

2008 WAHA/Region 10 Ambassador Award Recipient

Sandhill Fair Lady

Owned by Allison Goetz

The WAHA/Region 10 Ambassador Award was established to honor those Purebred Arabians and Half-Arabians that demonstrate the loyalty and trustworthiness that highlight the Arabian breed. This special horse should have demonstrated the versatility of the breed in an area that is unique and exhibit outstanding performance and/or service when measured against other breeds.

The horse that we are honoring this year has done all that and more. Sandhill Fair Lady started her long career as a show horse competing in Dressage, Show Hack, Hunter Pleasure and Country Pleasure. She received Region 10 Championships in Dressage, Hunter Pleasure and Show Hack.

Her owner Allison Goetz, states she also showed her at local open shows, in lead line with her niece and at the Lodi Fair. She started teaching Lady to jump and took her to local schooling shows as well as the Mane Event Show series. Lady competed successfully in Hunter over Fences, Hunter on the Flat and Hunt Seat Equitation against all breeds at open Hunter shows. At Thistle Downs Lady and Allison won at training level dressage against some very tough competitors of all breeds and also placed well in the combined event.

In 1997, Allison became interested in distance riding with Lady, especially competitive trail. Allison states that she had been riding Lady on trail rides and riding the roads where she lived and Lady loved it. Allison entered her first ride and Lady placed third in a large group of seasoned horses to Allison's delight. Also, in 1997, Allison met her future husband; Gary and Lady taught him to ride. Lady was so sensible on the road with traffic and on the trail that Allison trusted them together.

Allison continued to compete in Competitive Trail with Lady in 1999 and 2000 winning often and getting scores in the 390's out of 400. She continued going to saddle club rides with Lady and giving "horsey rides" to her nieces, nephews, co-workers grandchildren and assorted beginners. Lady also competed in the Dusty Trails Gymkhana and placed well in such classes as barrels, poles, plug race, jumping figure 8 and flag race.

2001 was a very successful year for Allison and Lady. They started the year with the Glacier Trails Ride with a perfect 400 score!! That is virtually unheard of! In June, they went to the Region 10 Championship Ride in southeast Minnesota and won it with a score of 99 out of 100!! And this was on a 50 Mile Ride!! Also, that year they participated in the US National Competitive Ride at Jubilee Forest in Illinois and placed third, winning a National Top Ten! Allison states this was more that she could have ever dreamed!

Allison states that she has continued to compete and also ride Lady for pleasure. She often lets friends and beginners ride Lady. She has also started to lead Novice Rides for new distance riders as Lady's calm attitude and experience helps new horses settle down and learn to enjoy the rides. Allison and Gary have also taken Lady and their other horse on some of their vacations that included going to South Dakota and Mount Rushmore. This talented and beautiful mare also produced a foal in 2004 that Allison named Shadow Trax.

Please join me in congratulating this year recipient of the WAHA/Region 10 Ambassador Award, Sandhill Fair Lady and Allison Goetz!

Lady's story is particularly gratifying to her breeders (Dave & Bev Cole of Sandhill) and to her first trainer (Jessica Cole). Lady was orphaned one day after birth. She was bottle raised and overcame major psychological hurdles to become a wonderful all-round horse with Allison's excellent mentoring. What a happy outcome to such a traumatic beginning!