

Al Majlis News

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE DESERT ARABIAN HORSE

September 2005

Volume 2 Number 2

Table of Contents

Page 1

Saddle Up! for the Desert Arabian Classic
AEGIS (Arabian Equine Genetics Inventory System)
Calendar of Events

Page 2

Institute booth at Egyptian Event 2005
Symposium on Preservation 2005 - Wrapup

Page 3

Biography - Jon Michael
Board of Directors

Page 4

Al Khaima in *Arabian Horse World*
How to Contact the Institute

Page 5

Membership - Join The Institute!

Page 7

Desert Arabian Classic
Clinic Signup Form

Saddle Up! for the Desert Arabian Classic September 29 - October 1

Join us in Aurora, Colorado at the end of September to learn about the fast-growing and fun sport of Endurance Riding. On Thursday, Sept.29 there will be a clinic presented by Holly Ulyate and Cynthia Richardson. On Friday there will be a 4-mile practice ride and vet check, followed by additional clinic presentations. On Saturday, you can choose to participate in the 15-mile Fun Ride or the 25- or 50-mile AERC-sanctioned rides.

The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse is sponsoring the clinic. Clinic registration is \$50 - fill in the form on page 8 and mail to Bruce Johnson at the address shown. The rides are part of the Kenlyn Flat/Urban Challenge, hosted by Ken and Linda Fisher. Ride registration forms are online at www.kenlynarabians.com (fees are \$40 for the fun ride or \$85 for the AERC-sanctioned rides).

This is the first Institute activity focused on the versatility and performance abilities of the Desert Arabian horse. See you there!

Calendar of Events

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2005

- Desert Arabian Classic Endurance Clinic and Ride at Aurora, Colorado

November 2005

- *Al Khaima* 2: 2 appears in *Arabian Horse World*

Feb. 17 - 19, 2006

- 2006 Symposium on Preservation at Phoenix, Arizona

July 2006

- *Al Khaima* 3: 1 appears in *Arabian Horse World*

Fall 2006

- International gathering and tour of the cradle countries of the Desert Arabian horse

November 2006

- *Al Khaima* 3: 2 appears in *Arabian Horse World*

AEGIS (Arabian Equine Genetics Inventory System)

On August 7 the Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse launched the Arabian Equine Genetics Inventory System (AEGIS), a project to store genetic material from Desert Arabian horses in accordance with goals identified in our Mission Statement. Acutely aware of the precipitous decline and rapid aging of the entire Arabian breed, the Institute is formulating procedures and contracts to allow donation of genetic materials. This initiative will be developed in multiple phases as funding and resources permit.

Phase One creates a legal repository for the donation of frozen semen with annual tax deductibility for maintenance of these genetic materials. Initially, semen will be stored by owners. This approach allows the Institute to create a decentralized "bank" and gives owners the opportunity to commit to the project now. The donated semen would be available for research or, after the stallion is no longer available for live breeding, could be used for breeding projects.

Phase Two will set in place an Advisory Board to consider donations to be maintained by the Institute and to consider future distribution of said material.

We invite serious inquiries about donating semen to the AEGIS project (office@desertarabians.org)



Institute Booth Makes Debut at Egyptian Event

Designed, created, and furnished by Jon Michael, the Institute's Bedouin-style tent made its debut at this year's Egyptian Event, held at the Kentucky Horse Park on June 6-11. Kent Mayfield provided Arabica coffee Monday-Thursday and Majid Alsayeau donated Jordanian coffee with cardamom Friday-Saturday. A large 32" screen TV played excerpts from the 2005 Symposium on Preservation and tapes of Egyptian dancing horses, the latter provided by Bachir Bserani (Al Moussami), author of *Authentic Arabian Horse Names*.

Our tent attracted visitors all week, but was continually crowded - sometimes overflowing - on Friday and Saturday, with dozens of individuals watching videos, engaging in conversation, picking up brochures, signing up for our mailing list, and buying books and magazines offered through various preservation efforts and individuals.

Thanks and a tip of the hat go to the Asil Club, Hansi Heck-Melnyk, Esperanza Raswan, Miss Jane Ott and the Blue Arabian Horse Catalog, Inc., Heirloom, Heirloom/El Deree, and the Arabian Horse Owners Foundation for filling our booth with educational materials to distribute and sell. We enjoyed meeting so many good people interested in preserving the Desert Arabian horse!

The Institute plans to use this exhibit as the core for its presence at other equine events in the future. The tent may also be made available to organizations of similar purpose. If you know of an event where the exhibit would help advance the education mission of the Institute, please contact Jon Michael at contact@desertarabian.org.

Symposium on Preservation 2005 – Wrapup

On February 18, the 2005 Symposium on Preservation sponsored and hosted by The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse began with tours of Al-Marah Ranch at Tucson and the W. R. Brown Library. Friday evening more than 40 people gathered at the historic Hotel San Carlos to hear Joe Ferriss's opening address, "The Soul of Preservation." Attendees were given three-ring binders filled with synopses of presentations, worksheets for group sessions, and a series of articles on various aspects of preservation.

Bruce Johnson opened the Saturday morning session with "Looking Outside the Preservation Tent: Examining the Health of the Arabian Horse Breed." Participants then divided into working groups according to bloodline interests and held round table discussions about the status and efficacy of various preservation efforts, population growth and decline, and the types of tools and support needed for success in these traditional models of preservation breeding. Reports were given at a plenary session, complete with comments and suggestions from the audience.

Kent Mayfield opened the Saturday afternoon session with an address entitled "Rita Mae, Peggy Lee and the Hole in My Bucket: Mid-winter Thoughts on Preservation," followed by Anita Enander's presentation on "Genetics and Breeding Decisions." The afternoon sessions focused on five key issues, with each attendee participating in two discussions: the case for preservation, what and how to preserve, lessons from the past, meeting breeders' needs, and financial aspects of preservation breeding. Again, a plenary session heard reports and held discussions on questions raised and ideas put forth.

Bazy Tankersley presented the keynote address at the Saturday night banquet, holding everyone spellbound with her quiet wit and wisdom gleaned from 65 years as a successful breeder of functional and competitive Arabian horses.

Sunday morning Edouard Al Dahdah spoke passionately about "The Desert Tradition," a presentation filled with photographs of contemporary asil Arabians in the cradle countries of their origin and in surrounding nations. As a final exercise, participants were asked to enumerate the most important goals for the Institute and the most urgent needs of the preservation community.

Those attendees who did not have to return home immediately were treated to open barn presentations at Bint Al Bahr (Babson) Arabians, Zee Ranch (Hadban and Sheykh Obeyd), and Bani Dawsari Performance Horses (Babson).

Two items topped the list for the most important goal of the Institute: building a database to identify populations of Desert Arabians throughout the world and building increased consensus and mutual support among breeders. Educational outreach and helping to rehabilitate the reputation of the Desert Arabian, thereby increasing its marketability to support breeding programs, were also emphasized.

Of first importance, according to attendees, is the development of better communication strategies, including both print and online media, cemented with Web site linkage and expansion. People want more public events and symposia, held as much as possible in conjunction with horse clinics, shows, and competitions. And, as Hansi Heck-Melnyk remarked late Sunday morning, the Institute has built a solid and serviceable car. Now we need gasoline in the form of funding.



Jon Michael and HHA Manabi

Born August 24, 1939 in Binghamton, NY to parents raised on northern PA farms, Jon spent many happy days as a youngster on numerous family and friends' farms, almost invariably on horseback. At home, the family had three or four horses around most of the time, although none of them was an Arabian. At seventeen, just out of high school where he was captain of the Swim Team and earned top scholastic honors with a 4.97 GP average, Jon cut the apron strings and headed west to Albuquerque, NM, to earn his Bachelor's Degree at the University of New Mexico, turning down a New York State Regent's Scholarship to any university in the State of New York to do so. Somehow a career in Nuclear Physics at Cornell paled in comparison to the lure of the old west.

Although he would rather have pursued a vocation in biological research or veterinary medicine, Jon succumbed to the financial lure of big business and went to work for Sears in 1964. Sears sent Jon around the world twenty-eight times in various capacities and moved him from Los Angeles to Chicago to New York City and back to Chicago. He enjoyed a distinguished career at Sears for over thirty years. His final position took him to Hong Kong for seven years as Managing Director of Sears Overseas Buying Operations.

In Chicago during the 1980s, Jon purchased about 900 acres of farm and timber land in central Kentucky and began slowly to develop it while still gainfully employed at Sears. Upon retirement in 1995, Jon moved back to his farm in Kentucky, built a new house and a new barn with paddocks and an outdoor arena, installed twenty miles of fence and turned a herd of American bison loose on the knobby pastureland. Then he noticed he

needed a good horse, not necessarily to chase the bison around the pastures as much as to get back to his roots on horseback.

Robin Albertson of Casper, WY opened the door to the marvelous world of the Desert Arabian horse to Jon and the rest is history. ERA Wahara, an exquisite, liver chestnut, mare was his first horse, and she arrived in foal to El Serrou, a charismatic, black bay, Straight Babson stallion. That foal, HHA Manabi, is pictured at right and is attached to Jon at the hip, figuratively if not literally. Today, Jon and his partner, Charlie Ip, have more than a dozen horses and several foals on the way.

Jon's association with preservation efforts began when he attended his first Al Khamsa Convention in Lexington, KY in 1997, a month after Manabi was born. He accepted a position on the Al Khamsa Board of Directors in 2000; he authored the adoring article in the Al Khamsa publication in the July 2001 issue of *Arabian Horse World*; his prowess as advertising manager provided the funds to publish the 2003 Al Khamsa Directory as well as three years of the Khamsat and he served as Vice-President of Al Khamsa from 2001–2004.

As a founding member and Treasurer of The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse, Jon is noted for his vision, his organizational skills, his marketing ability and his perseverance in accomplishing tasks. Ask anyone in the Desert Arabian preservation movement, and they will tell you that Jon is best known for his unique, inordinate, all-consuming passion for these marvelous and magical desert horses and his personal devotion and dedication to ensuring their future. They are truly his heart and his soul.

Board of Directors

M. Kent Mayfield (Chair)
5653 State Hwy 130, Dodgeville, WI 53533
608-935-3540 swind@mhtc.net

Anita Enander (Vice-Chair)
517 Panchita Way, Los Altos, CA 94022
650-941-5407 anita@atanda.com

Bruce Johnson (Secretary)
1915 S. Airport Road, Buckeye, AZ 85326
623-386-6381 bmjatwork@aol.com

Jon Michael (Treasurer)
2888 Rush Branch Road, Bradfordsville, KY 40009
270-337-2000 bisonjon@kyol.net

Brian Bennett
3655 W. 31 Mile Rd., Romeo, MI 48095
586-752-2022 bentmoor@juno.com

Albert Guibault
PO Box 338, Rouyn-Noranda, PQ J9X5C3
Canada
819-768-3569

Susan Mayo
5493 Edwards Rd., Denton, TX 76208
940-566-0630 susarinc@gte.net

Debra Kay Schrishuhn
2415 East Nevada, Urbana, IL 61802-4542
217-384-5763 dschrisshuhn@alaraarabians.com



AL KHAIMA (the Tent) in ARABIAN HORSE WORLD

Hope you didn't miss the second issue of *Al Khaima* as an 80-page supplement embedded in the July 2005 issue of *Arabian Horse World*. Our magazine was a centerpiece of this year's preservation issue. Feature articles included: an annotated bibliography of general readings on preservation by Debra Schrishuhn and a translation of the Al Jabri manuscript by Mustafa Al Jabri, Jamal A. A. Rabia, Debra L. Dirks, and Jerald F. Dirks. In addition, there were 41 pages of advertisements focused on Desert Arabians and preservation efforts on their behalf.

Articles from our inaugural Symposium on Preservation held in Arizona in February included "Rita Mae, Peggy Lee, and the Hole in My Bucket," by M. Kent Mayfield; "Preserving the Essence of the Arabian Horse," keynote address by Bazy Tankersley; "Conservation and the Horse in Front of You," by Anita Enander; and "Looking Outside the Preservation Tent," by Bruce M. Johnson.

Watch for the next *Al Khaima* in the upcoming November 2005 issue of *Arabian Horse World*.

Subscribe to *Al Khaima*

DON'T MISS THE NOVEMBER 2005 ISSUE OF *AL KHAIMA*.

If you don't have a subscription to *AHW*, call 1-800-955-9423 or go to the *AHW* web site at www.ahwmagazine.com. *AHW* has supported the Institute since its inception, and we appreciate their continuing interest in the Desert Arabian Horse.

Overrun copies of the first two issues of *Al Khaima* (November 2004 and July 2005) are available from the Institute's Business Office (contact@desertarabian.org) at \$8 U.S. each, shipping included.

Reserve advertising now for JULY 2006

Your advertising supports the publication of *Al Khaima* and the Institute's commitment to education. Advertising in *Al Khaima*, embedded in *Arabian Horse World* magazine, continues to be sold out early for each issue. DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE YOUR FARM FEATURED IN THE JULY 2006 PRESERVATION ISSUE. Plan ahead. Contact Jon Michael (contact@desertarabian.org) to book your space now. Reserve space by the end of 2005 to guarantee pricing (full-page ad - \$595; half-page - \$350, including professional design and layout). Take advantage of these huge discounts to the regular *AHW* prices that reflect the World's continuing support of the Institute and its educational mission.

A precious legacy of the past, the Desert Arabian is in danger of extinction before the end of the 21st century. At The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse, we strive to protect and conserve the cultural legacy and genetic integrity of the Bedouin-bred Arabian horse through education, historical and scientific research, standard performance evaluations, conservation projects, and international collaboration. All interested and dedicated individuals and preservation efforts, both formal and informal, are welcome into our tent.

As we went to press, Thomas Booth was in hot competition for the Jim Jones stallion award from AERC. Thomas is competing on the stallion AAS Al Sakb+ and has 740 (unofficial) miles as of September 16. This is the only Desert Arabian stallion in the top ten. We wish Thomas and Sakb the best from now until the competition year ends in November.

If you have competition news and successes, let us know so we can celebrate the performance and versatility of the Desert Arabian horse.

We welcome your articles, ideas, reports of accomplishments, or other material. Submit information for Al Majlis to news@desertarabians.org.

How to Contact The Institute

office@desertarabian.org
www.desertarabian.org

The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse
2410 Sam Browning Road
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

Endurance Clinic and Mentored Ride, September 29-30
Kenlyn Flat/Urban Challenge 15/25/50 Miles Rides, Saturday October 1 (AERC)

Join us to learn about the fast-growing and fun sport of Endurance riding! The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse is sponsoring a two-day Endurance Clinic and Mentored Ride in Aurora, Colorado on Thursday September 29 and Friday September 30.

This two-day clinic and practice ride will be conducted by Holly Ulyate and Cynthia Richardson. It is designed for those who are new to the sport or those who are interested in enjoying their horses in this fast growing and fun discipline. The clinic will be held at Aurora's Beck Recreation Center which is adjacent to Kenlyn Arabians.

Then join us for the Kenlyn Flat/Urban Challenge 15/25/50 Mile Endurance Ride on Saturday October 1 at the same location. This is a new course with dirt trails, hills, creeks and beautiful scenery. Enjoy the 15-mile fun ride or join the AERC-sanctioned 25- or 50-mile rides.

Schedule –

Thursday – Clinic day 1

8:00 – 11:30 AM – Opening lecture at the Beck Recreation Center

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Lunch at the Beck Recreation Center

12:30 – 4:00 PM – Lecture at the Beck Recreation Center

Friday – Clinic day 2

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Outdoor practical discussion at Kenlyn Arabians

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Tack up & 4-mile ride, Pulse and Respiration Practice, warm down

12:30 – 1:30 PM – Lunch at Kenlyn Arabians

1:30 – 3:00 PM – Q&A session

The rest of afternoon free to prepare for the 15-mile fun ride or 25-mile race the following day

Saturday – Ride

7:30 AM - 50 mile ride starts

8:30 AM - 25 mile ride starts

9:00 AM – 15 mile fun ride starts

Dinner and awards

Clinic registration fee

\$50.00 which includes the clinic, an extensive information packet for your notes and later reference, the 4-mile mentored ride (BYOH) and lunch Thursday and Friday.

Make checks payable to The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse.

Ride registration fees

\$40.00 to participate in the 15-mile fun ride on Saturday October 1. This includes a T-shirt and dinner on Saturday evening.

\$85.00 to compete in the AERC 25- or 50-mile endurance rides, also held on Saturday October 1. This includes a T-Shirt and dinner on Saturday evening.

Make checks payable to Kenlyn Arabians.

Stalls

There are a limited number of barn stalls available for those with less experienced horses at a cost of \$20.00 per night. There are also hotels and restaurants within easy traveling distance.

For more information

Clinic – contact Bruce Johnson by e-mail (bmjatwork@aol.com) or 623-386-6381

15/25/50-mile rides and stall reservations - contact Linda Fisher – 303-807-0062

CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM
Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse
Presents a 2-day Endurance Clinic and Mentored Ride
in conjunction with the Kenlyn Urban Classic

Date – September 29 and 30, 2005

Location: Beck Recreation Center and Kenlyn Arabians, Aurora, Colorado

Cost: \$50.00 Please make check to: *The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse*

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

E-Mail address: _____

Note – this information will not be sold or otherwise distributed.

Horse's Name: _____

Breed: _____

Mail signed registration form with payment to:

Bruce M. Johnson
1915 S. Airport Road
Buckeye, AZ 85326
623-386-6381 (H)

There are a limited number of stalls available at a cost of \$20.00 per night. Please contact Linda Fisher at Kenlyn Arabians directly to reserve/obtain more information. 303-807-0062

Liability Waivers: I wish to participate/ride in the Endurance clinic and mentored ride as listed above. I agree to abide the rules of the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) and the aforementioned ride. I understand that this may involve being in remote areas for extended periods of time, far from communications, transportation, shelter, water and medical facilities; that these areas have many natural and man-made hazards, which ride management cannot anticipate, identify, modify or eliminate; that the horses can be excitable, difficult to control and unpredictable; and that accidents can happen to anyone at anytime. I agree to take full responsibility for myself and the animal I may be riding, and hereby freely assume the risk of any injury or mortality suffered by the aforementioned animals as a result of my participation.

The undersigned does for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any person or persons connected with the aforementioned rides, individually and collectively, including but not limited: KENLYN ARABIANS STABLES, KEN FISHER, LINDA FISHER, CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, MOUNTAIN REGION ENDURANCE RIDERS, the AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE, and THE INSTITUTE FOR THE DESERT ARABIAN HORSE and its officers and all individual members thereof, ride management, ride personnel, veterinarians, sponsors and all property owners over whose land the ride crosses, blameless for any accident, any right to assert claims for personal or property damage against any persons connected with the aforementioned ride.

I have read, understood and agree to the terms of the liability waiver for this Clinic/ride.

Rider: _____ Date: _____

Horse Owner: _____ Date: _____

Jr. Rider Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse

*preserving the authentic horses of the Arabian Desert
today for generations to come*

Through a variety of programs and services, the Institute advances a concrete agenda of preservation – serving you and the horses you value.

- identifying the worldwide population
- demonstrating publicly their athleticism and versatility,
- providing models of sound breeding practices; and
- conducting historical and scientific research.

Membership in the Institute has the following current benefits :

Publications: Keeping you informed on new developments in preservation breeding, historic and scientific research, and ongoing Institute activities. Includes *Al Khaima*, a semi-annual publication, and *Al Majlis*, an occasional newsletter available on-line. Slated for early publication: international herdbook of Desert Arabians; a Babson retrospective; compendium of critical studies in preservation breeding.

Networking: Providing numerous opportunities to meet and connect with breeders and fellow enthusiasts of the Desert Arabian around the world.

Competition and Pleasure: Offering opportunities to experience first-hand the excitement of the Desert Arabian as a versatile athlete, willing companion, and working stockhorse.

Education and Training: Improving your skills as a preservation breeder and owner through the Annual Preservation Symposium (focused training on breeding, conformation, and performance evaluation, pedigree analysis, and history), mentoring and regional support initiatives, and on-line and print archival resources.

Collaborative preservation: Participating actively in concrete projects such as the Arabian Equine Genetics Inventory Service (AEGIS), a semen bank for rare or endangered stallions, to preserve the genetic legacy of the Desert Arabian.

Recognition: Highlighting your role as a person dedicated to the preservation of the cultural legacy and genetic heritage of the Bedouin-bred Arabian horse worldwide.

The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse *

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

Please complete the form below. All information is required unless otherwise noted.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: First _____ Initial _____ Last _____
Farm Name: _____
E-mail Address _____
Telephone _____ FAX _____ (optional)
Cell Phone _____ (optional)
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State/Province _____
ZIP/Postal Code _____ Country _____
Web site address _____ (optional)

AREAS OF INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT

(check as many as apply)

- History and character of the Desert Arabian horse
- Breeding
- Pedigrees and related research
- Training and Instruction
- Mentoring
- Marketing and Promotion
- Publications
- Healthcare and nutrition
- Competition
 - Distance Riding
 - Endurance
 - Competitive Trail
 - Dressage
 - Driving
 - English Pleasure
 - Hunter/Jumper/Equitation
 - Western Pleasure
 - Rodeo/Roping/Barrel Racing
 - Cutting/Reining/Team Penning
 - Halter and Showmanship
 - Flat Racing/Steeplechase
 - Sport Horse
 - in hand
 - under saddle

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Your generous financial support is critical to the preservation of the Desert Arabian horse.

* The Institute is a tax exempt, tax deductible, IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization serving the public interest. Contributions above \$25 are fully tax-deductible.

\$50 \$75 \$25 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$other _____

Enclosed is my check
made payable to The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse

Please charge my Visa / MasterCard

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Security Code: _____ (final three digits on reverse of card)

Expiration Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Mail completed form and payment to:

The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse
2410 Sam Browning Road
Lebanon, KY 40033