



**AMHA**

American Morgan  
Horse Association



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

5/29/2009

**Quarter H Farm Triple H Event** *Open all breed western working horse 3-phase event including, ranch horse trail, jackpot barrel race, and team penning*  
Quarter H Farm, Sterling, CT  
Contact: Lisa Herman  
(860) 779-1699  
ldrah456@att.net

*Other Events at Quarter H Farm:*  
Quarter H Farm Gymkhanas  
5/15/2010, 6/19/2010,  
6/27/2010, 7/24/2010,  
8/7/2010, 8/14/2010

Quarter H Farm Jackpot Team Penning 5/23/2010,  
7/11 - 7/25/2010, 6/13/1010,  
6/26/2010, 7/17/2010

NBHA RI01 Barrel Race  
*Sanctioned by NBHA, 6/6/2010*

Border Wars Cowboy Mounted Shooting. *Open all breed Cowboy Mounted Shooting competition sanctioned by the CMSA,*  
6/19 - 6/20/2010

5/8/2010

**Hilltown Hoofbeats Open 4-H Horse Show**  
Westhampton, MA  
Contact: Molly Ronan  
hilltownhoofbeats@comcast.net

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**Contact Information**

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# Competing INTERESTS

The Official Newsletter of the AMHA Open Competition Program

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## Morgan Open Award

Florida Carriage & Horse Festival, held this February, was proud to honor Whippoorwill Keep Dancing, driven by Bob Koopman of North Bridge, Massachusetts, as the high-score Morgan of the three-day event. Also kudos to Donna Normand of Ocala, Florida, for her Morgan award winning ride at the Florida Horse Association 50-Mile Competitive Trail Ride.

Both these awards were sponsored by the AMHA in support of Morgan sport horses. Are your local events honoring outstanding Morgans? If not let us know. Free awards provided by AMHA are available to open and sport competitions.

*Donna Normand and UDM Marquee*



## The Medalists

Each year at the AMHA honors outstanding Morgans in open and sport competitions through the AMHA Open Competition program. One special division of awards mark the lifetime achievement of Morgans in bronze, silver, gold, and in some cases platinum medallions.

When a Morgan earns an AMHA medallion it is not only an indication of a horse's success in the show ring, but it can also give you clues to the horse's scope of talent and longevity in its sport. Here is a quick look at how to read into Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Let's look to the open show division first. The open show division encompasses a wide variety of classes, points from English pleasure, western pleasure, in-hand, and equitation as well as several others are earned in this medallion division. A horse can earn a maximum of 2 points per competition. To earn bronze a horse must earn a total of 30 points, 120 points for silver, and lastly gold is achieved at 300 points. A gold medalist in this division indicates a

hard working and seasoned competitor. It will take a minimum of 150 competitions, earning the maximum of 2 points per show, to reach the gold level. A similar point system is used in carriage, working western, and eventing. Each division has its own rubric for determining the number of points but in a nutshell, more points are given based on the degree of difficulty or competitiveness of a competition. How well a horse places, and the number of classes competed in also considered. For instance, eventing horses competing at the advanced level can earn up to 20 medallion points by placing 1 through 10<sup>th</sup> at a competition or 10 for simply completing the event. Similarly a Morgan at a three-phase combined driving event can earn up to 2 points at training level or up to 5 points at advanced level.

The endurance and competitive trail divisions are different in that medallion milestones are marked in miles rather than points. Medallions earned in these divisions will give you ready knowledge of the

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### The Medalists *continued from page 1*

distance these Morgans have gone. At bronze in both the endurance and competitive trail horses must have met the 500 mile marker, for silver 1,500 miles, and for gold, endurance horses will have gone 3,000 miles, and in competitive trail 2,000 miles. A platinum medallion is given to competitive trail horses at 3,000 miles.

Most unique is the Dressage division, dependant on the levels each horse is competing in. Bronze level horses must earn a particular degree and number of scores at training, first, and second levels, silver with third and fourth level, and gold at the FEI levels including Grand Prix.

It is not uncommon with the versatile talents of

Morgans to see horses medaling in multiple division. For a true test of versatile talent is the AMHA Sport Horse Award. Sport horse awards are given to a Morgan earning a minimum of 5 bronze medallions. This highly coveted award has only been earned by 8 horses since the award's inception in the late 1980s and has not been awarded again since 2000.

Medallion award are just one of the many ways AMHA recognizes open and sport competitors, it is one of the most important ways we mark the lifetime achievements of these horses. If your horse is not currently enrolled for medallion awards please consider joining so that your horse's achievements become part of the historical Morgan record.



### A Special Awards Ceremony

Unfortunately, not everyone was able to make the February presentation of Open Competition winners at the recent AMHA Convention, so a group of New England winners got together at the historic Three Stallion Inn, once known at the Green Mountain Stock Farm, in Randolph, Vermont to celebrate. Pictured above from left to right is: Nancy Johnson, owner and rider of eventing bronze medalist Canequin's Leatherstocking; Carol Jarmy, co-rider of Canequin's Torchlight; Nan Forester, co-rider and owner of Canequin's Torchlight, bronze medalist in competitive trail; and Liz Gesler for Canequin's Fort Knox and Canequin Reachforthestars, winning medals in carriage and competitive trail divisions, respectively. Congratulations, ladies!

### Working Western on the Rise

W's Mesquite Ridge (Painters Pine Ridge x W Honey Nugget Cherrybomb) is pictured here with his sire at the NMRHA Extravaganza, where he competed in National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA), National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), Ranch Horse Versatility and Ranch Sorting event. He finished third in the \$10,000 Limited Open division on the North Central Reined Cowhorse Association Saddle circuit. Mesquite narrowly missed a first-place finish by 10 points! Way to go!



(Photo © Howard Scharberg)



### Excalibur Annakate Following in Her Brother's Hoofprints

Excalibur Annakate (Excalibur Phoenix x Four Star Lady Ann) has taken the lead over the overall national mileage standings with the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC)! Many may recall Annakate's full brother, Excalibur Gabriel, who was ridden to multiple National AERC Championships in 2007 by Marilyn Smart. As her owner, Bobbie Jo Lieberman, commented, "It looks like Annakate is follow-

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**Excalibur Annakate** *continued from page 2*  
ing in Gabriel's hoofprints!"

Annakate completed all three days of the competitive Las Cienegas Pioneer, Death Valley Encounter and two days of the Old Pueblo Pioneer for a total of 410 miles in the 2010 ride season. In addition to being ranked first in national mileage, she is also first in the Featherweight division and second overall in points for the Southwest Region.

"She is an amazingly tough, incredibly consistent performer," says Bobbie Jo. "She loves nothing more than to go out and trot 50 miles, and when she gets back to the trailer she is still ready for more."

## Star-Rating Program

Is Your Morgan Show Star Rated?

Are the Morgan shows you are attending this summer AMHA Star Rated? If not, there's still time! AMHA has created a new program for shows with Morgan classes, called the Star Rating Program, which is a way to encourage horse owners to compete on all levels and for smaller shows to expose others to the breed.

The AMHA Star Rating Competition Program was designed with two goals in mind: to educate and

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### EVENTS *continued from page 1*

**5/9/2010 & 6/6/2009**

#### Sweet Rock Stables Open Schooling Show

Sweet Rock Stables, Millers, MD

Contact: Roxann Baldwin

(410) 374-3870

roxy@sweetrockstables.com

**5/9/2010**

#### El Dorado County Fair Open Schooling Show

Placerville, CA

Contact: Anne Frost

(209) 245-3609

maidenrock@fiddletownca.net

**5/14/2010**

#### Woodland Dressage Show

*Open all breed show sanctioned by the USEE, USDF, and CDS*

Woodland Stallion Station,

Woodland, CA

Contact: Ann Taylor

(530) 662-1354 or (916) 296-1241

a\_taylor@woodlandstallion.com

#### *Other Events at Woodland Stallion Station:*

##### Cowboy Dressage Show

5/15/2010

##### Vineyard Classic Combined Driving Event ADS sanctioned CDE, 5/17 - 5/19/2010

##### Silver Buckle Trail Competition

5/16/2010

**5/15/2010**

#### MSMHC Open Show

*Open all breed pleasure show*

Fox Valley Saddle Association,

Hampshire, IL

Contact: Kris Breyer

(847) 526-3012

briarpatcheast@aol.com

**5/16/2010 & 6/6/2010**

#### Simi Valley Awards Circuit

*Open breed English and Western combined show sanctioned by Equestrian Trails Inc., Simi Valley, CA*

Contact: Terri Meadows

(805) 582-1150

shortstirrups@sbcglobal.net

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## MEDALLION WINNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Quest For Star

2009 Silver Medalist, Endurance Division

Owned and ridden by Shannon Loomis,

Philippi, West Virginia

**What is your Morgan's nickname or barn name?** Quest

**What is your horse's favorite treat?** Mrs. Pasture's Horse Cookies

**Brand of saddle?** Torsion Treeless with half pad.

**Self taught or professionally trained?** Self trained

**What have you learned from your Morgan?** Perseverance

**Toughest judge?** Myself

**How did you come to choose Morgans?** My dad and I were attracted to the breed's history and also its versatility.

**What trophy do you treasure?** The AMHA Sport Horse Award won by my old horse Quail Meadow Star in 2000.

**Most memorable competition moment:** "We competed in our first 100 miler in May of 2009. I entered with a friend of mine who was pulled at 70 miles. Quest and I had to ride the last two loops by ourselves, mostly in the dark. I wanted to stop before the last loop because everyone else was either trotting to the finish line while we had to go past and we were both so tired and it was very, very dark. Plus, I had rubbed a hole in my breeches at mile 15 and it was very uncomfortable! The vet and my friends were encouraging us to go on, so out we went the only ones left in the ride. As the moon came out somehow we found our second wind (more like our tenth). They left the lights on



(Photo by Hugh MacDonald)

for us at the finish line and while Quest trotted down that bright runway toward the finish, I started to cry. I had to wake up the finish timer who clocked us in at 3:30 a.m! The rest of the camp was asleep, but my friend was waiting for us with the vet. I will never forget that moment, watching the steam come up from Quest's coat while the vet checked him over and my friend standing by with a cooler and pail of beet pulp. We were the turtles that day, but in that moment, I truly understood that to finish is to win!"

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### EVENTS *continued from page 3*

**5/22 – 5/23/2010**

#### **Pleasure Days Carriage Driving Show**

*ADS sanctioned open all breed pleasure driving show, Tejon Ranch Equestrian Center, Lebec, CA*  
Contact: Melanie Brooker  
(661) 816-7177  
dulciepi@verizon.net

**6/5 to 6/6/2010**

#### **West Michigan Summer**

**"Cizzler"** Contact: Kale Saylor  
(231) 464-7122  
kalepamela@gmail.com

**6/19 – 6/20/2010**

**& 7/17 – 7/18/2010**

#### **7th Annual Freedom Classic Open Horse Show**

*Open all breed horse show sanctioned by the East Coast Open Show Circuit, Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center*  
Contact: Norma Gurkin  
(252) 809-3687  
normag@embargmail.com

**6/19 – 6/20/2010**

#### **El Dorado County Fair Mother Lode Horse Show**

*Open all breed pleasure show*  
El Dorado County Fair, Placerville, CA, Contact: Ann Frost, (209) 245-3609  
maidenrock@fiddletownca.net

**7/24/2010 & 7/25/2010**

#### **Vermont Classic Horse Show**

*Open all breed pleasure show*  
Addison Field Days, New Haven, VT, Contact: Shelly Edson, (802) 363-1997  
shellyedson@aol.com

**7/24/2010 & 7/25/2010**

#### **WNYDA Summer Festival Dressage at Paduka Run I & II Recognized Dressage Show**

*sanctioned by the USEF and the USDF, Geneseo, NY*  
Contact: Peggy Polisseni  
(585) 314-1021  
peg7117@yahoo.com

### Star-Rating Program *continued from page 3*

increase awareness of all types and levels of competitions that promote the breed, and to provide a tool to help horse owners identify competitions where they can enjoy the fun of showing and test their skills.

Shows are rated one to four stars, with AMHA regional shows an exception. Shows that participate in the program will receive extra publicity and promo-

tion by AMHA. Once the show's application is received, the show will receive its star rating status and logos to be used for publicity. Among the benefits offered as part of the program are ads in *The Morgan Horse* magazine, press releases, and calendar listings.

Go to [http://www.morganhorse.com/competitions/star\\_program/](http://www.morganhorse.com/competitions/star_program/) to download an application today!

## Please Help AMHA Get the Word Out!

In an effort to recognize Morgans in Open Competition, AMHA expanded its recognition efforts in 2005 to include open shows across the nation. The AMHA Morgan Open High-Point Award recognizes the highest scoring Morgan at open competitions, regardless of the division. Points from classes open to all breeds are used to tabulate the winner. Awards are provided by AMHA to any show submitting an application within at least two weeks of the event. Please tell the managers and organizers of the shows you attend about this exciting and free award opportunity by supplying them with the detachable application below.

**Name of Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Event sanctioned by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location of Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of horses expected:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Morgans that competed last year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form to:**

**American Morgan Horse Association, 122 Bostwick Road, Shelburne, VT 05482**

**Phone: (802) 985-4944 • Fax: (802) 985-8897**

**Do you have news or information for the newsletter?**

*Please send news to:*

Open Competition Program, 122 Bostwick Road, Shelburne, VT 05482 *or* [chris@morganhorse.com](mailto:chris@morganhorse.com)