



# NASS NEWS



North American Shagya-Arabian Society

Summer 2022



**Congratulations to 2021 Radautzer Award winners Sandra Spalding and KB Sitka Fahim (Shagya Royal AF x NASS-approved appendix mare KB Salim Fahim ox). The pair completed ten 50-mile rides totaling 500 miles, including some multi-day rides, and placed in the Top Ten at four of those rides. They also won the 2021 NASS Performance Award for endurance. This is their second year competing together.**

## Journeys

*By Sandra Spalding, SW Region*

I bought *Sitka* as a yearling in 2010 after losing her half sister, *KB Sawda Fahim* (*Janos x KB Salim Fahim ox*) to a freak pasture accident when she was five. *Sitka*, unlike *Syd*, was not an easy baby to raise. As easygoing as *Syd* was, *Sitka* was the opposite. Although she was phenomenally easy from the first time I climbed on her in my Bog boots, her personality was such that she was never comfortable with new people, places or things, or other horses.

Being that endurance is a very social sport, and I was starting out with a challenging horse, we got a  
(Continued next page)

*Dear NASS Members:*

*Spring has sprung and summer is on the horizon. We are well into riding season, with endurance rides and horse shows ramping up, and trails open. I hope everyone has a wonderful season. Also, it's foaling time! Send your photos and captions to our editor. Everyone loves to see those babies.*

*Remember I challenged the membership to submit stories about how they became part of the Shagya-Arabian family? We've had several people submit for the previous newsletter, but there's still time. Send yours to [NASS\\_Newsletter\\_Editor@shagya.net](mailto:NASS_Newsletter_Editor@shagya.net). We want to hear from you!*

*It was my pleasure to attend the first breed inspection we've had for about three years in mid-March. Shelley and Don Child hosted and we inspected four horses. They also put me up for a couple relaxing evenings in their beautiful home in Lake Arrowhead, CA. It was very nice to meet some new NASS members and their beautiful horses. Watch for the special breed inspection newsletter after all the inspections are completed this year.*

*Adele Furby and Kathy Richkind graciously coached me as a learner judge for the second time and I learned a lot. I'm looking forward to attending the next inspection; there is potential for two more this year in Texas and New York. If you have a horse or two that needs to be inspected, contact Adele Furby at [adele@centurylink.net](mailto:adele@centurylink.net).*

*Looking forward to hearing from you soon!*

*Joan Clark, NASS President*

## Journeys — continued

late start after many years of my working to acclimate her to new people, places and things. We trained at different barns, we camped and rode at different places, and slowly but surely we worked toward a place where we both felt comfortable.

Fast forward to last year when I decided to go for it. I had done a limited distance ride on her in 2020 and was pleased with how she behaved in camp and in every aspect of the ride. Regarding condition issues, *Sitka* had been a 50-mile horse for years, so she had the base on her far before 2021. Her temperament was tricky and everyone who knows endurance knows there is no tolerance for ill-mannered horses. The horses have to put up with a lot. It is an inherently unpredictable, adrenaline-fueled sport and injuries are common. I was increasingly pushing my horse out of her comfort zone.

Our first ride was Cache Creek in early May, a big ride full of joy and camaraderie after we had all been on lockdown due to Covid. I held *Sitka* back the entire ride as she fought me like a fire-breathing dragon in an effort to race; at the end I felt like I'd been run over by a truck but we completed happy and sound. Our next ride was Chalk Rock at the end of May (a two-day 100), then Bandit Springs in

mid-July followed by Top of the World in Idaho at end of the month, another two-day 100 ride. We then continued to complete a 50 every month until we ended the season at the Kristina Chesterman Ride in mid-November.

My horse was a star. There was one point at the Mary and Anna Ride in August when we had a vet check at a four-way section of the trail that was tight! It was a big 50-mile ride and all the horses were scrunched together with very little room to pass each other as we all mingled, waiting for our time out. There was one huge tub of oat mash, and even though *Sitka* felt this was an insult to her personal space, she was great! Although never a favorite of the vets, *Sitka* was always on her best behavior!



*Sitka resting quietly at Cache Creek*



*Mary and Anna Memorial Ride*

Thankfully all my camping neighbors were the awesome people we love so much as part of the endurance community and no one bothered about her attitude in camp. Endurance is a sport where true horsemanship is understood, where drama is another inherent part of the sport but not encouraged, and close friendships are formed. We have to depend on each other because in this sport there are no ambulances nearby and frequently the

only way out is by air. We have to trust our horses and each other. I trusted *Sitka* and she didn't let me down.

I had to figure out tack issues over the months, mostly determining the best bit to use because I couldn't do the rides I did and continue to be beat up like I was at Cache Creek. We started in a French snaffle, tried bitless, a leveraged snaffle, a kimberwick, and ended back in the French snaffle with a more manageable horse after completing 500 miles.

*Sitka* will never be an extroverted horse but she likes me and we get along great. And the one quality I realized about her from the very beginning when I lightly started her under saddle as a three-year-old is that she has a phenomenal work ethic. She LOVES to work and simply has no tolerance for anything other than business and treats. She does love her treats but that's about all, other than the job at hand. This horse is ALL business. She is a War Mare.



*NASS presents the Radautzer Award to horses with Shagya-Arabian blood who compete in rides sanctioned by the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC). Named after the horses from the famous Austrian military Shagya-Arabian stud farm of Radautz (in present-day Romania), the award follows the European tradition of honoring a horse that exhibits exceptional courage and stamina, a horse deemed "tough as a Radautzer". This recognition is given annually to the horse who achieves the highest number of points within that competition year according to the scoring system.*

*If you compete on NASS-registered horses in endurance and competitive trail rides organized by AERC and/or other distance riding organizations, you are eligible to sign up for the annual Performance Awards Program.*

## PERFORMANCE AWARDS

It's a new season of competition; don't forget to sign up your horses for Performance Awards. It's a one-time fee of \$30.00 to enter your horse. You can find the guidelines at [www.shagya.net](http://www.shagya.net). Feel free to contact the Performance Awards chairman for more information. We're looking forward to seeing all your successes this year.

### SECRETARY/ TREASURER POSITION OPEN

NASS is in need of a new secretary/treasurer, can you help? Duties include, but are not limited to, coordinating membership, balancing checkbook and paying all invoices as approved, online tax reporting, maintaining PayPal account, maintaining current membership list, and submitting membership, financial and year-end reports to NASS Board. If this is a way you can offer your time to our organization, please contact the NASS President for more information.

### OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NASS wants to hear from you! We are always in need of volunteers to keep our registry running smoothly; please consider sharing your time and talent. Available positions and registry contacts can be found at [www.shagya.net](http://www.shagya.net).

### KEEP IN TOUCH

Deadline for next NASS News is October 1, 2022.

Join the conversation on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/723362137716452>.



# Bravo Award



*I am honored to present Adele Furby with the NASS Bravo Award. She has served selflessly on behalf of the Shagya-Arabian since the early-1980s and has been a mentor to countless people over many decades to promote, preserve and improve the breed. As stated by President Ahmed Al Samarraie of the ISG upon presenting Adele with an honorary membership during the annual meeting in 2013: "My personal impression is marked by great respect not only for her pioneering and building endeavors, but also for my big sympathy for an incisive and incorruptible fighter for the Shagya-Arabian. Adele Furby shows commitment, loyalty, and she clearly stands for observance of the ISG statutes, even if it is sometimes unpleasant. She is a great and passionate breeder, who we want to make an honorary member of ISG." The president then presented Adele a medal for her honorary membership in ISG and a bouquet of flowers, to great applause.*

*All of us today who own, compete, breed and love Shagya-Arabians in North America owe great gratitude to Adele for her tireless efforts and life's work on behalf of the breed. Thank you!*

*- Candace Phillips, NASS Bravo Award Chair*

Adele Furby heard about the Shagya-Arabian breed in 1983 in an article called "Shagyas, The Other Arabians" featured in the Arabian Horse World magazine, written by German author Betty Finke. The article described this Arabian-bred horse as an especially, large, strong, and calm breed which was developed through 200 years of selective breeding in Austro-Hungary.

Adele, whose equine education included growing up riding hunters and western horses, jumping lessons in college, Ray Hunt clinics, and college level coursework in genetics and horse management, discovered the art and craft of dressage as a working student for Chilean Olympic dressage master Major Hector Carmona in New Jersey, and eventing as a working student for Yves and Christine Sauvignon in California.

Long a lover of the intelligence, beauty, elegance, grace and toughness of Arabian horses, Adele dreamed of breeding a horse which possessed these special Arabian characteristics along with the power, calmness and balance of the warmblood and Iberian breeds. When Adele read about the Shagyas, she realized that the Austro-Hungarians had already created this special breed, and that it would define her horse breeding future. Adele began a search for Shagyas which culminated in 1984 with her discovery of *Hungarian Bravo*, a 24-year-old purebred Shagya stallion living in obscurity at the ranch of a Hungarian countess in western Montana.

Adele's discovery of *Hungarian Bravo*, whose parents had been captured by General George Patton (along with the Lipizzaners) and brought to America as prizes of World War II, opened the doors for Adele in Europe with the leading Shagya breeders there. *Bravo* was such an outstanding specimen, representing the best of



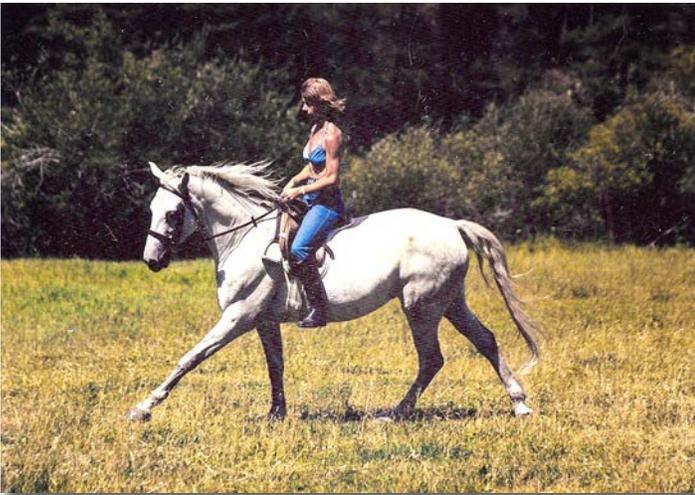
***Adele and Hungarian Bravo in 1985. This is the horse who started it all!***



*Adele and \*Shandor at home in Montana. Shandor was 23 when this photo was taken by Dr. Walter Huber.*

three purebred Shagya mares - the German-bred \*Arriva, the Danish-bred \*Aminah, and the Polish-bred \*Biala, who was in foal. The five purebred Shagyas arrived in the U.S. from Europe in 1986, and \*Biala foaled the colt \*Budapest AF in quarantine. Adele subsequently imported the Hungarian-born purebred Shagya mare *Shagya II-2* from the Babolna State Stud in 1994.

In 1986 Adele founded the North American Shagya Arabian Society (NASS). NASS is the original ISG-recognized registry for Shagyas in North America. Strict quality control of the purebred Shagya breed by NASS and the ISG assure that the traditional standards of the breed are maintained.



*Adele and \*Arriva, 1986*

Besides maintaining an active breeding program of purebred Shagyas and Shagya/warmblood crosses especially suited for dressage, Adele serves as the chairman of the NASS breeding committee. She was certified by the ISG as a qualified Shagya judge in 1989 and has judged national Shagya-Arabian shows in Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Venezuela, and has also judged the International Championship Shagya show three times at Babolna, Hungary, birthplace of the breed, as well as the European Championships for Shagyas in 2010 in Austria, 2013 in Germany, and 2016 in Austria.

pre-WWII Hungarian Shagya breeding, that the Purebred Shagya Society International (ISG), which is the international governing body for Shagya breeding worldwide, requested that *Bravo* be the foundation stallion for the American Shagya breed.

The president of the ISG invited Adele to travel to Verden, Germany to attend the International Championship Shagya Show in the summer of 1984, and offered to help her find superior examples of the breed which could be utilized in developing the American Shagya-Arabian breed. Adele traveled through Germany, Switzerland and Denmark, and purchased two purebred Shagya stallions - the German stallion \*Oman, and the Danish stallion \*Shandor. She also purchased



*As a learner judge in 1989 in Frauenfeld, Switzerland. From left: Adele, Dr. Frielinghaus, Ronald Kidd, Frau Gotzner and Anna Aaby.*

## Bravo Award — continued



*Adele in a photo taken by Susan Keil during a 2009 visit to Radautz, Romania, only a mile from the Ukrainian border. Lucina (in the Carpathian Mountains) was traditionally the summer pasture for mares and foals. It is now summer pasture for the native "Huzul" breed of small, tough horses, such as the two mares in the photo. Those mares pulled Adele and several others up the steep hills to this location, which is the exact scenery on the cover of Hans Brabinetz's historical book about Radautz and its horses. Adele is holding some mountain heather and is accompanied by no other than Mr. Brabinetz himself.*



Att. Mrs. Adele Furby  
Adele's Shagyas  
Star Route  
Hall, Mt 59837

Bábolna, 8th October, 1996

Dear Mrs. Furby,

Thank you for your very kind letter concerning our show. I hope, you have seen some beautiful horses.

All the breeders and visitors were very satisfied with your way of judging. After the show I had the possibility to analyse the work of the different judges and I have to tell you, that in cases, where there were differences between the scores I and other experts as well agreed with your scores. I think, your way of judging was excellent and I hope that this show will help you to get several more invitations.

Please find enclosed the video film about the show, I hope somebody will be able to make a copy of the European system.

The performance test of the stallions for this year will be in Bábolna on the 26-27th October, we will send you a video film about this as well.

Please forward our thanks for the photos and best regards for Mrs. Richkind and her nice daughter.

With best regards,

  
Tamás and Tünde Rombauer

In June of 2013, Adele was also awarded an honorary membership in the ISG at the ISG International Delegate Conference in recognition of her work in establishing the Shagya-Arabian breed in America. The minutes from the ISG annual meeting in Marbach in 2013 document her significant personal engagement and financial sacrifice to establish Shagya-Arabian breeding in North America following the strict guidelines of the international governing body for the breed.

From the minutes: "Before the founding of ISG, the initiators wanted to get in contact with the USA, but without success. They tried the Arabian Horse Registry of America and other Arabian societies to get acceptance, but without success. Then, like an angel out of nowhere, Adele Furby appeared on the scene. Finally, after years of fruitless efforts, she got in contact with us. At this time, Adele Furby was the idea maker for Shagya-Arabian breeding in the USA. She has worked with all her energy for this goal.

"She was the first in North America to make performance tests with her stallions. The stallion licensing in USA was conducted since the founding of NASS by judges from Europe, the result of which is that the bay stallion *Nicolette's Revelation AF* was tested in a 70 days test, and her *Hadban USA* made his performance test in distance riding. "

Every two or three years, for several decades, Adele has conducted numerous inspection tours for NASS, traveling around America with European Shagya judges, evaluating young mares and stallions for their breeding potential.

Adele's first love is dressage. She believes that if one's breeding aim is for superior dressage horses, a breeder will produce a number of good dressage prospects. The balance of the horses will be suitable for pleasure, jumping, distance riding, carriage, and even western riding. Shagyas have always been a versatile breed, as their original purpose was for military use.

Adele specializes in producing purebred Shagyas for performance as well as for bloodstock. Adele has also focused on breeding superior warmblood mares to Shagya stallions to produce Shagya/warmblood crosses which are especially suited for dressage and eventing.

## How it All Began

Adele became an Arabian owner and breeder in 1973, but decided around 1980 to take it on as a full-time business. She added to her basic hunt seat, endurance and Western riding background by studying genetics, horse management and Western training at Montana State University. Time as a working student in dressage with Major Hector Carmona kindled a serious interest in dressage, and further experience at an eventing stable confirmed her desire to specialize in breeding Arabian horses for sport.

But at that time, it became apparent that most purebred Arabs weren't competitive against other sport horse breeds in open showing. A chance reading of an article by a German Arabian expert revealed the nearly 200-year history of the Shagya, an Arabian-bred horse developed specifically for military (three-day-event) use and driving. Adele had found her breed, at least on paper, one that was line bred for genetic predictability with the exact sport horse characteristics she was looking for. The article went on to explain that many countries had no Shagya registries, and many owners simply didn't know what they had. Thus, the breed was relatively unknown.

Adele started her search for Shagyas right away, running into many dead ends both in Europe and America. Then she had a bit of luck at a local horse club. A new acquaintance mentioned she rode a Hungarian, a breed with a great deal of Shagya-Arabian blood. From there, doors started opening and Adele's search led her to a Hungarian countess right in her own backyard, in the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana. She obtained the number of Bud Roark, stud farm manager for Countess Margit Sigray Besseney's Bitterroot Stock Farm, and explained to him that she was looking for Shagyas.

"He replied that he didn't know anything about the pedigrees of the horses," Adele remembers, "but that if I visited the farm, I could examine the studbooks myself."

The Bitterroot Stock Farm was a 2,200 acre ranch which Countess Besseney had inherited from her grandfather, known as the "Copper King of Montana".

Countess Margit Sigray Besseney, whose mother was the American-born daughter of Marcus Daly, grew up in Hungary on her Hungarian father's estate. She fled the country during WWII and came to America, where she inherited the Anaconda Copper Company (now Arco Oil) and several estates, one of which was her maternal grandfather's Bitterroot Stock Farm, which had been Daly's race horse farm. Although all of the family horses were lost in Hungary, soon after the Countess's arrival in America she was able to purchase nine horses from the U.S. Army Remount. These were horses of several Hungarian breeds which had been captured by General Patton and the U.S. Army. Most Americans know the story of this capture from the Disney movie, "The Miracle of the White Stallions," which tells of the Lipizzaner horses which were rescued. (*Witez II*, the Polish Arabian, was another famous representative of the Patton imports.) With her nine foundation animals, the Countess began breeding Hungarian Warmbloods, and established the Hungarian Horse Association of America.

When Adele visited the ranch in the spring of 1984, there were 200 Hungarian horses. Although the Countess wasn't in residence at the time, Adele and a friend were allowed to pour over the studbooks. She recalls that "we didn't know much about Shagya pedigrees, but the Countess's carefully maintained books eased the task. All of the pedigrees were written in three colors: red for thoroughbred, black for warmblood and green for Arabian blood. It only took a few hours to determine that, of the original horses purchased from the U.S. Army Remount, three had been Shagya-Arabians. All were mares bred in Babolna, Hungary, birthplace of the breed. The mares, however, had usually been bred to warmblood stallions once in America, and of the 200 horses on the ranch, only one individual had a pedigree that (Continued on back page)

## The Story of PQ and BC, Part 2

### By Adele Furby, SW Region

*In Part 1 of the PQ and BC story, which appeared in the previous issue of NASS News, I related the chronology of my acquisition of two of our foundation stallions in American Shagya-Arabian breeding: Starwalker (nicknamed “PQ” because he came from Quebec Province) and Janos (nicknamed “BC” because he came from British Columbia). At the conclusion of Part 1, in late fall of 1999, Starwalker and Janos, both about 18 months old, had arrived at Adele’s Shagyas within a week of each other, and after a period of recovery from their respective long journeys, they were turned out together.*



*Starwalker with Peter Stelli, 1999*



*Janos as a youngster at Addy's*

NASS had an inspection tour the following September, so the two little stallions had less than a year to grow prior to their evaluations. Fortunately, our ISG judge in 2000 was Anna Aaby, who was experienced enough to be able to take into account the relative lack of development in such young stallions, who are bound to look much different at two than they will when mature. Anna was also particularly expert in identifying the various types within the Shagya-Arabian breed, and she made sure to indicate her opinion in descriptions of inspected horses. Thus, she described *Starwalker* as a “promising colt of good Shagya type (*Gazal*)” which was consistent with his pedigree, and *Janos* she described as “a very typical Shagya (*O’Bajan* -type) colt”. While *Janos*’s sire line is actually *Gazal* through *Navarra*, he has a number of *O’Bajan*-line ancestors, and Anna said “it is as if I was looking at an old picture book of the *O’Bajan*’s”. Indeed, *Janos* has passed along his *O’Bajan* type to the majority of his offspring. Both young stallions got very high scores considering they were only two (8.13 and 7.9). It was good that



*Janos at inspection (above)*

*Starwalker at inspection (below)*

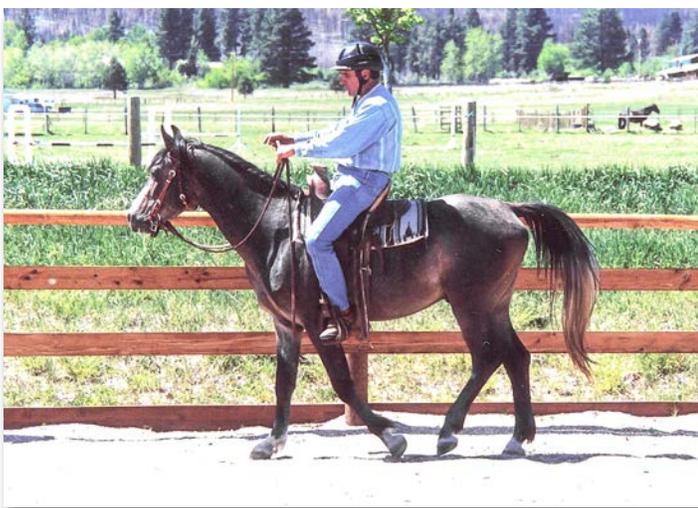


we got another *Gazal*-type to replace *Hungarian Bravo*, and another *O'Bajan*-type to complete the classic triumvirate in the Shagya-Arabian breed, i.e. *Shagya* (as exemplified by *\*Shandor*), *Gazal* (as exemplified by *Hungarian Bravo*), and *O'Bajan*.

The following summer, 2001, when it was time to separate the two youngsters and also start them under saddle, I located Ben Quinters in the Bitterroot Valley to do the job. Ben was an older Ray Hunt devotee - not flashy - but just a very sensible, low-key, humble, and experienced horseman. Both colts stayed with Ben for about two months, and before I brought them home I snapped a couple photos of them under saddle - *Starwalker* ridden by Ben, and *Janos* ridden by the farm owner, Gail. I also snapped new halter photos of them. They were both still looking immature.



*The stallions at age 3. Starwalker (above) and Janos (below)*



*Starwalker (above) and Janos (below), newly under saddle.*



In 2002, the stallions were trained for semen collection. *Starwalker* bred two mares that year - the *\*Shandor* daughters *Empress Eva AF* and *Eva's dam, Echo Daal*. *Eva*, who had been purchased by Dr. Gabrielle Bergman in California, produced a large filly named *Bellizona Gold* who became a dressage horse.



*Bellizona Gold as a foal*



*Early Star as a yearling*

*Echo Daal* produced a beautiful stallion prospect named *Early Star AF*. *Earl* was sold to California and was approved as a breeding stallion in 2006, however his owner decided to geld him and sell him to an endurance rider.

*Janos* bred one mare in 2002, my black \**Shandor* daughter *MJL Shaleez*, who I had leased to Cynthia Patton. *Shaleez* produced a black gelding, *Jaguar*. Cynthia sold *Jaguar* to an unknown party early on, and we lost track of him for a long time, but a few years ago NASS member Gwyn Davis in Indiana saw an ad for *Jaguar* and she was able to purchase him and use him as a school horse at her Maple Ridge Farm in Terre Haute.

In late 2003 Stephanie Fine approached me wanting to obtain a half interest in *Starwalker* to use him for endurance riding. Stephanie and her husband Evan were runners who had become interested in endurance riding. In the mid '90s, they spotted the first Shagya-Arabian born in America, the *Hungarian Bravo* son *Bravissimo AA* at an endurance ride and were able to buy him. Over a seven year period, Evan rode *Bravissimo* 1,750 endurance miles, and meanwhile, Stephanie purchased the Shagya mare *Oman's Daydream* and competed on her for a couple years. Then she bred her, first to \**Shandor*, and then to *Starwalker*. Evan and Stephanie visited Adele's Shagyas several times and Stephanie bought the yearling filly *Shagya's Serena AF* (\**Shandor* x \**Shagya II-2*). Then Stephanie proposed the partnership in which

*Starwalker* would be in residence with me during the breeding season, and the rest of the year Stephanie would have possession for the purposes of endurance riding.



*Starwalker and Stephanie Fine (Kathleen Warren photo)*

She took *Starwalker* to a Utah trainer for a few month's more training and then started conditioning him in the hills around Salt Lake City. *Starwalker* had acquired the nickname "Mr. Wiggly" at my place because he was always in motion. He was such a happy horse without a mean bone in his body but he couldn't keep still! However, Stephanie said that under saddle *Starwalker* was "all business". Riding a stallion was new to Stephanie but she had no problems with him. However, not long after she started his serious conditioning, she felt that somehow he was not quite sound. She couldn't pin it down but something wasn't right. She contacted me about it and a veterinary exam did not reveal anything until his front knees were radiographed. Her vet sent the images to my vet and my vet called me and said that the x-rays showed "dramatic, traumatic damage" to both front knees. The vet said it appeared to be an injury which had occurred when he was quite young prior to my acquisition of him. The *Stellis's* had no recollection of any sort of accident, so the history of the injury always remained a mystery. In pasture, *Starwalker* moved well and never showed signs of lameness so we never suspected anything. This find, however, put an end to *Starwalker's* performance career.

I took *Starwalker* back to my place and suggested to Stephanie that she ride *Janos* with the same arrangement as we'd made for *Starwalker*. Her reaction was, "I never thought of him as an endurance horse". But she and Evan decided to give him a try. They did not need to take him for further training, as I and my hired girl Lacey Goss had been riding him. He was a very easy stallion to get along with, sensible and sure of himself. Stephanie and Evan started running with *Janos* and they were soon safely on his back.

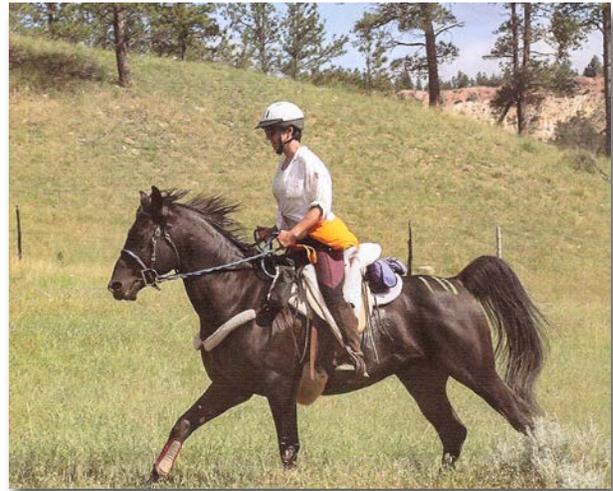


*Janos and Lacey Goss in Montana*

During the 2005 season, Evan and Stephanie alternated riding *Janos* in ten 50-mile rides, successfully completing them all and placing in the Top Ten five times. In 2006, Stephanie took *Janos* on seven 50s (with four Top Tens) and also on the Ft. Howes 100-mile FEI endurance ride. Charlie and I drove over to central Montana to watch Stephanie and *Janos* successfully complete his (and her!) first 100-mile ride.



*Janos and Stephanie, Ft. Howes 100 Mile endurance ride*



*Janos's photo in the magazine "Endurance News"*

Stephanie had really fallen in love with *Janos* and persuaded me to sell her my half interest in him so that she could keep him year round. In 2007, she and *Janos* successfully completed four more 50s,



and then she received an offer from a Japanese millionaire that she felt she couldn't refuse. *Janos* was shipped to Japan and unfortunately died of colic there some months later. Also unfortunate for me and the American Shagya breed was that my retained breedings,

which were part of my contract, were never fulfilled because *Janos's* semen had not been frozen.



*Janos* had a total of 14 offspring prior to his exportation, including three sons who became approved stallions. The first born was the black *Shagya Jet AF* out of who other than *Starwalker's* sister *Samantha*! He was approved for breeding in 2006 as a two-year-old and sold to an endurance family in Arizona. Tragically, some months after his arrival he escaped his enclosure, fell into a highway construction pit and died.



*Shagya Jet AF (above) and Rio Brave AF (below) at inspection*



Also approved for breeding that year was a bay colt out of *Rachelle AA*, *Rio Bravo AF*. *Rio* was sold when young and did not have an early performance career nor any foals, but he recently is having a chance later in life to be used for breeding. He has just produced his first foal, a filly out of *Barbara Ott's Almos* daughter *Natalia PFF*.

*Janos's* third approved stallion son is the black *Onyx AF* out of the *\*Shandor* daughter *MJL Shaleez*, which makes him a full brother to *Jaguar*. *Onyx* had the bad luck to be kicked in the stifle at 10 days

of age. He sustained a severe injury - over 50% of his cruciate ligament was destroyed and he underwent surgery. He came out of the surgery with a poor prognosis for soundness. He gradually improved while living in pasture, however, and after four years, amazingly, he appeared sound. He was then started under saddle and did very well. Shortly after our move to Arizona, he was sold as a field hunter to Colorado. I have retained frozen semen from him and he has two purebred Shagya-Arabian foals in the registry so far.



*Onyx AF at inspection*

*Starwalker* had 23 offspring prior to my selling him upon our move to Arizona. Unfortunately, his untimely death a bit later precluded his producing any more foals. Of those, only eight were colts, of which three became approved stallions. Besides the above-mentioned *Early Star AF*, another stallion son was *Evanescent Star AF*, out of *Echo Daal's \*Shandor* daughter *Empress Estelle AF*. Sold as a two-year-old and approved for breeding that year, he did not produce any offspring in the NASS registry and we have since lost track of him.



*Evanescent Star at 24 months*

Patty Betts bred her \**Oman* daughter out of *Rachelle AA* to *Starwalker*, producing the impressive *Rising Star*, who was approved for breeding but who has so far not produced any offspring in the NASS registry.



*Rising Star*

Two of *Starwalker's* daughters have several offspring in the NASS registry - the \**Nicolette* daughter *Nicolatina Star AF* and *Rachelle AA's* daughter *Rexanne Star AF*. Hopefully a few of his other daughters will have offspring, too. It is a shame, however, that we do not have any remaining sons to carry on *Starwalker's* line.



*Starwalker at age 13*



## *Welcome to the World!*

*Barbara Ott, PNW Region, shared newborn photos of Amelia (Rio Bravo AF x Natalia PFF). "She should be quite the endurance mare," Barbara writes.*



## Farm News

*Editor's note: We are lucky that NE Region member Jamie Bratt's spouse is able to share some words about Jamie's recent horse adventures.*

“Congratulations to Jamie Bratt and *Shagya Skamp*. Today, for Mother's Day, Jamie is competing in a 50-mile endurance horse race in NH! Go Jamie and *Skamp*! Fifty miles is quite impressive, and so is Jamie! But

this race has been far more than 50 miles!

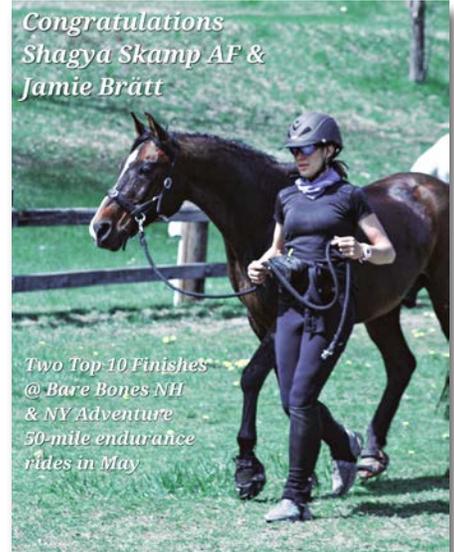


It started when we first bought *Skamp* in 2009, when we had no business owning a horse. Jamie was committed to becoming an endurance rider, and had to delay that dream when she became pregnant with Mina. When we moved from DC to CT we sold *Skamp* because it wasn't fair to keep him around and not ride him, and work and motherhood made it hard to ride.



*Photos credit, Carien Schippers*

“Now, all these years later, the kids are older, *Skamp* is part of the family again, and Jamie has slowly come back: first getting the horse, then the trailer, then the truck - and then the training! All this while being an inspirational person, partner, mother, and consistently excelling in her professional career! She's finally made some time for her dreams! On this Mother's Day, she's showing her kids what it's like to truly make your dreams come true - no matter how long the race or how many years it takes!” — Sasha Bratt



*“Years and years of hard work went into the making of this moment. I am so very proud to say...I'm a real endurance rider now. Every single word of encouragement helped me. Thank you.” — Jamie*



**What have you and your horses been up to? Share your photos and stories in the next issue of NASS News. Submission deadline is October 1, 2022.**

## *Kerrigan Bloodstock, SW Region*

“Since *Meg* (*KB Omega Fahim++++//ox*) became a Breyer Horse, we have had some visitors,” writes Elaine Kerrigan. “I was especially happy to meet NASS member Rachel Miura with daughter Brynn and relatives. Rachel is the proud owner of *Theo the Wonder Horse* (*Bold Bravo AF x Nadeja ox*). Rachel acquired *Theo* in 2020 and we were able to trace and confirm his heritage to get him registered with NASS. Since, *Theo* has become a successful endurance horse and has also stepped into Ride and Tie. It’s so rewarding to see how ‘wonderful’ *Theo* found such a great home and to show, once again, what great family horses Shagyas are.”



*Left: Pacific NW Region member Summer Martell and Locamotion (by Hadban USA) at the Ft. Lewis Battle of the Flatlands ride in Washington state. Photo credit, Jala Neufeld*



*Right: NE Region member Skye Pechie and Wineglass Dafni (KS Rubin x WineGlass Diva). Skye writes that Dafni is “doing great, so sensible and lovable!”*

## Bravo Award — continued

was all Arabian and Shagya-Arabian blood, and that was *Bravo*. *Bravo's* dam, \*52 *Gazal II*, was born in 1937 in Babolna, Hungary, and his sire was \**Pilot PASB*. Adele told the farm manager that was the horse she wanted to see, so they drove out on the ranch to find him.

“When I first saw *Bravo*,” Adele says, “he was 24 years old. He looked so much like the Shagyas I had seen in pictures, definitely not like a purebred Arabian. Although he had excellent Arabian type, he was too big to be a purebred, with substantial bones, long neck and powerful hindquarters, and I had never seen such correct legs on an Arabian-bred horse.

“*Bravo* had only been handled by ranch hands for breeding and at first he was afraid to come close, but when he figured we were friendly, he allowed me to approach him. He put his nose against my chest and the mutual trust was instant. I was transported into the clouds above, and my Shagya adventure had really begun!”

*Bravo* wasn't for sale, but Adele told Bud to contact her if he ever was. That fall, the Countess Bassenyey died suddenly and unexpectedly. Adele wrote to Bud and reaffirmed that if they were looking for a home for *Bravo*, to let her know. Bud called right away and said, “Come and get him right now. In the Countess's will, she stipulated that 22 of her favorite horses were to be destroyed upon her death so as to not fall into the wrong hands, and *Bravo* is on the list!

“But I have 30 days as her legal agent before the matter is out of my hands,” he continued, “so you

must get him immediately.” Adele wasted no time, and *Bravo* came home to her ranch.

Soon after, she was able to begin studying the German Shagya-Arabian studbooks, comparing the pedigrees in the studbook with *Bravo's*. She couldn't believe her luck when she found *Bravo's* dam was a daughter of *Gazal II*. The stallion on the cover of the studbooks she had been studying was considered the “Shagya Stallion of the Century” in Europe. His name was *Gazal VII*, and he was a son of *Gazal II*. Not only was *Bravo* a beautiful individual, but he had a pedigree to match.

Adele started searching the country for purebred Arabian mares suitable for breeding to *Bravo*, buying or leasing a total of eight mares that she felt would have the best potential, and got all of them in foal. In May of that year, *Bravo's* first Shagya foal was born out of a mare Adele had taken over to the Bitterroot ranch prior to bringing *Bravo* home. “He was so much bigger than any purebred foal I had ever seen, and the conformation was so correct,” she says. “Naturally, I named him *Bravissimo*.”

Doors began to open for Adele and her breeding program when then President of the Purebred Shagya Society International, Dr. Gramatski, wrote to her, saying, “In his phenotype, *Bravo* is all in the line of *Gazal*, and we would be very pleased if he could become the foundation for Shagya-Arabian breeding in America.”

The journey was really underway.

*The Bravo 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. This recognition 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 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).*

