

American Azteca News

Volume 4, Issue 1 ♦ Bi-Annual

Winter/Spring 2005



From The Editor

Welcome to the 2005 edition of American Azteca News! As a brand new AAHIA member it's taken me awhile to figure out the ropes of newsletter editing but we're finally up and running again. I'd like to thank Tracy Patterson for all the work she put into previous newsletters as she certainly set a standard I can only hope to live up to!

I purchased my first American Azteca last fall and have been blown away by the sensitivity, grace and strong intelligence of the breed. I've only had my 2yr old "A" filly for a short while and she's already proven her propensity for learning. She's got more heart and 'try' than any horse I've ever worked with and it seems the less I do with her the more she learns. She has inspired me to further support the development and promotion of this breed in North America.

This newsletter is published for the benefit of AAHIA members and those with an interest in the American Azteca breed. Being that our membership is spread over such great geographical distances, this newsletter is often our only means of communicating with you, the members. I'd like to view this newsletter not only as a source of promotion for the breed but also as a venue for presenting information, ideas and concepts to our membership for their consideration and feedback.

The association is growing and we'd like to be able to offer additional services and programs to members rather than just acting as a registry. To do so, we need feedback in terms of what kinds of programs would benefit American Azteca owners, breeders and riders the most and what kinds of services they'd utilize. Why stretch valuable association funds and manpower to develop something that is not useful to its members?

In this issue of American Azteca News we've presented some new ideas & concepts for your consideration and have provided updated contact information for your directors. Please take a moment to send us your thoughts, opinions and concerns. *Your feedback is extremely valuable & important to the development and growth of this association!*

All the best to you this summer!
Tamara Neufeld -AAHIA Editor-

Watch for the Summer/Fall issue of **American Azteca News!**

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Our address has changed!

American Azteca Horse International Association

PO Box 1577
Rapid City, SD 57709

Phone: (605) 342-2322

AAHA Regions**#1 West Coast:** California, Hawaii**#2 Northwest:** Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Yukon**#3 Midwest:** Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Ontario**#4 Rocky Mountain:** Colorado, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, Manitoba, Saskatchewan**#5 Southwest:** Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, Mexico**#6 Northeast/ Mid Atlantic:** Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Main, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Quebec & Eastern Canada**#7 Southeast:** Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia & Puerto Rico**President's Message**

Greetings Everyone! Hope all is well with you and your equine friends. Winter is almost over and spring is near. I'm sure you are all looking forward to a new crop of little American Azteca hooves running around. I know I am!

The association is doing well and growing as usual. We have many new members and horses joining regularly. As we all know, it takes volunteers to make a difference between a good registry/association and a great one.

This association and registry was founded on the principles that the owners and breeders of American Azteca horses would be a part of the growth and promotion of this wonderful breed. Each one of you has a special gift or talent that is needed in order for us to continue to grow and thrive. Please consider donating some of your time to help this association and the American Azteca become a large and important presence in the equine industry.

Only 2 people...2 very tired people, are currently doing the work for the association! We simply cannot continue on this path so we are asking you to step up to the plate for YOUR association. However deeply you choose to get involved is up to you, but please get involved! We need help to grow and become what I know we can be.

For more information or to talk about what you can do for your association, contact your president Rita Greslin at (605) 347-4211 or email: dwinds@iw.net

Wishing you all a healthy, happy, prosperous & fun summer!

Rita Greslin -President -

Important Notice:

In 2006 the AAHA will be in need of a new president, vice president and registrar. Our dedicated individuals holding these positions are retiring. They will be available to train new prospects until 2006. We are also in need of Regional Directors and other volunteers so please make your intentions known if you would like to volunteer for one of these positions. We need you! Please notify the President or Vice President of your intended area of interest.

AAHA Board of Directors

Rita Greslin

PresidentEmail: dwinds@iw.netPh: (605) 347-4211 South Dakota
(Mountain Time Zone)

Joyce Firkus

Vice President-Registrar,Email: KJHollow@aol.comPh: (651) 462-1949 Minnesota
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Tamara Neufeld

Newsletter Layout & Ad ManagerEmail: tamaran@ualberta.caPh: (780) 720-5198 Alberta, Canada
(Mountain Time Zone)**Regional Directors:****Region #2 Northwest Director**

Tamara Neufeld

Email: tamaran@ualberta.ca(780) 720-5198 Alberta, Canada
(Mountain Time Zone)**WE NEED NEW DIRECTORS FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS...****Region #1 West Coast****Region #4 Midwest****Region #5 Rocky Mountain****Region #6 NE/Mid Atlantic****Region #7 Southeast****Request for Pictures**

We'd like to update the AAHA brochure, newsletter and website with new photos of our members and horses in action. If you have photos you'd like to share, please notify the association of your interest.

For info contact: Tamara Neufeld -Editor-

Email: tamaran@ualberta.ca

Ph: (780) 720-5198



Photos courtesy of AVID Equine ID

Registrar's Corner - To Microchip & Why?

This has been a question I receive often and I must say I have had some mixed feelings about the use of microchips in the past. As most of us with grey horses know, when they start turning white the markings get harder to see and other colors often can be hard to identify. Although you are not required to microchip your American Azteca as part of the registration with the AAHIA, it is a nice additional way you can quickly verify the horse's identity for any number of possible reasons.

How often will identification be needed? Well to be honest, unless the horse is lost or stolen, not often. With today's DNA technology, if your horse already has a DNA marker on file, hair can be sent in again to confirm the horse's identification. However, it will cost extra and may take additional time that you may not have if the horse has been stolen. What are the chances your horse may be lost or stolen? There are no hard figures on how many horses are stolen. One source estimates as many as 40,000-50,000 may be stolen each year. This is where the microchip will come into play. Most of us do not brand or tattoo our horses for whatever reason. However, micro chipping may be easier for you to implement as an identification method for your horse to prove ownership.

The AAHIA is now offering AVID® microchip and we are also in the process of working out a way to register our American Azteca horses who have been micro chipped through the AAHIA with a national database through AVID® in case your horse is lost or stolen. I have had many long talks with Dr. John Wade of AVID® Microchip Identification System and we hope to come up with an arrangement on chip registration in the near future. I will keep you posted on this development in upcoming newsletters.

If you have input or questions about micro chipping, please contact us here at the association.

To read more about AVID® microchips, please visit www.avidequineid.com

Joyce Firkus -Registrar-

Announcements:

Want to celebrate your purchase of a new prospect? The birth of a foal? Or the recent accomplishments of your American Azteca horses?

Future newsletters will have an "Announcements" section where members can post and celebrate their recent accomplishments with their American Azteca horses FOR FREE!

Send your announcements to
Tamara Neufeld -Newsletter Editor-
tamaran@ualberta.ca Ph: (780) 720-5198

Long Term Goals of Breeding American Aztecas: Utilizing the Breeding Chart of crosses

By Rita Greslin

The American Azteca is a relatively new breed with few horses making up its numbers. As the breed becomes more popular and numbers increase, breeders need to focus on long term goals in their breeding program. Up until now, most of the horses registered with the AAHIA have been American Azteca D's. However, many B's are now registered and a few A horses are beginning to show up.

It has taken many years to breed through the different letters to arrive at an 'A' horse; it takes a minimum of 12-15 years for breeders to arrive at an 'A' level horses so there are many other levels to work with to get there. Remember, the letter levels do not indicate quality or breeding stock. It is strictly a method of tracking generations of blood percentages to aid in breeding goals. There are very nice individuals in all levels and all are American Aztecas.

When planning your programs, you not only need to focus on improving individuals but on how to cross the various letters so that you

We've changed our address- Have you changed yours?

Please ensure that the AAHIA has your current & correct contact information on file.

know how to cross in later generations as you proceed to a goal. There are many ways, or should I say routes, to arrive at your goal when breeding American Aztecas.

As a breeder, you need to plan for what you have available to breed to and what you would like to be breeding for, not only now but in later generations. For Example: If you have crossed the first generation Andalusian to a Quarter Horse you have produced an American Azteca D. You then have a choice which way to breed that animal. You can cross it back to an Andalusian, resulting in an Azteca B or you can cross it back to a quarter horse and end up with a C offspring. You can also cross it to either a B or an A in order to get the sought after 'A' level horse. Your choice depends not only on what you have available to breed to but how you may want to breed that next generation. Be sure to put some thought into the direction you intend for future generations to go when you are making choices for your current crosses.

You also need to think ahead to what stallions are available to you for future breedings. For instance, if you have an Andalusian stallion available, you may want to cross the D with a quarter horse and produce a C just so you can then breed that offspring back to an Andalusian. Or, if you have a Quarter Horse stallion you may want to cross your D to an Andalusian. This of course is all relative to what sexes of offspring you are working with.

Just keep in mind when working with the American Azteca C's and those A's with larger percentages of QH blood, that it is the Andalusian that has been added to the Quarter Horse to make this unique breed so desirable. Therefore, breeding too much back to Quarter Horse blood may not produce the desired results. Such animals (C's & A's with high QH percentages) should be bred with the intention of crossing back to an Andalusian or American Azteca with a higher percentage of Andalusian blood. Make sure when crossing back to Quarter Horses that you have available breeding options with high Andalusian percentages.

The Mexican registry has currently ruled that Azteca A's can only be bred to other A's. This has just recently been implemented into their breeding chart as they now have enough animals to make that possible. At this time, the AAHIA registry is allowing an Azteca A to be bred to either pure Andalusians or Quarter Horses as there are very few Azteca A horses in the US and Canada at this time. A breeding base with enough genetic diversity needs to be established and available before it can be ruled that A's will only be bred to A's. When the numbers are established, the rule will be changed so that with the breeding of A's to A's a new breed will be firmly established.

In the meantime, we have some options to choose from. Just choose wisely and consider that the blood ratios in the long run need to reflect the unique combination of Andalusian and Quarter Horse blood rather than a large percentage of either breed.

Questions? Contact us!

Percentage Breeding Chart

Possible Combinations	*Andalusian	AQHA/APHA	Letter Classification
Andalusian to QH	50%	50%	D
QH to Az D	25%	75%	C
Andalusian to Az D	75%	25%	B
Az C to Andalusian	62.5%	37.5%	A
QH to Azteca B	37.5%	62.5%	A
Azteca B to Azteca C	50%	50%	A
Azteca B to Azteca D	62.5%	37.5%	A
Azteca A to Azteca A			A
Azteca A to AQHA/APHA			A
Azteca A to Andalusian			A
Azteca A to Azteca B, C, D			A

*Andalusian heritage can be Pure Spanish, Pure Lusitano, or Spanish/Portuguese bloodlines.

The above chart is to be used as a guideline for your breeding program. All foundation breeding stock must be registered with AQHA, APHA, IALHA or a recognized registry.

The breeding goal is to not surpass 75% or 3/4 Andalusian or AQHA/APHA blood or go below 25% or 1/4 Andalusian or AQHA/APHA blood.



*Azteca A Yearling Filly
Photo Courtesy of Tamara Neufeld*

Advertising Rates:

♦ All rates in US dollars ♦

Full Page.....\$115.00
 1/2 Page.....\$60.00
 1/4 Page.....\$40.00
 Business Card Size..\$30.00

10% discount for AAHIA members

Classifieds:

Members -- \$15.00 for first 20 words
 \$0.25/word thereafter

Nonmembers -- \$20.00 for first 20 words
 \$0.30/word thereafter

Deadlines:

Winter/Spring Issue.....**April 1st**
 Summer/Fall.....**October 1st**

New Program Proposal

A new program proposal has been put forth to the AAHIA in the hopes of developing an alternative competition program where AAHIA registered horses can earn performance points towards certificates of recognition and year end awards.

While some American Azteca horses are eligible for dual registration with the IALHA, others are not and subsequently cannot compete in IALHA sanctioned shows. The AAHIA recognizes that **all** American Azteca horses should have **equal opportunities** to prove their performance capabilities in the show-ring, and thus we'd like to present the following proposal outline for your consideration and feedback.

The proposal is modeled after the American Paint Horse Association – PAC program [Paint Alternative Competition] and would allow AAHIA registered horses to earn points for their placings at *any show sponsored by an established record keeping organization, association or club.*

A brief overview of the proposal has been provided below for your consideration. Would you utilize such a program if it were in place? At this point, these are just general ideas but your association needs to know your position on this proposal before continuing on with further development. ***If no feedback is received, it will be assumed the membership is uninterested and the proposal will be dismissed.*** If the proposal is accepted, we would like to have it implemented and in use by next year.

Program Objective: To support & encourage the campaigning of American Azteca Horses in credible equine competitions by providing recognition of individual accomplishments and a records management service for competitive horses through the AAHIA

Overview: The program is modeled after APHA's PAC program but with 2 core services...

1. To record the competitive accomplishments of AAHIA horses in any competition sponsored by an established, record-keeping organization, club or association
2. To recognize the competitive accomplishments of AAHIA registered horses through use of a points-grading system that would be used to calculate year-end highpoint and versatility awards.

Administration: The AAHIA would maintain complete records [of registered horses'] competitive accomplishments (ie: shows attended & subsequent earnings/placings; championship titles; awards; etc...) in any show sponsored by a record keeping club/organization/association.

- Horses would be enrolled in program on an annual basis (no fee). Photo ID cards would be issued to enrolled horses with mandatory presentation to show steward/organizer to ensure verification of horse identity.
- Owners/competitors report their placings/winnings in approved event categories (to be determined/defined by the AAHIA) at any show sanctioned by a record keeping body (including 4H, local horse clubs, agricultural fairs, IALHA breed shows, etc...). Results to be verified by the AAHIA.

# Horses in Class	Placings and Subsequent Points Earned					
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
3-5	1					
6-8	2	1				
9-11	3	2	1			
12-14	4	3	2	1		
15-17	5	4	3	2	1	
18+	6	5	4	3	2	1

- Competitor placings would be converted to points via a point-grading system that would be used to calculate AAHIA year-end high point and versatility awards
- Complete competition reports [of horse's placings, winnings, points earned, etc..] could be made available at owner's request

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AAHA
Membership Form
Renewal:
New Member:

Our members are the backbone of this Association. We encourage you to join!

Name: _____ **Date:** _____
Farm Name: _____
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City: _____ **State/Province:** _____
Country: _____ **Zip/Postal Code:** _____
Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____
Email: _____ **Website:** _____

Membership Fees (Annual membership based on a calendar year- All prices quoted in American dollars)

- Full Member - **\$40.00** (Owners of Aztecas registered with the AAHA must have full membership and will have voting privileges)
 Associate Member - **\$25.00** (Admirers and Enthusiasts of the American Azteca..voting privileges not applicable)

Payment Methods (Please check method of payment)

1. A check can be mailed along with this form to the AAHA address above
 2. Payments via VISA & MASTERCARD are accepted online only through the AAHA website at www.americanaztecas.com

We are a member driven association and depend on our members for continued support and growth. Since we are a newly formed association, there is much to do and it takes a lot of people to make this association grow. We need volunteers to help us. If you have time or a talent to contribute, please check the box below.

We need you!

Yes! I am interested in helping. Please contact me with more information on volunteering with the AAHA