

Shagya-Arabers in Endurance

By Nancy R. Skakel

The Shagya-Araber is beginning to receive long overdue recognition in endurance competition circles. The Shagya is one of the oldest recorded breeds in Europe; for over 200 years the breeding masters of Hungary have rigorously tested and selected the foundation stock specifically for the qualities needed in today's endurance sports. Hardiness, thrift, soundness, comfortable, efficient gaits, and a steady and willing mind are the hallmarks of this rare breed. Shagyas were never bred in great abundance because of their strict selection criteria. Today, there are only approximately 2,000 purebred Shagyas around the globe, and yet look at their impact on the sport of distance riding!

On the international scene, we are all very proud of the Babolna-bred Shagya gelding HUNGARES (Siglavy Bagdady VIII x Kanya x Pamino), winner of the 2006 World Endurance Championship. Several Shagyas have been nominated to compete at the 2008 WEG Championship Endurance Race in Malaysia. Among them are the classically bred mare JANNIK (Jeremias x Novinna x Bartok), ridden by Veronika Menger from Switzerland. Kamaruddin Abd Ghani from Malaysia will be riding IMAGO DE CROUZ, a 1996 bay stallion by Shogun (Shagya XXXIX 11 x Ilona ShA). Ilona is a daughter of Ibn Galal ox out of an O'Bajan III daughter. Imago's dam is a Shagya mare named Almaya, a daughter of the stallion Ibn Galal-15 (by Ibn Galal ox) and out of a mare named 575 Azanja V, bred at Karadjordjevo.

Also, the French bred GANDA KOY, also by Shogun, has qualified with

His Highness Sheik Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa and with Yousif Ali Taher Yousif. Ganda Koy has won the French Florac 100-mile ride.



*Becky Osborne on Sunami
(Bold Bravo x Shoni x *Shandor)*

Seiichi Hasumi, from Japan, will be riding his American bred mare, SMR FAYETTE DE CAMEO (*Oman x Cameo Corrine ox). Fayette won the Tevis in 2002 and the Haggin Cup in 2001. Mr. Hasumi is starting the first Japanese Shagya breeding program with the importation of JANOS (*Salem x *Bashira) from the USA. Janos has 100% completions over 800 miles in the United States. In July he won his first 50-mile ride in Japan in the heavy weight division. Janos promises to found a dynasty of international endurance horses in Japan.

The 2006 Compiègne Champion was the half-Shagya KED JARI DES SERRES, and the 2005 World Champion

was another related half-Shagya named GEORGAT (Dahoman family line).

All across the country, Shagyas and their riders are competing in endurance. In the midwest, SA TA JET (Bayram x SA Enis ox) and Marty Powers have completed over 2,170 miles. PIATTI (*Budapest x Jamila Atan ox) and Becky McCarthy have won several awards in Regions 13 and 14. Linda Rudolphi, of Wineglass Farm, has competed a number of her Shagyas over the years, including WINEGLASS LAMBRUSCO (by *Budapest), and Marty Powers competes with WINEGLASS DOMINUS (by *Budapest). In the northwest Patty Betts, and Rebecca Osborne have been competing with their Shagyas for several years. Carolyn Tucker and Toni Jones and their Shagyas are familiar faces at western rides. In the southwest Dale Scoville has done well with SAMSON (Bold Bravo x Shomani), and Vern Wingest and BRAHMA PFF (Bold Bravo x Sjonja) are logging some miles. SW OMEGA (*Oman x Tara Nazzet ox) and Karen Bish completed the Tevis in 2007. The Shagya stallions MAX (*Amurath Samurai x *Korina), STERLING SILVER AF (*Shandor x Sapphire x *Oman), and *KS RUBIN (Paris x Rasga) are all beginning their endurance competition careers. Potato Richardson's half Shagya stallion, SMR GARCON (*Oman x Fille de Cailana ox) has had 6 Top Ten placings and a Best Condition. Garcon won the Eastern High Sierra Ride 50 minutes ahead of the second place horse! Shagyas are being found more and more often taking their places at endurance ride camps.

This year Darlene Steven Stable and Steven Family agreed to sponsor a new cup trophy awarded to each winner for the first 5 years running. In addition the Steven Family is sponsoring lunch at the events for all ride participants of the annual Shagya Distance Cup Challenge. This event was held in conjunction with

the Lincoln Trails Ride at Oakwood, Illinois. The highest placing Shagya-bred horse, Jeremy Olson's SA BELSHAZZAR, (Bayram x Jayel Tonga Farah ox) won the engraved vase, and had their names added to the perpetual trophy base. Junior rider Minkinzie Flanagan on SA IREESH TENOR (Bayram x SA Ireesh Lullaby) placed as Reserve Champion in the Shagya Challenge, initiating our Junior Rider Awards program. ASAV also sponsored a buffet lunch at that ride. Next year the Shagya Distance Challenge will be held at a ride (TBA) west of the Mississippi.

Shagyas are bred for endurance. They are medium size (15 to 16 hands) with substantial bone and powerful hindquarters. They are known for having excellent, hard hooves, strong backs, well set necks, deep, smooth bodies, and best of all an eager, intelligent, yet steady temperament. The breed was developed specifically to be versatile, easy to manage and keep, and with Arabian characteristics fortified and intensified by highly selective breeding standards. By DNA testing the Shagya is indistinguishable from a purebred Arabian, yet they are easily distinguished from the Arab in conformation, structure, and general character. The result is an Arab-type horse with generally more substance in the frame, more bone, a longer, more sloping croup, and a bright, tractable mind. They are imminently suitable to the sport of endurance. They also perform very well in dressage, eventing, and combined driving. Whether you are a casual rider or a serious competitor, the Shagya-Araber offers a world of pleasure and satisfaction to today's equestrian.

Please take time to check out our newly updated ASAV website at www.shagyaregistry.com.