



Association of Ridgecrest Arabian Breeders

January, 2011
<http://www.arabaha.org>



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Jan LaFortune, ARAB Founding Member

It is with deepest sadness I announce that ARAB Founding Member Jan LaFortune left this earth on December, 24, 2010, at her home in Inyokern, California. Many of you knew Jan and some of you are aware that she has passed on. However, many of you may not be aware that Jan and her husband Neil (also deceased, August, 2004) were two of our ARAB founding members. I would like to share a few memories I have of Jan and Neil over the years I knew them both, including some of the wonderful contributions they made to the success of ARAB. Jan's obituary follows this reminiscence. (Continued, next page.)

Amanda Strand Wins 2010 Chappell Award

ARAB is pleased to announce that Amanda Strand, riding King's Whisper, has won the 2010 W. A. "Wink" Chappell Memorial Award. New pictures and story will appear on our website in the near future. The announcement will also be sent to our Indian Wells Valley newspapers next week.

Congratulations, Amanda. Well done!

Region 2 Quarterly Meeting Report (Cont'd)

My earliest memories are of Neil when I first became involved in Valley Riders' activities back in 1960. Neil owned a son of my Arabian stallion, Rasia, and we both, of course, thought that Rasia and Neil's horse Mt. Whitney Prince were the greatest Arabians ever born. Shortly thereafter, I met Jan. For many years, we were friends, loving the Arabian horse breed and always doing "something" to benefit the equine interests of Indian Wells Valley. In 1965 we started a group that put on the first horse shows in this Valley. I remember in order to fill the Arabian classes, we had to drag out every horse we had and not only work the show, but show our horses. Wish I still had all that energy.

In 1970, we built the arena at the Fairgrounds, after having put on all those shows above without any permanent arena. We drove "T" poles in the ground every year and strung flagged lines around. Neil could always be counted on to arrange to have bleachers brought off the base to give us seating and also help transport the organ from the Three Sisters restaurant in Inyokern, so we could have beautiful music during classes. Jan was always there to help with awards, show office, and food.

When we started building the permanent arena, Neil put on his welding hood and he and my husband Larry did most of the welding in the evenings after work and then on week ends. Again, Jan was there to bring food and drink to keep us going. I always got to hold the steel together so the two guys could tack it, then I let go and they finished welding. A time or two I sure got the tingles when I inadvertently seemed to be the ground. Yuck!

When a group of us got together and decided we would start an Arabian Horse Club in 1977 since most of the people putting on the equine events during those early years owned and bred Arabians, Neil and Jan came to that first organizing meeting. From there we put the Club together. Neil and Jan continued with working the events and we all continued working and showing at our show.

Then I became the Show Manager for the Region 2 Championship show which was held in Santa Barbara every summer. It was the ARAB club members, including Neil and Jan, who took time off from work, came to Santa Barbara and were a fantastic crew supporting this show. Jan was a hard-working ring clerk and sometimes help with the awards and Neil was ring steward and helped with the cattle we brought in for the Working Cow Horse classes.

Neil and Jan bred Arabians horses up until Neil passed away and were

always ready and willing to support whatever needed to be done.

They were both good friends of mine and will be deeply missed.

Farewell, Jan! May you and Neil rejoin each other and all your Arabians that passed over Rainbow Bridge. (see page 3 for pictures of 2 LaFortune Arabians)

Janice Lee LaFortune passed away Friday, Dec. 24, 2010, in her home in Inyokern. She was 73.

Janice was born May 14, 1937, in Riverside to Robert and Edna Woolever. The summer Jan was 12, the family moved to China Lake. She took one look at the desert and said "I'm not moving here." By the end of the summer, she had made many of the friendships that would span her entire life. After that, you couldn't pry her from the Indian Wells Valley. She was an alumnus of Burroughs High School, class of 1955.

She married Neil A. LaFortune and together they owned and operated LaFortune's Feed Store and LaFortune's High Desert Arabians.

Janice was a government contractor, working for ARINC Research, CSC and Boeing, where she retired in 1999. After she retired, Janice pursued her interest in quilting and spent numerous hours researching her family tree.

This partial obituary information was provided by the family.

If anyone has any news please send it to me: Lorry Wagner, 8222 Athel Street, Inyokern, California 93527, (760) 377-5579 fax same number, lorry@ridgenet.net

I will include it in the next minutes/newsletter publication and on our web site. Here is the URL for our web site: <http://www.arabiaha.com> . I look forward to hearing from the membership.



<http://www.arabianhorses.org>

Deadline for Stallion Reports Extended

Be sure to send AHA a Stallion Report for each purebred Arabian mare bred in 2010. Stallion Reports are due by December 31 of each breeding year, but reports for 2010 are still being accepted, postmarked through January 31, 2011 without a late fee. Download your Stallion Report by clicking [here](#). Contact a Customer Service Representative at 303-696-4500 for more information

Stephens College Offers AHA Members Scholarship Opportunities

Stephens College is offering an outstanding incoming freshman female representative of the Arabian Horse Association a tremendous opportunity to obtain an equestrian-based liberal arts education through Stephens College. The AHA scholarship recipient will receive a \$5,000 equestrian leadership scholarship. The recipient of this scholarship can reapply for it each year. Interested applicants need to apply to

[Stephens College](#) as well as complete a Scholarship [Application](#) by February 10, 2011 to be considered for the 2011-2012 academic year. The Scholarship applications MUST be faxed or emailed to the Arabian Horse Association by February 10, 2011 to be considered. Fax 303-696-4505 or Youth@arabianhorses.org. Please contact Angela Mannick with Youth & Family Programs for any questions 303-696-4505/ Youth@arabianhorse.org

Neil and Jan LaFortune's Arabian Breeding



Abunetta, Purebred Arabian Mare leased by Jan and Neil LaFortune
Pictured in 1966



Abunetta's 1966 Purebred Arabian Colt Beauabu, bred by Jan and Neil LaFortune
(Rittenbach 1966)
Pictured in 1966

ARAB Classified Advertising

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Our stallion Salazar is still breeding sound, trotting about 15 miles, and though I can't offer shipped semen, I can offer a \$500 fee, with a breed back in the same season, simply because I never know when he will go four hooves to the sky. He is 25 - but man, he just keeps going!

See next page for more information.

This service is free of charge for ARAB Members and is available at a cost of \$0.15 per word to others and \$25.00 for full-page with pictures (limit 3). Ad material must be Arabian-horse related. ARAB reserves the right to reject any submission for reasons of being too long and/or inappropriate.

Contact: lorry@ridgenet.net

NOTE: Information submission for this page must be approved by the Newsletter Editor and must be appropriate for the subject of the Arabian Horse.

Remember When?



Dale Evans, Trigger and Roy Rogers

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Papayruz DSA - lost by Analia Biscaldi in 2009
Sals Scheherezade - owned by Kathleen Gundling

...and watch for....

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c/o Ms. Lorry Wagner
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