

ATAA Newsletter

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Board of Directors Official Vote Results

The results of the 2011 general membership vote for the ATAA Board are in. The ATAA has 4 new Board members, Terri Fender, Jas Shearer-McMahon, Amrita Ibold and Cathy Leddy, joining returning Board members, Ann Tipps, April Prunte and Bill Bowles. The 2012 officers are as follows: Terri Fender, president, Jas Shearer-McMahon, vice-

president, Amrita Ibold, treasurer, Cathy Leddy, secretary, Ann Tipps, director-at-large, April Prunte, director-at-large and Bill Bowles, director-at-large. We are already planning some projects for the year, including a regular newsletter and updating the website. We have some other ideas, but welcome input from the membership. If you have suggestions or

ideas, please contact one of the Board members.

RENEWAL TIME: It is time to renew your membership! You will be getting a letter in your mail box soon with a form, but you can also use the one from this newsletter or one from the website.

Under The Tevis Moon, by Monica Bretherton

First published in Endurance News, December, 2011

At Friday's vet-in at McCann Stadium, Patrickhan held his head high to study the scene. He lowered it to scrutinize the examining veterinarian, stood calmly for his check and trotted out with nonchalance. He looked just the way you'd want before embarking on one of the most testing rides in America, the Tevis Cup.

"He's a loner normally. He loves attention from

humans, not other horses." Jas Shearer-McMahon knows Patrick well — since 2001, when he was born at her Magic Valley farm. A purebred Akhal-Teke, he was her breeding stallion until a few years ago, when he was gelded and she began to compete him seriously.

This has helped him to focus in a busy environment, but hasn't changed his essential

nature. "On rides he likes to pick one horse to protect and travel with," Jas says, but when they condition in the foothills northeast of Fort Collins, Colorado, they are almost always alone on the trail.

So Tevis was going to be quite a challenge. Not only was he going to go further than ever before (they had done back-to-back fifties, but never a hundred-miles in one day), he was

Under the Tevis Moon, continued



Patrick becomes number 157



The Kenlyn Gang



Heading out from Mosquito Ridge after the first hold

going to be traveling in company. A lot of it.

Next morning, most of that company was circling in the field just prior to the 6:30 a.m. start. Within the swirl were a group of six horses from Kenlyn Arabians, led by Linda Fisher. Linda was the instigator for Jas and Patrick coming to Auburn. That meant not just a spot in their trailer, but riding together

This was unusual for Jas as well as her horse. "I always ride my own ride and that sometimes involves another person whose horse matches pace with mine. I hardly ever ride in groups."

In the days before the ride, Patrick showed little love towards the Kenlyn horses, reminding them through lunges and nips what a tough guy he was if they got too close. Jas sighed over her horse's behavior, but the other horses didn't seem disturbed. The two day trailer ride had made him part of their herd.

The Kenlyn team spirit was tested before the ride officially began. Within the circling mass of 178 starters, Jas explained, "the Kenlyn group did our own little circle and that worked up until the part when everyone started bunching up at the start line." A control rider was to take all the horses out at a walk because of

safety concerns with the improvised route.

One of the Kenlyn riders came off his horse in the excitement. Three members of the group had already left, unaware of trouble behind them in the darkness. So Jas, Linda and Lynn Williams stayed until the rider was remounted and went out with his horse sandwiched between theirs. "That was the agreement — no-one was ever going to be left behind."

The incident underlined Jas' pre-ride philosophy, "I knew luck was a big part of completing at Tevis, so I didn't worry about things I couldn't control."

That included the snow that had whited out the usual first half of the Tevis route. This was a ride Jas had been waiting thirty years for, and she intended to savor every moment. "I was there to ride the Tevis so if they told me the ride went straight up a mountain or straight down in a river I would have gone."

"I knew it was going to be hard and there were going to be lots of elevation gain and of course the canyons. What did surprise me was the ruggedness of all the terrain. The heavily forested mountains, the steep drop-off to the river.

"At the water crossing, I really noticed the strength

of the currents and the roundness of the rocks. Patrick was very uncertain the first time. He just wanted to blast through and get out of there. That might be because we didn't cross in the optimum place, and everyone was kind of bunched together still."

For a loner, being in a big group creates all sorts of stresses. "He doesn't want to stand still," Jas explained, but this was not a situation where she could cater to Patrick's emotions. "In the first thirty-eight miles to Foresthill, there wasn't much opportunity to move anywhere."

Fortunately, although Patrick can get competitive when he sees other horses on the trail, "As long as he had his Kenlyn buddies he didn't worry about the other horses. I am sure that that did help him mentally. "

The out-and-back loop to Mosquito Ridge that was added to make up mileage for the 2011 Tevis was the toughest part of the trail in some ways. The constant downgrade on the way out and uphill on the way back, limited options for the riders, although the road did permit the necessary two-way traffic. It wasn't always high-speed.

Under the Tevis Moon



At the Foresthill Vet Check

"You could not make any time going down or coming up. We trotted only in three short sections that were a little flatter. As we were going down we passed a lot of people going up that were off their horses and walking."

In spite of the tough terrain, all the Kenlyn horses came back strong into Foresthill and vetted through along with Patrick. He had adjusted to this new concept of being waited on, though he was a bit grumpy about the lack of forage along the trail, Jas said.

When they headed out again, things felt different.

Patrick realized he was heading back to the stall at the Auburn State Fairgrounds that had been home for a week. He no longer cared about the other horses. Still, Jas stuck with the group plan. "Lynn, Linda and I were riding to whichever horse needed something."

That horse was not Patrick. "He never wavered, he never slowed. In fact he kept getting stronger," Jas said.

At Francisco's, a gate-and-go check twenty miles from the finish, it was Lynn's horse that needed some time. Jas could have ridden out in other company, but she waited until Linda and Lynn had vetted through. They made their own evaluation and thought they needed to give their horses a chance to eat more. Patrick clearly wanted to push on.

So Jas told them, "We'll just start out walking and I'm sure you'll catch up."

The moon was high and bright overhead. They were entirely alone on the trail.

I was amazed how well I could see and how well Patrick felt. When you leave Francisco's you start winding down the trail through the trees with switchbacks. He was feeling great and he got in his zone.

I will never forget that. I don't really know how many miles I was alone but it was awesome."

At the river crossing, glowsticks marked the best channel. "By that time I was with only two other horses and riders, too."

She had caught up with Steve Hallmark and Renie Burnett. Patrick crossed the river without any of his former nervousness, and continued on confidently. "After the quarry he would have just cruised all the way in if I had let him."

Patrick didn't get to decide. The best journeys

are not just transcendent, they are transformative.

About Patrick, Jas says, "I am thinking he is going to be more social, at least along the trail. I never had to fight with him about anything on this ride... I have to usually orchestrate my starts with him – either be way at the back or with the front running horses and just let him go. I think riding with a small group helped his comfort level."

Linda and Lynn came in 45 minutes later and vetting through to hugs all round They had done it – seven riders, seven buckles. The Kenlyn Arabians record stood and Jas was part of that. It was twenty years since she herself had done a hundred mile ride. Although she trusted Patrick to bring her in, she feels that being in the group made her part easier.

Now, since Patrick has proven that he can maintain himself mentally and physically over the distance, Jas is setting her sights for the future even higher.

"I have just realized that AERC has that 100 mile award program. I think I am going to do at least two more 100's. The Bighorn and..."

Jas mentioned another landmark ride in the same way she used to talk about Tevis – too far away, too expensive, and clearly impossible.

The moon was high and bright overhead. They were entirely alone on the trail.



The Tevis Moon

"I don't really know how many miles I was alone but it was awesome"

Thank you
to all ATAA
members.
We can't
move
forward
without you!

Sweet Water Farm Akhal-Teke



Jenny and Dagjeir at Training Level



Amrita and Jenny with ribbons



Amrita getting her official certificate



Altyn Gush and her filly Guzelle Gush

Amrita Ibold and Jenny Rice of Sweet Water Farm Akhal-Teke on San Juan Island, Washington, enjoyed a dynamic variety of opportunities and growth throughout the 2011 year.

As always, preserving and promoting the Akhal-Teke breed at large was at the forefront of every activity.

Fun around the farm began in early spring with three purebred foals by the Peren Line Akhal-Teke stallion, Pan Tau: Guzelle Gush, filly, out of Altyn Gush (El Line - NP Dreamer x Aktepel) True Turk, colt, out of Pallas Athena Ak Sakal Line - Mamuk x Porgi) Talk of the Turkoman, colt, out of Ayal Pikira (El Line - NP Dreamer x Aktepel)

The new arrivals have helped make Sweet Water Farm one of the largest active breeding facilities for Akhal-Tekes in the United States, with a total of twenty-five purebred horses. In addition to breeding and sales, Sweet Water Farm has also expanded its program for developing sport horses. With ten purebred Akhal-Tekes in training and six actively competing in jumping and three-day eventing... the 2011 season ended with a 7th place ribbon for the El Line gelding, Dagjeir, in his first USEA Training Level event at the Northwest Equestrian Center Fall Gala, Rainier,

WA.

In April 2011, Amrita and Jenny travelled to Turkmenistan to represent the United States at the first annual International Akhal-Teke Horse Breeders Association Conference in Ashgabad. As owner of Sweet Water Farm, Amrita was presented with an official certificate by Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov, authenticating her position on the international panel of delegates working to preserve the Akhal-Teke breed. Amrita and Jenny returned to Turkmenistan in October 2011 to celebrate the country's twentieth year of independence from the Soviet Union and attend an unofficial meeting with members of the international committee.

December drew to a close with Amrita elected as Treasurer for the Akhal-Teke Association of America... and many plans on the books for the New Year.

In 2012 we look forward to three more foals by Pan Tau (Peren Line), out of the following mares: Pipi, Gelishikli Line (Mazan x Guldesse) Pallas Athena, Ak Sakal Line (Mamuk x Porgi) and EtoschaKaplan Line (Karaburgut x Enegul).

In the show ring... exciting progress in jump training is hinting at the upper

levels for several Sweet Water Farm Akhal-Tekes.

And with travel always on the horizon... Amrita and Jenny will be Ashgabad-bound for the second annual International Akhal-Teke Breeders Association Conference in April 2012.

For the full report, and to follow all of Sweet Water Farm's activities, please visit Jenny's award-winning blog: Tekes Tally-Ho!

<http://eventingakhaltek.es.blogspot.com/>

Classified Ads are coming next issue!

Each ATAA member will get a free classified ad in the newsletter and on the website.

Larger Ads will be available to purchase.

Contact the Newsletter Editor for more details at c.leddy@frontier.com

Shah' Zadeh Akhal-Tekes



Jack-Peiter x Dinastia



This past year was full of ups and downs as life goes. We (Rod Hunt and I) lost Madga, Mara and Faith in a tragic barn fire caused by a lighting strike. I also lost my beloved Martina to what my vet thought was cancer, we just could not keep weight on her no matter what we tried.

Her knee was also giving her trouble. I will miss her greatly, she was so wise. On the positive side, Jack our stallion, (Pieter & Dinastia), started training in April and has great potential in dressage. Staci, his trainer and rider will start him in schooling shows this month. Jack also went to the state fair

in August for the aisle of breeds exhibit. He was a big hit and a bit of a ham as well. Phil Case was very kind and trusted me to lease his stallion, Goblet (Doublet x Gavan), to me for a season. There will be five foals from him this spring! Two are for Rod :-). We went to Equifest in September with Goblet and Araghan (Jack & Anastasia), Staci also brought Jack to promote the breed. It was a very busy but fun weekend. Rod, Tiffany and her mother, Deana also went. Tiffany rode Goblet and they were awesome! My daughter, Blaine showed Araghan in hand. Jack was his handsome self,

boy did he glow! Now we're looking ahead for a very productive 2012 year! Thinking about going to the Minnesota horse expo with the boys, we'll see if I can pull it off: it's always so much work. So excited for the foals and of course the upcoming breeding season – we'll hit the ground running! I hope that everyone has a very good 2012 year!

Terri



Magic Valley Ranch



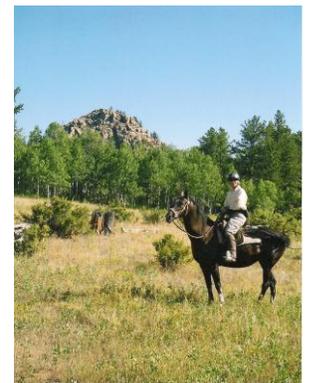
Jas and Patrick at two 2011 endurance rides



2011 was the worst year and the best year for Magic Valley Akhal-Tekes, let me explain. While we were off to a good start for the Endurance season, having some Top Ten finishes and some great trail experiences, on July 26th we lost all of our frozen semen stored at the CSU Equine Repro Lab in the horrific fire there. We had straws from three different stallions for our future use and it literally all went up in smoke and it is irreplaceable. I'm sure with time, I will make some new plans, but for now I don't have any. From that point forward, we concentrated on our Endurance season again and continued to have great success. As many of you know, I was able to get to the Tevis in

October and complete that prestigious 100 mile ride due to the help and support of the Akhal-Teke Breeders CO-OP and other friends and my family. What an awesome adventure that was, read Monica's articles for the full story. Super big kudo's to Cathy, Monica and Alice for making the journey with me! We have other 100's on the calendar for 2012 if all goes well. For the 3rd year in a row Patrick and I have placed in the top ten in our weight division in the Mountain Region Endurance Riders club, and we have placed for the second time in the regional standings of AERC, placing 5th in both MRER and AERC.

Patrick also earned his 1000 mile medallion this season and I hope to make him my "decade horse". I am bringing along his younger sister, MV Manlayli, and I hope to introduce her to the sport of endurance riding during the 2012 season.



Jas and Manlayli

Cascade Gold Akhal-Tekes



Shannon and Tommy

We didn't make it to a lot of endurance rides this year, but we did accomplish quite a bit. Three of our youngsters now have trail miles and at least two of them will be debuting at Endurance rides in 2012. Shannon Mayfield is doing wonderful things with her CGAT youngster, Asil Tumay (Tommy). Tommy is getting ready for his first endurance rides in 2012

and is learning to be a cutting horse. I think we'll see great things from them!. I took Galen to only one ride this year. We did a wonderful ride here in the Pacific NW that is called the "little Tevis". It was a very tough ride. We brought along a new endurance addict with our group. Unfortunately, we finished overtime, but our horses vetted through with flying colors.

We had one foal this year – a much anticipated colt out of Anastasia by Salam. Sazanda is bold, black and beautiful. I envision a dressage career for him. We've bred two mares for 2012 – Aishet (who is generously on loan from Freedom Run Farms in Michigan),

is bred to Metman and Astra, who is generously on loan from Emery Rhodes, is in foal to Salam.

We expect that we'll get to a lot more rides in 2012 and we'll have a whole Teke contingent there- me on Galen, Monica on Magdan and our new find, Keri, on someone else. I have also taken over the ATAA Secretary position and will be putting out a newsletter, so I think I won't be bored.

You can follow our exploits on my webpage blog at www.cgakhaltekkes.com



Sazanda- Salam x Anastasia

ATAA Secretary, Newsletter

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We'd love your farm reports, competition reports and foal photos for the newsletter and website!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.akhal-teke.org

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AKHAL TEKE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

AKHAL-TEKE HORSE REGISTRY (sm)

Web site: akhal-teke.org

Membership Form

The Akhal Teke Association of America was formed to serve the needs of owners and friends of the Akhal-Teke horse throughout North America. The Association oversees three registries: The Akhal-Teke Purebred Registry, the Akhal-Teke Sport Horse Registry for crosses of one half or better Akhal-Teke blood, and horses of recognition with blood percent less than 50%.

Members of the ATAA receive all Association mailings, newsletters as printed, membership directory and special discounts on the yearly conference fees.

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Farm Name _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ Fax number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Web site _____

Please list Purebred, Sport Horses and/or Horses of Recognition by name and registration number or family lines. Also please indicate if stallion, mare and/or gelding.

Type of Membership:

Active

(I own a Teke or Teke cross)

10 Year: \$432.00 _____

Ranch/Breeding Farm: \$100.00 _____

Family: \$ 80.00 _____

Individual: \$ 48.00 _____

Category II:

(I don't own a Teke or Teke cross)

Friends: \$ 25.00 _____

Junior: \$ 25.00 _____

International: \$ 48.00 _____

Annual membership dues are payable from January 1st to December 31st of the year. The annual membership dues must be paid by March 31 of each year (or six (6) months prior to the annual membership meeting whichever occurs first) to be eligible to vote at the annual membership meeting of that year.

Please send this completed membership form with a check or money order in US currency to:

Akhal-Teke Association of America,

Akhal-Teke Horse Registry (sm)

Secretary

21314 129th Ave SE,

Snohomish, WA 98296

Date: (Month) _____



Time to Renew!

Please join us

for 2012!

**ATAA
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SNOHOMISH, WA
98296**

**COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST 22134**

