



# December 2025

## Newsletter

### **In This Issue:**

CAHC At A Glance

Upcoming events

In Memory

President's Letter

Southern and Northern Division  
News, Youth News

**Membership Application**

In Depth: Jim Hitt, MED/  
VET, Convention Report



# CAHC At A Glance

## Your Club Officers and Board of Directors

President

Vice-President Delegate Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Immediate Past President

Jerry Martinez

Stephen Bishop

Eri Hook

Cheryl McMahon

Chuck Mangan

gmarti1058@aol.com

stephenbishop@comcastnet

cahcsecretary@gmail

Cherylmc62@gmail.com

## Directors

Jim Hitt

Kelly Meyer

Grace Rushing

Mark Helmick, Bliss Hancock

Carrie Jacobucci

Trisha Swift-Northern Div

Liz Wheeler-Southern Div

Junior Club Advisor

Angela Mannick

Horse Judging Leader

Kendra McConnell

Horse Judging Leader Rachel LeClure

Communication and Website Kelly Meyer

Membership

Cheryl McMahon

Newsletter Editor

Stephen Bishop

hockeyandhorsemom@gmail.com



# Upcoming Events & Shows

No Frills Classic Spring Show

April 23-26th, 2026

Dear CAHC Members and Friends,

It is with deep sadness that the Colorado Arabian Horse Club announces the passing of our longtime Main Club President, Jerry Martinez, who faithfully served in this role for the past 13 years.

Jerry dedicated countless years of service to CAHC, leading with integrity, passion, and an unwavering commitment to the Arabian horse community. His leadership, vision, and steady guidance helped shape the club into what it is today, leaving a lasting impact on the club and its members.

Beyond his service to the club, Jerry will be remembered as a respected horseman, a devoted advocate for the Arabian breed, and a cherished friend to so many within our community. His presence, wisdom, and kindness will be deeply missed.

Our hearts are with Jerry's family, friends, and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time. We extend our deepest condolences and stand together in remembrance and gratitude.

Cards and condolences may be sent to:

Midge Martinez  
3302 Lump Gulch Way  
Frederick, CO 80516

Further details regarding memorial arrangements will be shared as they become available.



Dear CAHC Members and Friends,

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that Donna Brown passed away yesterday morning.

Donna was a longtime member of the Colorado Arabian Horse Club and served as former President of both CAHC's Northern Division and Main Club. She was also a dedicated and steadfast board member and volunteer. She was the kind of person who quietly showed up, stepped in where help was needed, and gave her time with genuine care for the club and our community.

Donna was also the beloved mother of Trisha Swift. Please keep Trisha and her family in your thoughts as they navigate this heartbreaking loss.

Memorial services will be held this spring or summer, allowing us the opportunity to properly celebrate Donna's life. Details will be shared as they become available.

With sympathy,

Kelly Meyer

Colorado Arabian Horse Club

## **President's Corner**

**Below is a reprint of an article published in the CAHC Newsletter in March of this year regarding our President, Jerry Martinez**

"Jerry Martinez has been our club President of the Colorado Arabian horse club for the past 13 years. Before that he was the Vice President of the club under President, Chuck Mangan. Jerry is our finest example of an Arabian equestrian. He not only presides over our club as President, but he also is very much involved in many of our club activities such as horses.

Jerry was born in 1951 in Trinidad, Colorado. He and his family lived in a mining camp just west of Trinidad named Sopris. While he was living there, they built the Trinidad dam. All of the inhabitants of the community had to relocate to make way for what is now Trinidad Lake. Consequently, his hometown is now literally underwater. He got his first horse which was a palomino when he was 10 years old. He was very much involved with the 4-H club in Trinidad. He and his buddies would get home from school, mount their steeds, and ride until dinner time. After Jerry graduated from high school in Trinidad, he matriculated into the Trinidad junior-college in Police Science. At that time, he was also a cadet in the Trinidad Police Department. After he accomplished his Associates Degree, he transferred to Metropolitan University for their Bachelor Program in Criminal Justice. There were very few Criminal Justice college degrees at that time in Denver. After graduation he returned to the Trinidad Police Department for three years. At the end of his three years he chose to migrate north to the Denver Police Department where he served for 33 years. After serving as a police officer for eight years in Denver, he was promoted to Detective where he served for 25 years. He was a Detective in a number of Divisions with the Denver Police Department. That included Juvenile, Community Relations, Assault, Special Investigations Unit, and Auto Theft where he literally served as an undercover agent. After living in Denver for a few years he took riding lessons with an instructor out in Aurora. Jerry purchased a 1/2 Arabian gelding, Wild Card and with the help of his instructor began showing in both English and Western. He joined the Colorado Arabian horse club in 1977.

In 1979 Jerry invested in a stallion named Khareeb. He was the offspring of the famous Arabian stallion named Khemosabi. With Khareeb, Jerry began his career in horse breeding. Jerry has bred over 100 horses in the past 45 years. Jerry has had a successful show career at the Local, Regional and National level. Khemosonni+/- was another of his well-known horses that he owned and showed. In the mid-1980's the President of CAHC was, Roe McMillan, who appointed Jerry to be the Promotion Director of the Club. Jerry has been on the CAHC Board of Directors for almost 40 years.

Jerry is proud to recollect that he and some of his fellow members set up an Arabian horse demonstration at the Tamarac Square Mall in 1985. This was quite an elaborate production. It not only included stalls put up in the mall for the various Arabian horses to show off, but it also got to demonstrate our horse club members in Native Costumes and show attire. Jerry also recruited various artists and sculptors who were involved in various media of art portraying Arabian horses. Jerry set up another Arabian horse exhibition at the University Hills Mall, as well. Jerry has been involved with numerous horse club shows over the years. The high points of our horse club took place back in the 80s and 90s. Jerry remembers that Arabian horse breeding was extremely popular at that time. He estimates that the number of Arabian foals coming out of that period was approximately 10 times more than we see today. Jerry has particularly been involved with the Fall Show which has occurred in various locations around the state of Colorado. Jerry's son, Gary Martinez and daughter, Kelly Meyer, are also involved in the Arabian Horse Industry as professional trainers. In 1997, the State of Colorado added a three dollar surcharge on brand inspections which funded the Colorado Horse Development Board. Jerry has served as Treasurer, Vice President, and President of the CHDA. That board includes representatives from CAHC, RMQHA, and other breed associations as well as the Colorado Horse Council. The printing of horse license plates, and outreach to the Bureau of Land Management to help neuter wild horses in Colorado. The board also has sponsored microchipping horses in Colorado. We are all deeply grateful for the tremendous work and dedication Jerry has exhibited for decades now in promoting our Arabian equestrian culture."



New Officers are:

- President - Lauren Payne
- Vice-President - Mary Jo Hoepner
- Secretary - Kathy Scott
- Treasurer - Liz Wheeler
- Directors: Kea Kerchival
- Tracey Meissel
- Kim Grove

Latigo Show Co-managers Lauren Payne & Liz Wheeler

## Southern Division

The Southern Division's Christmas Party was Sunday, December 7 at the Kit Carson Riding Clubhouse at 12:00. We were fortunate to have a brisket smoked by John and Kathy Scott and a ham prepared by Liz Wheeler. Party attendees bring a side dish, salad or dessert. Coffee, tea, soda and water will be provided.

We had door prizes and a gift exchange.

Each year we each donate much needed items for the children at the school at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to help make their Christmas a little merrier. Trisha Swift joins us at the Party and takes the donated items to the Reservation.

Our Christmas Party was well attended and we enjoyed socializing and a great meal to start off the blessings of a Holiday Season together.

Everyone is always welcome to our Christmas party, just bring a side dish to share and a gift exchange item.

If you want to donate an item, socks, gloves, hats, personal size shampoo, tooth brushes and toothpaste are needed.

We at the Southern Division, wish you all Happy, Healthy Holidays and a New Year filled with Peace and Joy.



## Northern Division

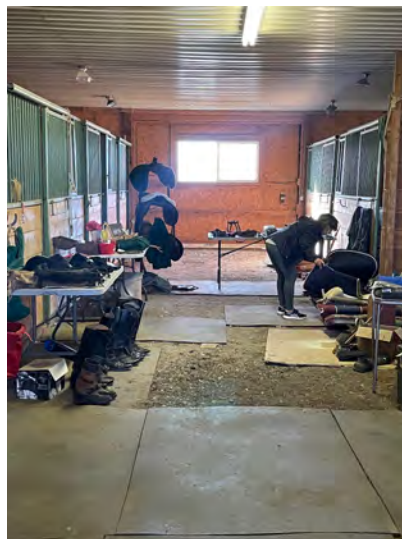
President: Trish Swift

Vice President: Shari McGinn

Secretary: Jeanne Pertillo

Treasurer: Cathy Nelson

On October 12, the Northern Division hosted an equine social where we also had items for sale to raise money for Charis Youth Ranch. We had about 20 people attend, and we raised \$200!



# Youth Judging Team at Nationals





# YOUTH FUNDRAISER

HATS JACKETS HOODIES T-SHIRTS

Apparel items are made to order and can be purchased throughout the entire year.

Complete orders are shipped directly to you and orders are typically completed in 10-14 days.

The youth fundraiser is "powered by laughing llama"

**SHOP NOW**



## EASY ONLINE ORDERING



**All proceeds benefit Jr CAHC  
end of the year high point awards**

QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDERS - [SALES@LAUGHING-LLAMA.NET](mailto:SALES@LAUGHING-LLAMA.NET)



# Membership Application

*For faster and more efficient Affiliate Membership processing, you can join Online at [www.arabianhorses.org](http://www.arabianhorses.org) Please be sure to mark CAHC (Club #8033) as your Affiliate Club.*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AHA #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Very important to receive club information, news and updates)*

**CAHC/AHA AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP** – Affiliate Individual Membership (AHA Member with AHA, Region 8 and CAHC Benefits to include Voting Privilege in each)

Base Affiliate Membership without Competition Card

Adult 1 Year @ \$75.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult 3 Year @ \$205.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Youth 1 Year @ \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH BIRTHDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Base AHA/CAHC Affiliate Membership with Competition Card & Insurance

Adult 1 Year @ \$110.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult 3 Year @ \$310.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Youth 1 Year @ \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CAHC ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** – Associate Individual Membership (Not an AHA member, or does not have AHA affiliation through CAHC: all benefits of membership except those specific to AHA and Region 8; no voting privilege in any organization). **Associate memberships expire 12/31 of each year.**

Adult 1 Year @ \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult 3 Year @ \$70.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Youth 1 Year @ \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DIVISION INTEREST (Check all that apply):** MAIN CLUB NORTHERN SOUTHERN YOUTH

**Areas of Interest:**

Club Officer Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Activities \_\_\_\_\_  
Awards Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Shows \_\_\_\_\_  
Show Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
Show Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
Barn Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
Gates Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_

Other (List any area you would like involvement with: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CAHC AND MAIL TO:** Cheryl  
McMahon, 21710 E. Heritage Parkway, Aurora, CO 80016 (303)  
881-7203

Revised 05/27/21

## In Depth: Jim Hitt

Jim has been a pillar of our equestrian community for decades. He has a long list of activities related to the Colorado Arabian Horse Club including show manager, Board of Directors, horse trainer, showing locally and nationally, etc. Jim purchased Gambel Oaks Equestrian Center 35 years ago which has expanded considerably over the decades. He has about 45 horses on the premises with two of those being owned by him. Typically he has about 25 – 30 horses in training that go along with 15 -20 students.

Jim has lived all his life in the Front Range Area of Colorado with the exception of his freshman year of college where he attended a school in California. He grew up with horses in the northwest metro-Denver area, so his experience with horses has been life-long. He came back to CSU after his freshman year to complete his college degree. A girlfriend in college trained Arabians which set the stage for his career with Arabian horses. In his early years, he had help and instruction from many venerable Arabian trainers including Chuck Mangan, Mark Boyle, Vicky Bowman, Bruce Bates, Terry Wagner . . . Mostly though, Jim is a self-made man in the saddle, logging countless hours riding his own and the many horses of his clients that he has trained over the years. He has shown in competitions in almost every category, but he has tended to concentrate more on Working Western events. He and Gary Martinez connected not long after Gary graduated from college. That has been a long and productive partnership especially promoting the Working Western events at many shows for the CAHC. Jerry Martinez has been a friend and mentor for decades, as well.

Not all that many years ago, there was a larger contingency of Arabian trainers in Colorado, but as times have changed, fewer still exist. Jim, Sally Randle, Dianne Underwood and Kelly Martinez are the primary ones that along with their clients patronize our local Arabian shows. The friendship amongst these individuals has always been important to Jim, and he especially notes the longtime friendship and support of Sally Randle and the comradery between their two barns.

Jim has competed at numerous AHA Nationals and Scottsdale Shows, along with a several Youth Nationals. Anyone who has attended one of those competitions is sure to see Jim showing in many varied classes and his stalls decorated with countless ribbons and awards. He also regularly attends AHA Regional Championships, especially Region 8 and Region 6. He himself was the Region 8 Director for the years 2007-10. He has worked on several committees with the AHA and received the AHA President's Award twice. He and Leslie Lockard (who continues to work for the AHA as Senior Director of Competitions and Convention) created the Value Show program, which has allowed our local CAHC shows to remain financially viable. He and Leslie happened to attend college together, so they have known each other for 40 years. He and Leslie also created the current Leveling Program which is utilized in some capacity from Local to National competitions. Jim has served as our CAHC Vice President for 12 years, switching back to Board of Directors in our recent CAHC election. He has served as a CAHC delegate to the AHA Convention for more than 20 years, recently making a

presentation to the Convention body regarding AHA's relationship with the United States Equestrian Federation.

Jim is a National level Arabian judge and has had the honor of judging multiple National shows, US Nationals, Youth Nationals, and Canadian Nationals as well as many Regional and local shows around the country. He also holds judges cards with the National Reining Horse Association and National Reined Cow Horse Association.

Gambel Oaks and Jim have been both venue host and show manager for the CAHC Cow Horse Days. We are very lucky to have such a great show so close to home. The Gambel Oaks facility is wonderful.

Interesting anecdote about Jim and me from about 7 years ago when I was just starting out in CAHC competitions. I didn't understand the difference between Open and Amateur back then, so, I naively signed up for Open Classes at the Fall Show. Of course, I was disqualified in my first class because I was holding my reins wrong. Afterwards, out in the staging area, Jim showed me how to correctly hold my Western reins which I employed that day and ever since. Jim is very generous with his sage advice for us Newbies!

Jim does look back 40 years of the CAHC and how it, along with the Arabian Horse industry, has changed. He and Jerry have told me many times that the CAHC used to be much larger back in the day, and it served as a central social activity for many of its' members at that time. Membership in the local AHA clubs has diminished significantly around the country. All of us have so many activities competing for our time, so that CAHC has continued as an important, but diminished social hub. Regardless of where CAHC has been and where it is now, Jim Hitt has been a long time dedicated member striving to keep the Arabian Horse relevant in Colorado as well as Nationally.

Med/Vet

Stephen J Bishop MD

Michael Scott DVM

## Choke

Equine esophageal obstruction otherwise known as choke is a mechanical obstruction of the esophagus. It can be life threatening. It certainly deserves an immediate call to your veterinarian though it is not an emergency in the sense of minutes like a cardiac arrest. The usual treatment for choke is water lavage (irrigation) of the esophagus using a nasal esophageal tube. The esophagus in humans is relatively short and straight. In contrast, Equine esophagus is quite long and curvy. Another difference in horse/human anatomy is that horse are obligate nasal breathers, where we humans can breath through mouth or nose. That can get we humans into trouble by food and liquids inadvertently “going down the wrong pipe,” which could necessitate the Heimlich Maneuver. Not that we could ever do a Heimlich Maneuver on horses, but, fortunately, it is never necessary, since they can never breath through their mouths. But, unfortunately, there is no equivalent of the Heimlich Maneuver to resolve equine esophageal obstruction.

There are a number of risk factors for choke including dehydration, advanced age, gulping food, particularly grains. Fast eating in general, is a major risk factor. Once a horse reaches the age of 20, they are much more prone to choke. There are some practical preventative measures to be taken particularly if your horse has experienced choke in the past. A horse owner can soak grain and hay. A horse owner should make sure that the horse has adequate access to water particularly in hot dry times of the year. One veterinarian has an interesting technique of putting bocce balls in a grain pan which forces the horse to nose around and nibble on the grain rather than gulping large doses of it. Putting hay in some kind of net definitely slows down the eating process. Your horse should have adequate dental intervention since poor dentition makes it hard for horses to chew their food. Allowing a horse to graze rather than eat from a hay trough definitely slows down the eating process. Isolating a horse from the herd can help since competition for one source of food can encourage gulping and binging.

In rare instances the obstruction is so complete that surgical intervention is necessary. Before that step however, Fiber optic endoscopy and X rays are useful in determining the



placement and extent of the obstruction. That will enhance the chances that the esophageal lavage will be successful in relieving the obstruction.

In humans, obstruction can sometimes occur in the esophagus. Many human patients have esophageal strictures as a result of exposure to caustics and acids, cancer and radiation treatments, or trauma. In humans, regurgitation is the usual outcome of an esophageal obstruction. Again, since the human esophagus is so short and straight, it is much less likely to cause impaction like we see in horses. With chronic esophageal strictures and humans, dilatation is sometimes required to open up the diameter of the esophagus so food and water can pass through into the stomach. That dilatation is usually done by a physician, though some patients with chronic esophageal obstruction can be trained to dilate themselves. Acute and complete obstruction in humans is more likely to occur in the upper airways, rather than the esophagus. We all have heard about the Heimlich maneuver which basically makes use of residual air in the lung forcing out the air and pushing out the obstruction from the trachea back into the pharynx. If the tracheal obstruction happens in the larynx or vocal cords, the physician can bypass the voice box by a slit in the cricoid tissue and then insert a tube of some sort, like the housing of a ballpoint pen.

Below we have a photo of a horse who is experiencing choke. The symptoms in some ways resemble a condition we previously addressed called Strangles which is equine strep throat. Strangles can also cause obstruction of the swallowing and or breathing function of the throat. As you see, Choke causes significant nasal discharge.



## Liz's Convention Report

In 2025 Colorado qualified for 4 Delegates to AHA Convention. They are: Jim Hitt, Trisha Swift, Cheryl McMahon and Liz Wheeler Alternate – Grace Rushing

I am a member of 4 AHA National Committees and I attended all of my committee meetings as well as several on-line discussions about Resolutions submitted by these committees.

There were a total of 18 Resolutions put forth to the Delegates. They are all posted on the AHA website for viewing the complete content of each Resolution as well as any amendments passed at the Convention.

The Resolutions are discussed for open quespprovetions and/or clarification at a Plenary Session held just prior to the Convention. All Resolutions are assigned to the appropriate Committees that must discuss them in their meetings and vote for Committee approval or disapproval including any amendments that have been submitted. That vote is reported at the General Session of all Delegates. The Rules Committee can recommend Resolutions that have no opposition be placed on a "Consent Agenda" and voted for approval in total. Any Delegate can request that a Resolution be removed for discussion at this time and it will come out of the "Consent Agenda".

I attended all of my AHA Committee Meetings: Membership, Amateur, Dressage/Western Dressage and Sport Horse. All of these committees voted to Approve Resolution 01-25 which was the AHA Reorganization Resolution.

All Resolutions assigned to those Committees and any amendments were approved except 16-25 (Competition Eligible Horse Certification) which was withdrawn and assigned to AHA to form an ad-hoc committee to draw up specifications to facilitate this concept. They have since done that and it has been approved to allow horses whose registration has been lost to achieve competition status. Other items of interest: The Membership Committee has formed an ad-hoc committee to review the specifications for submitting Club Excellence Awards and creating a second level for clubs with less members. They will also send out a survey to people who did not renew their membership to AHA to determine the common factors involved. Dressage/Western Dressage passed a Resolution (8-25) that Competition

Management will have the discretion to allow W/D exhibitors to warm up in the same designated areas. Sport Horse Committee approved a resolution (9-25) to not allow chains to be used over the nose when showing SH In Hand and Resolution (03-25) to return the soundness requirement to be returned to the judging criteria in Equitation and Showmanship classes.

I did the Audit report for Region 8 and it was approved

I also conducted the Election of the Region8 Show Commissioners for 2026-2027. They are Jim Porcher, Chair – New Mexico; Jill Howard – Nebraska; Eddie McCain – Kansas ; Jim Hitt – Colorado.

I also conducted the Election for Region 8 Board of Directors. They are:

Region 8 Director is Jim Porcher, Vice Director is Jill Howard, Secretary is Cheryl McMahon, Treasurer is Mark Goff, John Simmons is the Past-President.

The other Delegates may have information to add; I tried to cover the “waterfront” without submitting an epistle.

I will try to answer any further questions if you will be specific about what you want to know. Thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Wheeler

### Cheryl's Convention Report:

I serve on the Equitation/Showmanship Committee, Sport Horse Committee, and Working Western Committee. I can provide a brief summary of those meetings, as well as answer any questions on other meetings I attended.

#### Equitation/Showmanship Committee:

During the working session, there was extensive discussion about adding patterns to the Walk/Trot Equitation classes. It was noted that this would be beneficial for younger riders and help prepare them for equitation classes as they advance. Laurie Long will gauge the level of support and may form a subcommittee to follow up with a proposed resolution.

There was also discussion regarding the limited number of patterns available for Dressage Seat Equitation. A subcommittee was formed to explore the feasibility of adding additional patterns from the USDF pattern book.

Additionally, there was specific discussion within each equitation discipline regarding patterns and penalties, as well as clarification of rules for Sport Horse Showmanship. This topic is also being addressed by the Sport Horse Committee.

#### Sport Horse Committee:

As Liz has already covered most of this, I will add the following. There was discussion on ways to increase sweepstakes money for sport horse classes and the possibility of adding jackpot classes at Sport Horse Nationals. A subcommittee was formed to explore these options.

#### Working Western Committee:

The committee discussed ways to increase participation in reining and other working western classes. There was also discussion about creating a Regional All-Around award for working western horses that compete across disciplines. AWWA has agreed to spearhead this effort. As a result, four championship buckles will be presented at Region 8 for horses that compete in at least three of the four class sections offered (Reining, Ranch Riding, Western Trail, and Cow Classes).

I also attended the Sport Horse National Show Commission, Annual Convention Planning Committee, U.S. National Show Commission, Budget and Finance, and Judges Selection Committee meetings.

Please let me know if you have other questions or if you need anything else from me.

Thanks, Cheryl

## Jim Hitt's report on Convention

### Working Western:

Cheryl hit some of the main points. I am the current Chair of the Working Western Committee. This Committee held two meetings, the first is more less a working session. We had 3 break out groups or subs committees, Reining, Trail, and Cow Horse. All three groups discussed issues at the Local, Regional and National Levels, with ideas and recommendations to help each of their disciplines. All three subcommittees also addressed the Ranch division as most cross over into Ranch. The whole Committee then came back together and gave their report and lists of action items and requests for show commissions was compiled. Those lists were submitted to the appropriate Commissions.

### Professional Horseman;

The majority of the meeting centered around the Resolutions that address the class specs for Western Pleasure Junior Horse and Country English Pleasure. Those discussions did lead to some general class spec discussion as well. The Country English division and Resolution was certainly the one that resulted in the most discussion.

### Arabian Rules Committee:

This Committee reviews all Resolutions, "Presidential Modifications", and rule clarifications that affect the USEF Rule Book. This is an appointed Committee, but the Convention meeting is open. Getting Rules correct is often a tenuous task, as words matter in order to not have unintended consequences.

### Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes Trust:

I was involved in 3 meetings as a Sweepstakes Trustee. These meetings are closed. The main result of the meetings that became public on the Convention floor, was that the Sweepstakes Jackpot classes at US Nationals will be split into Choice and Elite classes, in order to create a more level playing field for those amateur riders. Basically the existing classes with their Jackpot fee and payback would become the Elite classes, while the "new Choice classes" would have a somewhat lower Jackpot fee and somewhat lower Sweepstakes money added to the Jackpot.