



# NASS NEWS



North American Shagya-Arabian Society

Spring 2021

*Dear NASS Members:*

*I hope everyone and their beautiful Shagyas are doing well.*

*This July is our NASS elections. Up are the directors for the Northwest, Southwest and Midwest regions. Nominations were due by June 9. Be watching for the voting ballots soon by email or USPS and be sure and send yours in.*

*Candace Phillips has been working on the new Bravo Award program and we are pleased to honor our first recipient in this issue: Minnetta King, an extraordinary lady, for her contributions to the Shagya-Arabian breed. We hope to recognize someone in each newsletter, so don't hesitate to contact Candace with your nomination. The award recognizes significant achievement outside of the customary NASS Performance Awards and any NASS registered pure- or part bred horse or member is eligible.*

*I know many are thinking of breeding this year, check out available stallions on the NASS website. There are many beauties to choose from.*

*Warmest Regards,  
Joan Clark, President*

## Journeys

### From Myth to Reality: My Path to the Shagya-Arabian

By Summer Martell, NW Region



Shagya-Arabians had been in my consciousness for years, but having never before met one, they took on the somewhat mythical quality of something that exists, but not tangibly so. Like the pyramids, I knew they were out there, but I had yet to lay my eyes on one in the flesh. I remember clearly the day I first heard of the Shagya horse. I was visiting my aunt over our shared pasture fence while we did our morning barn chores, talking about my new Quarab gelding. I told her how I appreciated the fact that his QH half contributed to his size and substance, while his Arabian half was expressed with his elegance, fire, and soulfulness. I lamented the current dilution of and loss of the dense bone and substance that many of the US foundational Arabians had early in the 1900s. That's when my aunt asked me if I'd ever heard of the Shagya-Arabian horse. I hadn't.  
*(Continued on next page)*

## From Myth to Reality — continued from page 1

She told me of a woman named Adele in Montana who had acquired a Shagya-Arabian stallion previously owned by a Hungarian countess. The countess's will stipulated her horses were to be euthanized at her death. Despite this, with connections and timing, Adele saved the stallion *Hungarian Bravo* to begin her own Shagya-Arabian breeding program. My aunt shared that Shagyas were originally bred in Hungary and are commonly more solid, thicker, and taller than Arabs, and that they are extremely athletic with friendly, quiet demeanors. I was intrigued, not only with the breed, but with the fascinating story surrounding two dynamic women, and a beautiful stallion saved at the 11th hour. The seemingly innocuous fact that the story was set in the western expanses of untamed Montana was a twist that made me extra giddy.

So the Shagya-Arabian remained in my mind for years, a mythical horse existing only in glossy internet photos, framed by an almost unbelievable female-centric story. One day, I declared to aunt, I'll have a Shagya-Arabian mare. Life went on, and my Quarab gelding, *Tankha* and I forged a bond of trust, respect, and enjoyment through our adventures. I was the only person to ever sit on his back, and he never ceased to humble me when he offered it. He carried me proudly as if I were his queen, and I considered his back to be the Seat of Honor.

Last Christmas morning the vet eased *Tankha's* transition, freeing him from an incurable disease. He slipped away with my voice in his ear, urging him on, telling him what a good boy he was. His body was sniffed by the dogs, and *Pumpkin*, the mare he'd shared his life and pasture with for ten years. Then he was placed in a grave on the western fence line, where the morning sun settles first.

We all grieved in our own ways; *Pumpkin* stood at his grave for hours, head lowered, the dogs were somber, and I cried and slept. I cried in the shower, at the store, and over my pork chops. I could barely function. When I wasn't crying or numb, I raved at the random injustice and resented anyone who rode their horses by my house. I was angry that despite my taking diligent care of my horse, he died while

others much less tended were alive. I bawled in my car as I passed trails, mountains, and beaches we had explored together. Turning on the radio was impossible; every sad song was about us. I emphatically said I would not get another horse anytime soon. I had *Pumpkin* and she had my aunt's geldings across the fence for company. I was too depleted, too grief stricken for another horse. I needed to hide under the porch and lick my wounds.

Distraction is a great coping mechanism, and the internet was the perfect place to take my mind off my sad heart. On a gray winter morning when I was on the couch in my pajamas drinking coffee, I found myself on the Dreamhorse website, idly searching for Shagya-Arabians. I was astonished that only one was listed. A gelding. I broadened my search and wound up on shagya.net where five were listed. One was a tidy bay, a part Shagya-Arabian mare. I told myself I was just kicking tires, but when I received a response to my email, my heart woke up. Maybe this was the horse I'd conjured up when boldly announcing I'd have a Shagya mare one day. My head said, "Whoa, you're being irrational; you don't want another horse now, remember?" Heart: "There's no timeline on orders with the universe." Head: "Now you're grasping." Heart: "You'll always regret it if you don't go see..." Head: "You have a point."

The next morning I announced to my husband I was flying to Minneapolis to meet a horse I'd found on the internet. He smiled and said, "That's good honey, you're spontaneous." And while I was delighted at his positive response, and I was also concerned no one was pumping the brakes as I chased an impulse while still deep in grief.

The light was fading fast over the snowy countryside as I pulled into a tidy farm with a big barn and white fence rails. *CHF Locamotion* (\**Hadban USA x Granny's Scarlet*) was in a stall with a cozy blanket; her owner Erin Rapp put a lead rope on and brought her into the breezeway. She



was a pretty little thing, about 15 hands, bay with a faint star, dark eyes and a beautiful coat. She had barefoot black hooves and substantial bone. But there was no spark, no connection. She was quiet, wondering what we wanted, and because she was tied, couldn't turn her head to look at me, though she tried. I knew when I felt surprised at our lack of connection that I'd had "expectations". I made plans to return the next morning to see her one more time before leaving. In my hotel room I resigned myself to the possibility that unless we had chemistry the next day, I was pulling the plug. I questioned the impulse that had propelled me across the country to meet a random horse. My confidence wavered.



It was snowing when I arrived to see *Loca* again, and I went into the barn alone. She was in her stall looking expectantly at me. "Good morning," I said through tears. "I'm so sad, and I don't know what I'm doing." I slipped into her stall and she was quiet, tentative with a stranger. But she willingly followed me and I led her so just our heads were outside, snow landing softly on both of us. We stood next to one another and I said, "I'm a mess, I'm sad, and you have to decide. Do you want to come live with me? I will take good care of you, and we will have

so much fun. But it's up to you." *Loca* sighed, her eyes softened, she took a step and lowered her head, and licked her lips. I burst into tears. "Thank you! I'm so happy!" Together we watched the snow stop falling and the clouds dissolve to reveal a blue sky.

She arrived on my birthday and has been a joy from day one. She'd been barely started under saddle, and on trails only twice before I got her. By our twelfth ride together, she had been in the mountains, across bridges, creeks, and up and down narrow, rocky steep trails while my dogs darted in and out of the brush and I ponied *Pumpkin* from her back. She is everything I'd hoped for and so much more. She is friendly and inquisitive, and I never do barn chores alone because she is always at my shoulder. *Loca* loves to go on adventures, and while *Pumpkin* is content to eat her heart out in the pasture, *Loca* reminds me of a dog, looking at me and nickering from the field as if eager to go on her next outing. She is so responsive to voice that it would be easy for me to start considering myself a horse whisperer of sorts, but all of the credit is due to her sensitive and intelligent nature. A born athlete, she is like a flyweight, gathering strength and speed the longer and harder we ride, the exertion fueling her inner fire to go! And she's competitive: if *Pumpkin* comes abreast, *Loca* makes a lemon face and accelerates.

There is no doubt that this little bay Shagya-Arabian mare is my dream adventure partner, and that we will share many miles of joy from sea to sky and everywhere in between. My mythical Shagya-Arabian horse has materialized in reality, living in my pasture and exceeding my wildest dreams. And we are just getting started.





# Bravo Award



## By Adele Furby Rocky Mountain Region

The recipient of the inaugural **Bravo Award** is Minnetta King of Sheridan, Montana. Minnetta was one of the five North American founders of NASS in 1986, along with myself, Carol D. Neubauer, and Trish and Brian Curran. She was an active breeder with her four Arabian mares for 15 years, and she and her husband were gracious hosts for inspections in 1985, 1989, 1991 and 1994. Her breeding program had a profound influence on the establishment of a significant number of breeding and performance horses for NASS.

Minnetta, with her husband George, bred a total of 16 purebred and five part-Shagya-Arabians over a 16-year period, starting the year prior to NASS's founding. Before 1985 she had been breeding purebred Arabians for a number of years and she was motivated to be a part of the development of a performance-oriented Arabian breed in the U.S. She served on the NASS Board of Directors early on, and I remember her saying at one of our first meetings, "I wish I were 20 years younger!" because she was so inspired to contribute to the breed's growth.

*This new award recognizes outstanding participation by NASS members and/or NASS registered pure or part bred horses in endeavors not recognized by the traditional yearly NASS Performance Awards.*

*Examples include (but aren't limited to) achievements in horsemanship, humanitarian acts, breeding or equine management and other noteworthy activities. The Bravo Award will be given up to three times a year, with nominations accepted from any NASS member for another member or horse. The deadline for each period is in conjunction with the NASS News deadline.*

*Contact committee chair Candace Phillips at [bravo@Shagya.net](mailto:bravo@Shagya.net) for more details. The full guidelines can be found at [www.shagya.net](http://www.shagya.net).*



**Dolly's Echo**



**May Folly**



**Magic Shadow**



Minnetta's three foundation purebred Arabian mares which were all products of her breeding program, were the two full sisters *May Folly* and *Dolly's Echo*, both by *\*Fol Yasmeeen* and out of *May-Daala*, and the *\*Ramses Fayek* daughter *Magic Shadow* out of the *\*Tuhutmos* daughter *My Egyptian Magic*. These three mares were all approved for purebred Shagya-Arabian breeding by the ISG after being inspected by German ISG inspector Claudio Conradty in 1985.



*Frida AA*



*Sjonja AA*

In 1986 Minnetta's first two purebred Shagya-Arabian foals were born—both by *Hungarian Bravo*—the grey fillies *Frida AA*, out of *May Folly*, who I had on lease, and *Sjonja AA*, out of *Magic Shadow*. Both daughters were subsequently approved for breeding. *Frida* produced one Shagya-Arabian colt by *\*Oman*, *Freedom AF*, and one colt by *\*Shandor*, *Focus AF*. *Focus* became an approved breeding stallion. *Sjonja* had 11 foals—*O'Shaunassey*, (*\*Oman*), *Sonata PFF* (*\*Shandor*), *Sarvar PFF* (*\*Shandor*), *Somos PFF* (*\*Oman*), *Summer PFF* (*Sarvar*), *Odin PFF* (*\*Oman*), *Brahma PFF* (*Bold Bravo*), *Shalom PFF* (*Almos*), *Atman PFF* (*Almos*), *Salome* (*Almos*), and *Saroya* (*Almos*). *Sarvar*, *Somos*, *Odin*, and *Atman* all became approved breeding stallions.



*Freedom AF*



*Focus AF*





**Sheridan Shadow**

In 1987 *Magic Shadow* and *May Folly* produced sons by *Bravo*—*Sheridan Shadow*, and *Fol Fable*, and *Dolly's Echo* produced the prolific *Echo Daal*, (featured in a recent *NASS News* article), dam of: *Echoman* (\**Oman*), *Emilagra* (\**Shandor*), *Empress Ester AF* (\**Shandor*), *Empress Eva AF* (\**Shandor*), *Estelle AF* (\**Shandor*), *Emperor Erik AF* (\**Shandor*), *Shagya Emir AF* (*Shagya Scherzo AF*), *Early Star AF* (*Starwalker*), and *Echo's Eroica AF* (*Shagya Royal AF*). The stallions *Emperor Eric* and *Early Star* were both approved for breeding.



**Fol Fable**

In 1988 *Dolly's Echo* produced the big grey *Bravo* son, *Ell Bravo*, and *Magic Shadow* had the bay filly *Shomani*, by \**Oman*. *Shomani* was chosen by Gertrude von Fedak's son Sandor to become a broodmare for Gertrude in Venezuela, along with the stallion prospect *Bravado* (*Bravo* x \**Biala*) and the filly *Omani* (\**Oman* x *TPR Shatana ox*) both from my breeding program. Ultimately *Shomani* was not exported with the other two youngsters due to a quarantine requirement. Instead she was sold



**Ell Bravo**

to California where she produced three Shagya-Arabian foals—*Samson* (*Bold Bravo*), *Shomani's Moonlight Serenade* (\**Budapest AF*), and *Serafina* (\**Budapest AF*).



**Shomani (Photo courtesy Elizabeth Furrer)**



**Shoman**

Two foals were born at Minnetta and George's in 1989, the colt *Shoman*, by \**Oman* out of *Magic Shadow*, and *Echozalla*, a bay filly by \**Oman* out of *Dolly's Echo*. In 1990 only one colt was born at Minnetta's, the big bay *Ell Daaldan*, brother to *Echozalla*. *Magic Shadow* had been sold to Illinois in foal to \**Shandor* and produced the grey colt *Wineglass Schimmel*.



**Echozalla**

Minnetta had also sold *May Folly* to Paul and Marty Morgan in foal to \**Oman* in 1988, where she produced the bay filly *Fantasy* in 1989, and the grey filly *Felicity*, also by \**Oman*, the following year. *Fantasy* subsequently had two Shagya-Arabian foals for the Morgans — the colt *SH Maestro* and the filly *SH Frolic*, both by the Morgan's stallion *Shagya Scherzo AF* (\**Shandor* x \**Aminah*).





**Ell Daaldan**



**Felicity**



**Erika**



**Shagya Eagle**

*Felicity* was sold to Pat Burge and Dick Vessel in Colorado where she had two offspring, the filly *Shadrone* by a TB stallion and the colt *Fadar* by a QH stallion. Around the same time Minetta sold *Echozalla* to Gwyn Davis in Indiana, where she produced two purebred foals: the colt *Erros* by *Marton* (*Shagya Sun x Blue Mist*) and the filly *Zenna* by *Shagya Sun* (\**Shandor x Aminah*).

Meanwhile, Minetta continued breeding her favorite mare, *Dolly's Echo*. *Echo* was her riding mare, and also, every year when George went hunting he would pack out his elk on *Echo*!

In 1991 *Dolly's Echo* had another bay filly, the mare *Erika*. *Erika* was approved for breeding in 1994 in Colorado but NASS has no recorded offspring listed. In 1994 *Echo* produced NASS's one-hundredth registered purebred Shagya-Arabian, the big gelding by \**Shandor*, *Shagya Eagle*. *Dolly's Echo's* final foal was the colt appropriately named *Echo's Eclipse*, also by \**Shandor*.

Minnetta also produced five part-Shagya-Arabians from a purebred Arabian daughter of *May Folly*, the chestnut mare *Daala Mirage* AHRA #334094, who was a filly by her dam *May Folly's* side when I leased *Folly* in 1985. *Mirage's* sire was a stallion bred by Minnetta named *Shams Magic*, by the \**Asadd* son *Ramses Es Shams* and out of *My Egyptian Magic*. *Magic* was Minnetta's bay \**Tuhotmos* daughter, and also the dam of *Magic Shadow*.

I actually leased *My Egyptian Magic* from Minnetta at the same time I leased *May Folly* because I loved \**Tuhotmos* and thought *Magic* would be good for Shagya-Arabian breeding. Unfortunately she developed uterine tumors and could not have any more foals.

But her granddaughter *Daala Mirage* produced four fine colts: *Merlin Magic*, by \**Oman*, *Sir Magic*, also by \**Oman*, *Big Sky Mirage*, by \**Shandor*, and *Dan Patch Mirage*, by \**Oman*, and one filly, *Shandor's Charisma*. *Charisma* had one recorded filly foal, the *Janos* daughter *Carmen Daal*.



**Merlin Magic**





*Big Sky Mirage*

What a legacy! Sixteen purebred Shagya-Arabians and five part-Shagya-Arabians. And a huge contribution to the growth and development of purebred Shagya-Arabian breeding in North America. The NASS-registered purebred Shagya-Arabian grand-offspring of Minnetta's mares number 31. And some of these have gone on to produce more Shagya-Arabians themselves.



*Adele and Minnetta*



*Shandor's Charisma with George King*

Minnetta lost her husband and breeding partner George several years ago. She sold her ranch outside Sheridan, Montana and built a beautiful home nearby. Recently she reported that now that she is over 90 years old, she is considering moving into the nearby assisted living facility. She continues to enjoy hearing from friends and has contacted NASS several times recently to report how much she enjoys reading *NASS News*. We owe Minnetta a big debt of gratitude for her early contributions to North American Shagya-Arabian breeding.

### **In Memoriam Jaguar (Janos x MJL Shaleez) 2003- 2021**



*“Here’s to all the school horses,  
the ones that taught you to ride,  
the ones with endless patience.  
And that one horse you loved,  
that one that was never yours,  
but continues to gnaw away at  
your heart.” — Author Unknown*





# Farm News

## Sterling Shagya Sporthorses, SW Region

“We are thrilled with the birth of our Trakehner colt out of our Shagya-Arabian mare, *Nicolatina Star AF*. *Tina* is approved for Trakehner breeding and we bred her to the Trakehner dressage stallion, *Martini\*Pg\*E\**, who has Shagya bloodlines in his pedigree through *Lapis*. *Martini* won the team silver medal at the Olympic Sports Festival with his owner and was first or second on the USDF Leading Sire List from 1994 to 2001. The colt, *Nebbiolo SH*, (pictured top right) was sold in-utero. He’s incredibly athletic and has lovely movement. *Tina* will be bred back to another Trakehner stallion, *Songline II \*Ps\**, for a 2022 foal.

“We have acquired one of our previous foals, *Nairobi Silver SH* (*Sterling Silver AF x Nicolatina Star AF*, pictured middle right), who will be joining our broodmare herd. I’ll hopefully be getting her out on the trails as well as maybe work on doing some dressage.

“I had fun doing a 4 day ground work clinic with my 5 yr old homebred, *Bajara Silver SH* (*Sterling Silver AF x Brook PFF*, pictured bottom right). She’s doing well under saddle, I just need to get hours on her.” — Shelley Child

**Midwest Region member Gabrielle Gordon writes, “Training never ends. GG Griffin searching for the large horse eating golf umbrella that terrified a few days ago.**

**“GG Griffin is a registered NASS partbred Shagya by the licensed French purebred Shagya Arabian stallion (SCID free) [sic] out of purebred Cleveland Bay mare Foxhollow Seashell.”**



What are we missing?  
**YOUR farm photos and news.**

Next NASS News deadline  
**October 1, 2021.**

Submissions to  
[NASS\\_Newsletter\\_Editor@shagya.net](mailto:NASS_Newsletter_Editor@shagya.net)

## Farm News continued

### Northeast Shagyas, Eastern Region



*Stardancer (Starwalker x \*Szikra by Saphiro) nearly fits into her maternity blanket.*

“Spring finally reached us here in the Northeast and we are really enjoying the green mountains after what felt like a really long and cold winter. I am looking forward to getting back out to some rides and clinics this season with my mares and showing the youngsters in hand.

“I’d love to have a one or a few informal Northeast Region Shagya-Arabian get togethers either at my farm (where we have access to 300 acres with bridle paths) or over the mountain at a GMHA, VERDA or ECTRA ride? So, if you’re up for that and probably some good laughs, send me an email at [NortheastShagyas@gmail.com](mailto:NortheastShagyas@gmail.com).

“Hope those of you in the Northwest and Southeast will attend either of the two Shagya-Arabian Distance Championships scheduled in your regions. Looking forward to seeing everyone and their foals and horses soon. Topolčianky 2021!” — Hallie Goetz



*Neddora SHG (Neddor x \*Lutka-62 by Lumbusch) back in training after her winter off.*



NATIONAL STUD FARM TOPOĽČIANKY

1921 – 2021



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Stud Farm "Topolčianky" š. p. This important anniversary is planned to be commemorated by a solemn event from 1st Sept. to 4th Sept. 2021 with the following program:

1st Sept. 2021 (Wednesday) at 2 p.m.  
Horse races for the jubilee of the National Stud Farm  
"Great Topolčianska Steeplechase"

2nd Sept. 2021 (Thursday) at 10 a.m.  
International Breeding Championship of Lipican, Shagya-Arab, Hucul Horse and Arabian Thoroughbred

3rd Sept. 2021 (Friday) at 10 a.m.  
International Breeding Championship of Lipican, Shagya-Arab, Hucul Horse and Arabian Thoroughbred

4th Sept. 2021 (Saturday) at 2 p.m.  
Festive Gala Programme

4th Sept. 2021 (Saturday) at 5 p.m.  
Cultural Programme

We believe that the pandemic situation in connection with COVID-19 will be favourable and we will be able to warmly welcome all those interested in the planned program on 1 - 4 September 2021 in Topolčianky.

More information soon on the website of the National Stud Farm:  
[www.nztopolcianky.sk](http://www.nztopolcianky.sk)



## Birthday Greetings from Quebec



Happy birthday to *MJL Shaleez* (\**Shandor* x *Curundu Tarah ox*). Owner Martina Bastian writes that she “is 23 now, still in great health, a happy godmother to our two sheep Pippa and Pioui, and a great and close friend to us humans and our dog Lilly.

“I am so grateful that she is healthy and I can still ride her. She loves to be close to us when we are working outside, or watching us through the window as her pasture is close to the house. It took several weeks before the bonding between *Shaleez* and the two young sheep happened, but now they have fun together. (My first horse *Suroor* had a goat as companion before having her first foal, and she too was often free around the house.) When *Shaleez* gallops around her field, the sheep always run by her side; she seems to be their protector and looks out for them. It's fun to see.

“What a great mare, she connects so well with everyone. I hope *Shaleez* will stay with us for several years.”



Editor's note: *Shaleez* was bred by Melody Link in Texas and was purchased as a two-year-old by Adele Furby for her breeding program. She had three foals by *Janos* (*Salem* x *Bashira*): *Jaguar*, *Obsidian AF*, and the stallion *Onyx AF*. Her last foal, *Shandor's Shadow*, was by *Shagya Royal AF* (\**Shandor* x *Rachelle AA*).



*Shaleez and Shandor's Shadow*

## Exciting Opportunities for Shagya-Arabians at International Dressage Competition

*Dressage at Devon* is one of the most prestigious dressage competitions in the country, as well as the largest open breed show in the world. The resumption of the show this fall, September 28 - October 3, 2021 in Devon PA, offers Shagya-Arabian owners several opportunities to take part by either participating at the show or helping to sponsor an in-hand Shagya-Arabian breed class.

There are numerous under saddle classes for all breeds including 3 year old mares, 3 year old stallions and geldings, 4 year old and over classes, and junior exhibitor classes.

Total sponsorship of the Shagya-Arabian in-hand class is \$500, \$200 of which had already been contributed at press time by NASS members toward the final goal.



**2019 Dressage at Devon competitors Adrienne Morella and KB Royal Samurai (Shagya Royal AF x Samantha)**  
(Photo courtesy Conklin Photographic)

Eastern Region NASS member Adrienne Morella, who competed in 2019 and is hoping to compete again this year, is heading the effort to facilitate the class and encourages all Shagya enthusiasts to contact her with questions or sponsorship contributions. She can be reached at (610) 715-3001 or amorella77@yahoo.com.

## Nearly \$200,000 to be Awarded at Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships

The United States Dressage Federation™ (USDF) and Great American Insurance Group are pleased to announce that prize money totaling nearly \$200,000 will be awarded at the 2021 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championships. This money will be divided evenly among the nine regions and 35 divisions that are offered, allowing each region to present competitors with over \$22,000 in prize money and awards. Prize money will be awarded to champions and reserve champions in each region and division. Champions will also receive an embroidered vest provided by SmartPak, official supplement feeding system of USDF, and an embroidered blanket storage bag provided by USDF. In addition, reserve champions will receive a saddle pad provided by the Great American Insurance Group, title sponsor.

NASS is sponsoring a Distance National Championship ride to be held in conjunction with the **Mary and Anna Memorial Endurance Ride** in La Pine OR in August 2021. Shagya-Arabian bred horses that are registered with NASS, PShR, and/or ASAV are welcome to participate. There is no registry membership requirement for the rider.

For details, contact Jamie Hughes at [NorthwestRD@Shagya.net](mailto:NorthwestRD@Shagya.net)

Entry form at: <https://form.jotform.com/>

*A few copies of the 2021 NASS calendar are still available and can be ordered through Beverly Thompson at 2345 S. Washington Road, Columbia City, IN 46725 \$20 payable by check or to the NASS PayPal account.*