March/April 2020 #7

photo: Ryder Richardson and RR Cool Play

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Time to get your green on! Hoping everyone is surviving this long winter. Hard to believe it's March 1st and we still have about 18” of snow in the fields here in Salmon, ID. Sure hope we start to thaw soon. I know everyone is champing at the bit to start getting out and enjoying their ponies. Ours still haven't started to shed and daylight savings time starts next week! Come on Spring, we've got things to do!!

Lots of wheels have started turning since the last newsletter and I'll be sending out update dates as things progress. First off, Susan McLaughlin, our Region VIII Governor, has been busy trying to organize an ACPS Pre-inspection clinic, more information lower in the copy. This will be a big event for the Region and she can use all the input she can get to help her plan it.

Second, we are planning some Meet & Greet (M&G) events, one in July at Rebecca Farm during the Event in Kallispell, MT and one at the Big Sky Horse Park in Missoula, MT. The M&G's will basically be an informal gathering so we can get to know each other and promote our ponies. I recently posted a little blurb on a general regional horse facebook page asking if there were any Connemara owners out there and to my surprise, had about six people respond. So this has been an encouragement to do the M&G's. If anyone wants to do something in their area, just let me know and I'll post the information. They don't have to be extravagant events. Maybe just a gathering of folks at a show or activity. I can make up some kind of small laminated signs with the ACPS logo on it to hang on stalls or trailers. Just let me know if you want one.

This also ties into the next item. ACPS offers breed ribbons that we can hand out at various events. There are some specifications for the ribbons, but one of the biggest thing is finding out where folks are showing their ACPS registered ponies. So with the M&G's we can see if there are folks at the events. We are working on offering the ribbons at The Event at Rebecca Farm and possibly the Mini-event in Missoula, MT. If you know of an event were there are several registered Connamaras competing, please
let us know and we might be able to supply a ribbon. Even if we can't get the ribbons out this year, we'll have a good starting list for next year. We need the information first to proceed.

There's also some exciting stirrings in the works for our youth from ACPS. They are working on some kind of Youth Ambassador program and don't forget they have youth scholarships. It would be neat to have some youth photos for the newsletter.

Check out our public Facebook page which can be found at: American Connemara Pony Society - Region 8 that everyone can post to. It currently has 105 followers. Not bad considering there are about 25 Region members. So it's a good place to promote our ponies.

Don't forget to send information for the “Meet the Members” blurb. I need folks to send a photo and a short paragraph about them. Also need folks to let me know who's doing what. Foal photos are fun, too. What about ways to promote our ponies or a barn tip? Anyone attending a clinic with their pony? To encourage everyone to send in something for the newsletter, the names of those contributing something will be put in for a drawing for a small gift.

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!!! The next deadline for newsletter information is April 15th. The dreaded TAX DAY! Thank-you to those who have been sending stuff for the newsletter and for all your future help and support. 

Susan

This month's newsletter contributor winner is Jean Clagett. Her gift is a green dish towel with the ACPS logo printed in white. Congratulations Jean! Thanks for contributing to the newsletter.

Pony Pre-Inspection Clinic:
Susan McLaughlin, our Region VIII Governor, has been working hard on arranging for an ACPS pre-Inspection clinic our region. This clinic will focus on conformation and form to function of the Connemara pony and helping familiarize participants with the inspection process. Tentative dates are being looked at and most likely it will be held in Colorado.

Plans are for Chris Knox to be the clinician. As a former member of the United States Eventing Association Board of Governors, Chris was instrumental in developing the Adult Team Championships and served as chairman of the Adult Riders Committee. Chris also served as a licensed USEF Judge and Technical Delegate in Dressage and Eventing for twenty years. She currently serves as Chair of the USEF Connemara Committee and as Chair of the USEF Breeders Committee. She is a foundational member of the US Dressage Federation, Life member of the US Eventing Association and a former National Examiner and Chief Horse Management Judge for the US Pony Clubs. She served for many years on the Board of the American Connemara Pony Society and is a past president. Chris has ridden and coached in Canada, England and
Ireland as well as throughout the U.S. Chris, with her husband Phil and family, currently breed, raise and train Connemara and Connemara/Thoroughbred cross sport horses at Knox Farm in Chesterfield, Idaho.

More specific details will come as things progress and I will send out e-mail notices as things are finalized. To help design the clinic, Susan needs to have member input ASAP. She needs to know who would be interested in attending. Who would be willing to bring their ponies to be critiqued? Is there anything specific they would like to see discussed at the clinic? Would you prefer a one day or a day & a half clinic? Does anyone have any ideas or suggestions for the event?

The inspections are for all purebred Connemara ponies, mares, stallions and geldings, domestic or imported, with an ACPS permanent registration certificate. There is an inspection nominating process for all ponies and specific guidelines and criteria must be followed. Currently there are two inspections planned for 2020. The first is July 26-27 in Virginia and the other on October 11-12 in Georgia. If this is something anyone would be interested in, please let us know asap so we know if it is something Region VIII needs to pursue. For complete details about the inspection program, please visit the ACPS page at https://acps.org/inspections-acps

For more information please contact Susan McLaughlin at (970) 749-4332 or e-mail her at duckspringfarm@aol.com

**Meet our members:** Hi, my name is Karen Laden and I live in the Black Forest east of Colorado Springs. I am the points coordinator for the ACPS Lifetime Achievement Awards. It is my third year in this volunteer position. Recently I was elected to serve an out-large position on the ACPS Board of Governors. I consider it a privilege to work for the members of the association. If you have questions about the achievement program or input for the BOG, don’t hesitate to contact me. My email is kingswellponies@yahoo.com

In 2004 our family founded Kingswell Connemaras with the purchase of the champion German-bred Connemara stallion *Smaragaid Cliff* (Munkholm Cobbergate x Shamrock Bright Roxanne). Cliff currently has 14 purebreds and 5 partbreds on the ground with more expected this year. We are very proud of Cliff’s progeny and thankful for their excellent owners. If you’re
interested in learning more about Cliff and Kingswell Connemara, visit us on Facebook or our website at kingswellconnemaras.com.

**Congratulations to our Region VIII 2019 ACPS Achievement Award Winners**

**Competitive Awards:**

**Dressage Certificate**
VSH Devine Alexandra (Tullymor’s Ned Devine x Missy) O: Susan Dudasik

**Eventing Bronze**
New Song’s Freedom (*Smaragaid Cliff x Wildwynch Lucy) O: Lee Thomas

**Jumper Award of Excellence**
RR Cool Play (Bentley O’Dea x Corner Oak Penelope) O: Ryder Richardson

**2019 Non-Competitive Award Winners:**

**Foxhunting Bronze**
Ceili Coral Isles (*Kilfenora Windy Isles x Coral Misty Ciara) O: Erin Driscoll

**Congratulations** to *Smaragaid Cliff’s* kids for their outstanding 2019 USEF HOTY Awards! Because of them, *Smaragaid Cliff* was the top-ranked Connemara on the 2019 USEF Leading Sire list for Dressage and fourth-ranked Connemara Leading Sire for Eventing! Thanks to Talamah Bound (breeder/owner Tammy Lisi; rider/trainer Hannah Jungling), Cobblestone Sandpiper (breeder/owner Pat Ashworth; rider/trainer Leslie Hagberg) and Kynynmont Connor O'Grady (owner/breeder Pam Liddell; rider/trainer Emily O'Neill)!

*Region VIII youth partners with CWD Saddle Company*- Received this from Ryder Richardson: “I am so excited to announce my partnership with CWD Saddles. Thank you so much to Bronwen Cheney and CWD for this amazing opportunity. I am so excited to ride in the #1 saddle in the world. I have never owned or ridden in a brand new saddle before and this one is made for Becks and me. It’s absolutely beautiful and the softest saddle I have ever touched. Thank you CWD and Bronwen Cheney. A huge dream just came true!”

**Don't forget to renew your 2020 membership!!**

**Membership Secretary:** Suzanne Phelps (membership) and Cynthia Holbrook (database). Please contact Suzanne for membership questions, renewals and new member applications. Suzanne’s contact information is: 2010 Miracle Lane Falls Church, VA 22043  (703)244-5731  srphelps@cox.net
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 ride4fun.

Looking forward to Spring! From Chris Knox – January 10th Minus 15 last night and a sub zero, but sunny morning. Kilcullen soaking up the sunshine with a couple of buddies. Hey, a bird has to keep its toes warm!

Did you know? At Madison Square Garden in New York, NY, in 1939, the 13.2 hand Connemara, Little Squire, won the Open Championship by clearing fences of seven feet. The American press dubbed him “the littlest horse with the biggest heart.”

Calling all ACPS Juniors- check out the new ACPS junior run Instagram @acpsjuniors! Tag your photos (with pony’s breeding) for shares. This was posted on facebook and all the information I have on it right now.

Printed directory of Region VIII members: I've asked before if members would like a members-only directory and several folks have said yes. Therefore, I will work on it and would like to have it done by the first of April in time for show season. It would list your name, farm name, city, state and email. For those who want to, they could include their ponies names, what kind of events you participate in and any other information you wanted to include. It would be sent to members through e-mail. I need everyone’s help with this to verify contact information and anything else you want to include. The deadline for this would be March 25th. You can e-mail me at misfitfarms@centurylink.net. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS YOU MUST LET ME KNOW!

ACPS Merchandise: Did you know you can purchase some really neat ACPS logo stuff at the Region III Connemara Boutique on Facebook. They have lots of neat clothes, saddle pads, fly veils and much more featuring the “Connemaras Do It All” logo. They also have 3” and 5” embroidered patches that are perfect for saddle pads, vests and tack bags.
**USEF Safe Sport Training required for USEF competitors:** Don't forget if you are competing in USEF events, every one over age 18 is required to complete the core Safe Sport Training within 30 days of activating your membership. If you do not complete the training, you are ineligible to participate in all USEF activities, including competitions. Take the Safe Sport Training at USEF.org.

**Sharing an e-mail:** from Jean Clagett “I met Karen Laden last summer when my son and I first arrived back in Colorado but have yet to meet other local Connemara lovers. Hopefully soon. I had a sculpture in progress but I have revised it to be the Connemara that I had to sell, Promise of Summer, and plan to submit it to the Coors Art Show at the Stock Show for next January as well as for Carbondale this summer.

I call this piece 'And so it begins.....' featuring a young girl with braids riding her pony bareback with a halter. The Stock Show version will include her Australian Shepherd companion. The piece will be almost life-size intended to be set in a natural environment. Hopefully they will want it for the new Stock Show facilities and park! I hope we can get together to meet soon. I miss my Connemara but still have a TB mare back in Maryland that I would love to breed to a Connemara stallion.....maybe with the stallion services auction the Connemara Association is planning. Please let me know if there is a meeting planned so I can come. I am southeast of Kiowa.”

**Information for the next newsletter is due April 15th**

**CALENDAR:**
March 21- Sage Creek Winter Festival in UT
April 10-12 - Idaho Horse Expo- Nampa, Idaho
April 18- Sage Creek Dressage Short Tour Show in UT
April 15- Newsletter information due
May 1 – Newsletter out
May 15-17- Working Equitation clinic – Big Sky Horse Park Missoula, MT
May 16 – Spring Open Dressage Schooling Show – Big Sky Region Pony Clubs at White Aspen Ranch in Billings, MT
May 30- Millbrook Short Tour Dressage Show in UT
June 6 – Flying Colors mini-event - Big Sky Horse Park Missoula, MT
June 15- Newsletter information due
June 12-13 Sage Creek I and II in UT
June 12 – 14- Idaho Dressage Festival -Les Bois Dressage Eagle, ID 208-585-7006
June 27 – 28 – Working Equitation show - Big Sky Horse Park Missoula, MT  
July 1 – Newsletter out  
July 11-12, Millbrook Summer Dressage Festival in UT  
July 22 -26 - The Event at Rebbecca Farm in Kallispell, MT  
July 22 -26 – Tenative- Region VIII Meet & Greet at Rebbecca Farm in Kallispell, MT  
July 24-25 Sage Creek III and IV in UT  
August 15-16 Millbrook Farms Dressage Show in UT  
August 15- Newsletter information due  
August 22- 23 – Color My Ride trail obstacle show - Big Sky Horse Park Missoula, MT  
Sept 1 – Newsletter out  
Sept 12 -13 - 27 – 28 – Working Equitation show - Big Sky Horse Park Missoula, MT  
Sept 24-27 ACPS Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky  
Sept 26 -Flying Colors mini-event - Big Sky Horse Park Missoula, MT  
Dec. 31 -Achievement Award reports due

Utah Dressage Shows 2020 – Thank you Celeste Rosquist for sending this information. If you're competing at these shows, we'd love some photos.
February 15th, Sage Creek Winter Festival  
March 21st, Sage Creek Winter Festival  
April 18th, Sage Creek Dressage Short Tour Show  
May 30th, Millbrook Short Tour Dressage Show  
June 12-13, Sage Creek I and II  
July 11-12, Millbrook Summer Dressage Festival  
July 24-25, Sage Creek III and IV  
August 15-16, Millbrook Farms Dressage Show

Big Sky Horse Park: Located in Missoula, MT this park hosts a variety of events for English and Western riders. www.bigskyhorsepark.org

SAVE THE DATE! The ACPS Annual Meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites in Lexington, Kentucky on September 24-27th 2020. Keep an eye on the ACPS Region V Facebook page for future updates!

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 new Region VIII Chair
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