

## Thirty Years of Arabian Adventures

Nan Harley has been an Arabian enthusiast and member of GAHA for over 30 years. She has quite the collection of Arabians: currently 9 purebreds and two half-Arabians. Several of her horses have been highly successful in the show ring, with national titles.

Nan's Arabian adventure started in the 1980s when she went to an auction with a friend. Nan and her friend ended up buying a mare together with the intent to breed her. Nan fell in love with the mare, named Taaskyne, and bought out her friend's half before the mare had even foaled. Of course, that meant she very shortly owned her second horse! The foal, Dixie Royal Taask, became Nan's first show horse. At six, Nan sold her to fellow Georgians, the Hardy's, who kept her the rest of her life.



**Possession PGA+// with Nan Harley, 2019 Canadian National Champion Open Western Pleasure.**

Nan showed more or less casually for many years, until she started campaigning her half-Arabian, CBS Top Dog. CBS Top Dog was bred by Claire Boyd, who also helped Nan with his early show career in halter. When it became clear that the classy gelding had national level potential, Nan sent Top Dog to Dolorosa Arabians where his partnership with Caralyn Schroter began. Twenty-one years later, Caralyn and her husband, Rob Bick, are now RBC Show Horses and still manage all of Nan's competition horses, just as they helped her take CBS Top Dog to the US and Canadian Nationals.

CBS Top Dog earned 7 national titles in western pleasure and western ladies sidesaddle. Nan's favorite horse show memory comes from Canadian Nationals in 2000. CBS Top Dog had just won the Half-Arabian western pleasure junior horse class with his trainer, Caralyn Schroter. Nan rode her horse next in the amateur class, which she also won! Nan recalls the announcer saying, "if you can't run with this dog, you better stay on the porch!" There have been many national wins since then, but Nan still remembers that first one as her most treasured.

Working with a trainer two states away has its challenges, mainly a lot of travel! Nan tries to make two trips a month to RBC to ride and train with Carolyn and Bob. The coronavirus pandemic has put a hold on trips to North Carolina, but it has given Nan more time with her horses at home, including her new filly DB Crimson Possession, aka "Rosie". Nan and her husband Craig manage about nine horses at their own Drey Bay Farm, mainly retirees, broodmares, and youngsters. Nan does all the early ground training with her babies, using natural



**"Rosie" with her dam, PA Cassara Dancer**

horsemanship techniques to make them solid citizens before they go to RBC for saddle training as long two year olds. Nan and Craig stay busy caring for their herd and the 350 acres that make up their farm in Newnan, Georgia. Craig is a more casual horseman than Nan, but he is very involved with the farm and all its equines. According to Nan, he cleans a mean stall!

With her versatile Arabians, Nan has dabbled in reining, dressage and English pleasure/driving, although her main focus has been hunter and western pleasure. Currently, the Harley's breeding program focuses on western pleasure horses, although their stallion, Possession PGA+// has also sired national champion hunter pleasure, western pleasure and sport horses. Nan is hoping to try a GAHA

trail rides once she has a good trail horse in her riding string again. She would also like to get some members on the south side together for a wine night once the coronavirus situation allows.

Nan has served on the GAHA board and in many other volunteer roles, and is now one of the clubs generous sponsors. Asked why she has remained a GAHA member for so long, Nan says "I enjoy the fellowship and support of the GAHA members. I'm happy that I'm in a position to be a sponsor to ensure that the club can go on and have great events."

You can see more of Nan's horses, including the adorable filly Rosie, on her farm's Facebook page: Dreym Bay Farm, or on the farm website: ([www.dreymbayfarm.com](http://www.dreymbayfarm.com)).



**PA Cassara Dancer with Caralyn Schroter, 2018 US National Champion Hunter Pleasure, Jr. Horse.**