

Hawk's Flight Farm



*Soaring to
New Heights*

by Nancy C. Ryan





It was just a little classified ad in the back of her *Arabian Horse World*—hardly noticeable— but, like most things, it certainly didn't escape Karin McMurtrie's eye: "Ali Jamaal son, for sale or lease." Armed with a healthy measure of skepticism, Karin made the call. Yes, it was true, and better still, the stallion was out of an *El Shaklan daughter. Yet even though she and Amir Jamaal's owner Fran Martin seemed to strike up an instant friendship over the phone, the price was just too high for Karin — at least for the time being. Fast-forward several months: a call from Frances, and with it, an offer on the horse too good for Karin to pass on.

Even Karin might not have realized at the time how drastic a change that tiny ad made in her life. All she knew was that when Amir arrived on Easter Sunday morning, "He came out of the trailer and I thought, 'Oh my gosh. This is the stallion of my dreams.'"

For years she had experienced the ups and downs of a small breeder, yet Karin's passion for the breed she loved had never wavered. As she built Hawk's Flight Farm in Sarasota, Florida, Karin became a student of pedigrees and bloodlines, and trained her eye to know what to look for in a horse. That in turn enabled her to take care in choosing hers. After all, she had to wait a long time before owning her first one.

"I am sure everyone's heard this a million times, but I was a voracious reader as a child and fell in love with the horses in all the Walter Farley 'Black Stallion' books," Karin explains. "I was horse crazy, but never owned my own horse. I was able to work in exchange for riding at a cousin's boarding stable."

Karin didn't own her first horse until she was pregnant with her first child 29 years ago. "I was visiting my Mom in Pennsylvania," she recalls, "and she and I visited Callenberger Arabians in Williamsport. As we drove up the drive, we saw a chestnut colt running up the hillside with his flaxen mane and tail flying. I fell in love with him and I told my mother I was going to buy that colt. And so I did, along with a filly." The colt was Cal Daaba (RS Dalimage x Cal Kristaba), and he remained Karin's loyal friend until his death at age 26. "He taught me a lot, the hard way sometimes, and he was a joy to ride. He had a game he started when he was small and continued right up until the time he died, where he would free longe around, and then come right toward me and do the 'Trigger thing' where he would rear up." The game ended with a big hug.

Preceding page and right background and insets: The 2004 mare Diamond Lil (Versace x LF Eurosofab).



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Above and facing page: Hawk's Flight Farm's head breeding stallion Amir Jamaal (Ali Jamaal x Luz De Fe by *El Shaklan).



Over the years Karin struggled to build her dream of a successful Arabian business. When she could afford it, she collected prized mares, including her beloved bay Lady Menes (*Menes RASB x Lady Narcatta). She earned a living much of the time working in the challenging world of forensic science, a career that took her to Russia, Europe, and across the country. Says Karin, “I was CSI before CSI was cool, but the horses were always my solace.”

Eventually, Karin began adding select mares to her program, including such foundation mares as GF Exquisite (Mark Al Badi x GF Jabrina); HP Memories (MFA Mareekh Amir x Gypsy Starlight); Minstrils Song (The Minstril x *Yosonda Albadeia); and retained the homebred mares SA Maleeka (Havlin x GH Exquisite) and HF Imtoxicating (Imtaarif x Kohela). She also was able to acquire Amir Jamaal and went on to breed and retain two of his daughters: HF Diva Jamaal (x GF Exquisite) and HF Amira de Lis (x SA Maleeka).

Then by chance Karin met her fiancé, Dr. Mitchell Kurzner. They shared a medical background, and as their relationship bloomed, Mitch found out just how contagious



Karin's passion for Arabian horses was. Mitch has quickly become a student of the industry himself, and he is now a hands-on partner in Hawk's Flight Farm.

Karin and Mitch have continued to add to their herd with daughters of premier stallions such as Versace, Padrons Psyche, and Psymadre to breed to Amir. They are crossing their Amir daughters with stallions such as *Magnum Chall HVP, Ames Charisma, Odyssey SC, Aria Impresario, and True Colours. They had nine foals this year and are expecting 12 in 2009.

"Amir's consistently improves every mare we breed him to," says Karin. "I don't care whom we breed him to — he improves the mare. Some offspring obviously are more exceptional than others; the Polish and Russian crosses and the other Egyptian lines are just phenomenal. We are retaining many of our Amir daughters, but we are selling some because we want to get them out there.

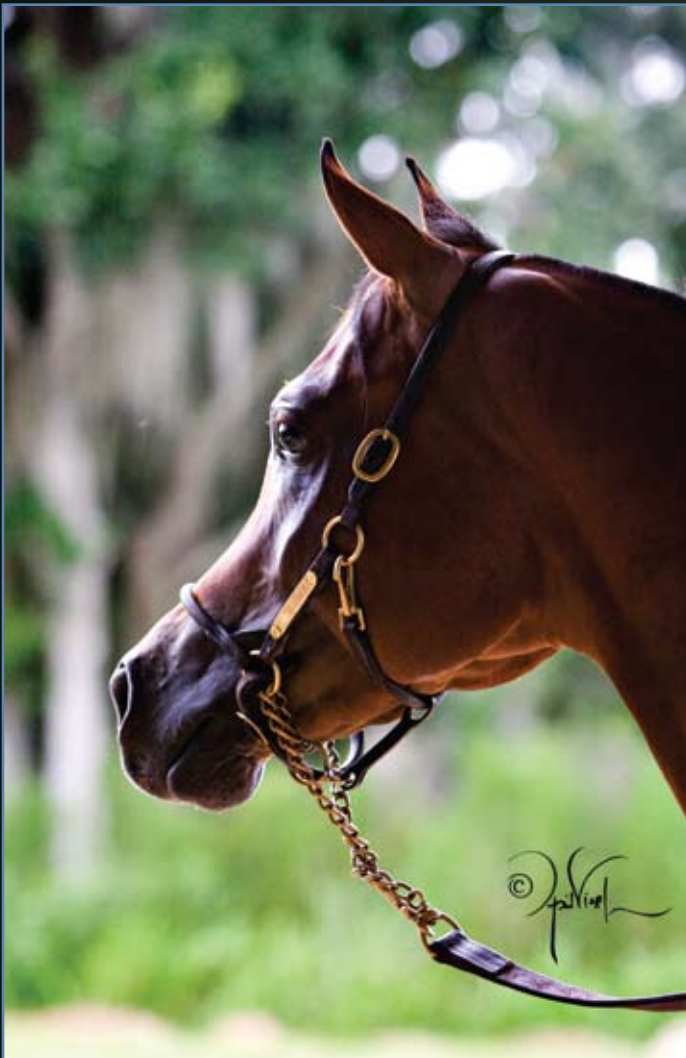
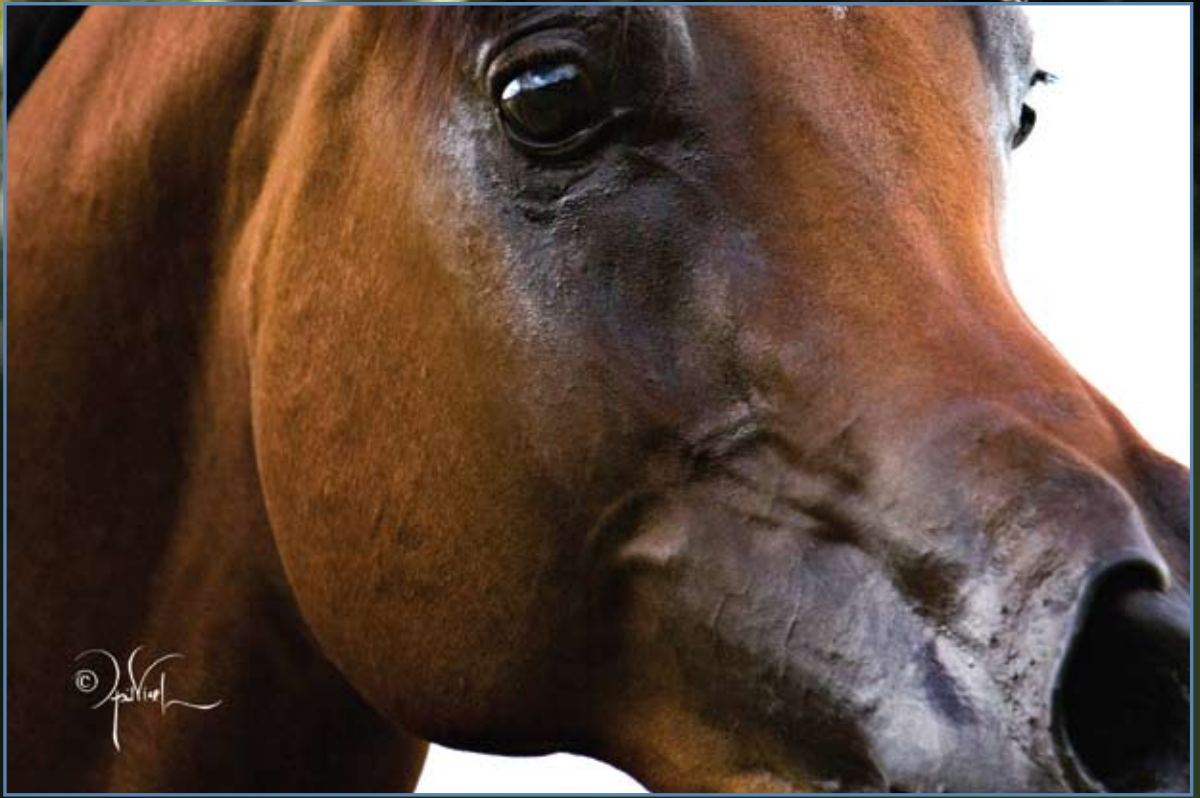
"Amir shortens up the backs, lengthens and straightens the hips, and throws great legs

Above: Amir Jamaal.

Facing page, top and bottom left:

The junior stallion HF Stravinski
(Amir Jamaal x Lady Menes).

Bottom right: Stravinski's dam and
one of Hawk's Flight's broodmares
Lady Menes (*Menes x Lady
Narcatta by *Muscat.)





and bone and good hooves. He gives tippy little ears, big eyes, and he does shorten heads. The distance between eye and muzzle is consistently shorter. He has great movement and temperament.”

Mitch adds, “And with Amir, it doesn’t matter what mare he’s bred with, he definitely puts the size on the foals.”

A prime example is Hawk’s Flight’s junior stallion HF Stravinski (Amir Jamaal x Lady Menes). This dynamic two-year-old colt barely missed making Reserve Champion in his Las Vegas Breeders Cup class this year.

“A lot of critics ask me if Amir was so good, why didn’t I show him,” remarks Karin. “Well, I was going through a tough time professionally and unfortunately he went through a tough time with me. Now his two-year-old foals are in the ring and they are unbeaten.”

Consider HF Psypher (Amir Jamaal x HF Psyquoia). This gelding and his owner Matt Murray have been caught up in a whirlwind of wins beginning in 2007 in Scottsdale, where Psypher was Top Ten in open and amateur yearling colts. They returned to Scottsdale the following year, and Psypher was Top Ten in open and amateur two-year-old colts. Later in the year, and now a gelding, Psypher was 2008 Region 12 and Region 16 Champion



Above: HF Stravinski (Amir Jamaal
x Lady Menes).

Facing page, bottom: Stravinski as
a weanling.



Two-Year-Old Gelding, Region 15 Champion Gelding, and topped the year off as 2008 Canadian National Reserve Champion Two-Year-Old Jackpot Gelding. And, at only two years of age, Psypher has already earned his Legion of Honor award.

Says Matt, "I have had horses at Rohara Arabians for 30 years in every discipline. Karin had sent a group of horses there to be fitted and marketed and Psypher really caught Roxann Hart's eye. She said he was a good one and would be a lot of fun, so I bought Psypher sight unseen. He is very beautiful and very correct and he's always a contender when he goes in the ring. Psypher is large; he has type, and is correct. He is also has a lot of charisma."

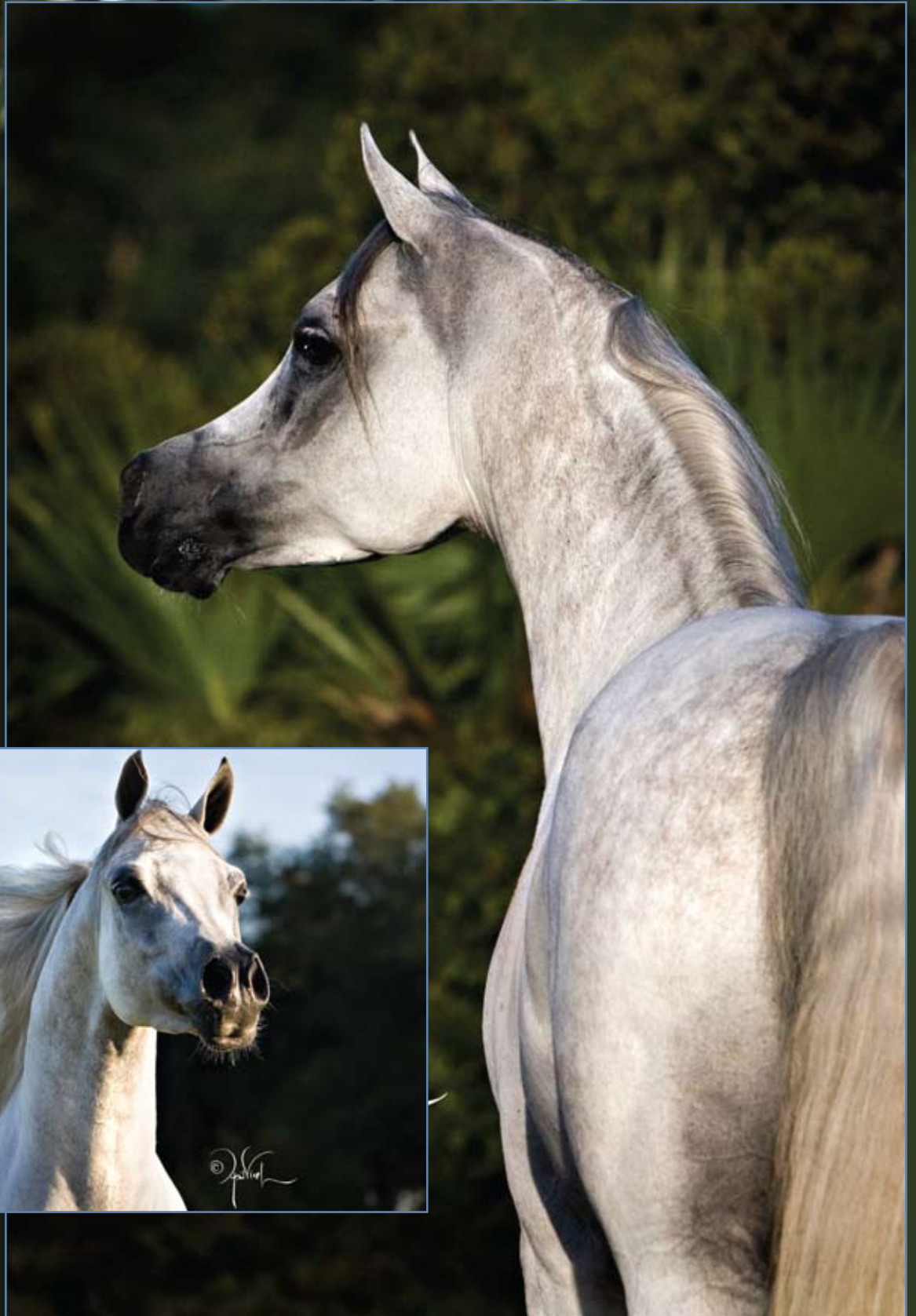
Joe Alberti, of Chestnut Hill Arabians, showed Psypher at the Regional level and at Canadian Nationals. "He is a great gelding," Joe says. "He's very beautiful and has an amazing neck and is a great-moving horse. I think he will be a great performance horse. Karin is doing a great job promoting Amir Jamaal, and has figured out which mares are best for him. I think as a breeder she is one of the few who has figured out what mares cross best with her stallion. In today's world it is so hard to stand a stallion, and especially one

Top Left: LF Eursofab (SHF Southern Whiz x Fabrice by *Eukaliptus), the dam of Diammond Lil (by Versace).

Top right: HF Mateo Jamaal (Amir Jamaal x Diammond Lil), a 2008 chestnut colt.

Bottom right: HF Psypher (Amir Jamaal x HF Psyquoia), Amir's winningest progeny to date.

Facing page: Diammond Lil.





that hasn't been shown. You really have to promote him through the foals, and that's what's happening here."

In fact a Who's Who of industry leaders are weighing in with their opinions of Amir Jamaal.

Liz Salmon has these comments: "I've been to Karin's farm about three times. Amir Jamaal has everything that an Arabian should have. He has type and a great body — conformation, movement, and presence. He also has a lot of bone. I think he has a tremendous future. The Ali Jamaal/*El Shaklan cross is absolutely wonderful. I think he is going to be a tremendous sire of both halter and performance horses."

Robin Hopkinson had a chance to really get to know Amir Jamaal. "I went to Karin's farm because she had some Magnum Chall foals she wanted me to look at and maybe bring into training, but when I was walking through the barn the horse that caught my eye was Amir Jamaal. Here was a beautiful Ali Jamaal son out of an *El Shaklan daughter. He had a beautiful pedigree, and I asked her what she was doing with him. We decided to bring him to Scottsdale and got some beautiful pictures of him and a video and kind of put him back on the map. Amir Jamaal has classic Arabian type. You see so much of *El Shaklan and Jamaal in him — the best qualities of both his sire line and dam line. When you look at him, you see his pedigree. He is also a very good mover and a consistent sire. He makes very level





Facing page, top: The 1998 mare HF Imtoxicating (Imtaarif x Kohela by *Mameluck).

Right: The 1998 mare Psykie Delic (Padrons Psyche x Bask Bouquet by *Bask).





toplines. And his grey daughters — people are going to be knocking down doors to get them.

“One in particular I thought was exceptionally stunning is HF Diva Jamaal (Amir Jamaal x GF Exquisite). I am glad that Karin is breeding such beautiful horses and that she is sharing them with the world.”

George “Z” Zbyszewski is also a big fan of Diva Jamaal. “No doubt she is Karin’s best mare. Karin knows what she likes. All of her horses are big framed and very stretchy. But Diva is a world-class mare. She is a big stretchy mare with a very good hip and great structure. I would call her a ‘broodmare supreme,’ one that would have great appeal in the European market.” George says most people would blush if they knew how much Karin turned down when he offered to buy Diva.

Jim Andresen, of Selket Arabians, was made aware of Amir Jamaal when Karin approached him at the





Above: The 2007 grey filly HF Lady Truffles (Amir Jamaal x Lady Godiva).

Facing page top left and right: The 2002 chestnut mare Lady Godiva (Padrons Psyche x Lady Larissa by JK Spartan).





Top left and right: The 2008 filly HF Amira Saphira (Amir Jamaal x SA Maleeka).

Facing page: The 1999 mare HF Amira de Lis (Amir Jamaal x SA Maleeka by Havlin).

2006 Nationals and suggested Amir as an outcross to his Russian-bred mares. Jim agreed, “I don’t think we can go wrong. We have 14 daughters of our late World Champion stallion *Furno Khamal (Kapello x Kemla) and we have bred Amir Jamaal to two of them as a test. Depending on what happens, we may breed more. Amir Jamaal has a unique and unusual pedigree, so I think it will be a super cross. I may put him also on one of our most exotic Da Vinci FM (Versace x Full Moon Astar) daughters. What I am really looking for is a stallion that allows our mares to come through. We lucked out with Da Vinci so with a little added spice from Amir, we will get it.”

Rhonda Blynn, of Sebring, Florida, has purchased several breedings to Amir Jamaal as well. As a youngster in Michigan, she had a close relationship with Amir’s sire, Ali Jamaal, his grandsire Ruminaja Ali, and their owners, the Bergren family. She found Karin and



Amir in an Internet search. “Since I was 17 and kind of grew up with that whole group of horses,” she recalls, “I worked with them and hung out at the farm, and I worked with the colts. I saw Ruminaja Ali win the National Futurity with Ted Gibson and National Reserve Championship. There is nothing like that breeding.”

And that is why Rhonda was moved to tears when she first saw Amir Jamaal. “The first time I went over there I was loaded with anticipation. When I saw Amir, I started sobbing like a baby. He is very much like Ruminaja Ali, even in attitude. And Stravinski (aka ‘Mac’), his son, looks so much like his grandfather Ali Jamaal, he could be his clone. Seeing Karin’s horses brings all that back to me. I had always wanted to breed to Ruminaja Ali, but could never afford to.”

Linda Buss and her husband Jerry have an Amir yearling filly at home in Menomonie, Wisconsin, out of their Bey Shah-bred mare Arsky Of Blue. “We call her Amir Image GCA,” Linda says. “She is typey, blowy, and snorty, and Amir made everything better than her mama. He shortened up the back and improved the bigger head. This filly is probably the best one we’ve raised.” The Busses decided to wait until she is a three-year-old to show their filly.

“I saw Amir in Scottsdale and I have seen what he sires,” Linda says. “It’s form to function and everything that an Arabian should be.”



Above and facing page: The 1999 mare HF Diva Jamaal (Amir Jamaal x GF Exquisite).





Facing page and above: The 2007 filly HF Charm Bracelet (Ames Charisma x HF Diva Jamaal), who acquired her name from the “bracelet” marking on her right front leg.

Below: Caldarin Goldstar (Cal Daaba x Alza Star), owned by Karen Abbatista.



Interestingly enough it wasn't Amir Jamaal who brought Karen Abbatista to Hawk's Flight. "I have a gelding by Karin's stallion Cal Daaba, now deceased. I am a dressage rider and was trying to save up money for a Warmblood, but saw an ad for this gelding named Caldarin Goldstar (Cal Daaba x Alza Star). He had been donated to the Smith Center for Therapeutic Riding and he was very green and had developed some not-so-great behaviors and had shuffled through owners. But I got on him and 20 minutes later — I fell in love with him. I still intended to put some miles on him and sell him, but I brought him home and my dressage trainer said, 'What did you buy?' because I took him to my first rated

open show and took high point."

Now four years later, Karen wouldn't dream of parting with her gelding, whom she has nicknamed "Ringo."

Ringo and Karen were second level Grand Champions at the Tampa AHA show this spring and continue to progress and are now schooling in third level dressage. The pair consistently score high each time they enter the ring, whether at an open or breed show. "I describe him as like driving a Porsche," laughs Karen. "He's very willing and we put no limitations on him now."

So impressed with the horses Karin and Mitch are breeding, Karen ended up with another, the 2005 colt HF Nemesis (Amir Jamaal x HP Memories). "I've just started working with him. My intention is to take him into dressage, but I am going the natural horsemanship route and he doing very well."

Karin McMurtrie and Hawk's Flight Farm have also forever changed the lives of Sandy and Charlie Miller. They now live in Ocala, Florida, and have recently established Sanchaz Arabians. Says Sandy, "We met Karin in the fall of 2006 through the AHA Discovery Farms program."

Continues Charlie, "We've been Arabian horse fans from years and years ago when we lived in Pennsylvania. We used to go to the Arabian horse show outside of Hershey, in Quentin, Pennsylvania. We would always look at the horses, but we never were in a position to purchase any because we didn't have the facilities up there. As soon as we went to Hawk's Flight we saw our stallion that we have now, HF Winning Colours (True Colours x HF Amira de Lis) who was just a foal then." Winning Colours is already off to a winning halter career.



Left and above: The 2006 mare HF True Tempress (True Colours x HF Imtoxicating).

Facing page: The 2006 mare HF Exquisite Colours (True Colours x HF Diva Jamaal).

In addition to selling the Millers their first Arabian, Karin went above and beyond to educate the couple about the world they were about to enter.

Sandy says, “I volunteered to work on Karin’s farm, and she volunteered to teach me everything she knew. So I was there almost every day for a good year and three or four months. We relocated to nearby Punta Gorda so I could drive there every day.” Adds Charlie, “On weekends, when I wasn’t up north on business, I’d come over and help Karin fix fences and do whatever was needed around the farm.”

Now they have their own place, and two more Hawk’s Flight horses at home besides Winning Colours: a two-year-old chestnut filly, HF Magnum Antares (*Magnum Chall HVP x Mega Star LL), and the yearling gelding HF Eragon (Amir Jamaal x Psykie Delic), plus a lot to look forward to.

Says Sandy, “Karin is an amazing lady and has worked very hard at it. There is no one I know who has worked as hard as she has to get to where she is.”

And the work continues. This summer Karin, Mitch, and the herd began moving into a new facility. They also hired farm manager Andy Soliz, relatively new to Arabians, but equipped with a degree in animal sciences from the University of Florida, where he worked in the Colic Research Center. Andy showed as a youth and took his Appaloosa gelding, Crafty Cherokee, to a national championship in huntseat equitation. He also has







Facing page: The 2006 colt HF Winning Colours (True Colours x HF Amira de Lis), **top**, and the 2006 filly HF Magnum Antares (*Magnum Chall HVP x Mega Starr LL by Magnum Psyche), **bottom left**, both owned by Sandy and Charlie Miller of Sanchaz Arabians, Ocala, Florida.

Below: The 2008 filly Amir Image GCA (Amir Jamaal x Arsky Of Blue), owned by Linda and Jerry Buss, Menomonie, Wisconsin.



plenty of professional experience managing equine affairs at some well-known horse-themed attractions in Orlando and Atlanta.

The new barn is airy yet functional with efficiency and the horses' comfort in mind. It features high ceilings, overhead fans, and mesh interior stall fronts to encourage airflow and manage the Southwest Florida heat. It is also hurricane ready, with easy-to-install shutters. Foal cameras, hooked up to transmit over the Internet, are mounted in each stall. Other video cameras monitor the outside, which is surrounded by acres of nature preserve. A state-of-the-art reproductive lab accommodates fresh cooled and frozen semen, and the latest in organic fly spray automatically spritzes each of the 18 stalls.

All this sits on 15 acres of new pasture, planted with a newly developed strain of Florida hay cultivated by a local farmer because of its drought and wear resistance and ability to cover quickly.

Currently, Hawk's Flight's herd numbers about forty purebred Arabians. Most are broodmares with varied pedigrees. Karin uses several straight Egyptians in her program, but the rest of the band represents a wide range of bloodlines including Russian, Polish, and various blends of these lines. Hawk's Flight has sold horses throughout the United States, and to new clients in the UAE, Mexico, and Australia.

Karin still does some forensic consulting work, which allows her to devote most of her time to running the farm, which she does with total immersion. Karin is very organized and hands-on with everything from feed, supplements, and vaccinations to breeding, foaling, and scheduling. She spends precious free time riding for pleasure.

Karin says her scientific background helps her in two ways, "I can look at a situation analytically, like I did when solving a case. It helps me make breeding decisions when examining phenotypes and genotypes, which is very scientific. And my background can help me emotionally if I have to deal with the loss of a horse. The death of a foal, for example, is devastating, but I can take a necropsy result and understand what caused the death and scientifically decide how to prevent cases like that in the future. The training also has helped me get through busy breeding and foaling seasons, where you get little, if any sleep!"

For Karin, two special moments in her horse career stand out. The first, "Was when we had five horses entered at the 2007 Scottsdale show — our first time there — and our horses all were in the Top Ten — two of the yearling fillies won out of 92 fillies in their class. Then, at



the November 2007 AHAF Thanksgiving Show in Tampa, our two-year-old colt, HF Psypher, was entered by his owner in the yearling colt class — he won that and then went on to beat very stiff competition and win the Junior Champion Colt class — it was an exhilarating moment as a breeder!”

These days things are really taking off at Hawk’s Flight. Besides Amir Jamaal’s growing recognition as a sire, some important sales have recently taken place. Brookville Arabians manager Matthew Gales was instrumental in making two of these sales and explains. “Two quite special horses bred by Karin were recently sold to several of Brookville Arabians’ clients in the Middle East. Our search started with clients interested in the superior bred, straight Egyptian mares. This led us to Hawk’s Flight Farm where we were shown the impressive and well-bred mares HF True Temptress by True Colours, and her dam — the beautiful HF Imtoxicating (Imtaarif x Kohela). Her sire, Imtaarif, is an Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Stallion.

Imtoxicating is expecting an April foal by Amir Jamaal. She is a remarkable mare, capable of queenly calm, but once she knows it’s time to put on a show, she’s a rocket in the arena — snort, blow, and up with the head and tail. Imtoxicating will likely get a chance to show off in grand style as her new owners show her in the Salon du Cheval 2009.

“Imtoxicating is exceptional in her type and balance,” continues Matthew. “She will succeed not only in the international showing but also as a superior broodmare as demonstrated by her daughter, HF True Temptress. HF True Temptress offered not only an incomparable pedigree but also her exquisite European look. Not only does she possess the type and balance of her dam, but she has also been equally blessed with the presence and movement of her multiple champion sire True Colours. The breeding program of Karin McMurtrie and Hawk’s Flight Farm shows a commitment to the breeding of the Arabian horse — a clear focus on type, balance, athleticism, and beauty. Brookville Arabians salutes Karin McMurtrie and Hawk’s Flight Farm. We value her contribution to the breed as a friend and client. Brookville Arabians is also honored to represent Hawk’s Flight Farm and the incredible junior mare Diamond Lil at the 2009 World Cup in Las Vegas. Congratulations, Karin, on the wonderful success you have achieved and the many more successes to follow!”

Although she did not breed Diamond Lil, Karin adores her and was happy to be



Above: The 2007 filly HF Psyful Pleasures (Amir Jamaal x HF Psyquoia), a full sister to HF Psypher.

Facing page, top right: The 2008 colt HF Amirikan Express (Amir Jamaal x Maiden Amerika), and top left is his dam, Maiden Amerika (Ansata Shah Zam x Portessa by Port Bask).

Facing page bottom left and right: The 2008 filly and full sister to HF Psyful Pleasures, HF Psyaluki.





able to purchase her. Karin owned her dam, LF Eursofab, (SHF Southern Whiz x Fabrice), but lost Eursofab before she was able to give Karin an Amir foal. Now Diammond Lil, in foal to Amir, is set to fulfill this latest of Karin's dreams. The red-shouldered hawks, the namesakes of her farm, continue to fly overhead, above

the white-tailed deer that graze alongside the beautiful Arabian horses here.

"And now I am totally living my dream," says Karin with a huge, relaxed smile.



Top left: Hawk's Flight Farm owner Karin McMurtrie with Stanley.

Top right: Karin's fiancé Dr. Mitchell Kurzner and Max.

Bottom left: Farm manager Andy Soliz and Zeppelin.

Facing page: Hawk's Flight's newly constructed barn and house situated on 15 acres and surrounded by a nature preserve.



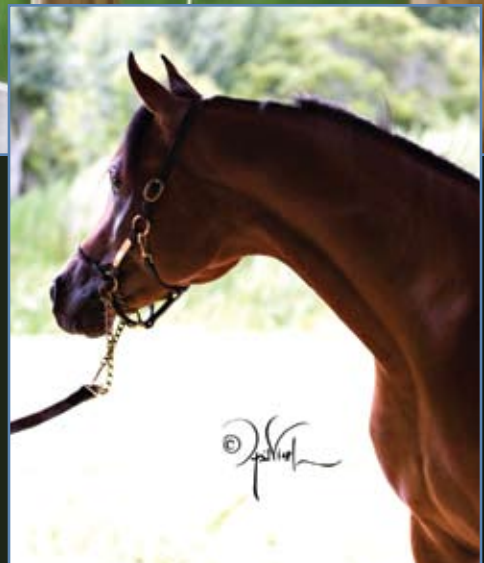
HF Stravinski

Amir Jamaal x Lady Menes by *Menes

Junior Stallion at Hawk's Flight Farm



Nominations
SCID Clear · Owned by, bred by, and standing
at Hawk's Flight Farm



Amir Jamaal

Ali Jamaal x Lus de Fe by *El Shaklan

A Sire of Internationally Acclaimed Bloodstock



AHA Breeders Sweepstakes · Region 12 Spotlight Stallion · Scottsdale Signature Stallion
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