



*The Egyptian Event ran from June 7th through the 11th, 2011 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. The Park has always been one of the most beautiful horse show facilities in the United States and, with the remodeling and new rings finished for the World Equestrian Games hosted there last September, it's now achieved world class elegance. The first Egyptian Event was held at the Park in 1981. There were 49 straight Egyptian stallions stabled and on display in the Hall of Stallions that year and 91 straight Egyptian and Egyptian-bred horses present on-grounds to compete in the classes. The "winningest Egyptian Arabian of all time" *Sakr was on hand with his friend and trainer Tom McNair representing Gleannloch Farms.*

It was a very hot beginning for the 31st Annual 2011 Egyptian Event with 90 degree plus weather and very high humidity on hand to welcome horses and trainers from all over North America and beyond. Three hundred plus horses filled the stabling area from the bottom to the top of the hill up from the Covered Arena. The show was a day shorter this year and suffered a bit from the change for the first few days as the schedule was reshuffled. It ran right up to midnight the first evening. The judging line-up was well thought out and international in its scope. Bill Melendez, Bruce McCrea, Scott Brumfield and Irina Stigler handled the majority of the show's judging duties with Lenita Perroy and Doug Dahmen taking on the very important Egyptian Breeder's Challenge classes with Scott Brumfield filling in on that panel for absentee judge Susan Meyer.

The original three-day Egyptian Arabian show has become a real five-day event over the years, filled with elegant Arabian horse competition, multiple seminars, barn parties, a Stallion Showcase, and a serious dress-up annual Gala and Fundraiser held at the nearby Embassy Suites Hotel. Seminars included a presentation on "Getting to the Show and Back from a Veterinarian's Perspective" with Duncan Peters, DVM from the world famous Kentucky Hagyard Equine Medical Institute; "Mastering Good Horsemanship" with Gil Merrick, International rider, trainer and USEF Dressage Team Leader at the 2008 Olympics; "Top Notch Down Under: Egyptian Arabians in Australia and New Zealand" with Fanus Crous, Louise Cordina, Glenn North and Marion Richmond, and "Lady Anne Blunt, The Legacy of Sheikh Obeyd and Crabbet" with Peter Upton. On Friday the Gala was the hit of the show with the theme "Around the World to Venice, a Carnival Masquerade" eliciting appearances in charming outfits and fantastic masks among the many guests. Thursday there was a reception for the Egyptian Breeder's Challenge Auction attendees before the auction and a dinner and celebration party following the event in the Covered Arena.

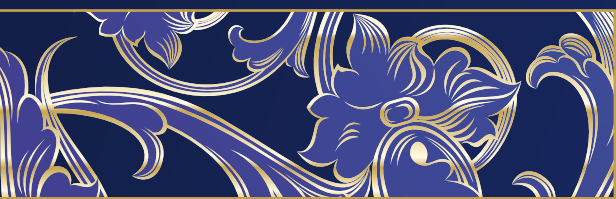
The first class session of the Egyptian Event was on Tuesday morning and as always it included Most Classic Head, Female and Male competition. Because Egyptian Arabians are the most beautiful branch of the World's most beautiful horse, this blue ribbon is a coveted prize among Egyptian Arabian breeders and owners. The mares were first and the winner was the very beautiful TF Exotikah (x EAI Etheena) a Botswana daughter bred by Talaria Arabians and shown by Mike Wilson. The trophy in the Most Classic Head – Male went to HF Winning Colours (True Colours x HF Amira De Lis) with David Conner at the lead for owners Charles and Sandra Miller. Tuesday afternoon was filled with important classes, including the

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Lexington, Kentucky

■ *by Christy Egan*



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World Class Yearling and World Class Two-Year-Old Fillies, the former was won by the Thee Desperado daughter Thee Aurora (x Psyches Aurora) shown by Greg Knowles for Pete and Sheila Stewart. Knowles also handled the two-year-old winner, another daughter of Thee Desperado: Thee Lady Majeeda (x The Lucky Lady) owned by San Gabriel Arabians. In the 4-5-Year-Old World Class mares yet another Thee Desperado daughter took the spotlight. This time it was KBF Starlight (x MC Alexis) led again by Greg Knowles for owner Carolyn Busch. Late evening Steve Dady showed Gatsby CC to the blue in the World Class Stallions 10 & Older for owners Mike Pallone and Martha Suarez.

*Tuesday was also a day filled with harbingers of winning moments to come for the Al Shaqab Stud. Their beautiful colt, an Al Adeed Al Shaqab son named Ghasbam Al Shaqab (x Gazala Al Shaqab), won the World Class Yearling Colts on Tuesday with Michael Byatt at the lead, and then came back on Saturday night to be named Reserve Junior Champion Colt of the show. Perhaps even more important was the appearance on Tuesday of the Al Shaqab-owned Laian Al Shaqab, another Al Adeed Al Shaqab offspring, led by Michael Byatt to victory in the Three-Year-Old World Class Mares. On Saturday night "Laian" and Byatt returned to center ring to claim the most coveted Egyptian Event prize of all ... the Supreme Mare Championship roses. Reserve to Laian Al Shaqab on both occasions was the beautiful grey *Mishaal daughter Lola SIG (x Thee Phoenix) owned by Osman Linjarwi and shown by Luis Paniagua and Shawn Crews.*

If Tuesday was busy, Wednesday was busier, with seven World Class events tucked in between performance and amateur competitions. It began with the 8-9-Year-Old World Class Stallions and a nice win for HF Ares and David Houseknecht for owner Sue Burnham. Popular trainer Mike Neal had a very busy day as a handler and some beautiful horses at the end of his lead. In the always elegant Ten-Year-Old and Older Mares, Neal led Kent Mayfield's beautiful Nakhda Saqqara (CN Jericho x Nisrs Bint Kamal) to the blue, and then came back in the World Class 4-5-Year-Old Stallions to take a strong second with REA El Kaream (PVA Kariim x REA Nisrs Angel). Winner in that class was Al Raheb AA (Labeeb Al Nasser x The Vision HG) owned by the Al Farwaz Stud. Steve Dady led the handsome grey in the Thursday class but it was Paolo Capecchi who showed the stallion on Saturday

night and, much to his delight, came away with the 2011 Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Stallion trophy!

The barn parties, an annual event greatly anticipated by everyone, were slated for Wednesday afternoon at around 5:30 pm. Many of the stables throw parties during this annually scheduled evening. Some include complete buffets with their horse presentations. Most all have lovely food and drink to accompany their horses and commentary, or they simply serve delightful desserts ... especially ice cream, always a hit during the annual hot weather. This year's afternoon session, still suffering from scheduling crisis and long classes, lasted until 8 pm. But few of the exhibitors were daunted and everyone simply kept the food in warmers, the ice cream in the freezer and went on with the parties well into the night.

*Egyptian Event activities are well thought out and often arranged as entertainment. That's precisely why the Two-Year-Old Straight Egyptian Colt and Filly futurities are both deemed Kalkatas. Created to encourage additional interest in the two-year-old Halter competition at the show, the Kalkatas have inspired behind-the-scenes partnerships, eleventh-hour strategies and all manner of good times and enthusiasm. The Straight Egyptian Two-Year-Old Colt Futurity Wednesday afternoon was won by Jasoor SMF (*Simeon Shai x Jade Lotus SMF), led by Troy Smith for owner/breeder Silver Maple Farm. Kalkata winners were Ken Counts (\$1,590.00) and Ria Crous (\$795.00). On Thursday morning the two-year-old fillies had their futurity and Kalkata. Winner was Thee Scarlet Rose RCA (*Mishaal HP x Thee Scarlet Lady) led by Shawn Crews for Osman Linjarwi, Saudi Arabia. Reserve honors went to TF Exotikah and Mike Wilson for Talaria Farms. Kalkata winners were Keitha Adams, who spent \$400.00 betting on Thee Scarlet Rose RCA and won an amazing \$2040.00 for her trouble. Reserve went to Brandon Bryan who won \$1020.00 for his \$330.00 investment.*

Another very popular, well-attended and well-paid portion of the Egyptian Event is the Egyptian Breeder's Challenge. The EBC is a stallion auction-based futurity that has grown beautifully for the Pyramid Society over the years. There are well over fifty nominated straight Egyptian stallions, their services are auctioned every year at the Egyptian Event and the winning bidder then breeds a mare to the chosen stallion. The services purchased in 2011 will be utilized in 2012 for foals that will arrive in

2013 and be shown at the Egyptian Event in the EBC in 2014. This year the two EBC classes, one for colts and one for fillies, paid out over \$135,000.00 in prize money to the winners. There were 23 fillies in the first EBC class, large but not unmanageable. The class turned into a formidable duel and a tie in points between two fillies, Barmyre Amurrah (ImperialAmirKamar x Imperial Karmah) and TF Andalujia (Botswana x TF Kestrelia). The former, led by Uri Shaked for Barbe Jo Meyers got the judges' nod and the roses. The colts also resulted in a point tie between the two top youngsters. Bob Miars was breeder, owner and handler of Masir Al Mar (Amaar Al Rayyan x Maymaara Maysam SA) and Jody Cruz was breeder, owner and handler of Bashar Al Kamar MH (Imperial Al Kamar x Binte Aziza MH) Bob and "Masir" won the roses. During the class Masir Al Mar reared and came down on Bob's head. Wounded but determined, Bob stayed the course and still won the day. Each EBC Champion took home \$29,828! Total payout per class was \$69,570.00.

There were only four classes on Friday, five if you counted the last Liberty section. I am sure that it was meant to give people at the show plenty of time to dress and get ready for the annual Gala party at the Embassy Suite Hotel at 6:30 pm. Most everyone was off grounds by mid-afternoon, with plenty of time to relax and dress for the popular, annual party, themed "Around the World to Venice" a Carnival Masquerade Gala and Fundraiser. The party always includes a wonderful dinner, art auction and dancing until the wee hours.

All of the Friday classes were Futurity finals and the first, for Senior Yearling Fillies, was won by a Thee Desperado daughter, Gameelah LDA (x Magidaat Al Gammal LDA). Bred by LD Arabians and shown by Frank Sponle for her owner Nayla Hayek of Switzerland, Gameelah LDA and Sponle returned on Saturday night to claim the Egyptian Event Filly Junior Championship. Winner of the Junior Yearling Fillies was the beautiful bay Amer Duha (Justynn x Imperialbellisima) handled by Paolo Capecci for Ahmad Amer. Amer Duha's sire, Justynn, was the 2008 Egyptian Event Junior Champion Colt. Reserve honors in the class went to Desha Falima (x Imperial Maysama) one of three Laheeb Al Nasser daughters to be named in the Top Ten. Philip Looyens was at the lead for DeShazer Arabians. Greg Gallun flew in from California to escort Jody Cruz's EBC Reserve Champion Colt Bashar Al Kamar MH into the winner's circle in the Senior Yearling Colts, and Ricardo Rivero led the handsome, rose grey Scapa son, JSL Aayns Al Reejis (x LPS Thunderstruck) to the roses in the Junior Yearling Colts for owners Joseph Heath and Jay Jolley. Rivero and JSL Aayns Al Reejis were back the following evening to proudly claim the 2011 Junior Champion Colt award.

Saturday began with a wonderful opportunity to be in the presence of Arabian horse greatness as HRH Princess Alia of Jordan and the legendary Arabian horse

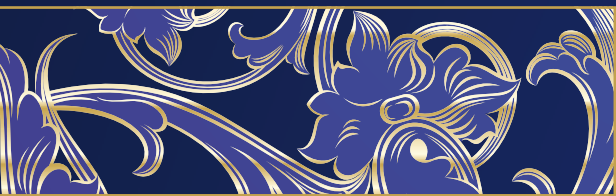


Egyptian Dancing Horse Saddle offered through the Auction Friday night

artist and illustrator, Peter Upton conducted a seminar and then hosted a book signing where they spoke with admirers for hours. Trainer Mike Wilson's soon-to-be-bride, Peri Tilghman rode the show champion Halter Gelding TF Afrikhan Magik in to win the Western Pleasure Championship. She also rode Mark Norcross and Neal Schott's TF Prince De Beers to the roses in the Hunter Pleasure Championship. Both horses are Botswana sons.

The ceremonies proceeding the final session on Saturday night are always glamorous and exciting. To begin, the judges arrived in a white, open horse drawn carriage and were presented with gifts by the children of Pyramid Society Members. Awards, presentations and a stick horse class led up to the evening's main event ... the Supreme Halter Championships. Perhaps nothing characterized the 2011 Egyptian event quite so much as the diversity and consistent beauty of the horses shown. Sires like Laheeb Al Nasser, Al Adeed Al Shaqab and *Mishaal stepped up to challenge leading Egyptian Event sires Thee Desperado and Botswana.

The Egyptian Event is a venerable show with over thirty years of success and still it strives to change and do better. It offers good management and judging; education and entertainment to its membership. It frequently does a better job than shows and organizations many times larger and it sets a wonderful and lasting example in the process.



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Laian Al Shaqab with Michael Byatt



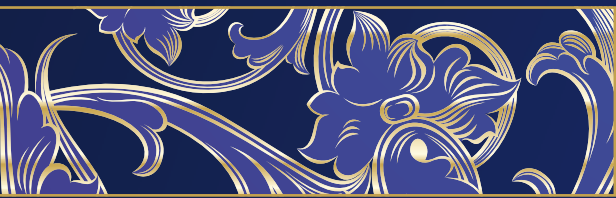
LAIAN AL SHAQAB
Supreme Champion Mare



AMER DUHA
Champion Futurity Junior
Yearling Filly



BARMYRE AMURRAH
Champion Breeder's Challenge Filly



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Frank Spönle and Junior Champion Filly
GAMEELA LDA

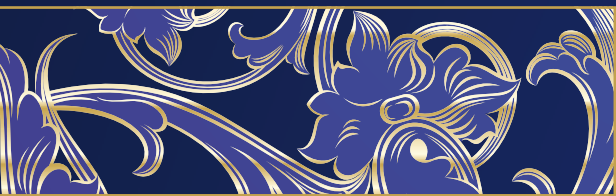


**Mike Wilson and
TF EXOTIKAH
Most Classic Head Female**



Filly Junior Championship on the line-up





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Sheila and Peter Stewart celebrate their filly's
World Class Yearling win with Shawn Crews



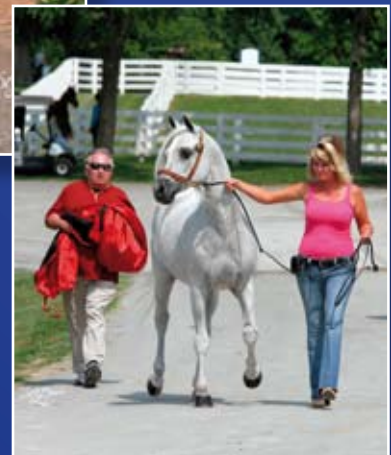
Shawn Crews and the Reserve Supreme Champion Mare
LOLA SIG



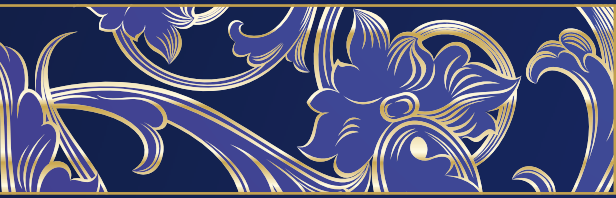
Peri Tilghman with Gelding Halter and Western Pleasure Champion TF Afrikhan Magik and Hunter Pleasure Champion TF Prince De Beers



Judges Scott Brumfield, Bruce McCrea and Irina Stigler walk through the Produce of Dam class



First morning on the way to the ingate



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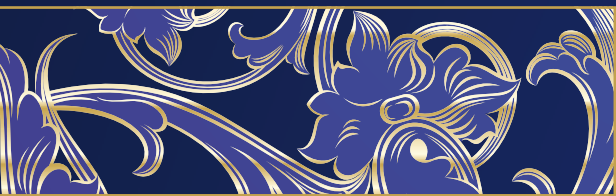
Greg Gallun with
BASHAR AL KAMAR MH
Senior Yearling Futurity Colts



**Ricardo Rivero
and Junior Champion Colt
JLS AAYNS AL REEJIS**



Ricardo Rivero and Ansata Royal Qasim



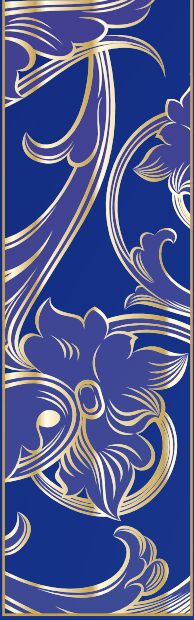
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Michael Byatt and
GHASHAM AL SHAQAB
Reserve Junior
Champion Colt



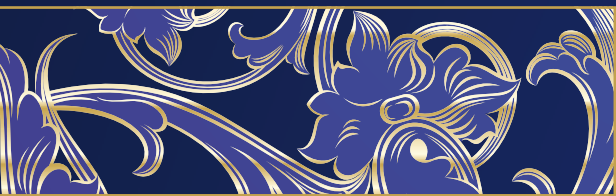
MASIR AL MAR
Bob Miars, Joe Polo, Brandon Bryan and Bartolo Moreno
after Bob's big win in the Egyptian Breeder's Challenge Colts



GATSBY CC
Reserve Senior Champion Stallion



Sue Burnham, Kamla Utz , David Houseknecht
and HF Ares after a nice win in the
World Class 8-9 Yr Stallions



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Paolo Capecci and Al Raheb AA



Paolo Capecci and Supreme Champion Stallion
AL RAHEB AA



David Conner and
HF WINNING COLOURS
Most Classic Head Male



**SEE YOU
NEXT
YEAR!**