

Battle of the Breeds Report 2014 Region 17 Fall Meeting

This year's Battle of the Breeds was different. Sadly a late spring snowstorm postponed tryouts, and the instability of Spruce Meadows put an indefinite hold on the tryouts, as we were not sure what events would be held until last minute. This will be remedied for next year. As most of you know, there was a freak snowstorm in Calgary in early September that caused mass panic (as well as a lot of damage) to Spruce Meadows. Thankfully, they are an amazing facility, and their staff along with a large number of rider volunteers HAND CLEANED 3 rings to be used for competition. Yes, I mean they literally shovelled snow into golf carts for 2 days to allow us all to show. Kudos to Spruce!

This year's battle was geared at the western world, with 2 Trail events, and 1 Barrel Racing event. This worked in favor of the Quarter Horses, Pintos, and Paints. On top of this, the grass was exceptionally slick and the sand rings were very slippery. Team Arabian came home with a very safe 4th place in Barrel Racing, as well as a 5th place in Trail (with Katelyn Carter getting individual 2nd place the first day, and 1st the second day). Disappointingly, our events were moved to a ring in the far back of the facility, due to postponed classes from the snowstorm days being rescheduled into the big rings. This wasn't terribly inviting for spectators to know the event was taking place. Despite this, Team Arabian did some fabulous PR work, introducing many people to the Arabian horse. Many people came up to us and commented on the beauty of our horses, who were great advocates for the breed, standing fabulously to meet all of the new people.

If you haven't heard, this was the last year of the Spruce Meadows Masters Battle of the Breeds. Many of the teams came together since finding this out in the spring, and have attempted to make a plan for the future. As a group we managed to get John Anderson on board to run a Battle of the Breeds at the Royal West starting in October 2015. With this, we can go back to having this event be about promoting our fabulous breeds, with booths, events, etc. Many of Team Arab's members have volunteered to be part of the planning committee for this event. It will hopefully be run as the battle was in the past; including Jumping, Dressage, Driving, Barrel Racing and Trail, and will be an excellent way to showcase our breed. To put things in perspective, this year's Royal West is 19 days away, and they are expecting the stands to be sold out many of the days. We would truly appreciate Region 17's support in this venture, as well as the support of the Regional clubs, so that we can send the best possible representatives of our breed to this event. As a team, we understand that budgeting for these ventures can be difficult, and will gladly do fundraising for our team, but to do so we will need the Region's support, as we will need somewhere for any funds raised to go, as well as backing for things such as formal tryouts. We will have a video put together for the R17 website shortly, in the meantime, here are some pictures of the team.

Sarah Ingram