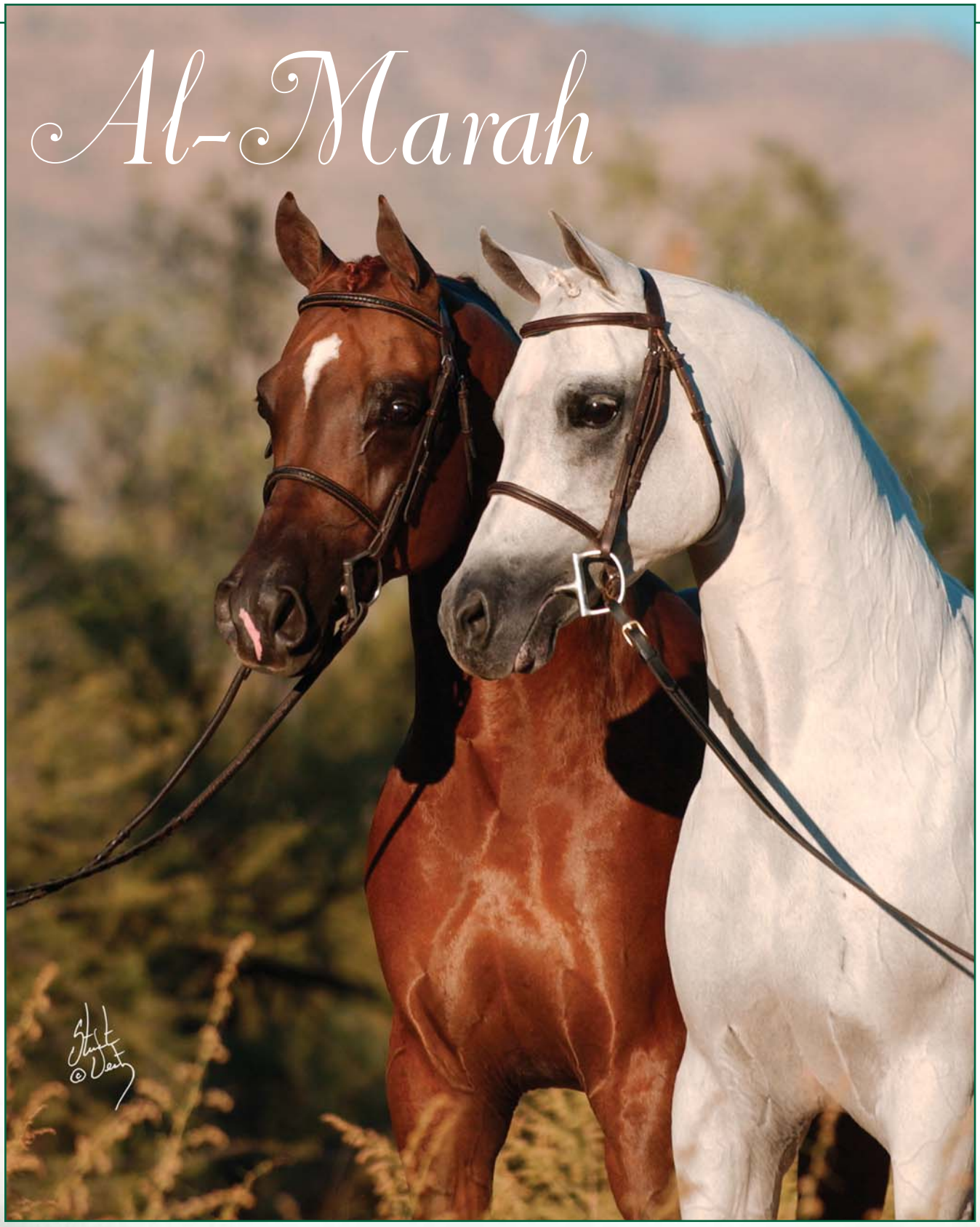


2006 National Sport Horse Champion and Reserve Champion Stallion

*Bremervale Andronicus and AM Power Raid

**Bremervale Andronicus (Desperado x Bremervale Rhapsody), 2006 National Champion Sport Horse Stallion.*

by Nancy Ryan

The massive trunks of the grand old cottonwoods frame the scene: a sinking sun paints a pastel masterpiece on the Santa Catalina mountain peaks and dictates the end of another day in Tucson. Beyond the grove, beautiful white mares graze in the dusky valley below. This dream-like oasis in the Arizona desert is the setting for Al-Marah Arabians.

Al-Marah is the vision, lifelong love, and work of Bazy Tankersley, a luminary in the Arabian horse industry worldwide, and a dedicated shepherd of the breed, in particular, those of the Crabbet bloodline.

The dream unfolded dozens of years ago with a single stallion. Bazy searched for three years, and found him by chance in Indiana. Indraff was the first son of Arabian legend *Raffles (Skowronek x Rifala) and out of the Raseem daughter *Indaia. Although she gave what was a king's ransom for him back then ($10,000), over the years the handsome grey has repaid the debt many times over. He founded a dynasty and is responsible for a roster of legendary

AM Power Raid (AM Double Dream x HH Maid Marian), 2006 National Reserve Champion Sport Horse Stallion.

Arabians such as Al-Marah Indraff (Indraff x Rose Marie), and AM Sea Captain (Al-Marah Indraff x AM Lady Inred), considered Al-Marah's greatest breeding horse to date. Bazy still has seven of his daughters and three sons at the ranch, including AM Good Oldboy, out of the Tsatyr daughter AM Tis Beverlie. Good Oldboy is owned in partnership with Linda and Bill Jacobs and is twice a Reserve National Champion Reining horse. His sons and daughters also excel in sport horse competition — in-hand, under saddle, and over fences. The first year Good Oldboy was National Reserve Champion in reining, his daughter, AM Honor TheStar (x Al-Marah Dorer), earned a Top Ten in Junior Horse Reining. Her full brother, Al-Marah Matt Dillon, was the National Reserve Champion Junior Reiner this year, as his sire went Top Ten in his division.

"Of course I am a breeder down to my toes," remarks Bazy from her comfortable, well-stocked library. "I was very pleased, and used to Good Oldboy winning, but it was nice that when he was Reserve Champion Reining Horse the second time, one of his progeny was Reserve Champion

Junior Reining Horse. The first time he was Reserve Champion, one of his progeny was Top Ten. First it was father and daughter and then father and son."

Over the years other fine horses have joined the ranks as top Al-Marah breeding stallions. A prime example was the prepotent Dreamazon (BF Rageymazon x Gai Dream), the sire and grandsire of some of Bazy's most prized mares and stallions.

There are many stars at Al-Marah, but the two currently in the spotlight are the grey athlete AM Power Raid (AM Double Dream x HH Maid Marian) and the big chestnut Australian import *Bremervale Andronicus (Desperado x Bremervale Rhapsody). Their accomplishments capped off a spectacular year in the showring.

"I suppose Andronicus being the National Champion Sport Horse this year was the highlight," says Bazy. "Of course it was lovely that it was a doubleheader with Power Raid being named Reserve Champion. Then I was particularly pleased that Andronicus went on and was Top Ten at the Nationals, showing that you can do both." (More on these two champions later.)

This year, Bazy Tankersley, her family, and everyone at Al-Marah are celebrating the ranch's 66th anniversary. After all these years of success and accomplishment, Bazy says the one thing that has held true for her has unequivocally been, "The joy … every year's foal crop is more exciting than the year before. I used to regret that it takes 11 months to get a foal, but it sure heightens the anticipation."

A well-spoken and well-educated woman in every respect, Bazy is a student of equine genetics, who has built her program around her skills of selective inbreeding. She believes inbreeding only works if the animals involved are prepotent for the desired qualities. Mistakes are made, she says, when inferior horses are bred too closely.

"I have had a plan since the very beginning and it was to basically linebreed two or three different lines that complement each other, because when you do that you make the horses homozygous for their good qualities. It is too chancy to take a mare with certain faults and breed her to a stallion that doesn't have those faults, but other ones. You can't pick out what you are going to take from each animal. But if they are linebred, you have a chance that their good qualities are going to prevail."

In the same vein, she stresses the important contribution of the mare. "We have always been famous for our broodmare band. I have been offered a lot of stud services for them, especially from up-and-coming stallions over the years."

**Bremervale Andronicus*

Bazy has strict rules regarding the handling of her broodmares.

"If a mare doesn't produce better than herself, I don't keep her. If she does, I still want to sell her when she is around 12, to keep her better daughters, and let her go do some good for somebody else."

Al-Marah breeds not only for looks and athleticism, but disposition. "Disposition is undoubtedly inherited," continues Bazy. "I have a rule here, that I have to be able to walk in the stall of any stallion and put on a stable halter with no chain and lead that stallion out without any problem. If not, he is a gelding. I don't care how good he is — because I think there is no excuse for an Arabian not to have a superb disposition. It doesn't crop up very much, but I gelded one of the best of the Sea Captain sons

*** BREMERVALE ANDRONICUS**
Chestnut stallion foaled 2002

- DESPERADO
  - WN DASJMIR
    - *GG SAMIR
      - JACIO
      - ALHAJA
    - ARAWISZJA
      - *DERWISZ
      - ARALOUS
  - BREMERVALE AQUARIUS
    - BREMERVALE DESTINY
      - OXFORD DECIMUS
      - BREMERVALE ZENDI
    - POLACA
      - HACHO
      - BATISTA
- BREMERVALE RHAPSODY
  - BREMERVALE EXCALIBUR
    - OXFORD DECIMUS
      - RISALDAR
      - OXFORD SUNSET
    - POLACA
      - HACHO
      - BATISTA
  - BREMERVALE FERNANDA
    - OXFORD DECIMUS
      - RISALDAR
      - OXFORD SUNSET
    - BREMERVALE PHAEDRA
      - MAHIF
      - BREMERVALE ELECTRIC LADY

AM POWER RAID
Grey stallion foaled 1995

- AM DOUBLE DREAM
  - DREAMAZON
    - BF RAGEYMAZON
      - FERZON
      - GAI-GA-RAGEYMA
    - GAI DREAM
      - GAY-ROUGE
      - GAFFI
  - CF GAI FANTASIA
    - BF RAGEYMAZON
      - FERZON
      - GAI-GA-RAGEYMA
    - GAI DREAM
      - GAY-ROUGE
      - GAFFI
- HH MAID MARIAN
  - AM COUNT PINE
    - *COUNT DORSAZ
      - RISSALIX
      - SHAMNAR
    - AL-MARAH THRICE MINE
      - INDRAFF
      - *THORAYYA
  - AM CERISE SENORA
    - SHALIMAR GIDASON
      - SHALIMAR FLARAFF
      - SHALIMAR GIDA
    - *SILVER GRAND
      - GRAND ROYAL
      - SILVER GILT

Grand old cottonwoods frame the scene as the sun sets on the Santa Catalina mountains.

because I didn't like his disposition."

Yet Al-Marah manager Jerry Hamilton agrees with Bazy (known to employees as "Mrs. T") that sometimes it is necessary to search out outcrosses or variations in preferred bloodlines. That is how *Bremervale Andronicus came to reside at Al-Marah — all the way from Australia.

"*Bremervale Andronicus ('Andy') was added to the program because of his three crosses to Oxford Decimus (Risaldar x Oxford Sunset)," says Jerry. "We had another horse by the name of *Bremervale Destiny (Oxford Decimus x Bremervale Zendi), and that had a lot to do with this decision. We had already experimented with those bloodlines and were very happy with the results. So he is an outcross, but not an unproven outcross. We also believe he is the epitome of what a sport horse should be."

Al-Marah's program allows horses to live in a herd situation on the open range for two years. Weanlings are running with yearlings and two year olds, learning manners along the way.

Apparently a lot of judges here in the U.S. agree, but what specifically are those sport horse qualities? "Andy's strongest feature is his uphill and forward movement, which comes from the back end," explains Jerry. "He is able to elevate when he goes forward. Andy is four and will eventually be trained under saddle to compete in western pleasure junior horse. But we aren't in a hurry. He needs to prove himself in the breeding barn before we get too far down the road with his training and showing. He needs a third year of breeding."

Andy's stablemate also made tremendous strides in sport horse competitions recently. "AM Power Raid is a truly versatile horse," says Jerry, "and has gone from winning a National Championship in Western Pleasure Junior Horse to dressage and Sport Horse Under Saddle and In-Hand. He went Reserve National Champion Sport Horse Under Saddle the first year he competed. Power Raid is unique because he combines his way of going with exquisite beauty."

Jerry has been the manager for Al-Marah since November 2001 and also manages the Hat Ranch in Williams, Arizona, where young horses go to run free on the range before their formal training begins. "I've worked here almost 25 years," he says. "I came to the apprentice program from Michigan in 1982. I truly love Arizona. This is a job that has taken me all over the world." What Jerry enjoys most is working with the reining and cutting horses, but he also gains great pleasure from a long ride on a good trail horse.

The apprentice program, in place for 40 years, is another part of the operation that sets Al-Marah apart from other large farms. "It is fun and I like the apprentices," says Bazy. "Besides Arabian horses, my other passion is education. I am a compulsive school starter, and have started three schools. I am a big believer in education and I think part of education is trade school, and Al-Marah is really a trade school. We have an arrangement with nearby Pima Community College and our apprentices get two-thirds of their college credit with the work they do here." That work can be intense, and consists primarily of hands-on involvement in both the breeding and training programs at the ranch.

In addition to his many duties as breeding manager, Jay Faircloth is Al-Marah's apprentice coordinator. He employs four to six of the 16 apprentices in the breeding department. During breeding and foaling season, they take on a grueling workload. Jay is proud of the fact that for the last four years, the conception rate at Al-Marah has consistently stayed around the 90 percent mark.

"I attribute that to excellent stock, and intense reproductive management. We also prepare for breeding season well in advance. By February first we are ready to go. Our success is noteworthy because we accomplish this with fewer professionals and more apprentices. My staff is 18- to 22-year-old-college students who learn and do — all aspects

**Bremervale Andronicus*

of equine reproduction."

As a backup Jay works closely with the ranch veterinarian and has strong relationships with equine reproductive specialists at Colorado State University, Texas A & M, and his alma mater, the University of Georgia. Jay has earned a master's degree in equine reproduction and is at present working on his PhD.

The full-service breeding operation at Al-Marah features semen collection, shipping, freezing, storing, and quarantine capabilities for overseas shipment.

Al-Marah is also certified for the quarantine of horses they export from the U.S. to overseas.

Other apprentices enter the training program and have the good fortune to work with Bill Melendez. Bill came to Al-Marah in 2005 and brought with him a lengthy résumé as a top trainer, showman, and judge.

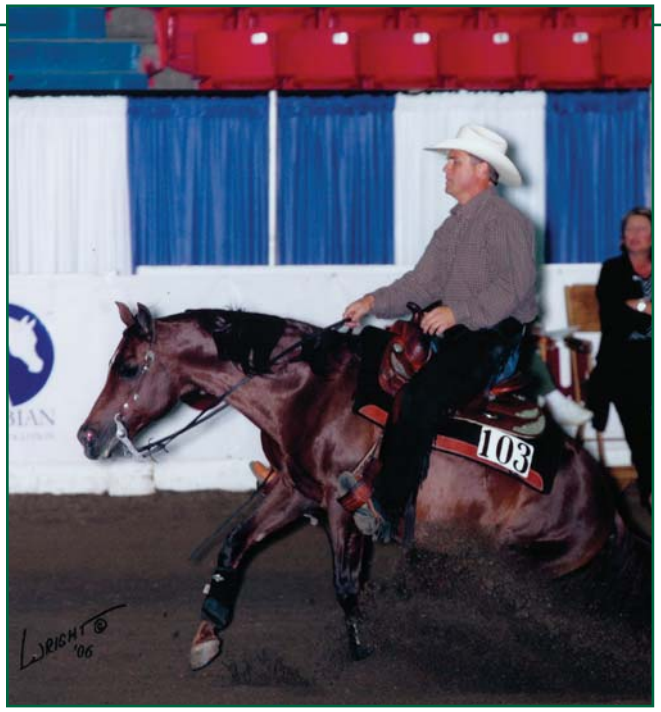
"I have always loved to teach," explains Bill, "and personally I thought I might be able to give back to the business and pass on some things I have learned over the years." Bill keeps about eight apprentices busy. They travel to shows, including Nationals, and also ride and handle the Al-Marah horses as exhibitors.

"When an apprentice comes in they are given at least one young horse to bring through the training process from start to finish," says Bill. "They have about five or six horses in their care, some of which are mine to train, but two of their horses are theirs to bring along exclusively. Apprentices do the full gamut — from bringing young horses in from the pasture to finishing. The horses are usually done by their third year, and then are either shown or sold."

Al-Marah has a lot to offer as far as sales horses go, whether customers are looking for a weanling or a finished riding horse. "We sell between fifty and sixty horses a year," remarks Bazy. "Our rule of thumb is to sell a horse a week. We have about 60 head up at Hat Ranch growing up. That has been such a fabulous program for us. I can't tell you what it does for those horses to be able to live on the open range for two years. They just come back with the best manners and the best minds and they get along with other horses. There is really something about the herd situation, because the weanlings are running with yearlings and two-year-olds and they learn manners. It absolutely gives them good social skills. They have good feet, and they are easier to start than the ones we keep down here."

Other people opt for leasing an Al-Marah mare to breed. "We have a plan that has worked so well for us. It is called the mare lease program," explains Bazy. "What happens is, you lease a mare from us, and the lease prices are stud fees. You don't pay anything for the mare at all, but you contract a mare for a certain number of stud fees to our top stallions. When you finish buying those stud fees, you own the mare and all the foals. It is sort of a win-win thing, because it is

Al-Marah Matt Dillon (AM Good Oldboy x Al-Marah Dorer), 2006 U.S. National Reserve Champion Reining Futurity.



AM Good Oldboy (AM Sea Captain x AM Tis Beverlie), 2006 U.S. National Reserve Champion Reining, and 2006 Canadian National Top Ten Reining

stud fees that we otherwise normally would not have gotten. We keep a good mare in the program to be bred the way we think she ought to be bred and it helps a lot of people who can't fork out the price of a mare like that."

Some people come to shop for horses by attending one of Al-Marah's many events and forums. The recent 17th Annual Forum was held in conjunction with the 65th anniversary celebration. It is a well-organized program, planned by Al-Marah sales manager Judy Kibler and the entire Al-Marah staff. Notable presenters are brought in to share their knowledge and skills, including Al-Marah staff, equine scholars, judges, veterinarians, and executives from the Arabian Horse Association. There are plenty of fun and informative elements at the forums, including a leisurely pasture walk, where Mrs. T introduces guests to most of the horses at the ranch; a "living pedigree" demonstrating how desirable traits are passed from generation to generation; breeding, showing, training, and grooming clinics; and lots of great food and entertainment.

As its name implies, Al-Marah is a true oasis, both in its physical location and beauty, and maybe even something more intangible, as her managers explain:

"Mrs. Tankersley is a very real person — a good and kind person," says Bill. "She always gets the last say in anything that happens here, but she trusts her employees to do the right thing with her horses. She has a good staff and we do what is expected. But the horses are of the utmost importance. I have a dream job — the best job in the world."

Jerry Hamilton has spent most of his life at Al-Marah because, "Mrs. T is a very hands-on owner. She really encourages us to strive to enhance our quality of life and that of our customers. The idea is to simply enjoy the horses. We all seem to have a very good time here."

"She is an impressive individual," notes Jay Faircloth, "and it makes me want to do things to impress her. I am pleased to go above and beyond just for her approval."

What areas are left to explore? "Future plans include concentrating on reining, cutting, western pleasure, and sport horse," says Jerry. "Long-term goals include endurance horses. We plan on participating in the Pan-American rides in Brazil in two years and in the Alltech World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in 2010."

"I have given a lot of thought to reining," adds Bazy, "because it is so successful and it is growing by leaps and bounds. I think there is nothing phony about reining. The horse is asked to do something that is based on usefulness. I think it is the ultimate in demonstrating athletic ability — that and jumping. I have been particularly pleased to see how many amateurs are doing it, and doing a good job."

In the meantime, everyone at Al-Marah is busy with a mission Bazy set forth back in 1941. "The philosophy at Al-Marah is to breed better Arabians than ever before," she declares, "and to leave the breed better than we found it."

So far, mission accomplished.

*AM Power Raid and *Bremervale Andronicus, with Al-Marah trainers and staff, at the 2006 Sport Horse Nationals.*

AL-MARAH 2006 SPORT HORSE NATIONALS WINS

***BREMERVALE ANDRONICUS** (Desperado x Bremervale Rhapsody) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Champion Sport Horse Stallion, shown by Bill Melendez
Champion Sport Horse Stallion ATH, shown by Wendy Davis

AM CHANCE COMMAND (AM Power Raid x Al-Marah Chanel) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Sport Horse Stallion, shown by Kim Barteau
Top Ten Sport Horse Under/Saddle Junior Horse, shown by Jackie Alkin

AM DESIGNING PRINCESS (AM Double Dream x AM Shining Sword) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Sport Horse Two-Year-Old Jackpot Fillies, shown by Jerry Hamilton

AM LIBERTY PARADE (AM Friars Moon x AM Lightening Raid) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Half-Arabian Sport Horse Mares, shown by Bill Melendez
Top Ten Half-Arabian Sport Horse Mares ATH, shown by Wendy Davis

MICHAELS FRISKIE LOVE (AM Michael Love x AM Friskie Friend) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Reserve Champion Sport Horse Geldings ATH, shown by Wendy Davis
Top Ten Sport Horse Geldings, shown by Bill Melendez
Top Ten Sport Horse Under/Saddle Junior Horse, shown by Wendy Davis

AM POWER RAID (AM Double Dream x HH Maid Marian) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Reserve Champion Sport Horse Stallion, shown by Bill Melendez

AM POWERTO GOFREE (AM Double Dream x AM Doting Friend) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Sport Horse Stallions, shown by Jackie Alkin.

AL-MARAH SO NOBLE (AM Michael Love x Al-Marah Seahonor) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Champion Sport Horse Two-Year-Old Jackpot Geldings, shown by Bill Melendez

AM STAR OFHONOR (AM Good Oldboy x Al-Marah Dorer) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Sport Horse Geldings ATH, shown by Wendy Davis

AL-MARAH TEMPT FAME (AM Michael Love x AM Clemmies Dream) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Reserve Champion Sport Horse Two-Year-Old Jackpot Geldings, shown by Jerry Hamilton

DANAES XENIA (AM Power Raid x Al-Marah Danae) — Owned by Linda Mars
Reserve Champion Sport Horse Two-Year-Old Jackpot Fillies, shown by Bill Melendez

AM TRAVIATA (AM Seagfreed x AM Gypsys Dove) — Owned by Linda Jacobs
Top Ten Sport Horse Mares, shown by Jerry Hamilton
Top Ten Sport Horse Mares ATH, shown by Wendy Davis

AL-MARAH 2006 U.S. NATIONALS WINS

***BREMERVALE ANDRONICUS** (Desperado x Bremervale Rhapsody) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Junior Stallion, shown by Andy Sellman

AL MARAH HORATIO (AM Sea Captain x AM Wood Bridge) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Reining Horse, shown by Gary Ferguson

AL-MARAH MATT DILLON (AM Good Oldboy x Al-Marah Dorer) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Reserve Champion Reining Futurity, shown by Gary Ferguson

AM SEAGFREED (AM Sea Captain x AlMarah Moneytree) — Owned by Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Cutting, shown by Gary Ferguson

AM GOOD OLDBOY (AM Sea Captain x AM Tis Beverlie) — Co-owned by Linda & Bill Jacobs and Bazy Tankersley
Reserve Champion Reining, shown by Gary Ferguson

AM SWASHBUCKLER (AM Clem Dreamon x Al-Marah Ironlady) — Co-owned by Linda Mars and Bazy Tankersley
Top Ten Reining, shown by Gary Ferguson

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