Connemaras at the 2017 Equine Affaire!

by Kim Sterl

Great fun was had by all this year at Equine Affaire and the Connemara breed was well represented by 11 beautiful ponies. We were very busy this year with our breed booth and petting stall, where almost all of the ponies took at least 1 turn and made lots of friends and many now have a fan club. We had a large number of visitors to our booth, there are so many people out there who love our breed and have either had one in the past, are looking for one to join their family or both!

This year we had 3 demonstrations over the course of the weekend. Our first demo, on Friday evening in Mallory South, was immediately...
Friday night, and the GMHA Combined Training Event that weekend as well as the Tunbridge Fair and mediocre leaf peeping by our standards. At the Hall of Fame Awards the Camlin Award for a performance mare or gelding was awarded to Hideaway’s Playboy, owned by Bekki Read of Round Robin Farm. He has brought many young riders along over the years. Bekki was there with her husband to receive it.

Next we had a new energy in our turnout at Equine Affaire which is at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield MA. It is a 5 day effort, after many weeks of preparation. It was frigid and howling as usual. We have the setup crew of 4 or 5 on Wednesday, and some demo ponies moving in. Then we have a booth with Sue Antilla’s famed photo collages and the Region 1 Store, and MANY delightful free ACPS magazines, and cheerful ambassadors. In addition we have a petting stall with an adorable pony and a handler standing there from 9 AM to 7 PM in shifts. Finally we can take down the booth and pack up Sunday at 3 PM. It is a real labor of love. This year Amy Treat who was our new organizer ALSO booked 3 breed demos and we had other clinics which the Connemaras participated in. Again we were supported by the Triple Creek Farm Connemaras and horsewomen, and the Brown Farm entourage as well, plus Kim Sterl with mare and foal and Cailey Fay with Elphin Kookaburra. And countless other volunteers with various skill sets. Many thanks to all.

I am thankful for our three vice chairs who help with our various activities: Helena Kopczynski does the welcome wagon. Tray Roettiger rounds up the contributors for our newsletter, the Bits and Pieces. Amy Treat was our Equine Affaire superwoman, and also manages our facebook page. And Carolyn McEvitt is our chief communicator. Such talent! We are very lucky.

For 2018 we have some great plans- The Region I Tea at Carolyn McEvitts on St Patty’s day, Saturday the 17th of March. And Field Day on June 9 at Round Robin Farm with jumping and trail riding and a tour of their elegant new digs. Also Hannah Reynolds has volunteered to help Lynn Bergeron with the Region I Store, as Lynn is ready to hand it over. Keep your eyes peeled for the snazzy new black jackets they have ordered.

Thanks again to one and all our workers in the Region!
and I took her back to Mallory South for an in-hand demo and meet & greet with questions. Who can resist an adorable black pony that just loves people!

The demo in the Coliseum was at 12:15 on Sunday and our riders and ponies did a wonderful job! This time we had 3 juniors and 2 adults doing a variety of disciplines including Jumpers, Dressage and even bareback with a halter and rope reins! The crowd seemed to enjoy the festive music accompanying them and oohed and ahhed over our ponies and their riders.

Kitty and I participated in a clinic on Saturday evening with Barbara Schulte on Sports Psychology and I took away a few things that I will use in the future. As usual, Kitty was a rockstar!

The star of the show on Saturday though was Bantry Bay’s Rhubarb with her owner/rider: Hannah Reynolds-Brown who rode in a clinic for starting horses over fences with Greg Best. Mr. Best discovered that Rhubarb does not like her bit and suggested another bit, which they tried during the clinic and found success with. So many people were looking for Rhubarb after the clinic because of how cute she is and how wonderful she was during the clinic that she truly has a fan club now.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the American Connemara Pony Society Region I participation at Equine Affaire a success. This was a massive team effort and we are looking forward to, and already talking about, next year! ♫

Shenanigans and Emily Frazzoni share the love!

---

**Submitting Photos and Articles for Publication in the Bits & Pieces**

**Bits & Pieces Publication Dates:** January (Winter), April (Spring), July (Summer) and October (Fall)

**Deadline for Submissions:** 1st of the month prior to publication date.

- **CLASSIFIEDS** can be accepted up to 2 weeks before publication date.
- **STORIES, NEWS, ARTICLES, EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AD TEXT, etc:**
  a. Submit within body of email or as Word (.doc or .docx) attachment to email.
  b. E-mail subject line: “B&P __________” (i.e., news, story, event, ad, etc. or it will be in Spam folder.)
  c. Title of document: informative but concise

  **Example:**
  Wynndover Farm News.doc or .docx
  (Do not leave as generic: document1.docx)
  d. Include at the beginning of document, before the title and body text: author’s name, farm name, town, state, author’s email and author’s contact phone

  **Example:**
  Hannah Howard, Wynndover Farm, Salisbury, NH
  hmhrider@mac.com  603-934-4081

- **PHOTOS:**
  a. Do NOT embed as part of Word document—submit as separate file attachment. No more than 2-3 images attached per e-mail
  b. Name photos so they can easily be matched up with the story, news, article, event, etc.

  **Example:**
  Wynndover Farm News–Cosh jumping.jpg
  c. Save photos as .jpg, .tif or .png format. Prefer original .jpeg from camera—not adjusted, cropped or changed.
  d. Include a caption for each photo (label the caption with the photo name); include name(s) of people and pony(ies), a brief description of what is going on and the photo credit.

  **Example:**
  Cosh jumping: Allyne Leigh riding Cosh (Elphin Domnach Casja) over final drop fence at GMHA Training Day, September 14th, 2012. Photo courtesy of Wynndover Farm (or if from a professional photographer: Photo by Spectrum Photography)
After the tragic loss of Abbe, I brought home a “project” I bought from Donna Duckworth of Balmullo farm. I have decided to do this in journal form as each day brings more surprises and knowledge about this pony.

From what I know, Tullymor’s Clementine Rose (I call her Lilly) was born at the Tullymor Farm in June of. Due to the circumstances many ponies were born and kept with little handling. Even though a purebred, Lilly is registered as a halfbred. She went to Vanessa Morgan’s, had a filly and then went for some training while at Balmullo Farm. This was off and on for a few years. I went down to Virginia late December and had a wonder time with Donna Duckworth. We needed grain to catch her and then I rode her. I knew this was going to be a PROJECT! Donna knew she needed a person and I needed a pony to fill the hole in my heart. She is a lovely dappled dun and far from Abbe’s black color. All arrangements were made and in January she started her journey! She was the same distrusting scared pony I had met in Virginia. She trembled if you got near her and found little comfort in voice or touch. I spent 5 months doing little other than getting her to trust me. It could take up to 2 ½ hours for her to allow me to give her a treat in the pasture. For the winter the ponies were confined to a smaller area. She would come into her stall for dinner and I would work with her after I fed in the morning. Slowly, and I mean slowly, she allowed me to stroke her neck. I had to move carefully and slowly lest she jump away. She always needs to know where your hands were.

Once spring allowed, I started to ride her down my dirt road. She is always on high alert but is improving (dragons in the bushes). You could not touch her when you were in the saddle as she couldn’t see you. This has definitely improved. I just have to talk to her and move slowly.

We worked for many months on getting into the trailer. This week I started to take her up to Kearsarge Meadows to work with my instructor. Lilly just climbs aboard now.

Lesson One. Today most of the work done was from the ground. Lilly did not know even the basics. We started by just walking around the indoor to familiarize her with the mylar mirrors, and other things new to her. Kimberley worked with her responses to body language (i.e., walking with her): halting, moving away from pressure while using only positive reinforcement for her efforts. She learned quickly wanted to please but was extremely nervous. She has a huge response to the smallest aid. I rode her at

Thrilled to receive the 2017 Region I Kessler Scholarship!
the walk and trot learning how to use the slightest aids. She really showed that she listened and allowed me to improve her confidence in me as her rider.

**Lesson two.** We trailered up two days later and continued with in-hand work. We repeated all the things learned in the first lesson and then Kimberley walked beside her with one hand on her withers and the other on the “inside” rein. Slowly *Lilly* learned to give and was soon moving around the ring in a nice forward frame. I did this with her and was told to imagine I was driving her. My friend who works there during the week got to try this and did well. She is training her pony, so the experience will help her. Then I mounted and she responded beautifully at the walk and trot. Ending on a positive note, I loaded her up and hand grazed her in tall grass when we got home.

**Lesson three.** Our third lesson was during that hot humid weather. Luckily there is always a nice breeze at the farm. I tried out a new anatomical girth but that just slide foreward into her elbows.

I am still working her in-hand for the first 15 minutes. She is small enough that I can but one hand on her withers. She rounds nicely and we are now dong smaller circles in hand. She still isn’t quite sure of that concept of “moving away from the leg” so we also work on this from the ground. *Lilly* is still “not sure” about coming near a mounting block. Practice! She was great at the walk and is improved at her halt. We did quite a bit of trot work with my switching diagonals quite often.

Our biggest challenge is tempo! I am finding that I definitely need to get into better shape since she goes from a working trot to whizzing around then to coming down to walk on her own. On my part, I am working to keep even contact through all the changes!

In between working in a ring, I try to get her out onto the dirt roads for a long hacks 3 times a week. She is very good with traffic and other things we have encountered—So different from the pony I brought home! 🌿

---

**A New Chapter for Round Robbin Farm**

By Bekki Read

We are writing to share the news that in early November, Round Robin Farm began a new chapter with its move to Tunbridge, Vermont.

Now three generations old, Round Robin began in the 1950s in Hollis, NH- By Charlotte Read (a founding member of the ACPS). There, the farm hosted one of the first combined horse trials in New England and produced the celebrated Connemara stallion An Tostal (“Toastie”), who went on to be a very successful event horse and sired 58 foals during his lifetime. The farm was later moved briefly to Ireland and then to South Royalton, VT, where Charlotte’s son Steve and his wife and daughter Pat and Bekki took over management. There the farm developed a very successful overnight summer riding camp, where kids of various ages and abilities lived on the farm – and where many fell in love with the Connemara breed. In the early years of these camps, one of Charlotte’s original ponies, Butter Brickle, taught many children to become relaxed and confident riders. The connections between the kids and the ponies over the years have been very special and memorable for all of us.

During our time at South Royalton, Bekki also followed in Charlotte’s footsteps, competing up to Intermediate level in eventing...

---

*continued on next page*
and building a solid reputation as trainer and seller of talented Connemara and Connemara crosses. One of our most beloved ponies, Hideaway’s Playboy, competed with her successfully through the Preliminary level, and is enjoying his “retirement” as a wise school master – helping many campers get their start in the lower levels of eventing. This past September, Playboy was given the ACPS’s Camlin Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of his efforts.

Needless to say, after nearly 40 years in South Royalton (and with 20 horses, 6 dogs, 3 cats, and 7 family members in the mix), the recent move was quite an undertaking! With the help of many friends and neighbors, it was all over within a few days and the family and animals soon settled into the new farm as if we have been there forever.

The new Round Robin Farm in Tunbridge occupies a well-designed and built horse facility on 200 acres and includes a 28-stall barn, beautiful outdoor and indoor arenas, and miles of lovely trails. Here we will continue (and expand) our riding camps, while also providing boarding, training, lessons, fun weekend getaway experiences, and more! We are very honored to have been asked to host the Connemara Field Day on June 9th, 2018, and details about this day will be available soon.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Round Robin history or offerings should visit our website www.roundrobinfarm.com. We hope to see many of you in Tunbridge soon! 🌿

---

2018 Region I Field day
June 9th

Mark your calendars!!

Round Robin Farm in Tunbridge, VT will be hosting our Connemara Field Day on June 9th, 2018.

The day will include flat/ jump lessons in the morning, followed by lunch and meeting at the farmhouse mid-day. The afternoon will feature a trail ride across parts of the scenic property and surrounding forest and hills. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our farm! More updates will follow as details are finalized.

For more information on Region I Connemara Field Day festivities contact: Amy Plavin at 802-579-1119 or whconnemaras@gmail.com

Notice! Please be aware that there are mistakes in this publication – we put them there just to satisfy those who make it their job to find them!
Please join us for our annual Region I Connemara Tea and help us kick off the 2018 season. This year we will be holding our annual Tea in central Connecticut so that more of our members from the southern areas of our Region might join us. The host site will be Hope Valley, which is home to the Connemara half-breds, C.K.C. Katie (*Erin Go Bragh x Feather in My Cap) and Crib Glas Mandolin (*Bobby Brown x G.G.s Dove), and the Connemara purebred Ripleigh’s Abra Cadabra (*Ripleigh Go Bragh x Lean on the Wind).

The format is informal and we ask that you bring a brunch dish to share along with your Connemara pictures, stories and ideas for the upcoming season. We welcome all our members, young and old. So, please come and enjoy the event.

Please RSVP to Carolyn 860-228-8675 or cbmcevitt@comcast.net
(Please be sure to indicate what dish you may be bringing)

DIRECTIONS

From the south: I-91 North to exit 25 towards Glastonbury, merge onto Rte 3 North and follow for 2.3 miles. Merge onto Rte 2 East follow for approximately 11 miles to exit 13 (Marlborough/Willimantic). Bear left off exit 13 onto Rte 66 East for 5.3 miles. At the stoplight turn right onto Rte 85 South and travel for 1 mile to Hope Valley Road. Take a right onto Hope Valley Road. #32 will be a long gravel drive on your right, immediately after the yellow cape.

From the north: I-91 South, exit 30, merge briefly onto I-84 East (.7miles), then onto Rte 2 East via exit 55 towards Norwich/New London. From Rte 2 East follow directions above.

From the west: I-90 East to I-91 South and then go to the directions from the North.

From the east: Take Rte 6 West. Follow to the intersection with Rte 66 West and take Rte 66 West. Stay on Rte 66 West for approximately 6 1/2 miles until you reach the intersection with Rte 85 in Hebron. Take a left onto Rte 85 South and travel for 1 mile to Hope Valley Road. Take a right onto Hope Valley Road. #32 will be a long gravel drive on your right, immediately after the yellow cape.
News from Pony Run Farm...
My half bred Connemara mare, Caledonia Lucky Clover (Hideaway Smithereen’s Girl x Nojoshing (TB)), completed 5 events, including 3 recognized, Novice level events in the USEA Area 1, receiving no XC jump penalties.

My full bred Connemara, Farkleberry Finn (Marshwoods’ Summer Keavey x Seaborn’s Schooner), ridden by Bekki Read, completed 2 recognized Beginner Novice level events in the USEA Area 1, receiving no XC jump penalties. Additionally, Finn has qualified for the American Event Championship for 2018.

Lisa Divoll-Painter
Pony Run Farm, Starksboro, VT

From Patty Montana...
I own a 5-y-o gelding that has just started his show career. Prairie Mulligan (Blue Ridge Jefferson x Dawn’s Mary Kate) competed in his first USEF/USDF dressage show October 13-15 at Mystic Valley Hunt Club in Gales Ferry, CT. He scored from a 66.9% to a 71.9% at Training Level and won all of his classes. I have owned “Brady” since 2014 when I purchased him from Amanda Pierce in Michigan.

Patty Montana

Photos by Joan Davis, Flatland Photo.
Rolling Meadows Farm Fall News...

New England and Region I were very blessed to have a beautiful fall. I hope all were able to get out with their ponies enjoy the nice weather it was warm for September and October and the leaves were picturesque in most places. The nice weather extended a lot of farm activities of haying, firewood orders and getting fields ready for winter. The young ponies Finny and Aiofe were busy with the nice weather getting out on the trails and working in the ring. Christine and I brought Finny to the GMHA for a tour around and she loved being on the grounds. She loves water so every time we went through the water crossing she’s splashed away and got everything wet. The footing in the rings were great and her flat work is much improved.

My girls and I had planned a trip to Ireland for year and we did an 11 day trip in September with two of David’s cousins. We went from Dublin and did a loop through northern Ireland and then back to Dublin. Had a great time the weather was amazing mostly sunny and cool, riding was fun on the beach and the girls to cross country jumping our way through a field — we all survived without falling off.

Meghan a few days ago lost her foal from a tick bite. She was due in May by foothills field marshal a.k.a. bruiser. She became very sick in October with a high fever 105.5 and swelling of her body. It was going to be quite a challenge for her to keep the foal. It was only a few weeks without ago she was ultrasounded and the foal was still alive. She hadn’t been feeling well for a couple days and I knew something was up. She has recovered well. We will think of other things to come in the spring.

Susan Goodhouse
Rolling Meadows Farm, Vermont