

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CINDY AND T. WAYNE JONES

Cindy and T. Wayne Jones have been “hoofing” it down from Roanoke for three years, now, to WCAHA’s Fall Class A show. I caught up with them recently to ask “Why?”

“Your show is around the same time as the one in Lexington, VA, which is only 45 minutes away from us...but we drive all the way down to Clemson because it’s such a fun show,” Cindy says. “It’s a bit of a drive, but it’s worth it. “

Jones adds that the facilities are very safe for the horses, and you don’t have to walk yourself to death to get back and forth. And she says that everyone is so warm and friendly from the office staff to the people behind the scenes who make things run smoothly, that it makes it worth the drive.

“Nancy (Baker) always runs a great show, and even when the judge arrived late Friday because of an automobile accident, I didn’t hear one gripe from exhibitors,” she explains. “The office kept us all informed, and everyone was able to deal with the delay just fine.”

The Jones have been involved in Arabians for many years; Cindy “for a lifetime,” as she laughingly puts it. “My grandfather, Eugene R. Sweeney, imported a Raffles-bred grandson back in 1954 to SW Virginia, and T.W. and I have owned Arabians exclusively for some time.”

The couple has two western pleasure horses that they show, in a friendly “family rivalry,” as Cindy describes it. They also both show a country pleasure horse they own, and this year, a filly they bred was shown in WCAHA’s Futurity program.

“The personalities of these horses just get under your skin,” says Jones. “My husband’s 23-year-old western pleasure horse (that he continues to show) has more spirit about him, even now. We all should be so lucky.”

“We like to try a new show every year, and this year, we hauled to Murfreesboro, TN,” Jones says. (The couple attended a total of six—three Old Dominion shows, and one each in North Carolina, Clemson, and the NC State Fair.) They usually hit a couple of local shows during the year as well.

And how did they learn about the Western Carolinas shows at Clemson? “I saw the ad promoting the show in the ArabianNews, and we made Clemson our ‘check-it-out’ show three years ago,” Cindy says.

“We show for fun,” she explains. “I know a lot of people show for points and prestige, but we just pack up our horses and our dog and set out to have fun.”