





# Introducing Board Member M. Kent Mayfield

I already knew my way around the Holy Land and Arabia pretty well—thanks to Mrs. Daehler’s Sunday School lessons and bathrobe Biblical pageants in the basement of the First Baptist Church and my father’s reading of *The Arabian Nights*—when I first read these words:

Alex heard a whistle—shrill, loud, clear unlike anything he had ever heard before. He saw a mighty black horse rear on its hind legs, its forelegs striking out into the air....His mane was like a crest, mounting, then falling low. His neck was long and slender, and arched to the small...beautiful head.... A stallion with a wonderful physical perfection.

I was no Alex Ramsay at six years old, but the tale Walter Farley told of Arabia and its coffee, rice, tea, oil and jute, not to mention photo-perfect pictures of the Black Stallion mane whipping in the breeze, large eyes moving nervously, transported me into another world and another personal reality.

It was to be several years before I persuaded my parents that I “needed” a horse like “the Black.” What they found for me was a job at a barn owned by Tom Chauncey, where I could muck stalls and maybe convert that effort into a real live horse. That horse, a shy bay mare, a lovely Polish lady of some years, stayed with me until college wooed me away.

More years—graduate study—degrees in theology, Japanese and education; career—mostly small colleges in the U.S. and Japan; family—three children, a crowd of grandkids, divorce and a new life thereafter. Not an unusual story at all.

Then, in the late ‘80s, the opportunity to get a “Second Wind,” start anew and experiment, came my way. I moved with my longtime companion, Jack Ford, to rural Wisconsin—on the explicit condition that I could once again have my “Black” or maybe a gray or a ....

That was nearly 15 years ago now. And this morning as I ambled out across the ridge to the mares grazing in late summer sun, I realized how great a blessing these years have been. The mares are lovely, and they are ours and we are proud of them. And, over the span of just a few years, I’ve been able to work and serve with some wonderful and talented people in the Mid-America Arabian Breeders Association, Al Khamsa, Inc., the Pyramid Society—well, the list goes on. It is a humbling realization that these daughters of the Euphrates are the legacy of tribes now lost to us but in name. Humbling, as well, to acknowledge that all I know of them and of their past and of their significance among us is the gift of others than myself. We do live and move and have our being in the long shadow of others.

Little did I dream years ago that horses were destined to play so important a part in my life. Nor would my wildest imaginings have told me that I would be a part of an unfolding enterprise such as The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse. At 65, I am certainly no Alex Ramsay... nor do I have the stamina and intelligence or the imagination and vision of those who have brought me this far: Forbis, Shimanski, Heck-Melnyk, Kasper, Wojchik, Trapp, Hacklander, Lucas, McNair...and...well, this list, too, is long. Still, what I am—full of dreams and (plenty of) faults, full of confidence and eagerness for a new undertaking, I bring to my role as chair of the Institute.



## Board of Directors Meeting Notes

The Board of Directors of The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse convened near Chicago, Illinois, on November 6-7, 2004. All six members attended this first face-to-face meeting: Chair Kent Mayfield, Vice-Chair Anita Enander, Secretary Bruce Johnson, Treasurer Jon Michael, and Directors-at-large Albert Guilbault, and Debra Schrishuhn. Our major goals centered around setting a strategy to save Desert Arabian horses and beginning to develop long-term conservation plans through educational tools, communication channels and increased visibility for the animals we cherish.

### Symposium on Preservation

Much time was spent in lively and fruitful conversation on the upcoming Symposium on Preservation, scheduled for the weekend of February 18-20, 2005, at Phoenix, Arizona. Discussion centered around developing the working environment, preparations and planning, tentative scheduling and possible speakers for the event. A questionnaire will be circulated to elicit information on population issues of various bloodline groups. For those who are unable to attend but wish to participate in this historic gathering, a moderated online forum will be established on the Institute's Web site in January. Visits to breeding farms in the Phoenix area will be scheduled before and after the Symposium.

### Publishing activities

The Board reviewed the potential to publish books on the Desert Arabian horse. Specific titles and authors were presented along with a general discussion on storage, shipment and managing inventories.

### *Al Khaima* ("The Tent")

The first issue of *Al Khaima* ("The Tent") had just been printed in the November 2004 issue of *Arabian Horse World*. Jon brought an overrun copy to each Board member for review. Jutta Green was commended for her outstanding contribution to the format of the publication and layout of the advertisements. The Board decided to publish *Al Khaima* ("The Tent") on a semi-annual basis and to continue its relationship with *Arabian Horse World*. Tentative editorial content for the July 2005 issue of *Al Khaima* ("The Tent") will center on preservation issues.

### "Al Majlis News" newsletter

Janelle Wilde and Sheila Harmon have developed an online newsletter for the Institute. The Board established a basic editorial direction for the newsletter and discussed options for increasing the circulation of "Al Majlis News." Although a large percentage of Desert Arabian enthusiasts are fluent with their computers, we also want to reach the constituency that does not have computer/Internet access.

### Web site development

Growth plans and management options for the Institute's Web site were discussed. The Institute is indebted to Jutta Green, Anita Enander and Jon Michael for their contributions to this valuable communication tool.

### Logo Contest

The Board named a jury to evaluate and judge entries for the logo contest. Details for the competition are offered in *Al Khaima* ("The Tent"), "Al Majlis News" and on the Institute's Web site.

### Desert Arabian Classic Endurance Clinic and Ride

Bruce Johnson presented plans for the upcoming Desert Arabian Classic Endurance Clinic and endurance ride scheduled for September 29 – October 2, 2005 in Aurora, Colorado. The Institute will sponsor speakers and prizes specific to participating Desert Arabians.

### Advisory Board

The Board reviewed the purpose and potential size and make-up of its Advisory Board members. Decisions were ultimately tabled until after the Symposium on Preservation.

### New Director

After the meeting, Susan Mayo was invited to serve on the Board. She graciously accepted our invitation, and we welcome her wisdom and insight.

### Next Meeting

The Board will next meet at Phoenix during the Symposium on Preservation in February 2005.

## On The Bit - by Susan Mayo

When bridling your horse, your first bit of information needs to be the status of your horse's training and past experience. Things are quite different for a fully trained horse into a curb bit and a horse just now being bitted.

That said, my own personal opinion is that unless you have a valid reason for doing otherwise, I suggest you use the mildest bit you can find. A French Link Snaffle (the bit that has a small piece between the two side bars) is very mild and soft. A horse's mouth is very sensitive because it consists of bone covered by nerves, in turn covered by a thin layer of skin. There is virtually no padding! A mild snaffle is the general bit of choice for starting young horses, but it is also the bit of choice through the second level of dressage, so you ought to be able to achieve anything you want with that bit. On rare occasions you will run across horses whose mouths have been damaged by bad riders. These horses become a challenge to bit correctly because they fear and hate the bit, but assuming you are dealing with a horse with no bad previous experience, a mild snaffle should suffice.

One consideration that I feel is very important: Buy good bridles! Desert Arabians have very sensitive skin, and if you buy good quality leatherworks, and care for them well, they will last you forever and be comfortable for your horse. Dry cracked leather is very uncomfortable on sensitive skin. Also, keep your bit clean. If you wipe it off with a damp rag after using it, the bit will stay smooth and clean. Dried muck on a bit can chafe a horse's mouth and make it very uncomfortable for the horse.

I prefer using an English style bridle with browband and cavesson even if the horse is to be ridden western because the cavesson and browband stabilize the bridle and make it less likely for the bit to shift and pull through the mouth.

**Step 1:** When bridling a horse, stand facing in the direction the horse is facing. With both hands, open the bridle wide and slip the horse's nose through the cavesson with bit resting just below the horse's mouth.



**Step 1**

**Step 2:** Put both sides of the bridle in your right hand and slip your left hand under the bit. Put your thumb in the corner of the horse's mouth and when he opens his mouth, gently slide in the bit.



**Step 2**

## On the Bit - Continued from page 4

**Step 3:** Pull up with your right hand so you lift the bit to the correct position, and then carefully put the headstall over the horse's head one ear at a time.



**Step 3**

**Step 5:** Fasten the throatlatch, making sure that you can get two fingers between it and the horse's neck so that when he arches his neck it is not too tight.



**Step 5**

**Step 4:** When the bridle is on the horse's head, make sure that the bit is even, that the sides of the bridle are even, and that the browband and cavesson are even.



**Step 4**

Make sure that both sides of the bit stick out of the corners of the horse's mouth. If they don't, the bit is too small. My horses use a 4 ½-inch bit, but that is a small size and some Desert Arabians take a 5-inch bit. Make sure that there is one small wrinkle at the corner of the horse's mouth. If the bit is too low, it will move around in the horse's mouth. If it is too high, it will pinch the horse.

Attention to just a few details when bridling your horse can make the experience easy and pleasant for both you and your horse.

***Susan's demonstration horse for this article is Mah Sabbah Bedu, a straight Babson stallion who is just getting ready to start his dressage show career.***

## We Want to Hear From YOU!

Do you have a great picture of your horse in a performance? Or with your kids? Or a great candid shot? We'd love to publish your horse pictures and are looking for great shots to share. We're not looking for the professional, polished pictures (unless it's a Great Performance photo) but we'd like to see you with your horses doing what you do.

Have you had a horse leave for Greener Pastures? If you'd like to share this with the preservation world, please send us your horse's name and birth and death info and we'll make sure others hear about it.

Do you have a special preservation baby and would like to shout it from the rooftops? We can't get you to the rooftop but we'd love to share the news with others. Please give a bit of information: filly or colt, proud parents, birthday, proud two-footed parents. Do you have a cute or awesome foal photo? Send it in and we will try and include it.



*This is DA Rimadi Silah aka "Sherman" with his favorite pillow, Marc. His name means "Silver Weapon" and he is named for the tank that his mama is built like. Sherman is 3/4 Prtizlaff breeding and 1/4 Doyle. He is sired by Sonyet and out of GNS Missy LHF (a Greggan daughter.) Born in April, 2004, this young grey colt is now a leggy yearling. He is proudly owned by Destiny Arabians—Bob & Sheila Harmon in Eagle, Idaho.*



## Joyful New Year

### Logo Competition Update

The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse would like to thank all artists who submitted entries to the Institute's recent Logo Competition. Although many creative and well-executed images were received, the judges have been unable to reach a consensus, and no winner will be chosen. Each participant will receive a token of appreciation from the Institute.

*GOD, grant me...*

*The Serenity to take in as many horses as possible,  
The Courage to convince my husband this is a good thing and  
The Wisdom to know how to accomplish this task.*



# AL KHAIMA



## “The Tent”

Appearing in the July 2005 (Preservation) issue of *Arabian Horse World*.

The first issue of *Al Khaima* (“The Tent”), which was embedded in the November 2004 issue of *Arabian Horse World* magazine, was an overwhelming success. It was mailed to over 10,000 subscribers of *AHW*, thus reaching the wider Arabian horse community. Our publication received compliments and accolades from the four corners of the world, including the U.S.A., Canada, the U.K., Germany, Spain, Belgium, Israel, Australia and the Middle East. In addition to the considerable *AHW* subscriber base, over-run copies of *Al Khaima* (“The Tent”) will be made available at Scottsdale in February, at the Egyptian Event in June and at the Arabian Nationals in October, increasing the exposure of the Institute and advertisers to even greater and more enthusiastic audiences across the country.

*Al Khaima* (“The Tent”) will next appear, appropriately, in the July 2005 issue of *Arabian Horse World* magazine, their preservation issue. Once again, we will feature authors of established reputation addressing topics of high significance for breeders in the preservation tradition. We intend this issue to be of memorable if not truly historic consequence.

Virtually all of the available advertising space for the November 2004 issue of *Al Khaima* (“The Tent”) was totally sold out the very first weekend

following our notice of its availability and we had to disappoint several individuals who responded late.

Without any direct solicitation, we have already received commitments for 18 of the available 32 pages of advertising for the July 2005 issue, so please let me know immediately by email to [jmichael@direcway.com](mailto:jmichael@direcway.com) if you would like to reserve space in this issue. It will be an all premium color issue with full-page premium color ads available for only \$550 and half-page premium color ads available for \$335. *AHW*'s regular price for a premium color page ad is \$950 and they don't even offer half-page premium color ads, so this advertising opportunity is absolutely unsurpassed anywhere.

The deadline for advertising materials (photos and copy) will not be until May 1, 2005 and your credit card or check will not be charged or cashed until mid-June, but you DO need to reserve your space NOW! Please respond quickly so that you are not disappointed by being left out of this important issue of *Al Khaima* (“The Tent”). Contact Jon through the email address above and advise us of your space requirements. Thank you for your valuable support.

If you do not already subscribe to *Arabian Horse World* magazine, we would encourage you to subscribe now to recognize their most generous support of the Institute and the preservation movement in general.

**Please call Arabian Horse World at 800-955-9423 or 805-771-2300 today,  
or write to them at 1316 Tamson Dr., Suite 101, Cambria, CA 93428**

# Beautiful Bouncing Baby Babsons

A busy beginning to February at Bint Al Bahr Babson Arabians - 3 Beautiful Bouncing Baby Babsons in 101 hours! The plan was for at least a week between the births but the mares created their own schedule and real sleep left me several weeks before the births. I actually think those mares smiled and nodded to each other every time I checked for wax.

The first foal arrived just before sunset on Feb 4th. The proud parents are Bedu Sabir (Sera Dahmansabbah x Shar Sabbah) and Charabs Sharifa (Kamars Sharif x Charabs Amurra). The chestnut colt is the first of the Khebir sireline Straight Babson colt to be born in 19 years. The colt traces twice to Khebir. Previously his sire was the last sireline stallion of that group. The Khebir (\*Fadl x \*Bint Bint Sabbah) sireline legacy comes down another generation!

At 3 AM on Feb 8th Bint Roulett (Mah Hab x Roulett) foaled a Black/Bay filly by Bedu Sabir. She has only 15 white hairs on her forehead. This filly is a full sister to Khebirs Amira. Khebirs Kira is the name of this Bouncing Baby Babson Bint.

The following day February 9th at 11PM Dahma Saafada (Kamal Ibn Fabo x Masada Faadana) foaled her Ibn Sabbah Bedu+/ (Serabaar x Shar Sabbah) colt. This is a designer Dressage colt. His sire is a many times champion and 5 time National Top Ten dressage / working hunter stallion bred to to dam of the United States Equestrian 2003 Dressage Horse of the Year (our Ahmed Fabo). He is a lovely colt with a wonderful shoulder, short back, long legs, strong hindquarters and no white markings. It looks like this colt has what it takes to dance.

The foals joined the other horses in showing off to visitors at our Open Farm that followed the Preservation Breeders symposium held in Phoenix. Photos of them can be found at [www.BabsonArabians.com](http://www.BabsonArabians.com)

## Tax Deductible Donations

**Make your tax deductible donation to the Institute today!**

If you have not already done so, please remember The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) charity organization and all donations and contributions are fully deductible to the extent provided for under the law. Suggested donation levels can be seen on our web site at [www.desertarabian.org](http://www.desertarabian.org) although we would be most grateful for whatever donation you might be able to afford. You can use the easy PayPal feature on our Web site or mail your check directly to our Business Office:

The Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse  
2410 Sam Browning Road  
Lebanon, KY 40033

Great works require great support, so we are in great need of your most generous support in order to carry out our important work.

*Bruce & Diana Johnson  
Bint Al Bahr Babson Arabians*

## *New Year's Resolutions for Horse Folk:*

1. The barn will be cleaned before noon every day. I plan to resolve to do that...maybe even accomplish it.
2. I will clean my tack faithfully after every ride, even if it's just with the quickie leather cleaner. Okay, once a week, at least.
3. I will buy three Lotto tickets each week: One to pay for more horses; one to cover veterinary expenses; and one to cover farrier expenses.
4. I will make appointments for a haircut at least as often as my horse needs new shoes. In fact, that's a good way to remember.
5. In the coming year, I will check my clothes for hay before going out in public.
6. When I reach into my coat pocket for change, I will try not to pay with pieces of carrot or horse treats.
7. Horse clothing will not be cleaned in the family washing machine any more. At least, not while The Husband is home.
8. I will not soak bits in the kitchen sink. I will put them in the dishwasher instead.
9. I will remember to write social obligations on the calendar as religiously as I write clinic and competition dates. That way, maybe I can keep them...if they don't conflict, of course.
10. I will (occasionally) feed the family before the animals at least on weekends.
11. I will endeavor not to scream "NO!" every time a family member attempts to take a carrot from the 50-lb. bag earmarked for the horses.
12. I promise to stop critiquing every movie I see in which there are horses and the riding, grooming or tack is incorrect.
13. I will stop saying "Over!" to my spouse when he's in my way in the kitchen and "Whoa!" to my children.
14. On the first rainy or snowy day of the New Year, I will muck out the house.
15. In the future, the living room will not be decorated with bridles and bailing twine. I'll save that for the family room.
16. I will wash my truck as often as I wash the horses.
17. I will not use the exercise bike as a saddle rack.
18. When I uncover the exercise bike and find new homes for the blankets and saddles it is holding, I will ride it.
19. I resolve to completely ignore all of the above resolutions this year to take enough time to actually RIDE my horse and stop grousing about not doing it enough.





## ***New Year's Resolutions for Horses:***

1. I CAN walk and poop at the same time. I can, I can, I can.
2. I will NOT stop and poop or urinate every time I pass the same spot in the arena.
3. I will NOT leave when my rider falls off.
4. My stall is NOT my litter box. When I have free access to my paddock, I will NOT go back inside to pee.
5. I will NOT leap over large, nonexistent obstacles when the whim strikes.
6. I will NOT walk faster on the way home than I did on the way out.
7. I promise NOT to swish my tail while my human is cleaning my back feet.
8. I promise also NOT to choose that particular time to answer nature's call.
9. I will NOT bite my farrier's butt just because it is there.
10. I will NOT confuse my human's blond hair for really soft hay.
11. I will NOT wipe green slime down the back of my human's white shirt.
12. I will NOT blow my nose on my human.
13. I will NOT try to mooch goodies off every human within a 1-mile radius.
14. I will NOT lay totally flat out in my stall with my eyes glazed over and my legs straight out and pretend I can't hear my human frantically screaming, "Are you asleep?"
15. I will NOT chase the ponies into the electric fence to see if it is on.
16. I will promise NEVER to dump the wheelbarrow of manure over while a human is mucking my stall.
17. I will NOT grab my lead rope in my mouth and attempt to lead myself.
18. I will NOT have an attitude problem. I won't, I won't, I won't!
19. I will NOT pull my new shoes off the very next day just to prove that I can.
20. I am neither a beaver nor a carpenter. I promise I won't eat or remodel the barn or the new fences.
21. I WILL forgive my human for the very bad haircut, even though I look like a freak.
22. I accept that not every carrot is for me.
23. I will NOT do the "Arab Teleport Trick" when a bad/naughty/awful Horsasaurus Monster breathes at me.
24. I will understand that bicycles are NOT carnivorous.
25. I will NOT shy at familiar objects just for fun.
26. I will NOT bite the butt of the horse in front of me during the trail ride just to say "Hi."
27. I WILL put my ears forward and cooperate when it comes to photos.

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## INSTITUTE FOR THE DESERT ARABIAN HORSE

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Significant bequests from estates and wills are most sincerely welcomed and appreciated. Please contact the Institute for information and guidance.

## How to Contact The Institute

E-mail:

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