

Cherishably TAJ by Dianne Kuhn

Chablis is a 16-hand bay Arabian gelding. His birthdate is February 9, 1985, has over 3000 UMECRA miles, and has participated in UMECRA Rides since he was a four-year-old. He competed competitively until he was seven, and then I switched him over to endurance. In 1998 I let my daughter, Elizabeth, campaign him in UMECRA.

While Chablis placed top-ten in competitive, he was never content being part of the bunch. He is the happiest at the head of the pack, and he's always looking down the trail for the next horse to pass. An example of this behavior was at a ride in Jordan, MN this summer. Two riders left the first check a minute ahead of him. He was acting up and when Elizabeth checked him, his hind end went out from under him on the slippery grass, and he went over backwards losing Liz. When he got up riderless, he beat-feet down the trail after the other horses--not back to the trailer. Chablis has consistently finished top-ten carrying either a heavyweight or lightweight rider; and he has many first-across-the-line finishes.

At home, he is the first one to come to the barn when called, and he has given a lot of the neighbor children their "first ride." When it comes to conditioning, he's the first one chosen to ride by everyone at our house.

Chablis has been and continues to be my "once-in-a-lifetime-horse," and I hope you are all lucky enough to experience the horse-rider relationship Chablis and I have had in competition.

