

HARC – An Update From the USA

We are nearing the end of our first year for HARC races and racing forums in the USA. Like any first-year venture, we were excited about getting things going quickly, and as usual with these new initiatives, things do not progress as we quickly as we think they should.

For example, two of the five states that we'd hoped could host a race offering the HARC added money were cancelled: Michigan and Delaware. Michigan's Arabian racing scene is unfortunately struggling with inadequate horse numbers, and was unable to fill a race. Therefore, no HARC added money could be offered. And though Delaware had plenty of races to offer, it didn't have any HARC-eligible horses running.

However, juxtaposed to this picture is Dartyn Kriss SWA, the pure Polish mare who ran in two of the other HARC races, and walked away with \$5520 in HARC money this year. She was the only HARC horse to run in the HARC race in Colorado, then shipped to California's HARC race at Pleasanton in June and picked up another piece of the pie. Certainly, Dartyn Kriss' owner/breeder, Dr. Jim Wetzel, was just fine knowing he was taking home the majority of the earnings!

Then, take Robert Irlando, owner of the HARC-nominated Zells Bells (SW Zell x Bonita Lorena, by Wiking), who demonstrated that HARC horses can be competitive at all levels after Zells Bells dueled valiantly with the Burning Sand colt, Raineing Sand, only to lose by a nose... but also beating two other Burning Sand progeny in the race by over 7 lengths! Irlando walked away not only with his share of the purse, but also with a HARC check for \$1240 as the owner. Jane Teutsch received \$1240 from HARC as the breeder.

Texas will offer the last HARC race of 2017 on November 26 at Retama Park.

And what is happening with the \$8,000 from the two cancelled races? It's going directly into the pot for 2017... on top of the \$25,000... making the race payouts next year even higher.

If there is only one HARC horse in a race, it will get the whole pot all over again. And that will be one happy owner! So, start thinking about your HARC horses for next year.

We will continue to offer HARC Arabian Racing Forums to the Arabian show horse community as well, investing and cultivating new interest from this group of people who are already passionate about breeding and owning Arabian horses.

After a year of doing these seminars, it has become apparent to me that this process of cultivating new owners to Arabian racing will be a 3-5 year endeavor. This first year was dedicated to overcoming stigmas, raising awareness, and educating a handful of influential leaders in the Arabian show community. Next year, those handful of owners will have their first full year of experience in Arabian racing and become ambassadors of the sport to their peers. . It is important for us to educate people about the racing opportunities right now for

introducing new bloodlines to be tested on the track. With the downturn in breeding beginning in the mid 2000's and the increase of exportation of racing horses as well as proven broodmares and young prospects from the USA, it is an ideal time to jump in with new bloodlines as the pipeline begins to fill up again. The odds of winning money are the best they have been in decades. Following that, we'll start to see a trickling in of new people to the sport that will gain momentum year by year.

For this year, I have refocused my expectations after several experiences (i.e. racing forums) to formulate a supported opinion about our path ahead. And I am thrilled to report that the tipping point is happening; people are talking; curiosity is stirring. I am approached at *every single* Arabian show function I attend with questions. In fact, the Executive Director of the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show won't stop bugging me about bringing back Arabian racing at Turf Paradise in Phoenix, and tapping into the thriving Arabian breeding community in Scottsdale – the most concentrated area for Arabian horses in the world, and a mecca for affluent Arabian horse owners.

We are looking for a sponsor to support the continuation of the racing forums next year so we can continue building on our momentum, and will provide any announcements when they become available.

Meanwhile, HARC has shown the United States that it is here to stay, and will continue to incentivize those HARC-bred horses. We have nominated dozens of HARC runners, stallions and broodmares. We have signed up individual members. We have partnered with Arabian Origins Marketing... a e-marketing company that services over 40,000 of the world's Arabian horse community. And we have educated and planted seeds in the minds of thousands of Arabian horse enthusiasts on the sport of Arabian racing.

The moral of the story?

HARC is here to stay.

HARC will continue to motivate heritage-line breeders.

HARC will uncover gems of race horses and racing lines.

HARC will expand our racing gene pool.

HARC will bring in new people to Arabian racing in the United States.

So start thinking about your HARC horses for next year. It's a win-win for all involved.