

20 QUESTIONS

... about your life with Arabian horses ... with LORNE ROBERTSON

1 What is your current involvement with Arabian horses?

I am involved with the Arabian Horse on many different levels.



First of all as a Breeder. I currently own two Arabian mares, although I am contemplating not breeding them in 2014. My old mare, Solnika, is no longer breeding, and my other mare GG Willow is only four I am contemplating getting her ready for Sport Horse Nationals as she had multiple Regional wins last year. My mare Solnika by Soldat, produced a total of 11 foals. 2 died young, and one died while in training. The others are all champions including National Champions, MJ Dot Com+, MJ Playstation+, MJ Erika+ and Reserve National Champions, Fantasque+//, and MJ Wii Fit+. Fantasque and MJ Communicator are both successful FEI level Dressage horses. The only foal I still own is MJ Erika+. The others have all been sold to California, Utah, BC, Ontario, and here in Alberta. She has been an outstanding mare and now enjoying retirement.

Secondly as an exhibitor. I currently have two Arabian horses in training. MJ Erika+ as noted above and Saaber Al Shahania, who I showed in Scottsdale this year. It was fun to have a horse show on championship Sunday in the Wendell Arena. The plan is to show both of these horses this year at a Regional and National Level.

Thirdly as a Judge. I am a R Level Arabian judge with my National and Regional status. This year I will be judging 3 Arabian Shows in the US in Washington, Virginia and California. I am also an FEI Jumper Judge and R Level Hunter Judge and as such this keeps my Judging Calender very full.

Lastly I am involved as a Volunteer. I volunteer countless hours whether as Trail Course Designer at both US and Canadian Nationals or scorer at Sport Horse Nationals, to being on many Committee`s at AHA, attending convention annually as well as significant preparation work. I also am on a number of Committee`s with Region 17 such as Budge, Judges Selection and Breed Promotion.

2 How many years have you been around horses? How old am I?

That is how long with the exception of about 5 of them!

3 They say, "the Arabian horse finds you". How did the Arabian horse find you?

The first horse I owned was a Half Arabian pony and his personality was amazing. Then some Anglo Arabians kept the bond strong. It was hard to find out information about Arabian Horses, as there was no internet, so magazines were an important source of information. We also showed mostly at open shows so you got to know many people from all breeds and see many great horses.

4 Who is or has been your favorite horse companion?

There have been so many from my first pony, to a great show horse Calypso Baye++, to the first Arabian stallion that I got to show and care for, Driftwood++ to my great open hunter mares, Lucille and Alert`s Copper Penny! The foals all of them. All I can say is I am an addict!

5

Who has been your (horse) mentor?

Many people as well from the Hunter Jumper world to the Arabian world I have been fortunate to know and to have had the opportunity to learn from many of the noteables! But I think the greatest mentors for me have been the breeders over the years who loved their horses and wanted to breed them to make better horses. From George Allen to Howard Kale, they were horseman, who loved horses.

6

What is your favorite horse book?

*Horse Book, would be "Ànd Miles to Go". It was the story of the Arabian stallion *Witez II, who escaped Russian when the Poles fled Janow Podlaski, and he eventually made it to the US as a remount stallion for the US Army. He was subsequently purchased by the Hurlburt's, who founded AHA (then IAHA) and sited a dynasty and started the importation of horses from Poland. He was a half brother to Witraz, the sire of Bask and had a significant impact on the Arabian breed in North America. If you can find it I recommend the read! History and horses!*

7

What is your favorite horse movie? "Man from Snowy River"

8

What are some 'Arabian horse activities' in which you participate?
See above! Shows, Promotion Events, etc.

9

What would be your most memorable experience or moment with an Arabian horse?

That has to be when, shortly after I started Calypso Baye++, we were riding in the mountains. He got anxious and consequently we fell down a cliff. We were both fine but after that we were very connected and always listened to me and I knew I could always trust him. He always came through!

10

What has been your greatest achievement with your Arabian horse(s) so far?

I think Breeding and showing these great horses is achievement every day we are privileged to have them in our lives!

11

Which horse do you consider to be your "dream" horse, either past or present? *Silver Drift

12

Horses are amazing teachers. What has your horse taught you that has helped you become a better person? *Patience.*

13

What is the best thing about working and playing with your Arabian horse? *The Horses.*

14

What would you say to a person considering buying a horse to encourage them to purchase an Arabian? *You don't purchase a horse you enable a life.*

15

What is your advice to someone, "brand new," considering becoming involved with horses?

Do it on what ever level you can and remember what your goals are not what someone wants them to be! Stay true to yourself!

16

Is there a favorite reference book you'd like to share? *Conformation, Movement and Soundness by the US Pony Club! Learn about horses! Any book!*

17

What is the one thing you'd like to do that you haven't done yet? *Ride in an Endurance Race! Don't think it will happen!*

18 What about 'kids" and an Arabian horse?

Arabian Horses are great children's horses, they like goats to, however they, the children and the horses, need competent education, and horsemanship, something that seems to be getting scarcer every year!

19 Why do you think you get such a "rush" being around or riding your Arabian horse(s)? *They make you smile!*

20 What are your words to live by? *Live life every day, its special!*