



AHAEC WHO'S WHO- Laura Cross

Our latest person featured as part of our Who's Who profile is Laura Cross. Most of you will recognize Laura as our new ring steward at our AHAEC shows. Read on to learn how Laura became involved in arabian horses.

How did you become interested in Arabians?

I first got involved with Arabian horses, with Adrian Brand and showed a lovely mare Cassandra when I was 11. I then got my first Arabian FV Thunder Rolls and haven't looked back since.

Discipline

English, Reining, Western

Who were your influences and trainers?

Trainers who have influenced me are Cam Darling, Janet Rooker, Shawn & Carmelle Rooker, Lee Mancini and Linda Fuller.

Describe some of the highlights, and turning points of your experience with Arabian Horses

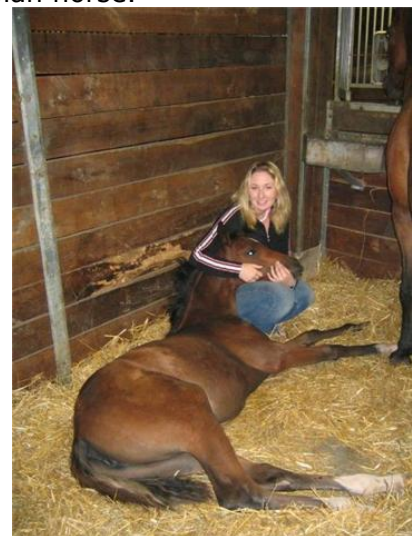
When I purchased a horse JR Charlie from Doc and Mrs. Rooker, I met Janet Rooker and the way I rode and thought about my horses changed forever (for the better). I went from western to English pleasure and now to reining as will. My route has changed throughout the years with my horses, but I wouldn't change it and am always excited at new opportunities and experiences to be had with the Arabian horse.

Challenges and Difficulties

There are always challenges and disappointments with horses. I believe we have all had moments of tears and curses and if we stay with horses we always will, but it is worth it. Probably the biggest disappointment I ever faced was my first year showing at US Nationals, first class ever, and I was excused with my horse due to bad behaviour. Years of work went down the drain, I got over it of course and I use the story to make others feel better when they have a rough go with their horse. This was just another learning experience, on the way to becoming a better rider.

Favorite horse(s) and why

FV Thunder Rolls: he is my first horse and so special to me. I learned more from him more then I think I will ever from any other horse or



person. Nomad: Was one of the first horses I started by myself and was a genuine individual, who I wish I could have kept. ERA The Big Ticket: When I got this horse, I remembered why I really got involved with horses, because it is so much fun! This horse is wonderful in every way, talent plus a teddy bear attitude. All my horses have meant so much to me, wish I could of kept them all!



Contacts - Trainers, Clients, Friends

Carmelle Rooker Shawn Rooker, Janet Rooker, Lee Mancini, Linda Fuller My greatest supporters are my parents and I am so privileged to be able to compete with my horses, because of them. Don't know what I would do at a show without my dad there.

Plans for the Future I am hoping this year at nationals that I am not only going to be showing in park, but in reining too. In September 2010 this year I am going to be opening up a boarding/lesson facility in Chatsworth Twp, near Collingwood and Owen Sound. Just graduated university and am so excited to start this stable and spend time with people and their horses on an everyday basis. Check us out at the website <http://www.crosswindsstables.com>.

What has your life with horses done for you?

The question really should be what hasn't my life with horses done for me? I can't picture my life without the horses, through all the ups and downs I have learned so much and I truly believe that the horses have made me a better individual. The people I have met through the horses are amazing and I feel so fortunate to be a part of the Arabian horse world. Sure there were moments I craved being involved with "normal" sports, one morning heading to a horse show at 4am I looked at my dad and said "why didn't I stay in soccer?" But it has all been a process that has lead me to where I am now, very happy with my horses and new opportunities as a result of them, in riding and in a new business venture.



Products and Services that you use

Saddle: Arabian Saddle Company

Clothing: Anthropologie

Horse Feed: Progressive

Supplements: Envision Pellets