

Copple Show Horses

by SARAH JAYNE JOHNSON

Located in Nisqually Valley, Washington, about forty-five minutes from the Seattle Airport, a person will find the Arabian horse training farm gem, Copple Show Horses, owned by Ron and Yvonne Copple.

Ron has been training and showing Arabians and Half-Arabians for over 20 years. He has won numerous championships at regional and national shows in both western and hunter pleasure. He started riding horses when he was a child, which launched a passion for training horses.

Furthermore, Yvonne, a Canadian native, is an accomplished trainer in a variety of disciplines. Yvonne has multiple national, regional and Scottsdale championships in hunter pleasure, country pleasure, and show hack. Her expansive knowledge comes from learning from the industry's finest.

Yvonne has also been involved with Arabian horses since she was young, due to her mother. When Yvonne was five, she received a Half-Arabian and was hooked. At the age of 17, she started to give lessons to kids in showmanship and equitation, and her business took off.

Her training facility was just outside of White Rock, British Columbia; a very successful business for 18 years, training, showing, and buying and selling horses for clients and their kids until she moved to the United States about six years ago to be with Ron. They compete at several different regionals in the northwest with their clients, and together, will celebrate Copple Show Horses' seven years this coming December.



Yvonne and STLA Fonda Fantasy, 2017 Scottsdale Reserve Champion Half-Arabian Hunter Pleasure Junior Horse.



Responsible for the care of anywhere between 27 and 35 horses in training throughout the year, they compete in a variety of disciplines. Ron works mainly the western horses and some of the hunters, while Yvonne trains hunter, country and show hack.

Their horses' care comes first, along with building future stars in their western and hunter futurity and junior horse programs. Yvonne shares she would like to see more amateurs come in and buy younger horses where the owner and horse can grow together and be competitive at nationals. The ability to match the horse to the amateur is a goal for all trainers, and the Copples' have proven their ability to match horses to their best and most suitable rider.

Yvonne and Ron's versatility as trainers is what makes them so special. One of their clients, Lori Osberg, spoke about how their skills have helped Osberg's daughter be able to compete. "Ron and Yvonne are hard-working, dedicated trainers. They complement each other in their training methods and bring their own knowledge to their program. They have really helped my daughter, Jenna, improve her riding skills after she was in a bad car accident almost 10 years ago."

The Copples' dedication and love for training horses and their clients comes through in their accomplishments. They recently came home from the Canadian Nationals with several wins, and both have taken many amateurs to regional and national wins in different divisions. The majority of Yvonne's favorite moments in the show arena are watching her amateurs win at any level, to see their dreams come true.



Yvonne aboard 2014 Scottsdale Champion H/A Hunter Pleasure Junior Horse, CJ Commander.

Carol Tedrick has known Ron for almost 20 years and has watched him grow into the person and horseman he is today. Always game to help in any way, Ron helped Carol with a horse she struggled with. "They both are delightful and so hard working," says Carol. "Ron knows how to train, adjusting the horse to the rider to a certain extent, making it the best experience for their clients."

Chris Hanson, a caravan friend, as well as client, could not talk enough about his trainers. "Ron is a horseman first and a trainer second. I studied at the shows what I liked and what I didn't like, and Ron kept coming up. The only horse I have with outside trainers is with Ron. I travel with him and his horses come first; we stop overnight, and we don't drive too many hours. I couldn't be more satisfied of my decision with Ron as my trainer. He is kind and I've never heard him talk bad about another trainer. There is nothing negative about Yvonne or Ron; I am very pleased with my decision."

Other long-time friends and recent clients, Mel and Toni Lick, explained the dedication and passion they see the Copples having for the horses. "My husband and I have known Ron and Yvonne for many years, but we had never done business with them until last fall," says Toni. "Our mare had injured herself and we were in the process of rehabilitating her and found ourselves needing assistance. The Copples live nearby and we called upon them to help. Not only did they do a great job conditioning our mare, but they took her to a new level of performance. At the young age of 69, I was reserve champion in country pleasure in our region. We owe both Yvonne and Ron a debt of gratitude for their patience and hard work."

The barn atmosphere is one-in-a-million full of love for one another as well as the Arabian breed. One of their clients, Barbara Cornelius, described her favorite part about being part of the farm. "My favorite thing is the lack of drama among clients. Everyone is so supportive with a strong sense of teamwork. Ron and Yvonne work well together to provide a good experience for their clients."

After talking to Ariel Stevens, it was clear how much she loved being part of the barn. "I am proud to be a part of the Copple Show Team. The atmosphere of the barn is relaxed, and everyone is extremely supportive of one another. Ron and Yvonne are both talented trainers who always do what is best for the horse first. I greatly respect their knowledge and have complete trust in them to care and provide the best, tailored training plan for my horse. Their hard work and dedication to their program is shown through successful show results, but most importantly, through their happy horses and clients. The Copple barn is my second family."

Kim Peterson is the head groom at Copple Show Horses. Her background is with cow horses and race horses, so Arabians are a new experience for her. However, she explained how Ron and Yvonne take the time to teach her. Peterson could not be more thankful to have bosses who are caring and couldn't imagine wanting to go anywhere else.

Through dedication comes trust with the trainer, and that is what makes Yvonne and Ron so important to Marilyn Hodgson. Mrs. Hodgson lost her husband, Jim, who chose the sire of Marilyn's most important horse, Big Jim. When needing a trainer, she did not second guess where to send him. Marilyn said, "Big Jim had to be placed with Ron and Yvonne. He is the most important horse of my life and they are who I felt most comfortable with sending him to. The reason in one word ... integrity. Obviously, they are also fantastic trainers, as their record demonstrates."

It won't be necessary to look for this power team at U.S. Nationals, they will be front and center.



Ron with STA C Im Fondau, partners in multiple championship wins.

"IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT!"

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