This Dale Chavez Buckle awarded to all Champions!

The First Regional of the 2014 Arabian Show Season, Region 7, is Quite Possibly the Best of the Bunch

The first of the Arabian Regional Championship finals each year is Arizona's Region 7. Held at the WestWorld Show Facility in Scottsdale, Arizona, the fun and action begins with the ASHO4U pre-show, held this year on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22nd and 23rd. The pre-show is a helpful qualifier for the "big deal" … the Region 7 Championships held Thursday through Sunday, April 24th to the 27th. The second largest Arabian Regional show in the United States, Region 7 generally attracts between 600 and 700 of North America's most competitive Arabian and Half-Arabian horses. Judges for the ASHO4U show include Kelly Elm, Jim Hitt, Bruce Bates, Beth Nielsen, Tracey Lert, Kelly Alcorn and Jim Kier. Except for Kelly Elm and Beth Nielsen, all of these judges will also adjudicate at the Region 7 Championships. Adding to their ranks will be judges, Mike Budd, Jody Strand and Mike Nielsen.

Each year exhibitors at this show look forward to winning the coveted Dale Chavez silver belt buckles, awarded to the winners of every Region 7 Championship class. Wonderfully designed, these custom, one-of-a-kind buckles have been a spectacular hit since they were first awarded several years ago. The 2014 unique "look" is definitely the most beautiful to date. Dale Chavez has been making the finest custom saddles and silverwork for over 35 years. Understandably, the Region 7 Championship buckles have turned into precious souvenirs.

Chris Culbreth, AHA Region 7 Director, calls the Region 7 show a competition "designed for the exhibitor." He notes that each year the show commission listens carefully to exhibitor comments and tries hard to make improvements to the show. In 2014 the group has added a new English Trail class. "We are especially proud of the fact that we have three very different groups of competitors this year in three different rings," Chris adds. "The performance and Halter horses will be in the new Equidome, with its brand new facility and air-conditioning. The Working Western horses are just to the south of the Equidome and the Sport horse classes will be held in the ring to the east. There's also expanded shopping in the commercial exhibits!"

The directors are also pleased to point out the fact that there is enjoyment, fun and activities for everyone at Region 7. For those over 21, there's a Happy Hour at the Patron Hospitality Tent starting at 5 pm on both Friday and Saturday. For the kids there's a Youth meeting and Pizza party on the Monday before the show starts and the popular Painted Ponies on the final Saturday morning. The Region 7 Youth Club is presenting an AHA TAIL program for local school and scout groups on Friday and Saturday. Kelsey McMahan, Region 7 Youth Director notes that, "The Arabian horse's future lies in the hands of our youth, so we feel it is vital to create a love in the hearts of the public for the Arabian horse!"

For everyone, there's the Ice Cream Social on Saturday afternoon, hosted by the AHA 2014 Arabian Ambassador, Sshameless++. There are THREE great FUN classes: Ride A Buck on Saturday afternoon, the Wheelbarrow Jackpot Race on Saturday night and the Egg and Spoon Jackpot Race Sunday morning.

After all this, if you still can't make it to the show, you can watch the fun (and envy those having it) on www.ArabianHorseGlobal.com where the live streaming will bring you all the Region 7 Championship classes!

ENTRIES CLOSE Tuesday, March 25th. See the show premium and detailed information at http://aha7.org/index.html or call Show Secretary Melanni Hershberger at (480) 443-3372.