



## Three Endurance Shagyas

..and why their owners love them!

### MJL Olivia and Monique Vincent



**MJL Olivia (\*Oman x MJL Stanz-Abi ox)**

MJL Olivia is my Shagya-Arabian cross mare. Together, Olivia and I had a great year in endurance for 2008. We started 12 rides and finished 11 at distances of 50 miles or greater. We placed top 10 in ten of our starts of which eight were top 5's, including 2 wins. For the AERC central region we placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the featherweight divisions and 3<sup>rd</sup> for overall points. In the AERC Breed Recognition Program Olivia was recognized as the Shagya Breed High Mileage and High Point Horse for 2008. For the ASAV Olivia was the Champion High Mileage Distance Horse. With NASS Olivia was the first place finisher in the Distance Riding Division. Part of our success lies

in the fact that the Shagyas were bred to be light cavalry mounts. A cavalry horse has to have good feet and legs, and large amounts of bone. Olivia's cannon circumference is 8 ¼' the front and just under 9' in the rear. She wears a size 2 shoe. The second feature that makes Shagyas great for endurance is their stamina. Olivia has the stamina of a pure bred Arabian. Their gaits are the third key to their success. Olivia's gaits are of dressage quality. Finally, Shagya's on the whole are nice horses to work with. Olivia and I have a great relationship, we trust each other and she continually excels in her dressage where she is schooling at level 3.

### Ramona AF and Patty Betts



**Ramona AF (\*Oman x WC Rachelle by Hungarian Bravo)**

In 2004 my Shagya mare, Ramona AF, and I rode 255 miles in 5 days. We were one of six horse and rider teams to complete all five days of the Oregon Outback Pioneer endurance ride. It was awesome and my most difficult endurance endeavor. When we rode back into camp that last day, I knew we had really accomplished something.

In 2001 we started endurance competitions, and in 2002 she won the Sophomore Horse Award in the Pacific Northwest Region. She and I completed 10 rides, 50 and 75 miles, in length with no disqualifications, the most completions for a second year endurance horse. Some of the

characteristics of a good endurance horse are a great trot with lots of impulsion, ground covering walk, and good conformation. Her trot was outstanding! She was very forward moving; set her sights on the next vet check that she knew was out there somewhere and down the trail we'd go.

One of my favorite rides was a 75 mile ride, in Eastern Washington. It got dark and it was just Ramona and I out on the trail with glow sticks on her breast collar lighting the trail and helping me

see the trail ribbons. It was quiet and beautiful. She was confident and stepped right out; she knew the way and made sure we got back safe and sound. Riding in the dark, with the stars above and my horse teammate underneath me was a very special experience that I recommend to everyone. Everything feels right with the world.

### **Janos – Japan's new Shagya**



*Janos (\*Salem x \*Bashira)*

In 2006 the black Shagya-Arabian stallion JANOS became the first American Shagya to successfully complete an FEI-level 100-mile endurance ride. His owner/rider, Stephanie Fine, had very good success with Janos in 2005 in every 50-miler she or her husband Evan had entered. He seemed equally able to carry the featherweight Stephanie or the heavyweight Evan, always in the Top Ten and several times Best Conditioned too. Janos attracted attention at every ride because of his strong build and his exceptionally calm demeanor, unusual for a breeding stallion. When Janos approached a

vet checkpoint he would trumpet his arrival once and from then on he would stand, quiet and

relaxed. Stephanie praises his confidence and his willingness to perform as being the perfect combination for a long distance horse.

Janos attracted the attention of Mr. Hasumi, a Japanese endurance rider, and in 2007 Mr. Hasumi purchased Janos and exported him to Japan. There he continues his endurance career. Mr. Hasumi has plans for Janos to also serve as the foundation stallion for the Shagya breed in Japan. Interestingly, Janos is not Japan's first Shagya Arabian. Emperor Hirohito also owned and rode two Shagya-Arabian stallions for many years! However, at this time Janos is the only purebred Shagya-Arabian stallion known to be living and competing in Japan.

*"Conformation of a Successful Endurance Horse" – Three Examples from the Shagya breed.*

For more information on Shagya-Arabians visit the **North American Shagya-Arabian Society** website at: [www.Shagyas.net](http://www.Shagyas.net)

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### **Captions for photos:**

*"Conformation of a Successful Endurance Horse" – Three Examples from the Shagya breed.*

**Photo 1:** MJL Olivia (\*Oman x MJL Stanz-Abi ox)

**Photo 2:** Ramona AF (\*Oman x WC Rachelle by Hungarian Bravo)

**Photo 3:** Janos (\*Salem x \*Bashira)