May/June 2019 #2

Wow, welcome to spring or, second winter. As I type this, we had a high of 45 today and predicted 26 tonight. Two days ago it was 73 degrees, ponies were shedding hair in clumps and fly season was bursting out. Today I was debating if I should haul out the winter blankets again.

Show and event season is gearing up and it would be fun to see how others are doing. Anyone headed to the big three-day events or dressage shows? What about those backyard fun shows? Any new foals out there? Foal photos are always fun to share.

I still need for everyone to send me an email with your name and state. It would also be helpful if you could tell me a bit about yourself and your ponies. And, since some of the state only have two or three members, it would be a big help if I knew were folks are so I can be sure to get the event dates and show information out. I can use all the help I can get. I’d also like to do some member profiles. Anyone doing anything fun or unusual with their ponies? Does anyone ride Western or compete in different events? Trail challenges, mounted shooting? Are there any youth out there? Anyone stand a stallion? You get the idea, I need input and that has to come from you all. I’d love to see our region grow and that will only happen if we can get the word out about our special ponies. Are you willing to help a little bit? I really need the help with information and PICTURES!!!

Don't forget the public facebook page which can find it at: American Connemara Pony Society - Region 8. With everyone's help, we can make this happen. Thanks for all your future help and support, Susan.

Looking for information: Does anyone know or have contact information on Vicki A. Byrne of Colorado Springs, CO or John A.F. Wendt of Austin, CO. Both are in Region 8 and are listed as life members. It would be great if we could contact them.

Region 8 2018 ACPS Achievement Award Winners: Congratulations to the following for earning their awards.

*Glenormiston Rossleague* owned by Alyce Wich - Therapeutic Riding/Driving Certificate  
*Ceili Coral Isles* owned by Erin Priscoll – Foxhunting Certificate  
*RR Cool Play* ridden by 12 year-old Ryder Richardson earned the Jumper Bronze medal. Ryder's planning to qualify for the 2019 Pony Jumper Championships at the Pony Finals.

Awards: Have any of our Region VII members won any ACPS awards or medals? What about any awards or special recognition in open events. Maybe your pony won its first ribbon at a local show. We'd love to hear about any and all your successes. ACPS offers a variety of Achievement awards for various competitive and non-competitive endeavors. Learn more at the acps.org website.
Meet our members: Christina McPheeters- South Ogden, UT -”My ponies haven’t won anything YET! I have Sir, a cremello gelding and Bodie, a grey gelding. Both are purebred. I'm working on getting them registered.”

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. Lots of great gift ideas.

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.

Idaho Horse Expo notes: Had a great time at the Idaho Horse Expo and met some other pony breed folks. One was Clarissa McAllister that has Welsh ponies and another was Jessica Raymond that has Island Dream Pony Farm in Parma, ID that raises Chincoteague ponies. From this meeting, the idea of maybe doing a pony breeds booth at next year's expo and the different breeds can take turns manning the booth. Might be an awesome way to promote our ponies and Region 8 for a minimum cost. If anyone would be interested in this, please let me know asap so we can start making plans.

Pony Classes at the Western Idaho State Fair: From Clarissa McAllister
Pony Shows are getting more and more prominent around the world. Ponies have been gaining rapidly in popularity in many countries including Great Britain and the US now has many specialized individual breed shows. Our goal is to make that happen in Idaho. We would love to spread our knowledge about our breeds and their specialties. Only a few years ago, the National Dressage Pony Cup started on the East and West coast. It has been rapidly gaining popularity and numbers of competitors have doubled. From eventing to hunters to Western, ponies can do it all. We’re seeing a rapid growth in popularity. Why? Because they’re wonderful "puppy dog companions." Kid or adult, a pony will win your heart. Our goal is for 2019 is that we would love to combine with local shows to
enter in some Pony classes. From Highland ponies to Welsh to sport ponies we have many breeders and owners who would love to compete in these classes. Just a few years ago, thanks to Jill Marolf and her hard work, the Western Idaho State Fair has opened up Welsh pony breed classes. This was a huge stride for the pony community as it had not been done before. It would be a great way to truly see how amazing these breeds are and why they’re so high in demand. We’d love to see competition open up for healthy growth.

**Classes for all pony breeds are offered at the Western Idaho Fair August 23rd - 25th. Ponies must be registered.** There are specific classes for ponies registered with the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. All other ponies compete against their “breed standards”. Welsh Ponies have had their own classes for three years now. There will be an association approved judge and points can be earned. There are several classes expressly for young and beginner riders. For more information check the Western Idaho Fair Website, they should be updating their events soon, or contact Jill Marolf at: JLSnaffle@aol.com

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**Don't forget to renew your 2019 membership!!**

**Membership by state:** We may be few, but we are mighty. From the list I was sent, it looks like last year we had 27 members. Let’s see if we can grow that this year. By state, we had, Colorado-13, Southern Idaho-5, Montana-2, New Mexico-1, Utah-5 and Wyoming -0. If you know any new members, please let me know so I can add them to the mailing list.

**Big Sky Horse Park:** Located in Missoula, MT this park hosts a variety of events for English and Western riders. Their first event will be hosting a benefit dressage schooling show for the Big Sky Region Pony Clubs on Saturday April 27th. Katrina Tiensvold will be judging and on Sunday, the 28th, she will be doing an open dressage clinic at the park. [www.bigskyhorsepark.org](http://www.bigskyhorsepark.org)

**Information for the next newsletter is due on June 14th.**

**CALENDAR:**
May 18 & 19 Idaho Dressage Festival – Idaho Horse Park- USEF/USDF recognized Level 3 competition.
June 14- Newsletter information due
June 14-16 QCPs Region 9 West Coast Connemara Show -Twin Rivers Ranch, Paso Robles, CA.
Open 3* Rated Dressage show on Friday- USEF rated
July 1 – Newsletter out
July 24-28 - The Event at Rebecca Farm in Kallispell,MT.
August 23 -25- Pony classes at the Western Idaho Fair in Boise, ID.
October 3-6 - ACPS Annual Meeting in Richmond, VA