Happy New Year 2021

Happy New Year! Sure hope things settle down so we can get back to shows, clinics, and other events. It's been pretty quiet so not much to report. We've been playing around with doing some WE obstacles in the round pen and just playing with the horses. That's one thing that's always fun to do. Speaking of fun with the horses, ACPS is considering a new, non-competitive achievement award, Fun With Pony. As I understand it, you can earn the award by recording the time you spend doing things with your pony. It's been a trial program in other regions and I heard it will be discussed at the up coming ACPS Board of Governors meeting which is usually scheduled for January. Though, I haven't heard the date. If you are interested in this type of program, you can contact some of the Governors and express your interest. Their contact information is in the last magazine. Our Region VIII Governor is Susan McLaughlin (970) 749-4332 duckspringfarm@aol.com. This is a great opportunity for all those retired show ponies or for those who don't want to compete, to earn a special award with their pony.

Thank you to those who sent in photos for our winter ponies section. Just love seeing everyone having fun with their ponies. Sure hope to see more for the next issue.

Don't forget to send information for the “Meet the Members” blurb. I need folks to send a photo and a short paragraph about themselves. Also need folks to let me know who's doing what. Foal photos are fun, too. What about ways to promote our ponies or a barn tip? Anyone attending a clinic with their pony?

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 February 15th. Thank-you to those who have been sending stuff for the newsletter and for all your future help and support.  

Susan

Meet & Greets: If anyone would like to do a M&G in their area, please let me know and I will help all I can. We are very widespread so if others would be willing to do something in their area, we could really grow our region. It doesn't take much. You can simply make a poster with your ponies pictures and some brochures set out on a table. I can send you some. It's a simple, inexpensive way to promote our ponies. If you have any ideas on promoting our ponies, please feel free to share. Barb Sullivan, that's on the WE Connemara fb page, sent a photo of her stall sign that she uses to promote her ponies at WE events. The sign is made of vinyl.

I recently did some posting in the regional horse fb pages telling folks about ACPS Region VIII and asked if there were any Connemara folks in the area. To my surprise, I had about a dozen folks contact me. So maybe just putting out a “Hay are there any Connemara pony folks out there” kind of post in your area horse fb pages might be a great way to find other folks.

Utah Members: Celeste Rosquist has offered to see if she can get something together for a meet and greet in Utah. Thanks Celeste, that's great. Please contact Celeste at (801) 573-7452 or e-mail her at c.rosquist@msn.com

Junior Members: Our junior members have been active promoting their ponies. Ryder Richardson and his pony, Becks, were featured in the Breyerfest 2020 Connemara video. If you haven't seen the video yet, check it out at https://vimeo.com/420294484.

Bridget Kelly from New Mexico had to make a "how to" video for her class this semester and she chose to make a "how to groom your horse" video using her Connemara, Chai. What a great way to introduce her classmates to Connemaras. She even posted the video on youtube for others to enjoy. Chai was a great partner and was gleaming at the end. Please check out their video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mos3P18m31A

Calling all ACPS Juniors- check out the new ACPS junior run Instagram @acpsjuniors! Tag your photos (with pony’s breeding) for shares.
Junior Member Help Wanted – ACPS is looking for a Junior member who would like to be involved with communicating, connecting and publishing news and events that ACPS Junior members are enjoying. If you would like to apply for the position, unpaid but very appreciated, please send an email to Linda Haines at troutranch@metrocast.net. Please let us know how you think the ACPS could improve their interaction with the Junior members.

The American Connemara Pony Society’s
2nd Annual Stallion Auction
Coming February 2021!

If you missed the opportunity to participate in our inaugural stallion auction, listen up!

We are requesting donated breedings for the 2021 auction. Stallions must be a registered Purebred or Halfbred Connemara with fresh or frozen semen readily available in North America. Information & photos of your stallion must be submitted by December 31st, 2020. The auction will be shared widely across social media platforms, garnering thousands of hits on the site. This is a great opportunity for ‘free’ press & advertising at the beginning of the breeding season, while making a charitable donation to the society.

In our first year, we had 23 donated breedings (fresh & frozen) from registered Purebred & Halfbred Connemara stallions in the USA & Canada, and raised over $9,000 for the Susan McConnell ACPS Foundation. The foundation is a 501c3 not for profit entity that provides funds exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Thanks to donations from our membership, the foundation has supported breed exhibitions such as the 2010 World Equestrian Games, HWS&D Melanoma research at UC Davis, Senior & Junior scholarships & awards established to recognize contributions to the Connemara breed. We hope that the ACPS Stallion Auction will continue to be a reliable source of income to the foundation.

For more information, or to donate a breeding to your stallion, please contact:

Megan Buchanan Harris
ladetogreyfarm@gmail.com (email preferred)
770 833 5159

WE Award: USA Working Equitation (USAWE) will be offering a year-end Connemara pony breed award for all Connemara and half-Connemara ponies competing in 2021. The award is for any pony registered with USAWE as a full or part Connemara. For more information check out their website at https://usawe.org

ACPS Achievement Awards:
Categories for achievement awards are: Competitive- In-hand, driving, eventing, competitive trail/endurance (miles) dressage, hunter, jumper, Western and Working Equitation (WE). Non-competitive awards are for: Fox hunter, Pony Club, 4-H, Working Ranch Horse, Therapeutic Riding/driving.
Winter ponies

Ryder Richardson and RR Cool Play (Becks) in Parker, CO.

Chris Knox of Chesterfield, ID enjoying a little ski joring with her pony
Here are some pictures of my ponies in the snow taken a few years ago during a snowstorm. I really love these photos. Currently we have little to no snow on the ground. The bay is Hollymead Meadow Lark, a purebred 11-year-old mare. The grey is Hollymead Night Owl "Hootie". He is a 6-year-old 15.1 hand pure bred Connemara gelding.

**Celeste Rosquist from Herriman, UT**

This is my pony Macbradaigh's Irish Whistle the year that she was at True North Farm on Cape Cod in training as a Pony Club pony with Kay Slater. Now she is a driving pony for the winter. Maybe these were in 2015. She is a Premium mare by Maplehurst Michael Macdaire.

**Sally Oxnard of Paradox Connemaras in Exeter, Nfld**
Bridget Kelly from New Mexico sharing her home-made stocking full of horse treats with Chai, her Connemara/QH cross.

The Misfit Farm crew. Bonnie the mule, Susan Dudasik, VSH Devine Alexandra, Skye the Aussie and Jack the corgi.

Did you know? MARCUS AURELIUS was a Connemara/Thoroughbred ridden by Mary Anne Tauskey. The pair competed in the 1975 Pan American Games and were members of the Gold Medal winning United States Eventing Team. In 1976 they were again on the Gold Medal winning United States Eventing Team.

Information for the next newsletter is due Feb. 15th

ACPS Merchandise: Great way to start the new show season and promote your favorite breed with this beautiful PRI Dressage Pad. White with kelly green trim and logo. $45.00 plus shipping.

ACPS Webpage: Be sure to check out the ACPS website www.acps.org, it has a lot of useful information including a membership Directory. To log into the website the User Name is acpsmember and the Password is ride4fun. They have been working hard to update the website with lots of new information.

CALENDAR:
Jan. 1 – Time to renew your memberships
Feb 15 - Newsletter information due
March 1 – Newsletter out
April 9 -11 – Idaho Horse Expo Nampa, ID
April 15 - Newsletter information due
May 1 – Newsletter out
July 16-18th Karen O’Neal clinic at Big Sky Horse Park
Sept 23-26, 2021 – ACPS Annual Meeting

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

Any other folks doing trail clinics, challenges or events? Would love to see photos from your event or if you know of any events happening in the Region VIII area, I’d be glad to put them on the calendar.

Karen O’Neal clinics - Karen O’Neal is a level III USEA ICP instructor, top Area VII competitor, and generous spirit! Clinics are for every age and level. Email Natalie @ natmc12@gmail.com for details. We may be hosting a spring event in Missoula as well.
April 16-18th @ Spokane Sport Horse Farm
May 7-9th @ Washington State Horse Park
July 16-18th @ Big Sky Horse Park

They are starting to get Classes on their schedule for 2021 both in person and zoom options! To learn more about dates check out www.steepridgetrails.com or message them with questions. #equinefirstaid #horsehealth #steepridgetrails #accidentpronehorse #BePrepared

I took this course a few years ago and it was one of the best investments I've made. Highly recommend doing something like this. It was a real eye opener. And, they are doing ZOOM versions, too.

To encourage everyone to send in something for the newsletter, the names of those contributing something will be put in for a drawing for a small gift.

This month's newsletter contributor winner is Ryder Richardson from CO. Her gift is a small decal and a note pad with the ACPS logo. Congratulations Ryder! Thank you Ryder for contributing to almost every newsletter.

Classified ads:

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.

Region VIII Breeders

**Kingswell Connemaras**

A Champion Stallion from Champion European Lines successfully passing it on

*Smaragdail Cliff*
(Munholm Cobbergate x Shamrock Bright Roxanne) 14.3h, brown

- ACPS Premium Stallion
- Two ACPS Gold Medallions
- USDF & All-Breeds Champion
- USEF Leading Eventing & Dressage Sire
- HOTHY
- German Golden Medal Winner
- HWSO 1/1; 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

**FINN’S IRISH CREAME**

ACPS (2526) XXXIII - Inspected & Approved  HWSO-N/N
1996 Dun Stallion 13.3H
By *Grange Finn Sparrow (659)CPBS out of Matilda (8360)CPBS
Shipped Cooled or Frozen: Semen
Call or email for pricing

**JARRE CREEK CONNEMARAS**

Kaye Hurley Lefkowicz | Sedalia, CO | 303.619.0433 | grintridge@gmail.com
To view more photos visit https://hurleybellphotography.photoshelter.com/gallery/Finn’s-Irish-Creames/collectionBly4HIC
Region VIII Representatives:
Susan McLaughlin from Colorado is the Region VIII Governor.
Karen Laden from Colorado, is the achievement awards points secretary & Board of Governors - Governors-At-Large
Chris Knox from Chesterfield, ID is on the USEF Connemara Committee & Breeders Committee.
Susan Dudasik, from Salmon, Idaho is the newsletter editor and new Region VIII Chair
January/February 2021 #11 part 2
My computer is older and wouldn't send the whole newsletter. Here's part 2.

Congratulations!

Photo: Cobblestone Sandpiper with Leslie Hagberg
Article and photos submitted by Karen Laden

In a year offering limited opportunities to compete in recognized shows, I checked USEF’s 2020 yearend rankings out of curiosity. What a surprised to find *Smaragaid Cliff (Munkholm Cobbergate x Shamrock Bright Roxanne) and two of his progeny listed!
Thanks to Cobblestone Sandpiper (*Smaragaid Cliff x Four Lochs Perfect Storm) and her success showing Second Level at USDF shows, Cliff again is the top ranked Connemara for USEF Leading Dressage Sires. Piper tied for ninth place USEF Horse of the Year Purebred Connemara Dressage. Piper’s owner/breeder is Pat Ashworth of Cobblestone Connemaras in California. Leslie Hagberg trains and shows Piper.
Earning the tied honor of USEF Horse of the Year Champion Halfbred Connemara Eventing is Talamah Bound (*Smaragaid Cliff x Tartan, a Trakehner). Based on Tali’s outstanding results, Cliff is the second ranked Connemara for USEF Leading Eventing Sires. Tali’s owner/breeder is Tammy Lisi of Iowa. Tali started 2020 trained and shown by Hannah Jungling. Upon her mid-summer move out of state, Tali’s reins were taken by Darci Lorensen and his success continued.

Photo: Tali at Jung 2020 schooling in Iowa with Hannah.

I congratulate these owners and trainers for their hard work and national success! I’m also grateful that all Cliff’s kids continue to demonstrate his quality as a sire of exceptional, athletic purebred and halfbred Connemaras.

Genetic Testing Update: By Karen Laden

A new genetic test for Connemara Ponies, specifically breeding stock, recently became available through the UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. Stated simply, the test checks for DDB2, which is a marker for Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC). The scientific article *DDB2 Genetic Risk Factor for Ocular Squamous Cell Carcinoma Identified in Three Additional Horse Breeds*, published December 5, 2020, concluded: “Taken together these data support using DNA testing for DDB2 in Connemara Ponies to assist in mate selection and clinical management” page 1.

“While only two SCC-affected Connemara Ponies were evaluated in this study, given the previous associations, evidence of loss of function, prevalence of SCC in Connemara Ponies from retrospective data, and a moderate allele frequency within this breed, this variant is likely an important risk factor in the Connemara Pony breed. Therefore, genetic testing for this variant is recommended as it is for the Haflinger, Belgian Draft Horse, and Rocky Mountain Horse breeds,” page 8.

The entire article can be found at: [https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4425/11/12/1460/pdf](https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4425/11/12/1460/pdf)

Ordering the $40 genetic test is easy, especially if a pony’s hair follicles are already stored at the UC Davis VGL. If not, simply go to the UC Davis VGL website, create an account, order the test and follow the directions. There is additional information about SCC on the website, as well: [https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/haflinger-belgian-scc](https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/haflinger-belgian-scc)

Report results will show if a pony is N/N: No copies of the SCC-associated marker; N/R: 1 copy of the SCC-associated marker . . . is able to pass on the risk factor to 50 percent of the offspring; R/R: 2 copies of the SCC-associated risk marker. Horse is more likely to develop SCC in its lifetime. Routine ophthalmological exams and use of UV-protection fly masks during sun exposure are advised.

Expect to learn more about DDB2 and SCC in future ACPS publications.