November/December 2019 #5

Happy Fall! Hope everyone had a great summer and are looking forward to cooler weather and fun filled adventures. The kids are back to school, there's a crispness in the air and Pumpkin Spice everything is appearing on the store shelves. The holiday season is now upon us and for many in our region, so is an early flood of cold weather and snow. Here in Salmon, ID, there's already snow on the mountains and they are predicting a low of -2 for November 1st! I'm not ready for that yet.

Susan McLaughlin, our Region Governor, recently asked if I would be the new Region VIII Chair as Celeste Rosquist, who has been the Chair for many years, was retiring. Since I was already doing the newsletter, I agreed to this, so, besides the newsletter editor, I'm the Region VIII Chair.

With all the holiday photo opportunities and activities coming up, it would be great to see how you celebrate the season with your ponies. If you want to send photos, I can also forward them on to the ACPS magazine and the Region VIII facebook page.

This is your newsletter so if there is something you'd like to see, just let me know. I know folks are doing fun stuff with their ponies. I really need help with information and PICTURES!!! The next deadline for newsletter information is December 15th.

Don't forget the public facebook page which can be found at: American Connemara Pony Society - Region 8. Thank-you to those who have been sending stuff for the newsletter and for all your future help and support. Have a great holiday season, enjoy the cooler days and stay safe, Susan.

ACPS Webpage: Be sure to check out the ACPS website www.acps.org, it has lots of useful information including a membership Directory. To log into the website the User Name is acpsmember and the Password is ride4fun.
A big thank-you to Celeste Rosquist for her many years as the Region VIII Chair.

2019 ACPS Half-bred Pony of the Year:
Congratulations to RR Cool Play aka Becks for being co-selected as the 2019 ACPS Half-Bred Pony of the Year. Becks is owned by junior rider, Ryder Richardson of Colorado. Here's Ryder's facebook page response to the award, “Thank you so much to the ACPS (American Connemara Pony Society) for awarding my amazing pony, RR Cool Play aka Becks, HB National PONY of the YEAR 2019. This very special pony deserves all the applause that he can get- because he is PURE GOLD. He has been my steadfast partner in all things. He has taught me how to be brave, how to have patience, how to persevere and never quit. He has been my best friend on the very best, and the very worst of days. He has given me so much unconditional love. He is the best teammate, motivator, and being in the universe. He owns my heart.

This is such an incredible honor for my boy. I am so proud of him for his loving and silly personality and for being one of the most athletic and brave horses that I have ever sat on. He is my pony of a lifetime. I love him more than anything in the world. THANK YOU.”

Ryder and Becks compete in jumping classes and on their first trip to the U.S. Pony Jumper National Championships at the Kentucky Horse Park, the duo were part of a four member team that placed third, earning bronze medals in the Pony Jumpers Team Championship competition. The pair also helped promote the Connemara breed by participating in the Mane Event at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo down at the National Western Stock Show.

This is the third year in a row that Region VIII ponies have earned Pony of the Year titles. The 2018 Halfbred winner was VSH Devine Alexandra, grey mare, 13 hands, (Tullymor's Ned Devine x Missy), owned by Susan Dudasik, Salmon, Idaho. In 2017 the Purebred award went to Chris Knox's driving ponies, Knox Farm Hobby, a 2001 mare, (RosNaRi Kilcullen x Avenns Silke Sonata), Knox Farm Alamode, a 2003 mare, (RosNaRi Kilcullen x Avenns Silke Sonata), Knox Farm Felicity a 2003 mare (RosNaRi Kilcullen x Ballyhamage Generals Miss) and Knox Farm Tassel, a 2005 mare (RosNaRi Kilcullen x Ballyhamage Generals Miss).
Congratulations to: *Smaragaid Cliff's daughter Glendalough's Dahlne' out of Appassionato Rose, TB, as well as her owner/trainer Sonya Francoise Beardsley and breeder Frances O'Reilly!! Dahli won the Future Event Horse 3 Year Old class at the Spokane Sport Horse H.T. She scored a winning 79.70 percent for conformation and type. We are so excited for her future! Cliff is an ACPS Premium Stallion, USEF Leading Dressage and Eventing Sire, USDF and All Breeds Champion standing near Colorado Springs, CO. Rose is a purebred Thoroughbred who successfully evented and jumped in the 1.10 meter class.

2019 has been an amazing year for *Smaragaid Cliff's purebred Connemara daughter, Cobblestone Sandpiper, out of Four Loch's Perfect Storm as well as her breeder Pat Ashworth and trainer/rider Leslie Hagberg! Piper is: USEF HOTY Champion Purebred Connemara Mare; 6th Place USEF HOTY Purebred Connemara Hunter (her debut on this list); 12th place (out of 31) USEF Purebred HOTY Connemara Dressage; USDF All-Breeds Champion First Level Open; top 25 percent USDF Dressage Horse of the Year First Level. Submitted by Karen Laden.
**Meet our members:** Chris Knox of Chesterfield, ID
Has been an active member of ACPS for many years. In 1982 her family founded Knox Farm as a sporthorse breeding and training farm specializing in Connemara ponies and Connemara/Throughbred sporthorses.

Chris has served in numerous positions throughout the organization. She was recently on the ACPS Nominating Committee, and continues to be on the USEF Connemara Committee. The Knox family has been active in eventing, jumping, dressage and driving with their ponies and have won numerous national and international awards. Throughout the years, aside from showing, Chris has used their ponies for lessons and clinics as well as camps focusing on horse management and horsemanship. In supporting the claim that Connemaras can do it all, the Knox ponies are also used for ranch work, like moving, rounding up and branding cows.

Photos are of Knox Farm Hobby by RosNaRi Kilcullen out of Avenns Silke Sonata. Hobby is the right leader in the team. Phil is driving the team. Chris riding or driving in the other photos. Hobby is one of the Knox ponies that received the 2017 ACPS Purebred award.
**ACPS Merchandise:** Did you know you can purchase some really neat ACPS logo stuff at the Region III Connemara Boutique on Facebook. They have lots of neat clothes, saddle pads, fly veils and much more featuring the “Connemaras Do It All” logo. Remember, Christmas is coming. Lots of great gift ideas.

Wow! Look at this matching set. Connemaras Do It All saddlepad in white with Kelly green trim, $30; Lucky Horse full size breakaway halter, $40, Fluff Monkey, $24.95 and new Ellany Equestrian belt (one size fits all), $44.95. Purchase the complete set or individual pieces. Shipping extra.

**Achievement Award reports:** It's that time of the year again. All paperwork for the various awards are due. Please send a separate report soon after each competition or activity. Remember to include copy of sanction page for those that were recognized. A copy of your ACPS membership card needs to be included when you send in your first report form for the year. Send in a separate report soon after each competition / activity to: Karen Laden 12625 Hallelujah Trail, Elbert, CO 80106 kingswellponies@yahoo.com

**Final deadline for points to be recorded for the year: December 31, 2019.**

Here are the links to the awards forms and requirements:

https://www.acps.org/documents/awards/31-achievement-awards-recording-form-competitive/file

https://www.acps.org/documents/awards/32-achievement-award-recording-form-non-competitive/file

https://www.acps.org/documents/awards/45-points-requirements-for-achievement-awards/file

**Region VIII Representatives:** Thanks to the following Region VIII ladies for serving in the following ACPS positions: Susan McLaughlin from Colorado is the Region VIII Governor.

Karen Laden, also from Colorado, is the achievement awards points secretary.

Chris Knox from Chesterfield, ID has held many ACPS positions throughout the years and is currently on the USEF Connemara Committee & Breeders Committee.

Susan Dudasik, from Idaho is the newsletter editor and new Region VIII Chair.

**Membership by state:** We may be few, but we are mighty. From the list I was sent, it looks like last year we had 27 members. Let's see if we can grow that this year. By state, we had, Colorado- 12, Southern Idaho- 5, Montana- 2, New Mexico-1, Utah- 5 and Wyoming -1. **Land wise Region VIII is larger then regions 1, 2 & 3 combined.**
USEF Safe Sport Training required for USEF competitors: Don't forget if you are competing in USEF events, every one over age 18 is required to complete the core Safe Sport Training within 30 days of activating your membership. If you do not complete the training, you are ineligible to participate in all USEF activities, including competitions. Take the Safe Sport Training at USEF.org.

Information for the next newsletter is due December 15th

CALENDAR:
Dec. 15- Newsletter information due
January 1 – Newsletter out
Feb 15- Newsletter information due
March 1 – Newsletter out
April 10-12 - Idaho Horse Expo- Nampa, Idaho
April 15- Newsletter information due
May 1 – Newsletter out
May 16 – Spring Open Dressage Schooling Show – Big Sky Region Pony Clubs at White Aspen Ranch in Billings, MT

Big Sky Horse Park: Located in Missoula, MT this park hosts a variety of events for English and Western riders. www.bigskyhorsepark.org

CLASSIFIED ADS: TRAIL EQUINE LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
This certificate program is to provide a progressive guideline for riders to prepare their equines to have a safe, enjoyable experience on the trail, show ring or general riding. There are three levels, bronze, silver and gold in both the in-hand and ridden division. To pass each level, an equine must pass all the requirements in that section. The Bronze riding level is basic ground work and obstacles, Silver focuses on ridden obstacle skills and the Gold level focuses on more advanced work. Certificates will be awarded when the equine passes each level. Equines should be able to do each requirement in a calm, willing, consistent manner, not show ring perfect. Each person will decide what they feel is a good attempt. There is no time limit to complete the levels. Some skills in more advanced levels may be signed off on before finishing the previous level.

There's a $15 per equine registration fee for the in-hand and first level series if it is done through video on-line. New levels may be added at a $5 fee. All equines must start at the Bronze level and work through Silver to Gold. Many of the requirements can be presented through photos as well as video. Photos and videos may be posted on the Misfit Farm Trail Program facebook page. The goal for this program is for folks to have fun spending time with their equine and try new challenges. Have fun!

For details visit our facebook page: Misfit Farm Trail Program or call 208-940-1186 or e-mail misfitfarms@centurylink.net.
A Champion Stallion from Champion European Lines successfully passing it on

*Smaragaid Cliff
(Munkholm Cobbergate x Shamrock Bright Roxanne) 14.3hh, brown

• ACPS Premium Stallion
• Two ACPS Gold Medallions
• USDF & All-Breeds Champion
• USEF Leading Eventing & Dressage Sire, HOTY
• German Golden Medal Winner
• HWSD N/N; no grey, dilute genes

The Proof is in his Progeny
Karen Laden
http://www.kingswellconnemaras.com/
Visit Cliff on Facebook at Kingswell Connemaras
719-495-3892