

Shagyas in the News



photo by Aart Markies

HUNGARES with Miguel Vila Ubach, FEI Endurance Champions: Ears up and eager at the finish line

Through pouring rain and with tears of joy in his eyes, the 2006 FEI World Individual Endurance Champion Miguel Vila Ubach (ESP) brought his Shagya gelding *Hungares*, across the finish line at Aachen, Germany. They were in 47th position after the fourth vetgate but this did not discourage them. On the contrary, they had been saving their strength for the last 13-km loop. "I knew my horse could fly over the last bit. We rode out of the vetgate, I saw the French girls and decided to follow them as I was sure they would get good placings. The horse felt so strong that we found ourselves quite up front. And then I felt we could make it and decided to just go for it." Go for it they did, winning the 160 Km race in 9:12:27. That is an average of 10.8 mph! The heavy rain and a course of repeated loops through hilly terrain made the going a bit tough, but *Hungares* had energy to spare.

So what is so special about the Shagya? For over 200 years they have been selected for a working mind, balanced conformation, and thriftiness. Both stallions and mares were performance tested, including an endurance test. Only the best of the best were kept for breeding. The result is that the Shagya is genetically prepotent, with a high degree of predictability in type, heart, and conformation. They are sound, thrifty, and hardy, with bigger bone, a longer, more sloping croup, and more over all substances than purebred Arabians. Shagyas are not an Arabian cross; the World Arabian Horse Organization has recognized them as a separate Arabian breed.

Shagyas have been making their mark in American endurance circles. The Shagya stallion *Janos* has a 100% completion record with 18 starts and 18 finishes with a total of 955 miles. He has 9 top ten finishes with one Best Conditioned. He also has completed a very impressive 100 mile ride. He has done all this in just 2 Endurance seasons! *Fayette de Cameo* won the Tevis Cup in 2004, after having won the Haggin Cup for Best Condition in 2003. *SMR Garcon* placed third in the 2006 Tevis. **Oman* was the only ISR licensed stallion to compete in endurance.

NASS and AERC Shagya Endurance Awards

2003 NASS distance high point award: *Big Sky Mirage* owned and ridden by Evan Roth

2006 NASS distance high point award: *Piatti+/-* owned and ridden by Becky McCarty

AERC High Point and High Mileage Horses

2003 High Point Horse: *Piatti+/-* owned and ridden by Becky McCarty

2003 High Mileage Horse: *Wineglass Omni* owned and ridden by Roger Rittenhouse

2004 High Point Horse: *Piatti+/-* owned and ridden by Becky McCarty

2004 High Mileage Horse: *Piatti+/-* owned and ridden by Becky McCarty

2005 High Point Horse: *Janos* owned and ridden by Stephanie Fine

2005 High Mileage Horse: *Janos* owned and ridden by Stephanie Fine

2006 High Point Horse: *Piatti+/-* owned and ridden by Becky McCarty

2006 High Mileage Horse: *SA Te Jat* owned and ridden by Martha Powers

Shagyas are known for their wonderful versatility. This was one of the goals of the old breeding masters in Hungary. Their intelligent, calm minds are a pleasure to work with. Their athletic, balanced conformation makes them suitable to a wide range of equestrian sports, from endurance to dressage, and eventing to combined driving. Shagyas have been used extensively as outcross improvers in many of our modern sport horse breeds. The Shagya influence can be recognized through generations of Olympic contenders in dressage, jumping, and eventing.

You may never have seen a Shagya in the flesh. There are only about 220 registered purebred Shagyas in North America, and about 2500 in Europe and South America. They are scattered across this continent, from Washington and British Columbia to Florida, and from Vermont and Quebec to Southern California. Shagya owners are happy to show you their horses, and talk with you about their enthusiasm for this rare breed. Look for us at the AERC convention in Reno, the Pasadena Equifair, and out on the trail as our horses continue making themselves known in the endurance community. To locate a Shagya breeder near you, and to learn more about this unique breed, please contact us through our web site at www.shagyaregistry.com

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