

American Connemara Pony Society

Region VIII ~ Newsletter



Covering: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Montana & Southern Idaho

Region Chair & Editor: Susan Dudasik: misfitfarms@centurylink.net

Region VIII Governor: Susan McLaughlin (970) 749-4332

duckspringfarm@aol.com

Fall 2023 #23

Hi everyone,

Happy Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas! Where did the year go? It's getting cooler here, so time for all those seasonal changes around the barn like hauling out the water tank heater and stable blankets, barn jackets and gloves. Hope everyone had good summer with lots of great activities. I got to do my first jumping derby and had a blast. What did everyone else do? As the year comes to a close, remember all your achievement awards paperwork is due by Dec 31, to count for this year. See the information below for details. And don't forget to renew your 2024 membership to start keeping track of all those Fun With Pony hours and achievement program requirements.



This is your newsletter so if there is something you'd like to see, just let me know. I know folks are doing fun stuff with their ponies. I really need help with information and PICTURES!!! Thank-you to those who have been sending stuff for the newsletter and for all your future help and support. Have a fun and safe summer with lots of great pony adventures! *Susan*

Information for the next newsletter is due December 15th

Nominating committee: Bonnie Reid mentioned we need to form a nominating committee and to elect our Region chair and governor. My term (Susan McLaughlin) ends this year and the Region Chair needs to be elected yearly. If you would be interested in helping with the nominating committee, please let either Susan McLaughlin or Susan Dudasik know. We would need to begin seeking nominations for these positions asap. Anyone holding either of these positions must also take the USEF SafeSport video training.

Region VIII Stallion Earns 2023 Tooreen Laddie Award

Submitted by Sally Oxnard

ACPS awards the Tooreen Laddie trophy, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Harris, to outstanding stallions that have had a positive influence on our breed through their offspring.

Our 2023 winner is a stallion that has consistently passed on his cooperative, inquisitive temperament, athleticism and excellent movement. As a result, his get perform well in many disciplines including dressage, eventing, ranch work, jumpers and combined driving. He also has passed along soundness, good health and strong limbs with a bit of extra spring that make for stylish, powerful jumping ability.

In short, he was an excellent representative of Connemara type: athletic with correct conformation, intelligent and canny at problem solving, and possessed of a very user-friendly attitude.

He sired 17 purebred foals in his first generation and 8 in each of his second and third generations. He had 24 halfbreds in the first generation and one each in the second and third. Among his most notable offspring are two outstanding broodmares, that produced a total of 12 purebreds and one halfbred.

Four of his daughters competed in combined driving as singles, pairs, tandem and four-in-hand, winning at all the major FEI driving competitions in the US, some multiple times, developing quite a huge following. Two of them later competed in eventing and three in dressage. Others have excelled at dressage, as well, developing quite a huge following. Two of them later competed in eventing and three in dressage.



Others have excelled at dressage, as well.

One was 4th Level Champion of the Oregon Dressage Society, carried his owner to her USDF Silver Medal with scores over 60 percent including 2 each at Fourth Level and Prix St. George. Nine others also compete in dressage.

Purebreds and halfbreds also excelled at eventing. One competed through Open Preliminary at prestigious events and later went on to teach his owner's students the fine points of the sport. Another attracted

the eye of the eventing legend Karen O'Connor who bought him for a student in Virginia

where he now competes in eventing and hunter/jumper competitions.

The second generation brought two more excellent broodmares and others that have gone on to careers in the hunter/jumper world. The nine offspring in the third. What is special about this stallion? His owners, who took a gamble and bought him as a weanling, say he far exceeded their expectations and hopes. "As a sire, he produced offspring that exemplify the best qualities of the Connemara. The joy and experiences his foals have brought to children, amateurs and serious competitors through the international level have been priceless to us. He has produced more than foals. He has enriched our life and made the lives of the owners of his offspring happier. That is special indeed!

This special stallion, sired by Tre Awain Ginger Blue out of Ros Na Ri Moira, was bred by Kathryn Roe of Deming, Washington and spent his career at Chris and Phillip Knox's farm in Pocatello, Idaho. Congratulations Ros Na Ri Kilcullen. on winning the Tooreen Laddie Award. *Pictured on the left is Cathy Blackmon, Crestwood award winner, then Chris, then Sally Oxnard the Awards Committee Chair.*

Need help from the ACPS Office? Their new phone number is 540-430-3745. Please leave a message or send a text. The preferred method of contacting ACPS is by email at americanconnemara@gmail.com.

Junior member news

Our Region VIII youth members rock!!!

Bridget Kelly and her pony, Windover Tarragon (Chai), (Irish Parks Caraway Finn x De Poco Princess) will be competing in USDF Region 5 Championships at First and Second Level, as well as the Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals (14-18 age group), at Westworld Equestrian Center in Scottsdale, Arizona from September 28 to October 1, 2023.

Bridget also welcomed almost 3 year old "LG" to the farm this summer. He is a Connemara/Westfalen cross and his ACPS papers are being worked on. The plans for this handsome gelding for the rest of this year continues to include ground work training and exposure to all that nature has to offer. He will be backed at the beginning of 2024 and his mounted training will then commence!



Colorado Meet & Greet: Hay, let's get together! If you're interested in meeting and socializing with other ACPS members, send me, Karen Laden, an email to Karen@kingswellconnemaras.com We will work out a date and location based on those who respond. To keep things simple, bring your pony photos, but leave your beloved Connemara at home. Do you have friends who own or ride Connemaras but aren't ACPS members? Please invite them, too! The more Connemara lovers, the merrier!!!

FOALS OF 2023 – Birth Announcements

Susan McLaughlin's colt, Valor, was born out of Declan Pondi.



Coming Full Circle with a Connemara Pony Submitted by Elisabeth Ervin-Blankenheim, Ph.D. Whisper Hollow Farm - Wellington, CO

We are the happy new owners of Ruby King Sparrow “Cian,” an 11-year-old, grey Connemara gelding, who we purchased from Susan McLaughlin, ACPS Region 8 Governor. Our journey with these special and unique ponies began in the late 1960’s, thousands of miles away in Pennsylvania. I was fortunate to be raised by a mom, Elisabeth T. Ervin, who was a long-time ACPS member and centered riding teacher. We had many Connemaras over the years and rode them in shows, on trails, and in the field, fox hunting. They never faltered at any task we asked



of them and were our most reliable mounts.

Much later, and many dressage horses, mostly warmbloods, I arrived at a point where I wanted and needed a steadfast equine partner, also one closer to the ground. This past year and half saw mom’s passing, graduate school completion, and a spinal fusion for me. My body is stronger for the fusion, with a great deal of metal added, and I am healing well. Deciding to look for a Connemara pony was

easy, and one mom would have been so pleased. As I get to know Cian, we plan small shows and outings. My husband, Rich, and I are volunteer forest rangers for the USFS in a program in Colorado called Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. The position involves providing mounted patrols (though other rangers hike or ski) to watch over USFS trails and assist visitors to the forest. Mostly, it is meet and greet and providing directions and maps. We can see Cian taking on this role and are looking forward to a long partnership with him.

Don't forget to get your paperwork for the Achievement awards and keep logging those hours for the Fun With Pony award. First year is an award certificate then medals are awarded for the following years. **For more information about Fun with Pony the application form, visit acps.org, click on 'About' then click on 'Awards.' Reports due December 31,2023.**

Achievement Award reports: It's that time of the year again. All paperwork for the various awards are due. Please send a separate report soon after each competition or activity. Remember to include copy of sanction page for those that were recognized. A copy of your ACPS membership card needs to be included when you send in your first report form for the year. Send in a separate report soon after each competition / activity to: Karen Laden 12625 Halleluiah Trail, Elbert, CO 80106 kingswellponies@yahoo.com

Final deadline for points to be recorded for the year: December 31, 2023.

Here are the links to the awards forms and requirements:

<https://www.acps.org/documents/awards/31-achievement-awards-recording-form-competitive/file>

<https://www.acps.org/documents/awards/32-achievement-award-recording-form-non-competitive/file>

<https://www.acps.org/documents/awards/45-points-requirements-for-achievement-awards/file>

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

Region VIII State Representatives: With such a big region, covering from Mexico to Canada, the suggestion was to have Region VIII State Reps. Not sure what this would involve, but it might be a fun way to get folks together and meet other Connemara folks in your state. If you would be interested in something like this, please contact me. This wouldn't mean you have to put on shows or events, just be a more local resource for folks.

The 2024 Connemara Calendars



The 2024 Connemara Calendars will be available shortly. We are now taking advanced orders on these beautiful calendars. The calendars sold out last year in less than a month so don't delay in placing your order!

These beautiful, quality Calendars are filled with photos of our wonderful ponies and are the major fund raiser for our Region 1 endeavors to promote our fabulous Connemara ponies. They also make wonderful holiday gifts for any horse lover.

Still only \$17.00 each or \$15.00 each for 3 or more
Includes postage

Contact
Sue Antilla
190 Pine Hill Road
New Fairfield, Ct 06812
203-512-3514, PM me on Facebook or
email: Antilla.suzanne@gmail.com

ACPS Merchandise: Did you know you can purchase some really neat ACPS logo stuff at the Region III Connemara Boutique on Facebook. To place an order, please message their page. They will ship outside of the USA! A Great Comfy Long Sleeve Base Layer for Chilly Weather or Perfect for Warmer Days ☀️ Pairs perfectly with a vest. Ladies Long Sleeve, UPF 50 Protection, Drop Back Hem, Thumb Holes. 🍀 Connemaras Do It All Logo Embroidered 🍀 \$39.00 each Heather Grey: 1-S, 1-M, 1-L, 1-2XL, Navy: 1-XL, Grape: 1-XS, 1-L, 1-2XL, Juniper: 1-L, Ocean Blue: 1-M, Spruce: 1-M



West Coast Connemara Show 1/4 Zip Shirts - BLACK
• Left Chest ACPS Logo Hit
• Right Sleeve (Shown on Left for Visual)

Adult Sizes
\$50

Youth Sizes
\$40



MENS (XS - 2XL)



WOMENS (XS - 2XL)



YOUTH (XS-XL)

THEY'RE BACK! 🍀

We are taking another pre-order for the highly in-demand ACPS 'Connemaras Do It All' 1/4 zips. Please reach out if you have any questions, and thank you for supporting Region X! I have one of these and they are so soft and comfortably! They will make a great Christmas gift! Order form:

<https://forms.gle/gmknwVttZfkBAQBVA>

Jean Clagett has returned to Virginia and will be active with the Region III zone Connemara club and is in the process of setting up a business of creating awards for special events. This is one of the beautiful awards she has created.



ACPS Webpage: Be sure to check out the ACPS website www.acps.org, it has a lot of useful information including a membership Directory. To log into the website the User Name is **acpsmember and the Password is **ACPSride4fun**.**

The new year is rapidly approaching, don't forget to renew your membership. You need to be a current member for all awards or credit toward any of the achievement award programs. Categories for achievement awards are: Competitive- In-hand, driving, eventing, competitive trail/endurance (miles) dressage, hunter, jumper, Western and Working Equitation (WE). Non-competitive awards are for: Fox Hunter, Pony Club, 4-H, Working Ranch Horse, Therapeutic Riding/driving and Fun With Pony.



It is membership renewal time! Go to ACPS.org and renew today!

CALENDAR:

- Dec. 15 - Newsletter information due
- Dec. 31- All achievement awards paperwork due
- Jan. 1 -Memberships due.

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

Region VIII Breeders

Big Sky Connemaras is a breeding program for Connemara Ponies in Choteau, Montana. Check out their fb page at Big Sky Connemaras

FINN'S IRISH CREAME

ACPS (2526) XXXIII - Inspected & Approved HWSD-N/N
1996 Dun Stallion 13.3H
By *Grange Finn Sparrow (659)CPBS out of Matilda (8360)CPBS

Shipped Cooled or Frozen - Semen.
Call or email for pricing.



JARRE CREEK CONNEMARAS

Kaye Hurley Lefkowitz | Sedalia, CO | 303.619.0433 | grniedldy@gmail.com

To view more photos visit <https://heatherbellphotograp.photoshelter.com/gallery/Finns-Irish-Creame/Go000QOdwrBfnHIE>



KINGSWELL CONNEMARAS



**A Champion Stallion from
Champion European Lines
successfully passing it on
*Smaragaid Cliff**

(Munkholm Cobbergate x Shamrock
Bright Roxanne) 14.3h, brown

- ACPS Premium Stallion
- Two ACPS Gold Medallions
- USDF & All-Breeds Champion
- USEF Leading Eventing & Dressage Sire, HOTY
- German Golden Medal Winner
- HWSD N/N; no grey, dilute genes

The Proof is in his Progeny
Karen Laden
<http://www.kingswellconnemaras.com/>

Visit Cliff on Facebook at
Kingswell Connemaras
719-495-3892

Region VIII Representatives:

Susan McLaughlin from Colorado is the Region VIII Governor.

Karen Laden from Colorado, is the achievement awards points secretary & Board of Governors - Governors-At-Large

Chris Knox from Chesterfield, ID is on the USEF Connemara Committee & Breeders Committee.

Susan Dudasik, from Salmon, Idaho is the newsletter editor and Region VIII Chair

