

AQHA UPDATE

FIND YOUR LEVEL FOR 2014 - USE THE ONLINE AQHA LEVELING PROGRAM TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY

AQHA exhibitors and American Quarter Horse owners can now use an online system to help them determine their level eligibility. To determine level eligibility for 2014, visit www.aqha.com/leveling to access the AQHA leveling program Web-based verification system.

AQHA divisions – youth, amateur and open – are divided into levels. The leveling program uses an objective handicapping system to assign exhibitors and horses to competition levels.

Youth, amateur and Select amateur classes, plus open division halter and cattle events, are leveled by exhibitor record. Meaning, the user will search for level eligibility for those classes by exhibitor membership ID.

All open division classes, excluding halter and cattle events, are leveled by the horse record; the user will search by a horse's registration number to determine its eligibility.

Changes to the AQHA leveling program went into effect January 1, 2014. Many of those changes are directed at what had been known as the Rookie and Novice levels, now known as Rookie and Level 1. The mid-levels, which were put on hold in 2013, will be reintroduced in 2014.

"As its name suggests, the leveling program levels the playing field of AQHA competition," said AQHA Executive Director of Shows Patti Carter-Pratt. "Starting January 1, the leveling program will be fully effective once again, and the eligibility rule changes will be in place.

"I think we're all really excited to see the positive effect the leveling program will have on the show industry this year," Carter-Pratt added. "From the bottom up, the leveling program is designed to improve exhibitor experiences at AQHA shows and further American Quarter Horses as competitors."

Visit www.aqha.com/leveling to use the Web-based level verification system. The Web application will show you the levels you and your American Quarter Horse are eligible for in 2014.

Level 1 (Novice) eligibility application must be filed each year, and all Level 1 exhibitors are encouraged to complete the Level 1 (Novice) application and return it to AQHA as soon as possible.


Previous Level 1 (Novice) application information on file with AQHA may conflict with current eligibility, which would affect the eligibility being shown on the level verification system.

If assistance is needed in verifying level eligibility, AQHA customer service representatives are available to help at 806-376-4811.

2013 TEAM WRANGLER WINNERS AND NEW TEAMS FOR 2014 ANNOUNCED

Teams made up of the top American Quarter Horse Association Professional Horsemen and -women vied all year for top honors. They came from all disciplines - from halter to all-around, roping to racing. The 2013 Team Wrangler championship cash awards for each team member and medallions were on the line.

AQHA points accrued by the competing Professional Horsemen and -women were tabulated throughout the year, and the team having earned the highest combined number of points was honored at the 2013 AQHA World Championship Show in Oklahoma City.



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With the lights dimmed down in the Jim Norick Arena, one team stood apart from the rest. Team Cowboy Cut was crowned the 2013 Team Wrangler champion.

Led by team captain Joni Nelson of Long Grove, Iowa, the 2013 Team Cowboy Cut included: Christopher Arentsen of Trenton, Illinois; Cheryl Harvery-Hawkins of Ocala, Florida; John May of McKean, Pennsylvania; Peter M. Oen of Ardmore, Oklahoma; Alfred Hewitt of Loxahatchee, Florida; Mitch Leckey of Richmond, Indiana; Jody Ramer of Sulphur, Oklahoma; Teddy Johnson of Gainesville, Texas; Michael W. Joiner of Santa Teresa, New Mexico; Wesley Giles of Vado, New Mexico; and G.R. Carter Jr. of Oklahoma City. Each member of Team Cowboy Cut received a \$1,000 cash award from Wrangler and a medallion.

AQHA Corporate Partner Wrangler also contributed \$20,000 on behalf of the team to the American Quarter Horse Foundation Guy Stoops Professional Horseman scholarship fund. This fund benefits the college-bound children of AQHA Professional Horsemen.

Wrangler presented a buckle and \$2,500 to the highest point-earning exhibitor, J.D. Yates of Pueblo, Colorado and also a buckle and \$500 to the Extreme Team exhibitor of the year, C.R. Bradley of Collinsville, Texas. The top racing professional of the year, G.R. Carter Jr., will be presented a buckle and check for \$2,500 at the upcoming Racing Champions announcement.

The new Team Wrangler teams for 2014 are:

Team 20X - Captain: Clay Logan; Randy Jacobs, Ronald Stratton, Joni Nelson, Peter M. Oen, Virginia Beaton, Chuck Briggs, Shane Dowdy, Wayne Czisny, G.R. Carter Jr., A. Jeff Acuna and Cody Joiner. Team Cowboy Cut - Captain: Whitney Lagace; Rick Leek, Kelly McDowall, Tommy Buckner, David Miller, Adam Wainscott, Keith Miller, Steve Orth, Edward Dufurrena, Cody Jensen, John Buchanan and John Hammes. Team Wrangler Retro - Captain: Teddy Johnson; Christopher Arentsen, Ryan Cottingim, Doug Leasor, Jim Ten Hoeve, Lainie DeBoer, Jennifer Leckey, J.D. Yates, Bobby Lewis, Freddie Martinez, Wesley Giles and Michael Joiner.

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Extreme Team - Jillian Bergstresser, C.R. Bradley, Tucker Clark, Jason English, Teresa Kackert, Ryan Kail, Jessica Lange, Josh Little, Genny Miller, Kristin Pokluda, Marty Simper and Trey Wood.

Learn more about the 2014 AQHA Team Wrangler teams and their members, and stay up to date on team standings throughout the year.

AQHA PROVIDES THE LATEST UPDATES ON THE CLONING LAWSUIT

The American Quarter Horse Association filed its appellate brief in the cloning lawsuit with the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on December 26. Again, we are extremely pleased with the brief and look forward to presenting our case to the Fifth Circuit. The appellees' response, subject to any request for extension, is due January 28. Thereafter, we will have 14 days to file a reply to appellees' response.

Also, we are pleased to have the support of other breed organizations in our effort to have the final judgment reversed. On January 2, several groups filed an Amici Curiae

Brief asking the Fifth Circuit to reverse the district court's judgment and render a verdict in favor of AQHA. The Amici Curiae group includes the following organizations: American Kennel Club; American Morgan Horse Association; American Paint Horse Association; Appaloosa Horse Club; Arabian Horse Association; The Cat Fanciers' Association Inc.; The Jockey Club; Pinto Horse Association; and U.S. Trotting Association.

AQHA appreciates the support of these organizations and believes that the issues presented in the case are important to us all, especially when it comes to the right of our members, committees and boards to determine rules that govern our associations.

For more information about the cloning lawsuit, view the Cloning Lawsuit Resources pages.

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE HALL OF FAME MEMBER E.F. "BUD" ALDERSON, 91, DIED DECEMBER 22

Alderson was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 2004.

Born August 21, 1922, to Dewey and Mabel (Cooper), Alderson grew up taking care of many animals and even showed draft horses in 4-H. He graduated from Prairie Township High School in 1940, which was the same year he bought his first Quarter Horse and sported a reputation as a match-race jockey, Roman rider, all-around cowboy and could sit an English saddle for jumping.

Alderson married Madonna Quakenbush on April 17, 1949, and the couple had two children – Janelle and Randy – and ran a successful Quarter Horse breeding operation for more than 50 years.

Alderson judged for 45 years throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and South America. His credits include officiating at the All American Quarter Horse Congress and the AQHA and AQHYA world championship shows. He was later appointed to the committee that developed AQHA's amateur division in 1985. He served as the first amateur committee chairman and helped implement AQHA's hunter under saddle class. Alderson became an AQHA honorary vice president in 1986 and received AQHA's 50-year breeder award in 2003.

Alderson's contribution to the American Quarter Horse industry went beyond serving on AQHA committees. He and his wife organized dozens of clinics, giving both youth and adults a chance to gain more knowledge and enjoyment of their horses. They also hosted countless 4-H clinics and college judging teams.

Alderson helped establish the Indiana Quarter Horse Futurity and the Indiana Quarter Horse Association in



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1955, and was the past president of the IQHA. In 1988, he was inducted into the Agriculture Hall of Fame at Purdue University.

Alderson became an AQHA judge in 1961. Determined to have an input in the Association, he was appointed to the show and contest committee, holding one of the longest seats on an AQHA committee – 24 years.

Bud Alderson is survived by his wife, Madonna; children, Janelle and husband Wallace Gray, and Randy and wife Chris Alderson, and grandchildren, Brian and Katie Gray, Katie and Chris Kelly, Andrew Alderson, and Aaron Alderson, and great-granddaughter Evelyn Gray.

AQHA DIRECTOR EMERITUS GEORGE LOEB, 90, DIED DECEMBER 9

Longtime Quarter Horse racing enthusiast and AQHA Director Emeritus George Loeb, 90, of Sun City, California, died December 9 due to kidney failure.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Loeb loved racing horses. Loeb met his wife, Shirley, in New York City, but the couple eventually ventured west, first living in New Orleans, then Fort Smith, Arkansas and Houston. Loeb worked at a ladies' department store while in Houston that would later open up a store at the Lakewood Mall near Los Alamitos, California. Loeb eventually ran a very successful

vending machine business in Southern California and owned an outstanding stable of horses at Los Alamitos Race Course.

In their heyday, the Loeb family were among the leading Quarter Horse owners at Los Alamitos Race Course and were named the 1979 Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Racing Association champion owners. Loeb was a former PC-QHRA president.

The Loeb family, racing out of Loeb Ranch in Menifee, California, was also one of the all-time leading Thoroughbred owners at the Cypress racetrack. Shirley preceded him in death in December 2003.

Loeb and Shirley campaigned the 1979 Champion of Champions winner Mr Doty Bar. In 1978 and '79, the Loeb family also campaigned multiple stakes winner Elmer Go and AQHA Superior race horse Drat It. During the 1978 winter meet, the Loeb family won 35 races in three months.

In the 1990s, the Loeb family raced Los Alamitos Invitational Championship winner Brotherly, a horse that Loeb claimed for \$8,000 after watching the Ed Allred-owned gelding walk to the receiving stall under a pouring rain.

Loeb is survived by his sons, Randy and Sandy, and his sister, Suzanne Kaskel. □