

# AMERICAN CONNEMARA

The Official Publication of the American Connemara Pony Society

MARCH/APRIL 2021

EDITION II, VOL. 12 NO. 2

## *AWARDS ISSUE*



*Bt Just A Rebel and Lila Gendal*



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*Neioui Ninon Tartifume and Violene II.*

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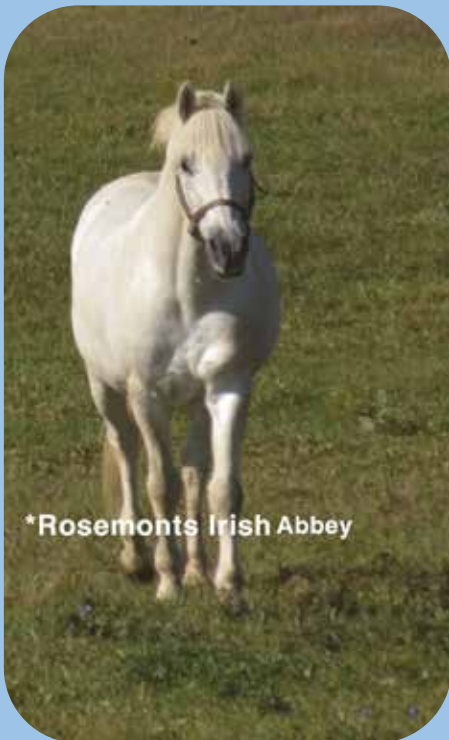
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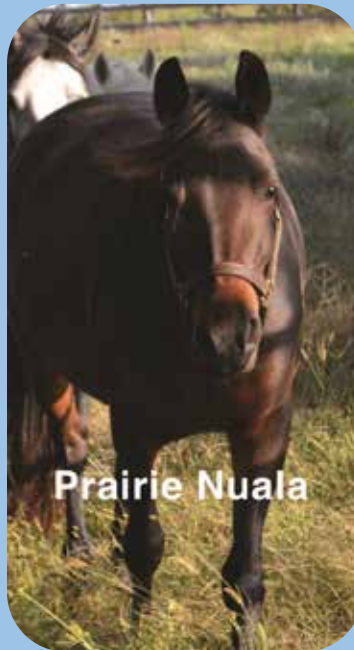
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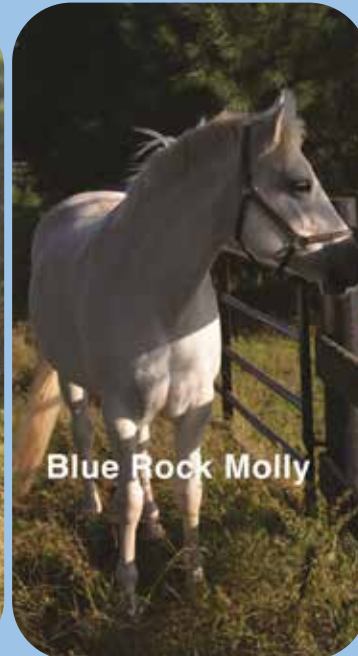
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# American Connemara

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*Rolling Meadows Farm - Reading, Vermont*

*Susan Goodhouse sent the photo with the message "We have been breeding ponies for over 30 years and we started with mares from Tower Hills Farm. We are not breeding any longer but have two broodmares and a halfbred. Susan and Brittany Goodhouse"*

# President's Page

It's winter and it's New Hampshire.

Morning chores take on a different character. It's cold out, it's dark out. I enjoy my morning coffee and get my stretches done for the day. Then, still in my Victoria Secret pajamas, I slip on my wool socks and my Carhart overalls with neck gaiter, hat, insulated muck boots, and battery-operated heated gloves.

Tower Hill's Donnelly has been watching through the window since I got up but when he sees the *suit* going on, he starts his "good morning, you're late already" nickers. Hay into hay nets is first, ponies can relax then, no more reminders about what time it is from them. Then Murphy, the barn cat, announces that there is nothing in his bowl. He jumps up onto the counter and purrs and lifts his back into my hand for easier petting. We call him a barn cat because he eats in the barn, but he prefers spending his time in the warm house.

The chickens are next. We have two chicken coops, a winter coop that is protected from the elements, and a summer coop that is basically a screened in porch. Three chickens choose the summer coop for the night. The others have chosen to sleep on Donnelly's stall wall, which he hates, or in the shavings bin.

Next, I deal with water for ponies and chickens. They all have heated buckets, thank goodness. Warm water gets nasty quickly and so the buckets need emptying and cleaning daily. This gets the chickens all happy, they prefer the water I dump out that is gross to the clean water I tote around for them. Next, I fill the hay bags with the really small holes.

The ponies spend much of the day trying to get the hay out of through the little openings and into their tummies. Finally, it's time to deal with frozen poopsicles around the paddocks. This is the time I turn on the magic gloves, otherwise I can't move my fingers to chop and scrape. The ponies don't poop in their stalls, which I appreciate, but frozen manure is its own major chore. It will break a plastic pitch fork, unless we've just had snow, in which case you often can't find any. It is a solitary chore, filling that muck bucket, but one that offers plenty of "think time." Paddock picking musings are free flowing. I do not think about work but just about anything else. Today it was about breeding plans in the spring.

As I write, the ACPS Stallion Auction is just about to kick off. It was such a great fund raiser for the Susan McConnell ACPS Foundation last year. Our generous stallion owners have stepped up once again to support the Foundation and keep their lovely stallions in front of us for oohing and aahing. I would love to see them all in person(?) but it's a much speedier job to check them out through the auction site. On February 6, 2021, the Board of Governors (BOG) met virtually for our mid-year meeting. We had 37 members present! No one wants to meet on Zoom if there is a choice but having such a fine turnout offers benefits we would not have had otherwise. My calculations show that 10 of 16 At Large Governors participated and 8 of 10 Regional Governors were there. We welcomed Robin Mercer, our brand-new Regional governor from Region 10. We also had 8 of 10 Region Chairs. Committees showed up, 9 of 11 Standing Committees and 4 out of 4 Ad Hoc Committees were represented. We also had members attend who had new ideas for us to consider and/or wanted to be included to be informed about the workings of the Society. The downside, we spent the first hour on introductions and were all a mite glassy-eyed by adjournment three hours later. The Consent agenda worked well for us again with BOG members



*Linda Haines surviving Winter in New Hampshire*

reading and digesting mounds of reading material before the meeting. It was all about the ponies, so it was less a chore than if we sat on the Board of a Bank or another less fun organization. Some of the accomplishments will be spelled out in the pages of this magazine like approving points for virtual shows and adopting the Fun with Ponies category into our national awards program.

Several Committees were appointed. The Internet Committee requested a member from each other committee to review the new website before it goes live.

A committee was appointed to plan for the eventuality that our long time secretary/registrar wants to retire someday. Another small group is looking into reviving the ACPS Bookstore. Lisa Martin-Gerdes agreed to take on the project when it gets figured out. Where and how do we get the books people are wanting to read?

Donna Power is energizing the Youth Committee with letters and questions to our junior members and a plan to work in coordination with the region chairs to incorporate more junior activities.

We have a revised plan for our ACPS insurance coverage for region events, Becky Jordan will communicate the details to Region Chairs.

In addition, a bylaws change was proposed to adjust the boundary between Regions 3 and 4. Kathy Nebel has an explanation in this edition on the next pages. The plan will be presented to the membership to vote on prior to our September Annual Meeting which we hope will take place in person in Kentucky.

Oh, and Lee Webster Ramensky generated the most enthusiasm with a new fundraiser. Everyone seemed excited about it, stay tuned for more information.

I am enjoying talking to fellow pony people. Keep the calls and emails coming.

*Linda Haines*



# ACPS ANNUAL MEETING & BREEDING CONFERENCE

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## FUN WITH PONY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD APPROVED FOR ALL ACPS REGIONS

*By Tracy Garland*

The “Fun With Pony Achievement Award” was launched as a “Pilot” in January 2020 in Regions I and IX. The ACPS Board wanted to test a program that recognizes a wide range of ways that Members enjoy their ponies. Applicants report hours : riding, driving, conditioning, training, groundwork and or bonding. 150 hours per pony per year is the minimum to qualify. Applicants were also asked to supply a “story” and photos of having fun!

We found a strong response in both Regions: 21 ponies and 16 owners. There was a nice mix in age of pony (8 mos. – 28 years!) and owners (youth, adult and seniors). The stories and photos are serving as a valuable mechanism for members to get to know each other. This is especially true for Region IX where members and ponies are spread far apart.

We also learned that the process of submitting information could be streamlined and that the Fun With Pony Award Program could benefit from more promotion in the future.

On February 6, 2021, The ACPS Board voted to expand the 2020 FWP Pilot to all ACPS Regions for 2021.

The Board considered the results of the 2020 FWP Pilot as well as support voiced by other Regions. Susan Dudasik, Region VIII Chair, expressed her support:

“Most of the awards are based on show participation... FWP would give members a fun, non-competitive reason to join the ACPS...wonderful for those with older ponies,young ponies and riders and those with limited ability to participate in events.”

*(Susan Dudasik letter to ACPS Board of Governors)*

Three improvements for 2021:

- 1) Members will have an electronic reporting form (FO8) which is “fillable”, allowing for direct placement of information on the form. (Thank you, Julie Keahey!)
- 2) ACPS Magazine will feature 2020 FUN WITH PONY Achievement Award winners (story and photos) in each of its issues under a newly minted “logo” (shown here). In addition, 2021 applicants will be able to submit their information and photos directly on to a FUN WITH PONY template which will facilitate publication.
- 3) Jen Garutti will be the national point person for receiving the Fun With Pony applications...thank you, Jen!

Achievement Award Certificates (created by Sue Antilla) for the FUN WITH PONY 2020 PILOT will go to:



### 2020 FUN WITH PONY PILOT TOTALS

#### Region I

MLC Rocky Mountain Morn, 4 yrs., Constance Brown  
Ripleigh's Abra Cadabra, 11 yrs., Carolyn McEvitt  
Crib Glas Mandolin, 19 yrs., Carolyn McEvitt  
C.K.C. Katie, 28 yrs., Carolyn McEvitt  
Concord River Fife and Drum, 21 yrs., Lisa Page  
Searah's Sweet Coraline, 7 yrs., Sharon Hirsh  
Tower Hill's Breeze, 16 yrs., Sally Oxnard  
Sutton Spring, 14 yrs., Kerry Page  
Paradox Westerly, 5 yrs., Sally Oxnard  
Tullymor's Clementine Rose, 15 yrs., Bette Fredrickson  
Tricreek Greystone Marimac, 27 yrs., Bette Fredrickson  
Trout Ranch Jest, 8 months, BethAdams/Meagan Seely

#### Region IX

Tullymor's Mountain Sun, 16 yrs., Keslie Staehli  
Hideaway's Angel, 19 yrs., Tarrah Baker  
Crib Glas Cymbal, 15 yrs., Tarrah Baker  
Big Bear's Arayahope, 17 yrs, Morgan Elwood  
Gately's Neala Finch, 7 yrs., Katherine Forester  
Courney's Four Leaf Clover, 23 yrs., Barbara Clark  
Hideaway's First Edition, 22 yrs., Tracy Garland  
SLR Remington, 6 yrs., Shelley Feldner-Schuerman  
Nora Rose 13 yrs., Shelley Feldner-Schuerman

Gately's Neala Finch  
Sire: Grange Finch  
Dam: Castle Marilyn  
2013/grey/mare  
Katherine Forester, owner

We bought Neala when I was nine years old and she was three, and we have been learning and having fun together ever since!

Neala is amazing. She is so fun to play with, and wonderful to ride. We try to ride at least 4 to 5 times a week. We have been learning dressage, and we have both really enjoyed and benefited from it. We also started taking cross country lessons this summer and Neala loves it!

This year we have worked on Neala being more responsive to my aids, getting proper distances to jumps, and getting clean lead changes. Neala has also taken my mom on several trail rides, and is teaching my 10 year-old brother how to ride.



# Neala



## *Proposal for Boundary Change between Region III and Region IV*

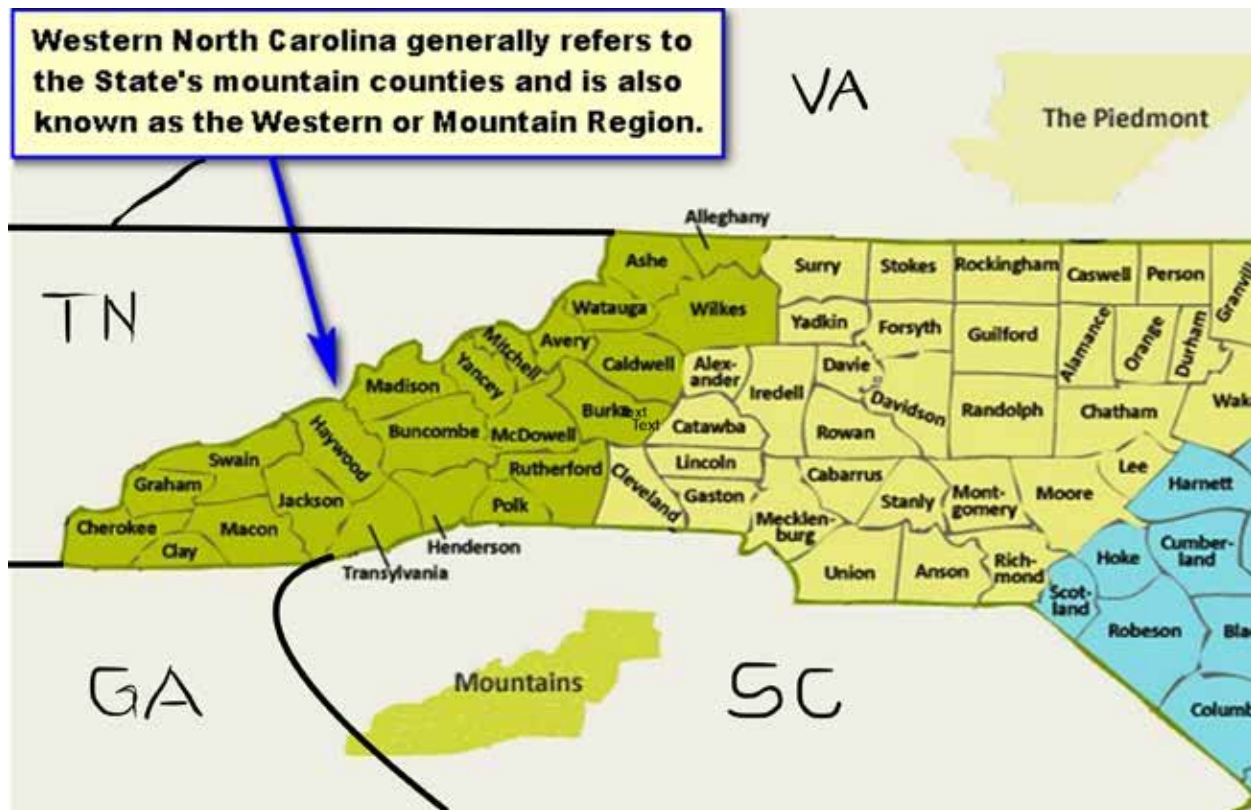
A proposal to move the western portion of North Carolina from Region III to Region IV was submitted to the ACPS Board of Governors and reviewed at their February 2021 meeting. A change to the regions will require a vote by ACPS members.

Region III currently includes Maryland, DC, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and all of North Carolina. Region IV includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The mountain counties in Western North Carolina are literally embedded in Region IV, sitting between Tennessee to the north and Georgia and South Carolina to the south. The proximity of meetings and shows in Region IV makes it easier for ACPS members in western North Carolina to actively participate in and attend Region IV events.

Region III events are concentrated in Virginia, with the annual show in Lexington, a 300 mile drive over the Blue Ridge mountains for this writer. By contrast, the Region IV events move around the region. In the past 10 years the annual show has been as close as 25 miles and only one location in 10 years exceeded 300 miles.

North Carolina is geographically divided into three distinct areas - the Western or Mountain Region, the Piedmont and the Coastal Plains. The proposal is to move those counties comprising the Mountain Region in Western North Carolina to Region IV.



*This proposal will be included on the 2021 Proxy sent to all voting members  
30 days before the annual meeting in September in Lexington, KY*

*If you would like to comment on the proposal, send it in an email to  
[americanconnemara@gmail.com](mailto:americanconnemara@gmail.com)*

*The communications will be shared with the Board of Governors*

## USEF AWARDS 2020

### Purebred Dressage

1. Kynnymont Aidan O'Sullivan, Beth Niebling, NJ 108
2. Penny Lane, Amy Marrich, TX 36
2. Rosewood's Better Mouse Trap, Taylor Gustin, CA 36
4. Kynnymont Brianna, Madelaine Ford, MD 27
5. Blue Ridge Breckinbridge, Cynthia Holbrook, NC 21
5. \*Meelick Island Swank, Carroll Bowers, SC 21
7. Foothills Field Marshall, Donna Duckworth, VA 18
8. Brambleridge Capability Brown, Georgia Ranson, NC 12
8. Lone Oak Cedar's Grace, Yvette Stahr, CA 12
10. Prairie Rock Star, Hazel Hoff, CO 9
10. Windy Knight, Eron Owens, IN 9

### Halfbred Dressage

1. Dry Brook's Annika's Angel, Sara Carlisle, MA
2. Kynnymont Gunsmoke's Gideon, Pam Liddell, PA
3. Gallo's Heavenly Breeze, Sabine Maas, NC
4. Labras Leannon, Jennifer Garutti, NJ
4. Orion's Sweet Rubio, Haley Turner, CA
6. Fifinella GCF, Bonnie Canter, TX
7. Spring Loaded, Jill Hardt, FL

### Purebred Connemara Eventing

1. Bantry Bay's Winston Paige Crotty, MA
2. Northern Victory, Charlotte Zobighian, CA
3. Hideaway's Special Delivery, Cathy Blackmon, NC
4. Tuckaway Thunder, Amanda Zeddy, CA
5. Prairie Rock Star, Hazel Hoff, CO
6. New Moon Stella Bella, Nicole Byars, IL
6. Tullymor's Houdini, Tessa Geven, GA
9. Foothills Field Marshall, Donna Duckworth, VA
10. Roscommon Monday Morning, Marileea Tussing, OK

### Halfbred Connemara Eventing

1. BSF Liam, Braden Speck, PA
2. Talamah Bound, Tammy Lisi, IA
3. Big Bear's Cepheus, Tess Geven, GA
4. Denver's Shadow, Emma Ciafone, CO
4. Labras Leannon, Jennifer Garutti, NJ
6. Bantry Bay's Dublin, Eliza Faye Farren, FL
7. BSF Finnegan, Nicola O'Connell, NJ

### Halfbred Connemara Hunter

1. Radiance, Allison Coleman, FL
2. Molly Bloom, Gabrielle Bernier, MD

### Purebred Connemara Jumper (OPEN)

1. Tuckaway Thunder, Amanda Zeddy
2. High Jynx, Abigale Luetjen

### Halfbred Connemara Jumper (OPEN)

1. R.R. Cool Play, Ryder Richardson

## USDF ALL BREEDS AWARDS

### ADULT AMATEUR – FIRST LEVEL –

1. Kynnymont Aidan O'Sullivan 67.222
2. Penny Lane, 61.945 Amy Marrich

### JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER – 2<sup>ND</sup> LEVEL

1. Big Bear's Cepheus, 66.741 Tessa Geven

### OPEN SECOND LEVEL -

1. Big Bear's Cepheus, 66.741, Tessa Geven

### FIRST LEVEL -

1. Kynnymont Aidan O'Sullivan 67.222
2. Penny Lane, 61.945, Amy Marrich

### INTERMEDIAIRE

1. Fifinella GCF 64.875 Bonnie Canter

### VINTAGE

1. 1<sup>st</sup> level – Kynnymont Aidan O'Sullivan, 67.222

## USEA EVENTING AWARDS

Total all divisions – 166 Purebred and Halfbred Connemaras

### Beginner Novice - Purebred

Bantry Bay's Winston by South Ridge Duncan's Honor out of Bantry Bay's Wanda, o. Paige Crotty r. Emilee Kenney  
\*Doonhill Dancer imported purebred by Currachmore Cashel out of April Dawn Lady, o/r Leslie van der Wal  
Prairie Rockstar by Blue Ridge Jefferson out of Tre Awain Ballyclare o/r Hazel Hoff  
My Faline by Ceili Mosi oa Tunya out of Fine China o. Vicki Baker r. Charlotte McDuff  
Irish by \*Glenormiston Cuchulainn out of Big Bear's Morning Mist o/r Cece McElwee  
Dazzling Nocturne by Landgate Bluebeard out of Old Carolina Bisty o. Nancy Winter r. Allison Springer  
Valley Creek Carlin Le Beau by Heaven's Ridge Patrick LeBeau out of Beacon's Cherubin o. Carla Jimmerson r. Abigail Goodwin  
Slane Iceman imported purebred by Wings of Justice out of Kilrush Member State o/r Sophie Gardner  
New Song's Freedom by \*Smaragaid Cliff out of Wildwych Lucy o. Christina Sletten r, Emma Sletten

### Beginner Novice – Halfbred

Fernhill Prada imported halfbred by Ashfield Festy o. Steve Schroeder r. Sophie Schroeder  
Lawless by Landsong out of Bantry Bay's Tara o/r Samantha Clayton  
Big Bear's Coriana by Cor De Lux (Oldenburg) out of Big Bear's Eliana o. Kate May r. Lily Barlow and Carolyn May  
Glendale's Katie Belle by \*Rattle 'n Snap Laddie Boy out of Anne Julia (TB) o/r Elisabeth Davis  
Just Benny by Tricreek Greystone Riley out of Angel (Hanoverian) o/r Julie Garella Williams  
Pixie Dancer by Aluinn Bernie O'Brien out of Seeking Stardom II (TB) o/r Tracy Hewlett.

### Novice Level – Purebred

Tullymor's Houdini by Fieldstream Riley out of Kahlua o/r Tessa Geven

Doe Valley Brosna Go Bragh by Hideaway Erin Go-Bragh out of Wintermist Sweet Shannon o/r Leslie van der Wal

Lally Move On – imported purebred by Fredricksminde Hazy Move On out of Lally o/r Susn Berrill

New Moon Stella Bella by Kerrymor Madison out of Old Carolina's Bitsy o. Nicole Byars r. Sylvia Byars.

Hideaway's Special Delivery by Greystone Dallen McMor out of Hideaway's Celebration o/r Cathy Blackmon

### Novice Level Halfbred

Paddington – imported halfbred by Yavari o/r Alyssa Cairo

Big Bear's Cepheus by Cor de Lux (Oldenburg) out of Big Bear's Esther o/r Tessa Geven

Call Sign Charlie by Wildwood Hearne Topgun out of Liberty River (TB) o/r Sarah Crocker

Fate's Patriot by Concord River Roaringwater Bay out of Catch A Dollar (T) o/r Laura Duhamel

The Flying Fox by Cradillo out of Sparrow's Spring Mist o/r Krysta Paradis.

### Training Level Purebred

\*Coud Poker Tartifume by Westide Mirah out of Unedamdepik Tartifume o/r Donna Miller

Northern Victory by Aluinn Durango out of Tre Awain

Ballydoon Beauty o/r Charlotte Zovighian and Mia Farley

### Halfbred

3.2.1. Blastoff by Adirondck Greystone A'Herne out of Dolly (TB) o. Cindy Buchanan r. Maggie Buchanan

BSF Liam by Ballywhi An Luan out of Rumor Risky o. Braden Speck r. Kaelen Speck

Gold to Blue Trapper Jack by Fredericksminde Hazy Match out of My Tango Duchess o/r. Carrie Meehan

Almost Famous by Aladdin's Denver out of Stage Light (TB) o/r Ann Grenier

Nimbus 2000 by Ima Saint out of Kate Spade o/r Eugenia Fletcher

### Modified – Purebred

Foothill's Field Marshall by \*Gun Smoke out of Foothill's Maybee o. Donna Duckworth r. Elliot Timmons

### Halfbred

Luck of the Draw by \*ArdCeltic Art out or Ruby o/r Mary Cooke Catlett

Bantry Bay's Dublin by Bantry Bay's Archie o. Eliza Farren r. Ramona Petrillo

Summer Knight by Windy Knight out of Ornamental Jewel

### Preliminary – Purebred

Caraway Gilly by Irish Park Caraway Finn out of Stonybrook Irish Crème, o. Amy Plavin r. Devon Brown

### Preliminary – Halfbred

BT Just a Rebel by Imported halfbred by Crosskeys Rebel out of Aubusson o/r Lila Gendal

Mona Lisa by \*ArdCeltic Art out of Visions of Grandeur o/r Summer Covar

Bittersweet Aurora by Ballywhim An Luan out of Rumor Risky o/r Hannah Smith

BSF Liam by Ballywhim An Luan out of Rumor Risky r. Braden Speck

### Intermediate – Halfbred

Rochambeau by Aladdin's Denver out of Miss Hawkeye o/r Sue Jellum

Ganymede by Ballywhim An Luan out of Court Hawk o.

Pellegrini Barn, LLC, r. Meg Pellegrini

BT Jump the Gun imported halfbred by Copperfield out of Ido Kahlo o. Sheila Loew r. Jennifer Brannigan

## Corrections



*The captions were left off the photos for the Round Robin Farm story. Top photo is Beckki Read and Bodhi on Hideaway's Playboy. Bottom photo is Pat Read with Bekki, on An Tostal.*



*On page 13 of the Jan/Feb issue, the wrong photo was used for Glynmary Mary Rose and Kay Clements. Here they are.*

# BT Just A Rebel and Lila Gendal



On December 1st, 2016 I found the horse of my dreams. BT Just A Rebel, or “Rollo” was a 6 yo at the time and had already successfully completed a 2\* with Camilla Speirs, who produced him. Bred by Ben and Harriet Jellett, this adorable bay gelding stands at 15.3 on the dot and has gathered quite the following in the US as the *little xc pocket rocket that can do it all!* He is a Connemara x Thoroughbred, by Crosskeys Rebel and out of Aubusson (by Montjeu) and he’s a half brother to Camilla Speirs (now retired) Olympic partner, Portersize Just A Jiff. The only reason I have this incredible horse is because of the generosity of Gayle Davis (VT resident). I was working for Gayle when we traveled to Ireland in 2016 together and found Rollo. She purchased the horse and shortly after ended up giving him to me. I will always be incredibly grateful to have received the most amazing gift of my entire life!

Together Rollo and I moved up to the intermediate level in the summer of 2018 and did our first CCI3\*-S at Plantation Field International that fall and placed 6th ending on our dressage score. We went on to successfully complete three more three stars, including Jockey Club CCI3-L where we placed 12th in a massive division, as well as placing in the top 15 at Red Hills International in 2019. We have competed up to 1.25m in the jumper ring and have taken countless lessons from some amazing professionals over the four years I’ve owned him. Rollo has yet to have a xc penalty on his record.

What makes Rollo stand apart from other horses? For me, I knew the second I sat on him. It’s like having great chemistry when you’re on a first date. He instantly fit my personality like a glove. I wanted a smaller gelding who was quick off the ground and honest with a big heart, and Rollo has exceeded those expectations. He’s adorable, sweet, and incredibly sensitive, a bit spooky and LITERALLY NEVER GETS TIRED. He’s like a triple type A personality, and he aims to please all the time and takes great confidence in knowing “the plan.” He’s bottomless when it comes to being a forward thinking horse, and he’s like nothing I’ve ever sat on when going cross county. He’s my best friend, and we know each other quite well now. Some event riders are excited every time they leave the start box, others feel like they are at the office. I have different feelings depending on what horse I’m sitting on that particular day, but when it comes to Rollo, I’m bursting out of my skin, simply ecstatic, every single time we leave the box. He’s a

machine and an athlete like no other. He was BORN for this sport and I’m unbelievably grateful he fell into my life.

Have we experienced any ups and downs, you may be wondering? Of course we have! Training a horse, or being trained by your horse goes like waves in the ocean, and there are constant variables and changes occurring. But for the most part, Rollo and I experienced fairly smooth sailing since he arrived in the US in 2016. We jumped around tons of preliminaries, intermediates and FEI events without a single xc penalty. We grew as a team and I have a name today solely because of him.

And then 2020 happened. In the fall of 2019 Rollo popped a splint in Ocala and had several months off and needed time to heal. The exact day a few months later, no joke here, he was cleared by my vet to start slowly back into work and I had the most horrific fall of my life within 24 hours after receiving this news. I’ve been eventing for more than 25 years and have broken ribs, broken my wrist twice, and had multiple concussions but never had a life altering fall. After months of waiting to start Rollo back into work, I shattered my ankle the day he was cleared to start rehabbing.

On Jan 16th, 2020 I took my boss’s horse cross country schooling at the Florida Horse park, got bucked off and the horse landed directly on my left ankle, resulting in a shattered tib/fib. This was the most terrifying moment of my life and I wasn’t sure how I would get to the other side. I remember the fall and the excruciating pain like it was yesterday. I wanted to die, the pain was so unbearable. I was screaming and shouting obscenities, hoping that someone could alleviate the pain. My bone went through my skin and luckily I couldn’t see any of it because my tall boot was sort of holding whatever was left in place. I am beyond grateful to the crowd at the horse park that day who stood by my side and got the ambulance there immediately.

Fast forward through the ER, some mild depression, and tons of physical therapy and I’m finally on the mend. I’m beginning to sit on my horse again and life as I knew it slowly fell back into place. By the time I got back up north with my new employer, luck would have it that Rollo reinjured the same splint and had the entire summer of

2020 off. I was a bit lost last summer without having full strength back in my leg, and without having the horse that made me so excited to wake up every morning. Not to mention the entire world was dealing with a pandemic, so needless to say 2020 will go down in my memories as one of the worst years of my life!

By the late fall of 2020, Rollo and I were more or less rehabbed and ready to take on the world, or at least small bites of the world! We went prelim at grand oaks in November 2020 and then intermediate at rocking horse in December where we placed 3rd. The plan is to ease back into the intermediate/3\* scene and see where we are, but ultimately my eyes are on advanced/4\* this year if all goes well. I don't want to push either of us out of our comfort zone, but rather feel overly prepared and confident with what's coming our way when the timing is

appropriate.

2020 was frustrating to say the least, but I'm so appreciative and thankful for the support and generosity that has been shown towards my horse and myself. It really does take a village and I'm so proud and humbled by the people who follow our journey, my coaches and my sponsors, friends and family that have stood tirelessly by our sides! I'm also incredibly proud to help represent the Connemara association and be an advocate for this unbelievably amazing breed! I am hopeful that riders and friends will continue to follow our journey and help cheer us on!



## **Rochambeau**

Susan Jellum

Rochambeau (Rocky) is a very tall 2007 Connemara/TB cross homebred by Aladdin's Denver. He has been competing in eventing and dressage, and his consistency and confidence make him a pure joy to ride. Rocky has competed through Intermediate FEI (now 3\*). He is a favorite at events, and frequently has visitors gathered around his stall. He is currently rehabbing from tendon surgery, and if all goes well, he will be back to competition later this year.





## 3,2,1, Blastoff

Maggie Buchanan

3, 2, 1 Blastoff was born and raised on Mercer Hill Farm, in Unionville Pa. As soon as he was able to stand, he wouldn't stop walking around the stall. Thus his name was created— Blastoff. At barely 15'2, Blastoff is a large horse in a small body, and his personality illustrates that point perfectly. While he is incredibly trustworthy, he is also mischievous and clever. He finds new ways to make noise in his stall everyday. While largely motivated by food, he is willing to learn and go to work. I got to be the first one on his back, primarily because I was small, and have ridden him ever since.

Although he takes extensive naps, when he gets into the start box he gets revved up and excited to go. His short legs can still make a huge stride out cross country, and making time has never been difficult. When he isn't Eventing, he is fox hunting or hacking out, and I believe he thoroughly enjoys his job.



## Luck of the Draw

Molly Catlett

Halfbred by \*ArdCeltic Art out of Ruby.

*(Brant Gamma Photo)*

## Coud'Poker Tartifume

Donna Miller Owner/Rider

Highpoint purebred Training Level Eventing

It may have been a strange COVID year, but having the ponies to spend time with made it a whole lot easier. Cooper's first year competing was last year and he sure took it all in stride completing one BN, one Novice, and then moving up to Training level in the winter. We managed to get several Training rides in before I was sidelined in late June with a broken leg! We are honored to receive this award from the ACPS.





## Tuckaway Thunder

2020 US Equestrian National Horse of the Year  
Awards Jumper  
By Amanda Gail Zeddy

Tuckaway Thunder (Folklore James McNicholas x Tre Awain Muffets Light, 2009, 147 cm) and I at the beginning of 2020 had been a pair for less than a year. With the global COVID-19 pandemic all of us faced unprecedented challenges in 2020, and most of our riding & competition goals shifted quite a bit after the United States started to be more affected in March. Additionally, in early March my fibula was fractured in a trailer accident that developed Compartment Syndrome and necessitated an anterior fasciotomy two weeks later. Despite everything last year threw at us, “Tucker” is the 2020 US Equestrian Horse of the Year National Champion Purebred Connemara Jumper Champion (Open) and National 4th Purebred Connemara Eventing.

After my surgery and the sutures were removed being able to compete at Training Level and 1.0m Jumpers seemed a long way away. I thankfully had a great orthopedic surgeon and healed quickly. Our super trainer and coach, Eventing 5\* veteran Jennifer Wooten, kept Tucker in full training while I did physical

therapy and got strong enough to ride. Once I started back riding Tucker in late June, Jen gradually increased the difficulty and gave me short term riding goals to work towards, like riding strong through a 30 minute dressage lesson.

Tucker and I closed out the year completing one Novice horse trials, one Novice/Training horse trials, two Training horse trials, and multiple rounds in the Jumper ring at .90m and 1.0m between August and November at Paso Robles Horse Park. While last year did not go the way any of us anticipated in January, it’s a bit surreal that I piloted my little Connemara to ranking in two US Equestrian Horse of the Year Championship categories.

I’m grateful for the unwavering guidance of Jen and for everyone at Trinity Eventing for their friendship and camaraderie. Huge thank you to Tucker’s breeder Betsy McQueary, Tucker’s sire’s owner Gloria LaCroix, and Tucker’s other connections Lee Webster Ramensky, Joan Webster, Julie Webster Richardson, and Coralee Richardson for being in our cheering section and supporting Tucker long before I came into his life. It takes a village, and I’m excited for what comes next for Tucker and me in our journey together.

Follow Tucker & me on Instagram & TikTok! @mandyzeddy

## \*Fernhill Prada

Sophie Schroeder

My family bought Fernhill Prada, Polly, in 2020 right when the pandemic started. She is a Connemara x Irish Sport Horse. We were lucky enough to have her shipped to our home before everything started closing down. She actually arrived at our home on a trailer with a cow. We heard the cow mooing and was worried Polly wasn't on the trailer. But she arrived safely and we are so happy to have her.

There weren't that many shows in 2020, but we competed at Kentucky Horse Park and AREA IV shows. Also, we hunted this fall and had a great time. Polly has a wonderful temperament and has been a great addition to our family. Currently, we are competing in Florida and can't wait to enjoy the 2021 Eventing competition season with her.



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**Bay 14.3h N/N 9 1/2" bone ACPS Approved**

## RR Cool Play

*By Ryder Richardson*

Last year was an interesting year. The world fell apart, people became sick, businesses collapsed, and we were all afraid. It was a year of staying closer to home and being with family. It was also a year of getting back to basics, whether that was cooking more, playing board games, or spending time, with your horse.

Some barns were forced to close during the different lockdowns, but for some of us, the barn was the one place that we were able to go to seek refuge from the fear. Our horses showed us unconditional love and we were able to get lost in their manes and footfalls. Instead of wondering when our next lesson would be, of pushing our horses to get ready for show season, the uncertainty made us slow down.

For me, it was an exciting prospect with no pressure to be better, faster, etc. I felt lucky that I had such an incredible animal to spend the quarantine with. I spent many hours with my horse grooming him and cuddling him and not working on anything. Our bond was strengthened and my understanding of how much we needed each other consumed me. I learned that Becks loved to drink apple juice from a bottle and that he loved to listen to music with me and just sit with his head in my arms. I had so much fun with him.

After the quiet months of solitude with my horse and our low key fun, things started falling into place for horse shows to start happening again. That announcement jumpstarted us to get back on track and start training a little harder. Becks and I started conditioning and set our sights on making it to Pony Finals 2020 in Lexington, KY. We worked hard and became better than ever, mostly because, we had focused so much on improving our flatwork.

We did one horse show in Colorado and my pony was on fire. Every single day that I asked him to perform, he exceeded my expectations. Becks saw our goal and fought very hard for it. We had good placings in very large classes and Becks was the only pony jumping the bigger tracks.

From Colorado we took the chance and headed to Kentucky. We got there a week early so we could warm up over the jumps and get used to the humidity. We stayed at the beautiful Spy Coast Farm, aka the most beautiful place on earth. We had all of our ducks in a row and I was so excited to contest the Pony Jumper Championship this year (we were awarded team Bronze in 2019). Sadly, after only competing in two classes, the Kentucky Summer Classic was cancelled as well as US Pony Finals the following week.

What to do. We were more than one thousand miles from home and unable to get Becks trailered back to Colorado immediately so we decided not to dwell on our disappointment and settled into training with Sweet Oak Farm. I had a week of wonderful training and clinics. It was one more amazing adventure to add to my list of things that my incredible pony and I did together.

In a huge contrast to Colorado, just being in Kentucky with the lush green grass and beautiful farms, was a huge gift. Night checks were the best. His stall was enormous and I liked to sit on him bareback and just listen to the sounds of the night. A firefly even landed on his nose and his resulting snort was hilarious.

So, 2020 was the year of things not going quite as planned. For all of



the frustration and sadness that COVID-19 took from us, it also brought us back together. It showed us how to hold tight to the people and things that we love and to find ways to endure. Horse shows went on under new protocols (and some got cancelled). The horse community proved that we are a passionate enough group to continue despite the risk. And the normalcy of continuing to work toward a goal was comforting. A great year end surprise was learning that my special pony won USEF Halfbred Connemara Jumper of the Year for 2020. He is very deserving of the title.

RR Cool Play is the silliest and the best pony in the world. I couldn't have asked for a better partner to travel the country and cuddle with. Becks is the best thing that ever happened to me and this year of craziness was made better by his love. I am so grateful that he lets me into his world and takes care of me. I am not sure what is in store for us next, but I am learning to embrace that uncertainty. The love of my pony gives me great hope about what lies ahead, and I can't wait!

# Inland Connemaras

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14.3H N/N



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# 2020 ACPS Achievement Award Winners

January 19, 2020

## Competitive Awards

### Dressage

**Certificate** – Shammer Eagle (\*Canal Laurinston x Shammer Tessie Sparrow) O: Leigh Ellen Ertle

**Silver** -- Piedmont Herman (Balmullo's Beacon x Ruby) O: Gardner Cook

### Eventing

**Certificate** – BDF Tag You're It (Wildwood Hearne Topgun x Running Eagle) O: Carla Jimmerson

**Bronze** -- Talamh Bound (\*Smaragaid Cliff x Tartan) O: Tammy Lisi

**Silver** – Gold to Blue Trapper Jack ( Frederiksminde Hazy Match x My Tangos Duchess) O: Carrie Meehan

### Hunter

**Certificate** -- Shammer Eagle (\*Canal Laurinston x Shammer Tessie Sparrow) O: Leigh Ellen Ertle

### Jumper

**Certificate** – Shammer Eagle (\*Canal Laurinston x Shammer Tessie Sparrow) O: Leigh Ellen Ertle

**Silver** -- S.R. Irish Envoy (Greystone Ian McVai x Glenmary Absinthe) O: Marilyn Cheek

## Non-Competitive Award Winners

### Foxhunting

**Certificate** – Windy Isles Quiet Kate (\*The Quietman x Arbor Lanes Bailey) O: Fiona Cheever

**Bronze** – Miss Madeira (\*Canal Laurinston x Felton Lea Larkspur) O: Nancy Dillon

**Bronze** – New Song's Courageous Son (\*Smaragaid Cliff x \*Glenormiston Rossleague)  
O: Nancy Dillon

**Bronze** -- Stoney Creek Kittiwake (Erin Terra's Dream On x Stoney Creek Sandpiper)  
O: Fiona Cheever

**Silver** -- Ceili Coral Isles (Kilfenora Windy Isles x Coral Misty Ciara) O: Erin Driscoll

**Silver** – Sparrow's Zeus (Grange Finn Sparrow x Molly) O: Melissa Town

**Award of Excellence** -- \*TBS Declan Pondi (Dexter Leam Pondi x Dandy Sparrow)  
O: Megan Harris

**\*TBS Declan Pondi**  
**(Dexter Leam Pondi x Dandy Sparrow)**  
**O/R: Megan Harris**  
**Award of Excellence – Foxhunting**



*Declan, age 3, one of his first hound exercises*

I was watching Declan dig into his evening hay tonight and thought, 'I can't believe this pony will be NINE this year'. It feels like I was just in Ireland watching the cute little colt strut around the sand arena with his dam. Calling my mom up and talking about all the ponies I'd seen that day; watching & re-watching the video of the little grey/dun colt that jumped the poles on the ground as he trotted around the ring. My mother purchased him when he was 3 months old and he was in the USA by the time he was 5 months old!

It has been so gratifying to bring him along; to discover what he excels at and experience him learning and enjoying his work. Declan LOVES hunting. No doubt about it. I can still remember his first hound exercise as a 3 year old – he knew what to do and fell into place behind those hounds like he'd done it his whole life.

He was hunting in 1<sup>st</sup> field as a 4 year old and I found myself relying on him – yes, at 4! – to be my mount at the joint meets and even opening hunt – a literal dog & pony show – because he was the most reliably sane.

**New Song's Courageous Son**

**Nancy D. Dillon**  
**Bronze Foxhunting**

Courage (New Song's Courageous Son by \*Smaragaid Cliff out of \*Glenormiston Rossleague) shown here coming in from a "coats excused" hunt, thoroughly enjoyed his second season with the Thornton Hill Hounds. We stayed with the second field because the challenges of 2020 prevented us from starting to jump regularly over the spring and summer. We are looking forward to better conditions in 2021 and possibly moving up sometime in the fall.

I've had a lot of great hunting ponies but none have done well in both the field and whipping-in. In fact, none of my other ponies really tolerated being in the field at all. Declan loves being in a group, and will happily stay out hunting 3, 4, 5 hours no matter how many times we pass the meet site – or his physical home, when we're hunting from our kennel fixture.



*One of my favorite photos, November 2020, hunting with Blue Ridge in VA. Photo: Joanne Maisano.*

He has hunted with five recognized packs in the Southeast and has earned a reputable status in the hunting community as the 'cute little grey Connemara stallion'. I turned up in Virginia this year prepared for a two week stay, bringing a TB & Declan to alternate hunting days. I hunted the TB the first day out, and all I heard the whole day was, 'WHERE IS THE PONY? WHERE IS DECLAN?!' Never mind half the folks can't remember the out-of-towner's name, all anyone cares about is the pony!

We have had some brilliant hunting over the last five seasons and nothing is more fun than galloping this pony around the countryside, jumping big fences in pursuit of our quarry. I'm so delighted that he's earned his Award of Excellence and I look forward to many more seasons of happy hunting with him!





## **Piedmont Herman**

**Kathee Cook**

**Silver Medal Dressage**

The geese trumpet as I make my way to the barn, pajamas under my overalls and a borrowed jacket. The night's temperature dipped into the low 40s. Cold for Florida. I could see steam rising from the nostrils of my 3 Connemaras looking out from their stalls. My trainer would be here at 8:00 for my lesson with Herman. I want to make sure the horses are fed before I needed to start grooming. It seems amazing that we have had Piedmont Herman for 10 years. The memory of seeing him getting off the trailer from Wisconsin on an 80 degree January morning is as vivid as if it were yesterday. Yet there is a whole world of activity and shows and events between then and now.

Piedmont Herman was bred by Vanessa Morgan in 2006 by Balmullo's Beacon and out of a Percheron mare named Ruby. He has always been a favorite at shows and events with his stocky build and hazel eyes. Many people remember him on sight.

Looking back on the weird year, 2020, I believe that regarding Herman the pandemic had ups and downs, like for most of us. In March, right before everything began shutting down, my son, Gardner, bought his own place and moved out. Gardner owns Herman and is absolutely Herman's person. Between work and senior year in college, Gardner had little time to ride and even less inclination to show. The same month, schools closed down in Florida, and I found myself teaching my 3rd graders on line. Teaching from home gave me extra time for ... you guessed it, riding!

Herman and I have been working hard in dressage this year. He doesn't always like the hard work, but he does love the pats and scratches, the "attaboys" and peppermints. His gaits can feel big and powerful which really pushes me as a rider to learn better balance, more consistent use of my outside aids, and control of my center. We have a relationship that requires me to teeter over the line from nurturing keeper to assertive leader. Periodically, he checks to see if I really mean he needs to stand at the mounting block, or if I really mean another leg yield! Yet, when it comes to serious work he is all in. I am so proud of him and how much he has learned this year! In our area, Northeast Florida, Herman won 2020 Champion in First Level and Reserve Champion in Freestyle with our Harry Potter choreography. Now he has been awarded the Silver medal with ACPS. He has opened the door to the next level in dressage and is making his nana into a better rider.

Well now, it's time to tack up. Our wonderful trainer, Suzanne Hughes will be here any minute, and Herman and I are getting ready for our next show. Follow Herman @piedmont.herman on Instagram for a journey through HermaNation. See you soon!

## **Miss Madeira**

**Nancy D. Dillon**

**Bronze Medal Foxhunting**

Maddie (Miss Madeira) was born to foxhunt. Her father \*Canal Laurinston, mother Felton Lea Larkspur and full brother Book-to-Bill all were fine field hunters. Maddie's first season was several years ago and it was through no fault of hers that 2020 was only her second. Long layoff aside, she picked up right where she left off and hunted well from the first day. We stayed in second field as she hunted herself fit over the very challenging terrain of the Thornton Hill Hounds. This photo was taken on a "coats excused" day when a fox jumped up right in front of hounds only a few minutes out of the meet. He led us on several big loops and then excused himself politely.







## **S.R. Irish Envoy**

**Owners: Les & Marilyn Cheek/Sycamore Ridge Farm**

**Rider: Keely Cooley**

**ACPS Silver Medal: Jumper**

The Covid-19 pandemic proved to be a mixed curse for S.R. Irish Envoy (Greystone Ian McVai X Glenmary Absinthe) in 2020. Showing opportunities were much diminished; but clinics, where social distancing was less of a problem, flourished in our area. Best of all, his favorite rider, Keely Cooley, came home from college. Even with her online classes, she found time for Joe.

They participated in clinics given by hunter judge, Dede Bache, and dressage trainer Julie Zampoti. In June, they placed 2nd and third in the 0.80 meter jumpers at the USEF rated HITS Culpeper show and took first at the VA Eventing CT and Dressage show in Beginner Novice. Joe was low jumper champion at the BHSA Jumper Classic and Hunter Benefit in August and placed second and third at two of the TWA Tuesday Jumper shows held through the summer.

As the year wound down, they took private lessons in dressage and participated in a flat clinic given by Lauren Dearlove, then finished the year with a jumping clinic with Will Coleman. Of course, Joe had to show off his signature capriole at the jumping clinic, prompting the startled Coleman to ask just what kind of a horse he is! Wiseguy Connemara sums it up.

This year isn't looking like it will be very different from 2020, the way Covid-19 and its variants are spreading. The three hunter shows with Connemara Divisions: Upperville Colt and Horse Show, and the Warrenton Pony and Horse Shows, are up in the air, though Upperville management has indicated they will be accepting entries in April. The other two are non-committal at present. Perhaps there will be more dressage and eventing competitions. Time will tell.

In the meantime, everyone can participate in virtual shows and the ACPS Fun with Ponies program. Both are eligible for ACPS Achievement Awards.

## **2020 BROUGHT HONORS**

### **DESPITE PANDEMIC**

*By Marilyn Cheek*

The covid restrictions clamped down at the beginning of our 2020 competition year and, for a time, it looked as there would be nothing for ACPS to award.

Indeed, the Society opted to postpone our 2020 Annual Meeting and, reluctantly, engrave "Not Awarded" on our Hall of Fame trophies. USEF also suspended all rated competitions for a large part of the year. That action shut down the nation's two oldest shows, the Warrenton (VA) Pony Show and the Upperville (VA) Colt & Horse Show, which feature Connemara Divisions that usually produce our USEF Horse of the Year (HOTY) awards for Connemara Breeding and Hunters. And who was going to earn Achievement Awards if they couldn't leave home?

Horse people are nothing if not improvisers. Pretty soon, we were hearing about "virtual shows" where a host organizes a competition, puts out a prize list, and riders enter the classes online, then send videos of their performance to be judged. By summer, states eased restrictions enough to permit some rated and non-rated competitions and our members took advantage of every opportunity.

The proof? By year's end, there were contenders in most of the Connemara Division HOTY Awards: 13 in Purebred Dressage, 8 in Halfbred Dressage, 13 in Purebred Eventing, 8 in Halfbred Eventing, 2 in the Open Halfbred Jumpers and 2 in the Open Halfbred Hunters. Ten ACPS/USDF All Breeds Awards went to Connemaras, as did 12 ACPS/USEA medals.

We also presented 43 ACPS Achievement Awards for competitive and non-competitive disciplines.

Going forward, members can earn Achievement Award points at virtual shows (points will count as unrated show point do now), and from the newly expanded Fun With Pony (FWP) program. Note: the FWP points will not count toward the Golden Shamrock Award.

As I write this, most of the country is experiencing extremely inclement weather, so use this down time to acquaint yourselves with the new opportunities to accrue Achievement Award points and to explore the new avenues of competition opened by the virtual shows. And please encourage shows in your areas to go through the few steps necessary to acquire our Open Show Ribbons for presentation to High Point Connemaras entered in their events. The ribbons are waiting, but show managers won't offer them if our members don't promote them.

Congratulations for slogging through 2020 and good luck in 2021!



My name is Claire Piacentini and I am a 15 year dressage rider from Boston, Massachusetts. This past show season I competed Drybrook's Annika's Angel, owned and trained by Sara Carlisle, at 1st Level. We showed at USDF competitions in New England and placed 6th in the Junior 1st Level division at the 2020 Region 8 Dressage Championships. This year, Annika and I also achieved Reserve Champion for the New England Dressage Association's Year End Awards. We are so excited that Annika received the Seldom Seen Award and is National Champion for half bred Connemaras in dressage!

Dybrook's Annika's Angel, born in 2012, is a 14.3 half bred Connemara mare by Dry Brook's Moon River and out of Roscommon Annika, bred by Pat Shields of Drybrook Farm. My trainer, Sara Carlisle, bought her as a 6 year old in 2018 and she has since inspired our love for Connemara ponies! Annika is trained at Lythrum Farm in Acton, Massachusetts. She is an incredibly intelligent mare and has progressed very quickly in her training. We hope to compete at 2nd level next year and eventually compete in the FEI JR tests. Despite Annika's talent for dressage, she also adores jumping and going on trail rides. She can be quite spirited at times but is overall, a very sweet and easygoing mare. Annika is a true testament to the amazing versatility of Connemara ponies!

# Cricket's Mr. Lucky

## Cricket's Mr Lucky

*By Kristen Westlund*

Sitting upon his back, I felt his energy...his alert stance at the crowd. He was at his happiest and just about to enter the arena. It was the Saturday before the Rose Parade of 1980 where we were in the parade with the American Connemara Pony Society and we were 1 of 11 exhibitors chosen out of 200 equestrians to show our special talents. I felt honored to be a part of these 11 exhibitors as they included 3 Olympians, the Budweiser Clydesdales, and Montie Montana (a western actor known for his trick riding) – I am only a 12 year old child. Cricket's Mr Lucky and I are first to perform and we enter the arena to the sound of the roar of the spectators. Our performance is "on the wire" which means there is no saddle or bridle, just a simple wire around his neck. As we go through our performance, the last act is jumping a 3 ft 6 in jump with my arms out-straight. As we turn toward the jump, I let go of the wire and raise my arms out straight from the shoulder. Cricket's Mr Lucky focuses on the jump, picks his stride and we fly over – the crowd roars and Lucky (as he is known) drops his head, lets out a buck, the wire flies over his head... and I (still smiling because the show must go on) say, under my breath, "Lucky...Whoa!" Thankfully, he stopped and took a bow.



Cricket's Mr. Lucky's story starts much earlier. His sire, Jiminey Cricket, was the first Connemara Stallion on the west coast of the United States. Leon Butts brought him to the west coast and began a breeding program. He bred Jiminey Cricket to multiple mares and in 1960, Mountain Dew gave birth to the first-born Connemara pony on the west coast, Cricket's Mr Lucky. According to those that knew him as a colt, he had confidence from the beginning. Young riders would ride the brood mares down to the ocean, and Cricket's Mr Lucky, as a young colt just a few months old, would be the one to go into the water while the other colts and fillies ran from it. His bravery and strength would appear further as he was trained. His grown height of 14.1 1/2 hands would have no limits on his ability. This Connemara pony could jump and had the stride of any Thoroughbred and could compete with the best. However, Cricket's Mr Lucky's passion was his



*Kerry Leavitt on Cricket's Mr. Lucky*

children and giving them the confidence not only to compete, but also the confidence to guide them throughout their life.

The first child that owned him was Tracy Day who started riding him when he was just 3 years old. She competed on him and won many classes. She and Cricket's Mr Lucky was Washington State Champion for several years. Smuckers, as she called him, was not only a show pony, but he also fox hunted, rode western, went on long pack trips in the Cascade Mountains and swam in the lake. During her first time riding Cricket's Mr Lucky in the Woodbrook Hunt, the competitive streak in Lucky took hold and he galloped off passing the Master of Foxhounds. Tracy's Dad was mortified and decided to switch horses with Tracy so he could control this pony. Mr. Day rode Cricket's Mr Lucky the remainder of the hunt, jumping Lucky over the high sides of the fences! Tracy had Cricket's Mr Lucky for 3 years, winning many championships and when it was time for her to move on to a larger horse, her friend at Woodbrook was the lucky little girl to be Lucky's next child.

Wendy Pease began riding Cricket's Mr Lucky in January, 1967. She had previously been riding a very sweet and docile pony named Babydoll so Cricket's Mr Lucky's big jump was an adjustment. In the Lake Washington Horse Show, she had 3 jumps left to go on course and Lucky "sprouted his wings" leaving Wendy behind and falling off. However, Lucky went on to finish the course including the jumps on the other side of the arena and stopped at the exit gate! The crowd went wild! Wendy says Lucky was quite the "man about town" with every jump he took there would be a swish of his white tail and a shimmy to his neck. Wendy and Cricket's Mr Lucky were also Washington State Pony Champion for 3 years straight as well as Pony Champion in Vancouver. Sadly, Wendy was outgrowing Lucky and it was time for Lucky to move onto his next child, Bessie Goodson.

Bessie Goodson took the reins toward the end of 1969 and Cricket's Mr Lucky was ready to continue his winning ways. Bessie and Lucky were again Washington State Pony Champion and Vancouver Pony Champion for the next few years. During this time, the Leavitt Family had heard about this amazing pony, Cricket's Mr Lucky, and, according to Aileen Leavitt, they had inquired whether Lucky would be for sale – and, the answer was always "no." However, persistence

paid off and one day Aileen received a call from Mr Goodson to see if they were still interested in purchasing Cricket's Mr Lucky. And, after that phone call, Cricket's Mr Lucky soon made his trip down to southern California.

Cricket's Mr Lucky arrived at Foxfield Riding Academy in 1971 as a surprise for Kerry Sue Leavitt. When Kerry arrived for her usual lesson, she went up to the main barn and asked Nancy Turrill what horse she should ride in her lesson. Nancy said there was a pony by the teacher's booth waiting for her. As she rounded the corner, there was a white pony with a red blanket inscribed with "Washington State Pony Champion!" Kerry could not believe her eyes! She immediately knew it was her dream pony, Cricket's Mr Lucky!

Kerry and her older brother, Rusty Leavitt, would share riding Cricket's Mr Lucky. Rusty rode Lucky in his first ASHA Medal class. Not only was Rusty one of the youngest riders in the class at the age of 12 years old, but he was also the only rider on a pony. There were over 70 riders in the class. The judge, Victor Hugo-Vidal, called four riders to do a work-off and Rusty and Lucky were called! After the four riders worked off, the winner of the ASHA Medal class was called – Rusty Leavitt and Cricket's Mr Lucky won the class! Rusty also won numerous classes on Lucky including equitation, hunters and jumpers. Kerry started off as a timid rider but gained so much confidence through riding this amazing pony. Cricket's Mr Lucky and Kerry won many pony championships as well as winning



against many classes against large fancy Thoroughbreds. In 1972, Kerry and Lucky were Jumper Champion at Santa Barbara National Horse Show after a speed class with fences over 3ft 6in. Lucky cut the corner to the last oxer so he was jumping it at a sideways angle. Not only did he clear it, he was the fastest horse!

The Foxfield Drill Team performs throughout the United States and consists of 12 riders. The riders train their own ponies and horses to ride "on the wire" – meaning the ride and jump with a loose wire around their necks. Training a horse to ride "on the wire" to the point they can be on the Drill Team can take several years. Cricket's Mr Lucky was ready within a few months. The Foxfield Drill Team was getting ready to perform at Madison Square Garden when Tim Postel wanted to perform a show stopping act. He had something in mind and he knew Cricket's Mr Lucky was the only horse that could do it! Within a short period of time, Tim and Cricket's Mr Lucky would perform their Stand-up Act – Tim would stand on

Lucky's back (with a pad) and with only a loose rope around his neck, Tim would guide Lucky over the jumps with the final jump being a high jump! Tim Postel and Cricket's Mr Lucky would perform the Stand-up Act twice at Madison Square Garden, as well as many venues across the U.S. When the TV Show, The ThrillSeekers, filmed the Foxfield Drill Team in 1974 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7VqX6SjcxQ>), Tim Postel and Cricket's Mr Lucky were featured for their Stand-up Act as well as jumping the "human" jump at the end. The human jump was Peter Postel. Peter and Tim's mother JoAnn Postel would only allow the human jump if it was Lucky jumping it – she said Lucky was the only horse she would trust to jump over her son, Peter.

As Kerry and Rusty became older, it was once again time for Cricket's Mr Lucky to share his magic with another young girl, Kris Westlund (me). I was only 8 years old and preparing for my first "big" show, Santa Barbara National Horse Show, 1975. I had been riding Foxfield school ponies and, in the fall of 1975, Nancy Turrell had me ride a 16 hand Thoroughbred named Justin for a few lessons (to see if I could handle a horse with a big jump... little did I know the horse with the big jump was a pony) It was 2 months before the show and I wasn't sure what horse I would be taking. I was watching a lesson on a Saturday morning when Nancy asked me to jump on a pony because his rider, Aileen Leavitt, had a "headache." Two months later, I would be taking Cricket's Mr Lucky to my first show. On our way to the show, my father was giving me the talk...it is not about the ribbons, it is about the experience. Cricket's Mr Lucky had something else in mind. Lucky and I won 5 1<sup>st</sup> place blue ribbons (I had never won a blue ribbon prior). We were also Champion Novice Equitation 8 & under, Reserve Champion Maiden Equitation 8 & under, Champion Open Equitation 8 & under, Reserve Grand Champion Maiden Equitation 8 & under, and Reserve Show Champion Maiden Equitation 17 & under. A few weeks later, I woke up on Christmas morning to the best Christmas present



ever...I would be leasing Cricket's Mr Lucky!

Cricket's Mr Lucky and I were together from 1975 to mid-1980. Lucky was my best friend and my mentor. He won 65+ blue ribbons with me during this time and was Pony Champion at many shows including Foxfield, Flintridge, Pebble Beach, Santa Barbara Riding Club and Sunny Hills Show. We won the

Onondarka Medal class, the Pebble Beach Medal class and the AHSA Pony Equitation class. He was High Point Year End Reserve Pony Champion for 1978 and 1980 for the Santa Barbara Riding Club and we only entered 3 of their shows in the year. Victor Hugo-Vidal was the judge at one of the shows and he came up to me after I won the last class. He told me how much he loved my pony, Cricket's Mr Lucky. Although I was just a child, I looked up to Victor Hugo-Vidal and knew it meant so much for him to go out of his way to pay a compliment to Lucky.

Cricket's Mr Lucky and I also practiced riding "on the wire" and I joined the Foxfield Drill Team in 1978. In 1979, the American Connemara Pony Society asked if Cricket's Mr Lucky and I would like to be part of a group of Connemara ponies riding in the Rose Parade on January 1, 1980 in Pasadena, California. Although there were many details to iron out, Lucky and I prepared for the parade. The parade officials decided to do a horse show on the Saturday prior to the parade and showcase a few of the special talents. Cricket's Mr Lucky and I were 1 of 11 equestrians chosen for the event out of a total of 200 equestrian participants.

I had always promised Aileen Leavitt that I would never outgrow Cricket's Mr Lucky. Unfortunately, toward the summer of 1980, it was time for Cricket's Mr Lucky to be with his next child, Shana Dishell. Shana was a tiny girl with no previous show experience. Within a month of riding Lucky, Shana took him to her first show at Pebble Beach. Cricket's Mr Lucky showed Shana how it is done - winning her first blue ribbon, in her first class, at her first show. Shana continued riding and showing him winning many more



*Cricket's Mr. Lucky at his retirement ceremony 1981*

blue ribbons and championships until Cricket's Mr Lucky was retired.

Cricket's Mr Lucky had his retirement ceremony at the Santa Barbara National Horse Show in November of 1981 at the age of 21. As the saddle was removed for the last time and a bed of flowers draped over his back, there was not a dry eye in the stadium. Cricket's Mr Lucky had shown so many children what a true pony champion was - a mentor to build confidence, friend to spend your days with and a pony that could jump the moon! A true Unicorn....



*Kerry Leavitt on Cricket's Mr. Lucky*

*Tracy Day on Lucky, 1966*



*Searah's Sweet Coraline owned by Sharon Hirsch*

## Searah's Sweet Coraline

*Tullymor's Mountain Thunder/ S.H Cordia-S/H  
Greystone Special Edition)*

*By Sharon Hirsch*

Coraline and I have been doing virtual challenges and competitions this year, due to being restricted in travel. My plan had been to start to show her in Intro Dressage, but that didn't happen. Instead, we found a series of 100 Mile Endurance Challenges. They are at your own pace and are all benefits for different non-profits. So far, we have completed Valkyrie, Rosebud, Ranger and Relentless. We also did the Virtual Tevis Cup, 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge, which we completed in under 45 ridden days.

We also have earned our 750 hour patch from the AQHA All Breed Trail Award program, which I started when I started her under saddle, as a 3 year old. We are actually at almost 900 hours at this point.

I also entered her into a couple of Virtual Trail Competitions, where you video real trail obstacles. We are competing against horses, but we placed 5th in Open, on our second try. That division puts us up against professional trainers! Now, due to the weather, we are trying Virtual In Hand, which can be done inside. I entered Green Horse in that, as I haven't done obstacles in hand with her. We placed 4th, just behind a professional trainer!

These may not be fancy competitions, but it keeps us working on new things. I have included 2 photos, Coraline with her ribbon and trail riding on the way to walking into the ocean, as part of her trail competition.

## Calendar

### Shows and Special Events

**June 18 - 20, 2021** West Coast Connemara Show, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Watsonville, CA. CDS Recognized Dressage on Friday. Breed and Hunter classes on Saturday. Jumper and Trail classes on Sunday. Contact Lee Webster Ramensky at [bcs@sonic.net](mailto:bcs@sonic.net)

**July 24-25, 2021** Region I Connemara Show, So. Woodstock, VT Green Mountain Horse Association grounds. Contact Linda Haines at [troutranch@metrocast.net](mailto:troutranch@metrocast.net)

**July 31 - August 1, 2021** Region III Connemara Show and Inspections, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA Dressage, Combined Test, Jumper, In-Hand classes on Saturday. Hunter, Trail, Costume, Inspections on Sunday. Contact Marynell Eyles at [ridgetopconnemaras@gmail.com](mailto:ridgetopconnemaras@gmail.com)

**September 23-27, 2021** ACPS Annual Meeting, Lexington Downtown Hilton Hotel, Lexington, KY See Page 9 of this issue for more information

**October 30 - 31, 2021** Region IV Connemara Show and Inspections, Pine Top Farm, Thomson, GA. Bay of Plenty hosts a show on Saturday. In-Hand classes and Inspection on Sunday. Contact Kim Gates at [gatesbythecreek@hotmail.com](mailto:gatesbythecreek@hotmail.com)



## *Windy Isles Get Smart and Jump 4 Joy Training Center*

*By Tonya Cummins*

2020 was a year full of change and challenge. It was remarkable for me for many reasons including that it was my first year as a member of the American Connemara Pony Society. A long time member of the Canadian Connemara Pony Society, I was happy to extend my love and support of the breed to my American friends and counterparts. My passion for the breed comes from my belief in my beautiful palomino stallion "Windy Isles Get Smart." Smartie as he is affectingly known on the farm is my best friend and competitive partner. He never ceases to amaze me with his desire to learn and his ability to jump.

During the later part of 2019 my family and I made the move from our farm in Ontario, Canada to our new home in Aiken, South Carolina. My husband, Andy, had grown up in Maryland and was eager to get back to the US. For my part, I was eager to leave the cold Canadian winters! We moved all our horses and our training and breeding farm, Jump 4 Joy Training Center, to the beautiful town of Aiken.

Getting to know the people and competitions sites in Aiken has been a joy! We started competing in February last year, which was a big change for Canadian horses and riders. Smartie adapted to the warmer climate quickly and continued to jump his heart out bringing home many blue and red ribbons. His zest for competing

is always so inspirational and fun!

Settling into our new farm has been a wonderful part of 2020. We are fortunate to have Smartie, and many beautiful and talented crossbred and purebred Connemara ponies and horses on our farm. A love for the breed is definitely in our family. From the Connemara Holsteiner cross, Superman, who my husband rides preliminary, right to the super cute, purebred Connemara mare my 10 year old daughter, Addison rides, these ponies are the foundation of our farm.

We are delighted to be a member of the American Connemara Pony Society. We are also happy to share our love for this breed. Smartie and I will continue to explore the wonderful competitions available in Aiken. Smartie will also continue to be available for breeding as we continue to ship semen all over America to many talented and beautiful mares.

Get Smart's 2020 Show Season resulted in the following: Eventing Academy February - 1<sup>st</sup> in Training; Vista Combined Test April - 1<sup>st</sup> in Preliminary; Eventing Academy May - 1<sup>st</sup> in preliminary/ Training; Full Gallop June - 1<sup>st</sup> in Preliminary/ Training; Eventing Academy August - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Preliminary/Training; Jumping Branch Derby cross September- 1<sup>st</sup> in Preliminary; Sporting Days December- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Preliminary/Training; Here's to a wonderful 2021!

# Our Way Forward

true tales of an adult amateur and her rather cheeky mare

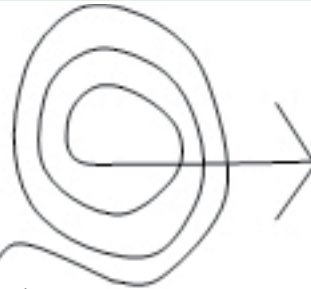


Photo credit: Emily Wiley

## Episode 8 - Tough Break

By Christine Kelton

Assisted by Trout Ranch Polly Claire  
(\*Smaragaid Cliff x New Song's Autumn)

“There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full.”  
--Henry Kissinger

Where to begin. It's tough to make progress with a pony when you're injured, and equally tough to write an article called “Our Way Forward” when everything is at a standstill. We'd missed our entire first season of formal hunting and my hunter pace partner was scrambling for a new team.

My arm was in the process of healing and just coming along quite nicely, so on December 12th, I trailered Polly home from Cathy Speidell's farm in Wingdale. I could muck a stall, push a wheelbarrow and empty it, and saddle and bridle my own pony well enough by myself. I had a “test ride” at Cathy's, and that weekend we were on our way back home to La Luna to enjoy a winter of indoor board and an indoor arena where we could get back in the riding groove and try to salvage what momentum we had been picking up when it all came to a grinding halt on September 10th.

Our first week back together was eventful in a fun and interesting way. On Sunday, I mounted up and off we went for a short jaunt up the driveway. Polly, always the thinker, tried her darndest to convince me to gallop up the trail next to the driveway to the field where we had had our last “unplanned dismount” back in September. A short, um, discussion ensued, and she donned her most petulant mare face and trudged her way up the driveway. Sorry, my good friend, but I wasn't quite up to facing that particular bit of real estate just yet. But it was nice to know that Polly can sit for the better part of three months and I can hop back on and off she goes without missing a beat.

We were both out of shape, so there was no way I was going to suddenly jump back into a riding routine. Instead, I called on

Kirsten Reister, a local natural horsemanship professional to come do some groundwork with Polly a couple nights a week. I'd seen her work with a youngster at the farm and thought that Polly, who has always been such a curious girl and has always enjoyed doing “stuff” would get a kick out of learning some moves with this very low key, kind, and knowledgeable person. I explained to Kirsten that Polly was very sweet, but could also show rather strong opinions as only a pony mare can, but she was a quick learner who liked action and doing things. Kirsten was game and she came over that Monday night.

At the end of the hour, Kirsten had convinced Polly to self-park at



the mounting block. Very impressive! This was something I had always wanted to teach her and it was great fun to watch how it could be done.

Groundwork is something Polly has always enjoyed. If she's turned loose in the ring and there's something new, like a cone, she will surely go pick it up. Or if there's a jump she might go nose off the cups. She loves games like soccer and tarp chasing, and it's a good way to get her some exercise without her thinking that it's “drilling.” A couple evenings later after work, I put Polly's rope halter on her, brought her into the indoor, and put her through her paces. I gave her a little growl at the beginning and she was quite workmanlike. Walk, trot, canter, halt, back up, turn towards me with hind legs moving and crossing, turn away from with front legs moving and crossing.

Oh, the best laid plans... three days later, Friday, December 18, I



went out to start my car before work at 7am and fell on the ice on my way back in, only three steps from the garage. I knew immediately it was broken. I'll never unsee that and I'll spare you the details. The break was confirmed in the ER around 2pm - yes, 7 hours later and I'd been there since 8am. I had a trimalleolar fracture that required surgery.



At this point I felt like Odysseus facing yet another monster on his journey and some lament to the Gods should be sung in full wail, "What foul thing is this!" I'd had one week of freedom. Surgery happened on December 29 and I was stuck in a cast for 6 weeks. SIX WEEKS! Followed by a BOOT, physical therapy... I'd be lucky if I could ride by April. And what was awful was that because of my arm injury, I couldn't use crutches. Instead, I had to use a

walker, which still was not exactly easy on my arm. My wings were effectively clipped.

Meanwhile, I had a lovely pony who is 6 this year and ready for a slightly bigger job than she's had in the past. She had already been off since September. I knew it wasn't the end of the world, and yet I thought she would be better off with a job to do - something other than chasing the donkeys around. The other problem was that in my boarding situation, I was in charge of partial care, which included cleaning her stall and supplying feed and shavings. I certainly wasn't going to be doing that anytime soon. The solution was that Polly is officially a 2nd mortgage for the next few months. On top of full board, I enlisted Hannah to ride her 3x/week.

My husband, Joe, has been a big help. He goes to the farm to give Polly an apple and takes a few pictures of her for me. The pictures of Polly in the field are his handiwork. At least I can tell that she's well fed, and if I put a few of them together, I can see the entire pony. He drives me over, as well, but I'm not allowed to get out of the car. Even so, when I roll down the window and call out to Polly, she comes trotting right over.

Hannah and Polly know each other and get on well together! Hannah is no-nonsense and Polly respects that. Polly still gives her opinions, but Hannah ignores her and gets on with the task at hand. It's a relationship that works. Being stuck at home, unable to drive, completely uninvolved, has been a challenge to say the least. And much as I want to hear every last detail, I have held back to give them space. Imagine my glee when one of the reports I got back used the word "amazing!" Hannah started out slowly

because Polly hadn't been in work, and they've been building up their sessions. She said she starts out with a very little bit of lunging to get Polly thinking forward before she even gets on her, to get her mindset closer to where it needs to be, and their rides have been getting better and better.

The six weeks crawled by, and the very next day after I got the cast off, (a few days ago as I'm writing this), I drove myself to the barn (my son, Julian, followed in his car in case I needed help getting from the car to the barn) to watch Hannah ride Polly live in person. I limped down the aisle with the walker, and there was my girl in the grooming stall getting tacked up. Up went her ears when she saw me! Of course, I'm a walking Pez dispenser these days! But it was wonderful to be recognized and maybe even appreciated.

Hannah lunged Polly for maybe five minutes, and Polly gave



her opinions with a few bucks, but quickly resigned herself to the job. Hannah got on, and off they went. First, she established forward to the leg, letting her head go where it may. That didn't take very long. And as soon as Hannah picked up the reins, Polly transformed from the shaggy, unkempt backyard pet with the overgrown split mane to a dressage contender! OK - a training level contender to be honest, but nevertheless, Polly was doing her job and quite well for where she is in her life, and Hannah swore she wasn't using a lot of leg and I was watching.. It was tricky turning around in the indoor with my walker while trying to get some video, but it was so worth the near tumble. I'm proud of them both.

Let's see. Going forward, Hannah will have a couple more months with Polly. I don't know that Polly will ever find complete joy in dressage, but as she gets fitter, it will become easier. I have no Olympic aspirations and I don't want her to be only a dressage pony. She loves to fox hunt and hunter pace, and so do I, so we'll just have to compromise with each other. She can learn how to be obedient a few times a week in the sandbox, and I'm fine with going out yahooing across the fields to keep her happy.

Fast forward to today, Valentine's Day 2021. I got out of the cast 5 days ago and am wearing the boot. My orthopedist said I should



walk in the boot for 2 weeks, then transition to a brace, starting with an hour a day and working my way up to getting completely out of the boot. Today I am walking with just one crutch!

I'm looking ahead to getting back to riding again, but until then, it's been satisfying to see Polly progress with Hannah. Later this week, weather permitting, Hannah is slated to ride Polly in a clinic with Emily Wyman from Apple Hill Dressage.

Nothing in life is guaranteed, and it certainly isn't fair. Today and tomorrow are fickle friends and one has no bearing on the other. Have I learned anything? Definitely. Sometimes you just have to let go and depend on others to do the right thing, and even everything. On the home front, my husband and son were and continue to be the only housekeepers, and I've just had to close my eyes. Well, as I'm in a boot and not really that mobile yet, I'm keeping them closed for a bit longer. Other people can take care of Polly, and she is OK. That has been the hardest pill to swallow, and in the beginning a constant worry. I'm grateful to be surrounded by good people who have stepped up during



this difficult time.

### ***Farm Reports***

*In the last issue, the Editor asked farm owners to send photos and a short write-up about their barn/stables and life with Connemaras in 2020. Karen Laden offered this view of her Kingswell Connemaras in Colorado*

We've had a quiet farm-bound year here at Kingswell Connemaras in Colorado. With almost nonexistent USDF showing opportunities locally, we've taken the year off training and given \*Smaragaid Cliff (Munkholm Cobbergate x Shamrock Bright Roxanne) a well-deserved vacation. He's enjoying the playtime. \*Glenormiston Rossleague (Castle Baron x Glenormiston Rosmara) continues doing what she and I love best: trail riding. With Pikes Peak almost in our backyard, we all are quite content.



Marcia Pohousky Photo



Laura Balding, breeder, and Harriet Entin, owner, with Tre Awain Medelago

## Century Ride with Tre Awain Medelago and Harriet Entin

I had been planning on completing my Century Club ride in 2020 when Mellie would be 26 years old and I would be 74 years old. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine accomplishing this in the middle of a global pandemic! Because of the pandemic, the Dressage Foundation allowed Tre Awain Medelago (“Mellie”) and myself to complete this ride at Quarter Line Dressage during a clinic by Justin Hardin.

I fell in love with horses when my father took me for pony rides outside our home in Atlanta, GA. I began formal riding lessons in my late 40’s, and owe my love of adult riding to my first horse, In the Shadow of the Creator, who was my equine partner for over 20 years.

My current horse, Mellie, was bred by the late D.J. Moore and her daughter Laura Carpenter Balding of Three Creek Farm. My ride was made even more special because Laura was able to attend! Mellie and I have been partners since 2014. Mellie is a wonderful ambassador for the Connemara breed, and his daughter Cedar’s Savanagh continues his influence on the breed both in the U.S. and Canada. With his previous humans, Mellie herded cattle, competed in eventing, and covered miles of trails. We now enjoy dressage, various clinics, and relaxed rides around the fields where we board ([www.quarterlinedressagestl.com](http://www.quarterlinedressagestl.com)). However, Mellie’s favorite activity remains sampling Missouri’s flora and fauna alongside his favorite treat of fresh fruit salad topped with cinnamon!

The Connemara community locally and nationally is endlessly generous in their advice and support. Thank you to the ACPS for awarding me the 2015 Deb Busta Amateur Scholarship which helped me further my dressage training in preparation for this ride. Thanks also to my trainer Marketa Matthews and her husband Charlie Matthews for their patient instruction (Marketa) and superb care (Charlie and Marketa) of Mellie. It takes a village and my equestrian community including my vet and farrier deserve huge thanks as well.

The stars seemed to align for myself and Mellie on 10/31/2020 when we successfully completed our Century Club ride for Judge Justin Hardin. It was Halloween, the full Blue Moon and the last day of daylight savings time! I am grateful to my friend Marcia Pohousky for her beautiful photos.



Marcia Pohousky Photo

## *Memorial to Balmullo's Beacon*

*By Vanessa Morgan*

We were both too young to make the century club, but together we totaled 87 years. I owned Balmullo's Beacon (a.k.a. Bubba) for 27 of his 28 years. Born in 1992, he was bred by Donna Duckworth out of Tullymor's April Fool, when she had leased April from May Medley and Aladdin from Catherine Mack. I bought Bubba from her sight unseen as a yearling, based on his parents, who I had seen during a tour of Connemara farms in the mid-Atlantic and Southeastern US in the late 80's. At the time, our farm was in East Bend, NC, and we were leasing Concord River Roaringwater Bay for breeding, which is how I became acquainted with Donna, a lasting friendship which has continued until this day.

Balmullo's Beacon made the trip from Florida to North Carolina as a yearling. He lived in a large paddock, somewhat hidden from view, for the next year and a half. He was weedy with a not-so-pretty head but had the hip and shoulder angles that mark a great athlete and the presence and conformation of a great sire. Bubba was the classic ugly duckling, turned swan! At age three he bloomed into a magnificent young stallion, was inspected and approved by the ACPS, and began his breeding career.

I had him started very lightly under saddle that same year, but his serious training was turned over to Jill Mooney the following year. She trained and competed with him in 1998-1999. During those 2 years he moved from Beginner Novice to Training level eventing, coming home periodically to service mares. In 1999, he was USCTA Area III Training Horse of the Year (4<sup>th</sup> in the nation among all breeds), earned the ACPS "Award of Excellence" in combined training, and was Grand Champion In-Hand at the ACPS Region IV Show.

After finishing the 1999 competition season, Bubba came home again, this time to be my Novice packer (my limitation, certainly not his). I was really excited to get back in the starting box after five or six years, having recovered from some serious health problems, and would only consider doing it on Bubba. He did not disappoint and carried me to the front of the victory lap more times than I expected. We were even on the winning team at the Eastern Regional "Chronicle of the Horse" Event in Tryon, NC, in 2000, which was quite a thrill for me. During 2001-2007, he competed under me occasionally, as well as dutifully carrying any interested rider around the farm.

In 2008, after 4 very hectic breeding seasons standing both Balmullo's Beacon and \*Gun Smoke, Charlie and I decided that we needed a break from breeding. We sold \*Gun Smoke to the Igoe's in Ireland and we gelded Beacon, after collecting frozen semen from both, of course!



Then 9 year old junior rider, Avery Lewis, took over the reins in 2010. They were together through 2013. Their accomplishments during this time were too numerous to include here, but some of the highlights were : he carried Avery to her USEA Eventing Gold Medals and "Blue Ribbon" awards in both BN and Novice, they earned numerous Good Horseman Dressage Foundation Championships and Year-end Awards, and he earned his ACPS "Award of Excellence" " in dressage.

Bubba came home after this and he began his transition to semi-retirement as a 22 year old seasoned campaigner. He provided wonderful competition and cross-country experience to a new junior eventer, Brionna Harper, and then went on to teach a few more new young riders at my barn, including my granddaughters. He also did a short stint as a lesson pony at a local barn. When he started showing some signs of decline, he came home permanently. After some rehabilitation, he became the perfect partner for my student Krista, who works hard at conquering several physical challenges caused by cancer related diseases and treatments. Bubba was such a sport. We believe that he was holding on for one final competition for Krista, even when he could feel that his days were numbered. That show was the first one we had planned for 2020, and would have been the first w-t-c dressage test for Krista, but was the first show to be cancelled because of the coronavirus. After that cancellation, he was completely let off all work and his ailments took over.

My once in a lifetime partner was laid to rest and is buried in his paddock here at Foothills Farms, in Athens, TN, on May 15, 2020. I thank God for the privilege of being Bubba's person.

Balmullo's Beacon, 14.3h grey, S545 XXXI, 1992 – 2020, "An Tostal" ACPS Hall of Fame  
SIRE: Aladdin (Erin Laddie x Fox Ridge Irish Lady)  
DAM: Tullymor's April Fool (Montully's Son x Ailte Mhuire)

*The ACPS welcomes the following new (and returning after an absence) members joining*

December 2020 through February 9, 2021!

REGION I  
 Hanna Behlke  
 Laura Johnson  
 Holly Mathers  
 Claire Piacentini  
 Shana Rezak  
 Kathleen Thibeault  
 Carole Ann Tullar

REGION II  
 Meredith Rotko  
 Kristen Walter

REGION III  
 Terri Trimble Catlett  
 Meredith Dean  
 Falita Liles  
 Nelina Loiselle  
 Sabine Mathilde Maas  
 Amy Krenytzsky Robinson

Barb Sullivan  
 Sarah Thelen  
 Mariama Vinson  
 Kathleen Weddle  
 Louisa Woodville

REGION IV  
 Grace Vance  
 Kylie Hudson

REGION V  
 Marion Caldwell  
 Emma Largent  
 Justin & Laura Peacock  
 Heather Wu

REGION VII  
 Margaret Lynn Kitts

REGION X  
 Mila Arian  
 Kalea Arian  
 Pyper Arnold  
 Oliver Backs  
 Jennifer Backs  
 Desmond Backs  
 Saraiya Backs  
 Gillian Beach  
 Ali Bertram  
 Olivia Clouser  
 Claire Cochrane  
 Hanna Corneliussen  
 Dylann Cullinane  
 Presley Finley  
 Morgan Graizano  
 Skyler Lee  
 Remy Lyeth  
 Jamie Mulcahy  
 Amelia Murphy  
 Summer Nelson  
 Ryder Perryman  
 Athena Ubaldi

**FOOTHILLS FARMS/PIEDMONT CONNEMARAS**

**ATHENS, TENNESSEE**



**HOME OF TULLYMOR'S MOUNTAIN STEEL by Tullymor's  
 Mountain Shadow out of Tullymor's Kiss of Sun  
 (Breeding Live Cover)  
 And**

**BALMULLO'S BEACON by Abaddin out of Tullymor's April  
 Fool (Frozen Semen Only)**

Website: [www.connemaras.com](http://www.connemaras.com) 423-744-5071

Find us on Facebook @foothillsfarmsconnemaras  
 Email us at [Connemaras9@gmail.com](mailto:Connemaras9@gmail.com)

## ACPS Membership Application Form

*Memberships run from January 1st - December 31st.*

**All memberships include a subscription to the American Connemara magazine and a Membership Directory.**

Membership (please check one category):

Junior (under 18 years, qualifies for awards) \$25

Associate (adult, qualifies for awards) \$40

Senior (adult, qualifies for awards, votes) \$50

Family \$100 (spouse and/or parents, children under age 18; qualifies for awards, up to 2 votes per family, but must have 2 members age 18 or older)

Life (one individual, senior privileges) \$750

Check here if this is a Gift Membership

American Connemara Magazine: Subscription Only (i.e., nonmembers)  \$25

There is a \$30 surcharge for magazine mailings to foreign (including Canadian) members and subscribers.

ACPS Foundation: \$\_\_\_\_\_ tax deductible donation. You may designate preference for  Youth Programs or  Education

### **Make checks out to "ACPS" (US funds)**

For voting purposes, I prefer:

an e-ballot \_\_\_\_\_, a paper ballot \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to receive: an e-directory \_\_\_\_\_,

a printed directory (add \$20 to your membership fee)

I am a new member \_\_\_\_\_ (please complete all contact information below) I am a renewing member \_\_\_\_\_

and my contact information is unchanged  changes in my contact information are noted below

please do not include my contact information in an e-directory \_\_\_\_\_ any directory \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check out to ACPS (US funds) and mail with application to: ACPS Membership**

**2010 Miracle Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# ACPS Membership Application Form

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- Associate (adult, qualifies for awards) \$40
- Senior (adult, qualifies for awards, votes) \$50
- Family \$100 (spouse and/or parents, children under age 18; qualifies for awards, up to 2 votes per family, but must have 2 members age 18 or older)
- Life (one individual, senior privileges) \$750
- Check here if this is a Gift Membership

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changes in my contact information are noted below

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Make check out to ACPS (US funds) and mail with application to: ACPS Membership

2010 Miracle Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## ACPS Registration Fees

### Member

Fees double for non-members

### Purebreds

Purebred within 6 mos. of birth temporary foal certificate good for 2 years (dna, microchip by HWSD tested stallion and out of HWSD mare) \$ 85

Over 6 mos. \$ 100

TFC for foals of current year include USEF lifetime recording number

Purebred within 6 mos. of birth temporary foal certificate good for 2 years (dna, microchip) but by or out of HWSD non-tested Connemara .....\$125

TFC for foals of current year Includes USEF lifetime recording number

Permanent Registration Certificate at 2 years w/TFC - \$30

Permanent Registration Certificate at 2 years or above without TFC - \$150. Includes DNA, Microchip.

### Halfbreds

Halfbred - mares and geldings \$ 85

Includes Microchip and USEF Lifetime Number for foals of current year.

Halfbred colts - TFC .....\$ 85

A TFC is issued until colt is gelded. At age 2, Permanent certificate will be issued.

Purebred and Halfbred Stallions 2 yrs. \$250

Includes DNA, Microchip, and HWSD test

Purebred and Halfbred Stallions 3 yrs. and older \$500

Imported stallions - same fees.

Connemara Sport Horse - \$85 includes Microchip and USEF Lifetime Recording number for foals of current year.

### Transfer of Ownership

Within 30 days of date of sale \$30

After 30 days \$35

### Transfer of Imports -mares, geldings

Within one year of arrival \$30

Transfer of imported stallions \$250

The seller is responsible for completing the transfer papers, and is encouraged to take out an Associate membership for the buyer.

Farm Registration \$100

Name Change \$100

Duplicate Certificate- issued only to last recorded owner \$50

Lifetime USEF numbers will be assigned by the USEF one or two times a year. Since 2019, foals of the current year will get USEF Lifetime Recording Numbers..

Send applications (www.acps.org) for registration to: ACPS, PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459

# Farm Directory

## REGION I (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

**CONCORD RIVER CONNEMARAS AT RIVER ROAD FARM.** Liz and Maris Platais, 291 River Road, Carlisle, MA 01741. (978) 369-4380. plataise@aol.com

**NORTHERN CONNEMARAS.** Sarah McRae Thrasher, 1410 Goose Green Rd., Vershire, VT 05079. (802) 522-7110. mcraethrasher@yahoo.com *Aluinn Durango S 727XLII*

**PARADOX CONNEMARAS.** Tom and Sally Oxnard, 5 Greenleaf Dr., Exeter, NH 03833. (603) 828-9039. stoxnard@gmail.com., www.paradoxconnemaras.com

**SOUTH RIDGE CONNEMARAS.** Kimberly Sterl, 148 Deer Hill Rd., Brentwood, NH 03833. (603) 493-3921. srfponies@gmail.com. www.SouthRidgeConnemaras.com *South Ridge Aidan S 668 XXXIX.*

**TROUT RANCH CONNEMARAS.** Scott McGuffin and Linda Haines, 149 Shaw Road, Northfield, NH 03276. (603) 387-0157. troutranch@metrocast.net

## REGION II (NJ, NY, PA)

**CATSKILL CONNEMARAS.** Heather Mangan and Pat Norton-White, 33 Frisbee Rd., East Meredith, NY 13757. 678-278-5256. www.catskillconnemaras.com. hrmangan@gmail.com *Blue Rock Fintan, S 1975 LII*

**KYNYNMONT CONNEMARAS.** Pam Liddell, 175 River Hill Road, Conestoga, PA 17516. (717) 872-9728. liddellpam@hotmail.com

**TRIPLE CREEK FARM.** Mary Lou Thall, Winfield, NY 13491. (315) 855-7878. tricreek@hotmail.com, www.tricreek.org *Tricreek Greystone Connor S 718 XLII, Tricreek Greystone Riley S 717 XLII*

## REGION III (MD, DC, DE, VA, WV, NC)

**BALMULLO FARM.** Donna Duckworth, 6494 Charles City Road, Richmond, VA 23231. (804)507-0269 or (352) 538-0125. balmullofarm@gmail.com www.balmullofarm.com *Foothills Field Marshall S 1931 XLVIII*

**GLENDALE FARM.** Deb and David Norman, 1318 Old Charles Town Road, Berryville, VA 22611-1914. (540) 955-1995 or cell 225-921-6810. deb@glendalefarm.com www.glendalefarmconnemaras.com. Purebreds and halfbreds. *\*Rattle 'N Snap Laddie Boy S 685 XL, \*Fernville Matchmaker S 1918 XLVI*

**RIDGETOP CONNEMARAS.** Walter and Marynell Eyles, PO Box 40, Middlebrook, VA 24459. (540) 886-2239 lynneeyles@gmail.com *Landgate Bluebeard S 577 XXXIV,*

*\*Kilfenora Windy Isles S 600 XXXV.*

**SYCAMORE RIDGE FARM.** Marilyn and Leslie Cheek, 9188 Lee's Ridge Road, Warrenton, VA 20186-8659. (540) 341-7104, cell (540) 229-3471. mzcheek@gmail.com

**THURMAN FARM.** Barbara J. Byrd, PO Box 472, Berryville, VA 22611, Bjb1971@thurmanfarms.com (540) 955-1215. (540) 931-2983.

**TWIST OF FATE CONNEMARAS.** Melissa and Ryan Mayo, 7992 Ohio River Road, Lesage, WV 25537. (304) 634-9203. tofph3@aol.com www.twistoffateeventing.com *Blackwing Goodnight Moon S 2002 LVI*

**TWO LEFT HANDS FARM.** Donna Power/Yvonne Bach, 51 Hillcrest View Rd. Raphine, VA 24472. (804) 854-9129. tlhf@netzero.net

## REGION IV (AL, FL, GA, MS, SC, TN)

**BRAMBLERIDGE FARM.** Nancy Buchanan, 1953 Bishop Rd., Luthersville, GA 30251. (678) 713-0750. bramblerridgefarm@gmail.com

**ELDERGLEN FARM.** Jim and Nancy Kilcrease, PO Box 260, Reddick, FL 32686. (352) 591-4331. elderglenfarm@yahoo.com, www.elderglenfarm.com *WH TopGun S1846 XLIV*

**FADE TO GREY FARM.** Megan and Lee Harris, 1750 Bishop Rd., Luthersville, GA 30251. (770) 833-5159. Fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com www.fadetogreyfarm.com *\*TBS Declan Pondi S 1959 LI,*

**FARKLEBERRY FARM.** Kate Denton, 61 Colonial Lake Dr., Camden, SC 29020. (803) 432-9850 or (803) 427-3472 kdenton53@gmail.com

**FOOTHILLS FARMS & PIEDMONT CONNEMARAS.** Vanessa and Charlie Morgan, 738 County Rd. 114, Athens, TN 37303. (423) 744-9071 Text 423-506-6975. Breeding and Sales. Connemaras9@gmail.com, www.connemaras.com *Balmullo's Beacon, S 545 XXXI, (frozen semen only) Tullymor's Mountain Steel S 1979 LIII (Live Cover)*

**HIDDEN CREEK HORSES.** Donna Miller, 12660 Bethany Rd., Alpharetta, GA 30004-1059. (678) 491-0717. donna@hiddencreekhorses.com www.hiddencreekhorses.com *\*Coud Poker Tartifume S 2004 LVI Fresh cooled for AI, \*ArdCeltic Art S 1766 XLIII -frozen semen, private treaty.*

**KEAHEY CONNEMARA FARM.** Julie Keahey, 1733 N. Fletcher Ave., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (970) 581-6120 keaheyjulie@gmail.com *Ceili Mosi oa Tunya S 1905 XLV*

**STARTING POINT FARM.** Phil and Melissa Town.



811 Bear Creek Road, Moreland, GA 30259. (404)433-7444. irishjump@gmail.com Sparrow's Zeus HBS

**TANYDERI FARM.** Sally, Michael, Margo, Maya, and Nora Goldfarb. 3030 Old Hillsboro Rd., Franklin, TN 37064. (615) 591-2562. tanyderi@bellsouth.net

**TIR NA N'OG RANCH/SHAMMER CONNEMARAS.** Maureen Loughman Abel, 24 NE 325<sup>th</sup> Trail, Okeechobee, FL 34972. (863) 467-5377. mloughman@embarqmail.com .

**REGION V (IL, IN, KY, MI, OH)**

**HEART AND HORIZON.** Bonnie Reid and David Wittmer. 1000 Fords Mill Rd., Versailles, KY 40383. 859-312-4971. mixedbordersky@gmail.com Young Stock Available.

**RIVERFRONT FARM LLC.** Thomas and Fonda Eigel. 1646 Cook Rd., Cynthiana, KY 41031. 859-576-4027. 859-983-9410. Summerresort3@gmail.com \*Rosemont's Irish Abbey. Boarding, Breeding, Foaling, Breaking and Training.

**SLIPPERY ELM SHOOT FARM.** Tim and Kathy Sparks, 5349 Slippery Elm Shoot Road, Unionville, IN 47468. (812) 988-2377, elmshootfarm@gmail.com.

**REGION VI (IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI)**

**DAYTON RIDGE FARM.** Janet M. Johnson, 25310 Spring Valley Lane, Richland Center, WI 53581. (608) 604-4840. jjay@countryrider.com www.daytonridgefarm.com H.K.'s Danny Boy S 700 XLI, Skyview's Triton S 699 XLI

**INLAND CONNEMARAS.** Lisa Etzel and Larry Wied. 27965 510<sup>th</sup> Ave., Kelley, IA 50134. (515) 291-6738, (608) 576-1076. www.inlandconnemaras.com inlandconnemaras@gmail.com \*Patty's Etoile de Paris S 1874 XLIV

**ONALARK FARM.** Martha Slamer, 10242 Rocky Road, Middletown, OH 45042. (937) 689-9406. marthas@fairpoint.net

**REGION VII (AR, KS, LA, MO, IL, TX)**

**IRISH GATE FARM.** Bob and Pattie Stalder, 10360 Lazy Creek Rd., Westmoreland, KS 66549 (785) 456-3278. www.Irishgatefarm.com backdoor@bluevalley.net. JEF Sir Lancelot S 676 XXXIX

**JAB EQUINE CENTER & CONNEMARA FARM.** Jill Barnes, 11150 South Highway M, Stockton, MO 65785. Jabconnemaras@gmail.com 417- 209-6772 Wwww.jabconnemaras.com JAB General Sherman registration pending.

**REGION VIII ( CO, So. ID, MT, NM, UT WY)**

**JARRE CREEK CONNEMARAS.** Kaye Hurley Lefkowicz. Sedalia, CO. (303) 619-0433. grnieddy@gmail.com. Finn's Irish Creame S 2526 XXXIII

**KINGSWELL CONNEMARAS.** Karen K. Laden, 12625 Halleluia Trail, Elbert, CO 80106. (719) 495-3892. Karen@kingswellconnemaras.com www.kingswellconnemaras.com \*Smaragaid Cliff's 719 XLII

**REGION IX (WA, OR, Alaska, No. ID)**

**EKBERG SPORTHORSES.** 430 Mansperger Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926. ekbergsporthorses.com \*MLC Van Helsing

**REGION X (AZ, CA, HI, NV)**

**GATELY FARM.** Kathy Lucas, 10501 Randall Street, Orange Park Acres, CA 92869. (714) 538-5656, fax (714) 538-5561. gatelyfarm@gmail.com , \*Sydserff Avalon S 679 XL \*Castle Monarch S 1952 L.

**HEAVEN'S RIDGE.** Dennis and Pam Blaha. 9625 N. 36<sup>th</sup> St., Phoenix, AZ 85028. (602) 953-2272. pamlaha@hotmail.com. Bear Creek's Crough Patrick S 534 XXXI, Heaven's Ridge Tiarnan Donal S 692 XLI.

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# Transfers

## Transfers

1. G 2210 XLIV – Loughin’s Journey – from Martha Slamer to Susan Flanders Glover, 1400 Belaire Dr., McKinney, TX 75069
2. G 2607 LIV – Providence Carson – from Vanessa Morgan to Grace Vance, 120 Riveria Rd., Aiken, SC 29893
3. G 2547 XLIX – Chaumiere’s Worthy Catch from Jack Kramer to Trails End Farm (2016)
4. SAME to Georgia Nafziger, St. Louis, MO (2021)
5. SAME to Anne E. Dearborn, 137 Mogleys Run, Williston, SC 29853 Jenny O’Callahan to Dorothea Bonds, 1064 Sweetflag Lane, Hillsborough, NC 27278.
6. G 2610 LIV – BANTRY BAY’S SMUTTIE from Elizabeth Aguiar to Molly Austin, 2 Rte. 12A, Surry, NH 03431.
7. CS M 19 LVII – GINGER SNAP DRF from Janet Johnson/Dayton Ridge Farm to Susan Reed, 2536 W. Prospect Rd., Ft. Collins, CO 80526
8. M 3625 XLIV - \*Corha’s Dream from Susan McConnell to Fonda Eigel, 1646 Cook Rd., Cynthiana, KY 41031.
9. M 3805 CLV – CENTURY HILL’S TAYLOR MADE from Ashlie Gai to Allison Doares-Sykora, 113 Beech Run Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649
10. M 4637 LVII - FOOTHILLS HONEYSUCKLE ROSE from Vanessa Morgan to Sally Reid, 3645 Baxter Rd., Joelton, TN 37080
11. HBM 2304 XLVII – HIGH BRIDGE GUENIVERE from Erin Ashcroft to Alexandra McMillen, 5555 West 6<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. R8, Laurence, KS 66049.
12. M 4029 XLIX – WILDWYCH FOREVER AMBER from Brenda Kinialocts to Martha Slamer, 10242 Rocky Rd., Middletown, OH 45042.
13. G 2500 LII – PRAIRIE SMITTY from Martha Slamer to Justin Peacock, 5W 440 Derby Rd., Wayne, IL 60184
14. HBG 2637 LIII – IRISH GATE’S MIGHTY QUINN from Midge Dunn to Diedra Diesch, 2765 6<sup>th</sup> St., Marion, IA 52302.
15. M 4679 LVII – RFF LUCKY IN KENTUCKY from Fonda Eigel to Kathy Lucas/Gately Farm, 10501 Randall St., Orange, CA 92869.
16. M 4550 LIV – BALMULLO’S IRISH MOSS from Donna Duckworth to Krista Clark Sealey, 9807 NW 261 Terr., High Springs, FL 32643.
17. M 4553 LIV – KYMIRRA OF LEDGEWOOD (H/HWSD) FROM Janet Johnson to Surefyre Farm LTD, PO Box 1139, Garibaldi, Highlands, B.C., Canada VON ITO
18. M 4564 LV – ROSEWOOD’S LITTLE GEM from Darian Hall to Megan Gastel, 2817 Valley View, Norco, CA 92860.
19. TFC M 6423 LVII – GALLO’S CORIANDRUM from Katie Pinner to Nicolette Merle-Smith, 2601 NW 140<sup>th</sup> St., Atra, FL 32113.
20. HBG 2820 VLI – BLUE JAMESON from Bonnie Reid to Susan Vail, 750 W. Lakeshore Dr., Cleveland, OH 74020
21. TFC M 6398 LVI – BALMULLO’S CELTIC HEART from Donna Duckworth to Amanda Pierce, 70400 Union Rd., Union, MI 49130
22. HBM 2822 LVII – DRF BELLA LUNA from Janet M. Johnson to Kaitlin Rector, 20 Reno Rd., Averill Park, NY 12018
23. HBG 2840 LVII – DRF TRAPPER JOHN from Janet M. Johnson to Rachel Wehrheim, 433 Pleasant View Dr., NE, Solon, IA 52333.
24. TFC S 6434 LVII – DRF CLIFFTON (N/HWSD) from Janet M. Johnson to Christine DeCrescenzo, 104 Alain White Rd., Morris, CT 06763.
25. HBG 2845 LVII – FITZWILLIAM from Margaret Martin to Kristin Martin, 1840 County Rte. 17, Camden, NY 13316
26. TFC HBS LVII – DANCING WITH THE STARS from Tracy Hewlett to Yvonne Hansman, 815 Trackside Dr., Aberdeen, NC 28315.
27. S 2013 LVII - \*MLC THE DUKE OF SUSSEX from Janet Rowe to Kathy Lucas/Gately Farm, 10501 Randall St., Orange, CA 92869.
28. G 2715 LVII – GATELY’S MR. PRESIDENT from Gately Farm to Danielle Nelson, 582 Thornwood Terrace, San Rafael, CA 94903.
29. M 4587 LV New Moon Stella Bella from Nancy Hamill Winter to Nicole L. Doescher, PO Box 190, Wayne, IL 60184-0190
30. TFC S 6431 LVII – Mountain Field’s Galadriel (N/N) from Anne W. Drogula to Karlin Ekberg Sporthorses, 430 Mansperger Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926
31. HB M 2513 – Sunday Prayer – from Brigitte Myers to Abigail DeBlouw (2019)
32. SAME to Margaret McNulty, 12449 Gladecrest Dr., Carmel, IN 46033



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*Rattle N' Snap*  
*Laddie Boy*

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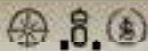
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Connemara, PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459.



*Ponies in the Winter at the farm of Kristy Menner*

*Hoping for a Happy St. Patrick's Day!*