



AREA VII

Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Association, Inc.

Holiday/Year-End 2015 Issue



Bellota Ranch

AMHA/AMHR Miniature Horses

Linda and Pat Anastasio

13953 Escalon Bellota Road
Escalon, CA 95320

Rodabi-J Ranch Miniatures



Trainer/Exhibitor Sharon Housley
showing my little mare

RODABI-J VELVET FROST

to her 30"-32" Championship
at the 2013 AMHR Nationals

Barbara Naviaux
P.O. Box 144, Placerville, CA 95667
barb@naviaux.com or (530) 622-1040

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Director: Pat Anastasio

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Committee Members: Linda Anastasio, Robert Blackwell, Lynn Blackwell, Susan Browning-Wroe, Gail Byrnes, Jim Curry, Julie Mabie, and Michele Nelson
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Newsletter and Web Site

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Area VII Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Assoc., Inc. www.areaviiclub.com

The Area VII Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Association, Inc., was incorporated on June 14, 1998 by the Board of Directors: President Marjorie Vliet, Director Virginia Flint and Director Jim Curry. It is and has always been member supported and driven, with a dynamic group of people volunteering to run the club.

Area VII is an American Shetland Pony Club/American Miniature Horse Registry/American Show Pony Registry (ASPC/AMHR/ASPR) registered and recognized club that is primarily active in California, though our area encompasses California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii. Our membership includes owners of both ASPC Shetlands and AMHR Miniature Horses. Area VII welcomes members from all over—and you do not need to own a mini or pony to join.

Area VII's membership is spread across California and Nevada at this time, with members of all ages, with varied backgrounds and interests. Area VII is primarily a club for those that enjoy their Shetlands and Miniatures, with a particular interest in showing.

"We are an informal group of people of all ages who gather together for the enjoyment of friendships made, and the promotion of our beautiful equine. As members of this organization, we help maintain the recognition that our fine Shetlands and Miniatures deserve at the ASPC/AMHR level."

2016 Calendar of Events

www.areaviiclub.com/events

February

5-7 Western States Horse Expo

Fairplex, Pomona, CA

Contact: Horse Expo Events, (800) 352-2411

Website: horseexpoevents.com

March

19-20 March Madness (AMHR, Classic, Modern, ASPR)

Ingalls Park, Norco, CA

Contact: Matthew Alton, (951) 206-6340

Website: www.pcmhclub.com

18-20 Northwest Horse Fair and Expo

Linn County Expo Center, Albany, OR

Website: <http://equinepromotions.net/northwest-horse-fair>

April

23-24 California Classic 2016 (AMHR/Classic)

Hosted by Area VII Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Assoc., Inc.

Murieta Equestrian Center, Rancho Murieta, CA

Contact: Gail Byrnes, (510) 682-4630

Website: www.areaviiclub.com

May

12-15 2016 Super Clinic at Clay Station (Driving)

4 days of driving and lessons with top-notch clinicians

Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA

Contact: Deb and Stan Packard, (916) 952-2196

Website: www.claystationhorsepark.com

26-27 Emerald Valley Classic (AMHR)

Sponsored by the Northwest Miniature Horse Club

Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR

Contact: Rinda Pullen, (425) 334-4664

Website: www.nwmhc.com

27-29 National Area VII Show (AMHR/Classic/Modern/ASPR)

Hosted by the Pacific Coast Miniature Horse Club

Ingalls Park, Norco, CA

Contact: Matthew Alton, (951) 206-6340

Website: www.pcmhclub.com

28-30 Emerald Valley Classic (AMHA)

Sponsored by the Northwest Miniature Horse Club

Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR

Contact: Rinda Pullen, (425) 334-4664

Website: www.nwmhc.com

June

10-12 Western States Horse Expo

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

Contact: Horse Expo, Inc., (800) 352-2411

Website: www.horseexpo.com

Message from the President

By Nancy Turner, 2014-2015 President

At our next meeting on December 5, we need to come up with a list of volunteers to run for offices. Except for Gail Byrnes, who will be one of our directors for another year, we need nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Directors.

We have had a very good year. I have hopes for even more fun things to do next year. It has been a long time since we have had an official show and next year we will have one, as well as other activities, but we need you to help by volunteering your time and talents. Being an club officer, committee chair person, a member of a committee or a gate person all helps, but it is also going to take a lot of money and/or entries to make our show a success. I have high hopes for this coming year. Let's work together make it fun and to make it happen.—Nancy

Area VII Club News

Show Committee: We have signed a contract with Murieta Equestrian Center and have scheduled our 2016 California Classic for April 23-24, 2016. This will be a two-judge show with a full list of classes for ASPC Classic Shetland Ponies and AMHR Miniature Horses. We are now in the process of finding our judges and our ASPC Steward.

A very important part of the effort to do this show is fundraising. Thanks to everyone who supported us with their wallets in 2015—you made us believe that this show can actually happen! We'll have a sponsorship brochure ready soon, and we need help soliciting sponsorships large and small from area businesses and others who can help us with financial support. If you can help, please contact Gail Byrnes, (510) 682-4630, dals4me@hotmail.com.

Newsletter: Wow, I just looked it up, and I have been publishing the Area VII quarterly newsletter since 2007! When I first took this on, I thought that someone else was going to be responsible for gathering all of the content—articles, news, advertising, etc.—and my job would be to do what I do best, which is making it look good and getting it printed and mailed. Things didn't work out that way and somehow the newsletter has made it to the printer on a more or less regular schedule, but now it's time for a change. If I am going to continue to create this newsletter, I need some help.

I am looking for someone to take on the job of "Content Editor." This person will be responsible for gathering all of the newsletter content—articles, news, ads, and anything else they think would be a good addition to our newsletter. This means cajoling folks into contributing articles and news, talking people into buying ads to help offset printing and mailing costs, and making sure all of this stuff comes in by the deadline. Then the Content Editor sends all of the materials to me, the "Production Editor," for layout, printing, and mailing.

This sounds like heaven to me. If you'd like to give this a try, please contact Michele Nelson, (510) 326-6487, michelenelson@nelsonpics.com.

ask an expert?

Ask the Judge: Jim Curry

Q What is more important—to have an average conformation horse fit, clipped and well groomed, or to have a horse with better conformation but not fit and well groomed. In other words, how great a role does the professional trainer play in presenting a halter horse?

A A judge can only evaluate what he sees. It is not his role to guess what a horse would be if presented differently. A well-conditioned, well-groomed, well-presented animal will normally place over one that is thin or overly fat, does not have muscle tone, has poor coat condition, has not been trimmed, and will not stand to be evaluated. That said, anyone can learn to condition and prepare an animal properly for the show ring. It does take time and effort and a trainer has the advantage in this respect, but there are many non-professionals who are able to compete successfully.

Ask the Breeder: Barbara Naviaux

Q What are the differences between inbreeding, linebreeding, and outcrossing?

A **Inbreeding** can sometimes be dangerous, if the breeder isn't extremely cautious. This term indicates an extremely close relationship between the sire and dam. For example, full sister to full brother, father to daughter, or mother to son. If one chooses to use inbreeding practices, he or she should always be certain there is an absence of any deleterious phenotypes (visible traits) such as dwarfism characteristics, leg or other conformational faults, and/or even poor dispositions. In addition, heavily inbred offspring may sometimes lack hybrid vigor, so are occasionally less able to thrive as they grow up and reach adulthood. Inbreeding is called "incest" within our human species and long ago was the cause of serious genetic diseases such as hemophilia (blood cannot clot). When inbreeding, it is essential to fully understand that all characteristics in the resulting foal are going to be intensified—the good as well as the bad. This is caused by the foal's greater number of homozygous genotypes. Crossing up on any serious faults, both visibly as well as genetically (those that are sometimes "hidden") is always to be avoided.

Linebreeding is a more conservative type of inbreeding which is much safer and more easily manageable for most breeders. It is the practice of picking out a very outstanding individual or two who appear on both sides of the proposed foal's pedigree, preferably a grandsire, great grandsire, granddam or great granddam. For example—one grandparent of the proposed foal is a top-winning stallion and that same individual is also the grandparent of the foal's dam. If taken literally, linebreeding can also mean a concentration in the foal's pedigree of outstanding individuals that were all bred by the same person or breeding farm.

Outcrossing is simply the mating of a totally unrelated stallion and mare. The resulting foal can usually be depended upon to have adequate hybrid vigor. But, in both Miniature Horses and in Shetlands, the foal cannot be guaranteed to be as high in quality nor as small in size as an individual that is linebred or inbred. An exception to this rule is when one of the parents is highly prepotent for its best characteristics. This individual will often carry these characteristics in the form of homozygous genotypes. When doing an outcross, using one parent that is noted for his or her prepotency becomes a decided advantage.

Any successful breeder who practices inbreeding or linebreeding must use the knowledgeable practices of astute observation, genetic selection and a reasonable amount of culling for only the most desirable foals. Culling, in this case, sometimes means selling a few very reasonably, possibly as pets with no papers.

Got a question? Please send your questions to expert@areaviiclub.com and we'll find an expert to give you an answer.



STEP-N-STONE
~American Shetlands~
Howard & Shirlee Busbee
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Calm, Forward, Straight

by John R. Killacky

I just had a tune-up lesson with my driving coach at the barn. His take-away mantra was to keep my pony “calm, forward, straight.” Good principles for me to work on over the next few weeks. Here, at the stable, as throughout my life, I am grateful for teachers.

As a professional dancer in my twenties, I was encouraged to build upon a firm foundation of technique. In daily class, we began with simple exercises to warm-up the body and focus attention before learning choreography. There were no short cuts to mastery.

As a marathoner, I never relished the loneliness of distance running, preferring instead the camaraderie of a team and the guidance of a coach. Intervals, sprints, hills, and long runs were always more fun together, and made sense when detailed as part of a cycle of training.

In my spiritual practice, hours spent in meditation halls had me following my breath, trying to let go of ego. In the stillness, I battled distraction as I sought intention and guidance from gurus.

These life lessons resonate with the “calm, forward, straight” instructions for my pony. I love trotting her around the arena, but often in a rush, I forget the basics. Just as in dance, the pony needs to warm up first by walking. Stopping and standing still are as crucial as moving. Starting a session with a trot does not make for a calm animal.



Photo by Michael Messengill

When driving, the pony needs to propel the cart forward by pushing from her hind-quarters, not pulling from her chest. This relaxes her neck and allows for a smoother gait. Runners know how beneficial it is to strengthen muscles and increase flexibility. Cross training is important for equine athletes too – zigzags, diagonals, circles and figure eights improve performance.

Asking the pony to move in a straight line is complicated, as it involves hand, body, and voice commands. However, aligning her head, spine, and hips facilitates ease. Progress here is in fits and starts, but when it happens, a glorious “Ah-ha” moment occurs, akin to meditation insight. The pony’s cadence is consistent and assured, her mouth is soft and relaxed, not pulling against the bit.

When struggling with a correction from my coach, I seek tips from magazines and books, online tutorials, and off-site clinics with other trainers. Reinforcement from another source, oftentimes, allows me to understand in a new way.

My ultimate teacher is the pony herself. She is forgiving and generous in our “calm, forward, straight” journey together.

John R. Killacky lives in Burlington, VT. This essay first aired on Vermont Public Radio.

News from Jim Curry

For those of you who didn’t attend the last meeting at the Woodland Stallion Station you missed a good meeting. It started with coffee and donuts in the club house followed by a trail drive, then an excellent potluck lunch followed by our meeting. We did not have enough members attending to conduct official business but had some excellent discussions and ideas exchanged among those who were there. For those who claim it was inconvenient I would mention Kathie Peterson who drove from Nevada and brought a horse to drive.

The week after this meeting was the ASPC/AMHR convention in Seattle. I attended as the outgoing director from this region. At this time I would like to mention the poor voting record of our members from Area VII. There were 328 ballots mailed, 112 were returned and of those 21 were disqualified for various reasons, so only 91 were counted. The official count was 53 to 38 and Eric Tani is the new director.

Financial reports were given at the meetings at Convention. The Shetland Congress lost \$11,106.03 and the AMHR National Show had a profit of \$51,636.97. Officers for 2016 will be Jackie Tyler, President, and there was a tie vote for 1st Vice President between Belinda Bagby and Julie Mabie. There wasn’t a vote for 2nd Vice President taken. The official minutes from the meetings will be posted on the ASPC Web site.

While in Seattle I also attended the Judges Seminar, which is required for all judges every three years. I wasn’t due to attend until next year, but that will be in Texas so it was convenient to attend this year rather than make the trip.

Our election for our own Area VII club officers will be held soon, and I urge everyone to vote. If members don’t participate it is difficult for the people who are chosen as officers to operate for the benefit of the membership as a whole.—Jim

TOMAHAWK RANCH



Presenting...
Meridians
Dare To Be Different
HOE, AMHA/AMHR
and Nancy Turner
Area VII 2015 Schooling Show Series
High Point Winners



Darin's wins come naturally via his sire, Martins Boozers Daring Difference, AMHA National GRCH in Roadster, National GRCH Pleasure Driving, and many National champions in those divisions and Top Tens in halter with up to 25 entrees.

Darin is standing at stud. Fee is \$350 LFG

Tomahawk Ranch
Minis and Carts for Sale

5250 Mill Creek Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448
Phone (707) 433-4346 • Email: tomamini@sonic.net

Rodabi-J Ranch News

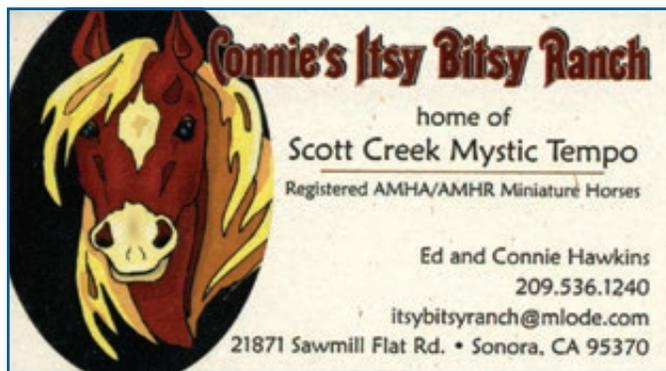
My close friend, Connie White, has moved back to Northern California. After spending nine years on her 75-acre horse ranch in Kentucky, she is finally back home! She owns several Rehs Patriarch daughters and left me one of them to be bred back to my Patriarch son, Ebony Thrills. She is a lovely little black (Deer Haven Black Satin) out of Marjorie Vliet's fantastic now-deceased mare, Noonstar of Deer Haven. Of course, Ebony is very pleased with this sudden stroke of good luck! Most breeders already know of my fascination with the practice of inbreeding, so this should be an excellent opportunity for each of us to do a little "research" on the subject. Welcome home, Connie!

My new little "star" is Rodabi-J Caribbean Crush, a 2015 silver dapple colt with lots of promise as a possible stallion prospect for the future. Not only is he a "head-hunter's" dream, but he also has that very sweet disposition that I require for any stallion that I make a decision to keep.

The El Niño predictions are remaining ever-hopeful for lots of rain this winter. Wouldn't it be wonderful to again see all of those green leaves and pastures later on? With lots of pruning, troughs and mulches, I kept all of my fruit trees and vegetable garden alive, but little else. However, I did manage to freeze a very nice crop of luscious tomatoes for my signature spaghetti sauce later on this winter.—*Barbara Naviaux, barb@naviaux.com*

Tomahawk Ranch News

Well, winter is setting in and the horses are all turning into little hair balls. I am hoping for a little rain to soften up their hooves so I can trim them more easily. I should be careful what I wish for as this winter is projected to be a very wet one. We just got finished putting new roofing on the garage and the barn is full of hay. Hope we have good weather for the Woodland Station drive and meeting but after that we could use some rain. I still have a few minis, Shetlands and a Welsh pony to sell. Took a mini and two Shetlands to Santa Cruz Fair and we did well but that show needs more entries. I went to get Hall of Fame points but it takes entries to get points. My Shetland gelding took GRCH but with no competition there are no points!—*Nancy*



Whisper Equestrian Center

Whisper Equestrian Center has been very busy this season. Melissa and RJ Whaley moved down to Woodcrest, California. This was a big move made for educational purposes and we see many trips south in the future.

The Santa Cruz County Fair Pony show was a success, and we want to thank all those volunteers who came at their own expense and helped put on the show. It was a warm one but we managed to finish early so no one melted.

The Whisper Shetland herd has been paired down over the past few years, although we have plenty left and are expecting three foals in the spring. Our goal is to catch up on our own training. Like the cobbler's kids, we need to pay attention and get a few more driving ponies going. We still train a few outside ponies but we need a few more of our own.

We have had a great deal of interest in our ponies this year by first-time pony owners. We hope to see a few of them in our shows, but we know they will enjoy their new companions and create memories of a lifetime.

We wish everyone a great Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and hope to see you a little more often in 2016.—*Ken and Julie Mabie*



Twin Oaks Ranch Miniatures

Well, as our year comes to a close soon we look back and are thrilled with our two new fillies born at the ranch this year. One is out of a Cross Country Private Terms mare and has been genetic tested as silver buckskin. She is an absolute doll and pretty fun to play with. The other filly is by Samis E Motion, a Cross Country Call Me Sir grandson. She is a beautiful homozygous tobiano with blue eyes and a super cute dishy face. She is spunky, upright and high stepping!

Our show year was a little quieter this year. I didn't show as my severe arthritis is quite flared up in my hands making it difficult to drive, but we're working on a resolution and hope to be back at it this next year. My grandson did awesome, showing Becky and Ted Horat's wonderful horse, Sammie. That horse is amazing! He is such a teacher and so patient with beginners. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for the time Becky Horat spent helping Jacob with Sammie and them hauling him to the show and all the help there. Couldn't have done it without you two! We even got my daughter, Becky Freeman back in the show ring for one show. She's a high school Ag Teacher so her weekends are limited in the spring and early summer, but hopefully she can show more this next year. She did awesome in her first mini show and hasn't shown at all since her quarter horse days back in high school and early college. She placed in almost all her classes and had had very few formal lessons driving! So proud of her.

Here's to hoping everyone has a full and fun holiday season and God Bless you all!

Carol Lima—www.twinoaksranchminiatures.com



Five Star Miniatures

We had a great 2015 with our horses. Ted and I showed our two horses, DD Too Hots Playboy (Dealer) and Bell's Egyptian Crown Royal. Dealer was Western Regional Super Amateur for the second year in a row. He was also Ultimate Gelding Performance Champion in Open and Amateur. Pretty exciting for us. Royal has had a great second year as well competing as an All Around horse with a promising future ahead of him.



In October, we went to the HDT at Clay Station Horse Park and competed with Hotshot (Half Measure's Gambler's Hotshot). It was our second time doing this and we had a blast. We had a nice Dressage score and no faults in the cones and marathon. There was a nice showing of Minis in the VSE division. Everyone is so helpful and friendly. There is talk of doing a "Mini only" clinic and HDT this winter. We're hoping this happens.

We are also active in our local carriage driving club and attend monthly trail drives and activities. We have drives through local vineyards, on the coast, and on our local driving trails. Plus we do some fun days and parades and de-sensitizing clinics. Our club has also started a Mini-only drill team. It's so nice to see the Minis being shown as the versatile horses they are.

We look forward to 2016 show season. We have a young gelding we started in cart this weekend and hope to show next year. Also have a few new "potential" members showing next year. Hoping everyone has a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to 2016!—Ted & Becky



Bellota Miniature Horse Ranch News

Wow, what a great year we have had! Pat got two new performance horses, "Socks" and "Kiss My Cupcake," and both did very well. He participated in many horse shows, and we plan to go to even more shows next year! I guess I can report that the icing on the cake was our trip at the AMHA World show in Fort Worth, Texas. Pat placed 7th in the Pleasure Driving Mares, and we were thrilled. It seems that the west coast had the most winning horses at the World Show. The people were wonderful! We met new people and visited with people we knew. I can only say that we are already looking forward to going to Texas again!

Dian Harris, Pat and I left for Texas at midnight on September 23 and arrived in Texas 30 hours later. What a fun trip. We stopped in Arizona at a restaurant called "Road Kill Restaurant," but very good food. Their moto was "You kill it, we grill it." We got to Texas in the middle of the day and were so excited to see the Will Rogers Arena and many of our friends. The arena is kept cool, and that was nice since it was pretty warm outside. We did have time to do a little sightseeing, but the best day was when Bob Kane took Pat and me to Dallas to the area where John F. Kennedy was shot. It was eery, but will never forget that visit. Bob was a great tour guide!

We were in Texas nine days, and got to watch many of the events, and I'm happy to report that California people did very well. The competition is incredible, so many beautiful horses from all over the country.

While we were in Texas, one of Pat's students from 30 years ago came to visit us at the arena. We have not seen Kim since she was a high school student at Tracy High School. It was a great reunion, and she promised to visit us again next year when we go to Texas. She told us she moved to Texas almost 20 years ago and loves it.



On a personal note, I got a new Subaru Forester! I have been wanting a new one for a while, my old Subaru is 16 years old, so now the garage has a new Subaru and an old Subaru, and I love them both. Most people that know me know that my old Subaru is the "dog" car, since both dogs love to go for car rides. But to get a new car, I had to agree to let Pat buy a new horse! That was easy!

Oh, and our best news possible! We are going to be grandparents again! This will be our third grandchild, and we are so excited. Next May, there will be another little Anastasio. Can't wait! Our little granddaughter, Dakota, told us she was going to be a big sister.

Next week Pat and I will be going to the 49er game against the Seattle Seahawks with our grandson for his 16th birthday. He will be flying down with our son and daughter-in-law for a few days. He is on the Oregon high school rodeo team, and one of the top ropers in the Oregon high school teams. We look forward to going to Winnemucca again to watch him rope in the high school finals (we hope).

To all friends, wishing you lots of rain, and see you in April at Rancho Murieta for the Area VII California Classic.—Pat and Linda Anastasio

Justa Lil Ranch

The Annual Fall Festival Pleasure Driving Show at Clay Station Horse Park October 10-11 was a great weekend of fun classes, good food, and new friends. Sure Stopping Sensation and I entered our first Pleasure Driving show and did very well and learned so much! Sensation is a 37" pinto miniature horse who loved doing the cones, poker run, Gambler's Choice and the classes in the ring. He took Reserve Champion VSE in the timed events with Katy Stella at the whip, and Champion Amateur Driving with me at the whip. He took Vinnie to a 2nd place in the carriage dog class against the drafts. We are looking forward to more fun in 2016!

I also took my Classic Shetland mare and my Modern Pleasure filly to the Norco Region VII show in May of this year and won 26 first place ribbons, Grand Champion Classic Shetland and Grand Champion Modern Pleasure Shetland. Also the Modern Shetland won her Futurity classes and the Classic Shetland won Hi Point over all.—Suzette Hutchins



Suzette Hutchins and Vinnie



(left)
Classic mare—Soundviews A May Zing
(right)
Modern filly—Soundviews Creating Drama

2015 Member Roster

(As of November 15, 2015)

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