Greetings one and all! By circulation of our newsletter, I am happy to say Happy Spring. Our Region officers and volunteers are working very hard to bring to all of us some educational, fun and exciting events. Check out this issue for details about Field Day, which is returning to Bantry Bay Farm. Our show Committee is passionately working on making our 50th Anniversary show special and is certainly going be entertaining, challenging and relaxing…so how’s that possible….stayed tuned and plan on coming you will find out. While I write this, our Tea has not yet happened but will have occurred by printing…so I’ll say for now that I am thankful for your participation.

Breeding season is in the air, and according to my ponies has been for several months as we had such a mild winter. I want to remind and encourage breeders and owners to please get your breeding stock tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD). All ACPS purebred stallions must be tested (your stallion’s babies cannot be registered – unless they are tested or their babies are tested) with the results being forwarded to our National Secretary, Marynell Eyles.

Don't Miss Out on the ACPS Achievement Awards!

by Marilyn Cheek

Our intrepid point compiler, Deb Clinch, has just wrapped up the data for the 2015 Achievement Awards and this year, we had 37 Connemaras earning 48 awards. We’re you among them? If so, you’ll soon be getting your certificates, medals or Award of Excellence frames. If not, why not?

We offer awards for both competitive and non-competitive activities, so there is almost nothing that you and your ponies do that wouldn’t count toward an achievement award. As I looked over this years list, I noticed that there seemed to be a dearth of young people submitting data on their Pony Club and 4-H activities, even though I know of many who are very involved.

To qualify for the awards in these activities, which are based on your level of participation, you have to keep track of how many times in a year you have used your pony as a regular 4-H or Pony Club mount.

To earn a certificate, you must use the pony eight times in one season or year, eight times each for two years for bronze, in three years for silver and four years for gold. At the end of each year, your Pony Club District Commissioner or 4-H leader has to sign your ACPS non-competitive points form to attest that you did, indeed, participate to that level. And then you send the one form in to Deb Clinch before the December 31 deadline. How hard is one form a year?

The same is true for the other non-competitive disciplines: foxhunting (Master or hunt secretary must sign); therapeutic riding or driving (program director must sign); or working ranch horse (ranch foreman must sign).

For the competitive disciplines, you earn points for showing. The categories are hunter, jumper,
Most of our breeding stallions have been tested and are N/N HWSD, which means that they are not a carrier and not affected. Breeding stock can be N/HWSD, which means the animal is Normal but is a carrier. PLEASE do not breed a carrier to carrier, while it is possible that pairing could have a non-carrier, but there is a possibility that a carrier foal would result and the foal could be mildly or severely affected – no responsible breeder, in my opinion should take this risk. Breeding a carrier to a non-carrier assures a normal, healthy foal and a resulting foal with good percentage of not being a carrier. With our limited gene pool we do not want take carriers out of the mix.

Effective this year, all purebred foals must be microchipped. This will be part of the registration costs and is keeping with USEF new mandates, which strongly encourage microchipping USEF horses. I am expecting two foals this year a purebred and a cross and because I plan on obtaining USEF life registration for both, both will be microchipped. This will help keep track of my ponies if they change owners.

Lastly, Stallion owners, please remember to send in your EVA test results to Marynell. Stallions are not required to be vaccinated, but they are required to be tested. As a stallion owner, I require any mare that is to be bred via live cover to my stallion be tested. Vaccination is a somewhat controversial topic and not something for debate here.

Please continue to check out our Region FaceBook for news, shared pictures and events. I hope to see you all Field Day. 🌴

Horses...if God made anything more beautiful, He kept it for Himself. – Unknown
2016 Region I Connemara Tea

By Carolyn McEvitt
All Photos Courtesy of Pat Shields

The first day of spring was a bit chilly and overcast, with winter unwilling to relinquish its hold yet on the northwest hills of Connecticut, the location of this year’s annual Region I Connemara Tea. About 30 Connemara lovers attended this year’s Tea, which was held at Pat Shields’ Drybrook Farm in Harwinton, CT.

Our meeting began at about 10:30 with introductions all around. There were many familiar faces as well as quite a few new ones. We also had several of our youth members in attendance, which was great to see! Everybody shared information as to who they were, where they lived and the ponies that were near and dear to them.

Pat then led the meeting with a discussion of our upcoming Region events, the next one being Field Day. Field Day will be held on Sunday, May 15th, at Bantry Bay Farm in Pepperell, MA and the clinician this year will be Joy Congdon, a familiar and respected dressage instructor in the NH/VT area. All participants slots have been filled, but all members are encouraged to come and audit as well as join in for the lunch and annual meeting.

The annual Connemara Breed show was the next topic of conversation and was especially exciting since it is our 50th anniversary show. The show will be held at GMHA showgrounds in South Woodstock, VT and the dates for the show are July 23rd-24th. Those members (and non-members) wishing to volunteer to help that weekend may contact Carolyn McEvitt at cbmcevitt@comcast.net.

Inspections will also be held on Friday, July 22nd, before the show weekend. In addition, Tom Mac Lochlainn, a former President of the Connemara Pony Breeders society, will be giving a presentation Friday night on the Connemara pony as well as judging our in-hand classes that weekend. Journey’s End Farm in Gardner, NY will also be holding inspections on July 21st.

continued on next page
Liz Platais spoke next of the Kessler Scholarship, which grants dollars to youth and adults for educational endeavors that promote the Connemara breed. In return for receiving the scholarship funds, the recipients are asked to share what they learned with Region I members either through offering a clinic or writing a paper for the Bits & Pieces newsletter. The application for the Kessler Scholarship needs to be received by Liz Platais & Lois Kessler by April 1st.

It was announced that two of our Region I youths, Anneliese Woods and Cailey Fay, were accepted into the Emerging Dressage Athlete Program, which is run through Dressage for Kids. They will be taking their Connemara ponies to various farms where Lendon Gray and other instructors will be teaching. A huge congratulations to these young ambassadors of our Connemara breed!

After a brief stretch and a visit to the dessert table, members then listened to a talk given by Debbie Murphy on Centered Riding. Debbie is a Centered Riding Instructor-Level II. Debbie discussed the Centered Riding “basics”, which are soft eyes, breathing, centering, balance, grounding and clear intent. She explained and demonstrated each of these “basics” and invited members to experience dressage, driving, competitive trail/endurance, eventing, in-hand and western. If you compete at shows recognized by the discipline’s governing body including US Dressage Federation (USDF) US Equestrian Federation, (USEF), US Eventing Association (USEA), The American Driving Society (ADS), American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) or the North American Trail Riding Conference (NATRC).

For these, you need to submit the competitive achievement awards form (found under FORMS on the ACPS website) for each competition and either get the form signed by the show secretary to attest that you did, indeed, win ribbons there, or, if the show posts its results online, you can submit a copy of the online results. If a show is rated and tracked by its governing body, you can submit the results as posted by, say, USEA or USEF.

Besides winning an award, participation has less obvious payoffs. For example, if you keep a copy of all your submissions, you have a one step record of your pony’s accomplishments. That alone can be a good way to chart your improvement over the years. and it certainly is valuable if you ever have to sell your Connemara. Or, if you should decide to nominate your wonder pon for the ACPS Hall of Fame Awards after a lifetime of accomplishments, you have all the records you need.

Every year, I hear from members who don’t check the requirements until after they’ve shown (usually too late) or who forget about their submissions until the deadline has passed. Don’t be that person—we don’t bend the rules. Now is the ideal time inform yourself about this very popular program and get involved. You’ll be glad you did.

Editor’s Note: Reprinted with permission from the ACPS Region III Newsletter

Emily Shields doing longe lining demo with Bailey’s Irish Dream.
ACPS Region I Field Day 2016
Sunday, May 15
Bantry Bay Farm
28 Wheeler Street, Pepperell, MA 01463
978-433-2570 or Sally Oxnard: 603-828-9039

Our clinician this year is JOY CONGDON, a familiar and respected dressage instructor in the NH/VT area. She has become a fan of the Connemara pony, and offered to do a clinic for us. So Amy Plavin took her at her word, and here she is teaching at the 2016 Field Day. We are very fortunate. For more info, visit her website at www.joycongdondressage.com

Fee is $95. per rider, per day Auditors are welcome. No charge to come learn and socialize!

Schedule:
8:30 am: coffee /pastries
8:30 to 11:30 AM:
The format is 8 individual lessons, 45 minutes each, please contact Sally Oxnard for your time slot. Price is $95 per rider. Lessons are 8:30 to 11:30 and then 1:30 to 4:30 PM.

11:30: Lunch and Region 1 Annual Meeting:
If you are not in the saddle, join us for lunch, Annual Meeting of Region I and Election of the Regional Chair and/or Regional Governor. Also this is a good time to enjoy the Region 1 Store.

1:30 PM: lessons resume.

The Region will provide coffee, juice, and snacks at 8:30 AM and lunch at noon. Donation for lunch $5.00 eagerly accepted. If you would like to bring FOOD, call Sally Oxnard: stoxnard@yahoo.com, 603-772-6265 (home), 828-9039 (cell) or Lynn Bergeron 603-382-7593

Directions: Mapquest or call/e-mail Sally directly
The 50th Annual
ACPS Region 1
Connemara Breed Show Prizelist

At Green Mountain Horse Association
www.gmhainc.org
South Woodstock, Vermont

Saturday July 23rd & Sunday July 24th 2016

Official Class List

Features
In-Hand Jumpers Hunters Driving
Trail Walk/Trot Pleasure Dressage
Dales Ponies Irish Draughts & Irish Sporthorses

Wine & Cheese Reception (Sat. 6 pm, Youth Center)
IRISH MUSIC & TEA TO CELEBRATE OUR 50TH!
Friday Night & Saturday Night Dinners (Sign Up on Entry Form)
Talk, Stories & Pictures by Caroline Nesbitt Friday Night

Show incentives: 2 nights for the price of one stall
Free shared tack stall (every 4-5 stalls)

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER & BREED JUDGE
Tom MacLochlainn, Ireland

Dressage  Again this year the Central Vermont Dressage Association (CVDA) is holding a dressage show on Sunday at GMHA, so our Region 1 show will not have its own dressage tests. But results from the CVDA can be counted toward awards. There is a separate prizelist and entry fees and that can be found at cvda.org.
Opening date for dressage registration is June 10th and closing date is July 3rd.

We Need Your Help!
We look forward to seeing you! We still have room for many class sponsors, advertisers, and friends. We especially need volunteers to help out on the day of the show. Please contact Carolyn McEvitt at cbmcevitt@comcast.net to sign up. For further information, please call or e-mail: Amy Plavin (802) 732-8033 whconnemaras@gmail.com or Susan Goodhouse (802) 484-5540 goodfarm@vermontel.net
Welcome to the 50th Annual Region 1 Connemara Show!
Show Manager: Amy Plavin, Rockingham, Vermont

1. The Show runs on volunteer power. We need volunteers and we need to appreciate the work they do. Please come to the volunteer table and offer to help a little or a lot. Please thank volunteers for their efforts.
2. The Show Committee would like to remind all competitors, parents and spectators to practice good sportsmanship throughout the weekend. Let us know how things are going in an informative way; we will do our best to keep things running smoothly.
3. All exhibited Connemaras and Halfbreds must be permanently registered with the American Connemara Pony Society and/or the Connemara Pony Breeder’s Society of Galway, Ireland, or any other Connemara Society recognized by the parent organization, CPBS. All Connemaras under the age of two years must have (or applied for) a Temporary Foal Certificate (TFC). A Copy of Registration or TFC must accompany all entries.
4. All ponies must be exhibited under their full registered names.
5. All entries may be shown as Native ponies or as appropriate to their performance division. Braiding is optional. Stallions may compete in performance classes.
6. Adults may show ponies in all classes unless class specifications state otherwise. Juniors are those who have not turned 19 by January 1, 2016.
7. FEI approved helmets are required whenever mounted.
8. All classes will be held in accordance with USEF rules and specifications when applicable.
9. Entry fees for In Hand classes are $15/class; Performance classes are $20/class if postmarked by July 9. Entries postmarked after July 9 or on the day of the show will be subject to post-entry fees of $25. Scratches after closing date (7/1) will receive a refund of stabling fee and shavings ONLY!
10. Trophy and six ribbons to be awarded in all regular classes; Trophy, Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons to be awarded in Championship classes.
11. Stabling: Stabling will be in D Barn with overflow to C Barn. Stabling is $28/night if GMHA member or $40 if non-GMHA member. For this 50th Show Anniversary TWO nights are available for the price of one! Shavings may be purchased for $10 per bale or you can bring your own.
12. If you must bring your dog, please keep it leashed.
13. Vermont state law requires a current health certificate for horses entering their borders. GMHA now requires a Certificate of Rabies Vaccination within 12 months for all horses entering the grounds. GMHA suggests obtaining an Exhibition Permit. See http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/animal_movement/equine.
   Coming from Canada, look into current regulations please.
14. Stall assignments will be posted at the GMHA office by Thursday A.M. along with contact info for vet and farrier.
15. Entries without proof of 2016 Negative Coggins, appropriate registration copy and check will not be accepted.
   We do not have past years’ entries or your old paperwork, so please send us a fresh copy of everything.
16. Stalls must be stripped clean when you leave or we get a BIG fine (thank you!).
17. **PLEASE, NO CAMPING ALLOWED**
18. Entries arriving with postage due will be charged a $20 processing fee.
19. The Fitting & Showing Class is not eligible for points towards year end ACPS awards.
20. Friday night barbecue and Saturday night banquet: Make reservations on your entry form or call/e-mail Susan Goodhouse (802) 484-5540 goodfarm@vermontel.net.

Fabulous Photos by John W. Miller!
www.spectrumphotography.net
In Hand Classes
8:00 A.M. Saturday July 23, 2016
The White Ring
Judge: Tom MacLochlainn, Ireland

In all classes, emphasis will be on correct conformation (conformation leading to soundness), breed type, free movement, pleasant temperament, and potential to become or to produce useful riding animals. Halfbred Connemaras to be judged on Sport Horse Type, with an emphasis on the usefulness as a sporthorse or pony.

1. **Halfbred and Connemara Sporthorse Mare or Gelding In Hand** (will be split if more than 10)
2. **Purebred Connemara Foals of 2016/2015 in Hand**
3. **Purebred Connemara Foals of 2014/2013 in Hand**
4. **Purebred Connemara Geldings In Hand** four years and older
5. **Purebred Connemara Mares In Hand** four to eight years of age
6. **Purebred Connemara Mares In Hand** mares nine years and older
7. **Purebred Connemara Stallions In Hand** four years and older (3 entries required prior to closing date)
8. **Youngstock Champion** 1st & 2nd placed youngstock from classes 2 & 3
9. **Champion Connemara Mare In Hand** *American Connemara Pony Society Trophy.*
   1st & 2nd placed fillies and mares from classes 2, 3, 5 & 6
10. **Champion Gelding In Hand** *The Tower Hill Farm Award.*
    1st & 2nd placed geldings from classes 2, 3 & 4
11. **Champion Connemara Stallion In Hand** *The Patrick J. Keough Trophy.*
    1st & 2nd placed colts and stallions from classes 2, 3 & 7
12. **Connemara Get of Sire** Two to four of the pure or halfbred offspring of a registered purebred stallion, grouped at the discretion of the sire’s owner (as possible.) More than one group per sire is welcome. Please enter by sire’s name. (One entry fee per group.)
13. **Connemara Produce of Dam** Two to four of the pure or halfbred offspring of a registered purebred mare, grouped at the discretion of the mare’s owner (as possible.) More than one group per dam is welcome. Please enter by mare’s name. (One entry fee per group.)
14. **Champion Connemara In Hand** *GMHA Perpetual Trophy*
    Champion & reserve from classes 8, 9 & 11 (breeding stock only)

**Dales-only classes and high point awards open to registered Dales ponies DPS or DPSA**

15. **Dales Young Ponies in Hand** Dales ponies, four years and under.
16. **Dales Mares, Stallions and Geldings in Hand** Dales mares, stallions and geldings five years and older.
17. **Dales In Hand Breed Championship** Open to first and second place Dales from classes 15 & 16.

18. **Junior Showmanship Handlers age 8 to 18** *The Brenda Martin Junior Handler Trophy (new!)*
    Open to all breeds. Required class for junior championship.
19. **Fitting and Showmanship** Open to all breeds.

**The Irish Draught Horse Society of North America (IDHSNA)** is joining with the ACPS for this Show at GMHA and will award qualified Irish Draughts and Irish Draught Sport Horses (IDs & IDSHs) who compete in the Open Classes of Hunters, Jumpers and Dressage. Any horse registered with the IDHSNA is eligible for Ribbons through 6th place and for Champion & Reserve Hunter, Jumper & Dressage horse.

Please contact Ann Morss for qualification details, **annmorss@msn.com** 585-704-0985
SATURDAY (continued)

**Driving Division - Open to all breeds**
Dust Bowl after in-hand classes (approx. 12 pm) on Saturday
Judge: Susan Koso

20. **Ladies and Gentlemen** to drive, Pleasure, pairs and single (Versatility Qualifier for Connemara)
21. **Ladies and Gentlemen** to drive, Working, pairs and single
22. **Reinsmanship** Test to be posted prior to show

**Performance Classes - Open to all breeds**
White Ring at 1 pm on Saturday
Judge: Kate Rakowski, Hartland, VT

23. **Leadline** Open to all our future Connemara riders (No post entry fee.)
24. **Walk Trot Pleasure** Judged on performance, manners and suitability.
   (Rider/pony pairs may not enter classes requiring a canter.)
25. **Walk/Trot Command** (Rider/pony pairs may not enter classes requiring a canter.)
26. **Egg & Spoon** This is a flat class. All exhibitors enter the arena and are given a spoon and an egg. Rider must balance the egg on the spoon while riding around the rail at a walk, trot, or canter as directed by the announcer. Last rider left with the egg on the spoon is the winner. If needed, exhibitors may be asked to do more difficult maneuvers such as halt, back, side pass, etc. until a winner is found. Once class has started, no part of the rider’s hand may touch the egg or rider is disqualified.

27. **Sit A Buck** This is a flat class where riders ride their horses bareback with a “buck” (could be anything from a real dollar to a ribbon or paper) placed under their bottom. Flat class is run and riders are eliminated as they lose their “buck”. Winner is the last rider with buck remaining in place. May ask for a walk / trot / canter or extended gaits.
29. **Pleasure Horse & Pony – Junior Versatility Award Qualifier.** Walk, trot, and canter, both directions. May be asked to back. Manners, performance, suitability, and soundness count. Light contact required.
30. **Pleasure Horse & Pony – Senior Versatility Award Qualifier.** Walk, trot, and canter, both directions. May be asked to back. Manners, performance, suitability, and soundness count. Light contact required.

**IRISH TEA**
*Youth Center Saturday 2 – 4 pm*

**Pat Lightbody** may be reading from her portion of the new ACPS history book
Unjudged Warm Up Class (Entry Fee $10) Course will set up for the Low Hunter class, each participant may warm up over the course under the judge’s supervision.

31. **Open Low Hunter Over Fences** Six to eight fences at 2’3”. Judged on manners & performance.

32. **Connemara Handy Hunter** Six to eight fences at 2’3”. Connemaras/Halfbreds only.

33. **Open Hunter Over Fences** Six to eight fences at 2’6”. Judged on manners & performance.

34. **Connemara Working Hunter Over Fences** Fences 3’ expect posted height. Connemaras/Halfbreds only. Must trot one fence as designated on the course design. *Versatility Award Qualifier.* Scoring: 70% Performance, 30% Conformation/Breed type. Ponies will be stripped and brought back as a group for judging of conformation.

35. **Open Working Hunter Over Fences** Fences 3’ expected posted height.

36. **Connemara Hunter under Saddle** Connemaras/Halfbreds only. Walk, trot, canter both directions. May be asked to back. Manners, performance, and soundness count. Light contact required. No martingales permitted.

37. **Open Hunter Hack** To move in the same style as a working hunter. Walk, trot, canter, both directions; may be asked to hand-gallop. Jump two fences of standard white rails or natural rails, 2’ to 2’6”, set 48’ to 84’ apart with ground lines. Scoring: fences 60%; performance 40%. No martingales permitted.

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**SUNDAY (continued)**

**DALES - OUTSIDE COURSE**

Judge: Caroline Nesbitt

38. **Dales Novice Traditional Ridden** To be shown at walk, trot, halt, back. May be asked to exhibit an individual pattern at these paces. Manners, performance exhibiting proper Dales gaits, and soundness count.

39. **Dales Open Ridden** Walk, Trot, Canter **To be shown at walk, trot, canter, halt, back. May be asked to exhibit an individual pattern at these paces which may include hand gallop at rider’s choice. Manners, performance exhibiting proper Dales gaits, and soundness count.**

40. **Traditional Ridden Champion** Open to first and second place Dales from classes 38 & 39. WT

*Sponsored Dales championships additionally awarded to high point winner and reserve in Dales and Open Performance all divisions, Junior high point and Great All Rounder (high point winner) based on one rider’s points per horse except for juniors.*

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**White Ring**

**!! COSTUME CLASS PARADE !!**
SATURDAY EVENING  in Youth Center

**Wine & Cheese Hospitality 5 – 6 p.m.**

**IRISH MUSIC TO CELEBRATE OUR 50TH! 4 – 7 p.m.**

**Dinner**

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

Tom MacLochlainn, County Galway, Ireland

Long-time Connemara Breeder, Inspector, Judge, Author

President, Connemara Pony Breeders’ Society

! Raffle Surprises !
SUNDAY JULY 24, 2016  9 AM TO 3 PM
Trail in Dust Bowl  Dressage Trail in White Ring  Jumpers in Walker Arena
Open to all breeds unless otherwise specified

DRESSAGE TRAIL - WHITE RING
   Beginning at 10 am
   Judge: Carolyn McEvitt, Amston, CT

41. Dressage Trail Test 1
42. Dressage Trail Test 2

TRAIL CLASSES - THE DUST BOWL
   Judge: Roger Poitras, Newfane, VT

Held concurrently with the rest of the show. Beginning at 9 am
A Fun Course of Natural Obstacles!

   In Hand classes do not count for Versatility Award or High Point trail.
43. Trail Class – Ridden – Junior  Versatility Mandatory Qualifier class
44. Trail Class – Ridden – Senior  Versatility Mandatory Qualifier class
45. Trail Class – In Hand  – Ponies ages 3 and under
46. Trail Class – In Hand  – Ponies over 3 years old
   Trail Champion awarded to the Connemara or Half-Connemara with the highest score in classes 43 or 44

Jumper Classes - Open to all breeds
   Walker Arena at Noon on Sunday
   Judge: Kate Rakowski

47. Crossrails course of 18” jumps. For rider/pony pairs that will not be competing in any other class over fences. Judged on performance, safety and pony-rider suitability.
48. Low Jumper fences at 2’3”
49. Training Jumper fences at 2’7” Versatility Qualifier
50. Three Bar  line of 3 fences set a stride or two apart. Each horse that jumps through clean moves on to the next round where fences go up. Starting height 2’6”
51. Jumper Derby fences 2’9” to 3’

Please join all of us as awards are presented in the White Ring after class
AWARDS

The following championships have options and require competitor reporting; please try to keep track through the weekend and be ready to submit to the secretary as soon as possible following your last qualifying class. Forms available at the booth.

RHF O’Harazan Perpetual Trophy for Grand Champion Purebred Connemara
Awarded to the Purebred Connemara accruing the most points in its In-Hand class; Hunter Under Saddle (class 36), Jumpers (class 48 or 49); Working Hunter Over Fences (class 34); and Dressage (Training and above). The rider/pony combination needs to be the same for all classes.

ACPS Region 1 Junior Championship
Awarded to the junior rider (not 19 by 1/1/16) accruing the most points in performance (not in hand) and Junior Showmanship (mandatory). Top five placings only to count. Please return all points to the secretary at the conclusion of classes. Sportsmanship points may be added to point totals by the judge and show staff and designated volunteers. Parents, fellow competitors, and spectators may note evidence of good sportsmanship to the show staff.

***Sue Dexter Memorial Versatility Award***
Registered Connemaras and Halfbred Connemaras must compete in Trail (class 43 or 44). Then choose four out of five classes from the following: Pleasure (class 29 or 30); Hunter (class 34); Jumpers (class 49); Driving (class 20); or Dressage Training and above (from the CVDA show running in Upwey on Sunday*). The rider/pony combination must be the same for all classes.

Half Bred Award
For the Half Bred with the most points in any five classes, excluding championship classes. Please hand in your points to the show secretary at the conclusion of the show.

*Dressage  This year the Central Vermont Dressage Association (CVDA) is holding a dressage show on Sunday at GMHA, so our Region 1 show will not have its own dressage tests. But results from the CVDA can be counted toward awards. Get the separate prizelist and entry form at cvda.org. Opening date for dressage registration is June 10th and closing date is July 3rd.
**DRESSAGE TRAIL TESTS**

*Objective:* To demonstrate obedience, handiness and response to rider’s aids. The horse must softly accept the bit and may show more “roundness” in the parts of the test separate from the obstacles. Posting is optional. Transitions into and out of the halt may be done through the walk. Test may be called. To be shown in the small (20 x 40-meter) arena. Note: there may be “surprise” additions to the test at the show – check with the gatekeeper. Collectives: Safety (handling obstacles); Submission (attention to aids, confidence, cooperation); Rider (seat and position, correctness and effectiveness of aids) X2; 140 points possible.

**TEST 1**

1. **A** Enter working trot.
   
   **X** Halt and salute. Proceed working trot. (Ground poles are placed 10 meters before and after X.)

2. **C** Track right. Negotiate shallow serpentine of 5 cones (spaced 6 meters apart) inside track on long side.

3. **A** Working walk. Turn right on quarterline and negotiate U-shaped rails. Track right.

4. **V** Halt. Pick up object on top of a stack of hay bales. Walk to near E and deposit object on top of a second stack of hay bales.

5. **E** Working trot.
   **C** Track right.
   **A** Track left.

6. **A** After turning, working walk. Negotiate five-cone serpentine on long side.

7. **R** Pick up ball from top of stack of hay bales. Working trot, one handed.

8. **C** 20-meter circle, one handed.

9. **C** At the end of the circle, drop ball in bucket at C. (Optional: you may halt at the bucket to drop the ball.)
   
   If you are no longer holding the ball, then just wave at the judge. Pick up both reins.

10. **E** 10-meter half circle to X. Halt between X and ground rail and salute.

**TEST 2**

1. **A** Enter working trot, crossing ground pole at L.
   
   **X** Halt, salute; proceed working trot.

2. **I** Trot over cross rail. **C** Track right.

3. **B** Negotiate shallow serpentine of 5 cones (spaced 6 meters apart) inside track on long side.

4. **V** Halt between bales and rail. Rein back 3 to 4 steps. Proceed working walk back to bales.

5. **V** Halt. Pick up object on top of hay bales. Walk to near E and deposit object on top of a second stack of hay bales.

   **C** Canter, followed immediately by circle right 20 meters.

7. **M to E** Change rein. Working trot near centerline.


9. **R** Pick up reins and then pick up ball from top of stack of hay bales. Working trot, one handed.
   **C** 20-meter circle, one handed. At the end of the circle, drop ball in bucket at C. If you are no longer holding the ball, then just wave at the judge. Pick up both reins.

10. **E** 10-meter half circle to X. Halt between X and cross rail and salute.
DRESSAGE TRAIL TEST 2
**ACPS Breed Show**

**ENTRY FORM**

South Woodstock, VT  
July 23 and July 24, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>number</th>
<th>Pony’s Registered Name</th>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Rider/Handler</th>
<th>Jr/ Sr</th>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>For Sale?</th>
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Make checks payable to ACPS Region I  
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In hand classes @ $15 each
Performance classes @ $20 each
Stalls @ $25/2 nights for GMHA member
Stalls @ $40/2 nights non-member
Tack stalls @ $25/night GMHA member
Tack stalls @ $40/night non-member
Shavings @ $10/bag
Friday Barbeque $12
Saturday Dinner Adult $10
Saturday Dinner Junior $10
Office fee $20 $20
Post entry fee(after 7/4) $25
Total Money owed

Copy of 2016 Coggins, 2016 Rabies Certificate, current health certificate and ACPS registration required for each equine entered.

PLEASE SIGN RELEASE ON NEXT PAGE

Mail entries to Lisa Silvester, 128 Baileys Mills Rd, Reading, VT 05062
Lisa’s contact info: lhseqmassage@aol.com 802-484-5405
Show Manager: Amy Plavin 802-732-8033 or whconnemarascal@gmail.com
ENTRY FORM page 2

PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY. “SAME” or photocopied signatures are not acceptable.

Name of party responsible for this entry: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Home Phone: __________________________ Work Phone: __________________________
Alternate Phone: __________________________ EMAIL: __________________________

We will be contacting you via email for any problems or questions related to your entry. Release:

I understand that the sport of horseback riding and driving is inherently dangerous and that serious injury and death can occur. I agree that if any injury occurs to me or to my horse or to any equipment that I may use or send to use, I will make no claim against GMHA or the GMHA Youth Center or any of the officers, Director, Trustees, Employers, Volunteers, and any Landowners free and harmless from any liability, claims, suits, or damages of whatsoever kind or nature that may be occasioned by the horses used by me or the negligence of the persons in charge of such horses and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless these organizations and individuals against all liability, claims, suits, and expenses including attorney fees incurred, arising out of any injury to any person or damage to any property caused by me, my horse, or attendants.

Owner/Agent __________________________ (signed & dated)
________________________________________ Pony’s Name __________________________ (printed)

Owner/Agent __________________________ (signed & dated)
________________________________________ Pony’s Name __________________________ (printed)

Rider (or parent/guardian if minor): __________________________ (signed & dated)
________________________________________ (printed)

Rider (or parent/guardian if minor): __________________________ (signed & dated)
________________________________________ (printed)
Members Pages

Paradox Connemaras Adventures...

When people ask how many ponies I have I tell them that I am “down to 6”. Actually I am only riding one- Elphin Kookaburra. We plan to try second level this year.

Tower Hill’s Breeze weaned her foal in September and went home to CT with Cailey Fay on a lease. She is in Pony Club where Ann Guptil is her instructor. They are working on teaching Breeze dressage and gymnastics, and she had had great adventures such as riding on the beach and bareback in snowstorms this winter. Lucky Breeze. They are aiming for Lendon’s Dressage for Kids in July at Hits on the Hudson, and then the Region 1 Show where they will collect many awards I am sure.

My other pony mom last summer was Macbradaigh’s Irish Whistle. She was weaned and left for training with Kay Slater at True North Farm in Harwich MA for the winter. Now she has just been half leased by Samantha Morse who has been riding her with great success. Whistle is adorable and a quick learner and they have big plans to event this summer and to join us at the Region 1 show so Whistle can get inspected and compete for the Junior Championship.

That leaves Tower Hill’s Carmody , now 23, who is home with me and giving the grandkids riding lessons and baby sitting the fillies.

The two fillies are bigger than I recall my yearlings were in the past. Paradox Westerly is by Kynynmont Cooper O’Grady who is an outstanding dressage competitor, and out of Tower Hill’s Breeze. She is 13 hands already, plain bay package, and very reasonable and confident and eager to learn. She has nice conformation and an upright dressage carriage.

Paradox Cadence is by Aluinn Durango x Macbradaigh’s Irish Whistle. She is a big bright bay with chrome and plenty of bone, substance etc. She has a cute face, sweet manner, and great floating trot.

Both fillies are for sale!!

Sally Oxnard, Exeter, NH

Grey is Cailey and Breeze on the beach in CT. Bay with cross rails is Whistle and Kay Slater. Bay with rider looking at you is Whistle with Sammie

HAY! Everyone would LOVE to hear about your new foal!

Send your baby pictures into the Bits & Pieces (designpoint@mac.com) and we will publish them in our next issue. Don’t forget to include the your name, farm name and the name of the foal, sire and dam.
Proud New Owner...

I wanted to share with everyone that I now am the proud owner of a half-bred Connemara filly, whose barn name is “Prim”. She is a by Durango and is out of a TB mare, and was bred by Jordan Laplaca of MHD. She is one and a half, and her registered name is Durango’s Irish Rose!

Elizabeth Oellers Latham
Cadbury Woods Farm, Sanbornton, NH

Mom's Bragging Rights...

My daughter, Anneliese Woods, was CT Dressage Association’s end of Year Reserve Champion at intro level for the 2015 show season with her Connemara Pony Searah’s Gold Nugget. His sire is Valley Creek Angileri and his dam is Wild Acres Mona Lisa. Anneliese was also end of year dressage champion at our barn CT Equestrian Center. The photos show her receiving her award in January 2016, and with Nugget.

Valerie Woods

A Pleasant Surprise..

Last July I bought a 4 year old half Connemara pony named Kier (Trout Ranch Malarky X Gisborne Reserve) after retiring my 19 year old TB/Han. This past summer was my first year competing Kier so I am sure you can imagine my surprise when a friend sent me to New England Dressage Association’s year end awards site. Without even knowing I had met the requirements, I found that we were ranked 12th at Training Level for AAs! Kier is a born competitor, all business when he trots down the centerline. His early training by Beth Adams and Meagan Morrell of Stratham, and my work with my trainer Jane Hamlin have combined to create a youngster who is willing and able, although sometimes silly and fresh (who would want him any other way?), and I am looking forward to many years of learning and teaching him as we progress up the dressage levels.

Jeanne Woodward-Poor
**Katie, College and Connemaras...**

Hello Area I! It seems like just yesterday I was writing a winter update. Unfortunately my status as a college student has prevented me from enjoying this mild winter with my ponies, but I hope to bring Caraway Cliff (Henry) up to school with me in the coming weeks!

Since the beginning of this year (2016), my life feels like it has become infinitely more complicated (welcome to Senior year!). Most importantly, how do I reconcile what I WANT to do with what I think I SHOULD do? Can that even be done? I sought advice from many different sources, gained valuable insight, and began to realize what really matters to me. Working with my two Connemara geldings last summer proved to me that they (and riding) is one of the things that matters most. Over the last couple of years, I found it difficult to balance my academic and career interests with my passion for riding, so horses have largely taken a backseat since I started college. Last summer, I had a flexible internship, and I made it a goal to buckle down and ride my horses more seriously. The dressage progress that I made with both horses in two short months infused me with a new sense of enthusiasm and love for not only my two wonderful Connemaras, but also a desire to ride with a more competitive frame of mind. For me, there is no greater feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment than finally “getting” something, whether you have been working on it for a week, a month, or a year. I have begun to approach my riding with a much different mindset than I did even a few years before. I know that it also makes my life so much richer than it would be otherwise. It not only challenges me mentally and physically, but it also leads to the development of many special connections (with horses and humans), teaches invaluable life lessons, and provides unforgettable experiences.

This summer, I plan to do everything that I can to make horses happen. I know that they have always been and will always continue to be a huge part of my life experience, and I do not regret that for a minute. Through my recent reflections, I realized that my two Connemaras have been an integral part in getting me to where I am now. Connemaras really do do it all!

*Katie Reuther*

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**Rolling Meadows Farm News...**

A rare sight ponies and snow. Avoca and Meghan have breakfast. Crazy winter and now it’s so warm. Happy Saint Patrick’s day and may the lucky wind blow your way. No snow here and already cleaning the yard. All 5 ponies are well and training plans are being made. David runs a small sugar house so he has been busy gathering and boiling. The region is busy with fun plans for the celebration of 50 years of a horse show at GMHA. Irish food, Irish music, and an Irish judge. So now we need a lot of Irish ponies. New classes, fun classes and a jumper derby. Brush your ponies shine your boots and come to Vermont the 22-24 of July. Dinner and stabling discount for all. You will not be disappointed?

*Susan Goodhouse, Vermont*
Horseback Riding Promotes Social Development and Builds Character

by The Paulick Report

A recent European study reports that horseback riding builds character and promotes social development. The study, commissioned by the German Equestrian Federation, investigated what character elements were stimulated through riding.

The study involved 411 riders aged 14 to 65; 91 percent of those studied were women and 9 percent were male. To act as controls, researchers surveyed 402 non-riders with the same gender distribution, age and income as the riders. All participants participated online.

It was discovered that riders were generally more determined, enthusiastic, structured and balanced than their non-riding counterparts. Riders also showed greater leadership, were more assertive and competitive, and demonstrated greater resilience. Clear interpersonal differences were found between riders and non-riders.

“We have always been convinced of the positive impact of the horse on the development of children and adolescents, because it corresponds to our experiences and observations,” the German Equestrian Federation’s secretary general, Soenke Lauterbach, said.

The results should be interesting for parents who wish to find a meaningful sport for their children. They will also be of interest to equestrian associations and clubs as they now have solid arguments on the character-building benefits of riding. 🍀


— WYNFORD VAUGHAN-THOMAS

Horseback Riding Promotes Social Development and Builds Character

FOR SALE: Drybrook Hello Dolly - good minded, lovely, 6 year old Connemara mare in a small package 12.2. Road safe - performance pony by Tullymor’s Mountain Thunder. Asking $8,500 - consideration to show home. Contact: Pat Shields at 860-866-7116 drybrookfarm@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: DryBrook Melody, High Point Pony Champion for conformation and movement, (Bailey’s Irish Dream x Veronique) Connemara/Oldenburg (registered RPSI). Melody will be horse size; pics are from this spring. She is currently in New York state wintering with other foals belonging to Cindy Fletcher. I can provide a current pic if interested. Melody is built uphill, athletic, grandsires are Grand Prix Jumper and Grand Prix Dressage (Great Grandsire was Olympic jumper). I’m told that she looks black in her winter coat. Asking $7,500 for this yearling Filly. For information, contact Pat Shields 860-866-7116 or drybrookfarm@yahoo.com

AHHH...SPRING!