

Hagale Family Arabians

A U.S. NATIONALS TO REMEMBER

by Colleen Scott

Who made their debut in the winner's circle on the 2024 U.S. Nationals stage?

Whose team collectively brought home 18 Top Ten awards, including four reserve championships and three championships?

Whose breeding program's first foal captured the Arabian Breeding Gelding In-Hand championship?

HERE'S A HINT – you've seen him around for years, but in the paddock or stands, and this individual and his family once owned Mamage.

If you guessed Jim Hagale and Hagale Family Arabians (Mary Martha, Jennifer and Jamie) ... you're right.

After decades on the sidelines cheering on daughters Jennifer and Jamie, it was Jim Hagale's turn to walk away with the 2024 U.S. National reserve tri-color ribbon and a set of roses, besting Jennifer in the Arabian Mare Breeding AAOTH Championship class. Jim was showing Esperranza (Emerald J x Vesperra) and Jennifer, who went Top Ten, was on the lead with Pink Rose SRA (Baahir El Marwan x DM Valencea).

"She was trash-talking to me before the class," says Jim. "Now it's the other way around."

It's not the first time Jim has competed against one of his daughters. At the 2023 U.S. Nationals, the tables were turned and Jamie beat Jim, claiming the championship title with Queen Ayda FWM (*FA El Shawan x TN Mariani) with Jim placing a close third with Esperranza.

The trash-talking within the family is all in good fun and while Jim walked away with the roses in that particular class, Jennifer and the

rest of the Hagale Family Arabians team (performance trainers Chris Wilson and Nestor Gonzalez, and halter trainers Andy Sellman and Ted Carson) returned home with prizes of their own.

Recalling highlights from the show, Jennifer says sharing the halter ring with her dad was a highlight for the entire family. "He and my mom have always been our biggest cheerleaders, and it was exciting for all of us to be able to watch him be in the spotlight. We were all nervous for him," she says. As it turned out, they needn't have been.

Besides Jim claiming reserve honors in the mare class, other wins in the halter arena included the handsome bay OFW Alikai (EKS Alihandro x OFW Praise), who took a top ten with Jim in the AAOTH class but earned Unanimous Champion in the Arabian Futurity Geldings with Andy Sellman.

Ted Carson showed the first offspring of the Hagale Family Arabians breeding program, HFA Jazz Man (Dominic M x MC Jasmara), to a championship title in the ABS Arabian Yearling Gelding class.

Additional halter top tens were captured by Esperranza and Pink Rose SRA in the Senior Mares class.

Besides showing in the same class as her father, Jennifer cites two other highlights – her rides on SD The Bravest (Noble Braveheart x GSF Malinah) and CSP Rolling Stone (Afires Heir x CSP Adriana). SD The Bravest, affectionately called "Barbie" at home, is no stranger to the winner's circle. She won the Half-Arabian English Futurity in 2022, the AEPA \$50,000 Half-Arabian Futurity in 2023 and she and Jennifer were champions in the AAOTR Maturity at this year's show. The mare was also named the Reserve Champion Half-Arabian English Pleasure Junior Horse with Nestor Gonzalez aboard.

"She is one of my very favorite horses to show and the Maturity class was so much fun," says Jennifer. "We bought her from Juliette Dell, and



ESPERRANZZA | Reserve National Champion Mare AAOTH



OFW ALIKAI | National Champion Futurity Gelding



HFA JAZZ MAN | National Champion Yearling Gelding

I happened to be on the rail by her when they announced Barbie and I as champions, so it was extra special to share that victory with Juliette."

The other factor making the win with Barbie so special is that she represents the first big wins for Nestor at U.S. Nationals since he joined the team. "I really love working with Barbie," says Nestor. "She has been exciting to bring along and that she can be successful in the open and amateur classes is a great testament to the kind of horse she is."

With the stallion CSP Rolling Stone, Jennifer claimed the Reserve Champion title in the Arabian English Pleasure AAOTR Jackpot class. It was especially meaningful as by her own admission, the horse hasn't been the easiest. "He's been a little challenging, so it was really rewarding to see all the work we have done with him pay off. When they asked if I wanted the spotlight, I didn't hesitate, and we had a blast."

Interestingly, Rolling Stone was bred by Chris, as was his dam and granddam. "I bred him and just before the entire Hagale family really decided to get back into breeding and showing, we sold him to Conway Arabians, says Chris. "I always believed in that horse, and when we had the opportunity to buy him back in 2019, we did. While he's only produced four foals thus far, we think he is going to be a great contributor to the Hagale Family Arabians breeding program."

Jennifer also had stellar rides on Ladie in Redd (ROL Divine Style x Heirs Noble Love), claiming the Reserve Champion title in the Arabian English Pleasure Maturity and Top Ten in the very deep AAOTR 19-49 class. This reserve amateur win was a big highlight for Nestor also. "Ladie in Redd is my favorite," he adds. "She was the first win I had for the Hagales when Jennifer and I teamed up in 2023 for the AEPA Pro-Am in Ocala."

OTHER U.S. NATIONAL TOP TEN AWARDS IN THE PERFORMANCE ARENA INCLUDED:

BOOM TROTTA LOTTA PF

(Undulata's Nutcracker x Noble Vision PF)
Half-Arabian Country English Pleasure AAOTR
Maturity and Half-Arabian Country English
Pleasure Junior Horse

CHARMING DIVA

(SF Specs Shocwave x Charming Baroness)
AEPA \$50,000 Half-Arabian Saddle Seat Futurity

G EAZY

(HA Toskcan Sun x Up In The Heir)
Half-Arabian Country English Pleasure Open and
AAOTR 40-59

HFA MALACHI

(KW Micah x A Pleasant Surprise)
Half-Arabian Country English Pleasure Futurity

IM YOUR HUCKLEBERY VA

(Afires Heir x Nevada Spirit VA)
AEPA \$100,000 Saddle Seat Futurity

LOVES DIVINE

(SF Aftershoc x Ames Divine)
AEPA \$100,000 Saddle Seat Futurity

MISS MARTINI BF

GSF Rizing Son x Lucky's Stylish Martini)
Half-Arabian Open and AAOTR Park

MONTAGUE AA

(Mamage x CSP Vozka)
Country English Pleasure Open and AAOTR 40-59

WAKING UP IN VEGAZ

(Vegaz x Reedann's Hello Hello)
Half-Arabian English Pleasure Futurity



SD THE BRAVEST | National Champion H/A English Maturity & Reserve National Champion H/A Jr. Horse



LADIE IN REDD
Reserve National Champion English Maturity



CSP ROLLING STONE
Reserve National Champion English Jackpot

While all of the titles are meaningful in their own way, it was Jennifer's wins in the Maturity and Jackpot classes that were special to Chris and are indicative of what the Hagale family breeding program is trying to achieve.

"Jennifer being reserve and champion in both of those classes are really representative of the kind of program we want to have," he says. "We want our horses to be very competitive in those amateur classes, and whether they continue on and join our show string, are sold to someone else to enjoy, or become part of our breeding program, those early successes tell us we're on the right track."



The Hagale Family Arabian personal wins aside, 2024 was also a great year for the farm's stallions, SF Aftershoc and HA Toskcan Sun. Both topped the *Arabian Horse Times* leaderboards in a number of categories (determined by points assigned for championships, reserve championships and top tens).

In the Overall Performance Sire category for U.S. Nationals, SF Aftershoc and HA Toskcan Sun were second and third, respectively. In the Saddle Seat Sire category, SF Aftershoc took second and HA Toskcan Sun, fourth. Moving on to the Hunter Pleasure category and SF Aftershoc is also a force there, finishing in third. In the Specialty Sire category, he again proves his versatility as a sire and lands second on the list. HA Toskcan Sun was not far behind, in fifth, as a Leading Specialty Sire.

Other stallions that have offspring with successes at U.S. Nationals include ROL Divine Style, Vegaz, Fire and Goldd and Mamage (deceased). Hagale Family Arabians broodmares also contributed to the farm's successes.

"We are very proud of the stallions we've selected to be cornerstones of our breeding program," says Jim. "To see other owners be successful with their offspring is just as rewarding as our own wins."

Im Your Hucklebery VA and Montague AA are not only on the show string, but they are out of Vegaz daughters. "We think Vegaz produces some pretty special broodmares," says Chris. "Im Your Hucklebery VA in particular generated a lot of interest after our AEPA pattern. He seemed to be a crowd favorite at the show."

And while all the personal victories and those of SF Aftershoc and HA Toskcan offspring were important and exciting, Jim cites something else about the 2024 U.S. Nationals as memorable. "I don't think I've ever seen the quality of horses before that we had at this year's show," he says. "The young horse classes were phenomenal, and I think breeders are doing a great job of producing athletic, quality horses."

As for their own breeding program, Jim says they will start to show more of their youngsters in 2026 and beyond. They are expecting 28 babies in 2025. "We're excited about the future of the Arabian horse and making a contribution to the breed we love and enjoy so much," he says.

Chris is excited about the future of their program as well. "The bottom line is, we breed to mares that we think will bring out the best in our stallions. While we are excited for the upcoming futurity and maturity horses in the coming years," he says, "we continue trying to create the next phase of the Hagale Family Arabians breeding program by producing the next generation of show horses." ■