

MHA NEWS and UPDATES

NATIONAL SHOW NEWS

2002 United Classic Report – The 2002 MHA “United Classic” Morab National Championship Show was a wonderful success. We were excited to have large Morab classes this year, and look forward to an even larger Morab attendance next year. The United Classic planning group will be focusing on additional classes for Morabs, especially those youngsters newly under saddle. Many exhibitors took advantage of the Sponsor-Getter Initiative Program that provides an opportunity to earn free stalls, lodging, food, and gas by securing sponsorships from friends, family, businesses, etc. This program greatly benefits the show and the exhibitor! All sponsors will receive recognition in the post-show edition of The Morab Horse, due out in early December. Pictures and information from the show will be posted on the MHA web site soon. To see pictures, visit “www.wrighthorsephotography.com.”

Youth of the Year Winners – Congratulations to Jamie McRoberts and Kelsey Shortridge-Peters for winning in the Youth of the Year Competition. Both girls have contributed time and effort toward the Morab breed and horses in general. Both girls received a red, white, and blue halter and special recognition at the United Classic, and both will be featured in the post-show edition of The Morab Horse due out in December. Way to go, girls!!

Hearst Memorial Award went to Simply Cinn-Sational owned and ridden by Jodi Yenter. This lovely mare is used to the blues, and she really showed her colors at nationals this year. Congrats to Jodi and Simply Cinn-Sational for an excellent showing!!

Linda Stahl Memorial Award is awarded to the first place horse and rider in the Morab Hunter Pleasure Open class. The award in 2002 goes to SW Mmeshach, owned and ridden by Mary Aski from Stillwaters Farm in Illinois. This is the third time Mmeshach and Mary have earned this heartfelt award, created in memory of a very special woman whose belief in and devotion to the Morab breed was inspiring and contributed greatly to the breed. Congratulations again, Mmeshach and Mary!!

Saltina AMHA 75263 Memorial Award is presented in memory of a wonderful Morgan mare who sadly was lost to illness several years ago. Recognition is given to the dam of the weanling that wins the Weanling Futurity Class. This year, we are proud to present the Saltina Memorial Plaque to Hi-Rise Quintana, dam of SW Shadrach, owned and shown by Bill and Mary Aski. Good job, Hi-Rise Quintana, for creating the 2002 Weanling Futurity winner.

National Show News – MHA is working with a well-known and respected trainer to develop a training session/handbook for judges in judging Morabs. This will be a great advantage to exhibitors as there are only a few judges with experience and knowledge in judging Morabs. This new training should be available to the judge hired for the 2003 United Classic (judge to be announced soon).

Youth Program – Changes are coming to the Youth Program in MHA. We have a new coordinator for this program and 2003 will reveal new, exciting opportunities for our youth throughout the year and at our national show. Stay tuned!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to join or renew membership to MHA. A 2003 Membership Application is enclosed. Renew promptly to ensure your continued voting rights and member benefits. As a current member, you will receive the monthly updates, bi-annual editions of The Morab Horse, free advertising of sale horses on our web site and in our sales listing, the United Classic Morab National Championship Show, discounts on registering Morabs, breeders support program, youth program, and much more. Be a part of the fastest growing, most successful Morab organization there is.

BY-LAWS

The recent effort to amend the current by-laws for MHA resulted in a recall of the vote to adopt or reject the proposed new document. In response to the membership, the MHA Board of Directors is reconsidering the changes and addressing member concerns regarding the current and proposed new by-laws. Your input is welcome and encouraged at this time. You may email your comments to lmartin@morabs.com or send them to L. Martin, 9300 Pleasant Valley Road, Somerville, Ohio 45064. Future voting on by-law revisions or re-writes will be broken down section by section and both the new and old provisions, when applicable, will be included. All current members as of record date will receive voting materials.

ELECTIONS

There are two director-at-large positions currently up for election. There are two candidates nominated at this time—Laura Martin and Jenee Nelson. Following is a short bio on each of these candidates. Ballots are included with this mailing.

Laura Martin – Laura Martin lives in southeastern Ohio, where she shares her life with three Morabs, one Arabian, a Norwegian Elkhound and three cats. She has been involved with horses for over twenty years and has owned Morabs for the last six. Laura has a degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University and studied Nutritional Immunology in graduate school. Currently, she is in her final year of law school at the University of Cincinnati and clerks for a mid-size law firm on a part-time basis. Laura joined the board of directors in July 2002 and is serving as the President of MHA. Her short-term goals for MHA include increasing advertising, promotion, and fundraising efforts; providing more services and information to members; and encouraging more individuals to join and become involved in the Morab Horse Association.

Jenee Nelson - Jenee Nelson, River Falls, Wisconsin. Jenee currently owns five horses--two Morgans, two Arabians, and one Morab. She is a Corporate Travel Consultant for Donaldson Corporation and has worked as a travel consultant for 12 years. She has been involved with horses since the age of five, starting out with ponies and stock horses. She showed on the Class A Arab circuit for several years and also got involved with showing Saddlebreds but neither was what she was looking for. In 1997, Jenee met her fiancé, Mike, and was introduced to the Morgan breed by way of Mike's multi-champion carriage horse Talent. Jenee says, "For me, the Morab is the best of both worlds--Arabian breed for their endurance/beauty/soul, and the Morgan breed for their heart/mind/body. I was honored to be asked to serve on the board of directors for MHA as an interim director and would be honored to serve as an elected director."

Other Vacancies - There are also several regional director positions vacant. If you are interested in running for a regional director position, contact the business office for information on membership status in your region.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT!

In the spirit of cooperation and in the best interest of the Morab breed and our members, MHA has entered into a reciprocal agreement with the International Morab Breeders Association (IMBA) to release DNA information on horses registered with our respective registries. DNA reports may be obtained by the current owner upon written or emailed request. Emailed requests should be addressed to registrar@morabs.com. Written requests should be mailed to the MHA Business Office at 4537 Cole Hwy, Charlotte, MI 48813.

GEARING UP FOR 2003!

We have big plans for MHA in 2003. We'll be further promoting and developing our Awards Program. We'll be reviewing the plans for the 2003 United Classic for ways to expand opportunities for Morabs and add more variety and fun to our classes. Our Youth Program is under review for further development, including the creation of a Youth Awards Program. We'll be expanding our advertising and promotional activities. We're adding monthly Updates to keep members informed and involved. We'll be spotlighting current members and introducing new members in each issue of The Morab Horse. Each month we'll introduce you to a board member in the monthly Update starting in January 2003. We're working to expand our breeders network program. We'll be focusing some effort on our regional club development and assistance. It's going to be a great year for MHA, and we thank you for sharing it with us.