

ATAA Newsletter

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2013 Annual General Membership Meeting

Terri Fender has been hard at work on the upcoming 2013 ATAA Annual General Membership Meeting. It will be held October 4, 5 and 6th in Minnesota.

Filming for the HorseFlicks video will be on Friday, October 4th at Spring Creek Farm - 18322 Kettle River Blvd, NE - Forest Lake, MN 56360. \$25.00 per day per horse and they would take care of the horses - feed, water, clean stalls etc

while we at the meetings because of the distance. Jens number is 651-464-5767 and email is jcollman@hotmail.com. www.springcreekfarmmn.com

We now have a hotel set up – Riverwood Inn and Conference Center, 10990 95th Street NE, Otsego, MN 763-441-6833, www.riverwoodinn.com

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The ATAA is Filming with HorseFlicks TV By Tish Saare

The ATAA has been invited to participate in an American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) Series titled 'Extinction is Forever', produced by HRTV and their production arm HorseFlicks TV. The intention of this series is to highlight the breeds on the Critical, Threatened, and Watch categories of the ALBC's Conservation Priority List. As you know, the Akhal-Teke is listed as threatened on this list.

An Akhal-Teke film in this series is an excellent outreach and

promotion opportunity to reach a large base of 'horse' viewers and get people interested in and involved with the breed. HRTV is offering a ½ hour production highlighting the Akhal-Teke, to be aired at least 18 times over a 36 month period (it could air as many as 30 times with bonus episodes). HRTV is carried on Dish Network, Verizon Fios, AT&T U-Verse, Comcast, Cox Cable, and other major cable networks, and is available anywhere in the world in real time, and on-demand at HRTV.com – so the video will get out there.

Blood typing is going away!

If you have unregistered horses whose parents were not DNAd, get them registered NOW. University of Kentucky has notified us that they will be discontinuing blood typing within a year. They will do it a few more times in 2013. This means that if your unregistered horse has parents that were only blood typed and you try to register that horse after there is no more blood typing, you are out of luck. Contact the Registrar, Amrita Ibold at ibolds@rockisland.com or the Registration Secretary, Cathy Leddy at c.leddy@frontier.com for more info or to start registration proceedings.

HorseFlicks TV targets viewers interested in horses, so we would be reaching our target audience. In addition, the ATAA may use the TV episode in its entirety on our website or on DVD, for our own marketing purposes.

The ATAA is in the process of signing the contract and raising funds to participate in this series. Everyone with a well behaved Akhal-Teke or Akhal-continued on page 5

ATAA News

Promotions Committee: Tish Saare, chair. Akhal-Tekes at the Western States Horse Exposition

Well, we did it and I think it was a great success! On June 7 – 9, the ATAA had a booth at the Western States Horse Expo in Sacramento, CA. The booth had photos and educational flyers and material, plus we brought two Akhal-Teke horses to show off and meet the public. We brought Atly, and eight year old buckskin gelding owned by Sabrina Impelido and Kooskia, a yearling palomino filly that is starting to grey, owned by Jack and Tish Saare with Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes. Despite the awful heat (on Saturday it was 109 degrees!), the horses did great. We did a 15 minute demonstration with the horses in the arena each day and we participated in the breed parade on Sunday. The biggest surprise for us was the location of the demonstration arena...we had to walk the horses through the food court, within 30 feet of a live band, and through the trailer demo area to get to the arena from the demo stalls. Both horses did awesome. Kooskia, with her whole year of life experience, got a huge gold star! She took a look at the commotion, looked at me, and just went 'well...if you say so' and walked right on through everything without batting an eye. Just a testament to the breeds' great temperament!

The Expo was a great educational opportunity

for the public and a great way to promote the breed. We got a lot of people saying that they had only seen pictures of Akhal-Tekes in books or that they had never even heard of the breed. The horses were great ambassadors for the breed and they just soaked up the attention.

We could not have put the booth and demonstration together without monetary sponsors and volunteers to help man the booth. I would like to give a special thanks to our sponsors:

- Yolo County Sheriff's Posse for donating \$500;
- Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes for donating \$500;
- Mike Nevis for donating \$100;
- Loomis Basin Equine Medical Center for donating health exams and certificates for the demo horses;
- And, of course, the ATAA for contributing \$150.

And a big, big thank you to our volunteers:

- Sabrina Impelido – manning the booth/stables and providing her horse Atly;
- Ryan Azevedo - my muscle during the event (poor kid, we worked him to the bone);
- Kim, Tim, and Alyssa Share – manning the booth;
- Coleen Ramos -

- manning the booth;
- Amanda Bruson – manning the booth;
- and Deb Bowker – manning the booth.

We hope to participate again next year, but will again need donations (the event is expensive!) and volunteers (both human and equine). So, if you are interested in helping out – it is never too early to start planning or taking in donations. Also, if you are interested in participating in an Expo or promotional event in your area, please feel free to contact me. The ATAA has limited funds for participation in promotional events and we can give you ideas for fundraising and educational materials. Expos and demonstrations such as the Western States Horse Expo are an excellent way to educate the public about the breed!

Registration: Registrar, Amrita Ibold, Registration Secretary, Cathy Leddy

As of July 8th, 2013, we have issued 19 new ATAA Registration Certificates, with many awaiting further information, along with 2 partbred registrations and more pending. The BOD revised many of the Registration Rules and Regulations, to make them easier to follow and also to reflect our changing horse population. All the new (and

hopefully improved) Bylaws and Rules and Regs have been sent to the membership and will also be on the ATAA website.

2013 Annual Membership Meeting, Terri Fender, Chair

The hotel is booked, the HorseFlicks filming is in place! We are now working on the General Membership *continued on page 4*

Classified Ads

Each ATAA member will receive a free ad in the ATAA Newsletter Classifieds each issue.

Individual membership: 30 free words per issue. Family membership: 60 free words per issue. Farm membership: $\frac{1}{4}$ page ad

If that amount just isn't enough, you can buy more ad space.

Full Page: \$75 per issue

Half Page: \$50 per issue

Quarter Page: \$35 per issue

1/6 Page: \$10 per issue

Business card: \$8 per issue

You can pay via check or on the ATAA website with the PayPal button on the membership page. Just make sure you add a note with your payment so we will know what it is for.

Send Ad copy to ATAA newsletter, 21314 129th Ave SE, Snohomish, WA 98296 or c.leddy@frontier.com

Ads due by the end of the month before publishing.

ATAA Yearly Awards Outline

Guidelines and Rules:

The awards outlined below are for ATAA members only. *Exception: see Junior Achievement*

The President or Vice-President may be asked to step in for a tie-breaker (or another committee member not personally involved in that particular award if it involves president or vice-president)

All awards will be chosen based on nominations from registry members (a paragraph or two explaining why the individual person and/or horse should be chosen for that award).

Plaques will be given out to the discipline award recipients (A maximum of 3 recipients per discipline)

An individualized award will be given out to achievement award recipients (1 recipient per category)

Achievement Awards:

Junior Achievement Award: A youth (<18) who participates in promoting the breed and/or the registry. The youth must be a member OR horse owner must be a member AND horse must be registered.

Publicity Achievement Award: Any registered horse or member who brings the breed and/or registry into the public eye (example: magazine article, newspaper, television, etc.).

Volunteer Achievement Award: A member that donates their time by helping out in any way to promote the breed and/or the registry.

Golden Achievement Award: A member >60 years old that has actively promoted, volunteered, or somehow contributed to furthering the breed or registry.

Leadership Achievement Award: A member in the registry that shows great skills in leadership, ambition, promotion, and teamwork amongst fellow members.

Discipline Awards:

Long-Distance Discipline Award: A member that actively competes in AERC or CTR rides on a registered horse.

Dressage Discipline Award: A member that actively competes in schooling shows and/or USDF recognized shows on a registered horse.

Eventing Discipline Award: A member that actively competes in schooling shows and/or USEA recognized events on a registered horse.

Jumping Discipline Award: A member that actively competes in schooling shows and/or USEF recognized shows on a registered horse.

Open Show (Discipline) Award: A member that actively competes in open shows (any discipline) on a registered horse.

To nominate you and your horse, contact: Catrina Quantrell, godscavalry@gmail.com or Betsy Wandler at betsysee@gmail.com

Watch the ATAA website for more information.

Meeting agenda. If you have something you'd like discussed, please contact Terri Fender.

Remember to get your awards nominations in and also to send in photos and info for the ATAA Yearbook!

Contact Terri Fender for more details – territeke@yahoo.com or 320-305-4292

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

There will be two open positions on the BOD this year. Two Directors at Large were elected last year to finish out non-performing Board members terms. If you are interested, contact: Jas Shearer-McMahon at jaslivco@aol.com

ATAA YEARBOOK

Hi everyone! I am partaking in a new project to make an annual "ATAA Yearbook". It will cover September 2012-September 2013 activities, and will be available at the 2013 ATAA conference (and online after the conference). I would love to get pictures of members and their horses throughout that time span (2012 ATAA conference, showing, competitions, trail riding, foals, just hanging out, etc.) and also any written material (updates, reactions from others to seeing a Teke for the 1st time, farm reports, etc.). The more the better!! Any additional ideas to include in the yearbook are welcome!

Betsy Wandler
betsysee@gmail.com
2440 Silver Hill Lane
Billings, MT 59101
406-696-8431

2013 AWARDS

Make sure to check the ATAA website about this year's awards! Start thinking about who you would like to nominate for the different categories. All nominations need to be in to Catrina Mettam or Betsy Wandler by September 1st!

Betsy Wandler: 406-696-8431 or betsysee@gmail.com

Catrina Quantrell; 541-386-1666 or Godscavalry@gmail.com

Bylaws Change: We need to reword this bylaw again. We found that no professional bookkeeper or accountant will do a 'review', only the full audit which runs around \$2500

each time. As our financial records are all on the ATAA website, we propose the following change:

Article IV: Management 4.5E
As it reads now:

A review of the ATAA financial records shall be performed by a professional bookkeeper or accountant, not otherwise affiliated with the ATAA at the end of every year.

Proposed wording: ATAA finances will be published on the ATAA website at least quarterly and a full report will be available for any member to view at the yearly Conference.

2013 ATAA Annual Membership Meeting October 4, 5 and 6

Conference Fee: \$125 for ATAA members, \$175 for non-members
Includes all meals and Awards Banquet on Saturday night

Hotel: **Riverwood Inn and Conference Center**, 10990 95th Street NE, Otsego, MN 763-441-6833, www.riverwoodinn.com

Horse portion (Horseflicks filming) will be at Spring Creek Farm, 18322 Kettle River Blvd NE, Forest Lake, MN 55025. Each day will be \$25 per horse, they will feed and clean.

Silent Auction: Lyn Busacca, contact her at nyakhalteke@yahoo.com

Agenda:

Friday, October 4th – 8-4 (approximate), HorseFlicks filming, Spring Creek Farm, snacks and lunch provided

7 pm- Meet and Greet at the Riverwood Inn, cash bar and nibbles

Saturday, October 5th- 9 am- 4pm Annual Membership Meeting, coffee and lunch provided.

7 pm – Awards Banquet

Sunday, October 6th – Farm Visits. Times to be determined.

For more information, contact Terri Fender at 320-305-4292

Akhal-Teke Horses and Equine Assisted Therapy

By Sandra De Blois

Akhal Teke horses display their charm, sensitivity and ability to bond with humans at the Equine Assisted Therapy Institute in Lumby, BC. The Institute aims to be recognized as a pioneer and a leader in the combine use of mindfulness and equine assisted therapies for the treatment of trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

Although it has its origin in the Buddhist traditions, mindfulness is a secular practice. It is defined as intentionally paying attention to the present moment in a non-judgmental manner. Mindfulness has received increased attention in the West since the seminal work of Dr. John Kabat-Zinn at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. His Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Program instituted in 1979 has proven to be effective in the treatment of depression, anxiety, PTSD, ADHD, eating disorder, substance abuse disorder and relapse prevention to name only a few. Brain imaging studies have shown that mindfulness increases neuroplasticity in areas of the brain that promote self-regulation. Mindfulness can be practiced in various ways. Our work is based on the MBSR program which focuses on breath awareness, light hatha yoga and body scan. The benefits of mindfulness include decrease in anxiety, reactivity and stress, increase in positive emotion, positive thinking and physical well-being, as well as improvement in attention and memory.

Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT) incorporates horses in the therapeutic process. Several aspects of a horse's nature make it a valuable adjunct in therapy. Horses are majestic and graceful and thus naturally sustain a person's attention. Hence, for many, EAT is a refreshing alternative to office-based therapy sessions. EAT is inherently present moment focused. Clients are naturally drawn into the present moment through the beauty and power of horses. Furthermore, horses require that one stays in the present moment by the virtue that they are prey animals, constantly monitoring the environment for potential threats. Situations can change very quickly when one is around horses and this naturally encourages a person to monitor oneself, the horse, and the environment. Horses live in herds structured by a dominant-subordinate hierarchy. As such, horses respond strongly to a person's self-confidence and leadership. Horses possess an elaborate repertoire of body signals to enhance communication among herd members and avoid conflicts. Through their evolution, horses have mastered the art of reading body language, both that of conspecifics and of humans. Horses' ability to be attuned to minute aspects of body language provide clients with direct, objective feedback about their non-verbal communication and underlying emotions and mental states. In therapy, empathic attunement and congruence are viewed as essential components of the client / therapist relationship. Interestingly, horses naturally possess similar qualities. They are non-judgmental and

accepting. Horses are also congruent; they do not lie or have hidden agendas.

EAT takes many forms, from handling, grooming and leading a horse, to advanced horsemanship skills, round penning and problem solving activities in an arena. EAT is mostly focused on the ground, although some mounted activities may be pertinent at times. EAT promotes skills that increase internal locus of control such as self-confidence, self-esteem, self-awareness, and self-efficacy. It also facilitates the management of anger, anxiety, frustration, disturbing emotions and memories. EAT increases assertiveness, empowerment, and awareness of healthy boundaries. It improves communication including body language and the ability to express feelings. All our Akhal Tekes can be used as "co-therapist", including young ones and our stallion Maruk.

Sandra de Blois, Ph.D., member of the Canadian Professional Counselors Association, believes mindfulness and EAT combined together have the ability to outperform either therapy alone. Indeed, the two therapies marry well. For example, mindfulness teaches one to access the present moment through our senses, such as the sensations associated with breathing, walking, sitting, eating, or awareness of a sound in the environment. Adding horses to the therapeutic process allows clients to be immersed in their senses: they touch, smell, brush, lead horses. These experiences further reinforce present moment awareness. Hence, the use of these two therapies has a synergistic effect. Check our upcoming website at www.equine-ati.com

HorseFlicks continued from front page

with a well behaved Akhal-Teke or Akhal-Teke cross is invited to participate in the filming and we would love to see you and your Akhal-Teke attend!

We will have three filming locations around the United States to give as many people and horses as possible the opportunity to participate in this once in a lifetime promotional event.

- Pacific NW – Washington State Horse Park, August 10th
- Midwest - Spring Creek Stables at the ATAA Yearly Conference, October 4th
- South - Kentucky Horse Park, October 12th or 13th. This filming will be incorporated with a Breed Weekend at the Kentucky Horse Park.
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We have had a great outpouring of donations (thank you to everyone that has donated), but of course, a little more wouldn't hurt! There are always incidental costs that we don't anticipate. Donations may be sent to ATAA Treasurer, Amrita Ibold, 2097 W. Valley Rd, Friday Harbor, WA 98250, and please mark them 'HorseFlicks'. Anything left over will be put in the promotion fund for our next promotional event. If you would like more information or think you might like to participate (or donate), please contact Cathy Leddy at c.leddy@frontier.com, Tish Saare at saaressaare@zettabb.com or Terri Fender at territeke@yahoo.com.

Getting to Know You

This is a continuation of January's feature. Way back in December, I asked people to fill out questionnaires in return for a raffle ticket for the handmade AT presentation halter by Shannon Mayfield. We got a good response (and Scott Sears, DVM won the halter), so each issue I'm printing a few more answers. Here are this issues ATAA members:

Karen Yates

Q: What is your equestrian background?

KY: I have owned horses since 1963. At the present time I have three personal horses which I keep on my farm along with one additional horses belonging to our 501c3 animal rescue/welfare organization, the Bucket Foundation. The foundation owns 2 more horses which are stabled off site, one of whom is being used as a lesson pony and the other as a pasture companion. I sponsor and coach two young riders who occasionally event three of my horses. I am a former upper level amateur event rider with over 25 years of competitive riding experience, including almost 10 years at the Intermediate (primarily) and the Advanced levels on Akhal-Teke bred horses. I have competed over much of the eastern US including Rolex, Essex and Radnor and two of my Tekes have won Zone USEF Horse of the Year at the Intermediate Eventing level- Akhal-Teke/TB gelding Zang in 1990 and purebred Akhal-Teke gelding Kandar in 1998.

Q: Where do you live?

KY: Madison County Alabama (Huntsville, AL area)

Q: How and or why did you become interested in Akhal-Tekes?

KY: I saw a picture of one on the cover of the Breed book, "Horses of the World", 1975 edition, by Daphne Goodall. I was mesmerized; I still have that book in a place of honor in my library. My fascination and obsession eventually led me to Phil and Margot Case where I met my first Akhal-Teke in person in 1983 at their Virginia farm. 2 years later, I brought home their 4 year old Zang on a free lease to train as an event horse and I subsequently bought him in 1988 as he was finishing his first season at Preliminary.

Q: How many Tekes do you own or lease now?

KY: I own two purebreds and two AT/TB crosses, (I have also owned three other half-breds and the purebred Kandar, all of whom are now deceased).

Q: What disciplines do you use them in?

KY: These days I mostly trail ride for fun, as I am retired from competition. However, I occasionally lend my horses out to select young riders to take to events.

Q: What particular traits drew you to the Teke vs. another breed of horse?

KY: Well, I have to admit, their hair...and their beautiful heads and their stunning conformation—I really like a longish back and their lovely high set necks, which I find to be invaluable attributes in good jumpers. They are such extraordinarily good jumpers. And of course, they are among the loveliest movers on the planet...with very light elegant and smooth gaits. I can think of no breed I have ever ridden with more comfortable and delightful gaits. (How do people sit those warmblood trots???)

Q: If you had unlimited funds/resources, what Teke that is alive today would you want to have and why?

KY: Hmm, Tough one. I am afraid I don't know very many ones alive today other than my own, whom I adore. But I must say that Amrita Ibold has a couple of ,

horses I would love to ride and perhaps own, once she gets them broken. I am also guessing that Phil case has some nice ones running around his farm as well. I, unfortunately, am unfamiliar with any of the other breeders, but I would really like to have the luxury of going on a road trip and visiting everyone, including the breeders in Europe and Turkmenistan! Also, if I wanted another top event horse, I would definitely try to breed one using the banked semen of Phil Case's Senetir. I think a case can be made for Senetir being the best eventing sire of his time, especially considering the quality of some of the mares he was bred to, his amazing overall percentage of successful offspring (most of whom were competed by amateurs) and the relatively low numbers of foals he produced.

Q: What would your dream cross be?

KY: Senetir (see above) as the stallion. I'd have to go look at mares.

Q: What do you see as the future of the breed in North America?

KY: I hope there is a great future, but it does seem as if the warmblood has taken over the sport horse disciplines here in America. When the FEI gutted the 3 Day event, approximately 8 years ago, the warmblood was rapidly able to displace the former eventing paragon, the Thoroughbred, in upper level eventing—a spot that the TB had virtually dominated since the sport's inception. The TB had reigned supreme for decades due to its inherent ability to meet the combined demands of both speed and endurance on the cross country phase. In fact, no other breed, with the exception of the Akhal-Teke and possibly the Angle-Arab is as well designed for the sustained speed and endurance required on Day 2 of the long format 3 Day event as the TB horse. I did believe at one time

that the Akhal-Teke (like the TB) had unequalled potential to excel in the sport, but not so much anymore. The death of the long format 3-Day Event has just changed the landscape too much for the hot blood type of horse to be as competitive. And, just as the TB has lost its place in the eventing world, following on the heels of its almost complete disappearance from the hunter/jumper and dressage disciplines, I can see little hope of the Akhal-Teke doing any better.

Unfortunately, I am also afraid that the sport horse disciplines have become a sort of 'warmblood club only' anyway these days, as most of the judges are also warmblood breeders and trainers. Throughout my long career, I hardly ever encountered a dressage judge who had even heard of the breed (with the notable exception of General Jonathan Burton) and most seemed to be extremely biased against the breed type in general. Sometimes their first encounter with an Akhal-Teke even resulted in distressing criticism of my horse management skills. For example, I once was riding Kandar in an Intermediate Horse Trials at a very prestigious event. He was extremely fit in anticipation of an upcoming CCI** and he looked like the horsey equivalent of a lean racing greyhound; he was in truly outstanding shape. He was not a bag of bones; he was a well-muscled, narrow built Akhal-Teke in superb condition. The judge stopped me to talk after my ride and she made some very pointed comments about how thin he was, and that it was irresponsible that I would even consider taking such a horse out on cross country the next day. I attempted to explain myself and the breed, but she was having none of it. And so I asked her to just come out and watch us go cross country the next day. If she still thought he was 'too weak' to compete, I would accept her decision and withdraw from the rest of the competition. (I just did not want to be eliminated by the dressage judge for riding an abused, starving horse.). I think

someone who knew us may have put in a good word for me, because I was eventually allowed to start cross country the next day in spite of the dressage judge's reservations. Anyway, to her credit, the judge tracked me down afterwards in the barns and she admitted that Kandar was the most fluid; the lightest moving and the most effortless jumping horse she saw go all day. Obviously, he was not 'too weak' and starving to compete as she had feared. She apologized and said that she would be doing some research on Akhal-Tekes when she got home. The point is that I faced this breed prejudice often; an Akhal-Teke is the absolute antitheses of a warmblood and also competing in the newly emerging warmblood world was quite the challenge then and I would imagine even more so now. However, even after considering all of the above, I still think that Akhal-Tekes can be superlative event horses; it's just that I think that the dressage phase may keep them out of the top placings. (Personally, I love a nice Akhal-Teke dressage horse, but it cannot be denied that they are not the type of horse generally being rewarded in the ring today.) Inasmuch as the speed and endurance components of the 3 Day are now history, the entire competition is much more heavily weighted toward dressage, and hence the sport's new tongue-in-cheek motto, "It's a dressage show.." But, I have no doubt that a good Akhal-Teke can run and jump with anyone and they would absolutely be my first choice to compete again, if I were still a young person, because, after all, the most important consideration when choosing an event horse (in my opinion) is to always pick a good jumper- first and foremost. I was able to achieve all of my riding goals on Akhal-Tekes, and they always took very, very good care of me. Unlike so many of my peers, I survived my eventing years without any injuries at all, for which I must give all the credit to these wonderful horses. Although I am fairly unfamiliar with endurance racing, I am hoping that perhaps the Akhal-Teke will fare better there.

Q: Would you be interested in a national show or perhaps regional

shows for Teke and Teke crosses? How far would you travel?

KY: Depends on the classes offered. Up to 500 miles.

Q: What else might other Teke people want to know about you?

KY: I appreciate all of you breeders for keeping this magnificent breed alive for future generations. Thank you.



Betsy and her son Tristan on Victory

Betsy Wandler

Q: What is your equestrian background?

BW: I started taking riding lessons when I was 6 years old, and got my first mare when I was 8. I had her until she passed away when I was 28, and still have one of her fillies (who will be 15 this coming year!!). I was involved in a mounted-drill team from when I was 8 until I graduated from high school, then I went on to get an associate degree and bachelor degree in equine science. I did my equine internship in Germany for 3 months with a trainer, it was a great experience (although very interesting because only the head trainer in the barn spoke English, and I spoke minimal German...but horse language is universal!). I took up endurance in 1999, and that is where I met Jas Shearer-McMahon and began my relationship with the amazing Akhal Teke breed.

Q: Where do you live?

BW: Billings, Montana

Q: How many Tekes do you own or lease now?

Continued on page 8

stallion, 1 gelding), 1 highbred mare,

Q: What disciplines do you use them in?

BW: The gelding I use for dressage lessons/pleasure riding, purebred and highbred mare are broodmares stallion is my future endurance prospect (he will be 3 this summer), and I am selling my half-bred mare as an endurance/sport horse prospect.

Q: What particular traits drew you to the Teke vs. another breed of horse?

BW: I must admit that their exotic appearance is what first drew my eye, and then their athleticism was what actually made me want to own them.

Q: Giving unlimited funds/resources, what professional rider would you like to see competing a Teke and why?

BW: This isn't a direct answer to this question, but my wish if I had an unlimited money source would be fund Jas Shearer-McMahon to compete in endurance full time with multiple Tekes year-round.

Q: What would your 'dream cross' be? Choose the mare and stallion, past or present.

BW: One of my current mares, Amerka, crossed with Senetir.

Q: What do you see as the future of the breed in North America?

BW: I believe as more Tekes and crosses get out there and into competitive homes, we will see more and more showing in dressage, 3-day eventing, and endurance (versatile sport-horses). The problem right now is I think they will be very competitive in endurance events, but the cost of a Teke is substantially higher than the cost of a proven Arab endurance horse...so once more Teke owners have their horses out on the trail we will see an increased draw to them.

Q: Would you be interested in a national show or perhaps regional shows for Teke and Teke

crosses? How far would you travel?

BW: Yes, once we have a good solid competitive base! I would travel 10-14 hours with my horses to compete in a quality show. I think a national show would need to have 2-3 "bases" to rotate thru around the country.

Q: Are you happy with the current grading system for Tekes in N. America? If not, what would you like done differently?

BW: No, we somehow need to get someone here in N. America qualified to grade horses, and have a cross-

country grading once a year. Or maybe it would be more feasible to do part of N. America one year and the other part the next year (so a grading would come thru your area every 2 years).

Q: What else might other Teke people want to know about you?

BW: My goal is to eventually visit every Teke breeder in the U.S. (internationally would be great, too!). I have found for the most part that pictures just don't do Tekes justice, so I feel the need to meet them all in person :)

The Journey of Discovery Kopet-Dag Akhal-Teke, LLC

Written by: Rod Hunt & Tiffany Deitchler; LLC Governors

Kopet-Dag Akhal-Teke, LLC was registered in Minnesota in 2012 with the purpose of promoting and propagating the Akhal-Teke breed. It has since acquired 112 acres of pine forest which adjoins the Smokey Hills State Forest with more than 20 miles of riding trails. The future plans include clearing of 14 acres for pasturing and an arena/barn for training and showing. In order to accomplish the mission the LLC Governors were inspired by visits to a number of outstanding Akhal-Teke breeders and owners.

To start out, in January 2013, it was a great pleasure to have Governors Deana and Tiffany Deitchler fly from their Minnesota base to Washington State where they very much enjoyed their visit to Sweetwater Farm and Cascade Gold Akhal-Tekes.

At Sweetwater Farm, Amrita Ibold, owner, kindly showed her beautiful mares, geldings and her stallion Pan Tau. At Amrita's invitation, Tiffany rode with her up to the top of the foothills and then down to the shoreline where Canada was seen in the distance. After the beautiful sights and smooth ride, Amrita and her husband hosted the guests for a lovely dinner and discussion of Sweetwater Farm's philosophy.



Amrita and Tiffany riding Paktaly and Paelka

The following day they drove to Cascade Gold Akhal-Teke in Snohomish, where they met and visited with Cathy Leddy. Cathy very thoughtfully provided copies of the ATAA newsletters dating back to the beginning for their reading.

In March 2013, Deana and Tiffany traveled to Orlando, FL to make personal contact with Francine Anderson who has Arim standing at stud. After

actually seeing Arim for themselves, the BOD of Kopet Dag made the decision to AI one of their leased mares. Arim's unique personality and great conformation is a wonderful start to what Kopet Dag would like to see for their own stable.



Arim, leased by Francine Anderson

On May 28th, 2013, Rod Hunt and Tiffany flew to Staunton, VA to spend 2 full days with Phil Case at Shenandoah Farms. Phil met their flight at the Shenandoah Valley Airport late on the night of the 28th and had arranged rooms at the local Days Inn. Rod's connection to Phil dates back to the mid 90's when Phil and Margot Case's enthusiasm for the breed translated into a purchase of the purebred Akhal-Teke filly, Magdalene (Magda) through Terri Fender.



Phil's beautiful Swiss/European style home and offices is situated on a hillside overlooking his 100 acres, with views from the decks and porches of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the distant Allegheny Mountains.



Anduma enjoying the lush grass

As guests of Phil Case, they were introduced to Sabine, the barn manager/trainer and Alejandro, the handler/barn assistant. The professionalism shown by these two extraordinary assistants reflected the love for the Akhal-Tekes that has been instilled in them through Phil himself. Phil's military training as a Navy pilot during the cold war is reflected in his management style, with a proper regimen and routine for time on task.



Sabine riding Saruhan

Phil's famous coffee table publication introduction to the Akhal-Teke horses and his business trips to the Soviet Union for his paper making machines business led to his first actual physical encounter with officials, Akhal-Teke breeders and owners from around the world, which translated into the importation of Senetir. The story of this buy, Senetir's transportation to the border and the snarl of red tape is a tribute to Phil's determination to do all he could to sustain, promote and promulgate the Akhal-Teke horses by bringing the first of the breed to the United States...and it most assuredly did not stop there.

Over a 30 plus year period, Phil and Margot Case have dedicated their lives to finding, promoting and bringing together their conceptualization of the best of Akhal-Tekes. In doing so, they have made the ultimate use of their separate pastures and barns for the now 14 Stallions and 16 Mares. Each of their stallions is out of the barn and in the yard for at least half a day, every day. The mixture of their feed is a carefully calculated blend of grains and minerals and vitamins, based on Phil's study of their nutritional needs. Adjustment of the diet is made for the seasonal changes and is predicated on the age and size of his horses. A simple chalk board tracks the schedules and provides the dates for farriers Mason's and Faith's visits. Their wash room is in use daily and the stalls are thoroughly cleaned and refreshed in the stallions' absence. Phil's naming "formula" for his foals is both unique and complex and not something the visitors can reveal.

After Margot's passing four years ago, Phil, Sabine and Alejandro have necessarily revised their management and duty practices to continue to provide the best possible care for their charges. Phil's encyclopedic knowledge of breed lines and his records of blood work are the best in the United States and his library packs a room to overflowing with publications from Turkmenistan, the former Soviet Union and the now Russia, France, Luxemburg, Germany, the former Czech Republic, the Slavic countries and magazine subscriptions in a dozen languages. It is an amazing collection and in the two day visit we were only able to take in a possible 10% of his archives.

Continued on page 10

As trainer and show rider for Kopet-Dag, Tiffany gratefully accepted Sabine's and Phil's invitation to ride two of the mares and three of the stallions, gaining practical tips under Sabine's guidance. Sabine, originally from Düsseldorf, Germany, earned her college degree in Germany in equine management and has been with Shenandoah Farm for four years. At times when Phil's attention was devoted to the practicalities of the business of the farm, Alejandro spent time with Rod on the day to day duties in such a large operation. Alejandro and his wife live in one of the homes on the property and Sabine has her home on the estate as well.

On the night of May 29th Phil invited Tiffany and Rod, along with Sabine to dinner at a lovely restaurant in Staunton, VA and on the evening of the May 30th he graciously prepared and served an outdoor London Broil dinner. The guests slept very fast to make their 6:30 departure flight to Washington, DC, Chicago and back to Minnesota by 4:30 PM on May 31st.

Deana, Tiffany and Rod express their deep appreciation for the hospitality and many kindnesses shown by their hosts, Amrita Ibold of Sweetwater Farm, Cathy Leddy of Cascade Gold Akhal-Tekes, Francine Anderson, and Phil Case of Shenandoah Farms. Kopet-Dag plans to continue expanding and broadening their knowledge of this ancient and rare breed of the Akhal-Teke as there is always something more to learn.

Farm and Competition Reports

Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes' 2013 Foals

Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes had two fantastic foals this year. Our first foal, Ivy (Gallo x Iashma) was born April 14. She is a chestnut filly that looks like she is going to grey. She is super cute and really sweet – as friendly as can be. We expect her to be athletic. The second foal (Arin x Kamiah) is a palomino colt with three tall white socks – super flashy. He was born on June 19. We haven't named him yet, but we are excited about him. He is going to be a looker.



Ivy – Gallo x Iashma



Arin x Kamiah

Sweet Water Farm Akhal-Teke

Summer never fails to bring hustle and bustle to Sweet Water Farm! We are proud to announce the addition of two healthy foals: a colt by the El Line stallion, Eramay (Arim x Evropa), out of our mare Sheherezad (Durkkhal Shael x Kizliar Shael)... and a filly by our Peren Line stallion, Pan Tau (Perchat x Melusine), out of our mare Ayal Pikira (Pascha x Aktepel). And we are looking forward to another foal still on the way, also by our stallion Pan Tau, out of our mare Alajoz (Alp x Gaale). This spring we congratulated the new owners of Penta (gelding, sold to British Columbia), Padisha (mare, sold to British Columbia), Pallas Athena (broodmare, sold to Oregon), and Ulduze (gelding, sold to Oregon). With the sunny season well underway... we've had many new visitors to the farm, our usual program of lessons and trail rides seems busier than ever, and we are very excited to have six students showing our horses this year! Three of our purebred Akhal-Tekes are being campaigned in



Kegas and Marina Bienienstock

USEA-recognized events: Kegas (2005 gelding, ridden by Marina Bienienstock), Pasabi (2004 gelding, ridden by Zoe Saccio), and Paktaly (2005 gelding, ridden by Amrita Ibold). Our Summer 2013 show schedule is on our website: <http://www.akhalteke.cc/2013-show-schedule.html>



Minnesota Horse Expo Collage by Terri Fender



Eloise King and Pegas, showing 4th Level Dressage in a side saddle. Photo by Katja Federkiel

Nemote Creek Ranch

Charming Turk (Aliger x Colina Lavina AHA) has a new home with Dr. Tom Currier DVM. Look for Turk and Dr. Tom on the endurance trail in a couple of years.

Saarena (Sengar x Feja) has a date with TA Glacier AHA, 2007 Scottsdale Jr. Reining champion. This cross will hopefully produce a stunning Sporthorse that can trot far, slide and spin!

Aasia (Aliger x Kiss My Oakie APHA) is enjoying life on the ranch with her buddy Bob, chasing deer and romping in the creek.

Thanks to my friend Sharon Saare, who introduced me to Akhal Tekes (Czar Saare, Saarena, Sultan of Berthoud and Saarah Teke) and gave me the opportunity to own these lovely horses.

Alta Boyes

Cascade Gold Akhal-Tekes

This year has had its ups and downs. I haven't made it to a single competition as I'm still recovering from ankle surgery last year. Instead, we've been concentrating on the youngsters, and Goshen and Mahri are coming along nicely. We've sold a few horses and will probably have a few more sales yet this year.

Right now, we're eagerly waiting for our one foal – Aishet x Salam. I have my fingers crossed for a filly, whatever color she is! Newsflash..bay colt, but strong and healthy.

I've been doing lots of volunteer work, including helping coordinate the HorseFlicks video filming and I'm looking forward to the Conference and filmings. We have gone to one schooling show and hope to get to another this summer.

Cathy Leddy



JBK Akula in training, owned by Tim Floyd of Idaho

Silver Hill Akhal-Tekes

Natalie Schneider (owner of YV Arion, El Lameh Amir x MV Kiyasa) is riding him at the Big Sky State Games in dressage! This will be his "debut". He will be doing intro level...the main goal will be to get him used to sights/sounds/show atmosphere. The thing is this will be first exposure to a Teke (even though he is 1/2 Arab he definitely looks Teke) to probably everyone at the show, spectators and participants alike. Exciting!



Natalie and YV Arion, Betsy Wandler photos

News from Magic Valley, July 2013

The summer is just flying by, in March, MV Elfia had a lovely golden buckskin filly by Eramay who is now 4 months old and looking great.

Our Endurance season got off to a

Colorado ride, the Kenlyn Urban challenge, due to heavy wet snow which made our driveway impassable. Next ride that I had planned to do was the Wyoming Pioneer 3 day, but I missed that one due to my work load and a gut feeling that I should stay home. Third ride was to be the Mountain Mettle. That one was canceled due to the Colorado wildfires. Finally, last weekend, "Patrick" and I made it to the Shamrock Rides near Wheatland, Wyoming. The weather was perfect and we rode Shamrock I and Shamrock II, both were 55 miles in length. I had hoped to ride Shamrock III on Sunday and while "Patrick" was fit and ready, I was not and opted to not start. Instead, I enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere in camp and took my time packing up and left for home in the early afternoon.

On Friday, July 12th, I sold my 7 year old mare, MV Ferrari, to a wonderful family in Idaho where she will be used for Endurance and as a broodmare. It was a 13 hour trip to her new home but everything went well and she has settled right in.

Next weekend, the 26-28th, I will be taking either "Patrick" or "Lolly" to a Becky Hart Centered Riding Clinic. We went two years ago and had a blast, she teaches you a lot of fun balance exercises to do both on the ground and mounted using balance balls, personal size trampolines and riding simulations. The riding part is fun because she throws in some team drill work and focusing exercises. Should be fun this year, too.

August brings at least two more competitions for me, the Happy Jack two day ride near Laramie, WY and then the I Know You Rider three day ride near Evanston, WY. If things go well for me work and competition fund wise, I hope to also go to the Grand Canyon 5 day ride the end of the month which is on the north rim of the Grand Canyon and is spectacular scenery.

September 22 will be the 100 mile National Championship at "City of Rocks" in Idaho, which "Patrick" and I are qualified for and I am making plans to attend. I have heard that that country is fascinating to ride through as well. Anyone wanting to volunteer to crew for me at that ride would be greatly appreciated!

Brief report from the Turkmen Horse Celebrations 2013

By Jessica Eile

The Akhal-Teke horse is getting some attention in its homeland. Thanks to the President of the Central Asian country the Akhal-Teke breed is going through a great revival.

New facilities for training and breeding are planned, started and finished in record time. The International Equestrian Complex is a beautiful place surrounded by green mountains and filled with golden horses and proud Turkmen dressed in traditional costumes. Horses in excellent condition treated with respect and patience by handlers are every year shown to a big international audience including breeders, breed experts, international equine professionals and scholars and lovers of the breed.

The celebrations opened on April 25 with an endurance race and show jumping competitions with international honor judges. An art show was also arranged with a display of Turkmen art such as paintings, sculptures, jewelry and much more.

On April 26 when I arrived we had the 3rd Conference of the International Association of the Akhal-Teke Horse, IATA. The conference was opened by the President of Turkmenistan himself who gave a report on last year's activities and future plans for Turkmenistan and abroad to promote and develop the breed:

Turkmen Atlary participated in several horse fairs and exhibitions abroad and more horses in Turkmenistan are now in training for disciplines such as racing, endurance show jumping and trick riding. New publications have been made and a web site is up and running and continuously developed. Visit the web site at www.ahalteke.gov.tm.

Exchanges have been made with United Arab Emirates, UAE, and the Turkmen endurance team has been invited to participate in endurance races in the Emirates as soon as a veterinary protocol has been developed between the countries.

The many visits abroad and also advice from equestrian exports visiting Turkmenistan has led to the conclusion that the at the current state of the breed it is difficult to compete on international level in the Olympic equestrian disciplines, however, in the future with more focused breeding success will be achieved.

A better control of registrations and more genetic research will be funded and developed to help breeders make smart selection decisions.

The Turkmen people go through a lot of change now and that they are truly inseparable from their horses, and they have kept this unique species during hard times.

IATA also wants to encourage international knowledge exchange, learning centers in Turkmenistan.

The report was ended with the promising words "Success will be achieved."

I am sure that many, with me are very, very happy to see this development for our breed. We have been waiting so long to see this really happening. This was certainly a good day for us Akhal-Teke die hards.

Before noon we went to an exhibition and trade fair presenting both Turkmen products and well as international companies selling horse related products

such as tack, stable equipment and supplements. We were also entertained by the trick riding or djigitovka troop that showed some dare devil tricks in a circus ring. The trick horses were in excellent condition, muscled for the job, of good size and very well developed. I heard many, many impressed comments from international equestrian exports seeing these horses for the first time. Really good promotion for our breed.



In the afternoon the 5th Scientific Conference "Turkmen Horse and Horse Breeding Art of the World" was opened and we all sat down to listen to speeches on all aspects of the Akhal-Teke breed. Some of us also made our presentations to a larger than usual audience.

On April 27 we were up early to go to the President's stables to watch some performances and the "Horse of the Year Show". There were a lot of nice horses indeed to look at that day and a very impressive show on the racetrack for us to enjoy as we had a late breakfast served. The share number of horses parading was huge and all in very nice trappings with riders in new designs of costumes, traditional and very festive. Every year it gets better!

April 28 finally the day of the horse races. Early start again to be at the races in time. The weather was fantastic, nice and sunny and the Turkmen flags were flying over the International Equestrian Complex. The horses look better every year and they all appeared to be in good condition for the job and there were no accidents or injuries. Overall a very nice day at the races. At the seventh race though to our surprise, the President himself would participate in that last race of the day. It takes quite a lot of courage to ride in a horse race and as the head of the state. It was the most exciting horse race I have seen in my life, as I have never seen the sitting president of any country ever ride in a horse race.

The president rode an excellent race, and we all cheered him crossing the finishing line as number one. Then the horse stumbled and the whole grandstand went completely quiet.

After some very grim minutes, the President appeared unharmed, and did what only a true horseman does. He took his mount in front of the grandstand, kissed him on the nose and said, "This wasn't the horses fault, never blame the horse." Wow, people cheered, felt more like a rock concert than a horse race. This, folks, is something I can tell my future grandchildren.

The afternoon ended with a beautiful visit to Nissa, the old Parthian capital.

My flight left Ashgabat around midnight so the rest of the stay was saying good bye to new and old friends and prepare for another 24 hours of travel between Ashgabat and Tampa Bay.

Classified Ads

Horses For Sale

Andymn: 15.3hh Akhal-Teke Sport-horse gelding, 1997. Super sweet, good ground manners, w/t/c, in regular work regimen. Started jumping. Pleasant to ride, responsive to aids and very light. Trailers. Sound. \$2500. cymorgan1@yahoo.com or 206-579-2099

Midnight Sky Farm has numerous Akhal-Teke Sport horses available out of ATAA Stallions Madras and Fakir. 4, 4yr old geldings, 3 4yr old fillies. All crossed with Arab mares. 541-686-1240

For Sale: Miril, 5 year old purebred bay 15.2 gelding 90 days under saddle training. Galadrielle, 9 mo. old purebred buckskin filly already 13.3hh. Also, 3 Arab/Paint/AT cross fillies (2

AWARDS

Make sure you and your horses are eligible for awards this year! Check out the ATAA website under awards <http://www.akhal-teke.org/awards-programs.html> to be presented at the Yearly Conference In September and USEA and AERC awards to be presented at their yearly conferences.

coming two-year-olds; 1 ten mo. old) and one very flashy frame overo pinto Arab/Paint/AT cross 9 mo. old colt. All Ak Sakal line. Details & photos at: www.oasisakhal-tekes.com email: jacquemunn@aol.com

Other for Sale

"Endurance 101: a gentle guide to the sport of long-distance riding" by Aarene Storms, photos by Monica Bretherton - fully-featured but entertaining - e-book and full-color print edition available

at www.endurance-101.com

Stallions at Stud

Arim is standing at ABSOLUTE AKHAL TEKE and is available for cooled, frozen or live cover. Arim is offered for \$1100.00 to the first mare booked. For more info: Favjockey@aol.com or (813)469-1089 cell

Aliger – Amelit 12 x Gumsara, 1995 Perlino stallion, will stand Live Cover to a limited number of mares in 2013. Located in Colorado, contact Kris Ahlberg DVM at 303.929.6677

Silver Hill Akhal Tekes



2013 colt
"SH Karanlik
Sovalye"
(Salamdor x
Amerka).

For
Sale



Announcing the
arrival of SH
Kizarmak,
Salamdor x MV
Kiyasa, bay filly
born 6/16/13

See Website for updates and details!

406-846-8431 betsysee@gmail.com
www.silverhill-tekes.com



Silver Hill Akhal Teke
Erin and Betsy Wandler
2440 Silver Hill Lane
Billings, MT 59101



www.akhalteke.cc

Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes

Pleasant Grove Akhal-Tekes is
proud to stand two
excellent pure bred stallions.

Gallo (photo below) is a metallic bay
stallion from the Skak line.

Arin (photo right) is a shiny cremello
stallion from the Gelishikli line.



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Please see our website for
more photos and information.

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