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# A Handful of Diamonds

## The Hallany Mistanny/Babson Breeding Program at Snow Moon

By Diane Smith

Photographs by Gail Shaw Photography



### For the love of a horse

A dream came true for an 11 year old girl when her parents gave her an Arabian gelding named Raffany, a Hallany Mistanny grandson with \*Raffles on the dam side. Not Al Khamsa, not at all. Not the most expensive, not the best conformed, not the most decorated show horse, but, the one she fell in love with at first meeting. Through thick and thin, adolescence, college, beginning of a career, from show horse to trail horse, they were as one. Lost too soon at 21, Raffany left a memory so sweet, the best of times. Undoubtedly, many traits of that gelding were from his paternal grandsire; strong, powerful hindquarters, deep girth, good long hip, wide through the chest, fine bone and a head of classic Egyptian type. Surely the intangible qualities that he possessed came largely from that blood as well: a wonderful disposition and outstanding athletic ability and an indefinable charisma. He was so calm on the ground but an absolute fireball under saddle. These were the traits that were so beloved in that horse. The traits that the young woman promised herself she would, some day, find again.

### A Fortuitous Journey

Thirty years later a move to New England, a 75-acre farm, an old barn that needed renovation and, still, a dream so sweet. The farm did not make sense without horses. A search was launched and a horse was found. This horse, phenotypically, could be the sister of that beloved gelding. Off to Montana to El Hallany Arabians for the mare ELH Noor. And that is how it began.

### A leap of faith, how one horse became four

ELH Noor was a given purchase, but there was another. You can't really have just one, can you? This exquisite dark bay mare laid her head on

the woman's shoulder, and that was that. So, two were chosen. Then, on a trip to Ocala, the woman showed a picture of "the one she passed up" to an international confirmation judge. He said, "If at all possible, buy that mare today." A call was made, the mare was added, and a divorce almost ensued. So, one became three. Then there was the issue of "The Stallion". Bred by Mari Silveus of Sunnryhu Arabians, he was rarely used and utterly gorgeous. In a leap of faith, another call was made to "put the black horse on the trailer too". Upon parting, Ginny Garrett handed a book called *Al Khamsa Arabians II* to this woman. The question was posed, "What's Al Khamsa?" This is my story and that of my patient husband, too. My name is Diane Smith, he is Stu Counts. We are preservationist breeders, and I did figure out the Al Khamsa "thing"!

### Lynn & Virginia Garrett; El Hallany Arabians.

The *Khamsat* is planning a future article detailing and celebrating the contribution of the Garrett's breeding program. For this Rare Bloodlines issue it is important for breeders to know who has the bulk of El Hallany's stock. The Garretts have been kind enough to provide the information which follows in the final section titled, "Where the blood is now." To summarize the breeding program at El Hallany Arabians: It is based on \*Zarife, \*Roda, \*Nasr and \*H.H. Mohamed Alis Hamida, which W.R. Brown purchased from Prince Mohamed Ali of Egypt and imported in 1932. There is particular emphasis on Hallany Mistanny (\*Zarife x \*Roda). They assembled their foundation stock from across the country, meticulously preserving Hallany Mistanny blood for 22 years. At its height their ranch boasted 8 Stallions and 40 Mares, a labor of love and dedication to the Desert Bred Arabian Horse.

### The breeding program at Snow Moon

We combine Hallany Mistanny and Babson bloodlines within Al Khamsa. Our foundation mares, from El Hallany Arabians, possess rare concentrations of Hallany Mistanny blood. Our stallion, a Princeton Faaris son with a high concentration of Babson blood, contributes the perfect blend of these two important families.

Our Stallion; SR Mista Faaris AHR 545445 1997 black (Princeton Faaris x Sunnryhu Mis Mandy): Every element of this stallion's pedigree is rare and beautiful. He is 69.52% Straight Babson Egyptian, 30.09% Mahroussa (40 crosses), 10.94% Hallany Mistanny and 3.91% \*Turfa.

SR Mista Faaris is exquisitely linebred to the legendary Mahroussa, daughter of Negma, mother of \*Zarife, \*H.H. Mohamed Ali's Hamida, \*H.H. Mohamed Ali's Hamama, \*Maaroufa and \*Fadl. Sincer her maturity, the great Mahroussa has been described as "The Most Beautiful



ELH Qasaama



SMF Alnair



SR Mista Faaris

Mare ever produced in Egypt.” While one could say that SR Mista Faaris is an “outcross” to our high concentration Hallany Mistanny mares, he actually is more like an “outcross within” as Mahroussa is the bridge that unites the two “same” Babson and Brown importations.

Carrying rare Combined Source bloodlines, he offers much-needed genetic diversity in the U.S. *asil* population, where the annual birth rate of non-Egyptian Desert Arabians has dropped to about 50 in recent years. SR Mista Faaris is Al Khamsa, *asil*, Blue List eligible, Combined Source and Early American Foundation.

### Our Mares

ELH Qasaama AHR 0534764 1996 bay (Ru Ibn Roda x ELH Misaama) 23.44% Hallany Mistanny

ELH Noor AHR 0569063 1999 bay (ELH Ibn Azal x ELH Nura) 31.25% Hallany Mistanny

ELH Mabrouka AHR 0588970 2001 bay (ELH Mabrouk x KLH Lady Anne) 25% Hallany Mistanny

Although there are many living horses that carry Hallany Mistanny blood, those carrying high percentages are few. Those that are high percentage and Al Khamsa are even rarer. Hallany Mistanny sired 151 registered progeny, 26 of whom were Al Khamsa. Nine of the 26 left no progeny; 17 horses (4 stallions, 13 mares) were to carry on his legacy within Al Khamsa. The high concentration of Hallany Mistanny blood in our group of mares is truly remarkable when one considers that Hallany Mistanny was lost 44 years ago. These high percentage Hallany Mistanny horses exist today largely because of the efforts of Lynn and Virginia Garrett and their breeding program at El Hallany Arabians.

All three mares are Al Khamsa, *asil* and Blue List eligible. They possess the cherished beauty, athleticism and people loving personality of desert Arabians mares. They also have all of the qualities that are so characteristic of the Hallany Mistanny bloodline.

### Our Foals

SMF Alnair AHR 0641354 2008 black (Sr Mista Faaris x ELH Qasaama) 17.19% Hallany Mistanny: An exquisite black colt, stallion quality, beautiful action and a true “tent” personality. He was appraised by a nationally known trainer as “a home run”. This colt is our first foal and he certainly validates our belief in SR Mista Faaris’ potential as a sire and in the strength of his lovely broodmares.

Brand new: two bay fillies. SMF Bellatrix (SR Mista Faaris x ELH Mabrouka, and 17.97% Hallany Mistanny) was foaled 5/28/09. SMF Alnilam (SR Mista Faaris x ELH Noor, 21.09% Hallany Mistanny) was foaled 6/24/09.

In summary, through blind luck or fate, we have truly been given a handful of diamonds. So rare in their concentrations of Hallany Mistanny and Babson blood, so lovely to live with and so important to the future of Desert Arabians. We are honored to preserve this precious blood. Thank you, Lynn and Ginny Garrett and Mari Silveus for your foresight and for loving these horses.

### Where the blood is now

Diane Smith & Stu Counts, Snow Moon Farm, Meredith NH: Three mares, 23.44% to 31.25% Hallany Mistanny; Mary Allin, Ontario Canada: Twelve mares, Six stallions, 1 gelding, 23.44% to 34.38% Hallany Mistanny; Sandra Franey, Mansfield MA: Two mares, both 31.25% Hallany Mistanny; Chris Smith, Amira Arabians, Hitchcock SD: One stallion, 31.25% Hallany Mistanny.

Certainly there are others out there across the United States. Please e-mail information to [snowmoonfarm@aol.com](mailto:snowmoonfarm@aol.com) and we will add the information to our list for the upcoming article on El Hallany Arabians.

Thanks to Mari Silveus and Ginny Garrett for their help and encouragement with this article. ■



ELH Mabrouka with SMF Bellatrix



ELH Noor