



# Hazlewood

## Arabians

by Mary Jane Parkinson

Jocelyn and Greg Hazlewood brought somewhat different (but related) backgrounds to their training and showing entity and together they have melded those skills into a smooth-working training and showing organization appreciated by owners ... and their horses.

Geographically, their backgrounds span the oceans from Europe to Alaska. Greg comes from several years of team-roping and much travel related to holding a professional team-roping card. The Arabian connection came through neighbors, the Heathcott family, who had Arabians. Greg learned some basics of showing from Steve Heathcott, but most of his style of showing is self-taught, he says. "It seemed to come naturally to me, and I thoroughly enjoyed it."

From the roping arena, Greg went to Lasma where he trained halter horses for a Star World sale, then to Paragon Arabians for two years of training and showing. At Paragon, Greg was contacted by Erik Melander, a Swedish breeder, who asked him to show the Melander horses at the Swedish National Show. Greg's success and style soon attracted other breeders in Sweden and he became well-known in European show circles. When he came back to the States, Greg trained and showed in California, then was asked to show horses for Midwest at the National level. That invitation led to Greg's being named head halter trainer at Midwest, a job he held for eight years.

In Alaska, Jocelyn worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and showed her Arabian mare, "winning everything" in Class A shows. "I love showing halter horses," Jocelyn says. "I was showing before I met Greg, and he just brought another level of showing to me."

Greg and Jocelyn met at Scottsdale where Greg was showing for Midwest, and Jocelyn, a native Arizonan, was there to see her family, watch her friends show, and to meet Greg for a blind date. "Who would have known then how things would turn out?" Greg wonders. "Jocelyn also loved Arabians, and we found we had a lot in common. We both traveled extensively in our work, but we were able to meet each

other often, and our relationship grew." Jocelyn and Greg were married two years after the blind date and began dreaming of starting their own Arabian horse-related business and raising a family. They found eight ideal acres in Cave Creek, Arizona, for their dream facility, produced a son Grant, and began the building process, a process that would make their business successful.

Greg and Jocelyn have 30 stalls and an eight-stall covered mare motel. Outside the stables, the Hazlewoods have one-and-a-half acres of green pasture, a large arena for riding, longeing, and turn-out, a covered bull pen, a six-horse Equisizer, and a treadmill. "Inevitably, we are asked about the Arizona summer heat, but we honestly do not have to prepare for it," says Jocelyn. "When we put up our new 20-stall barn, we made sure we spared no expense on the insulation. Each stall has windows, front and back, and a wide center aisle allows breezes to come through. Open space at the top of the walls helps. Our location is important, too. Neighbors have plenty of acreage,

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horses' potentials. Sometimes owners just don't want to hear that their horses are not Nationals material, so horses are taken to other trainers. Ultimately, those owners come back to us after having spent a lot of money and gained an understanding that we were being honest and trying to help them.

"Almost every trainer has several yearlings in the show barn. This is a necessity as these foals are growing up and going through a lot of changes as they mature. Here, they are given the basics: how to stand up, to be clipped, and to tie. They get colds, they are growing in different directions, and it is hard to determine which ones will be ready for a certain show at a certain time. Ultimately, it comes down to which yearling is going to be the most competitive for a particular show under the particular judges for that show. With these youngsters, you also have to educate new owners as best you can. This is not the same for older horses. You pretty much know what you have when horses come into the barn, and they do sometimes become more than you originally thought."

For Greg and Jocelyn, the best number of horses in training is 20-25. During the Scottsdale show they have more, as owners send horses for marketing and for Signature Stallion classes. But throughout the show year, they find 20-25 horses is the most they want to having in training. "We want quality, not quantity, and we want to be able to give 110 percent to each one," Greg notes.

The brightest moments for Greg and Jocelyn? "We thrive when our clients do well," says Jocelyn. "It brings us so much joy to see our clients enjoying themselves and genuinely thrilled with their wins, and we are rewarded by being a part of those memory-making times."

For Jocelyn, showing in the Scottsdale Signature classes is a high point. She feels as happy as the owners do when she wins with their horses. "Jocelyn's a bit more emotional than I am," says Greg, "and if someone in the group starts crying tears of joy, she joins right in."

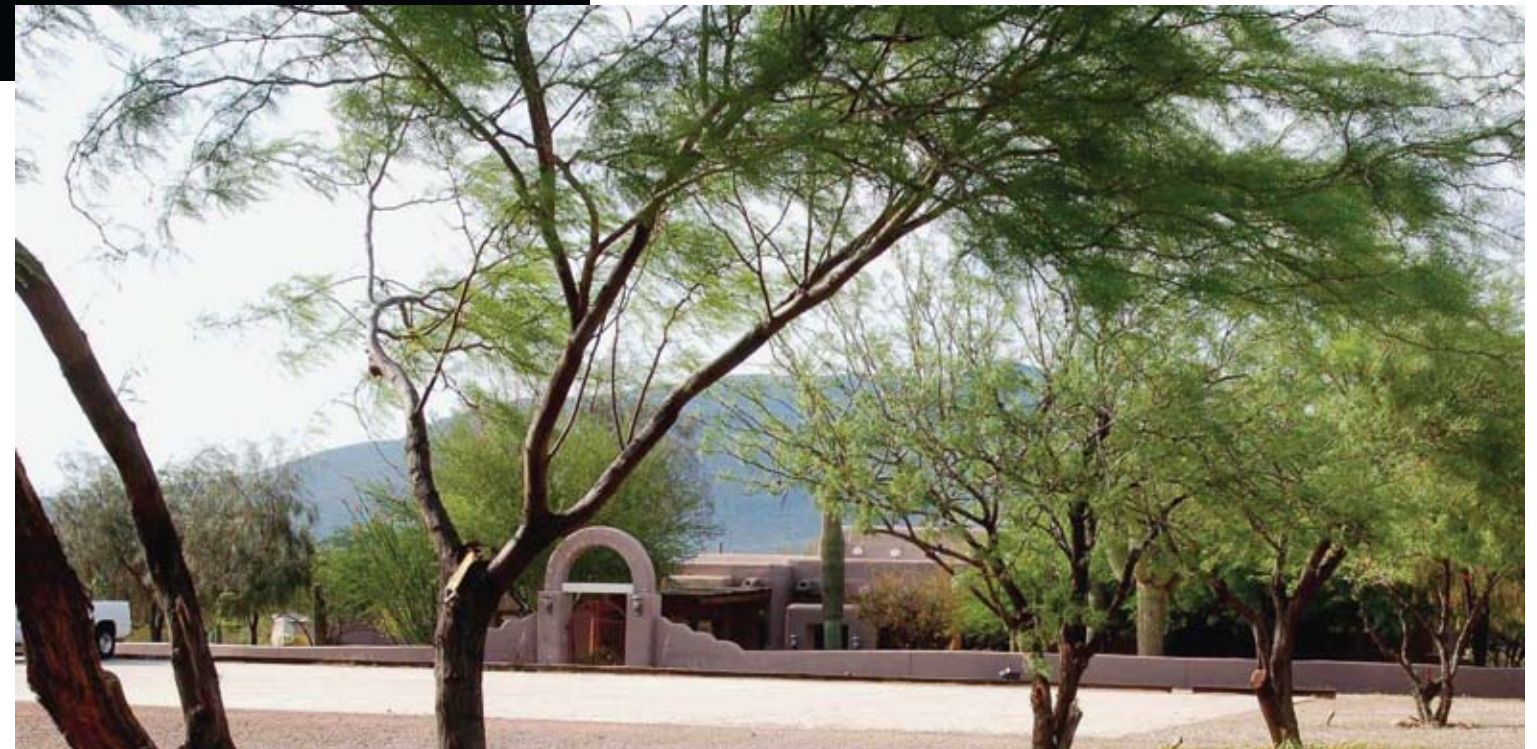
so we are not heated up by asphalt and concrete as people are in Scottsdale, and our temperatures are about ten degrees cooler than Scottsdale. We start working horses early in the morning, when days are at their coolest. We've never had a heat-related issue and our horses are never sweating in the stalls from the heat."

After showing in Alaska, Jocelyn was thrilled to show in Regionals, Nationals, and Scottsdale. "An incredible dream come true," she says. "Greg gave me my first big-time show horse in 1999. With the help of David Boggs, we bought a special two-year-old Padrons Psyche gelding, Astral AA (x EA Moongypsy Echo by Echo Magnifico). Greg

showed him for the first time at Region 3 in 2001, and he was Champion Gelding (a unanimous win). At Scottsdale, Astral AA went Grand Champion Open and Amateur Gelding with Greg and me. I was proud of that win in particular as I had conditioned Astral myself and prepared him for that show. After that, he won more Regional and Buckeye big wins, and was 2000 Canadian National Champion Futurity Gelding In-Hand and Reserve Champion Gelding In-Hand AAO. Those wins were fantastic.

"I have learned so much from Greg as I watch him school horses. I try to get out to the barn to watch him as often as I can. He is such an incredible talent, and the horses just bloom with him. He understands that every horse is an individual, and that not all of them can do the same things. Greg gets the most out of each horse, and the horses are happy to show for him. From me, Greg has learned the other side of the coin. I bring the amateur thoughts and point of view which, as a professional, he may never have thought about or taken into consideration. He now has a better understanding of what amateurs go through in the show arena."

The Hazlewoods' principles in running their horse business are, first and foremost, integrity and honesty. "Some horses are just not National level halter horses or great show horses," says Greg. "We tell our clients honestly what we believe to be their



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"One of the greatest things about Greg Hazlewood is his ability to get along with any horse. We like using him as a trainer because we see the results: well-trained horses who have not endured any kind of abuse. They come back to us in the best condition, with sound, happy minds.

"We have observed what Greg can do with horses that other trainers can't handle — increasing their response without compromising their well-being. It's a fact that other trainers recruit him to solve problems with their horses.

"We have worked with Greg for many years, and have found him to be extremely honest and fair in all of our dealings with him. He is like a breath of fresh air — and a *whole lot of fun* too!"

— *Harold and Dolly Orr, Orrion Farms, Ellensburg, Washington*

"Greg Hazelwood is one of the few trainer/technicians of our Arabian breeding in-hand division. His understanding, timing, and implementation of halter training and conditioning techniques have evolved from schooling and showing many of the very best individuals of the Arabian breed. No one has more talent than Greg Hazlewood."

— *Dick Adams, Savannah Bloodstock, Gilroy, California*

"Greg has a God-given gift that includes talent, timing, sensitivity, and kindness in working with halter horses. Some are born with this gift. Some come close to achieving it. But no one has it like Greg.

"We are grateful for all he has brought to Midwest."

— *David Boggs, Midwest Training Centre, Rogers, Minnesota, and Scottsdale, Arizona*

"My friendship with Greg Hazlewood has spanned several decades. I've come to have great admiration and respect for him. With Greg's help, I've achieved numerous Scottsdale, Regional, and U.S. Top Tens showing AOTH Halter. But what I really admire most in Greg is his dedication to his family and friends. The horses will always be the love of his life, but Greg could teach and train any animal — his relationships with his critters are deep with tender loving care.

"Greg and Jocelyn ... we love you!"

— *Aude Espourteille, Deor Farms, Butte Falls, Oregon*

"We have been clients of Greg and Jocelyn for the past few years. They have always been friendly; never pushy, and always stop by when they're in the area — all reasons we chose to send our horses to them. Their show horses are always trained and groomed to the nines. When our youngsters came home from their place, they were sweet, well mannered, and oh so easy to handle — that says a lot about a trainer.

"Another thing about Greg and Jocelyn is how they market our horses. We just sent Greg a lovely weanling Valentino filly, and she was sold to an established breeder in less than 45 days.

"Greg and Jocelyn, we hope 2009 is your best blue-ribbon year of all. Thanks, guys, for your kindness, honesty, and for one heck of a ride. See you in Scottsdale."

— *Patt and Dick Fiscus, Fiscus Arabian Farm, Washoe Valley, Nevada*



The entire family is horse- and client-related. Greg schools each horse, evaluates that horse, and ensures that the horse has everything it needs. Both Greg and Jocelyn interact with clients and prospective buyers. Jocelyn handles all the office work, and makes a habit of spoiling all the horses with carrots and apples and other treats she believes all horses must have. Their five-year-old son Grant is the backup boss and lets his parents know about weeds to be pulled or areas to be tidied up. His electric Jeep gives him the mobility to see to all these tasks.

Greg and Jocelyn truly enjoy showing in foreign countries and renewing acquaintance with friends they have known over the years. Seeing new horses and learning about new breeding programs add to the pleasure. "South Africa is a favorite," says Greg. "Clients and friends celebrate with barbecues each night after classes, always a pleasant experience. But being in Kruger National Park and staring at (and being stared at) by a bull elephant the next day is pretty amazing, too."

"So many incredible Arabians have enriched our lives," says Jocelyn. "Just being around the many icons and genetic giants of the breed is enriching. To have trained horses such as Magnum Psyche, Falcon BHF, Star Of Marwan, Justa Dream, \*Europa El Jamaal, and Magdalina, to name just a few, is by itself exciting and rewarding. We have had a few incredible individuals in our personal



Jocelyn and Greg Hazlewood with son Grant and client Lisa East.

lives that touched our hearts, and they are equally important to us. You can't be in this business and have this kind of passion and not feel enriched every day. For us, it is just not possible.

"A few negatives, too. Although the breed has some stellar individuals, it seems that we are seeing more and more conformation issues and OCD (osteochondrosis). Also, new diseases have been discovered in the breed, and it is heartbreaking. It makes you wonder what is next. However, we still know we have the best breed of horse in existence."

The Hazlewoods have several mares of their own and are well aware of the costs of breeding and caring for horses. "Showing is expensive, too," says Greg. "But the joy we get out of owning Arabians, the wonderful foals we get and all the experiences that go with breeding, far exceed the discouraging and sometimes stressful elements."

Greg offers some advice for newcomers to the breed: "Hopefully, people get into the Arabian horse business for the love of the horse. Obviously, we want to sell horses and make money for our clients, but to get into the breed strictly as a business investment is a tricky situation. There are of course situations where a person has done just that and made a great profit. On the other hand, owners sometimes wind up unable to sell their horses for their purchase price, or a desired amount. Trends change and the in-vogue horses of yesterday are no longer appealing today. I would suggest buying typey correct horses as foundation stock. On location, it's a must to be no more than an hour away from a major airport. Ask for help with your horse shopping. Make sure you find a reputable person to help you select your first horse. Ask questions, a lot of them, from many people. If the same breeder name keeps popping up as a good source of quality stock, then it probably is."

Greg offers his comments on the new judging system and the 2008 Nationals: "I don't mind the new judging system, but I can understand how the clients and the spectators feel about some aspects of it. It is a new procedure, so we need to give it time to work out the kinks. One factor we need is to bring the excitement back into the arena. At the Nationals, I particularly liked the fact that trainers waited in a holding area and our horses were able to stay in their coolers. It was a relaxed atmosphere for horses and trainers alike, and we were able to prepare our horses for entering the arena. Also, the music was extremely upbeat, a first for the Nationals."

Jocelyn sums up the Hazlewood hopes for Arabian horses: "We wish nothing but incredible success for the horses. We won't be around forever, and we certainly won't be doing what we do now forever, but we hope the Arabians outlast all of us for millennia to come. It would be wonderful if the rest of the equine world would learn what a truly great animal the Arabian horse is. Arabians are so wonderful to us, and they deserve that same feeling from us."

For the Hazlewoods, their perfect day is to wake up to a beautiful and bright day, to listen to the horses as they make their morning greetings to one another, to go out of doors and take in the beauty of their home and property, to enjoy their son with his youthful energy, and to know that they come from a place of gratitude for each other, the people in their lives, and the blessings of each day.

With Jocelyn and Greg's approach to training and showing Arabian horses and their belief in the breed, the "perfect days" will be many.