

Prize Money Offered to Arab Reiners

By Jessica Fredyma

The Arabian Reining Horse Association (ARHA), a “grass-roots” organization created to promote the growth of Reining to the Arabian horse industry is affiliated with the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA). This affiliation offers great opportunities to Arabian and Half-Arab Owners, Riders and Trainers of Reining horses. A total of \$120,000 in prize money as been dispersed at the US Nationals and Scottsdale shows through 2002.

On a local level Reining Classes will be introduced to Region 16 shows for the 2003 season. At press time the following shows will be offering Reining Classes; Hudson Valley May 9-11, AHANE June 25-28, Region 16 Championship July 10-13, NH All Arabian August 8-10, Silver Spur All Arab August 29-31. There will be \$1,000 in prize money available at the Region 16 Championship, courtesy of ARHA. Prize money will be available in Amateur Owner to Ride (AOTR) classes only. In the coming years hopefully Reining Classes will be offered at all Region 16 shows. Sponsors are needed to help increase the prize money offered, in this and future years, and advance the quality and notoriety of New England competition.

There will be \$30,000 in prize money offered. In order to be eligible for Region 16 championship show monies and National prize money, you must be a member of ARHA, which automatically makes you a member of the International Arabian Horse Association (IAHA). You can now join or renew your membership online.

Reining is the fastest growing equine discipline and while it is currently dominated by Quarter Horses, Arabian horses are quickly growing in popularity as reiners. In 1998 Reining was the sixth sport to become recognized by the US Equestrian Team and 2002 was the first year Reining was included in the World Equestrian Games. The US team took home the Gold with Canada capturing Silver and Italy the Bronze. With International Reining in its infancy we are sure to see Arabs and Half-Arabs competing in International arenas within the next 5 years.

This presents a unique opportunity for Arab breeders and Reining Trainers. With International exposure Arabian breeders are in a unique position to improve their sales by marketing their horses to a new client pool. There is a large demand for Reining horses in the European market, which is being currently filled with Quarter Horses. This leaves opportunity for Arab breeders to capitalize on the demand for those customers who want “something different” in their reining horse. Of course in both the US and Overseas markets conformation and attitude are key. This provides an exciting opportunity for Half-Arab breeders to try some new crosses such as Quarter Horse/Arabian or Paint/Arabian.

For those customers who want “something different” in the US market, Trainers have a great opportunity to start training Arabian Reining prospects. Currently there is a shortage of Reining Trainers in New England and none of the current trainers specialize in working with Arabian horses. This creates a great business opportunity for Trainers moving into the area or for established Trainers looking to set themselves apart from others in the area.

The New England representative of ARHA is Tony Sessions. Mr. Sessions can be reached at 802-626-9909 or at sessions@vtlink.net.

For more information on Reining and Arabian Reining Horses visit the Arabian Reining Horse Association at www.arha.net, International Arabian Horse Association at www.iaha.com and National Reining Horse Association at www.nrha.com.