

Arabian Horse Association 2010 Convention Report—
By Kriss Phelps

Equitation/Showmanship Committee

The working session of the Equ/Showmanship committee was held on November 17, 2010. Issues that were discussed were the fact that USEF has changed the numbers on the patterns in Saddleseat Equitation, so they no longer match up with what's in our equitation manual and AHA Handbook. A group was assigned to look into this and come up with the changes that need to be made to correct the problem.

There was much discussion on the new One Day Show and the fact that these shows are not required to hold Medal classes. There was a lot of concern that many children might qualify for Youth Nationals and never have completed a pattern.

Western Horsemanship rules were discussed. The group feels that the existing rules are very antiquated and not up to date with industry standards. There needs to be more variety in what's allowed in the patterns. The group feels that more patterns are needed to go into the equitation manual and more diversity in the patterns is needed. More difficulty is needed for the higher levels of competition as the competition in this class has gotten much deeper.

A new class was proposed for addition to the standard class list: Sport Horse Showmanship. One of the committee members handed out a score card for this class as its run at their show. There were a lot of positive comments from the room and committee about adding this class to shows.

There is an error in the AHA Handbook that neglects to say (Showmanship/Equitation) Patterns must be posted at least an hour prior to the class. This needs to be corrected.

Hunt Seat Equitation—discussed once again the need for more patterns for the equitation manual.

This concluded the working session of the Equitation/Showmanship committee.

The Resolution meeting was held on November 19, 2010.

Meeting started with discussion and voting on Resolution 3-10, Membership Exemption for 10 & Under Showmanship Participants. Room and Committee and delegation passed this Resolution.

Next Resolution discussed was 8-10, regarding Arabian Committee Authority. We disapproved this resolution, but it was withdrawn in any case.

Resolution 22-10 was the next item of discussion, regarding adding Dressage Seat Equitation and Dressage Seat Medal classes to our equitation list. Room and committee and delegation approved this.

Resolution 25-10, moving the Medal class specifications from the AHA Handbook to the USEF rulebook was defeated by room and committee because this resolution also makes it optional to hold the medals/equitation classes. The room and committee would approve if “may” was changed to “must” in regards to holding Medals and equitation classes. This was approved in general session with the “may” changed to “must”.

The resolution adding “the sitting trot may be called in all Hunter Seat Equitation classes, including walk-trot, resolution 37-10 was approved in committee, once Equine Canada was removed, as a sitting trot is already required in Equine Canada competitions in Hunter Seat Equitation. This was also passed by the delegation.

Resolution 38-10 was passed by room, committee and delegation, allowing class specifications for Western Seat Equitation to be added to the USEF rulebook.

Resolution 39-10 states that the AHA Reining Seat Equitation Scorecard must be used and posted. It also takes the age groups out of the rules so each section of the country can split those classes appropriately for their area’s participation. This resolution was passed by the room, committee and delegation.

The committee again, discussing the need for more patterns in the Equitation Manual for Hunter Seat Equitation and Western Horsemanship, along with the desire to be able to ask for extended gaits in the latter.

Discussed that inclusion of the words “At Halter” in Showmanship class titles needs to go away. It is not correct, but is seen at many shows, and is confusing for some judges. Committee was urged to try to correct this at the shows that they have influence over.

Again, discussed the concept of Sport Horse Showmanship and agreed that the Committee would like to see this class go forward.

There have been requests by judges from Youth Nationals to be able to ask for simple tests in the Walk-Trot 10 & under Equitation to help separate the “men from the boys”.

Equitation Medal Classes point system needs to be tabulated the same as the qualifications points system. The committee will look into this. Meeting was adjourned.

Working Western Committee

The Working meeting of the Working Western Committee was held on November 17, 2010 Mike Damianos is the new Chair. His first comment was that Jim Hitt is a very hard worker as a board liaison for this group.

The committee then broke into its sub-groups and discussed the negatives and positives from 2010. The Reining/Working Cow sub-group discussed the improvement in the

footing at US Nationals. Many members were very pleased with the conditions of the ring, as well as the size of the arenas, which had been enlarged. Members also commenting that the cattle were decent also. The only negative voiced was that the footing was slippery in a couple of places, mostly due to too many of the reining patterns having stops in the same place. It was discussed that the plan going forward is to have the reining patterns go through the Judges and Stewards Office before the show to avoid overworking certain areas of the footing.

Working Cow Horse had 59 entries total at US and there was discussion that the exhibitors would prefer to have a 2 run Nationals, with the finals being determined by a cumulative score.

Cutting group stated that the ground was great, the cattle were good and the show was well-run. Negatives from this group were that the seating was not set up at the correct end of the arena for spectators to be able to watch this event easily. Another problem was that the practice ended up at midnight to 1:00am. It was suggested that the practices need to be moved up to earlier in the day.

Another problem discussed amongst the cutters was that there needs to be a designated round pen set up with cattle all week at Nationals. There will have to be something figured out to cover the cost of this, but it does need to be addressed. Also was discussed that if there are 21 or more exhibitors in cutting, then a working finals needs to be added. This was the end of the working session.

The Resolutions meeting of the Working Western Committee was held on November 18, 2010. The first Resolution discussed was Res 8-10. It was suggested that the intent of this resolution was to streamline the ability of committees to change rules. Committee defeated, as well as the room, and the resolution was withdrawn.

Next discussed was Res. 25-10, regarding adding the specifications to the USEF rule book, out of the AHA Handbook. This committee also defeated this resolution, owing to the fact that the “must” that exists now was changed to “may”. This was changed in the general session and the resolution was passed with the change.

Resolution 33-10, exempting Junior Trail horses from the snaffle bit requirement, to bring this division in line with the Reining and Working Cow Horses to make these horses easier to show in the “Open” world. This committee considered this “housekeeping” and passed it, as did the delegation.

Resolution 34-10 was adding AATR to the Working Cow Horse Specifications and stating the dry work will not be permitted in these classes, again basically housekeeping. The committee and delegation approved it.

Resolution 35-10 added Limited Reined Cow Horse classes and defined them. There was a lot of discussion about this, trying to get the wording right. After much discussion, the wording was agreed upon, and the committee and the delegation approved this resolution.

The next resolution 36-10 scheduled to be reviewed was withdrawn, so we moved on to Resolution 39-10 which redefined Reining Seat Equitation age groups, giving shows more flexibility in carrying this class, while specifying that the score card must be used and posted. This passes the committee and delegation easily.

Resolution 41-10 discussed the need to utilize the available judges more than the two times that is currently allowed through USEF rules, particularly for the Working Western divisions. This resolution would allow this and the Halter people wanted it also, so they were added onto this. Committee and delegation passed this resolution.

Resolution 42-10 was intended to get out rules more in-line with NRHA rules. Passed committee and delegation.

The last thing discussed in Working Western Committee is the need to add a Green Trail class, which is not age specific, just for horses being shown for their first year in Trail. There is a definition of Green Trail in the USEF rulebook already, so there is precedence for this.

Sport Horse Committee

The working session of the Sport Horse Committee was held on November 17, 2010 and the time was spent discussing Resolutions 8, 20, 22, 23, 28, 40 & 41-10.

The Resolutions session of the Sport Horse Committee was held on November 18, 2010 and the same resolutions were discussed. The committee agreed with everyone else on Res 8-10, defeated it and it was subsequently withdrawn.

Res 20-10 was discussed and both days, the committee objected to the "b" portion of this resolution, which basically says that if an Amateur catch rides a horse for another owner in the AOTR section of the Hunter Under Saddle, that they will be ineligible to show their own horse in another class at the same show. The committee defeated this resolution due to this part of it. The rest of the resolution dealt with who could show an AOTR horse in the Under Saddle portion if the owner had multiple horses that made the Under Saddle class. In any case, the resolution was withdrawn.

Resolution 23-10 dividing the Sport Horse Classes into Hunter and Dressage Type was discussed. Some were concerned about the cross entering. Some felt that it shouldn't be allowed and others thought that it was a win-win for shows, making for more entries in a struggling time for them. This issue was discussed at much length. In any case, the committee, room and delegation passed it.

Resolution 28-10 defined how to score group Sport Horse Classes. This passed committee and delegation.

Resolution 40-10 trying to add regulations to the sport horse in hand division from the halter division was discussed at length. In the end, it was withdrawn.

Resolution 22-10 adding Dressage Seat Equitation was discussed, even though it was not referred to this committee and the committee was in favor of this, and it was passed in general session. This concluded the Sport Horse Committee's business.

AHA Convention report 2010—By Wayne Gavitt

At the Orlando convention I attended all the general sessions plus several committee meetings and commission meetings which I will report on.

There has been great concern regarding the financial picture of AHA and I tried to place close attention to budget and financial disclosures at the general session. This is always an awkward reporting time for AHA. The audited financial report presented is as of March 31, 2010, and here we are six months into the current fiscal year which will end March 31, 2011. At convention time, mid fiscal year, most reporting is done in the form of projections. For instance, both Canadian Nationals and Sport Horse Nationals exceeded budgeted estimates for number of horses and number of classes entered, while Youth Nationals fell short of budgeted horses and classes. At convention time not all bills have been received and this leaves some uncertainty dollar wise. General attitude of management is that the organization is financially sound and that aggressive steps have been taken to insure solvency. The major concern, however, as membership and registrations fade, is that the success of the National Shows becomes so important for financial survival. By the way, the reason for having a fiscal year that ends March 31 is so all of the National shows are included within that twelve month time frame.

The Eventing and Driving Committee met on two occasions and I attended as a member of the committee. This committee has been so successful in promoting the carriage driving classes in the Sport Horse venue. There are now six classes, namely Working, Turnout, Drive and Ride, Gamblers Choice, Pick Your Route Obstacles, and new for 2011, Timed Obstacles. We decided to rest on our laurels and not push for more classes until we see if there is any increase in the number of entries at the National level. We all vowed to push local and regional shows to include carriage driving in their schedules. It should be noted that all of the carriage driving classes listed in the USEF rule book are on the official class list for AHA rated shows.

I sat in on the meeting of the Sport Horse Commission. Bill Pennington was re-elected as chairman and Vicky Rich, who oversees carriage driving activities, was re-elected to the commission. The 2011 Sport Horse National Show will be in Lexington KY Sept. 28 to Oct. 2, 2011. The show location has been rotating east and west, and 2010 was scheduled to be the last year in Nampa ID, with future shows being scheduled for the Kentucky site. However, west coast participants have mounted a strong campaign to maintain the rotation and point out that in Nampa from 2008 to 2010 horses increased from 325 to 398 and class entries increased from 1100 to 1500. These numbers, however, are still less

than the numbers at Kentucky. The only comments to answer the rotation proponents were that there is a one year contract with Lexington KY with a two year option. Others present asked that consideration be given to returning the show to Lexington VA

I also sat in on the meeting of the US National Show Commission. The first order of business was the re-election of Bill Hughes as chairman. What a difference a year can make. At the 2009 meeting a lot of concerns surfaced in regard to the Tulsa facility and now in 2010 trainers and exhibitors praised the commission for the changes that had been made in scheduling and arena utilization. The Tulsa facility is under contract through 2012. In response to questions about consideration of other locations Glenn Petty disclosed the following. We need a facility that can accommodate 1600 plus horses, with as many as 3500 stalls and arenas to accept all our venues. There are only a handful of facilities in the country that offer that. Oklahoma City has no dates available in October, nor does Louisville. Scottsdale is a possibility. The idea of a strictly Amateur National Show was floated. Concern seems to be that the amateurs won't go without their trainers.

I also sat in on a meeting regarding recreational riding. Region 14 has access to a wonderful facility in the Hoosier State Forest that has 100 campsites and stabling where they host from 65 to 100 riders on 150 miles of trails. Sounds like a good time.

Convention Report—2010—By Virginia Kelsall

DISTANCE RIDING COMMITTEE—Chair—Maureen Fehrs

As at our meeting 11/18/10, there were two motions before the AHA Board of Directors. The first one would remove the following sentence from the Endurance Chapter 104 and 110.3. "Any horse cross entered in an AHA/AERC Ride would not automatically be disqualified from the AHA Ride simply due to elevating, provided that normal vet-out procedures are followed in a timely manner." The second motion is as follows—"Rules CTR 109,101.2, End. 114.3, and End.108.3 will be modified to allow a \$250 late fee for ride recognition forms that arrive in the office 60-30 days before a ride. No applications will be accepted less than 30 days before a ride."

On another matter the committee agreed that competitive driving should count toward recreational riding hours and Legion of Honor/Merit awards.

Most of the time was spent discussing the National Rides. They were cancelled this year for lack of entries. That was at least partially caused by the fact that the AERC Championship was held the week before. Most endurance riders are on Arabians and belong to AERC, but do not belong to AHA. Many of their horses, while purebred, half Arab, or Anglo Arabian are not registered, or if registered are entered in rides using their barn names. That narrows the pool from which to contact entries for the AHA National Ride.

The National Distance Commission has asked for input from the Distance Riding Committee regarding the best way to make participation in the National Rides more attractive to Arabian owners. The committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of holding the Competitive Trail and Endurance Championships at the same time. Most seemed to think that split venues and times would be better. More horses would be ready to do both rides, if there were sufficient rest time between them.

Various opinions were put forth regarding the impact that the sweepstakes program has had on CTR and Endurance. Some ride managers in the west do not wish to be AHA sanctioned, because they think some riders are pushing horses in order to get sweepstakes money, while on the other hand, there are riders who believe that regional and national rides are only for sweepstakes horses. They feel that you cannot win unless you have a sweepstakes horse.

We were asked if we thought only judges with actual CTR judging experience should be used to judge the National CTR Championship. The answer was “yes”.

The final minutes were devoted to talking about criteria for selecting the Distance Horse of the Year. A sub-committee, after consulting the Arabian Horse Owners Foundation, which donated the award, will submit proposed criteria to Maureen for inclusion in the 2011 handbook.

NATIONAL DISTANCE COMMISSION—Claude Clark

The commission has an open session to review resolutions and to discuss national distance events. During the closed session, they elect a chairman, do budget work, and other official business.

Claude explained the difficult decision to cancel 2010 National Rides. It all centered on the expense of putting on a ride with a 40% drop in entries from the year before, where they had incurred a \$3000 loss.

It was reported that they will have the rides in 2011, and are exploring ways to lessen losses. Riders seem to favor an alternating east/west venue—possibly tied to the Sport Horse Nationals. Another thought is to piggy-back on an established, successful ride. That would help with costs. A few people felt that we should make a sincere effort to initiate a closer relationship with AERC and independent CTR groups such as NATRC, ECTRA, and UMECTRA.

AWARDS COMMITTEE—Darleen Barrett

The resolution assigned to this committee was its own. It called for additions and rule changes to the Horse Achievement Award program be considered through the BOD motion process as recommended by the Awards Committee. The resolution passed on

the convention floor. Now additions and rule changes to the Amateur Achievements Awards and the Horse Achievement Awards are in line with each other.

The next item of business was reviewing nominations for the Ambassador Award and the Open Competition Award. We selected one nominee for the Ambassador Award and two for the Open Competition Award. Unfortunately, one of the Open Competition nominations should have been submitted for the Ambassador Award. The owner will be contacted and urged to submit letters of nomination next year for the correct award. There was strong feeling by some of the committee members that we had the right to make the switch now, since the owner had asked AHA staff which category was appropriate and was misinformed. Incidents like this do not help the image of AHA.

The type of award for Open Competition was discussed. Consensus was to give recipients the choice between a cooler or a buckle. Funding was an issue, the AHA budget allowed \$300, but additional money is needed. One of the meeting attendees generously donated \$400.

The Arabian Horse Owners Foundation, donor of the lovely sculpture, which is the perpetual trophy for the Distance Horse of the Year, offered \$500 to be used to advertise the award. Horses have to be nominated, but unfortunately many endurance and competitive trail riders are not aware of its existence. Later, Darleen said that AHOF should handle the advertising in the AERC Journal and other trail publications.

AHA ONE DAY SHOWS—Jim Hitt

Handouts were distributed. They detailed the basics and included a sample entry blank, an application form, and a standard list of classes in which exhibitors can earn AHA points toward Regionals, Nationals, and Achievement Awards. There is a wealth of information in the packet, and if you have even the slightest interest in staging one of these shows, contact AHA to get a copy. A few highlights are below.

AHA current competition card must be held by owner, trainer, and exhibitor.
USEF membership is not required. USEF has been thinking along these lines,
And we have their support and good wishes.
Use of an “r” Arabian judge in a 25-100 horse show will keep the recognition
Fee to \$50, and the judges and stewards fee will be waived.
The Steward, farrier, and veterinarian are not required, nor is an EMT
if emergency services are within 15 miles of the show.
A show may add classes beyond the standard list, but they do not qualify
For Regionals, Nationals, or Achievement Awards.

It is hoped that these shows will help membership and will save shows in an area with a small Arabian Population.

Again, if interested, try to get the packet. It contains much more information than is here.

2010 Arabian Horse Association Convention Report – By Linda Manwiller

The annual Arabian horse Association convention was held in Orlando, Florida, from November 17-21, 2010. There were 498 delegates eligible to attend this convention. By the end of the General Sessions 324 delegates had been credentialed.

The General Sessions are the public forum of the delegate body. It is during this time that resolutions are voted on, elections are held, and reports are presented. There was no election excitement this year, as all of the national officers ran unopposed. As for the reports of the President, the Executive director, the Commissioner, etc – they all had a common theme. While it is true that there are fewer members and fewer registrations (a common thread among most of the equine organizations), there is hope for the future if we all pull together and keep the welfare of the Arabian horse as our main goal. AHAs financial slide seems to have slowed with several new accounting measures in place. The Sweepstakes money that was “borrowed” is being paid back and the end of the computerization project finally seems to be in sight!

Several speakers, including keynote speaker David O’Connor of USEF, emphasized the equine organization is in tough competition for recreational dollars and must begin to start thinking outside the box to woo the general public. The Arabian benefited threefold in the recent WEGs. The Endurance teams were made up largely of Arabians. The Gift of the Desert exhibit and the Arabian horse Galleries brought the history and the legend of the Arabian to the KHP attendees, and Martha Murdock and her wonderful helpers made certain that the Arabian was included during the live activities at the Horse Park.

The Marketing and Development Committee also stressed the need to reach out to a new audience – a suburban recreational market that may not now be horse owners, but who love the “idea” of the horse. The use of social media and a willingness to be a presence at non-traditional venues have become important to the promotion of the Arabian as the ideal family horse : we must take the Arabian where family activities take place. All clubs should have a current website at least. It also helps to have a presence on Facebook since, at last count, 96% of teens have a Facebook and/or Twitter account as well as daily checking YouTube. The TAIL program and the community show can be used to good effect in encouraging budding interest in the Arabian...an interest that can also greatly benefit from clubs developing a mentoring program using members with “people-skills” so that visitors to the club will WANT to keep coming back. M&D encouraged their audience to make use of the *Sky’s the Limit* and the *Perks and Pride* booklets for more ideas.

The Youth Committee's agenda listed an impressive number of activities for the past year. Of interest is the fact that the Judging Contest at the Nationals, now in its' 40th year, is second only to the National Congress in longevity. The economic climate seems to have accounted for a drop in judging teams at all venues, but the teams at the Nationals were still very enthusiastic about the quality of the horses presented to them for evaluation.

I was fortunate to hear Dr. John Shelle of Michigan State University speak at both the luncheon and the Breeder's Forum. His luncheon talk was an often witty overview of the Arabian program at MSU – stating with pride that Al Marah, Cal Poly, and Michigan are the oldest three continuous breeding programs in the US. His presentation at the Breeder's Forum “Determining Breeding Values for Confirmation Traits in Arabian Horses” was equally interesting if much more academic in tone. The length and depth of MSU's breeding program has given them a genetic base that allows breeding with the purpose (and luxury) of seeing what combinations – be it through inbreeding, line breeding, or outcrosses - can be expected to produce certain confirmation traits. It was a fascinating look at the science behind breeding for specific, marketable traits.

The voting on the Resolutions presented at the General Session can be found on the AHA website. Of special interest is the way a resolution can morph into something completely different by the time the vote is actually taken on the floor! It is also interesting (as in a shake of the head and a “wonder-why” expression) how a resolution that is expected to produce real fireworks can be passed with little fanfare, be referred to committee, or even be withdrawn completely. I guess it is like politics. A lot goes on before, between, and behind!

My special congratulations to Judy Rutt who received one of the two 2010 Regional Volunteer awards. The amount of hard work she has done for PAHA is well known and she truly deserves this recognition.

CONVENTION REPORT 2010
DRESSAGE COMMITTEE
FROM JOY EVANS
SE PA DISTRICT DELEGATE

Dressage Committee

Chaired by Kaye Phaneuf- November 2010

Minutes of 2009 were corrected and approved.

- One of the biggest new rules is that effective March 1, anyone riding any horse on the competition grounds of a dressage show must wear protective headgear, properly fitted and secured, and must meet the ASTM/SEI standards as specified in DR120 and GR01. The breed divisions that offer dressage – Arabian, Saddlebred, Connemara, etc – have hustled to get modifications in place that will limit this rule at our shows to just those riders schooling for and competing in dressage and ONLY when they are schooling for/competing in dressage. That modification could be in place March 1.
- USDF has added a third Introductory Level test for 2011, which includes canter, so “walk/trot dressage” and Introductory Level” are no longer synonymous. AHA shows that offer walk/trot classes may continue to use Introductory Level Tests A & B, but be careful not to offer C.
- New Tests for 2011
There are now only “3 tests in each level”. The new USDF tests are posted online.
- Motion passed for Freestyle be the same as it is now for regular dressage points.. Points will start in 2011-2012.
- Walk-Trot 10 and under to get achievement points . See page 109 of rule book for points system. Level of scores will be used as the same for Training Level. Approved by the committee.
- Dressage Seat Equitation, Res. #22-10 Line 48 of rule book “riders “may” .
- Patterns applied to Medal classes must be post an hour BEFORE.
- Earplugs are allowed in regular Arabian division classes, however, they are “still illegal” for dressage

- There was much discussion about updating Dressage Rider Awards and giving certificates (such as what USDF does and/or stock pin: Cathy says we'd need a funding source from AHA. Discussion also of rider paying into an award per level . 'Will continue looking into this to revamp a whole different program.
- At Friday's working session discussion was had and we did vote to have First Level Jr. Horse added to the standard class list.
- USEF
 - ✓ There are a LOT of changes to the Dressage Chapter of the USEF RULE BOOK... mostly dealing with definition of various gaits and movements. Pay particular attention to the changes for the current year, which are in RED. Go to <http://www.usef.org/IFrames/RuleBook/2011.aspx> and check the Arabian chapter, subchapter AR-12 for updates to our dressage rules.

A Guest of AHA, Mary Smith, licensed USEF Official was in attendance.

USDF Sept 30 deadlines – All Breed Awards
AHA October 1st deadline.