As part of their program at Rhapsody in Blue Stables, Leigh has designed "Dreams", a therapeutic riding program that helps riders connect with horses.

Leigh Meyer



GAHA members Robin Chisholm, Kathy Gilker, Bob Loois and Gail Chasteen enjoy conversation while they enjoy BBQ and Fixins' catered by Low Country Caterers



“...this show was a fine example of seeing our beloved Arabian Horses for the versatile creatures that they truly are”

Inside Dressage, at the SHN — Pagan Gilman

I have recently returned from my very first Arabian Sport Horse National Horse Show, which took place September 15-29th in Raleigh, North Carolina. For a week I watched magnificent Arabian and half Arabian horses compete in Halter, Under Saddle, Dressage, Jumping and Carriage classes.

There were 5 competition arenas going daily from 8:00am until...A tireless group of officials and volunteers worked hard to make this a show to remember. There were somewhere around 450 horses competing.

The show featured a coliseum and courtyard filled with Exhibitors, a lively silent auction and parties galore. Hats off to the North Carolina Arabian Horse Show Association for their hospitality. Most mornings you could find Kathy Villanova and team sporting around on a golf cart sharing doughnuts and coffee with competitors and friends alike.

As this was my first SHN show, I wanted to hear more about how and when this competition began so I went to someone I consider an authority on Arabian Sport horses,

Marie Taylor. Marie has been involved with Dressage and Sport horses since the early 80's. Marie is the owner of Dabney Mill Equestrian Centre in Virginia. I asked Marie to share her thoughts on this show and the growth of Sport horse competition with Arabians.

Many of you will know this but I did not. The first Arabian Sport Horse National Show took place in 2003. There were approximately 400 horses competing that year. Since then numbers have been as high as 600 horses. This year it is estimated that here was better than 450 horses competing.

Marie shared that she was very impressed with the quality of the horses we saw this year. The Sport horse under saddle classes were huge, several with over 50 horses competing. I asked Marie how on earth the judges could determine their top horses with so many going and in both Dressage and Hunt tack? Marie agreed that such large classes create quite a challenge for the judges but she felt that in the end, the right horses won. I asked Marie if she saw these classes being split in the future and she commented that she felt this

was under consideration.

New this year was the Western Dressage Exhibition. There were two levels offered and there were 20+ horses presented. Clearly there is much interest in these classes.

Marie reminisced about the 14.2 hand and under Hunter classes that also started out as Exhibition classes some years back. This year there were 18 entries in that now, recognized class. I saw several horses presented in Hunter classes, In Hand AND Dressage.

In summary, Marie and I agreed that this show was a fine example of seeing our beloved Arabian Horses for the versatile creatures that they truly are. Whether you ride in Hunt tack, Dressage tack, Western, English or drive, be it main ring or Sport horse, there is an Arabian horse for everyone and a place to show for all. So I say on to the next show and I hope to see you all there.

Message From the GAHA President—Mike Moak

After being elected GAHA president I have learned a lot more about GAHA than I thought I knew. There are many facets to our club. Inside each facet there are members who are passionate about a particular facet of the Arabian horse community.

Over the course of this year I have had many conversations and emails from members. But, not withstanding the diverse interests of the GAHA membership, there is still one connection that I find that all of our members share. And that is the so-

cial connection that being a member of GAHA offers. Having that people connection really allows members to broaden their understanding of how all of the facets interconnect and make our club what we are.

In the past GAHA represented many of the member interests every year by hosting the Summer Classic Horse Show. I think I always considered the Summer Classic the purpose of the club. Recently we have had to rein in in that regard. But I also see that not having that vehicle does not

kill the resolve of GAHA members to promote all of our interests and to know that there is a support group who stands together, for all of our collective interests.

With the GAHA 50th Celebration we had the opportunity to look back at all that GAHA has accomplished. Those great efforts will not be lost as our members continue to move GAHA forward.

“There are many facets to our club. Inside each facet there are members who are passionate about a particular facet of the Arabian horse community”



Amber Prater, Office Manager at VHTC, helped coordinated the GAHA 50th Anniversary Celebration event.



Nan Harley models her Ryan’s Warriors bracelet she got when she donated to the Ryan Melendez fund at the GAHA 50th Anniversary Celebration





More Pictures from the GAHA 50th Anniversary Celebration. Top left, clockwise: Kathy Hedgepeth and Nancy Klembus serve the GAHA celebration cakes, Tom and Gail Chasteen with Tim and Beth Ellenburg. Bottom: a tranquil photo of Vicki Humphrey's farm setting, and members and guest browse the many silent auction items donated by event sponsors.





More Pictures from the GAHA 50th Anniversary Celebration. Top left, clockwise: Everyone truly enjoyed the fabulous BBQ and Fixins' prepared by Low Country Caterers, Nan Harley with her Silent Auction cache, new bridle donated by HKM and shirt donated by Cavallo Couture. Bottom: Beautiful babies whoop it up in a brief ray of sunlight at VHTC and a lovely silent auction donation from La Victoria Supplements.



We're on the Web

<http://georgia-arabian.com>

GAHA

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Since 1965



Don't forget about GAHA on the web !! This month look for more photos from the 50th Anniversary Celebration !!

GAHA Board member and Parliamentarian, Connie Green, confers with GAHA President Mike Moak as Pagan Gilman draws tickets for door prizes at the GAHA 50th Anniversary Celebration



Mike Moak
amm9350@bellsouth.net

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the GAHA Newsletter. Please continue to let us hear your comments about the newsletter.



Early on, as guests begin to arrive, Kathy Hedgepeth and Nancy Klembus take a break from staging to chat with Robin Hardy.

On the Right, Robert and Kenna Burbeck catch up on the news from Denni Mack.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2016 GAHA Annual Meeting

Saturday – January 30th

Banquet, Elections, High Point Awards and MORE!

You Don't Want to Miss IT!!!!

More Details to Follow Soon!



For information on the High Point Award

Program Contact Connie Green

Phone – 770-974-8040 Email –

Conniegreen@aol.com

GAHA Would Like to Thank the Following People &
Organizations Who Donated to Our Silent Auction &
50th Anniversary Dinner
Your Support Is Everything!

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