

Tintagel Enterprises, Ltd.

Westhampton, Massachusetts

by Rebecca Hurst

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While 2006 ended with awards and celebration, there was barely a break as 2007 was off with the start of foaling season. It's always busy at Tintagel Enterprises, Ltd., the 107 acre Andalusian breeding center in Westhampton, Massachusetts, but this year it seems there are more activities than ever.

The 2006 show season ended successfully with the purebred Andalusian pinto mare Augusta winning High Point for the region in the Pleasure/Saddle Halter Horse division from the NE Pinto Horse Association. Augusta won many Championships all season long and was the Regional Champion Pleasure Horse. As if showing on one circuit weren't enough, Augusta also won two different first places in the USDF All Breed Awards in the sporthorse divisions for Broodmares. And all while nursing a strapping colt! Now that's a mighty mare!

There's never time for a rest for the Tintagel Team: As soon as 2006 ended, the 2007 foal crop started arriving. Two more foaling cams were added this year so all eight

foals were born live on the streaming Internet cameras, much to the delight of a dedicated group of watchers. Between February and June, six purebred Andalusian foals and two Drum horse foals arrived in fine style.

New to Tintagel this year were those arrivals of two Drum Horse foals, the larger cousins of the Gypsy Horses. Tintagel's



The Andalusian stallion Comico VI

PHOTO: JEFF ANDERSON

Friesian mare Zoe gave birth to a stunning black and white pinto Martian by the Drum stallion King Rocky. Wait, Martian? Sarah Hollis, owner, explains, "He came out and was immediately dubbed 'Marvin the Martian' since all of the Andalusian mares had never seen such loud colors before and snorted and blew at him like he had just landed from Mars." So the colorful Marvin the Martian, whose registered name is actually Siegfried, made his first impression at Tintagel.

Nine days after the last foal arrived, show season was off and running with the Region's Andalusian show held at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Sarah took 12 of Tintagel's finest to strut their stuff in the breed ring. Making his U.S. debut was Tintagel's newest stallion, Comico VI, and making a surprise entry was the long-retired Castle Oak Pendragon, better known as Uther.



The three purebred Tintagel Champions from the Regional Andalusian show.

Uther was unofficially retired six years previously due to his advancing melanoma, and at the time veterinarians gave him three months to live. Good thing Uther refused to listen and years later he is alive and well. In a touching and moving ceremony, Uther was brought into the ring in his retirement cooler and then had it removed as his "unretirement" ceremony. To top it off Uther competed the next day in halter and once again proved he still "has it" by winning Champion Gelding. So does that prove men do age well and get better when they're all grey?

While Uther was the emotional highlight of the show, other Tintagel entries fared equally well with all the Halter Championships and Grand Championships going to Tintagel-owned horses. But in the end the real star was Comico. Sarah says, "He is so quiet and gentle at home I was worried he wouldn't show well." Well, as it turns out, her fears were unfounded because as soon as he hit



PHOTO: JEFF ANDERSON

A Drum horse filly at Tintagel.

the warm-up Comico came alive with energy and enthusiasm; and when he bounded into the ring he captivated both judge and audience alike with his presence. Comico was Grand Champion Andalusian for the show, High Point Andalusian, and won every class he went in. When the activity was all done, he went back to his stall and fell fast asleep under his long mop of thick hair as if nothing extraordinary had happened.

"He has really impressed me in the short time he's been here," says Sarah. "He's so gentle and quiet it's easy to forget he's a stallion." And did we mention? Comico is a rare and unusual color for a purebred Andalusian being a sabino roan/rabicano with enough white roaning and patches all over to make him look like an Appaloosa. Comico's first U.S. foals are due in 2008 and he is bred to all the rare colored mares at Tintagel, including the wonder-mare, Augusta. "We are so looking forward to see what he produces," says Sarah, "The movement and temperament are exciting enough but the colors we might get add extra anticipation."

So with many more shows to go and next year's foals already incubated away in their dams, it's just another whirlwind year for the team at Tintagel! To learn more, visit www.tintagelandalusians.com/. ■