



NASS NEWS



North American Shagya-Arabian Society

Fall 2022

Journeys

To Yosemite and Beyond
By Rachel Miura, SW Region



Heading up Lyell Canyon, Potter Point is the peak on the right

On July 1, *Theodore the Wonder Horse* (Bold Bravo AF x Nadeja ox) and I took a fun and scenic loop in the Yosemite high country! We spent the night before in Groveland, then left early the day of the ride to drive two hours to Tuolumne Meadows. The National Park Service is doing extensive road work, so in addition to the two hours of driving we also had construction delays of 45 minutes. We parked in the Dog Lake lot, which had a few pull-through spots still available by the time we arrived. One of my biggest concerns was finding parking given that it's summer, and construction has closed many parking areas. For that reason we went on a weekday

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and started out extra early, arriving about 7:30AM.

We headed up Lyell Canyon on the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail, which is relatively flat and sandy and parallels the Tuolumne River. Sometimes this area can be muddy well into the summer, but given our dry winter that was not the case this year. After a few miles we headed toward Ireland Lake and the trail climbed via switch backs (from about 8,900' to about 10,600'). Fortunately most of the climb was shaded by conifers, and there were lots of small creeks to cross so there was plenty of water.

We then spent a few miles traversing high alpine basins, each with their own lake. At this point we were near the tree line, sometimes traversing stretches of exposed granite. We just went extra slow and *Theo* did fine. This section of the ride had the best views of many peaks in all directions! After the basins we started to descend, passing the Vogelsang High Sierra Camp. The camps are closed this year, so there were very few people on the trail. Yosemite also doesn't get a lot of horses, so everyone we did see was excited to see us, including the rangers!

Yosemite — continued from page 1



*Theo enjoying a snack break with
Vogelsang in the background*

The last few miles from Vogelsang back to the trailhead were gentle single track punctuated by granite steps. All told the loop was just under 20 miles, and had 13,270' of total elevation change. We only walked, so the total ride time was about seven hours. We also stopped every hour or so for *Theo* to munch on the copious meadow grass, so that added another 2 1/2 hours to the day. It was nice to have easy access to water and grass for most of the ride and *Theo* really enjoyed that aspect! One thing he did not enjoy were the insects - there were really bad mosquitoes and horse flies. Next time I plan to ride with *Theo* in a fly mask and bring fly spray.

The ride was so scenic and relaxing - one of the best days out I've ever had! I can't wait to go back next summer and do the loop in reverse to get a whole new perspective!

But that was just the start of *Theo's* busy summer. My 11-year old daughter Brynn rode him in two local schooling shows in Woodside, CA. and also in her first LD at the "Quicksilver Fall Classic" endurance ride on in San Martin CA. He also completed two 50-mile endurance rides with me.



*Top: Theo and Brynn at Woodside Schooling Show in June
Middle: Theo and Brynn at the Quicksilver Endurance Ride
Bottom: Theo and Rachel at the Cuneo Creek Endurance Ride
(Photo credit: Dream Time Photography)*

— In Memoriam —
NASS Member Arlene Michaud



By Adele Furby, Rocky Mountain Region

Former NASS President, NASS Treasurer, and NASS BOD member Arlene Michaud of Fayetteville TN passed away in early September. She leaves behind her husband Frank, who telephoned to inform me of her passing.

Arlene and Frank were long time Quarter Horse breeders who were introduced to Shagya-Arabians in 2003 when they were living in the Mission Valley of Montana, which was close to the Moiese Valley where my farm was located. Arlene and Frank first partnered with their neighbors Bob and Doris Newton to purchase the young **Shandor son Emperor Erik AF (x Echo Daal)* from me. Frank and Arlene sold their interest in *Erik* soon thereafter, deciding that co-ownership was a bit too complicated, and they then purchased the stallion prospect *Rio Bravo AF (Janos x Rachelle AA)*, who was approved for breeding in 2006. They also subsequently bought the approved stallion **O'Bajan Spirit (Pamino x Gazal XV-5)*, who was imported in utero from Babolna by John Adent.

Later they acquired the mares *Alizabeth Abeyadh (Cosmos Whitner x Alisz Abeyadh)* from Beverly Thompson, *Bravana AA (Hungarian Bravo x TPR Shatana ox)* from Mike and Sharon Foss, and *SW Naomi (*Oman x Tara Nazette ox)* from Valerie Bullock.

Arlene made several important contributions to NASS. Not too long after getting involved with Shagya-Arabians Arlene volunteered to relieve long-serving Treasurer Beverly Grimes, as Arlene had previous experience serving as Treasurer with several equine organizations. She also began serving on the NASS BOD around the same time.

In 2006 NASS was at a point of transition, during which time the NASS BOD responded to a request from a small group of Shagya-Arabian owners who wanted to “reorganize” the NASS. It was a difficult, confusing and contentious time with a number of highly charged and troubling group conference calls. This opposing group attempted to use NASS funds to draw up a new set of bylaws for a separate Shagya-Arabian registry.

Unfortunately, before anybody in NASS understood what was going on, through trickery and downright falsehoods they absconded with over \$2,000 in NASS funds which the NASS BOD inadvertently approved under what turned out to be false pretenses. By this time Arlene and I had become friends, and, with her living nearby, we had occasion to often compare notes about what was going on. When I began to get suspicious I contacted Arlene. She agreed with me that we needed to take some action, and first, that we needed to get some legal advice. I found a corporate attorney in Missoula and Arlene and I went to consult with him, taking the paperwork which this opposing group had created. She and I sat there while the attorney looked over the papers and then announced, "This is how they do it."... "What?", we asked. "This is how they do a hostile takeover. If this goes through, by the end of the year NASS will be no longer."

Arlene and I were completely shocked, not to mention rather embarrassed that we hadn't realized sooner what was going on. The attorney went on to explain what we needed to do in order to prevent the corporate takeover, which included sending a cease and desist letter within 24 hours of our visit. He said that if we did not act immediately all would be lost. Arlene and I left the office in rather a daze over what we had just learned, but then we set about doing what was necessary to save NASS. With the help of other loyal NASS members, we accomplished our goal. I will always be grateful for Arlene's support at that difficult time, when I saw my "baby (NASS)" almost die.

In 2011 Frank and Arlene relocated to Tennessee, and Arlene retired from the Treasurer position after serving in that capacity for over five years. Arlene stayed on as a BOD member until 2014. In 2015 President Jamie Buck had to retire as NASS President and Arlene agreed to step in on very short notice. She served as President for over two years until November 2017, when health issues forced her to step down. We have kept in touch since that time with annual letters.

The photo on the previous page brings back fond memories. In 2004, a German Shagya-Arabian breeder, Poldi Wogler and his girlfriend visited America. NASS member Kathy Richkind and I had visited Poldi at his farm in Germany in 2002. Poldi's dad had been a Shagya-Arabian breeder for many years, and Poldi had his stallion *Farid* approved by NASS for breeding via frozen semen. Poldi took many photos and sent me a beautiful set of prints, including the one on the previous page of *SW Naomi*, Frank, Arlene, and me.



Sign Me Up!

Do you love this breed and want to find a way to lend a helping hand? NASS runs smoothly because of the time and dedication of our volunteers, and we can always use more. There are numerous opportunities for you to get involved. Check out www.shagya.net for details.

Currently, we are in need of a NASS News editor to take over the reins of our three-times yearly publication. On the job training will be provided. Please contact Joan Clark at President@Shagya.net, if you are willing to volunteer for this job.

Notes from the 2022 ISG Delegate Conference

Bruno Furrer sent this summary of the events surrounding the ISG delegate meeting in Bern, Switzerland in August. The official minutes have yet to be published, but he includes a summary of some of the agenda items:

The 2020 ISG delegate meeting had been awarded to the Shagya Arabian Society of Switzerland (SAVS). Everything was prepared and invitations sent all over the world. The renowned *Circus Knie* was ready to perform for the meeting when it became clear that the coronavirus would make it necessary to cancel until 2021.

In September 2021 (as part of the 100th anniversary of the Slovakian national stud Topolcianky), an unforgettable event was indeed held, prudently organized by Michal Horný and his team. At that time, the president of the Swiss federation, Gerhard Ernst, invited the delegates to Switzerland to make up for the missed meeting in 2020. Everyone looked forward to the previously postponed horse show of the *Circus Knie*.

The 2022 ISG Delegate Assembly was scheduled for August 13th in Bern because the *Circus Knie* would be there at that time. And it was an ideal location, with everything needed to make the event a success within walking distance.

Horse Exhibition in the Big Tent

On Saturday morning, people met in the tent of the Swiss National *Circus Knie*, eagerly awaiting the unique demonstration of the art of dressage by the renowned animal trainer, Fredy Knie Jr. About 70 guests sat around the ring. The members of the Shagya-Arabian Association of Switzerland were in attendance. After the welcome by host Geri Ernst and the president of the ISG, Ahmed Al Samarraie, Fredy Knie demonstrated the ABCs of basic

training (“thinking like a horse thinks”) with a young horse which his children and grandchildren had given him for his birthday. The decisive question he posited is: “How can the human being express himself so that the horse understands him in such a way that an animal-friendly communication is possible between two unequal temperaments? A relationship that is equally intact for horse and human is characterized by mutual respect. The emphatically gentle handling of the horse is a requirement - the humanization of the horse as a being must, however, be refrained from. The animal trainer must know that every horse is different.”

Knie patiently explained how to win the horse’s trust and successfully communicate with him. On the lunge, with a stable halter and whip (horses like to be stroked with the whip-lash) and the handstick, on the long rein, and with the voice, the horse should gain trust in humans. And food is always there! Finally, a perfect capriole was demonstrated to the applause of the enthusiastic spectators.

Under the commentary of his grandfather Fredy, Ivan Knie then exhibited a group of horses consisting of six young bay purebred Arabians (bred at the Ismer Stud in Ströhen), and six grey Arabians. All were stallions; the grey horses were already seasoned professionals, while the bay boys still needed the full attention of the trainer.

The “Carousel” is one of the most impressive horse acts of *Circus Knie*. Ivan Frédéric had the horses gallop into the ring from the center. The whole group moved “par deux”—in pairs. (Knie commands the horses in French or German. A long drawn out “here”, sounds soothing in contrast to “ici”).



The gray horses were on the right hand and the bays on the left hand, trotting towards each other., the carousel can also be presented with 18, 24 , or 30 horses. When asked if anyone could do that, Fredy Knie Jr. proudly replied, "Yes, our boys."



Interview with Fredy Knie, Tamás Rombauer and Bruno Furrer

On the subject of how *Batan* became the main stallion in Bábolna, Ahmed Al Samarraie interviewed these three, with pictures of the *O'Bajan* stallion line. (See article on the next page.) President Sammarraie spoke at length about Shagya-Arabians in Anglo-Arabian breeding. This was especially important for Shagya Arabian breeding in the East —Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

ISG Delegate Conference

In addition to the agenda items required by the minutes (to which we will refer in the published

minutes), the report of the chairman was of particular interest with the key themes of: "What does the ISG bring us, why do we have to pay dues?" and "Where are we today, where is the Shagya-Arabian breed going?" Also discussed were international breeding guidelines, breed preservation and breeding progress, as well as the increase in breed popularity. Possible topics for the next delegate conference were also discussed by the attendees.

Backstage Tour of the *Circus Knie*

After the meeting, the circus offered participants a backstage tour. A circus employee introduced the interested crowd to the inner secrets of the circus and traveling zoo. We were amazed to learn that Knie sets up his tents in 32 communities throughout Switzerland in the course of a year. After the tour, we were shown to the lunch tent where beautifully prepared tables were waiting.

Circus Performance or Driving Tournament

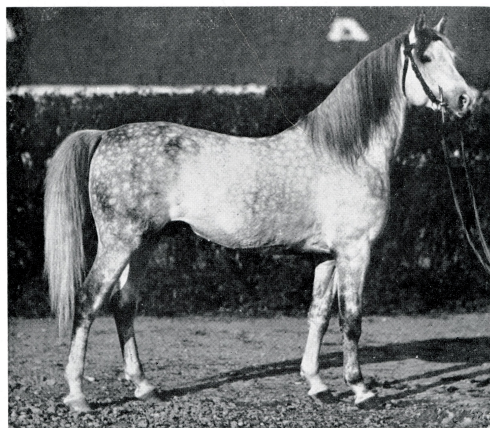
The afternoon was reserved for watching the circus show or alternatively, visiting the Swiss driving championship at the National Horse Center. After the morning's exhibition, many delegates opted for the circus performance, saying, "We have to see more as we've never seen such work with horses before." After, everyone reconvened for dinner in the smithy of the National Horse Center. The smithy is one of the most beautiful in Switzerland, where the blacksmiths still work with the classic forge fire, shoeing horses in the historic shoeing room of the former Federal Military Horse Institute. Around the table, attendees talked about many issues affecting the Shagya -Arabian on an international level. In conclusion, everyone agreed that it was a wonderful event, unique and worthwhile in that the meeting was not held in connection with a show event.

The next ISG delegate meeting is to take place in 2023 in Bábolna, Hungary in conjunction with the ISG European Championship.

The Story of *Badan* and *Batan* — Father and Son



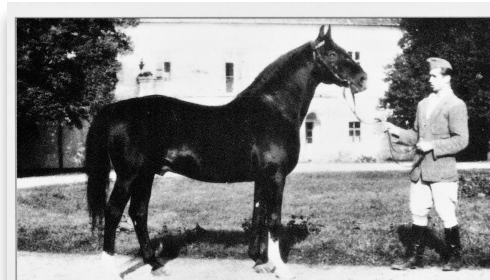
Postage stamp issued in Hungary in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Babolna Stud.



A half-bred Arab Stallion : O'Bajan VII.

Above: O'Bajan VII, 1923 Babolna x 197 Shagya XVIII

Below: O'Bajan X, 1929 Babolna x 36 Shagya XVII



O'Bajan X von O'Bajan VII aus der 36 Shagya XVII. Auffallend ist, daß viele kräftige Hengste zu besonderen Stempelhengsten wurden.

At the ISG Delegate Conference, Bruno Furrer told this story:

My family has lived in Gerlikon, Switzerland for over 50 years; most of you know of this small village of only 300 people because you've often received mail from me from the ISG or the Swiss Shagya Society.

The *Circus Knie* was performing in Frauenfeld, Switzerland when the government passed a law that circus companies had to naturalize in a Swiss municipality. Frauenfeld did not want the Knie family and so it came about that the people of Gerlikon stepped in. Ludwig Knie, his wife and their four underage sons were granted citizenship on St. Stephen's Day 1900. Since then, the Knie family has been citizens of Gerlikon. (Ironically, since the year 2000 Gerlikon has belonged to Frauenfeld.)

The Knie family has been associated with our community for over 120 years, and the municipality has been grateful for their kindness. They set up a fund for needy children in the community, donated a new organ to the 13th century town church, funded the publication of a booklet chronicling the town's history, and built a playground where the children of Gerlikon have been spending their free time ever since.

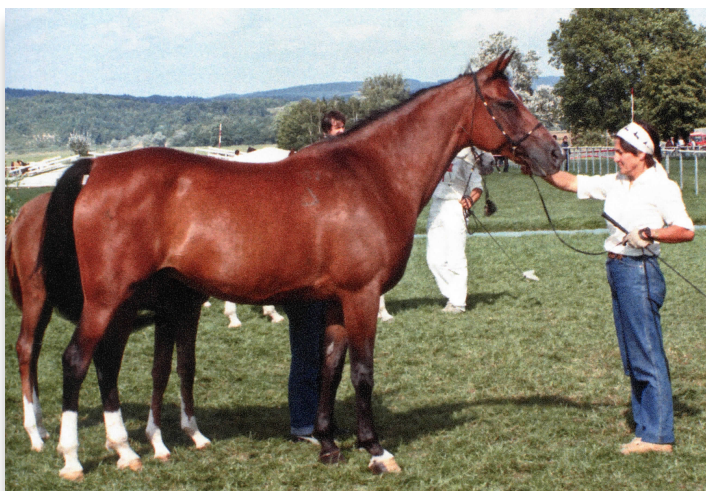
Every year on Easter Saturday morning, my wife and I drove to Winterthur to watch the morning workout of the Knie circus horses.

Fredy Knie Sr. would give commentary and it was an experience we never wanted to miss. His son Fredy Jr. took over this tradition and did just as well. At that time the circus was working a group of

Shagya-Arabians, all either black or white. Around Easter, in 1980 or 81, I approached Fredy Knie Jr. and told him that when these stallions retired, we, the Swiss Arabian Horse organization, would be interested in them. Yes, he said, he would contact me when the time came. Some time later, the call came.



Badan 1959, Bab.(O'Bajan XIII x Siglavy VI-9) in his circus attire



O'Bajan I-17 (O'Bajan I DK x O'Bajan X-1 Bab.) 1971 Barthahus, dam of Batan, with Ursula Rahm in Switzerland

If we were still interested, *Circus Knie* would give us two black stallions. Their brands revealed that *Badan*, as he was called at the circus, was actually *O'Bajan XIII-1*. The second stallion under discussion was a *Siglavy XII* son. This was a stroke of luck since both strains were extinct in Bábolna. The stallions were made ready, but about a week before the transport was to take place, the *Circus Knie* informed us that *Siglavy* had died in the pasture.

After this sad news, we concentrated on preparing *Badan* for the stallion licensing. It took some persuasion with the licensing commission, but that old stallion got his breeding license. *Badan* was transported to the Krähenbühl family in Steffisburg, where a proper breeding station was set up.

When the first mare arrived, it was an *O'Bajan* mare from Denmark; she was in heat and could have been bred. *Badan*, however, did not know his business and so the mare had to go home without conceiving. A second mare ready for covering was brought to Steffisburg. This was a mare named *O'Bajan I-17*, owned by Ursula Rahm. A Czech veterinarian took over the matter, the mare was covered once and she was pregnant! We were elated. When the foal was born, it was a black colt. He was named *Badan*, like his sire at *Circus Knie*, although spelled with a "t". Old *Badan* died a few weeks later in Steffisburg and sadly, *Batan* was his only offspring.

Batan grew up, passed his performance test and became an approved stallion. Among the Shagya-Arabian breeders in Europe, it became known that that there was a real black *O'Bajan* in Switzerland. A commission from the National Stud in Bábolna travelled to Switzerland, where they saw *Batan* and decided they wanted him for the stud. *Batan*, now called *O'Bajan XVIII*, became the main stallion at Bábolna. *Batan* has gone to greener pastures now, but he left behind a legacy of 60 offspring listed in the Swiss database.



Top: Batan, the only son of Badan, 1984, Himmelried, x O'Bajan I-17, who became O'Bajan XVIII, Babolna

Below: Batan's pedigree

O'Bajan XIII-1 [Baden (CH)] 20.02.1959 HU Bábolna SHA Rappe	O'Bajan XII 28.03.1949 HU Bábolna SHA Rappe	O'Bajan X 1929 HU Bábolna SHA dunkelbraun	O'Bajan VII 1923 SHA Schimmel	O'Bajan VI 1908 197 Shagya XVII 1913
		242 Kuhaylan Zaid 1941 HU Bábolna AV dunkelbraun	36 Shagya XVII 1922 SHA dunkelbraun	Shagya XVII (Báb) 1903
			Kuhaylan Zaid 1923 db dunkelbraun	67 Gazal 1912
			26 Kemir 1929 AV dunkelbraun	Kuhaylan Abu Junub Kuhaylan Al Zaydah Sven Hedin 1905 8 Kohelian IV 1923
O'Bajan I-17 10.04.1971 DK Barthahus SHA braun	68 Siglavy VI-9 1942 HU Bábolna SHA Schimmel	29 Siglavy III [Siglavy VI (Báb)] 1922 BA Goraude SHA Fuchs	21 Siglavy II-2 1909 SHA Fuchs	14 Siglavy V-15 1905
		147 O'Bajan VII-8 1934 HU Bábolna SHA Schimmel	108 Luna IV 1918 SHA Fuchs	75 Simtan-O'Bajan 1904
			O'Bajan VII 1923 SHA Schimmel	16 El Harf 1902
			47 Shagya XXII-4 1927 SHA Schimmel	87 Luna I 1910
O'Bajan I-17 10.04.1971 DK Barthahus SHA braun	3856 O'Bajan X-5 [O'Bajan I (DK)] 28.08.1951 HU Bábolna SHA dunkelbraun	O'Bajan X 1929 HU Bábolna SHA dunkelbraun	O'Bajan VII 1923 SHA Schimmel	O'Bajan VI 1908 197 Shagya XVII 1913
		36 Siglavy VI 1945 HU Bábolna SHA braun	270 Shagya XXVI 1938 SHA Schimmel	Shagya XVII (Báb) 1903
			O'Bajan VII 1923 SHA Schimmel	67 Gazal 1912
			29 Siglavy III 1922 SHA Fuchs	21 Siglavy II-2 1909
O'Bajan I-17 10.04.1971 DK Barthahus SHA braun	1601 O'Bajan X-1 [35 O'Bajan X-1 (DK)] 1951 HU Bábolna SHA Schimmel	O'Bajan X 1929 HU Bábolna SHA dunkelbraun	O'Bajan VII 1923 SHA Schimmel	108 Luna IV 1918
		101 Shagya XXII 1930 HU Bábolna SHA Schimmel	270 Shagya XXVI 1938 SHA Schimmel	80 Ajeeb 1932
			O'Bajan VII 1923 SHA Schimmel	O'Bajan VI 1908
			36 Shagya XVII 1922 SHA dunkelbraun	197 Shagya XVII 1913
O'Bajan I-17 10.04.1971 DK Barthahus SHA braun			Shagya XXII 1924 SHA Schimmel	Shagya XVII (Báb) 1903
			Shagya XXII 1924 SHA Schimmel	67 Gazal 1912
			53 Kohelian IV 1911 SHA Schimmel	Shagya XX 1914
				138 Mersuchi 1909
O'Bajan I-17 10.04.1971 DK Barthahus SHA braun				Kohelian IV 1904
				158 Siglavy Bagdad 1906