

NORTHERN MN ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2025-26

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<http://www.northernmaha.com>



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DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 17th:

- Next AHA meeting
- Via Google Meet
- Watch for meeting link and more info



SAVE THE DATE:

May 16th-17th Show:

Two One Day Value Shows held at R & J Arena, Verndale, MN

One Day Value Shows are AHA recognized and qualify for points

For AHA Regional and National shows at a reasonable cost. Amateur friendly show!

May Show:

Silver:

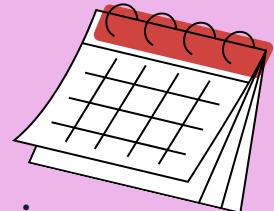
- Valarie Temp
- Forrest Nutter

Gold:

- MK Arabians
- Shada Arabians
- Shada Inc.
- Aerie Meadow
- Golden Ridge Stables
- McConaughey
- St. Croix Training
- LeFever

June 6th Show:

Open WSCA and Arabian show



Held at Meeker County Fairgrounds, Litchfield MN.

This event qualifies for Arabians Unplugged year end awards, WSCA Champ Show and AHA Open Event Incentive Program.

SPONSORS:



June Show:

- Roz Gilbert
- Carin Frenchick
- Valerie Temp
- MK Arabians
- Woodland Hills Equestrian Center

NMAHA ROYALTY INTRODUCTIONS:

NMAHA Queen: Taylor Nicholls

Hello everyone,

My name is Taylor Nicholls and my journey to becoming the 2026 NMAHA Queen didn't actually start in the saddle—it started in the judging ring. Four years ago, I attended my first National Arabian Horse Judging Competition, and I was immediately captivated by the poise and spirit of the Arabian breed. What began as a curiosity quickly turned into a passion that has shaped my life ever since.

That passion became personal a little over a year ago when I purchased my first Arabian, Kaldron CRF, or "Patton" as I call him at the barn. While I've always appreciated the majestic beauty of these horses, building a bond with Patton has taught me about their incredible loyalty and eagerness to please. The best part of my day is the time we spend together—whether we are grooming, talking, or out for a ride.

Leadership and service have always been at the heart of my horse journey. From serving as the Vice President of the Anoka County 4-H Horse Committee to judging for FFA, I love finding ways to keep youth involved in the industry. Traveling to Texas for the American Youth Horse Council truly opened my eyes to the career possibilities in the equine world, and it inspired me to pursue a future where I can give back to the community that has given me so much.

As I prepare to represent the Northern Minnesota Arabian Horse Association across the five-state area, I have a clear mission in mind. Whether I'm competing in Western Pleasure and Hunt Seat or meeting people at the Horse Expo, I want to promote our club and encourage other owners to take advantage of the horsemanship programs that NMAHA and AHA offer.

I am so grateful to the NMAHA for welcoming me and allowing me to make a difference. I can't wait to meet you all this year as I represent the breed and the club I love so much.

Taylor Nicholls
2026 NMAHA Queen



NMAHA ROYALTY INTRODUCTIONS:

NMAHA Junior Queen: Audrey Frenchick

Greetings everyone,

I am Audrey Frenchick, the 2026 Northern Minnesota Arabian Horse Association Junior Queen. I have grown up alongside the Arabian horse and am now becoming an active member in the community. This is my second year as a royalty member for the Northern Minnesota Arabian Horse Association, and I am excited to increase outreach and become a stronger advocate for the Arabian horse we know and love. Outside of the club, I am an active member of the 4-H organization. Within 4-H, I participate in equine knowledge competitions, hold leadership roles, am on committees, and show livestock. I also enjoy spending my time working and showing my Arabian horses, Ravello GF and The After Party. With them, I compete at open, 4-H, and rated shows across Minnesota. I encourage those who are reading this to participate in the club's offerings; whether it be the awards, one of the shows, or simply attending a meeting, I strongly encourage you to advocate for the Arabian horse. I am extremely excited to represent Arabian horses and the Northern Minnesota Arabian Horse Association this year!

Thank you,

Audrey Frenchick 2026 NMAHA Junior Queen



MN STATE 4-H HIPPOLOGY/HORSE JUDGING 2025:

Hippology:

Meeker/Chippewa/LQP Sr. Team

Team Contestants:

Frances Geurts, Audrey Frenchick, Kendall Johnson, and Isabell Milbrandt

Results as a Team:

1st place Overall

1st place in Exam

6th place in Horse Judging Hippology Division

1st in Stations

16th place in Team Problem

Horse Judging:

Chippewa/Meeker/Lyon Sr. Team

Team Contestants:

Frances Geurts, Audrey Frenchick, and Isabell Milbrandt

Results as a Team:

1st place Overall

1st place Oral Reasons



Anoka/Jackson Sr. Team

Team Contestants:

Taylor Nicholls, Mariana Hill, Charlotte Struffert, and Aralia Ruby

Results as a Team:

7th place Overall



THANK YOU NOTES:

Here are a some thank you notes that our club received from different events that we sponsored!

Dear NM AHA,

Thank you for sponsoring me to compete at the Arabian National Horse Judging contest. It was a educational and rewarding experience. Our mixed team placed 5th in oval reasons. I appreciate your support in sponsoring me.

Thank you,

Taylor Nicholls



Thank you for making a difference.

Thank you for this amazing opportunity, we really appreciate it!
- Frances

Thank you so much for supporting us on this venture! It was a great experience!
~ Audrey

Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity! We are so grateful for you and all that you do!
- Isakelle



Dear, Northern Minnesota A.H.A.

We would like to thank you for your generous donation to the Le Sueur County 4-H Horse judging team. We enjoyed the competition & learned a lot more about the Arabian breed. We placed 5th overall team in halter, performance & reasons classes! Sincerely, *the Van Gep*

Brooke Preeser



Jocelyn Balfanz
Samantha Van Gep

thank you for the belt buckle!
Norman and I had a beautiful ride!
the buckle is so pretty, and I'm so
glad I get to show off my hardwork
preparing for this class!

- Audrina Meyer
&
Norman

Thank You

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Thoughts from my perspective....

I want to thank everyone that was able to come to our December meeting. Thank you for braving the cold. We had great service and good food at Jill's Café in Richmond. I would recommend you stop in for breakfast or lunch/dinner if in the area. (Note they open daily but they close at 2:30). Try their caramel rolls or desserts.

We had the pleasure of crowning our Royalty for 2026. Congratulations Taylor and Audrey. I know you will represent our club well and look forward to working with you and having you at events in the coming year.

I shared several thank you notes/cards from youth that we sponsored at competitions and from the girl that won the belt buckle we sponsored at the MN. State 4H horse show. See their information in the newsletter. Congratulation to all!

We are starting to get things rolling for our May Value shows, one judge is booked and confirming with the announcer and show secretary. Please mark the dates on your calendar, May 16th and 17th and we need volunteers.

AHA Convention was held in November with Kaitlyn and I attending. Resolution 1-25 passed and we look forward to the new governance structure and the benefits it will bring to AHA. Thank you to the club for helping with the cost for us to attend as NMAHA delegates.

It has been great to see all the members submitting their forms for the Ambassador Awards. I look forward to March to see the presentation of the awards to our members. January is fast approaching so remember to start tracking your time for the Hands and Hooves program. The forms are on our website.

Our next meeting is January 17, 2026 and it will be a virtual meeting only. Watch your email for the google meet information. Until then have a great start to the new Year!

Lynda Frenchick
NMAHA President

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

NMAHA October Meeting
December 13th, 2025

Attendance: Lynda Frenchick, Valerie Temp, Kaitlyn Arnzen, Penny Lindblom, Tina Nicholls (guest), Taylor Nicholls (youth), and Audrey Frenchick (youth).

Minutes from the October 2025 meeting we approved, with Penny Lindblom making the motion and Valerie Temp with the second. There was no further discussion.

In keeping with tradition, there was no treasure report given at the December Meeting.

The May AVS show for 2026 will be May 16-17th in Verndale. Leesa has agreed to do the show again. Need to confirm with Jeff Rutz, announcer and with arena on the dates. We have confirmed one of the Judges.

Pertaining to the June WSCA/ Arabians Unplugged show, we have the facility for 2026 and have 1 judge lined up. Lynda proposed to combine with the 4H club to run it under our name and the club would make a donation to the Meeker County 4H horse project. Valerie will check on insurance. Some items were discussed in what happens if the 4Hers do not help volunteering, would need to adjust the show bill to fit more of a traditional open show schedule. More will be discussed at the January meeting.

Programs had at least one person per category and age group. Kaitlyn will be going through the rules and forms to make sure they are all ready to go January 1.

The different groups we sponsored for the Hippology/Judging contest this past fall gave a report of their success. We sponsored three different trips.

Kaitlyn Arnzen and Lynda Frenchick gave an update from different items that came up during the National Convention. The restructuring resolution passed. The other hot topic was around USEF and if we should continue to use them as our governing body. We also discussed micro-chipping, which is required for any USEF show starting December 1, 2025.

Lynda also brought up trying to get a show or two to move to July to help fill the void of shows in the Minnesota area.

We set our 2026 Meeting dates for the following:

January 17th via Google Meet

March 21st in Paynesville

April 18th in Paynesville

Lynda will confirm that the Area Center is available for the March and April dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm with a motion by Valerie Temp and a second by Audrey Frenchick.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, Kaitlyn crowned our 2026 Royalty. Taylor Nicholls as our Queen and Audrey Frenchick as our Junior Queen. Congratulations and we look forward to seeing you promote the Arabian Horse and NMAHA over the next year.

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