

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2012

&

HAPPY NEW YEAR



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I wish a fine 2013 for everyone... to my family, my old friends, my not so old friends and my new friends, 2012 was a good year.

Life continues to roll on which I say every year, but roll on it does so we keep running to keep up and thankfully we stay healthy with all the exercise. Quickly, since it seems so long ago, Scottsdale was good for us last year with Championships in both halter and performance. Almost here again this year, Scottsdale is

the beginning of the year for us. I'm not hauling any of my own horses to Scottsdale although we will be very well represented with horses we have bred carrying the torch for us.

People often ask me 2 questions. #1 "When are you going to retire?" Puh-lease! What would I do if I was retired? You can quit worrying about retirement for me. It isn't in my DNA. #2 "Do you still ride?" I guess people think that since I get more press for breeding the

horses than I do riding and training I must not ride any more. Let me set the record straight; for me, riding is like breathing. It's fresh air, clear mind, feeling, seeing, forgetting, enjoying, and concentrating. Riding a good horse makes every day a good day, riding a young horse encourages me to make a path for that youngster to travel to become a good horse. And because my pride insists that I ride a good looking horse I am always trying as a breeder of fine horses to breed more beautiful horses that are more talented than the ones before.

This year has brought some new and very interesting opportunities for me with new horsemen I have had the fun of spending time with. We had Eitan Beth-Halachmy at our Summer Jubilee, he and



Eitan Beth-Halachmy at the Summer Jubilee

Jack Brainard have established the Cowboy Dressage organization with the idea that dressage on a soft rein could open many doors to people that desire to acquire more expertise in a soft manner with their horses. Eitan is fun, a very enthusiastic guy with a penchant for his desire, dressage in a western saddle. I think it is a great idea and fun for everyone including the horse. Eitan has an extraordinary group of videos describing in moving pictures and colors the horse and riders working parts. Terrific. Go to www.cowboydressage.com for more information.

The Sierra Nevada mountains beckoned again this year with Sherry Conrads deciding for her birthday she wanted to experience packing into the Sierra's for a

week. This is my third time packing into the mountains out from Mammoth on the east side of the Sierra's. Ten friends along with Dave Stamey to sing to us around the



Dave Stamey leading the pack.

campfire at night and his wife and great friend Melissa Stamey. Forrest Newman was along to guide us into lost places as much as possible which he is very good at. This is Murietta V's (Desperado V x Magdalena V) third trip to the Sierra's. For me any trip has to do as much with enjoying my horse as well as the country I am traveling so I like taking my own horse. Murietta had been turned out because I am riding some younger horses however he has been on the 16 acres so I didn't worry about his condition as he always seems in good shape. We drove from my house at sea level to Mammoth 8,000 feet in a day and the next morning saddled and rode over Duck Pass at 11,000 feet. Interesting that the change in altitude doesn't bother the horses or doesn't bother mine anyway; we camped at about 9,500 and rode up from there. Sara Chisholm (Palmetto Arabians) rode a horse from the park station, as did most of the people, although Lisa and David Thompson and Audrey Griffin rode their own horses. Sara was game, brave when she was terrified and wept with emotion when we are on the very top of the Sierra Nevada looking out at God's world. A trip of a lifetime Sara says and you couldn't pay her a million dollars to do it again. We all laughed.

Jack Brainard, the legendary Texas horsemen who at 92 or something like that has been one of the instrumental people in the Quarter horse breed in all aspects for all of his life. Jack had been inviting me to

come to Texas and ride with him. No one should ever turn down an invitation like that, so following the US Nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma, my girlfriend Lisa Thompson met me in Tulsa and saw the last day of her first US National Championship. We drove the next day to Fort Worth and picked up Kristin Reynolds and drove to our great friend Vicki Bass's ranch outside of Fort Worth for the night. I have been around Jack Brainard enough to know he is one of the great storytellers, lover of horses any kind of horse and always looking for new training ideas. Truly I thought we would ride in the morning and then Jack would have other things to do in the afternoon so we would go looking at ranches or go back and look around Fort Worth with Vicki. Nope, Jack had things to teach us. We mounted up on his horses and



Sheila and Jack Brainard

I had the good fortune of riding his horse. A very, very good horse I must say. We rode until lunch, ate lunch then rode until late afternoon. What was so terrific to me was many of the things Jack had us doing I had done before but not as specifically or in the order that allows a horse to understand what was wanted, and the rider to be developing their own skills. We rode all day for two days moving from one step to the next and I loved it, as you would expect we are now adding all of this information to our horses which will continue to make even better horses for the people that purchase them in

the future and I continue to get enamored with learning more all the time.

I have worked hard in my life always trying to breed better and ride better, so playing wasn't a part of my daily life. I had friends but not close friends, as I simply didn't have time. My vision was entirely on managing the ranch, earning a living, training the horses, showing the horses and breeding the horses. So vacations and playing were non-existent for decades. Then by some kind of amazing good luck Angela Alvarez came to work for me. Angela has worked for me for 27 years and knows the ranch as well as I do. Several of the staff have worked here nearly as long and by very good karma time to play became available at the same time Kristin Reynolds, Lisa Thompson and Audrey Griffin stepped into my life "the Girl Friends" or the Book Club Girls. We read and we ride and our friendships are the kind of friendships that are total, complete always there for one another, trusting, no arguing, always supporting, happy for each others success and quietly standing beside when there is a problem. We say our birthdays are in November even though my Natal day is August and so



Lisa, Anna Lisa, Sheila, Audrey and Kristin.

we have evolved into a trip together each November. Last year we traveled to New York to see the play The

War Horse and ended up covering New York in almost every way in 5 days. This year we flew to San Miguel de Allende to visit Anna Lisa Thomas for our birthday, our fifth book club girl now living in Mexico. A perfect 5 days it was. San Miguel is a beautiful town and Anna Lisa is the ultimate hostess. I found all sorts of things interesting; cobble stone streets, speed bumps take the place of policemen and stoplights are none existent. Everyone is doing something, walking, moving, smiling. Mexico, anyway in the towns and area's we went to, and we did go to several of the very old towns, looks like it is doing well... certainly we never felt unsafe. We had slow, lovely lunches, ate dinner and breakfast with Anna Lisa and her husband Peter and Lisa's husband David and communicated about life. So now we have to consider next year, maybe Washington DC. I have never been there and that has to be on my Bucket list... we will see.

Something new always keeps the excitement blooming, so this year we are going to conduct a Hands-On Clinic, The Varian Way at the ranch rather than the Spring Fling. Same weekend as the Spring Fling, April 27th and 28th. People love the way our horses handle and ride. We hear it over and over, "This is the nicest horse I have ever had." So we decided to do a hands-on clinic and teach people how to handle and train horses like we do. We will have as hands-on instructors myself, Jaime Hernandez, Mike Perez, Brett and Marjie Becker and Mike Damianos so people will have immediate help if they need more direction. Mornings will be handling on the ground and afternoons riding. People will use their horses or if traveling long distances they will use ours. I am thrilled because we sold out the hands-on part of the weekend in two weeks, however we have more openings for auditors. Auditors will be right up close and in on everything so sign up so you don't miss out on the fun. Of course, it will be a lovely affair, as you would expect from us. A beautiful and delicious continental breakfast and lunch to go along with a wonderful stimulating weekend. Check our website for

more information www.varianarabians.com



In the meantime I am thinking about how I am going to breed the mares and stallions in 2013. *Jullyen El Jamaal (Ali Jamaal x Jullye El Ludjin) is the leading sire son of Ali Jamaal in the world. (Research by Arlene Magid). Jullyen continues to sire beautiful horses and to make more records with his offspring in the show arena as well as breeding barn all over the world. *Jullyen's daughters are definitely making a very strong influence as broodmares as well.



**Jullyen El Jamaal*

Audacious ps continues to stand alone in the beauty and charisma that he so strongly adds to his offspring. He now has offspring in Australia and it appears that South Africa will be opening up to his offspring as well this year but more about that later. Audacious' babies have done extremely well in the major shows, Regionals, Scottsdale, so expect to see a number of his offspring in Scottsdale next month.



Audacious ps

Maclintock V (Desperado V x Marigold V) is turning 20 this year. I broke Maclintock as a three year old and we then sold him. I was able to buy him back as a teenager and he has been gaining fans yearly, in fact trying to find a Maclintock V offspring for sale is not easy. I am retaining several of his colts that I especially like for his replacement in the future.



Maclintock V

Mexicali Mac V (Maclintock V x Maya V full sister to Magdalena V dam of National Champions May Dancer V and Melody V) is a turning six-year-

old stallion that I have liked very much from the time he was foaled. Spending two years with Vicki Lynott and in training with Liz Bentley, Mexicali has Regional Western Pleasure wins already. Mexicali is in training with Brett Becker of Becker Training Stables. Brett likes Mexicali very much so I expect big things from both of them. Mexicali Mac V is available for breeding



Mexicali Mac V

and will be shown at the major shows this year. All of our stallions are SCID and CA clear.

On another, note we have a couple of spots open for training horses. If interested, please call Sheila for more information (805) 489-5802.

And so as I close this 2012 past Christmas letter, I say thank you to everyone that purchased horses from us this year, and bred mares with us. We appreciate you. Since Varian Arabians earns our living from the wonderful horses we have been breeding and raising for the past 55 years, without you Varian Arabians would not be able to continue doing what we have learned how to do so very well for all of these years.

Give us a call, check out our website, come for a visit or simply say hello when we meet.

Love to you all,

Sheila Varian

