There have been some changes at the National ACPS level. One is that Debbie Busta who was our well loved membership secretary at the ACPS for many years, died last year of Breast Cancer. In her honor there is a new adult amateur eventing scholarship which is for people like her who have volunteered their time and competed in the eventing world as amateurs where many of the other competitors are professionals. Look for it in the American Connemara Magazine.

The next change is that her replacement, Anne Moe, has been transforming the membership process from paper to digital. So I get regular emails from her about new members, and the membership list on the ACPS website is updated regularly - it is available only to us all have the password. So if you want a green directory you need to pay more.

Next change is the snazzy new website which is NOT fully updated – but our own Amy Plavin is the Internet Committee chair, so email her if you notice something on the website which needs updating. Classifieds are still in the works.

The day was sunny and crisp and the crowd was jolly at River Road Farm in Carlisle MA as Liz Platais welcomed us for tea and chat on Sunday March 16th. The snows kept the Vermont contingent away, but we had about 20 folks from CT and Maine and RI and NH and MA. There was more food than we needed, including coffee and tea, green bagels, fruit, blueberry buckle and Irish Soda Bead and Lasagna and salad and Guinness! Liz had an amazing collection of old ACPS magazines for us to peruse and enjoy, and Pat and Rebecca Shields and took them home to try scanning some of the material in. Liz’s cute corgi from Alicia Daley added sparkle to the activities, and the ponies came trotting out in theirs rugs to enjoy their hay in a sunny spot so we could admire them.

And of course we had a business agenda as well. After introductions and pony updates we discussed Field Day, the store, officers, the future of the Bits and Pieces, the show, the raffle at the show, and Equine Affaire.

Interest in Field Day ran high. It is at Bantry Bay Farm, and Sarah McRae will be doing a “Confident Rider, Confident Horse” clinic on the flat and over fences. We will not have a parade of young stock as there are none coming.

The news about the B and P is that Rebecca Shields floored us all by offering to try a Region 1 Blog as an easier format and a more current tech-
**ACPS Region I Officers**

**Chair**  
Sally Oxnard: 603-772-6265  
5 Greenleaf Dr., Exeter, NH 03833  
stoxnard@gmail.com

**Vice Chair**  
Patricia Shields: 860-866-7116  
57 Lake Rd., Harwinton, CT 06791  
drybrookfarm@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**  
Susan Goodhouse: 802-484-5540  
Rolling Meadows Farm  
1212 Bailey Mills Road, Reading, VT  
goodfarm@vermontel.com

**Secretary**  
Carolyn McEvitt: 860-228-8675  
32 Hope Valley Road, Amston, CT 06231  
cbmcevitt@comcast.net

**Show Organizers**  
Amy Plavin: 413-834-1804  
403 Parker Hill Road, Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
whconnemaras@gmail.com

**ACPS Board of Governors**

**Region I Representative**  
Amy Plavin: 413-834-1804  
403 Parker Hill Road, Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
whconnemaras@gmail.com

**Newsletter**

**Art Director/Managing Editor**  
Hannah Howard: 603-934-4081  
Wynndover Farm  
PO Box 9, Salisbury, NH 03268  
designpoint@mac.com

**Communications Manager**  
Carolyn McEvitt: 860-228-8675  
32 Hope Valley Road, Amston, CT 06231  
cbmcevitt@comcast.net

**COPYRIGHT © 2013**

The Connemara Bits & Pieces Newsletter is published four times a year as an information source for American Connemara Pony Society Region I members. The Bits & Pieces staff and ACPS shall not be held responsible for any typing errors or misinformation submitted for publication by members.

---

**REGION I CHAIR cont.**

Another big change is the foal registration process which will need to include parentage testing and a microchip for every foal — starting in 2015. So get your ponies registered this year and it will be cheaper!!

Keep your eyes peeled for information about the ACPS Annual Meeting in October — the dates are October 2,3,4,5 and the site is in Greenville VA- an easy drive. We may have clinics or demos or trail rides so bring your pony!

And please get back to me if you have ideas or suggestions for more activities in Region 1- what ever we do together we seem to have great time. Looking forward to seeing lots of you are Field Day on May 10th.
Tea attendees were: Liz Platais, Cindy Bryant, Margaret Sanford, Andrew and Lily Beale, Christine Mather, Pat and Rebecca Shields, Bette Fredrickson, Lyn and Christine Chatham, Linda Haines, Lois Kessler, Sally Oxnard, Arianna DiRomualdo and Layne Bliss from ME.

PHOTOS BY LYN CHATHAM
Mud Season Management!

New Hampshire is famous for its mud season. And, after a winter like this last one, once the thaw begins—we will be faced with a worse muddy mess than usual! What can you do to prepare? Here are just a few tips to help you manage the mud!

- Be sure you are properly outfitted for a trip to the barn. A pair of tall insulated muck boots is a must. In warmer weather the old traditional rubber standby green "Wellies" are perfect.

- Ever suddenly find your foot comes up with no boot attached trying to walk in deep mud? Tip: Don't pull your foot straight up. Pull heel up first, and you're much more likely to keep foot and boot attached.

- Protect your horse! Aside from pulled muscles associated with walking in mud, ailments such as colic, thrush and laminitis are more prevalent. Beware of "Rain Rot" as spring rains commence as well as "Scratches" (also known as Greased Heels, Dew Poisoning and Mud Fever)—the skin disease of the heels and back of the pastern often found in wet environments.

- When considering blanketing or not, it is most important to provide your horse an opportunity to stay dry. Wet horses are more susceptible to hypothermia in cold temperatures and dermatologic issues (such as rain rot).

- Prep the farm! The soft footing that leads to mud will likely kill any vegetation growing where traffic patterns are high. To minimize the damaged ground, designate a sacrifice lot.

- Eliminate low-lying areas, especially if these are in high traffic areas. When you can, bring in sand, wood bark, sawdust, gravel or crushed asphalt to help prevent mud at gates and entries to barns and arenas.

- Another unfortunate side effect of mud is ruts and holes in the ground. It’s a good idea to smooth out these ruts as best you can when the weather is above freezing and the soil is still pliable. As temperatures fluctuate, and these deep ruts freeze, they leave dangerous holes and uneven ground.

- Feed wisely and minimize waste! If feeding hay on the ground outside, try feeding on a rubber mat to keep it from being lost in the mud or water. A mat outside can also minimize the amount of dirt or sand the horses can ingest that potentially lead to sand colic.

- Another tactic to minimize mud is to encourage horses to change their traffic patterns by feeding hay in different locations of the turnout.

While we can’t eliminate the problem of mud altogether, using these tips can help us cope with the inevitable mess of springtime!

One reason why birds and horses are happy is because they don’t spend a lot of time trying to impress other birds and horses. — Dale Carnegie
Analysis of Genetic Susceptibility for Melanoma in Connemara Ponies

Alain P. Théon, DVM

Background
Horses and ponies with a graying hair coat have 80% life-time risk of developing melanomas. Melanoma is a cancer that arises from melanocytes, the cells producing pigments in the skin and hair. The appearance, location and behavior (growth rate and spread to internal organs) of melanomas are variable and unpredictable. They are classified as dermal (cutaneous) or non-cutaneous melanomas. Dermal melanomas occur as discrete tumor masses affecting pigmented glabrous skin or dermal melanomatosis that present as multiple confluent masses at the root of the tail, perineum, perianal region, and external genitalia. Non-cutaneous melanomas present as subcutaneous masses below haired skin on the head (parotid area), neck and trunk.

The increase in the proportion of graying ponies in the registered Connemara Ponies population over the past few decades has been coupled by an increased risk of developing melanomas. This is further compounded by the fact that the Connemara pony population is aging (ponies live longer than horses and decline in registration) which further increase the lifetime melanoma in the breed risk relative to other equidae. The lack of effective treatment and misunderstanding of the disease prevents breeders and veterinarian from stopping the rising risk of melanomas in Connemara Ponies. This may result in business loss for the Connemara Pony industry and may compromise showmanship and public interest for the breed. There are no breed-predispositions to traits. This genetic uniformity presents a tremendous opportunity to detect individual genetic alterations associated with the risk and progression of a disease such as melanoma. As a result, the Connemara Pony breed was chosen to elucidate genetic factors associated with melanomas because of their unique genetic uniformity and not because melanoma is a disease of the breed. The cooperation of Connemara Pony breeders is absolutely critical to successfully conduct the proposed study and help resolve the rising risk of melanoma in the breed.

Advances in genomic research are generating opportunities for progress toward the goal of tailoring risk reduction, diagnosis, and treatment strategies for melanoma in animal and human patients. The completion of the Equine Genome Project and the availability of whole-genome sequencing at the UC Davis Genome Center have made this type of research possible in Connemara Ponies. The entire genome (DNA) of melanoma-bearing ponies and melanoma-free ponies can be compared and analyzed by Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS).

Your Connemara is Needed!
Give samples for the Equine Melanoma Research Project, UC Davis Veterinary School
• ANY Connemara Pony WITH Melanoma
• GREY Connemara Pony +/- 20 yo WITHOUT Melanoma
• NON GREY Connemara +/- 10 yo WITHOUT Melanoma

Contact: Maureen Loughman Abel, ACPS Project Coordinator
to guide you through the process.
863 467-5377 or mloughman@embarqmail.com

Research Proposal
A proposal for an International study of melanomas in Connemara Ponies was discussed at the 2012 International Connemara Pony Festival in Clifden, IR. The goals of the study are to determine susceptibility and causative genes associated with melanoma in Connemara Ponies using genome-wide association studies (GWAS). A necessary component of such efforts is to establish of a tissue bank to provide quality biosamples for genomic analysis.

Identification of defective genes will also be used to prevent or minimize melanoma risk through genetic screening and careful breeding.

Methods
A description of the study, benefits for the industry and questionnaire will be available (by mail or website) to owners, breeders interested in participating in the study. Biospecimen will be collected along with health and breeding information. Biobanking and research will be done with privacy and confidentiality protections, linked anonymisation and owners’ access to research results. In order to obtain statistically meaningful data, 4 groups of ponies are required:

Once ponies have been identified and enrolled, an IDed shipping kit box will be sent to veterinarian for tissue collection and shipment. The kit will include a veterinary medical questionnaire, informed consent form, detailed description of the kit content, collection protocol for blood and urine (tumor-bearing or not) and tissue samples (skin and tumor), FedEx/UPS prefilled form, shipping authorization and receipt return address card). The samples will be stored in Dr Théon’s Laboratory at UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. Samples will be analyzed in batches at the UC Davis Genome and Medical Biosciences Facility. Whole genome will be compared in melanoma-bearing ponies and melanoma-free ponies. Mutated genes and their expression will be analyzed according to the age at which melanomas develop, the type of melanoma (dermal vs non-cutaneous) and the association with the known mutation (syntaxin-17) associated with graying coat color.
ENTRY FORM — ACPS Region I 2014 Field Day

Complete this form and send to: Sally Oxnard, 5 Greenleaf Drive, Exeter, NH 03833

Include $35/session or $50/per day. Entries with current negative Coggins MUST be received by May 1st.

All riders must have ASTM/SEI approved helmets and boots with heels.

NAME OF OWNER: ________________________________

NAME OF RIDER: ________________________________

OWNER’S ADDRESS: ________________________________

CITY: __________________________ STATE: _______ ZIP: __________

OWNER’S PHONE: __________________________

CELL: __________________________ EMAIL: __________________________

NAME OF PONY: __________________________

AGE: __________________________

☐ COGGINS ENCLOSED

☐ $35 = Morning Agility Session   ☐ $35 = Afternoon CR Session   ☐ $50= Both sessions ........ $__________

I need _____ stall(s) for the day (No charge, subject to availability)

Bring your own hay. Water available on-site. Please rake/sweep any mess and clean stall.

NOTE: For additional ponies, use a separate sheet of paper ............................ Total Enclosed $__________

Sarah McRae (with her stallion Aluin Durango) has been competing in eventing for 31 years. Her training has been enhanced by former Olympian Denny Emerson for the last 26 years. Sarah focuses on building a self-assured young horse by riding with confidence. Sarah is especially skilled at working with young horses. For more info visit: http://www.northernconnemaras.com

Clinician is Sarah McRae, Northern Connemaras, Sharon, Vermont. Sarah is an ACPS Inspector and member of the ACPS Board of Governors. visit: http://www.northernconnemaras.com

Achieve a "Confident Rider, Confident Horse"

9:30 AM .................Flatwork
12:00 PM .............Lunch and Region I Annual Meeting
2:00 PM ...............Jumping

$35/morning flatwork session
$35/afternoon jumping session • $50/both sessions

Auditors are welcome. No charge to come learn and socialize!

Lunch contributions are eagerly accepted, we will pass the hat.
call/email Sally to sign up to bring food.

Sarah McRae (with her stallion Aluin Durango) has been competing in eventing for 31 years. Her training has been enhanced by former Olympian Denny Emerson for the last 26 years. Sarah focuses on building a self-assured young horse by riding with confidence. Sarah is especially skilled at working with young horses. For more info visit: http://www.northernconnemaras.com

Clinician is Sarah McRae, Northern Connemaras, Sharon, Vermont. Sarah is an ACPS Inspector and member of the ACPS Board of Governors. visit: http://www.northernconnemaras.com

Achieve a "Confident Rider, Confident Horse"

9:30 AM .................Flatwork
12:00 PM .............Lunch and Region I Annual Meeting
2:00 PM ...............Jumping

$35/morning flatwork session
$35/afternoon jumping session • $50/both sessions

Auditors are welcome. No charge to come learn and socialize!

Lunch contributions are eagerly accepted, we will pass the hat.
call/email Sally to sign up to bring food.

Sarah McRae (with her stallion Aluin Durango) has been competing in eventing for 31 years. Her training has been enhanced by former Olympian Denny Emerson for the last 26 years. Sarah focuses on building a self-assured young horse by riding with confidence. Sarah is especially skilled at working with young horses. For more info visit: http://www.northernconnemaras.com

Clinician is Sarah McRae, Northern Connemaras, Sharon, Vermont. Sarah is an ACPS Inspector and member of the ACPS Board of Governors. visit: http://www.northernconnemaras.com

Achieve a "Confident Rider, Confident Horse"

9:30 AM .................Flatwork
12:00 PM .............Lunch and Region I Annual Meeting
2:00 PM ...............Jumping

$35/morning flatwork session
$35/afternoon jumping session • $50/both sessions

Auditors are welcome. No charge to come learn and socialize!

Lunch contributions are eagerly accepted, we will pass the hat.
call/email Sally to sign up to bring food.

Sarah McRae (with her stallion Aluin Durango) has been competing in eventing for 31 years. Her training has been enhanced by former Olympian Denny Emerson for the last 26 years. Sarah focuses on building a self-assured young horse by riding with confidence. Sarah is especially skilled at working with young horses. For more info visit: http://www.northernconnemaras.com
It’s time to plan your spring and summer of horse events and make sure you put July 19th and 20th on your calendar. This year’s Region I Connemara Breed Show at GMHA will appeal to both competitors and spectators. On Saturday we will run one ring at a time which will make it easier for the spectators and the competitors. No more rushing around and worrying about missed classes; we’ll all be together on Saturday, which should work out well.

On Sunday we will have several classes running at the same time but you will be able to set your times and hopefully all will run smoothly. We will be sharing the grounds with the Central Vermont Dressage Association on Sunday and our dressage tests will run through their show. This will require a separate entry form which can be found on www.cvda.org and their opening date is June 13 and closing date is July 3. Sunday we will also have our first hunter derby which will be designed and judged by Christina Keim. We will have two divisions and it will be an inviting course on the outside course. Sunday will also be trail and dressage/trail day.

Please contact me, Amy Plavin (413-834-1804 or whconnemaras@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the show. See you there!

NEW FUNDRAISER for the Connemara Show

This year we will have a raffle of five fabulous baskets. Raffle tickets will be available in the Youth Center on Friday and Saturday and the drawing will be during our dinner on Saturday night. We will have a junior themed basket from the Equine Affaire committee, a fine food basket from the Region I Store, High Brook Tack will be donating items from their store, a horse bed and breakfast in Maine has donated a weekend stay and of course we will have a beautiful Tom Oxnard bowl!

If for some reason you can’t attend the show and want to purchase tickets please contact me and let me know how many tickets you want for which basket!

I will also be sending out the sponsor letter in May and if you have a certain class you would like to sponsor and an ad ready please contact me before May and I can make sure you get your first choice sponsorship!

The 48th Annual
ACPS REGION I Connemara Breed Show
At Green Mountain Horse Association
South Woodstock, Vermont
www.gmhainc.org
Saturday July 19th & Sunday July 20th 2014

FEATURES
In-Hand • Jumpers • Hunter Derby • Trail • Walk/Trot • Pleasure
Costume! • Showstopper Raffle • Awards!
Wine & Cheese Reception (Sat. 7 pm, Youth Center)
Friday Night & Saturday Night Dinners (Sign Up on Entry Form)
Fabulous Photos by John W. Miller
www.spectrumphotography.net
NEW THIS YEAR!....Hunter Derby...Driving...Bridleless Demo
Welcome to the 48th Annual Region 1 Connemara Show!

Show Manager: Allison Beck, Woodstock, 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. Juniors are those who have not turned 19 by January 1, 2014.

7. Adults may show ponies in all classes unless class specifications state otherwise. Juniors are those who have not turned 19 by January 1, 2014.

8. FEI approved helmets are required whenever mounted.

9. All classes will be held in accordance with USEF rules and specifications when applicable.

10. Entry fees for In Hand classes are $15/class; Performance classes are $20/class if postmarked by June 15. All entries postmarked by June 15 will be listed in the Show Program. Entries postmarked after July 1 or on the day of the show will be subject to post-entry fees of $25. Scratches after closing date (6/15) will receive a refund of stabling fee and shavings ONLY!

11. Trophy and six ribbons to be awarded in all regular classes; Trophy, Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons to be awarded in Championship classes.

Shows and Showing

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 2014 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

IN HAND CLASSES
8:00 A.M. Saturday July 19, 2014
The White Ring

Judge: India Baker, Bethel, Maine

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 of the animal as a sporthorse or pony.

1. Halfbred Connemara Mare In Hand halfbred Connemara mares and fillies of any age

2. Halfbred Connemara Gelding In Hand halfbred Connemara geldings of any age

3. Champion Halfbred In Hand The Laura Balding Trophy 1st & 2nd place winners of classes 1 & 2

4. Purebred Connemara Geldings In Hand Connemara geldings four years and older

5. Junior Showmanship Handlers age 8 to 14, ponies age 5 and up. Handler to be judged on pony handling skills, attentiveness, presence. Pony to be show in hand only - standing up, and at a walk and trot. (Class does not qualify for championships)

6. Fitting & Showmanship Judged 40% condition, grooming of horse; 10% appearance of exhibitor, cleanliness of tack; 50% showmanship. Shown in hand at walk & trot, and may be asked to complete an individual pattern. Appropriate attire is required, braiding is not required, and conformation not to count.

7. Purebred Connemara Mares In Hand Connemara mares four to seven years of age

8. Purebred Connemara Mares In Hand Connemara mares eight years and older

9. Purebred Connemara Stallions In Hand Connemara stallions four years and older

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. There is a separate prizelist and entry fees and that can be found at cvda.org.
10. **Purebred Connemara Foals of 2014 and 2013** (If there are more than 3 entries in each year, this class will be split)

11. **Purebred Connemara Foals of 2012 and 2011** (If there are more than 3 entries in each year, this class will be split)

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. **Youngstock Champion** *The Morning Cadence Trophy*
   1st & 2nd place youngstock from classes 10 & 11

15. **Champion Geling In Hand** *The Tower Hill Farm Award.*
   1st & 2nd placed geldings from classes 4, 10 & 11

16. **Champion Connemara Mare In Hand** *American Connemara Pony Society Trophy.*
   1st & 2nd placed fillies and mares from classes 7, 8, 10 & 11

17. **Champion Connemara Stallion In Hand** *The Patrick J. Keough Trophy.*
   1st & 2nd placed colts and stallions from classes 9, 10 & 11

18. **Champion Connemara In Hand** *GMHA Perpetual Trophy*
   Champion & reserve from classes 14 (breeding stock only), 16 & 17

19. **Ponies for Sale** to be paraded in hand (no entry fee)

**Performance Classes**

Walker Ring at 1 pm on Sat

*Judge: India Baker*

20. **Leadline** Open to all our future Connemara riders (No post entry fee.)

21. **Walk Trot Pleasure** Judged on performance, manners and suitability. (rider/pony pairs may not enter)

22. **Walk/Trot Command** (rider/pony pairs may not enter classes requiring a canter)

23. **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.

24. **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

25. **Low Jumper** fences at 2’
26. **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.

27. **Hunter under Saddle** Walk, trot, canter both directions. May be asked to back. No martingales permitted.

28. **Training Jumper** fences at 2’7” *Versatility Qualifier*

29. **Equitation Junior/Senior** Walk, trot, canter both directions. Judged on equitation.

30. **Gambler’s Choice** fences at 2’9” *Versatility Qualifier*

White Ring (after Jumper classes)

31. **Driving-Pleasure** *Versatility Qualifier* (must receive three entries prior to closing)

White Ring following conclusion of classes

!! COSTUME CLASS PARADE !!

**BRIDLELESS DEMO by Rebecca Shields & Bailey**

**SUNDAY JULY 20, 2013**

**8 AM TO 3 PM**

Trail in Dust Bowl; Dressage/Trail in White Ring

Hunter Derby on Outside Course

**Trail Classes**

The Dust Bowl

Judge: Lila Gendal

*Held concurrently with the rest of the show. *Times 10 am. – 3 pm*

Please schedule times with Show Secretary by 9:45 a.m. Sunday or at Trail area after 10.

**A Fun Course of Natural Obstacles!**

In Hand classes do not count for Versatility Award or High Point trail.

32. **Trail Class – Ridden – Junior** Connemaras/Halfbreds only *Versatility Qualifier*

*Mandatory class*

33. **Trail Class – Ridden – Junior** All Other Breeds

34. **Trail Class – Ridden – Senior** *Versatility Award Mandatory Qualifying class*

35. **Trail Class – Ridden – Senior** All Other Breeds

**SATURDAY EVENING**

**Wine & Cheese Dinner**

**Showstopper Raffle**

**Store Basket**

Gourmet Goodies Basket,

B & B Gift Certificate

plus more!

*We will not be mailing items to raffle winners so all items must be picked up by Sunday at noon in the youth building; accompanied with the winning ticket. Otherwise you forfeit your prize, and a new winner will be drawn before the last class of the day on Sunday.*
Shows and Showing

**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. There is a separate prizelist and entry fees and that can be found at cvda.org.

36. **Trail Class – In Hand. Ponies ages 3 and under**

37. **Trail Class – In Hand. Ponies over 3 years old**

Trail Champion awarded to the pony/rider combination with the highest score in classes 32 or 34

38. **Dressage Trail Test 1-open (description at end of prizelist)**

**HUNTER DERBY – OUTSIDE COURSE**

Judge: Chris Keim

39. **Hunter Derby 2’3”** Connemaras/Halfbreds only

40. **Hunter Derby 2’3”** All other breeds

41. **Hunter Derby 2’6”** Connemaras/Halfbreds only Versatility Qualifier Mandatory class

42. **Hunter Derby 2’6”** All other breeds

*Please join all of us as awards are presented in the White Ring after class 42*

**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 Connemara**
Awarded to the Purebred Connemara accruing the most points in its In-Hand class; Under Saddle (class 27), Jumpers (class 28 or 30); Hunter Derby (class 39 or 41); 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 1/1/14) accruing the most points in performance (not in hand). **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 32 or 34). Then choose **three** classes from the following: **Pleasure** (class 24 or 26); **Hunter Derby** (class 41); **Jumpers** (class 28 or 30); **Driving** (class 31); or **Dressage** (from the CVDA show running in Upwey on Sunday*). The rider/pony combination needs to 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 TRAIL TEST

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 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.
From a new member...

I’m happy to become part of ACPS as I’ve always loved Connemara ponies and tb/Connemara x horses. I own True North Farm here on Cape Cod (MA). We are an eventing facility with a super busy lesson program, summer camps, as well as a USPC riding center program. Needless to say we have lots of kids around so all our horses have to be super safe to handle and be friendly and pleasant company as well as athletic for the eventing.

My new horse is Caraways Archer, an 11 yo gelding who has evented successfully up to the preliminary level with his previous owner Bekki Read. Typical of his breeding he is not only a blast to ride and athletic, but an absolute sweet heart to live with. So he’s the perfect fit at True North!

Kay Slater
www.truenortheventing.com

Sharing...

This photo is of Trout Ranch Keegan sharing an apple with me as my dog, Chloe, looks on. Photo was taken last fall. Believe it or not it was not staged but rather caught on a friends iphone. Don’t you just love the personalities of this amazing breed!

Pam McPhee

Congratulations!...

Christina Keim of Madbury NH has become a USEF licensed Connemara Judge. Such an achievement requires many hours of work, study, and apprentice judging. Chris is also on the Equine Faculty at UNH, and is frequently seen riding her Connemara cross mare JEF Anna Rose (below with Chris) in the local eventing scene, or volunteering at the Region 1 Show or Field Day.

We could learn a lot from crayons... Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

AHHH... SPRING!
DryBrook Farm News.

Well, don’t know about all of you but I am relieved to be seeing the ground without several feet of snow covering it. While the chill of winter is still upon us here at that farm, Spring is showing signs of making an entrance. We are finally able to use our riding ring and get our ponies ready to being more than lovely yard ornaments.

Yesterday, our beloved, DryBrook Tara’s Legacy, 2012’s Region’s 1 Champion, went to a new home to be fussed over by her new 10 year old owner, Keela Moore, of Trumbull, CT. Tara was greeted to new home by Keela and a group of admiring kids. The perfect place for a pony. Elene, Keela’s mom, called and so pleased that Tara adjusted quickly to their farm and being fussed over by several kids all wanting to bush and pamper her. Happy Trails to Keela and Tara.

Becca and I had really nice day at Liz Platis’ home and farm the day of the Tea. Liz shared her lovely ponies and her husband’s artist studio, the Platis family is certainly very talented and such a beautiful farm. After the Tea, Becca and I wanted to go to SmartPak and see if we could find any bargains. Becca spied a really nice Prestige Eventing Saddle on consignment. So she got an early birthday gift. Sending a pic with her and DryBrooks Bailey’s Cream, their first ride in several weeks, new saddle, new bridle and chilling cold…but no snow in the ring.

We can announce that our newest filly was born April 3rd at 1:30. We just LOVE her face! She is out of Lasrachai’s Blue Oak Dunlaith by our Stallion, Bailey’s Irish Dream. This is the second foal from this breeding. Roscommon Annika, daughter of Dunlaith, is due end of April. Annika was bred to Rachel Erhlich’s GrandPrix, Stallion, Werbellin. I doubt Annika will make it to the end of April. As usual she looks huge, but she’ll let me know when she is ready.

In closing I would like to add that we are looking forward to seeing everyone at Field Day.

Pat Shields
Dry Brook Farm

Some horses have large “ergots” (those small horny knobs at the rear point of your horse’s fetlocks) and some have almost none. They can interfere with trimming so, to keep them small, you need to peel them:

After a bath, when they are soft, use your thumb and forefinger to peel away the layers of tissue until it is nearly level with the horse’s skin. If it is dry or difficult to peel—you can try twisting until it snaps at the center. As a last resort you cut off the hard tip with sharp scissors or nippers. Be careful to stay out of kicking range and hold your horse’s leg, especially the first couple of times you peel the ergot.
Don’t Cry for the Horses
—by Brenda Riley-Seymore

Don’t cry for the horses
That life has set free
A million white horses
forever to be

They were ours as a gift
But never to keep
As they close their eyes
Forever to sleep

Their spirits unbound
On silver wings they fly
A million white horses
Against the blue sky

Look up into heaven
You’ll see them above
The horses we lost
The horses we loved

Manes and tails flowing
They gallop through time
They were never yours
They were never mine

Don’t cry for the horses
They will be back someday
When our time has come
They will show us the way

Do you hear that soft nicker
Close to your ear?
Don’t cry for the horses
Love the ones that are here.

Soulmates In Loving Memory of...

Timbrel’s Tuck Everlasting

I feel very blessed to have had such a special horse in my life. Tuck came to me at a perfect time. He was a horse that not only shaped me into a better rider and competitor, but from a young adolescent into a strong woman. The seven wonderful years of life I was able to share with Tuck were some of my most memorable.

I bought Tuck in hopes that he would teach me everything about eventing and bring me up through the levels. I learned that it was not going to be quite that easy. Tuck was easily distracted (especially in the dressage ring) and he also liked to buck (which I learned galloping down the hills of Hitching Post Farm); frustrating for a 16-year-old girl who just wanted everything to work out perfectly. But the journey of training began and we became a team; he knew me and I knew him. We had a lot of fun competing up to the training level of eventing. Tuck always had a way of surprising me in the best way. He was a beautiful boy who also had such a presence to him.

I want to thank Tuck for not being that perfect horse. He taught me that in life you have to work hard, sacrifice a little and stay committed to your goals. He taught me what it truly means to be a team and to know not just your partner but yourself. It saddens me that he had to leave us earlier than expected but I am comforted to know that he is not suffering any more. I’ll never forget my palomino half-bred, “Tucky Boy.”
Members Pages

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Duett Companion 17” Bi-color Trail Saddle: Wide 34cm width. Wool flocked. Comfortable seat with removable/moveable knee and calf blocks. Nice to jump in too. Textured, grain brown leather on flaps gives added grip. Long billets. 20” elastic dressage girth and stirrup leathers included. Excellent condition. $1,000. Contact: hmhrider@mac.com or call 603-934-4081

FOR SALE weanling filly, RMF Fionnoula, comming 1yr, grey, will stay large pony. Sire: *Kippure Cara Dam: Tower Hill’s Meghan, premium mare. This filly has great bloodlines that will excel in all disciplines. Her sire is imported from Ireland and very nice old fashion bloodlines. The dam’s sire was imported from England and many excellent ponies going way back. She is fully weaned, ties, leads and has all her shots. $3500.00. Call 802-484-5540 or e-mail goodfarm@vermontel.net

FOR SALE coming 5yr old, dun, 14hh, pure-bred gelding. Sire: Morning Glory’s Ilyushin. Dam RMF Irish Rose. Riley is a nice quiet pony that has had 2 months of formal training. Loves the trails and gets along with other ponies. No vices, bathes, trailers, goes in water. Will make a great family pony and nice addition to any barn. Easy keeper and fun to be around. Price; $5000.00 call 802-484-5540 or e-mail goodfarm@vermontel.net

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.

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 603-934-4081

Have you hugged your Horse today?

ACPS Region I Newsletter Spring 2014 17