Can't believe we are in the final quarter of 2020. It's been a unique year to say the least. Lots of new challenges for sure. Last week we had beautiful weather and the trees were just outstanding in their fall colors. Today as I write this, there's a strong wind stripping the leaves from the trees and temperatures are predicted to drop into the low teens tomorrow night...and it's not even Halloween yet! Not ready for water tank heaters and pony blankets!

Though a lot of events had been canceled, the ACPS committees have been using the time to regroup and come up with new ideas to promote our ponies and membership. There should be some new information about these things in the next magazine. They have also been working on improving and updating the webpage. Lots of new things are in the works, so stay tuned and check out the magazine.

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 287 followers. Not bad considering there are about 16 Region VIII 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 themselves. 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?

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 December 15th. Thank-you to those who have been sending stuff for the newsletter and for all your future help and support.  

Susan
**Meet & Greets:** I did a small M&G at the Big Sky Horse Park in Missoula, MT during the WE show 9/12/20 and set up a table at the mini-event on 9/26/20. This is a one day event with dressage, x-country and jumping. I handed out several brochures that were graciously sent to me by Linda Trimper and met several folks that once had Connemaras and one gal that just got a half-bred. If anyone would like to do a M&G in their area, please let me know and I will help all I can. We are very widespread so if others would be willing to do something in their area, we could really grow our region. It doesn't take much. I simply made a poster with my ponies pictures and some of the brochures set out on a table. It's a simple, inexpensive way to promote our ponies. If you have any ideas on promoting our ponies, please feel free to share.

**Utah Members:** Celeste Rosquist has offered to try and see if she can get something together for a meet and greet in Utah. Thanks Celeste, that's great. Please contact Celeste at (801) 573-7452 or e-mail her at c.rosquist@msn.com
Scholarship winner: Congratulations to our Region VIII Junior member, Bridget Kelly for winning the 2020 Junior Scholarship.

My name is Bridget Kelly, and I am 12 years old. I live in Roswell, New Mexico (Region 8 ACPS!), and I have an incredible half-bred Connemara named Chai (aka Windover Tarragon) who I do Eventing with. We won a two-hundred-dollar junior scholarship from the ACPS this year, which is amazing! It all started when I read about the junior scholarships on the ACPS website. I had time before school started for the year and writing an essay all about Chai seemed fun, so I decided to try it out and write an essay. It turns out that writing the essay was very fun. How could it not be, talking all about Chai! We submitted the essay and then school started, so after that I was very busy. I basically forgot about the scholarship until, a few weeks later, the email came saying that I had won it! I could not believe it! I have decided to use the scholarship money to continue our dressage training. Chai and I started dressage lessons in the spring of this year and have both responded very well to them, so we are very excited to continue to learn and improve greatly with our dressage work.

According to Linda Haines, a member of the Junior Scholarship Committee, her letter was selected as one of the top entries. “I think it is great she is getting out there and introducing others to the breed as a 12 year old.”

In a note to Bridget, Linda stated, “We loved the enthusiasm your letter expressed. You and Chai sound like good ambassadors for the breed. I am so glad you joined the ACPS and ride a halfbred Connemara! Keep up the good work.”

Bridget rides at Mescalero Farms in Roswell, New Mexico and is our only NM member.

Calling all ACPS Juniors- check out the new ACPS junior run Instagram @acpsjuniors! Tag your photos (with pony’s breeding) for shares.

Meet our members: Lee Anne Thomas of Conifer, CO. - I've owned Connemaras and
half Connemaras for about 25 years, successfully eventing several of them. Orion's Starman competed very successfully up to novice level eventing and first level dressage. We are retired from competing now, and he is currently a star trail horse. He has almost stepped on little fawns hidden in the grass, had rabbits erupt from under his feet and meets deer on pretty much every trail ride. Nothing scares him or makes him spook. He takes such good care of me that he's worth his weight in gold. In his spare time he is teaching an adult beginner how to ride, and taking just as good care of her.

This is my 21-year-old half Connemara, Orion’s Starman, enjoying his semi-retirement of trail riding on the beautiful mountain trails outside our back door near Conifer. His sire is Skyview’s Orion.

Celeste Rosquist - First off, I want to give a big shout out to Susan for all of her great work for our region. Thank you for the monthly newsletters, not only does she work at show casing our region and its members, human and equine but also keeps us updated with what is going on in the Connemara world. THANK YOU.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Celeste Rosquist, I live in Herriman Utah in the SW corner of the Salt Lake Valley. My husband and I have lived here for 28 years and raised our 3 wonderful children on our 2.5 acres. I wanted them to have at least a small taste of farm life.

I grew up riding since before I could walk. My first equine love was a devilish 10 hand Shetland pony named Winky. I believe I started to ride him on my own at around 5 years of age. He taught me to ride, I rode him bareback and he would run away with me or stand on his hind legs. I have no idea how many times I fell off of him before I learned how to ride through it. I had this feisty friend until I was 18 and he was 21, then he passed away due to colic. In so many ways he represented the end of my childhood. When I was 8 our family got back a dude ranch that my grandparents had started in the late 1930’s. For the next 5 years every summer was spent up at Dead Indian Ranch in Sunlight Basin 40 miles from Cody. We had about 70 head of horses, I rode everything over 2 years old. Lots of different experiences.

I first learned about the Connemara breed as a girl reading The Blind Connemara. I now mostly like to ride dressage and after riding the way too big warm bloods, I decided to change about 10 years ago and go back to ponies, just larger ones. I have totally fallen in love with the Connemara’s, I bought my first one 11 years ago then 2 years later 1 more and 5 years later another one. Now all I have at my home are these
wonderful ponies. I also have a friend who lives right near me and she has also changed from the huge horse to now having 2 Connies. One is a Tb cross that she got from Chris Knox about 10 years ago. These ponies have greatly blessed my life and I am thankful for them. I began my life riding ponies and I hope to have ponies the rest of my life.

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Here's a great example of the statement, Connemaras do it all from ACPS member, Sally Oxnard of Paradox Connemaras in Exeter, NH. In Region 1 we had a Mountain Trail Clinic at Mountain Lane Farm in Temple NH with Heather White coaching us over the most amazing array of obstacles, first in hand and then ridden. My 16 year old Connemara Tower Hill's Breeze was braver ridden than in hand. Or we were together. Heather has spent her lock-down time equipping her farm for the International Mountain Trail Challenge competitions.

I highly recommend this activity- good to use your brain in a different way. We are also working on the Misfit Farm Trail Challenge, and some of the goals were included in this clinic. My colleague Dawn Kopczynski and her pony Concord River Scottish Thistle were there as well- they are also participating in the Misfit Farm program. It is fun to get out of the dressage ring!

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.

Did you know? Lendon Gray earned worldwide recognition while riding the Connemara/Thoroughbreds Seldom Seen and Last Scene in upper level international dressage competitions.
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, 2020.

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.

Working Equitation: Did you know ACPS now has an achievement award for those participating in Working Equitation (WE) events? In the last few years WE events been growing in leaps across the country. WE events have a dressage test, Ease of Handling (EOH) obstacle course, a speed course and in some places cattle work. Riders from all disciplines can participate using the correct tack for that discipline and WE is open to any and all breeds, including mules and donkeys. The photo is of Susan Dudasik and her halfbred pony, VSH Devine Alexandra competing at the WE Under the Big Sky show in Missoula, MT. For those interested in learning more about WE events, an independent facebook group has been created called, WE Connemaras. Here's the information from the website. Not exactly sure how it works though: WORKING EQUITATION:Competition at Intro Level, Junior (8-13):2 Competition at Introductory:3 Competition at Introductory:3 Competition at Novice A:5 Competition at Novice B:10 Competition at Intermediate A:15 Competition at Intermediate B:20 Competition at Master:25 Certificate:20 points lifetime Bronze:40 points lifetime Silver:75 points lifetime Gold:150 points lifetime.

Information for the next newsletter is due Dec. 15th
Update from Jean Clagett: Here are pictures of the clay model I have been working on. I am doing paintings again as well.
You can contact Jean at jean@atelierwest.com her phone is 720-589-2976.

ACPS Merchandise: Christmas will be here before you know it. 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. Taking Pre-Orders!! Long Sleeve Ladies' 100% Cotton Tees with ACPS Logo Printed on Left Chest & Full Back. Maroon, Aquatic Blue, Navy, Charcoal, Kelly or Sangria. $24 for XS thru XL and $26 for XXL. Plus shipping.

Just Arrived Breakaway Halters I’m Lucky Horse, Celtic Knot and Shamrocks. Available in Cob and Full Size $45.00. Made in USA.

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. Thy have been working hard to update the website with lots of new information.

**CALENDAR:**
- Dec. 15 – Newsletter deadline
- Dec. 31 - Achievement Award reports due
- Dec. 31 - Time to renew your memberships
- Sept 23-26, 2021 – ACPS Annual Meeting

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

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 month's newsletter contributor winner is Lee Anne Thomas of Conifer, CO. Her gift is a small hand towel, a note pad and pen all with the ACPS logo. Congratulations Bridget! Thanks for contributing to the newsletter.*

**Classified ads:**
For Sale: I am selling one, as three are more than I can keep going by myself. Wildwych Odalisque (*Glenormiston Flurry Knox X Wildwych Giselle) is a 2009 13 hand chestnut purebred who has been inspected and approved. She is a very well trained and talented pony with great conformation and is very beautiful. She would be great for a young rider or small adult who is already riding and a bit gutsy. If you know anyone who may be interested please contact me. I am asking $5000. Celeste Rosquist 801-573-7452.

Region VIII Breeders

Jarre Creek Connemaras located in Sedalia, CO. Stallion: Finn's Irish Creame approved stallion HWSD = negative sire: Grange Finn Sparrow Dam: Matilda Mare Inland Lily HWSD= negative sire: Wildwych Thunder Snow Dam: Wildwych O'Farrell For information contact Kaye Hurley Lefkowicz at 303-619-0433 email: grniedldy@gmail.com

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