



MHA UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2003

Board of Directors

Laura Martin – President
Jenee Nelson – Vice President
Michelle Blievernicht – Executive Vice President
Heidi Silva – Regional Executive Officer
Sandy Gorman
Andy Juricic
Barb Dunlap
Joelle Surman

Marcia Weld – Executive Director, Secretary & Treasurer

Contact Information

Registration – registrar@morabs.com
Membership – membership@morabs.com
Sales Listing – saleslist@morabs.com
Awards Program – awardsprogram@morabs.com
Breeder's Network – breeders@morabs.com
Business Office – businessoffice@morabs.com
Board of Directors – questions@morabs.com
National Show – unitedclassic@morabs.com
Morab Horse – morabmagazine@morabs.com
Advertising – morabmagazine@morabs.com
Youth Program – youth@morabs.com
All Other Inquiries – inquiries@morabs.com

NEW FROM MHA

MHA Awards Program – The new MHA Annual and Lifetime Awards Programs is up and running. All information and forms are now available on the morabs.com website and by contacting the Awards Program Coordinator, Andy Juricic, at awardsprogram@morabs.com. Any questions should be directed to the Awards Program Coordinator.

New Show Standards – Show standards have been drafted for the following additional MHA Morab classes: Hunter Hack, Trail, In-Hand Trail, Western Riding, and several combination classes. The standards for these classes are in the final stages of revision and approval and will be available shortly on the morabs.com website or by contacting lmartin@morabs.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE***** The location of the MHA Board of Directors meeting on March 15-16, 2003, has been changed. Instead of being held at the MHA business office, the meeting will be held in a conference room at the Super 8 Motel, 828 East Shepard, Charlotte, MI. Anyone wishing to attend can call the Motel at (517) 543-8288 for directions.

Executive Director Needed – MHA's current Executive Director, Marcia Weld, has given the Board of Directors notice of her resignation, effective March 15, 2003. The board would like to take this opportunity to thank Marcia for her hard work. Anyone who may be interested in serving as MHA's Executive Director, please contact Laura Martin at lmartin@morabs.com or (937) 787-9783.

Membership Directory – MHA is planning on publishing a membership directory for 2003. If you do not want your contact information included in the directory, please notify the MHA office at membership@morabs.com.

Nationals Classes – The United Classic Show Committee is currently working on developing a class list for the 2003 United Classic Morab National Championship Show and Futurity that will include additional Morgan and Morab classes. If anyone has ideas for additional classes or any other changes to the class list, please forward those ideas to unitedclassic@morabs.com.

AERC Special – MHA has placed an ad in the next AERC magazine announcing the new AERC MHA Morab End-of-Year High-Point Award. MHA is also offering all AERC a special including membership for 2003, participation in the awards program for 2003 and registration of one eligible Morab for \$60. We hope that the advertising, the new award and the special offer will induce more endurance riders to register their Morabs and become active members of MHA.

Restructuring the Board of Directors – The Board of Directors is currently working with Ms. Anne Chestney Mudd, Esq. on various options for restructuring the BOD in compliance with IL ST CH 805 Section 105/108.10(b). Section 108.10(b) states: “The bylaws may establish a variable range for the size of the board by prescribing a minimum and maximum (which may not be less than 3 or exceed the minimum by more than 5) number of directors. If a variable range is established, unless the bylaws otherwise provide, the number of directors may be fixed or changed from time to time, within the minimum and maximum, by the directors without further amendment to the bylaws.” The restructuring options will be submitted to the members to rank in the order of preference.

California Equine Affair – Lona and Laura Smith represented MHA at the California Equine Affair. They set up and ran the MHA booth, organized a demonstration, passed out membership and registration information, and answered questions. Lona reported that the booth generated a lot of interest in Morabs and MHA. Kathy Santos two-year-old Morab gelding, “Dash”, was there to represent the Morab breed. A big thank-you to you all!!!

United Classic Prize List – Candy Hirsch generously offered to redo the prize list and entry forms for the 2003 United Classic. Thanks a million Candy for taking on this project!!

Farm Tour Sites – The Farm Tour Sites on the MHA website are being updated. If your farm has its own website, please contact Jenee Nelson at jnelson@morab.com so a link to your farm site can be posted. The webmaster is working on a proposal for constructing sites for those farms that do not have one. If you do not have or want your own farm website, MHA will post a picture with your farm name and email address or other contact information. Contact Jenee Nelson for more information.

Partbred Morab Registry – Last month, it was announced that MHA’s Articles of Incorporation require us to maintain a registry with both purebred and appendix/partbred Morab divisions. Because of this, as indicated, we will need to either establish an appendix/partbred registry or amend the Articles of Incorporation. The Board of Directors is still awaiting membership input on this important issue. Please submit any comments to the board at questions@morabs.com.

NEW POLICIES

Ballot Envelopes – Please do not mail any materials to the MHA business office in envelopes marked “Ballot”, except ballots. During this last director election, several members mailed membership applications and merchandise orders in these envelopes. MHA was delayed in processing those requests because envelopes marked “Ballot” are not opened until after the last day that ballots may be submitted. We hope that this reminder will prevent similar delays in the future.

COMING EVENTS

Oregon Show – The Morgan Festival Show, a Class A show to be held in Salem, Oregon on June 6-8, will offer part-Morgan classes this year. These classes will be open to part-Morgans with any percentage of Morgan blood. For more information, contact Margo Mossburg at (509) 838-3820.

Iowa Shows – The Spring Get Together, an unrated Morgan show held in Mason City, Iowa on May 10th and 11th, is adding Morab/Part-Moargan classes. Classes offered for Morabs/Part-Morgans will include Mare Halter, Gelding Halter, Stallion Halter, Western Pleasure, English Pleasure and Hunter Pleasure, and many open classes. Each day is a separate show with a different judge. For more information, please contact Candy Hirsch at (563) 237-5779.

Iowa Show – Morab classes will also be offered at the Heartland Extravaganza Class A Morgan show in Mason City, Iowa, June 20-22, 2003. Morab/Part Morgan Mare Halter, Stallion Halter, Gelding Halter, Western Pleasure, English Pleasure, and Hunter Pleasure classes will be offered, in addition to many open classes. For more information, please contact Candy Hirsch at (563) 237-5779.

Liberty Classic Show – The 2003 Liberty Classic and MHA Regional Championship Show will be held on July 5-6 in Harriman, TN. The Liberty Classic will offer Morab, Arabian, Morgan and Open classes. For more information, please contact Mary Lou Wells at (865) 376-7600.

Great Lakes Regional Show – The 2003 Great Lakes Regional Morab Show will be held on July 26-27 in Custer, WI. The Great Lakes Show offers Morab, Arabian, Morgan and Open classes. For more information, please contact Carrie Boldig at (715) 659-2548.

Midwest Horse Fair – The Great Lakes Morab Club will be representing MHA at the Midwest Horse Fair, April 11-13, 2003, Madison, WI.

Minnesota Horse Expo – The Great Lakes Morab Club will be representing MHA at the Minnesota Horse Expo, April 25-27, 2003, St. Paul, MN.

Board of Director Meeting – The MHA Board of Directors will hold its first quarterly meeting on March 15-16 at the Super 8 Motel in Charlotte, Michigan. If you would like to address the board or have any issues that you would like the board to consider, please contact Laura Martin at lmartin@morabs.com.

If you have any information regarding upcoming events for MHA Morabs or members, please forward that information to lmartin@morabs.com for inclusion in the next MHA Update.

CLUB NEWS

Great Lakes Morab Club – The Great Lakes Morab Club has picked the horses to be in the MHA demo at the Midwest Horse Fair and is working on the demonstration format and presentation.

Michigan Morab Club – no report this month

Great Western States Morab Club – The Great Western States Morab Club has published its first newsletter and is seeking submissions for subsequent newsletters. Anyone who has information, news, stories or articles to share should contact Heidi Silva or Andy Juricic directly.

SouthEast Morab Club – The SouthEast Morab Club has plans for the 2003 Liberty Classic Horse Show well underway and is currently working on a final class list for the show.

If you have information regarding MHA Club activities that you would like to include in the next MHA Update, please forward that information to lmartin@morabs.com.

REMINDERS

Membership – If you have not yet renewed your MHA membership for 2003, let this serve as a reminder to do so if you wish to continue receiving MHA information and services.

Nationals Pictures – If you would like to order pictures from the 2002 United Classic Morab National Championship Show and Futurity, please do so as soon as possible. In coming months, the photographer will be removing these pictures from his website to make room for 2003 shows. Pictures from the United Classic may be viewed and ordered at wriighthorsephotography.com.

Farm Tour Sites – Many of the farm tour sites listed on the morabs.com website are outdated. To assist us in updating this information, please contact Jenee Nelson at jnelson@morabs.com if you currently have, or would like to have a link to your farm tour site on the morabs.com website. Reminder: you must be a current MHA member to have a farm tour site.

CURRENT TASKS

The Board of Directors is currently working on the following tasks:

- Revising and updating the morabs.com website
- Hiring officials for the United Classic Morab National Championship Show and Futurity
- Drafting and approving show standards for several new morab classes
- Completing IRS tax filings and determining filing status eligibility
- Revising and updating the MHA Youth Program
- Revising the MHA by-laws, including restructuring the Board of Directors
- Completing 2002 MHA and United Classic Financial Reports
- Establishing Commissions to encourage more membership input and involvement
- Increasing regional advertising and membership recruiting in the Western regions
- Creating a corporate sponsorship program
- Creating a format for and publishing the Morab Horse magazine
- Organizing a Registry Commission to review and revise Register rules and regulations

FINANCIAL REPORT – We apologize that the 2002 MHA and United Classic financial reports are not yet complete. The Treasurer is in the process of finalizing the financial reports and that information will be include in a MHA Update as soon as available.

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Annual Revision - The Board of Directors will be creating new, amending existing, and appointing members to serve on all MHA Committees and Commissions at the Board of Director meeting in March. If you are interested in serving on a committee or commission related to the following or other areas, please contact Laura Martin at lmartin@morabs.com.

- Membership
- Fund Raising
- Horse Fairs
- Advertising and Promotion
- Youth
- National Show
- The Morab Horse
- Ethics
- Regional and State Clubs and Development
- Breeder's Network
- Futurity
- Registration

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

SEEKING INFO AND STORIES ABOUT MHA MORABS: If you would like to have show results, foal announcements, stories, accomplishments or anything else of interest published in the next MHA Update, please submit them to lmartin@morabs.com.

CONTACTING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Members are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors with any questions, concerns or ideas regarding any matter of MHA business, regulation or policy. All communications will go directly to Laura Martin, President of MHA, and will be forwarded to the entire Board of Directors, unless a member requests anonymity or confidentiality. All inquiries will be responded to individually. If several members have a similar question or concern, or the board feels that the inquiry is particularly relevant to all members, a statement from the board will be posted on the News page at morabs.com and printed in the next MHA Update. Any complaints, concerns or suggestions for improvements should also be directed to questions@morabs.com.