

Never, in her wildest dreams did Allison imagine how much they would accomplish together. "Fireman" is the only full Arabian to win both the Amateur and Open divisions at Canadian Nationals and U.S. Nationals in the same year.

Bred by Dr. LH and Vanessa Quartly of Innisfail, AB, and by Forelock's Petja out of Polka Jane, VLQ Friendly Fire (aka Fireman or "the little red desert goat") has been making waves in the Arab world. Never, in the wildest dreams of his owner, Allison Mostowich, did she imagine how much they would accomplish together.

In 2006, after retiring her Country English Pleasure mare from competition, Allison thought it might be fun to try her hand at reining and friend Sandy Hester thought that "Fireman" was available for purchase from Kevin and Nadine Cusack. Already an accomplished reining horse with trainer Ron Brouwer aboard, Fireman had never been ridden by an amateur. Allison tried him, loved him and thus began many a weekend trip from Lethbridge, where she was attending university, to Clive, where she learned to ride the talented reiner. Allison claims she can still hear Ron shouting, "Get your inside leg off him, this isn't dressage!" With Ron's encouragement and coaching, Fireman and Allison won both amateur classes and finished top 3 in the open class at the 2007 Region 17 Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Championship show.

Attempting to widen their competition experience, with the full support of the Brouwers, in 2008 Allison and Fireman made the move to Silver Aspen Ranch in Auburn, Washington, and LaRae Fletcher-Powell. Fireman exhibited a lot more attitude than LaRae likes in her horses and he made a less than auspicious debut that year at a Class 'A' show. Reluctant to enter the ring, he forced LaRae to "cowboy up" and cleared out the hitching area in the process. Since then, through LaRae's program of "attitude adjustment", he has become a polished performer with just a little more attitude than LaRae likes in her horses.

At the 2009 Region 17 Championship Show, Fireman and Allison again won both amateur classes but this time, also won the open class. At the Region 5 Championship show, Fireman was awarded the champion's garland in the amateur class and rode to Reserve Champion in the Open class. Allison's favourite memory from the Region 5 show was the run-off for Reserve Champion in which she and Fireman topped the champion's score, the champion being their trainer LaRae! Could it get any better?



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