

ISSUE TWO

THE

2014

ICELANDIC HORSE

Q U A R T E R L Y



Official Publication of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress
Member Association of FEIF (International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations)

How to Expand your Empire.

Step 1. **Drink**
Step 2. **Conquer**



AdvoCare® Slam™ is a powerful, portable liquid energy supplement that's pre-mixed so it's ready to drink.* Only two fluid ounces for a quick, convenient shot of energy to help you go out and conquer the world!* Available in great-tasting Octane Orange and Power Punch.

Just in time for summer, try Lemonade or our new flavor -- Strawberry Blast!!

*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

Order your Slam now!

Call Sara at (828) 712-8658

Email: Advocaresl@me.com

Order online: www.advocare.com/07051931



AdvoCare® Slam™
Powerful, Portable Energy®



HAM - APPLE PICKER - 66NORTH - TOP REITER - FÁKUR - THINLINE - BACK ON TRACK - G-BOOTS - HRÍMNIR - ÁST
BACK ON TRACK - G-BOOTS - HRÍMNIR - ÁSTUND - FEATHER WEIGHT - BURLINGHAM - APPLE PICKER - 66NORTH
APPLE PICKER - 66NORTH - TOP REITER - FÁKUR - THINLINE - BACK ON TRACK - G-BOOTS - HRÍMNIR - ÁSTUND - F
TOP REITER - FÁKUR - THINLINE - BACK ON TRACK - G-BOOTS - HRÍMNIR - ÁSTUND - FEATHER WEIGHT - BURLING



WWW.FLYINGCTACK.COM

ONE STOP SHOP FOR EVERYTHING YOU MIGHT NEED
FOR YOU OR YOUR ICELANDIC HORSE

TACK SALES - TRAINING - LESSONS - CLINICS - SHOWS - STALLION SERVICE



Lettleiki

ICELANDICS



www.lettleikiicelandics.com

Vermont adventures await you!



Horse adventures
HORSEBACK RIDING
Sales horses
FAMILY VACATIONS
Stubben dealership

Come to the Mad River Valley for a most unusual vacation and the only place in the US that you can ride the Icelandic horse. Tour our mountains, meadows, and forests on one of the oldest horse breeds in the world. The tireless and efficient movement of the Icelandic Horse makes it the ideal saddle horse, seeming to dance effortlessly over the earth with lightness and power. The Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm is near the historic village of Waitsfield, in the heart of the Sugarbush resort area. We offer full-day and half-day trail rides as well as two- to six-day treks on four- and five-gaited Icelandic Horses.

When your Icelandic Horse ride has ended, and we've returned to the farm and dismounted, our hospitality has only begun. For a complete Vermont vacation experience, we invite you to stay with us at the Mad River Inn. Our rambling 1860's-era Victorian country house is a relaxing complement to a day in the saddle. Soak in our hot tub, sleep restfully in our feather beds, and awake to a gourmet country breakfast. In season, we'll serve it on our back porch overlooking the meadow.

Vermont Icelandic Horses: (802) 496-7141 • horses@icelandichorses.com • www.icelandichorses.com
The Mad River Inn: (802) 496-7900 or (800) 832-8278 • madinn@madriver.com • www.madriverinn.com



THE USIHC MISSION

- Support the use and health of the Icelandic horse according to international standards
- Advance the study, breeding, and exhibition of the Icelandic horse
- Represent FEIF in the United States and represent the United States to FEIF
- Maintain a registry of purebred Icelandic horses

The U.S. Icelandic Horse Congress is a member of FEIF (www.feif.org), the International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations, representing the national Icelandic horse associations of 19 countries. FEIF governs competition activities and regulates the breeding and registration of Icelandic horses throughout the world outside of Iceland.

The USIHC was formed in 1987 by representatives of the U.S. Icelandic Horse Federation and the International Icelandic Horse Association to meet the FEIF rule that only one association from each country is allowed to represent the breed.



Photo by Andrea Barber

W H Y J O I N T H E U S I H C ?

LEARN

As the owner or rider of an Icelandic horse, you chose a very special breed with its own culture and history. It is important to learn about the breed's unique traits, capabilities, and needs, so that you and your Icelandic horse will have a happy relationship and it will live a healthy and long life in a country far from its origin. As a USIHC member, you have a wealth of information at your fingertips and a personal connection to the best experts in the country.

You receive *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*, a 52-page all-color magazine, four times a year. All issues since 2008 are available online.

You have free access to WorldFengur, the worldwide database of all registered Icelandic horses. About 400,000 horses, alive and deceased, are included, with pedigrees, offspring, ownership, and evaluation and competition results. Some horses even have photos and videos. WorldFengur is an invaluable tool for all Icelandic horse breeders and very interesting for the rest of us. Go

to "Search Horses" on the USIHC website and find any US-registered Icelandic horse by its number, name, or farm name to link to WorldFengur.

You can take part in—and even help create—educational seminars and teaching programs. For example, the USIHC Education committee developed and now administers the Riding Badge Program for pleasure and competition riders of all ages. On the USIHC website you can find links to FEIF-certified trainers who are USIHC members and can help you get the best out of your Icelandic horse. In the past, the Education committee has organized trainer seminars for those wanting FEIF certification.

The USIHC also has a scholarship fund for members who complete their certification to become national or international judges.

CONNECT

Icelandic horses are social animals, and so are their people. The USIHC is the umbrella organization of regional clubs all over the U.S.: There are currently 14 active clubs. Find the regional Icelandic

riding club in your area through the USIHC website, so that you and your horse can ride with friends. News from the regional clubs appears in each issue of the *Quarterly*.

Join the USIHC Pleasure Rider Program. Through the USIHC website, you can log your equine activities and compete to win patches, medals, or even prizes like riding jackets or stirrups.

USIHC Youth members can apply to participate in the international FEIF Youth Camp or the FEIF Youth Cup. These are great events designed to bring young riders from all 19 FEIF countries together for a week of fun, learning, and competition. The USIHC Youth committee runs the whole process for the U.S. team, from application to participation.

Through the USIHC website, you can sign up for RSS feeds for the Events Calendar or web updates. You can check the membership list to see if your friends are members and when your own membership expires. And you can stay connected through the USIHC Facebook page.

COMPETE

The Icelandic horse has international competition rules: You can compete in the same classes and under the same rules in any of the 19 FEIF member countries and compare your progress with competition riders from around the world.

The USIHC Competition committee adapts these international FEIF rules for American venues and special circumstances, publishing a new set of USIHC Competition Rules each year. These are available on the USIHC website, along with all the tools needed to put on a sanctioned show, such as entry forms, judging forms, judges' cards, and announcers' cards. (These tools are also useful for organizing fun shows and schooling shows.) Also on the website are lists of prohibited tack and equipment and other necessary information for competition riders.

Sanctioned-show organizers have access to the IceTest software to record show scores so that they immediately appear in the U.S. National Ranking; qualified shows can also send scores to the FEIF World Ranking list. Scores are posted on the USIHC website for everyone to see and compare.

Only USIHC members can join the U.S. team at the Icelandic Horse World Championships, held in a FEIF country every other year. If you hope to compete at an international level, see the team

recommendations and requirements on the USIHC website. Tryouts for the team are open and are National Ranking events: Anyone can ride for scores and to get feedback from an international judge, whether or not you intend to compete in the World Championships.

PROMOTE

USIHC members promote the Icelandic horse at many equine expositions around the country. The USIHC provides a beautiful display, brochures, and copies of the *Quarterly* and will contribute to the cost of the booth and stall space if certain requirements are met. Often these events are coordinated through a regional club, but individual members can also request copies of the brochure.

The new USIHC Breed Ambassador program rewards members who take their Icelandic horses to all-breed events and shows.

The Promotion committee also prints advertisements in selected national magazines and newspapers, etc.

Trainers, breeding farms, and trekking barns can promote their services through the USIHC Farm List in the *Quarterly* and on the website. Stallion owners can promote their stud services through the online USIHC Stallion Book. And everyone can advertise in the *Quarterly*.

REGISTER

Whether you plan to breed one mare or have a breeding farm, the USIHC Registry and the Breeding committee provide information and services to help you. The Icelandic horse is one of few breeds with international evaluation standards, so that breeding horses from all over the world are judged on the same 10 points of conformation and 10 points of ridden abilities, and all scores are entered into the WorldFengur database. That allows you to compare the quality of your breeding stock with Icelandic horses around the world, both past and present.

USIHC-sanctioned breeding evaluation shows for registered adult horses ages four and up are scheduled by USIHC Regional Clubs, and occasionally by private farms, around the country as needed. All rules and regulations are supplied by the Breeding committee from the international FEIF rules and are available on the USIHC website. For

the past several years, the USIHC Breeding Leader has also organized young horse evaluations for foals to three-year-olds.

In accordance with FEIF rules, the USIHC has developed stringent tests before a foal can be registered as a purebred Icelandic horse. You can be sure of the parentage of any registered Icelandic horse and know that your registered foals have proof of their value.

You don't have to be a USIHC member to register your Icelandic horse, but by becoming a member you help support this vital USIHC program.

INNOVATE

The USIHC is a member-driven organization. The more active and involved our members are, the stronger the USIHC becomes. Do you have an idea for a project or event that will support the Icelandic horse in America?

If so, write a proposal. USIHC members are eligible to receive a grant to fund creative projects that meet the USIHC's mission statement. Grant funding is included in the USIHC's annual budget—for 2013, the first year of the grant program, \$8,000 was budgeted! Contact the USIHC vice president for more information or read about the grant program in Issue 3 2013 of the *Quarterly* on the website.

JOIN US

There are only about 4,500 registered Icelandic horses in the U.S. and the USIHC, at about 500 members, is still a small "pioneer" organization compared to countries like Iceland and Germany. Our committee members and board of directors are all volunteers. Please join us so that the USIHC, too, can "bring people together in their passion for the Icelandic horse"!

Yearly membership for an adult is \$45, for a family (two adults, unlimited kids) it is \$65, and for young riders under 18 it is *free* until September 2014. You can join online or use the form at the back of this magazine.

QUESTIONS?

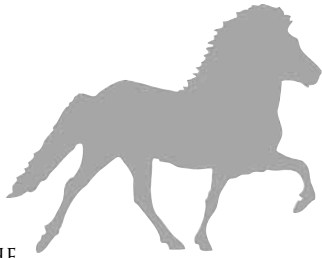
USIHC Board members and Committee chairs are here to answer them. For general questions, call or email our information desk or check the website.

Toll free: 866-929-0009

info@icelandics.org

www.icelandics.org

FEIF'S MISSION: FEIF BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER
IN THEIR PASSION FOR THE ICELANDIC HORSE



ICELANDIC HORSE

Q U A R T E R L Y

THE
ICELANDIC
HORSE
QUARTERLY
Issue Two 2014

Official Publication of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress (USIHC), a member association of FEIF (International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations).

©2014 All rights reserved.

The Icelandic Horse Quarterly is published in March, June, September, and December by the USIHC as a benefit of membership. Renew online at www.icelandics.org.

Deadlines are January 1 (for the March issue), April 1, July 1, and October 1. See the instructions online at www.icelandics.org or email the editorial committee at quarterly@icelandics.org. We reserve the right to edit submissions. All articles represent the opinions of their authors alone; publication in the *Quarterly* does not imply an endorsement of any kind by the USIHC.

Advertising rates and instructions are online at www.icelandics.org/ad_rates

Quarterly Committee:

Carol Andrew, Heidi Benson, Andrea Brodie, Nancy Marie Brown (co-editor), Juli Cole, Alys Culhane, Anne Elwell, Nicki Esdorn (co-editor), Eileen Gunipero, Maike Liekweg, Anne Owen, Alex Pregitzer, Chris Romano, Judy Strehler, Nancy Wines-Dewan, Lynn Wiese

Graphic Design: James Collins

On the cover: What could be more fun than a gallop race on the beach? Young trainer Ayla Green on Mári frá Kólgerði is getting just a bit ahead of her aunt, trainer Laura Benson on Stjární frá Blönduósi. They took a group of friends to California's Moss Landing State Beach for a birthday celebration on a beautiful day. A perfect occasion for a race with the "little sports cars" of the horse world! Photo by Elle Martinez.

10 NEWS

- 10 USIHC News
- 13 FEIF News
- 16 Regional Club Updates

24 FEATURES

- 24 A Three-Day Eventer Rides Icelandic *by Emma Erickson*
- 26 Horses vs. Worms *by Alexandra Pregitzer*
- 30 Horse Soccer! *by Terry Albert*
- 32 Falki's Story *by Betsy Sonnenberg*
- 34 Riding for Pleasure *by Ellen Preston*
- 37 Siggi's Legacy *by Alys Culhane*

USIHC CONTACTS

Committees

Breeding@icelandics.org
Andrea Barber (585-624-4468)

Competition@icelandics.org
Will Covert (805-688-1393)

Education@icelandics.org
Katrin Sheehan (706-347-0900)

Pleasure_riding@icelandics.org
Deb Callaway (585-374-5476)

Promotion@icelandics.org
Juli Cole (724-667-4184)

Quarterly@icelandics.org
Nancy Brown (802-626-4220)
Nicki Esdorn (914-826-5159)

Regional_clubs@icelandics.org
Martina Gates (631-662-7755)

Youth@icelandics.org
Laurie Prestine (408-354-2828)

Directors

president@icelandics.org
Sara Lyter (828-712-8658)

vice_president@icelandics.org
Lori Cretney (608-663-6696)

secretary@icelandics.org
Doug Smith (831-238-3254)

treasurer@icelandics.org
Kari Pietsch-Wanguard

registry@icelandics.org
Ásta Covert (866-929-0009)

Andrea Barber
(toltstar@yahoo.com)
Juli Cole (724-667-4184)
Anne Elwell (919-533-1030)
Katrin Sheehan (706-347-0900)

Registry

c/o Ásta Covert
P.O. Box 1724
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
Toll free: 866-929-0009
registry@icelandics.org
www.icelandics.org

Main Office

United States Icelandic
Horse Congress
c/o Kari Pietsch-Wanguard
300 South Sawyer Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Toll free: 866-929-0009
info@icelandics.org
www.icelandics.org

FROM THE EDITOR

SMALL HORSE, BIG DREAMS

What are your dreams? Do you wish you could go to the Youth Cup in Europe, ride in the tölt class at a big show, or see your horse score first prize at a breed evaluation? I've had many such dreams, and a very big one was to become a certified Icelandic horse trainer.

To fulfill any of those ambitious dreams, we need the USIHC. It represents FEIF, the International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations, which governs competition activities, certifies trainers, and regulates breeding and registration of Icelandic horses around the world. Luckily for me, the USIHC provided the opportunity when I was ready to make my dream come true.

I already had lifelong experience with horses. I had ridden dressage in my native Germany, and jumpers, cross country, and western in the U.S. I had taught my kids how to ride, and then my parents, who started riding in their sixties. I had fallen in love with the horses in Iceland, exuberant tölters unlike any other horse I had ever ridden. I had bought a great Icelandic horse and started showing him, took part in Equine Affaire, and won hunter paces.

In 2008 the first-ever FEIF Trainer Level 1 course in the U.S. was organized by the USIHC education committee and held at beautiful Creekside Farm in Georgia. It was an intense, three-week course, taught by the



legendary Walter Feldmann, of Germany. Passing the tough exam gave me a lot of confidence. It confirmed that I indeed had what it took to train and teach.

For some years, no FEIF trainer course has been held in the U.S. Why? Lack of interest, not enough participants, says the education committee. Or is it the other way around? No trainer courses, no interest? It is a chicken and egg problem. We have a similar situation in the U.S. with breed evaluations, sanctioned and world-ranking shows, and youth programs.

From horse training, I know that if the tasks are big, they need to be broken down into manageable steps. And from keeping my own barn, I know that the more people you have shoveling the manure, the faster your stalls get cleaned.

Instead of organizing trainer courses, the education committee—which like all USIHC committees is made up entirely of volunteers—is now focusing on developing a Riding Badge Program, popular in many FEIF countries. This is a program of consecutive tests in riding and horse knowledge. It starts with children and beginners and goes all the way up to the trainer levels. The committee has already done a lot of work setting up the levels and writing the exam questions. They're now developing and translating the much-needed teaching material for us to download from the USIHC website.

So if your dream is to take a FEIF Trainer Level 1 course in the U.S. and become a certified Icelandic horse trainer like me, you'll have to wait. Or, join the education committee and ask how you can help to make it happen.

The U.S. needs more sanctioned and world-ranking shows if we want to grow and keep our own American judges and professionals, as well as to encourage young and adult riders who strive for excellence in the show ring at the national and international level.

If we want to have excellent domestic-bred Icelandic horses to choose from and ride, American breeders need FEIF breed evaluations to be held every year, and not too far away, to help develop and showcase their



Nicki Esdorn riding Alfrún frá Hrafnstöðum at the 2013 NEIHC sanctioned show. Photo (at left) by Steven Steele Cawman. Photo (at right) by Christoph Huss.

young stars.

This year, the USIHC won the FEIF Youth Award—but youth programs involving Icelandic horses are just beginning to grow. Only a few stables in the country run a regular youth program, and these have waiting lists.

Seminars, shows, breed evaluations, and youth programs all are a lot of work and require many volunteer hours to organize. We need the USIHC to provide the framework for our dreams. But the USIHC is what we, the members, make it. In the March editorial Nancy Marie Brown wrote about what the USIHC meant to her as a pleasure rider: It's a network of friends, riding companions, and experts always on call.

For those of us with showing, breeding, and professional interests, the USIHC is not only a network of colleagues and friends, clients and customers, but the organization in charge of the events and programs we want and need. It's a volunteer organization which depends on all of us to get things done. Let's make it a great one. Let's make some dreams come true!

—Nicki Esdorn

YOUTH AWARD

The USIHC was awarded the 2013 Youth Award at the FEIF Conference in Reykjavík in February for being the “most active, innovative, and inspiring” FEIF member country when it comes to youth programs. In addition to a trophy, the U.S. received an extra place at the 2014 FEIF Youth Cup. Said Youth Committee Chair Laurie Prestine, “The entire U.S. needs to be thanked for this award. It was everyone working together and independently, planning and executing amazing youth events and promoting our breed to young riders, that won this award. Members of the USIHC Board, Regional Clubs, trainers, and past and present Youth Committee members were especially important to our success.” Laurie specially singled out Kelly Blough for writing the 2013 youth report, Colleen Monsef and Juli Cole for the press release and publicity, and Nicki Esdorn for promoting the free youth memberships. For 2014, the committee is creating a national calendar of suggested youth events and working to provide incentives to trainers and regional clubs around the country to offer at least one event this summer.

FEIF YOUTH CUP

Four young riders will represent the USIHC at the 2014 FEIF Youth Cup, to be held July 11-20 at Hólar in Iceland. They are: Elizabeth Robertson, Quinn Thomashow, Emma Erickson, and Elizabeth Monsef. The alternate is Jessica Blough. (See the last issue of the *Quarterly* for profiles of the eight riders who tried out; also see Emma Erickson’s article in this issue.) Jasmine Ho is Country Leader, and Lucy Nold is Team Leader.

Colleen Monsef has volunteered to be the USIHC’s FYCup coordinator. Colleen’s primary job is to promote communication between all the participants of FYCup, to collect information, and to submit the required forms to FEIF. She is also researching horse-rental options and creating the team jackets.

BREEDING AWARD

The USIHC website (www.icelandics.org) has a new page under the “Breed” tab for the Anne Elwell Breeding Award. The page includes a description of the award and its



Number 8 of the top-10 young horses of 2013, Prýði from Winterhorse Park, was sired by Fjalar frá Bjargshóli, not as we reported in the last issue.

inspiration, eligibility requirements, and photos and information on all past and current winners. Martina Gates won the 2013 award as the breeder of Revía from Vinland, who scored 8.08 for Conformation and 8.14 for Ridden Abilities, for a total of 8.12. See the profile of Martina in the last issue of the *Quarterly*.

BREEDING SHOWS

Two FEIF Breed Evaluations for adult horses are scheduled for 2014. Swallowland Farm in Shelbyville, KY held the first on May 10-11. The NEIHC Regional Club is holding the second at Thor Icelandics in Claverack, NY on September 23-24. Starting with these shows in 2014, the USIHC Board has decided to increase its support for breed evaluations by paying the fees charged by FEIF instead of passing them on to the show’s organizers.

YOUNG HORSE TOUR

USIHC Breeding Leader Andrea Barber writes: This year I am helping FEIF International Breeding Judge Barbara Frische organize her annual young horse evaluation tour. Barbara will be available to travel to farms

on several dates this summer and fall to evaluate young horses (ages three weeks to four years) according to the FEIF General Rules for Young Horse and Foal Assessments. These evaluations are relatively simple events to organize and hold, as little personnel, equipment, or preparation is required. But the benefits to breeders, owners, and spectators are huge! Please see the message from Barbara in this section of the *Quarterly*. If you would like to hold a young horse evaluation (private or public) at your farm, or if you are interested in attending an event, contact me as soon as possible at tolstar@yahoo.com (email is preferred) or 585-624-4468.

In addition to Barbara’s tour, the NEIHC plans to hold a young horse evaluation in conjunction with its official breed evaluation in September (see above). For more information on this opportunity, contact Martina Gates at martingates@mac.com.

YOUNG HORSE AWARD

A new award was approved at the April board meeting. The Caryn Cantella Breeding Award will be given annually

to the breeder of the highest evaluated young horse bred in the U.S. The horse must be registered, and the owner a member in good standing, of a FEIF-recognized registry and breed association.

TEN FOR TÖLT!

The CIA Open, the first USIHC-sanctioned show of 2014, was held April 26-27 at Flying C Ranch in Santa Ynez, CA. About 40 horses came from different parts of California to be judged by Þorgeir Guðlaugsson, one of the founders of the new FEIF judging system. Congratulations to Ásta Covert, who won the T1-Tölt Final on Dynjandi frá Dalvík with a score of 9.00—including a perfect score of 10.0 for fast tölt. More scores can be found at www.icelandics.org under “Ride.”

PLEASURE RIDERS

The results of the 2013 Pleasure Rider Program are in. All the details are on the PRP Scoreboard page: www.icelandics.org/prpscore.php. Congratulations to division winners Kydee Sheetz (Adult Central Mountain), Kathy Haulbrook (Adult East), Lori Birge (Adult Western Pacific), Jessica Blough (Junior), and Nancy Wines-Dewan (All Stars), and to the most active Regional Club: Flugnir. (See the stories from PRP members in this issue of the *Quarterly*.) Thanks to outgoing PRP chair Ellen Preston for her hard work.

NEW PRP CHAIR

Deb Callaway, PRP chair, writes: Although I grew up in Colorado, riding almost anything I could catch, I took a break from being a horse-crazy girl to raise a family. Once the kids had grown, and I had a little time to myself, horses came back into my life full force. While settling in to our home in west central New York, I was introduced to Icelandic horses by one of the breed's long-time U.S. supporters, Stephanie Sher of Blasted Rock Farm. Through her and her friends, I met one after another Icelandic horse, each as nice or nicer than the one before, and also people who were so generous and willing to share their horses. It quickly became apparent to me that the first horse I would buy since my 4-H days 50 years ago would be an Icelandic. And

YOUNG HORSE EVALUATIONS

BY BARBARA FRISCHE

What does a young horse evaluation mean to a breeder, owner, or spectator? While it doesn't replace the full ridden judgment of the same horse as an adult under rider for evaluating performance abilities and breeding qualities, it does give the breeder, owner and any spectators a first idea about the quality of the horse's individual attributes and its future potential. This is invaluable information for all breeders, owners and spectators alike.

The young horse evaluation does this through a linear system that describes the young horse in various aspects of conformation, character, and gaits. For example: length of the legs, strength/shape of the top line, natural tölt ability, reactions, etc. Through this, the breeder gets a first glimpse about the resulted pairing of mare and stallion; has it worked well or would another combination have been better? Owners (or potential owners) get an idea of the young horse's future potential—whether or not it may be suitable for pleasure, sport, or breeding—for a novice rider or only for an experienced rider/trainer.

In addition, there is no expensive preparation needed for the young horse to be evaluated—no training or special equipment is required. Safe and basic facilities with some experienced horse people to help present the youngsters are all that is needed. The young horse will be presented running free, with and without the mother (if it has not already been weaned) and standing relatively still for a short time. The entire process usually takes less than 10 minutes per horse. So, with good planning, many horses can be evaluated in a single day.

During the evaluation the judge will describe, with a microphone, exactly what he sees in real time. So the process is extremely educational not only to participants, but to spectators as well. Many of the aspects of evaluating young horses can also be applied to adult horses and as such watching the judge work is excellent education for the eye. Questions from the audience are welcome and encouraged after all the horses for the day have been judged. The breeder or owner will also be presented with a detailed written assessment with a mathematical calculation of the results.

The young horse evaluation tour also is economical for breeders and owners because it is possible for the judge to come directly to the farm. This also makes for less stress on the youngsters. In the long run it also can save the breeder money by giving feedback about a pairing as soon as possible—rather than waiting 4 or 5 years until the horse is under saddle. This then allows the breeder to use information gained through the young horse evaluation to modify her breeding program quickly to meet goals. In addition, breeders who also wish to sell their young horses prior to training have a better idea of how to match up the horse with an appropriate owner for long term success.

so it came to be with the help of Steve and Andrea Barber of Sand Meadow Farm. A year ago I bought Fenja from Rocking R, a 12-year-old black mare. I board her with Stephanie, and we have had a wonderful first year together. I am still learning the ins and outs of the USIHC, but we have been to several clinics and have been logging hours for the Pleasure Riding Program.

And that brings me to the point of this introduction: Although I am new to Ice-

landics, I have a vested interest in seeing the PRP continue, which is why I have agreed to take on the role of PRP Chair. I see the PRP as an incentive to members to enjoy their Icelandic horses in the many ways they are capable, and to also be good representatives of the breed when out in the public eye. I look forward to serving, and ask your patience as I learn what is required of the chairperson and what direction to steer the program. I also invite you to email me with

any suggestions, or questions or concerns for the PRP. Please send your quarterly riding logs to me from now on. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I am able to, but until then, keep on riding and contact me with any questions at deb.callaway@pobox.com or 585-374-5476.

BLOOD PROFILE

For many years, the USIHC has pursued getting a Standard Blood Profile for the Icelandic breed. The USIHC regularly gets contacted by owners and veterinarians with sick Icelandic horses questioning the blood test results they are getting—not sure if deviations from normal values are due to illness or from breed characteristics.

To date completion of this project has proved elusive, mostly due to the necessity of having a large number of Icelandic horses in a single place for testing. The fact that Cornell University now has a herd of some 60 Icelandic horses on site revived interest in this project. Board member Andrea Barber contacted the researcher in charge of the Cornell study herd, USIHC member Bettina Wagner, who was extremely willing to help. She conducted some preliminary sampling at her own expense (which showed good promise), then brought in clinical pathologist Tracy Stokol. Currently the USIHC board is in discussions with Bettina and Tracy about bringing this long-standing project to fruition.

USIHC CALENDAR

Do you organize clinics, seminars, shows, trail rides, or other Icelandic horse events? If so, you can advertise them free on the USIHC's national Events Calendar at www.icelandics.org and on the USIHC Facebook page. Just send news of your event to the USIHC secretary, Doug Smith, at secretary@icelandics.org.

USIHC BUDGET

Minutes of the USIHC Board of Directors' meetings held in February and March are available on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org) under The Congress, Board of Directors. The March meeting focused exclusively on the USIHC 2014 budget, which can be found with the March minutes. Highlights of the meetings are mentioned in this section of the *Quarterly*.



New Pleasure Riding Program chair Deb Callaway with Fenja from Rocking R. Photo by David Callaway.

QUARTERLY UPGRADE

The Board approved publication of the full-color *Quarterly* for 2014. To help recoup the additional printing costs, the Quarterly Committee has increased the number of advertising pages available per issue; the price of ads has not been raised. Send advertising to Quarterly@icelandics.org.

Thanks to Nicki Esdorn for coordinating our March membership drive. An additional 600 copies of the *Quarterly* were distributed to 30 trainers and breeders to be given to clients who are not already USIHC members. We hope to repeat this special offer again in March 2015.

CORRECTIONS

In our enthusiasm to produce the first full-color issue of the *Quarterly* in March, we overlooked a few things. On page 11, we misstated the parentage of one of the top-10 young horses of 2013: Number 8, Þrýði from Winter-

horse Park, was sired by Fjalarr frá Bjargshóli, not by Þróstur frá Innri-Skeljabrekku. On page 21, the end of the St Skutla Club report got cut off. Andrea Barber's photograph of Sædís from Blue Farm won second place in the black-and-white division of the annual photography contest run by a small New York magazine, *Life In the Finger Lakes*. Said Andrea, "Though of course it was nice to be a winner in the contest, I was also happy to promote the breed in a non-horse publication. It's nice to have Icelandic horses part of our club's 'life in the Finger Lakes.'" On page 33, the photo of Osk from Helms Hill was taken by Andrea Barber, not Martina Gates. On page 35, Jessica Haynsworth's horse for the Silver Maple Show Team was Thor frá Skorrastad4.

YOUTH AWARD TO U.S.

Each year FEIF presents an award to one national organization for outstanding achievement in working with youth. In 2013 the USIHC distinguished itself by nearly doubling its youth membership. Youth participated in a great range of activities: sport classes, quadrille work, and taking part in local horse shows and other equestrian events. Regional Clubs sponsored youth events and raised money not only for their clubs, but also for charities; some money even went towards building houses in Mexico. To top it off, a young rider from the U.S. rode at the World Championships in Berlin. "It seems they can do it all!" said the FEIF award announcement. "Congratulations to the USIHC, and carry on with the good work."

HOOF STUDY

Results of the FEIF Hoof Study were presented at the 2014 FEIF Conference in Iceland (see box). At the conference there was strong support for changing the shoeing rules to take the study's results into consideration. For example, the delegates at the annual breeding meeting agreed to prepare a proposal for a FIZO change regarding the length of the hoof following the information from the FEIF hoof study. This and other rule changes will now be discussed in the member countries and proposals presented at the FEIF Delegates Assembly in 2015.

FEIF BOARD

New FEIF directors elected at the 2014 Delegates Assembly are: Gunnar Sturluson (Iceland), President; Doug Smith (U.S.), Director of Sport; Silke Feuchthofen (Germany), Director of Education; Gundula Sharman (G.B.), Director of Youth Work. Marlise Grimm and Lone Hoeglund were re-elected for two more years. A new position on the FEIF Board, responsible for various projects, was filled by Syske Casimir (NL).

SPORT JUDGES

The new Sport Judges Guidelines, valid as of April 1, are available for download from the FEIF website. An iPad app is also available to help learn how to use them. The app gives the user an interactive way to visualize the way the new system of firewalls limits the range of possible marks for a given performance. Just tap the guidelines description to show where you think a performance falls on the scale for any of the required items and the app shows you where the firewall limits the marks. Shake the iPad to clear your touched points and start over with the same test phase. Download at <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/guidelines/id821265319?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2>.

SHOEING CHECKS

The FEIF Sport Committee is reinforcing the importance of equipment checks in

establishing a fair-play environment for our sport. "Making sure our horses are properly shod is also part of our duty as horsemen to protect the welfare of horses in competition," said director Doug Smith. Having received reports of improper shoeing during the last competition season, the committee has compiled a series of photos showing unacceptable shoeing. See <http://www.feiffengur.com/documents/shoeing%20controls.pdf>. "It is essential to catch these problems early in the season in the interests of horse welfare and out of respect for the riders," said Smith. "All Sport Judges have been reminded it is their duty to demand a horse be reshod and/or disqualified according to the published rules in all cases of inappropriate shoeing. This applies equally to all riders, from children and beginning riders through professional riders in the top sport tests at championship events."

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

The Sport Committee has made two changes to the list of prohibited equipment: (1) The Kinton Noseband may not be used in competition. This noseband adds a "bitless" action to any bit which leads to a previously prohibited combination of tack. (2) In the case of shoeing with rings having a single bridge, the maximum width of the bridge is now increased to 23mm to match the maximum width of the shoe.



TRAINER SEMINAR

The Fourth FEIF Seminar for Breeding Horse Trainers will take place from August 23-25, 2014 in Kronshof, Germany. This year, participants aged 18-26 years can also participate in the FIZO assessment on August 27-28, either with their own horses or with rented horses. The seminar trainers will help and advise during the FIZO assessment. For information contact USIHC Breeding Leader Andrea Barber.

POPULAR SEMINAR

The combined Education and Sport Judge seminar held at Kronshof in March 2014 set a new attendance record for FEIF. Over 115 judges and trainers came together to discuss a range of topics, including the new judging guidelines, horse locomotion, and "reading" the emotions of horses in competition. Participants had several opportunities to apply the theoretical discussions to practical assessments of horses in the riding hall, on an indoor tournament and on the oval track.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Chairs of the FEIF national member organizations had a productive meeting during the 2014 FEIF Conference weekend in Iceland. They discussed the outcome of the SWOT-analyses from the member countries and FEIF itself, and agreed they provided a good overview of the organizations' "Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats." This analysis will be

used as the basis for deciding on the goals of FEIF in the coming years.

FEIF BREEDING NEWS

At its annual meeting, the FEIF Breeding Department discussed the results of the hoof study and suggested the rules on hoof length be revised accordingly. Equipment rules regarding leg protection material will also be revised to support "more protection without more weight." The committee is starting to collect data about suitable surfaces for breeding tracks, as bad track surfaces lead to more injuries. A proposal concerning the regulation of embryo transfer and related subjects, such as cloning and gene manipulation, was unanimously accepted. Future projects are to explore improving the judging of spirit (character and willingness) and to revise the code of conduct for judges.

EDUCATION NEWS

At its annual meeting, the FEIF Education Department discussed development of a FEIF quality stamp for trainer levels and building a network for trainer exchange and work placement within FEIF member countries, the exchange of teaching material, and the development of e-learning.

LEISURE NEWS

Results of the FEIF Leisure Riding Committee's survey confirms the fundamental differences between countries influenced by ancient Nordic rules, which dictate a

right for all to move freely so long as they act responsibly, and the countries more heavily influenced by ancient Roman or German rules. Work relating to securing access to nature thus has to be conducted on a national level. FEIF will support these efforts via a web page.

BAN ON CURB BITS?

In April, the board of FEIF received a report and summary from the Icelandic chief veterinarian concerning horse welfare. It indicates that curb bits with leverage and port (unbroken and broken) are causing damage to the bars of the horses' mouths and therefore should be banned from all official Icelandic horse events. The responsible committees and working groups are now discussing the report, and their recommendations will be forwarded to the board.

ADVISORY GROUP

In a broader consideration of equipment issues, the board agreed to install an advisory working group of experts (vets, trainers, riders, teachers, sport judges, and breeding judges) to check the current FEIF equipment rules. This group's scope of work includes all phases of horse and rider training, from beginners up to the top levels, recognizing that not all equipment is appropriate in all phases. A paper as basis for further discussion and decisions will be presented at the autumn committee meetings, at the latest.



RESULTS OF THE FEIF HOOF STUDY

At the 2012 FEIF conference in Malmö, Sweden, the FEIF delegates agreed to take part in a hoof health study being conducted by the University of Zurich. Sport and breeding horses would be selected at random to have their hooves measured, photographed, and x-rayed. The data collected would be evaluated by a team of farriers and veterinarians to determine the state of hoof health in the Icelandic horse. The purpose was to provide objective data on which FEIF can rely when revising the current shoeing rules.

The results of the study were presented at the 2014 FEIF conference in Reykjavík, Iceland, and shared with FEIF member associations.

The researchers conclude that the hoof dimensions of many Icelandic competition and breeding horses shod according to the current FEIF shoeing rules did not correspond to those of a normal shoeing. In particular, cranio-caudal balance was changed in many horses toward a longer dorsal hoof wall and a longer cranial balance length, both of which are associated with an increased occurrence of hoof pathologies.

According to gait analyses (see References), high and long hooves do improve gait performance, particularly in the tölt. But at the same time, high and long hooves lead to higher loads and stresses on the horse's distal limb structures.

The researchers evaluated the shoeing and hoof health of 134 Icelandic horses, randomly selected at four 2012 events: the international breeding show in Herning, Denmark; Landsmót in Reykjavík, Iceland; the Nordic Championships in Eskilstuna, Sweden; and the Mideuropean Championships in Wehrheim, Germany.

The results showed that horses with a dorsal hoof wall length of 80 mm had sound hooves (no pathology), with a probability of more than 90%. Conversely, almost all horses with a dorsal hoof wall length of 95 mm or more had pathology in the form of flares, uneven height of the quarter walls, broken hoof-pastern axes, and atrophied frogs.

The horses had a mean (\pm SD) dorsal hoof wall length of 89 ± 7 mm in the front hooves and 86 ± 6 mm in the hind hooves. The hoof-pastern axis was correct in only 17% of the studied horses; in 71% it was broken backward in at least one limb.

The shoeing of the horses in the study was comparable to the shoeing of 13 competition horses tested on a treadmill instrumented for gait analysis at the University of Zurich. The tests performed on these 13 horses showed that high, long hooves led to significantly higher limb impulses and higher torques at breakover (see References).

Apart from these increases in limb loading, high, long hooves changed the footfall rhythm towards a more regular four-beat at the tölt, extended the suspension phase at the trot, and increased the height of the forelimb flight arc. The longer toe additionally reduced stride frequency and increased breakover duration in all studied gaits.

The 13 horses from the treadmill study were re-shod according to normal shoeing standards. A tolerance interval of the different parameters was calculated to allow for individual variation. Of the horses in the FEIF hoof study, 43% had a dorsal hoof wall length and 51% had a cranial balance length larger than indicated by the tolerance interval. This result implies

that half of the FEIF study horses were likely to have an increased load of the deep digital flexor tendon and navicular bone, due to larger forces during breakover resulting from the longer lever arm.

Only minor differences were seen between sport and breeding horses. But when comparing the four competition sites, the horses at Landsmót had a significantly longer mean dorsal hoof wall in both the front and hind hooves. The horses at Landsmót also had a poorer cranio-caudal balance, with a significantly increased cranial balance length compared to the other competition sites. There were no differences between competition sites regarding height at the withers and estimated weight of the horses.

Researchers involved in the study were: N.M. Waldern and M.A. Weishaupt of the Equine Department, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich, Switzerland; S. Mikkelsen of Velje Hestepaksis, Fasanvej 12, 7120 Vejle Øst, Denmark; and M. Kjær and V. Herbrecht of Kjærs Beslagsmedie, Håndværkervangen 9, 3550 Slangerup, Denmark.

REFERENCES

- Waldern, N.M., Wiestner, T., Ramseier, L.C., Amport, C. and Weishaupt, M.A. (2013) Effects of shoeing on limb movement and ground reaction forces in Icelandic horses at walk, tölt, and trot. *Vet Journal* 198 Suppl 1, e103-108.
- Weishaupt, M.A., Waldern, N.M., Amport, C., Ramseier, L.C. and Wiestner, T. (2013) Effects of shoeing on intra- and inter-limb coordination and movement consistency in Icelandic horses at walk, tölt, and trot. *Vet Journal* 198 Suppl 1, e109-113.

REGIONAL CLUB UPDATES

There are 14 Regional Clubs affiliated with the U.S. Icelandic Horse Congress. To find the one nearest you, see the USIHC website at <http://www.icelandics.org/regionalclubs.php>. The following clubs filed updates on their activities this quarter.

FRIDA (FIRC) (MID-ATLANTIC STATES)

BY RICH MOORE

Members of the Frida Icelandic Riding Club survived an unusually frigid and snowy winter thinking about riding again one day. Highlights were the Pennsylvania Horse Expo and the Kick Off party for our 2014 season.

Tony Colicchio organized the FIRC appearance at the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo in Harrisburg, PA from February 27 to March 2. Tony reported, "FIRC had a booth where the public could see and pet Icelandic horses, talk to club members, and pick up USIHC and FIRC brochures and information. Adjacent to our booth was Guðmar Pétursson's Knights of Iceland booth. Guðmar and the Knights performed two Theater Equus shows on



Hedy Sladovich and Pat Carballo practicing with the FIRC Drill Team. Photo by Antje Freygang.

Friday and Saturday evenings. FIRC members did daytime drill team performances in tölt and also displayed trot and canter. A lot of people came to the booth after they saw the show by the Knights of Iceland and the breed demos by the FIRC team. Finally, FIRC members participated in four demonstrations with Diane Sept, a noted gaited horse trainer and clinician."

Added Marilyn Tully, "Five of us got ready this winter to ride as a drill team at the PA Horse Expo. It was our first time riding before a big crowd and proudly representing our wonderful breed. We gathered every Monday to practice at an indoor arena in southeastern PA. Nancy Adler and I came from the Unionville-Chadds Ford area, Jo Ann Trostle and Janice Gaydos drove an hour from Leola, PA, and Amanda Grace trailered in from Delta, PA sometimes in sleet and freezing rain. Our trailers were often stuck in ice and had to be practically chiseled out. It was fun! Especially as we and our horses began to get the hang of it. Jo Ann taught us the drill pattern, and we practiced it over and over until we were confident that we could perform before a crowd.

"When we arrived at the Farm Complex in Harrisburg, there were plenty of new challenges. As we tölted out into the arena on the first day, the crowd clapped and cheered. The horses heard crowd noise for the first time and encountered a big yellow tractor at the far end of the arena, causing one horse to tölt sideways. There were thousands of people in the stands on Saturday afternoon, the highlight of the four-day event. Our horses were true champions that weekend, proudly tölting to the music, the cheers, the camera flashes, and the loudspeakers, as we rode the drill we had practiced so many times."

Twenty-four FIRC members met at the rustic, handsome ThorpeWood Lodge in Thurmont, MD on March 23 for lunch, casual conversation, and updates on upcoming FIRC events. Each board member gave an update on their work for the club. Reports Pat Moore, "Highlights included the various clinics planned for the year, trail rides, the USIHC-sanctioned show, the schooling show, and activities of the



Sverrir Bjartmarz at the FIRC Drill Team clinic at Kilmurray Farm in April. Photo by Antje Freygang.

drill teams. We also learned that the FIRC website had been made easier to navigate. Suzi McGraw, our webmaster, did a great job updating the site."

Sam Castleman rounded out the formal part of the day with a description of ThorpeWood's program to use Icelandic horses with at-risk children. Sam reported, "Fourteen Frederick County, MD schools are participating in a five-week basic Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) program. The program is at ThorpeWood's Stoney Lick Farm, home to eight Icelandic horses. The Head Start youngsters are three-to-five-year olds. We hired Shannon Knapp, president and founder of both Horse Sense of the Carolinas, Inc., and Horse Sense Business Sense to take the Head Start's core curriculum for Development and Learning, birth through kindergarten, and assimilate five life skills to be used in ThorpeWood's EAL curriculum designed for Head Start. Shannon is tops in her field, and we are so fortunate to have her as our instructor. In addition to being an exceptional facilitator, Shannon is also

an accomplished author of two books, one about the business of horse therapy and the second, *More than a Mirror: The Dynamic Horse*.

A snapshot of the five-week curriculum, Sam said, looks like this:

Week 1: Respect: Horseman's Handshake (Life Skill/Practical)

Week 2: Observation (Observing My Environment/Grooming)

Week 3: Who am I? (Knowing What My Body is Telling Me)

Week 4: Horse Breath (Relaxation Chillin')

Week 5: Dancing with Horses (Partnership & Relationship-Building)

"For these youngsters," Sam said, "much of the work with horses comes back to self-regulation—a useful tool to give child, parent, and teacher at this early age. Who is it that is showing up in the presence of the horse? The horse is aware of who is in its space and, as we know, reacts accordingly. So to get a better outcome (a calm horse), the children learn to adjust how they show up in the horse's space. Are voices soft and feet quiet? Are arm and hand movements slow and deliberate, and if not, what happens? Have we asked permission of the horse to enter its space? Is doing so a sign of

respect? After receiving permission to be in the horse's space, do we also have an agreement to let us get close enough to touch and even groom? How do we recognize that the horse is frightened? Can a chillin' kind of breathing bring on relaxation? All of this getting-to-know-the-horse leads to the development of a partnership that we then demonstrate as we move together (dance) with the horse on the ground."

Sam added, "It has been a blast having these youngsters get to know our horses. Along the way the children have learned things about themselves and how to relate to that big world around them. I must say that the Icelandic horses at Stoney Lick Farm are perfectly suited for the ground work that is the core of our EAL program. I love the story of one young child who, when attendance was taken in school, never spoke up, never said "Here." However, after her second trip to Stoney Lick Farm, for the first time she spoke out when her name was called during roll call. The teachers were astounded."

On April 5, the club had a successful drill team clinic at Rich and Pat Moore's Kilmurray Farm in Catharpin, VA. Six riders participated: Sverrir Bjartmarz, Asta Bjartmarz, Mitch Martin, Marjorie Lewis, Hedy Sladovich, and Pat Carballo. Rich Moore,

who has been riding in drill teams for many years, led the clinic. Antje Freygang and Pat Moore assisted. The riders spent the morning going over drill team guidelines. They then walked the drill pattern on foot until they understood it well. After lunch, the riders walked the pattern on horseback until everyone was comfortable. Then the riders did it at tölt a number of times until it was learned.

The riders, some of whom had never ridden in a drill team before, did a great job. They learned a lot, made good progress, and had a good time. The FIRC hopes to establish drill teams in several regions of the club. The teams would work on the same pattern and come together periodically for combined practices and breed demonstrations.

The FIRC has a lot of activities planned for the spring and summer, including clinics with Guðmar Pétursson and Carrie Brandt in Kentucky and with Steinar Sigurbjörns-son in West Virginia, the annual USIHC-sanctioned show in Virginia in May, a number of trail rides, a drill team clinic, practices and breed demos, and a picnic and tack swap. Come join us! For information, see the FIRC website at <http://firc.us>.



Cheers to a successful drill team: FIRC members Mitch Martin, Asta Bjartmarz, Sverrir Bjartmarz, Marjorie Lewis, Hedy Sladovich, and Pat Carballo. Photo by Antje Freygang.

FLUGNIR (WISCONSIN & MINNESOTA)

BY WADE ELMBLAD

It was a very cold, very snowy winter for the Flugnir Icelandic Horse Association of the Midwest. It was also an unexpectedly challenging start to the riding season for Flugnir: An outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1, to be exact) precipitated a need for horse-enthusiasts of all types to take caution for several weeks. I had the opportunity to attend a seminar presented by an Equine Biosecurity expert from Zoetis, the manufacturer of many common immunology-focused vaccinations and medications that many of us use on a regular schedule. The primary takeaway point of the presentation was simple: Do not panic, but take necessary care.

The seminar provided a great deal of detail on the specifics of the disease, why extra caution is necessary after such outbreaks, and what to do if you suspect you have a horse or horses exposed to the threat. EHV presents itself as six specifically known strains. The more common of these (EHV-1 and EHV-4) exist in up to 80% of horses in a latent, non-contagious form. Most horses are exposed to the virus at a very young age, so evidence of the virus will be present in their lymphatic system for the duration of life.

The current outbreak is referred to as



A frequent scene from the past winter for Flugnir members: Skila from Tolthaven poses in the falling snow. Photo by Susy Oliver.



Snow-hardy broodmares Kolfinna frá Litlu-Ásgeirsá and Ronja frá Flugumýri, both owned by Flugnir members Gerald and Susy Oliver, were mothers of two of the top-10 foals of 2013. Photo by Susy Oliver.

a point-mutation of the non-neurological strain of EHV-1, but it is causing neurological symptoms. Like the neurological form, the current strain also causes three times the amount of viral shedding from an infected horse, and the virus stays active (and contagious) longer than usual. Additionally, horses older than 15 are more likely to catch the disease and become symptomatic—and also more likely to die from it, due to lowered cellular immunity.

This particular outbreak started at a barrel-horse show in southeastern Minnesota in early March. Since many horses left that show after being exposed and returned home, moved on to sale barns, etc., there could be hundreds of horses with secondary exposure in the area. These might have latent infections or be asymptomatic carriers; some of them could become infectious and symptomatic when placed under stress.

Naturally, there has been a great deal of confusion about what to do. The simplest thing is to avoid travel until no new cases have been confirmed for several weeks. While veterinarians are generally careful about not spreading infections from barn to barn, you should discuss the need for special care with farriers and other barn visitors. If a horse on your property begins

to show flu-like symptoms, that horse should be separated from the herd as quickly and completely as possible. EHV can travel up to 40 feet after a cough or sneeze, and the virus can live outside of a host for several days.

With regard to the Flugnir Icelandic Horse Association, this outbreak concerned us enough to withdraw our participation from two events in which we have participated annually for many years: the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, WI and the Minnesota Horse Expo in St. Paul, MN.

Assuming that the threat dissipates as expected, there are several noteworthy events in the upcoming season here in the upper Midwest. These include:

Tennessee Walking Horse / Icelandic Fun Show: This year will mark our first year of participation in this event, taking place July 18-20 in Hinckley, MN. The show will offer an all-you-can-ride flat fee of \$50 for classes. The goal is to encourage new, low-pressure show participation, and to intermingle and expose gaited-horse enthusiasts and budding young riders to the wonderful Icelandic horse.

Flugnirkeppni: Flugnir is sponsoring a USIHC-sanctioned show August 16-17 at Winterhorse Park in Eagle, WI. We have secured the venue and arranged for Will

Covert to judge. This show was great fun last year, with wonderfully talented horses and riders, as well as the addition of many fun classes such as the Ride-a-Buck, Canter Race, Underwear Race, and the ever-popular Beer Tölt. Details surrounding Flugnirkeppni, including special deals on classes for youth members, are in the works.

Youth Camps: Wheels are in motion to hold special low-cost events for young riders later this summer. We had hoped to use the Midwest Horse Fair and Minnesota Horse Expo as opportunities to gauge interest in youth camps, but due to EHV-1, we will drum up interest as the season rolls on.

Additional Events: Flugnir will also be participating at fun events such as the Sons of Norway and Old World Wisconsin, as well as coordinating a wonderful weekend of camping and fun in the late fall.

Contact Flugnir@gmail.com for additional information, or follow Flugnir Icelandic Horse Association of the Midwest on Facebook (facebook.com/flugnir) and Twitter (@Flugnir) to make sure you are getting the most up-to-date information.

KATLA (VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE)

BY ALICE RYAN

Outdoor activities this winter were even more curtailed than usual, due to long and unrelentingly frigid weather. We used the time to plan our spring and summer schedule of events:

In April, a Lucille Bump Centered Riding Clinic was held at Solheimar Farm. Schooling shows will take place May 10, June 7, and August 30 at either Solheimar or Silver Maple Farms, both near Tunbridge, VT. Our new track will be ready in June. And a trek in Iceland is planned for early July. Summer and fall trail rides are being planned. All are welcome!

The goal of the Katla Club is to unite the Northern New England Icelandic horse owners, through friendly competitions, potlucks, clinics, and trail rides. Membership fees are only \$10 single, \$15 family, and forms for joining the club or competing in the shows are available on our website: www.katlaicelandichorseclub.com.



World Championship youth rider Madison Prestine works Straumur frá Enni at a Kraftur clinic with Guðmar Pétursson at Coast Road Stables. Photo by Eleanor Anderson.



Kraftur member and trainer Laura Benson shows what you really need to get tölt on Stjární frá Blönduósi. Photo by Eleanor Anderson.

KRAFTUR (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)

BY LAURIE PRESTINE

The silver lining to our lack of precipitation this winter was perfect riding weather for an abundance of educational clinics and training opportunities held in Northern California.

In February, Kraftur members Annette Coulon and Bruce Edwards hosted our first three-day Gæðingakeppni Clinic with Sindri Sigurðsson and Friðdóra Friðriksdóttir at their gorgeous Mountain Icelandic Farm. Participants were: Lucy Nold, Emma Erickson, Elizabeth Robertson, Mitch Martin, Tammy Martin, Lorrie Thompson, Kathy Sierra, Bert Bates, Robynn Smith, and Gabriele Meyer.

Annette reports, "This form of showing has been going on since the early 1900s in Iceland, but has not yet been done in the United States. In Iceland finding the Gæðingur (The Best Horse) is the purpose of the show (the keppni). Sindri and Friðdóra

are Hólar graduates and Gæðingakeppni judges. The clinic started out with a video presentation of what Gæðingakeppni is all about, then we moved outside to the track.

“As Sindri and Friðdóra explained, there are many classes. A-Class is the five-gaited class and B-Class is the four-gaited class. In each adult class, three rounds are shown; you are judged on the long sides of the track, not the short sides. Walk is shown for only half of one long side, tölt is shown in slow and fast each on the long side of the track, tölt for half a round then gallop for half a round. You have your last half a round to improve any gait you choose. The A-Class is a little different, because pace is shown on the pace track and counts for half of one long side. Slow tölt is not required in this class, but tölt can be shown up to medium speed.

“Children (10-13 years old) show walk, trot, tölt, and gallop each half a round, with the last half round reserved for improving any gait. The teenage (14-17) class is the same as the B-Class, with the exception of walk being shown on 2/3 of the long side. The Young Adult (18-21) class is just like the B Class.

“For a detailed description of Gæðingakeppni you can go to www.feif.org and click on the Gæðingakeppni tab on the left side of the home page.”

Kraftur members and trainers Heidi and Laura Benson held a successful and creative one-day show-preparation clinic at Coast Road Stables in Santa Cruz. Attendee and Kraftur young rider Cameron Tolbert-Scott said, “I really enjoyed working on tölt and pace.”

Guðmar Pétursson came to Coast Road Stables for a fantastic five-day clinic and gave us all a fresh view on how to work with our wonderful herd of Kraftur horses. He helped Heidi Benson, Ayla Green, and Laura Benson train horses the first day, and the next four days were spent doing private and semi-private lessons. A highlight from the first day was Kraftur young rider Kajsa Johnson enjoying the first ride ever on her young mare Lólíta from Valkyrie Icelandic. We are so proud of Kajsa and are eager to watch this young team progress.

Kraftur riders at the Guðmar clinic included: Emily Benito, Heidi Benson,



Herkúles frá Dalalíf and Straumur frá Enni playing during turnout at Coast Road Stables. Photo by Eleanor Anderson.

Laura Benson, Barbara Downs, Carole Downs, Clara Downs, Ayla Green, Kajsa Johnson, Jasmine McRae, Pilar Milot, Abigail Moerer, Allison Moerer, Colleen Monsef, Elizabeth Monsef, Katherine Monsef, Madison Prestine, Lori Tarson, and Cameron Tolbert-Scott.

Kraftur member Kathy Sierra and Kraftur board member Bert Bates have been busy at their beautiful farm in the Santa Cruz mountains. Kathy has had excellent results with her horse Draumur from Destiny Farms doing liberty posture work. Her innovative techniques have “helped her horse rediscover the joy of movement and showing off.” They have also been lucky to watch Kraftur member Steinar Sigurbjörnsson coach our youngest member, his three-year-old daughter Frida Hildur. He began by

riding in the saddle with her, and now she is on her own in the saddle. His secret to success was primarily putting her on the horses he was doing precise groundwork with.

The Kraftur youth fund is flourishing. We are financially supporting a few of our young riders for the upcoming CIA Invitational Sanctioned Show in Santa Ynez, CA, hosted by our friends Will and Asta Covert from Flying C Ranch.

We have a large group of young riders attending the CIA Invitational, thanks to Jean-Marie Scott who coordinated horse transportation for them. She pioneered an email questionnaire to our members list and created an Excel spread sheet to help us plan. Jean-Marie Scott said, “I am hopeful that early planning will enable us to make sure that all of our riders and their amazing



Young trainer and Kraftur member Ayla Green playing with her aunt Laura Benson's two "old gentlemen," Hólmsteinn frá Garðsauka and Leiri frá Þóreyjarnúpi, at Coast Road Stables. Photo by Eleanor Anderson.

horses have transit to the show!" Below is a sample of her successful technique:

If you have space to haul other horse(s), please provide:

—primary contact name, phone number, email address

—how many spaces you would have for other horses

—fee for hauling

—pick up date

—return date

—travel date

—special directions (i.e., leaving on Wednesday, can only take mare, etc.)

If you need transportation for your horse(s), please provide:

—primary contact name, phone number, email address

—number of horses you need to have hauled

—name for each horse

—your travel dates

—special directions (horse can't be with mares, doesn't like X, etc.)

Her idea and initiative was outstanding. As of this writing, all the kids who want to attend have a ride for their horse.

Kraftur board member Gabriele Meyer signed us up for the Bay Area Equestrian

Network, a popular local source of information for horse enthusiasts in our area. We hope to publicize our events and promote the Icelandic horse through this network.

We are looking forward to a fantastic summer of riding. If you are in the Bay Area, come and ride with us! See www.kraftur.us.

NEIHC (NORTHEASTERN U.S.)

BY AMY GODDARD

Although it is officially "spring," winter continues to keep a grip on us here in the Northeast! Luckily, by the time this report is published, we hope the winter of 2014 will be a distant memory!

Elizabeth Haartz recounts a special winter occasion with her horses last January: "Walter and I were headed out for a pre-chore walk. Before we began our walk, Walter went to 'start the ducks'—refresh their water and check their food. I decided to stand and wait for him in the driveway, about 50 feet from the gate to the horses' yard. The sun was about an hour away from setting and was behind the barn, casting a low golden glow across the horses' yard. Both horses were standing at the gate: Stigur to my left, on the east side, and Efstur next to him, on the west side. Since it was about 10 degrees F, our Icelandic horses were fluffed up to help keep themselves warm.

The sunlight was glinting off the tips of their fur and edging their outlines in golden trim. It was a glorious sight. Stigur and Efstur stood close together, so that the sides of their bellies were just about touching. They stood in exactly the same way, all four legs perfectly placed, and they were looking at me with ears forward and a soft expression on their faces. I sensed that they were happily standing there; not in a rush for dinner, and they seemed happy in their companionship.

"Then, in a soft, easy motion and in perfect unison, they turned their heads to the west. They held that position for a moment. And then, in absolutely perfect coordination, they swung their heads back to face me. They were exactly the same: same placement of ears, same tilt of their heads, same space maintained between their bodies, necks and heads, moving in perfect harmony. While I stood there marveling at what I had just witnessed—their choreography, harmony, and the beauty of the whole scene—they gazed softly at me.

"And then, with perfect unison and harmony, they performed the same movement again, only this time, looking to the east and then swinging back to look at me, ears forward. 'Wow!' I thought, 'One doesn't see that every day! What a gift!' As I continued to stand there, they did the exact same thing again: heads west, center,



Stigur controlling the path back to the barn, followed by his buddy, Efstur—what his owners, NEIHC members Walter Davis and Betz Haartz, affectionately refer to as "pony games." Photo by Walter Davis.

heads east, center, equally as measured, with perfectly flowing grace, harmony, and impeccable timing. The two horses went on to do this again a third and fourth time, but the pace increased and their timing started to fall apart.

“During the fourth series of head swings, someone must have bumped the other, for the fifth swing of their heads fell into a game of trying to bite each other’s cheek in the commonly seen horse ‘game’ that we call ‘bitey-facey.’ The game started at a medium pace, but as they swung their heads back and forth, the pace increased and their efforts to nip each other also increased.

“All of a sudden, Stigur jumped to the east, his right; away from Efstur. Actually, it was more of a goat-like ‘sprong’ than a jump; all four of his hooves popped off the ground together in one instant. Steigur then stamped his left fore-hoof in a ‘pawing’ motion while vocalizing a high-pitched squeal. Efstur watched him perform these antics and then turned to look at me. I swear, I could see Efstur’s eyes roll in disgust!

“After a moment, Efstur turned away from Stigur and sauntered off towards the west, into the setting-sunlight.”

Nicki Esdorn writes: “In the middle of February, riding trails in Bedford, NY were



The newly elected NEIHC Board of Directors pauses for a photo during Thorrablot on March 1. From left: Leslie Chambers, Heleen Heyning, Jana Meyer, Martina Gates, Nicki Esdorn, Jessica Haynsworth, and Brigit Huwyler. Photo by Amy Goddard.

a horrible lasagna of layers of deep snow and ice. Further north, at Thor Icelandics in Claverack, the snow was all powder and no ice! Kristján and his son Freddy had spent hours snowplowing his trails after the last blizzard. He took pity on me and my desperate students, and invited us to come up. Yay! Our horses were so happy and excited to be able to run again, and we had a wonderful

ride and lesson with Kristján. On top of that, Jóhanna treated us to homemade waffles with strawberry jam and whipped cream. That was the best winter ride ever!”

The NEIHC held its first online elections in February. Our new Board of Directors is: Martina Gates (president), Heleen Heyning (vice president), Nicki Esdorn (secretary), Leslie Chambers (treasurer), Jana Meyer (youth coordinator), Jessica Haynsworth (social media and reports), Brigit Huwyler (promotion/education), and Quinn Thomashow (youth representative). In addition, Amy Goddard will serve as membership coordinator and Kara Noble as webmaster, and both will continue to work on special projects for the club.

We held our Annual Meeting and Ninth Annual Thorrablot on March 1, hosted by Sue Sundstrom in her beautiful, rambling farmhouse in Woodstock, VT. About 35 members and guests attended. On March 2, Susan Peters hosted a brunch at her Silver Maple Icelandic Horse Farm in Tunbridge, VT, where guests had the opportunity to view several young horses.

NEIHC members are encouraged to join the NEIHC Yahoo mail group, check our website, <http://neihc.com> and our Facebook page for news and upcoming events. Or contact club president, Martina Gates at martinagates@mac.com.



NEIHC member Nicki Esdorn and her students, Hannah Huss and Michael Kooyman, enjoy a winter ride together with Kristján Kristjánsson at very snowy Thor Icelandics in Claverack, NY. Photo by Jóhanna Guðmundsdóttir.

ST SKUTLA (CENTRAL & WESTERN NEW YORK)

BY RUTH MORFORD

My sister really wanted to go to Horse World Expo in Harrisburg, PA and asked me to go with her. It was just going to be one night—drive over on Saturday morning, March 1 and drive home March 2. I don't like to attend this expo because the drive from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg can be a little rough. You have to drive over the Allegheny Mountains and through a few tunnels in February, with the very good possibility of running into ice and snow. Not my favorite driving conditions. But I said yes, I'd go with her.

A few weeks after we made the decision to go, Carrie Brandt called to ask if she could use my mare *Molda frá Tunguhálsi II* as one of the "steeds" in the Knights of Iceland performance at the expo. "Yes, absolutely!" was my answer. I was thrilled they thought *Molda* was capable of being in the show. *Molda* has been in training with Carrie as of last July, so she was in great shape and responsive to her rider. Carrie thought that *Molda* and Ayla Green would make a good team for the show. Now I needed to get tickets for Theatre Equus for the Saturday night performance.

My sister, two of her friends, and I met early Saturday morning and got on the road for our 3 1/2 hour drive on the PA Turnpike (I-76). I was so excited that I was going to see *Molda*. We were all very excited about the clinics at the Expo, as well as the shopping (of course, there is always shopping). The venue is all indoors, which is a major plus this time of year.

After we arrived, we did the rounds of all the vendors. I found where the Knights of Iceland and FIRC had their booths set up, right next to each other. Ayla was manning the Knights of Iceland booth. This was the first time I had met her. What a delightful young woman she is! She was able to escort me back to see *Molda* (security was pretty tight in the area around the performance horses). *Molda* looked wonderful! I think she was happy to see me, but a little disappointed that I hadn't brought her any cookies. I didn't stay long, as I knew everyone needed to get ready for the show.

We made our way to the large arena



Ruth Morford and *Molda frá Tunguhálsi II* backstage at the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo. *Molda* was ridden by Ayla Green for the Knights of Iceland performance during Theater Equus.

where Theatre Equus was to take place. This arena holds over 7,300 people, and it seemed to me that every seat was filled when they turned down the lights for the show to start. All the performances were wonderful. Just before the full Knights of Iceland drill team performed, Guðmar Pétursson and Laura Benson did a performance called "The Land of Fire & Ice" where they turned off all the lights in the arena and came out with sparklers on the horses' front feet. The audience was wowed by this performance!

Then it was time for the Knights of Iceland. My heart was racing—7,000-plus people were clapping and yelling, and *Molda* was going to perform in front of all those people? I got out my iPhone so I could videotape the show, for my own use. And she was wonderful! All the Icelandic horses and

riders were wonderful. The audience, again, was wowed and just loved the Icelandics. *Molda* broke gait a couple of times, into a canter. My sister heard a lady sitting next to us exclaim, "Wow, that tölt is as fast as a canter!" Just goes to show how versatile these horses are.

After the final performance of the night, a lot of the performers came back out for a "meet & greet" with the audience. Again, *Molda* did a wonderful job as an ambassador of the Icelandic horse by letting little kids pet her nose. My thanks to Carrie for bringing her training up to such a high level, and to Ayla for riding her so well in the show. I'm so proud of my *Molda*. I always knew she was a diva, now she is a Super Star as well.

A THREE-DAY EVENTER RIDES ICELANDIC

BY EMMA ERICKSON

Editor's note: Emma Erickson (14), from Woodside, CA, is one of the four young riders who will represent the USA at the 2014 FEIF Youth Cup in Holar, Iceland in July. Emma competes both in three-day eventing (on big horses) and Icelandic horse shows. An event rider must be versatile and brave. The test consists of a dressage test on the first day, a fast ride cross country with lots of difficult jumps—uphill, downhill, into water—and finally, a stadium jumping round. Emma says the dressage training has helped her with riding tölt, sitting well and going with the movement while keeping a steady contact. The forward-thinking riding across country, with quick decision-making, has prepared her well for an Icelandic horse's speed and willingness. However, it all works both ways, and she has become a more confident event rider in the process. Emma thinks her versatile training and riding has prepared her well for the various events in the Youth Cup: In addition to oval track competition, there will be a dressage test, countryside riding with jumping, and a trail class with obstacles. A special award is given to the five most versatile riders! Emma is very excited to see Icelandic horses in their native country and make new like-minded friends. Here is her story:

About two years ago in March, I was looking for a trail horse. I was a novice-level three-day eventer. My horse was kept at a training facility, and I couldn't get there to ride every day. To keep me fit, we had decided to buy a low-maintenance trail horse. I had been on a mock foxhunt earlier that year and remembered two very fluffy, compact horses who were quite steady the entire ride. The owners had mentioned that they were Icelandic horses, and that they were gaited. The gaited aspect intrigued me, because I had always been interested in the movement of horses. I began to narrow my search to Icelandic horses, and eventually arrived at one that looked like a good trail horse: Minning.

A weekend or so later, a friend and I sat in the car on our way to try Minning, very excited at the idea of riding a whole new gait. Riding her, I liked that she had her own



Emma and her "big horse" mare Waltzing Matilda fly over a jump during an event's cross country phase. Photo by McCool Photography.

opinions and that she was forward-thinking. I had trouble on that first ride telling the tölt from the trot, and certainly couldn't tell when she was pacey, but she was fun and seemed like a good trail horse, so we brought her home on trial.

The first few days I took her on the trail she tested me. She stopped at random places, trying to turn around and go home. Sometimes, when these places happened to be narrow trails on steep slopes, I just got off and led her for about a hundred feet. After a couple of days, however, Minning started to accept my leadership. Soon enough she stopped even trying, and we enjoyed ourselves on the trails. My family and I decided that this was, indeed, our ideal trail horse

and made the decision to buy her.

I mostly rode her on the trails that summer, and for a long time I really had no idea how to control her beat, but we were quite happy in our ignorance.

Around mid-summer, her old trainer, Lucy Nold, stopped by to give me some tips. An Icelandic show in September came up in conversation, and I thought it would be fun to take Minning. In that show, I got a 3.0 out of 10 in the tölt final, and I became acutely aware of how much I didn't know. The school year was starting, though, and I only had time to trail ride, so over that year I learned as much as I could alone on the trails. I certainly knew Minning better after that year, but was not much better at riding

Icelandics in general.

Next summer came. I started training with Lucy, and brought Minning along so that I could do the show again and redeem myself. I rode a wide variety of Icelandics and began to appreciate just how different they are. I enjoyed going on trail rides in a new place, as well as having access to a track and getting correction to improve my riding.

We had planned for me to ride another, more competitive Icelandic horse in the Youth classes this time and to take videos to submit for the FEIF Youth Cup try-outs. Lucy's sister allowed me to ride her competition horse, Kani. We planned on me riding Minning in Four-Gait judged on riding style, Kani in Youth Four-Gait and Tölt and another horse, Dama, in Pleasure Four-Gait. That show went unbelievably well, with a second place on a score of 6.75 in Youth Tölt and a first place on a score of 6.38 in Youth Four-Gait—higher scores than I had ever imagined getting! I was ecstatic and felt competent, not only because of my scores but because of all that I had learned and applied from the summer.

Learning to ride Icelandic has been a wonderful experience and I am extremely grateful to Lucy Nold of Five-Gait-Farms for



Emma enjoys a victory lap in fast tölt aboard Káni frá Fetí. Photo by Mary Beth Erickson.



her training and support and to Mountain Icelandic Farms for welcoming me to their training facility. Looking back on my experience, in which there was the great turmoil of my eighth-grade life forever swirling in the background or, sometimes, the foreground, I am well aware that no matter what equestrian sport I do, there will be challenges and setbacks. I also know, however, that I will not let these setbacks dissuade me from sticking with Icelandics, just as I will continue with eventing. I know I will hit roadblocks and I know that I have hardly scratched the surface of Icelandic riding, but I know I can get through those roadblocks when something is worth it. I know Icelandics are worth it!

Emma and Minning frá Ferjukoti practicing for the 2012 Kraftur Show at Mountain Icelandics in Watsonville, CA.

HORSES VS. WORMS

BY ALEXANDRA PREGITZER

When I first met Martin Nielsen and his wife, I didn't know Martin was a scientist involved in a study that would have a huge impact on my horse-keeping routine. All I knew was that he and Shaila Ann Sigsgaard were a lovely couple, that they are fellow Icelandic horse lovers and USIHC members, that they looked good competing at the Kentucky Icelandic Horse Show, and that Martin was doing an outstanding job announcing the show. (Later I heard that Martin had already announced several Icelandic Horse World Championships.)

Then USIHC member Kathy Love, who is a medical doctor and a specialist in infectious diseases, shared a link to a crowdfunding campaign for Martin's scientific work. Martin, I learned, is heading a research team that is determined to find new options for deworming horses.

Coauthor of the *Handbook of Equine Parasite Control*, Martin is a veterinarian who was born in Denmark and grew up with Icelandic horses. He practiced equine veterinary medicine for three years before going to graduate school. He completed his doctorate at the University of Copenhagen in 2007, focusing on the diagnosis, surveillance, and control of parasite infections in horses. In 2009, Martin was awarded the Young Elite Scientist Award from the Danish Research Council. In 2011, his work brought him to the Gluck Equine Research Center at the University of Kentucky, where he is now an assistant professor.

Learning about his research, I realized my everyday working knowledge of horse parasites was limited—and out-of-date. I thought the subject would make a good article for our magazine, so I began collecting information from a variety of websites, including Martin's, and asked him to read over and comment on what I found out.

In his response, he said, "I would like to see the article outline clearly that a lot of horse owners are wasting their money on dewormers that don't do the job. If they are not monitoring the parasite lev-



How do you control the parasites in your horse? New research may change your routine. Here, Christine Cucchi's gelding Gípar from Grand View Farm grazes with his buddy birds at Watch Hill Farm in Metamora, MI. Photo by Alexandra Pregitzer.

els in their horses and the effects of their treatments, they are very likely to be living on a false sense of security with little or no adequate parasite control in place—and parasite burdens accumulating in their horses. I'd like to see that become the main message of your article."

LET THE GERMS GET THE WORMS

Here's the problem: Horses grazing on pasture are exposed to many different parasites. That is normal. It is a fact that horses harbor parasites and dewormers will never eliminate them completely. The goal of a parasite control program is to prevent the accumulation of lots of parasites in one horse. If the numbers get out of control, the horse may experience symptoms such as weight loss, a dull hair coat, fever, progressive weakness, diarrhea, anemia, or colic. Aside from acute symptoms, parasites are capable of causing irreversible long-term damage, such as damage to the liver and

lungs, retarded growth in young horses, and other severe health risks. Therefore, the need to control parasites is crucial.

But here's the twist: As Martin's website (<http://equineparasitology.ca.uky.edu>) explains, "Horse parasites are developing increasing levels of resistance to all available dewormers, and there are no new drugs under development." Got that? No new drugs under development. The parasites' increasing levels of resistance means that eventually all our current deworming drugs will be worthless. And there are no new ones being designed.

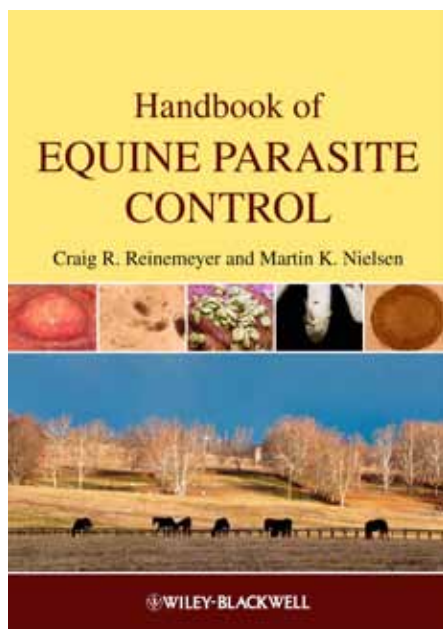
The motto for Martin's crowdfunding campaign explains his new approach: "Let the germs get the worms." His team, together with scientists at the University of California in San Diego, is researching the use of the naturally occurring bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (the "germ"), which secretes a crystal protein capable of killing worms in horses without harming the animal.

According to the official project description (which you can download from the website): “Bacteria producing the protein can be incorporated into a probiotic which can be given orally to the animals.” The UCSD researchers have tried the system out, with good results, against parasites in hamsters, mice, and pigs. The first step in horses—and what the crowdfunding campaign supports—is to evaluate “the effect of this bacterial protein against important horse parasites under laboratory conditions. Parasites will be collected from horses in a research herd and tested in the laboratory. We will test for the presence of receptors for the bacterial protein, and test the effect under laboratory conditions. We expect to use the results to apply for a larger grant to finally allow us to test the probiotic in horses.”

DRUG RESISTANCE

Martin’s research is very promising, and is as interesting as it is needed. But it will be many years before the results end up on the shelves of your local farm store. Until then, drug resistance is a huge problem. For example, small strongyles have developed a wide resistance to all the equine dewormers—technically called “anthelmintics”—that are currently available. Large roundworms, or ascarids, have developed resistance to at least two of the three dewormer classes available on the market. The good news is that there is no sign of resistance in bloodworms yet.

What does drug resistance mean to us as horse owners? It means we have to



change the way we deworm our horses. The common practice of rotating drugs (e.g. ivermectin and Strongid or similar products) and administering them every six to eight weeks—without doing fecal egg counts—is no longer considered to be an effective deworming program.

Unfortunately, a lot of horse owners haven’t yet gotten the message. Many people still “do it the old way.” So maybe it’s time to ask yourself some questions: What is your current deworming program and how do you know it’s working? What are you doing to reduce the number of worms your horses ingest? Which worms are likely to be a problem for your horses?

KNOW YOUR WORMS

Horse parasites all spend part of their lives in the horse and part of their lives in the environment, Martin explained. Here are the worms we need to be aware of:

Small Strongyles: Every horse gets infected with small strongyles. A horse can harbor tens of thousands of these worms without any signs of discomfort. But large worm burdens can cause weight loss and severe diarrhea. Horses swallow strongyle larvae when they graze. The larvae then burrow into the horse’s intestinal wall and stay there over the winter in small microscopic cysts. “If large masses of these larvae break out at the same time,” Martin explained, “it can lead to severe diarrhea.”

Large Strongyles or Bloodworms: Historically veterinarians considered the bloodworm to be the most important equine parasite. The larvae of the bloodworm migrate to the blood vessels of the horse, where they can cause a painful and life-threatening colic. “Over the past 40 years, much of our parasite control efforts went into eliminating these worms, and to a great extent we were successful.” Bloodworms are now rare, Martin said, “but those same efforts have caused severe drug resistance in other worm populations.”

Ascarids: These large roundworms are very common in all foals less than six to eight months old. The worms live in the small intestine and can grow to reach a length of 12 inches and be as thick as a pencil. Adult females lay eggs that are shed in the feces and picked up by other horses. The eggs hatch inside the horse’s stomach and intestines. The larvae then migrate into the blood stream and are carried to the liver and lungs, where, in large num-

bers, they can cause damage; they may also stunt the foal’s growth. But getting rid of the worms can also be dangerous. “When you administer a dewormer to a heavily parasitized youngster, large numbers of these worms can die suddenly in the intestine and drift downstream, forming a tangled mass that blocks the intestine and causes severe abdominal pain,” Martin said. This very serious condition can be life-threatening to the foal.

Pinworms: The eggs of the pinworm are picked up by horses from contaminated feed, water, bedding, stalls, walls, fences, and other fixtures. “The worms live in the colon, but the gravid female migrates through the rectum to lay her eggs just outside the horse’s anus,” Martin explained. “These eggs sitting on the perianal skin trigger an irritation that often causes the horse to rub its tail, resulting in a loss of hair and possible injury.”

Tapeworms: “Tapeworms are very common in grazing horses,” Martin explained. “They are usually present on every farm. Horses get infected by ingesting the worm’s intermediate host, the oribatid mite, which lives in the grass. Inside the horse, the tapeworm attaches to the intestinal wall around the junction between the large and small intestine. In high numbers they can cause colic.”

Bots: The female bot fly attaches her eggs to the hair of the horse without landing on it. “Horses often react to the presence of these big humming flies, but they are not inflicting any harm as they cannot bite,” Martin explained. “When the horses groom themselves or a pasture mate, the eggs will hatch and the bot larvae will enter the mouth. First, they spend a few weeks maturing in the oral cavity before they migrate to the stomach, where they attach to the lining over the winter. Bot larvae usually do not cause any disease or discomfort.”

MANAGING THE WORMS

There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all worming plan any more. To manage the parasites in your horses, you need to develop a strategy that is custom-tailored to the specific needs of your farm, your herd, and each individual horse. Pasture management, climate, how much your horses travel, their stress level, and their ages, among other factors, all play a role in parasite control.

Foals, as I mentioned, are susceptible



Martin Nielsen and his research herd at the Gluck Equine Research Center at the University of Kentucky. When not researching equine parasites (which show no preference for breed of horse), Martin rides and shows Icelandics. Photo courtesy the University of Kentucky.

to a class of parasites that mature horses do not have to worry about: ascarids, or roundworms. Talk with your veterinarian to develop a specific program to manage the parasites in your foals. “We have very different recommendations for foals—we could fill a whole article by itself on that topic,” Martin said.

For mature horses, Martin recommends “a surveillance-based program, where horses are monitored for the effect of the treatment interventions, as well as for their level of parasite egg shedding.”

Not all horses harbor the same number of worms and not all horses shed the same number of parasite eggs. “Fecal egg counts are useful for identifying low, moderate, and high strongyle shedders on the farm. Usually adult horses shedding less than 200 eggs per gram (EPG) of feces are considered low shedders. Horses between 200 and 500 EPG are moderate shedders, and those exceeding 500 are high shedders. However, these categories can be changed and adjusted to the given farm. Horses tend to maintain these levels across time—even in the absence of deworming.”

The horses with higher egg counts do not necessarily have more worms. But they do shed more eggs and infest the pastures—and that needs to be addressed. Said Martin, “About 50 to 70 percent of adult horses are usually low-shedders. Only 20 percent are high-shedders, but these horses are typically responsible for over 80 percent of the egg output.” For a good parasite control program, it is vital to find out which of your horses shed the most worms and to deworm those individuals more often than your other horses.

After deworming, therefore, you should also be doing regular fecal egg count reduction tests (FECRTs). “The FECRT is the scientifically established method for drug-resistance testing,” Martin explained. “There is a difference between performing an egg count and doing an FECRT. Both are based on counting eggs, but they are not the same. The FECRT requires a group of horses and two samples from each. But it is very straightforward. One manure sample is collected at the day of deworming and another one 14 days later.”

If you have a large farm with many

horses, you don’t need to test every one of them. “It is best to include at least six horses in an FECRT to get statistical accuracy,” Martin said. “Then, the mean percent reduction can be calculated for the dewormer used, and your veterinarian will be able to advise for or against using that drug again. If you have fewer than six horses, however, it is still useful to do an FECRT.”

KNOW YOUR DRUGS

As Martin explained, there are four common drug types in dewormers. All are anthelmintics—which means they either kill or stun the worms, causing the horse’s body to expel them. Be sure to read the label and check with your vet to make sure the wormer is compatible with your horses; some, for example, are not recommended for use in pregnant mares. The common types are:

Benzimidazoles: “These continue to have good efficacy against ascarids, but small strongyles are now mostly resistant to this class. For this reason, use these drugs primarily in foals.” Familiar brand names are Panacur and Anthelcide EQ.

Pyrantel pamoate and pyrantel tartrate: “With a double dose, Pyrantel pamoate is effective against tapeworms, but strongyles are often resistant to these drugs.” A familiar brand name is Strongid.

Ivermectin and moxidectin: “Ivermectin has been around for about 30 years and has been our most-relied-upon dewormer,” Martin said, “but there is evidence now that certain parasites are developing resistance to it.” Moxidectin, although a newer drug, has the same resistance issues. Both drugs kill small strongyles as well as bots, lice, mites, and the skin-dwelling larvae associated with summer sores.

Praziquantel: “This drug kills only tapeworms,” said Martin, “and is currently marketed in combination with either ivermectin or moxidectin.” It’s probably being overused, he adds, “especially in regions that have very few tapeworms.”

STRESS

Horses that travel more experience more stress: This can decrease their ability to fight off infection or parasites by suppressing the immune system. Even moving to another pasture on the same farm, or getting new pasture mates, can cause stress. These horses may experience a sudden rise in their egg-shedding. It’s a good idea to give a dewormer about two weeks before stressful moves like these, in order to prevent an increase in egg-counts right after they arrive at their new destination. Ideally, a post-treatment FECRT should follow the dewormer.

New horses just arriving at a farm should stay separate from the resident horses for a while to make sure they are healthy. The new horse should have received a dewormer before it was relocated, but if that wasn’t done, the horse should receive a dewormer upon arrival, ideally combined with a pre- and post-treatment egg count to make sure the drug is effective.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

When to do a fecal egg count and deworm your horses will vary greatly depending on your climate. But research suggests that the best time of year is during grazing season, when it is fairly warm but not yet hot. Usually the number of parasites peaks toward the end of the grazing season at the end of summer or early fall. Parasites do not like hot and dry summers (the heat and sun can kill the larvae), but they thrive

in mild and rainy conditions, as well as in very cold weather.

Horse people used to deworm after the first frost and count on a cold winter to rid their pastures of parasites, but as Martin explained, that’s a myth. “In the environment, parasite eggs flourish and develop into infective larvae when temperatures are between 45 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Eggs and larvae actually survive much better in cold than hot conditions. There is no such thing as a killing frost for these parasites.”

The best way to limit the number of parasites is regular and proper manure removal. “From a parasitology standpoint, daily removal would be overdoing it,” Martin said. “Once a week should be more than enough.” Removing the manure from your pastures works well in any climate.

But other traditional ways of trying to reduce parasites don’t really help, Martin said. Pasture rotation works only in very hot and dry conditions and if the pasture gets a several-month break. If the weather is not hot enough, this procedure won’t be effective.

Spreading manure or mowing the pastures can actually do more harm than good. Said Martin, “Mowing and spreading is really risky business, and I do not recommend it. You remove the most important strategy the horses have against

the parasites: selective grazing. They can always avoid the fecal piles. But they can no longer do this if you spread it all over the pasture.”

SUPPORT THE RESEARCH

This topic concerns all of us: We all have horses with equine parasites, and we all are in need of a new and better parasite control program. Please consider making a donation to help fund the University of Kentucky research project. You can donate online at <http://equineparasitology.ca.uky.edu/>.

Through the website, Martin and his team members are not only raising money to support their research, they are also providing extremely helpful information to horse owners like us in an online forum. Just sign up as a member. Then go to the Member Information page and look under the Questions and Answers section, where you will find many good questions and very good answers to those questions. In addition, videos and other educational information is available on the website. Anybody is welcome to ask questions regarding deworming and equine parasites, and the answers are prompt, friendly, and educational. Check it out!

Contact Martin Nielsen at martin.nielsen@uky.edu or (859) 218-1103.



Martin Nielsen and his research team at the University of Kentucky are working on new methods for controlling parasites in horses. Photo courtesy the University of Kentucky.

HORSE SOCCER!

BY TERRY ALBERT

On Monday mornings, you'll hear a bunch of hootin' and hollerin' over at my friend Amy's arena. My 26-year-old Icelandic horse Ari and I have started a new group activity in the last eight months: horse soccer! Also known as pushball, the sport is gaining popularity worldwide. At this time, I don't know of any other Icelandic horses that are actively playing the game.

I have owned Ari for eleven years, and although I have never shown him, his previous owner competed with him. Imported from Iceland in 1998, Ari is four-gaited. Together we volunteer as reserve park rangers for the City of Poway, CA, and have ridden in numerous parades, including the Swallows Day Parade in San Juan Capistrano and Poway Days Parade. His previous owner rode him two years in the Rose Parade in Pasadena. Ari is a fabulous trail horse, and many green or spooky horses have learned the trails at his side. We often join a group of Icelandic horse owners for trail rides and at least twice a year we go on group campouts. We also give pony rides to children of all ages.

Our soccer riders range from 21 to 62 years old, and our horses from 4 to 26 years, with Ari being the oldest. A 25-year-old quarterhorse also participates, so Ari isn't the only old man out there, but he is the only Icelandic. Other team members include a BLM (Bureau of Land Management) adopted mustang, a Haflinger, a thoroughbred, a paint, and several quarterhorses. The big horses don't intimidate Ari. We started with just three people, now we have as many as 10 at most practices.

HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED

Various groups play by different rules, since the sport is still new. We have joined America's Equine Soccer League (AESL), which has been a big help to us as we figure out how to play safely and sanely. Their rules are only a page and a half long, so sometimes we have to improvise. Teams are made up of three players, one goalie and two linesmen. In a large walled arena (AESL recommends 60 x 100 feet), two teams face off and try to score with a



The Monday morning soccer game is in full swing: Ári frá Brjónsstöðum is making a run for the goal! Indy, a rescued Thoroughbred, and owner Corrie Vaus are in hot pursuit. Photo by Kemer Thomson.

40" diameter inflated ball. Two horses are allowed "on" the ball at once, and must walk while on the ball. Trotting is allowed when you don't possess the ball. No whips or crops are allowed, but riders can wear spurs (I don't).

Only the horses can touch the ball, not the riders. Horses push the ball with their noses or front legs. Some also do what we call a "back 'em," where the horse kicks the ball with his hind leg, or pushes it away with his rear.

If a horse gets anxious the rider moves off the ball and lets a teammate take over. If a horse acts aggressively, the rider removes him from play and does a time-out or circling exercise. We do a lot of practice drills where horses push the ball toward one another or ride side by side. Weaving exercises also get them used to being in close proximity without getting pushy.

INTRODUCING YOUR HORSE TO THE BALL

Ari was fearless from the first instant he saw the ball, but I'm not sure if that is typical. I've seen horses of other breeds show responses ranging from terrified to cautious. To see how other Icelandics might respond, we asked Susan Burgess and Jill Watts to bring Susan's Icelandic horses Rudy and Dreyri over to try it. We spent about two hours with the two horses.

With the proper introduction, your Icelandic will quickly learn to enjoy playing soccer. Begin by leading your horse from the ground while a helper about 30 feet ahead pushes the ball *away* from your horse. A ball moving away is not as threatening as one coming towards the horse.

As your horse gets comfortable or seems curious, close the gap. Let him follow the ball at his own speed. If he's fearful, turn him away and try again from



Ari and Terry are “racing” Max, the palomino quarterhorse and his owner Amy Sadler. Amy hosts the weekly soccer games at her arena in Poway, CA. Photo Kemer Thomson.

further back. Keep doing this until your horse approaches on his own. Don’t urge him on or force him towards the ball. You want this to be a positive experience. Rudy was instantly curious and willing to go up to the ball, where he nosed and bumped it with his knee. Most horses aren’t this eager. If your horse comes up to the ball or touches it with his nose, this may be enough for one day. Praise him and stop at this point.



Playing horse soccer is a great way to keep 26-year-old Ari active and in shape—and it’s a lot of fun! Photo by Kemer Thomson.



Ari and Terry are on the ball, along with Sky, a 25-year-old quarterhorse, ridden by April Kilbourne. Photo by Kemer Thomson.

If he won’t go all the way up to the ball, quit when he reaches a spot where he’s still comfortable. Dreyri was hesitant, but not afraid. It took him a while to approach the ball, but he did nuzzle and sniff it eventually, so we stopped at that point. It’s better to stop too soon than to push him too far. Your horse will tire quickly, since this is a lot of mental work for him.

The real breakthrough comes when the horse bumps the ball with his nose or lifts his knee and accidentally makes the ball move. Praise him to the skies! In later sessions, we bounce the ball, thump on it, and then roll it against his legs, sides, and rear.

WHY PLAY SOCCER?

Our first soccer player was training her mustang, and found that it was fun to use the ball while practicing the turn on the forehand and other moves. The horse’s attitude improved, as did her bond with him. She was hooked, and the rest of us soon joined her.

I am an unschooled rider, though I have been riding for over 20 years. Since we started playing soccer, my skills have improved. I am using my hands and legs better, and Ari is more responsive. He is more flexible, my balance is better, and we are both enjoying ourselves. Endless drills or rigid training can become a mechanical—or even boring—routine. Soccer gets us out of that rut. Ari and I love to just push the ball around the arena for fun.

Every week, our riders laugh, yell, and pump the air with our fists like a bunch of kids. We’re having a blast with our horses! Regardless of what sport you and your horse participate in, soccer can be a break from serious training or reason enough by itself to enjoy time with your Icelandic horse.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

American Equine Soccer League: <http://www.equinesoccer.org>

Look for videos on YouTube for horse soccer or horse pushball. Here’s a good one: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-bhusBFFIs&list=LLUQ_sTHNpGIJRL_1JkArqbQ

FALKI'S STORY

BY BETSY SONNENBERG

Editor's note: In the last issue of the Quarterly, we asked you to send us your stories. Here's one that's a bit of a cautionary tale, with a happy ending for both horse and rider.

I grew up in the city of Philadelphia. The only horses I ever got to see were when the huckster rolled his horsedrawn wagon filled with fruits and vegetables through the streets or the man came by who walked a saddled pony that you could have your picture taken on. At the playground, I would play on a swing made to look like a horse and imagine I was riding as fast as I could go. Though I had a great imagination, I never thought of one day ever being able to own one.

I sold my house in Philadelphia so my husband, Michael, and I could purchase three acres in Green Lane, PA. We started building our house in 2005. One of my favorite views came at the righthand turn around a curve on a winding country road driving up to our property. Winter, spring, summer, or fall, I always had the feeling I was driving inside a picture frame. Part of the view was an old red barn. The barn was surrounded by woods and huge boulders, hills and valleys. It was down in a hollow, and I never saw any animals. I thought it was abandoned.

One time as I made the curve and spotted the red barn, I was surprised to see a white horse next to the fence. The way the sunlight surrounded him he looked fluorescent. He must have been there all along. I stopped the car and rolled my window down and said hello. His head quickly popped up. His eyes were shiny and interested. He stared at me for a few moments then continued with his business. The locking of our eyes that day was to be the beginning of an adventure for the two of us. For me, the months to come would be filled with tears, perseverance, and the growth of an undying love for a free-spirited, large white Icelandic horse named Falki. For him, his life would be turned upside down.



Falki the escape-artist at his picture-perfect farm in Pennsylvania.

ESCAPE ARTIST

While our house was being built, I would walk the half mile down the road every chance I had to go and see him. I don't know why but I felt good inside just being with him. I could see him down in the hollow, standing under the porch roof of the barn eating hay or just gazing out at his surroundings. One day I heard a friendly voice behind me. It turned out to be George, Falki's owner, a tall older man with a large beard, holding a bag of carrots. He explained that Falki had been born in the south of Iceland, at a farm called Mjóhjáleigu. He told me about the history of Icelandic horses. Falki had no interest in me but a lot of interest in the bag of carrots. George told me I could visit him anytime I wanted. In the days to come I would brush him, feed him carrots and apples, and just sit and watch him. I noticed he did not like me touching his

head or ears. I asked George questions about Falki, and he told me Falki was a gentle, kind horse, but stubborn. He also said that Falki was an escape artist. I laughed but didn't really believe him.

Soon enough, Michael and I were driving up our road early one morning, and there was Falki with his head held high, trotting down the road obviously on a mission. I must admit he was strikingly handsome. As he trotted past we braked to a stop, and I jumped out and yelled "Falki!" He stopped on a dime, and luckily I had a bag of carrots with me. He turned around and followed me back to the barn. We realized that Falki was escaping several times each day. For a horse with 18 acres to live on, I couldn't understand why he ran away so much. Since he lived alone I thought he was after a friend, but he could have been just looking for adventure and, of course, more food. Other neighbors reported

that they saw him on his knees pushing the wire fence down trying to get out. I couldn't help but laugh at how funny and smart I thought he was.

PICTURE PERFECT?

George became ill and came to the house to let me know that he was going to have to sell Falki. George wanted me to have the first opportunity to take him, because he knew that I cared for him. The next week was filled with anxiety. I was so worried about what was going to happen to Falki. We still had so much work to do to finish our house. I was uncertain of my own ability to take care of a horse. But I made up my mind to take Falki and found a farm 2 ½ miles up our road that boarded horses. The day came to take Falki to his new home. I thought I was going to make him the happiest horse in the world. He would be with other horses. People would be around him all day so he would never be lonely again. I was so wrong.

I took Falki away from his 18 acres, where he was free to munch on grass, leaves, and bushes 24/7 and into an environment where he was fed sweet feed and hay twice a day. I wasn't horse smart enough to know I was making a big mistake. I thought the sweet feed was actually a good thing. George had explained the tölt to me, and I always knew when Falki was tölting, but I didn't know how to ask for it or keep him in tölt. I noticed Falki was tripping a lot and would stop and just stand. Of course Falki escaped that place too. No one ever found out how he did it, but he loved spending the whole night in the woods.

I then moved Falki to a private farm. It was picture perfect: He would be roaming free with other horses. He escaped from there twice. All fences were checked. They could not figure out how he got out. Falki was very happy in this plush environment, except by October he became ill. He couldn't move. His hoofs were burning with heat. He had foundered and was diagnosed with Cushing's disease. He always seemed the healthiest horse in the world. I had never heard of Cushing's, but Falki, born in 1989, was just at the right age for it. I blamed myself. I was told he probably already had it when I took him, but the sweet feed and rich grasses brought it out. I still blamed myself. I had wanted so badly to do the right thing for



Falki, 24 years old, with his new owner Betsy Sonnenberg.

him, and I made things worse. I found a rehabilitation center for foundered horses an hour and a half's drive away. There were times when I cried my eyes out. I was so scared that I had made a mistake taking Falki, that I had ruined his life and mine. Falki's hooves were soft, and he would frequently become footsore. I put boots on him that helped a lot. Eventually, with a great farrier and multivitamins he grew new, hard hooves. We found out that he did not have Cushing's disease after all, but instead was insulin-resistant.

SPIRIT

I saw things in Falki that I loved so much, especially his spirit and gentleness. I didn't know a lot about Icelandic horses, but I knew he was different from other horses. That kind of spirit was bred deep inside and could only have come from his heritage. My wish for him was to run and frolic with a herd of other Icelandic horses like he would have done in Iceland. But there were no Icelandic horse people close where I lived. However after a long search, I found Anne Owen's

Tölt Farm in New Jersey, about an hour and a half from my house. Now we trailer up and visit Anne for Icelandic training. Anne is teaching me how to ride the tölt. She told me Falki is a good horse and that he was very well trained. She said that he is a natural tölter and that I am very lucky to have him.

Falki is 24 years old now. He lives full time with me, in a paddock behind our house right where I can see him and he can see me. He has a little mini horse friend. They occasionally escape and run around the neighborhood together. We call them Mutt and Jeff. Falki wears a tag with our phone numbers on it. We don't worry about losing little Luna, because she won't leave Falki's side. I thought Falki was lonely for other horses, but now I think Falki doesn't need anybody and lives his life in the moment. He just wants to wander, be free, and make his own choices, just like we do. He's turned me into a different kind of rider: It's not just about riding, but about having deep respect for and a friendship with a large, white, spirited Icelandic horse named Falki.

RIDING FOR PLEASURE

BY ELLEN PRESTON

The 2013 Pleasure Rider Program is now “in the can” as they say in the movies. But what an awful lot of memories were made! PRP participants reported in from all over the country, sending stories and photos along with their logs. Many of their stories were joyous, some were sad. Below we share a few from this year’s award winners. For the complete list of awards, please see the PRP Scoreboard page on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org/prpscore.php).

I myself had a Ride To Remember that will stay with me for quite a while. One day last spring, our small group of five or six Icelandic horse riders had started out for a typical trail ride at Wharton State Forest in New Jersey, when we found ourselves in the middle of a major motocross event being swarmed by hundreds of dirt bikes at a high rate of speed. Our horses routinely see dirt bikes, but not so many going so fast. My friend Sharon and I decided this was a recipe



Nancy Wines-DeWan of Maine and her youngest mare, Brenna from Ice Follies, who both rides and drives. Photo by Emily DeWan.



Susan Verberg playing with horse and camera on a sunny day. Pleasure Riding comes in a lot of different varieties, as the stories from these 2013 PRP participants show.

for disaster and started picking our way out of the forest, as dirt bikes were now screaming down every trail. Deciding to make a detour down a local rural road, we rode past a horse farm where an angry territorial horse unexpectedly tried to attack us through an electric fence. Yow. The Icelandics were getting a little edgy by this time and our nerves were getting raw. Within moments a lawnmower man zoomed out into the street, and then we were chased by dogs. Still, our Icelandics held it together.

Finally we were nearing the stable, and had to pass the final obstacle—the local gun club. Typically this isn’t too bad, and the horses don’t normally react to the low-key target practice going on. But this day was different in just about every way. By now Sharon and I were frazzled and saying soothing things to our very brave horses. Just as we were exactly in front of the gun club, they shot off a cannon. BOOOOOOMMMM! I can only tell you that every muscle in my mare’s body tensed up. She felt like a rocket ship about to launch. Ignition was imminent. But Sharon and I kept our seats,

and talked those horses down and rode them in. We were never so glad to have our feet touch safely down on the sweet earth. And we were so very proud of our Icelandics, they were most definitely the bravest horses I’ve ever seen and a tribute to their breed. They safely carried their riders back home!

In 2014, as I pass the torch of the PRP Chairperson to Deb Callaway, I wish you all the best and urge you to keep on riding. May the sun shine, the grass be green, the trails be smooth, and may you never have a cannon at your back.

NANCY WINES-DEWAN

This was the year I had been waiting for: When my youngest mare, Brenna from Ice Follies, was ready to start her journey towards becoming my trail riding and driving horse, joining my older mare, Sinna from Icelandic Magic. I began riding and driving her during the late winter. By summer I was riding her out on the trails and old woods roads around our house in Maine, both by herself and with my other Icelandics. Last September I brought her to her first trail riding event: a benefit



Susan Verberg of New York, dressed in full Viking attire, is well complemented by her Viking horse.

trail ride for our local, non-profit carriage museum and farm. There were 40-plus horses of a variety of breeds. Brenna was very excited to be among all those other horses and riders, but I was very pleased with how well she responded to me. My favorite adventure with her this year was another benefit ride (for the same equestrian organization), which took place along the Maine coast in early November. I trailered all four Icelandics from my farm to participate along with another 50 riders and drivers. We went out in small groups, but frequently met each other along the way. The weather was as beautiful as the scenery, and both horses and riders had a great time!



Sandie Weaver and Aska, on their monthly group ride in Southern California.

SUSAN VERBERG

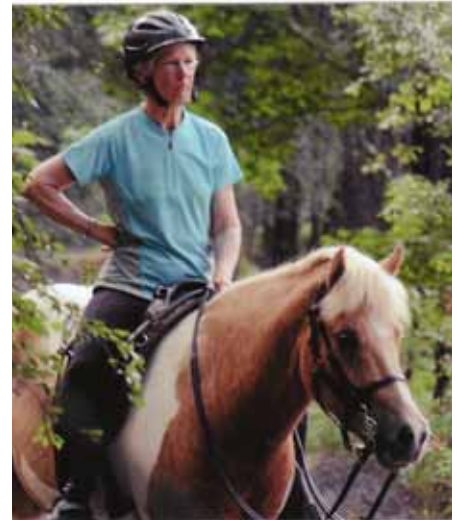
I really enjoy being able to ride whenever I like, instead of having scheduled weekly lessons, and straight from our own property in Ithaca, NY. It's these little things that make for such a big change! 2013 was my first full year of horse ownership and I am loving it. I love keeping track of the trail's seasonal changes and the different animals we meet along the way, and we both enjoy going off trail to bushwack for something or somewhere new. We also met two other neighbor horse owners along the trail and we now have occasional rides together, with plans to join forces to attend a local endurance or trail trial this year.

SANDIE WEAVER

I bought Aska 13 years ago and rode her in clinics, parades, on camping trips, etc. with a fairly large group of Icelandic riders for five or six years. Then we all got busy with our lives and drifted apart. In the last year and a half, we have reconnected and have had monthly trail rides in Southern California. There are about 30 of us on the list and about 10 or so make it to each ride. Some of our horses have known each other for 10 or more years, and it is heart-warming to see them be so happy riding together. I think my favorite ride last year was our Moonlight Ride in December. We timed it so the ride started about a half hour before sunset, and by the time we got to the top of the highest hill on the trail the moon was coming up in the east and the sun was setting in the west. It was truly magical!

KATHY HAULBROOK

I did several trail trials with Hrimi this year. But as a change of pace, I entered a 25-mile endurance ride at Camp Osborn in Sylvester, Georgia on Memorial Day Weekend. And that ride turned out to be a lot of fun. Hrimi and I camped out Saturday night. Early Sunday morning we



Kathy Haulbrook and Hrimi do endurance riding in Georgia. Photo by Karen Moran

saddled up in the dark and charged out of camp in a mob start. I held Hrimi back for a few minutes because I didn't want him to chase the frontrunners. Once we got underway, we maintained a steady pace on a 15-mile woods loop that meandered back and forth through the campgrounds. Hrimi passed tents, overturned canoes, and exercise equipment without flinching. We completed the loop in two and a half hours. After the vet check and a 50-minute hold, we started on a 10-mile loop of roads and tracks. This time we passed garbage cans, barking dogs, and school buses, and Hrimi was still steady. He tölted most of this section and finished the loop in one and a half hours. Back in camp, Hrimi pulsed down quickly and passed the final vet exam with all A's. We were both pretty proud of our team effort.

ELIZABETH HAARTZ

I spent the 2013 riding season riding the trails we have here on our property in Vermont. Due to family commitments, I was unable to do much more than that. However, those rides were exactly what I needed. We have beautiful hillside woods roads and trails; I never get bored riding them. I worked with my pinto Stigur on steering without reins, using weight-shifts,



Elizabeth Haartz of Vermont with Stigur frá Stóradal. Photo by Walter Davis.

and we both got pretty good at it. (See also Elizabeth's winter-day tale in the NEIHC Regional Club Update in this issue.)

KAT PAYNE

The sleigh bells around Kafteinn's neck have been in our family for over 100 years. My parents, brother, and I took our two Icelandics for a wintertime walk around their boarding facility in Minnesota, and all of the other horses were fascinated by the sound of the bells. They went running and playing in the snow alongside the fence line and following us as we walked by. It was a very special moment. Horses must inherently know that sleigh bells mean friendship and good cheer!

ALYS CULHANE

This past summer Pete and I trailered our horses from Alaska to embark on our sec-



Alaskans Alys Culhane and Raudi clean up the flagging after an endurance ride in Wyoming. Photo by Pete Praetorius.

ond long-distance trek. Things did not go as planned (as you'll read in the following pages). We did, however, participate in two endurance rides: the Happy Jack, near Laramie, WY and the "I Know You Rider," outside Evanston, WY.

The courses are marked with flagging in advance of the rides, so that the riders don't get lost. Then afterwards, they're removed. Pete and I volunteered for the latter job, since we weren't on a set schedule. We packed a picnic lunch, water, and short ride items. Then, after stopping at the stock tank, we set out on what would be a six-hour ride. The 30-mile trail was well marked, and the flagging was easy to locate. The organizers had also tied the flagging to clothespins, so we didn't have to tug on the stretchy elastic pieces.

A few miles into it, Pete and I had established a good working routine. We began to do what—because of our horses' size and disposition—came most easily to us. I grabbed the flagging that was attached to the low-lying, scrubby branches, and Pete pulled the flagging that was attached to the uppermost branches of the taller pine trees.

My job required a bit more finesse than Pete's. I carefully positioned Raudi so that I could reach the clothespin. I leaned over as far as I could, sometimes dangerously far. Every time, Raudi stood perfectly still, once in a while shifting to rebalance her load. I then repositioned myself in the saddle and, before moving on, gave her a neck scratch.

Both Pete and I at first stuffed the used flagging into pockets and saddle



Kat Payne of Minnesota takes her family and Kafteinn, wearing sleigh bells, out for a winter walk.

bags. Once mine were full, I began attaching the orange streamers to Raudi's still partially braided thick orange-gold mane. When done, we made a beeline for the stock tank, where this time the horses first drank their fill and then played.

As I removed them, I got to thinking that these streams of flagging were like ribbons, each one a reminder of a day well spent on the trail. They were also a verification as to what Icelandic horses can do. No, Icelandic horses are not as swift on the trails as their Arabian counterparts. Their body mass is such that they aren't as adept at dissipating heat. However, they're trail savvy, dependable mounts with astoundingly good dispositions.

SIGGI'S LEGACY

BY ALYS CULHANE



In 2011, my husband, Pete, and I completed Part I of a long-distance horse trek we called Tölting the Divide. We rode through Colorado from Gulnare to Vail and wrote about it in Issue Four 2011 of the *Quarterly*. On June 15, 2013, we left Alaska with the intention of riding and writing about Part II. We were to ride from Hagerman Pass, CO to Butte, MT. But Part II didn't go as planned. Three weeks into our trip Siggie, one of our three Icelandic trekking horses, died in a trail accident. This story is in part about the events surrounding his untimely death. As importantly, it's about the positive life-changing realizations that followed.

The onset of our trek went smoothly, in part because we'd spent the previous two years preparing for it. We'd recently purchased a new three-horse slant trailer, so that Siggie, Raudi, and Signy would travel in comfort on the 2,000-mile drive south. Pete and I had continued to ride

on a near-daily basis, after concluding Part I, in order to ensure that our mounts remained travel savvy and in good condition. We purchased new custom saddles, dehydrated the bulk of our food, prepared food mail drops, bought a cell phone with Lower-48 coverage, and did extensive route planning. Pete was granted a year's academic sabbatical, which extended our travel time into the fall. I'd recently taken a five-day wilderness responder first-aid course. We also had the means and the knowledge to euthanize a horse should we have to do this.

The horses did well on the road trip down to Colorado. We stopped every two hours or so, and fed and watered them. We didn't tie the horses to the trailer at night, or confine them to the trailer's interior. Rather, we housed them in fairground and rodeo ground enclosures. I mucked every pen, and removed debris, cans, wire, and cigarette butts. Pete and I

Pete Praetorius riding Siggie and leading Signy at Hagerman Pass, CO, from where he and Alys intended to ride to Butte, MT. But things didn't go as planned. Photo by Alys Culhane.

pitched our tent next to our horses' corrals, or slept in the back of our truck.

On June 29 we arrived at our first destination, USIHC members Gary and Sharon Snook's 53-acre Hanging Valley Ranch, located between Carbondale and Redstone, CO. I'd found the Snook's farm listing in the *Quarterly* and asked if they might give us an assist. During our three-day stay they provided us with pasturage for our horses and put us up in their guest house. We all went for a trail ride, one in which our horses demonstrated that they were up for a lengthy trek.

ARGENTINE PASS

Colorado trip preparations included our first driving over Hagerman Pass. Two

years before, we'd encountered snow which necessitated a major route change. This time, the route was clear. We also left human food, dog food, and horse supplements at a private residence in Montezuma, thus lightening our overall load.

On July 1, Ranch Foreman Oak Applegate dropped us, our animals, and our gear at the base of the pass. The following morning we set out. Pete rode Sigggi and ponied Signy. I followed on Raudi, and led Rainbow, our husky-mix. I couldn't help but grin when one passerby remarked that we looked like we had stepped out of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.

Over the next three weeks we hiked and rode over several 12,000-foot mountain passes, always making it a point to camp near creeks and where the grass was green and abundant. We built in rest days, so that we all might better acclimate to high-country elevation.

We left Peru Creek Campground on July 17, with the intention of making it over 13,000-foot Argentine Pass before an inevitable late afternoon storm materialized. The sky began to darken around noon, so we retreated downhill. Our timing was good: An hour later lightning began bouncing off the distant peaks. The horses, unpacked and tied in a spruce grove, stood quietly and munched down compressed hay.

In our tent, Pete pored over innumerable topographical maps. In Leadville, we'd spent well over an hour at the Sawatch Backcountry Outdoor store talking at length with several backcountry experts about this particular part of our route. All assured us that the upcoming section of the Continental Divide trail was safe for horse travel. Like the more southerly section, this one was meticulously maintained by several trail maintenance volunteer groups.

We resumed our trek the following morning, alternating walking and riding. The view from the near top was breathtaking. To our left were three distant peaks. And to our right was Argentine Pass. I stopped to take a photo of Pete, Sigggi, and Signy. All stood quietly, waiting to move on. It was then that it happened: Sigggi placed his left foot on a boulder, lost his purchase, slipped, and fell off the ledge.

It's one thing to talk about how you'll deal with an accident if one occurs, and quite another to experience it. Time not

only slows, but momentarily screeches to a halt. Pete stood, seemingly rooted in place. I grabbed his shoulders, spun him around, and told him to breathe, adding in a halting voice that we needed to return to the base of the mountain. Pete nodded dumbly, and turned Signy around. I grabbed Raudi, and together, we moved forward, taking one slow step at a time.

It had taken us close to two hours to get up the mountain; it took about 45 minutes to get down. We returned to the day's starting point and again tied the horses in the spruce grove. Pete then took off down the lower trail. In his absence, I tied up the rain tarp, unpacked our gear, and set up camp. Pete, red-eyed, his face streaked with tears and dirt, returned an hour later, with saddle, saddle pad, saddle bags, and tent in hand. In a halting voice he said that Sigggi had died quickly, after sustaining a head injury. Pete added that he'd laid his straw hat on his horses' back, said his goodbyes, and left.

It started to rain. We set up our tent, crawled inside, and slipped into our down bags. Sleet, then hail pummeled the tent as we talked, not about the accident, but rather, about our wonderful horse. Pete and I were with him from his first day of life. His USIHC-registration name was Sigggi Halastjarni frá Alaskastaðir, the English translation of his name being Ziggy Stardust from a Place in Alaska.

His name was consistent with Icelandic horse nomenclature. He was born with a zigzag stripe on his back (Ziggy) and a smattering of white hairs on his forehead (Stardust).

Sigggi was a kind, gentle, and playful soul. He would, when at home, routinely beat on our old horse Tinni with his Jolly Ball. Tinni, irritated, would chase him off. Sigggi would then run around the pen, bucking and snorting. Pete backed Sigggi when he was four and remained his sole rider. The blue dun had a good head on his shoulders, both mentally and physically. He had a wide forehead, nicely set eyes, and a straight profile. He also had an incredible work ethic when under saddle. He could always be depended upon to take the lead when the mares were less inclined to do so.

UNDERSTANDING

We were now down to two horses, so continuing over Argentine Pass was out of the question. The next morning we backtracked to Peru Creek. The following day dawned overcast and chilly. I stayed with the horses and gear, while Pete took the Greyhound bus back to the Snook's place and retrieved our truck and trailer. He said that Gary, Sharon, and Oak were incredibly understanding and empathetic. I later deduced that their being so understanding was what enabled Pete to pull himself together enough to formu-



A layover at the Keystone Riding Stables on the way down from Alaska, where the three Icelandics stayed the night in the aptly-named Petting Farm. Photo by Pete Praetorius.



Siggi grazing happily in the mountains. The horse can be fit, the riders well-prepared, but accidents still happen. Photo by Alys Culhane.

late a plan. He wanted us to proceed with our trip, but rather than travel with a pack horse, instead use the truck and trailer as support vehicles. Pete's rationale was that we'd spent considerable time and money getting to Colorado, so we ought to continue on. I said that I wanted to put what happened behind me, and that the best way to do this would be by going straight home.

Pete and I agreed to head in the direction of home, and on the way do day trips. We went first to Cheyenne, WY. Pete called Synergist Saddle owners CJ and Dave Pietra and asked if Siggi's saddle might be rebuilt to fit Signy. "Bring it in and stay here for a bit," CJ said. And so, for the next two weeks the Pietras put us and our horses up. They also repaired the damaged saddle. Actually, repair isn't the right word. Dave stripped it down to the tree and fashioned a new one. As for the cost, we were told that there was no charge.

Pete spent considerable time with Dave. And I spent considerable time with CJ and her friend Joy. I soon learned that the two women had overcome incredible health-related odds, with CJ a breast cancer survivor, and Joy having gotten the upper hand in dealing with lupus. Both had, during the course of their respective illnesses, become triathletes. They adhered to an intense training schedule that incorporated swimming, running, and bi-

cycling. I, a former long-distance bicyclist, went with CJ and Joy for a bicycle ride—and had a difficult time keeping up.

The two were also experienced horseback riders, with CJ at one time being a top-ranked endurance rider. A few days before we were to leave, CJ and Joy suggested that Pete and I accompany them on a trail ride. I wasn't keen on the idea of riding with anyone—even feeding the horses brought accident details to the forefront of my consciousness. However, I went along because the two wanted to show us the nearby Blair-Wallace Recreation area trails. CJ was right—the seemingly endless trails were horse safe. And the horses enjoyed being out, even if I continued to obsess about our recent loss and how it had occurred.

THE HAPPY JACK

Pete and I liked the Blair Wallace Recreation area so much that we made it our next base camp. We housed the horses in corrals built by the Backcountry Horsemen of Wyoming. Shortly thereafter, dozens of horse trailers started rolling in. I asked what was going on, and was told by rider-volunteer Ronnie Eichern that the Happy Jack three-day endurance ride was to be held there that weekend.

Pete and I now had to decide to leave or stay put. We decided to stay, for the BCHA corrals were clean and spacious, and

the trail system was close by. Ronnie put her half-Arab in the pen adjacent to Raudi and Signy's. The 60-year-old Australian and I talked as we cleaned the pens. Together, we noted the differences between my horses and hers. Her rangy fleabitten-gray gelding bounced around like a ping-pong ball, while my roly-poly chestnut and bay mares dozed. Ronnie, in her droll Australian accent, pointed to her horse Kipling and said, "Expending energy." And I, in my upstate New York post-nasal-drip accent, pointed to Raudi and Signy and said, "Conserving energy." This shared joke was the beginning of a friendship.

Like CJ and Joy, Ronnie was one tough woman. She ran a 70-horse riding stable and rode her sometimes-fractious half-Arab in back-to-back endurance rides. Her most recent accomplishment was completing the 150-mile Big Horn ride in South Dakota.

Pete and I assisted in monitoring the incoming horses' heart rates on Friday and Saturday. On Saturday afternoon, I worked alongside volunteers who were attempting to bring the pulse of a beefy pinto quarterhorse down into an acceptable range. When the veterinarian pulled the horse from the ride, I glanced over at his rider. Haley Peters, age 12, was near tears because she'd hoped to ride in the next day's 25-miler. The words that then came out of my mouth surprised me. I told Haley that if she liked, she could ride Signy. She said yes, and smiled. I was then told that, because I was her sponsor, we'd have to ride together. This meant that I'd have to ride Raudi. I wasn't up for this, but agreed to do so because I didn't want to let Haley down.

My next morning's orders to the preteen were to let Signy set the pace, but not to push her, my reasoning being that because Haley was a relatively inexperienced rider, she might ask too much of Signy, who was both physically and mentally conditioned for long, slow distances. We got off to a lackadaisical start because both Signy and Raudi stopped to play in the stock tank water. But once we got going, we maintained a trot that was befitting of two very well-trained trekking horses. I, of course, couldn't help but think that if Siggi were around, Pete would be riding with us.

Ride volunteers cheered when we trotted across the finish line. We placed

last, but neither Haley nor I cared. She was glad to have been able to do the second day's ride. And I was glad that both Raudi and Signy finished the 25-mile ride with energy to spare.

MONTANA FLYER

By the following afternoon, everyone had departed. Pete and I remained behind for three more days and, on horseback, removed the course flagging. I wasn't as down as I'd been, but still would have preferred to head home.

We had made several friends on the Happy Jack ride, one of whom included 77-year old Dorothy Phillips. Afterwards, she had invited us to her Cody, WY home. The wiry, curly-haired woman was also an endurance rider, her office walls covered with endurance-related photos and awards. The question then up in the air was, Would she ever ride again? A few months before, while on an endurance ride, Dorothy had been kicked in the knee by another person's horse. Rather than rest up, she had hobbled around with a cast on

her leg. Recently Dorothy had removed the cast, saying it was "too cumbersome." I expressed my concern about her throwing 50-pound hay bales around while having a bum knee, and backed off after I was given a look that would kill.

Pete and I didn't ride with Dorothy. However, we did several day rides in the foothills near her house. When that now too-familiar feeling of loss came back to mind, I pictured Dorothy, head high, shoulders erect, cantering downhill on Montana Flyer, her much-loved endurance horse.

I KNOW YOU RIDER

We next traveled to Evanston, WY, where the mid-August I Know You Rider Pioneer Endurance Ride was to be held. The three-day ride was named after the Grateful Dead song. Ride awards included tie-dyed T-shirts that on the back read, "If you're not ahead, you're behind." Two deciding factors pushed us in the direction of southwest Wyoming. Pete's always been a Grateful Dead Fan. And I wanted to

spend time with Ronnie and others that we'd met at the Happy Jack ride.

Early on, Pete became good friends with Robert, the ride parking lot attendant and a three-time former Tevis Ride finisher. We also met up with USIHC member Karen Olsen Fields, who drove up from Utah and did a 10-mile fun ride with us. Pete assisted in taking incoming horses' heart rates. I would have done the same, but there was an excess of volunteers.

We held off on participating in the first two days' rides because it was hot and the horses' winter coats were coming in. Fortunately, the third day dawned cooler. Pete decided to do the final 30-mile ride. I accompanied him because otherwise I'd have nothing to do but wait. From the onset, Raudi gave this event her all. She galloped alongside a fast-moving Arab at mid-point of the day's ride, then, when I did a half-halt, took up a smooth rocking-horse canter. And the entire time, Pete and Signy followed close behind. We finished fifth and sixth, in a field of 10 riders. I was very proud of our well-



Alys and Raudi crossing a bridge on the Happy Jack endurance ride, as they start putting the pieces back together again after the accident. Photo by Pete Praetorius.



Alys in the dust at the “I Know You Rider Ride,” where horse people shared their own worst trail-riding experiences and urged Alys and Pete to keep riding. Photo by Pete Praetorius.

trained horses, who had stayed focused on the task at hand.

That evening, Robert and Pete hosted a barbecue, the eating area being located next to Raudi and Signy’s enclosure. The two horses stood close by as everyone ate and talked about the previous three days’ rides. Some highlights included Haley’s having finished first in a 50-miler on Robert’s Arab Airborne, and Ronnie’s having finished first in three 50-milers on Kipling. A personal highlight for Pete was his having been presented an I Know You Rider medallion by the endurance ride organizers. It was in part for his volunteer efforts. At the same time, they thought he’d done well in making the best of a bad situation.

WHY RIDE?

We continued on, visiting former Alaska Icelandic Horse Association member Robin Near. While in Coeur d’Alene, we went for a trail ride on Fourth of July Pass with BCHA of Idaho members. On this ride, I joined Robyn and Pete in extolling the virtues of our wonderful Icelandic horses,

as opposed to dwelling on the loss of Siggi. At the same time, our horses affirmed that our statements were true by doing everything we asked of them, including walking over a metal gate and going under considerable low-lying brush. Add to this, it was the first time Robin had ever ponied her horse Falki.

The trip home was like the trip south—uneventful. We arrived back in Palmer, AK as originally planned, on October 1. A few nights later, I stepped outside at 11 p.m, in order to check on the horses, goats, and chickens. On the way down to the horse enclosure, I stopped, turned off my headlamp, looked up at the night sky and said good night to Siggi, who I’d taken to calling Stardust.

Stardust had taught me a great deal when he was in his earthly form. For example, I’d learned the importance of seeing the world from a horse’s viewpoint. The way he saw it, Pete was to be his riding buddy and I was to be his caretaker. The end result of this was that Pete became my riding companion.

As importantly, this spirit guide taught me a great deal after he took a less corporeal form. For instance, he indirectly assisted me in answering the question that, at some point, every trail rider must consider: Why ride knowing that you might lose a beloved horse in an unforeseen accident?

I can’t say that it’s so in all instances, but I learned that events of this magnitude have the capacity to be life-changing. Pete and I have always been close. However, we became even closer after Stardust’s death. All summer long, I was reminded of Pete’s inner strength every time I watched him ride Signy. He had told me after the accident that she was now his number one riding horse. I was then dubious because I couldn’t imagine him switching allegiances. After all, this is something I would not have been able to do if I’d lost Raudi in this, or a similar, accident. But indeed, Pete and Signy became buddies in very short order.

Another example: after we parted company with Stardust, Pete and I met some very remarkable people, all of whom love horses, and all of whom are risk takers. I told most of them about our horse-related loss, and they told me about theirs. Their take was that trail horses sometimes die in unexpected ways. They, for example, are struck by lightning, get mired in bogs, slip off bridges, break their legs in gopher holes, get tangled in barbed wire, and are sometimes bitten by rattlesnakes. However, these riders asserted that, if asked, the majority of these horses would say that they’d prefer being ridden to languishing away in enclosures or stalls.

The conclusion that both Pete and I came to is that our Icelandic horses are happiest when they’re out on the trail. This was true of Siggi, it’s true of Tinni, Raudi, and Signy, and will be true of Signy’s daughter Hrimfara, whom we’re now taking with us on daily trail rides. Our riding horses have, at one time or another, successfully dealt with the challenges inherent in going up and down steep hills, and crossing creeks and streams. We’ve never forced them to do this. Rather, they do this because this is what they’ve been bred and trained to do. Thus, as both Pete and my new friends taught me, taking carefully calculated risks goes with the territory. And if you allow for it, what wonderful territory this can be.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

[] New Application [] Renewal

Membership Type: [] Individual [] Family [] Junior

[] Foreign Friend of the US Icelandic Horse Congress

Name:

Address:

City: State/Province : Postal Code: Country:

Phone: Email:

[] Keep my name and contact information private.

[] Never use my email address instead of the US Mail to notify me of official USIHC business.

[] I prefer **not** to receive a copy of the *Quarterly* magazine in the US Mail.

Regional Club:

If you have selected a Family Membership, please complete the following for the second adult and any children to be included in the membership (use the back of the page to add more family members):

Name	Year of Birth (juniors only)	Email (optional)	Enroll in Pleasure Rider Program (optional)

[] Farm Listing.

Paid members of the USIHC may opt to include a farm listing on the Congress's web site (www.icelandics.org). There is a \$110.00 annual fee for the farm listing in addition to your membership fee.

Farm:

Owners:

Address:

City: State/Province : Postal Code: Country:

Phone: Email:

Fax: Web:

Membership Fees & Restrictions			
Individual	\$45/year. One adult. One vote.	Membership Fee:	\$.....
Family	\$65/year. Two adults and unlimited children living in the same household. Adults vote.	Farm Listing Fee:	\$.....
Junior	-\$35/year . One child (under 18 years). <i>Free until September 2014</i> Not eligible to vote.	World Championships Donation:	\$.....
<i>Members in the categories above with non-US mailing addresses must be US Citizens</i>		Youth Fund Donation:	\$.....
Foreign Friend	\$70/year. One adult non-US Resident/non-US Citizen with limited benefits. Not eligible to vote.	(optional support for youth programs)	
		Total:	\$.....

Make checks to "USIHC" and mail to the MAIN OFFICE address.

Congress memberships are for one year. Your membership is active on receipt of payment and expires one year later.

MAIN OFFICE: 300 South Sawyer Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Phone: (866) 929-0009 [extension 1]

Email: info@icelandics.org



Give young riders their Best Ride Ever!

The youth committee of the USHIC is sponsoring a membership challenge for young riders to join the USIHC for FREE in 2014! The new members will receive a year's subscription to the Quarterly and all other junior benefits, like a chance to participate in the International FEIF Youth Cup or the Youth Camp.

For more information and to join the USIHC please go to www.icelandics.org. Or contact youth committee chair Laurie Prestine at youth@icelandics.org or call (408)354-2828

FREE youth membership to the USIHC in 2014!

Thank you to photographers Asta Covert, Martina Gates, Laura Benson, Jana Meyer, Deb Cook, Nicki Esdorn, and Julie Betts Testwuide





The 2nd annual
NEIHC OPEN

USIHC Sanctioned Show

September 20 & 21, 2014

Judge: Hulda Geirsdottir

Pre-Show 3 day clinic with
Steinar Sigurbjörnsson
September 17-19, 2014

Dinner and Lecture with
Judges **Hulda Geirsdottir**
and **Sigbjörn Björnsson**
September 22, 2014

Photo Christoph Huss



Hosted by
Thor Icelandics, Claverack, NY
www.neihc.com



September 23 & 24, 2014

Judges: Sigbjörn Björnsson and
Thorvaldur Kristjansson

**NEIHC
BREED
EVALUATION**

Photo Martina Gates

ICELAND AWAITS 2014



SEPTEMBER 28-OCT. 5 TREKKING BOOTCAMP 2

3 DAY RIDING CLINIC
4 DAY TREK
HORSE ROUND UP
AMAZING SCENERY
COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATIONS
HOME COOKED MEALS
FANTASTIC HORSES
EXPERT GUIDES
HAPPY CUSTOMERS
MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS



LIMITED TO 12 RIDERS!! ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT!!

WWW.AMERICA2ICELAND.COM

828-348-4257 • info@america2iceland.com



Riding Jeans

Rocky Mountains

- light weight blue denim
- full seat
- no inner seams
- cool wearing
- durable

proRyders

www.proryders.com/info@proryders.com

THE ICELANDIC HORSE MARKETPLACE



SUBMIT ADS TO QUARTERLY@ICELANDICS.ORG.
DEADLINES ARE 1/1, 4/1, 7/1, AND 10/1.

FOR AD RATES, SIZES, AND ONLINE PAYMENT,
SEE WWW.ICELANDICS.ORG/AD_RATES.

THE USIHC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AD AT ANY TIME. ADS ARE ACCEPTED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ADVERTISER IS AUTHORIZED TO PUBLISH THEIR CONTENTS AND AGREES TO INDEMNIFY THE USIHC AND THE ICELANDIC HORSE QUARTERLY AGAINST ANY LOSS OR EXPENSE RESULTING FROM CLAIMS ARISING FROM THEIR PUBLICATION.



F A R M L I S T

The owners of the farms listed below have offered to have you visit in order to become acquainted with the Icelandic horse. Some are breeders, some importers and some are interested in breed promotion alone. Their listing here does not constitute an endorsement of any kind by the USIHC.

CALIFORNIA

Bohart K K Ranch
Bonnie and Randy Bohart
2242 Mesa Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660
(949) 735-6804 (phone)
(949) 660-7139 (fax)
bonnielou92660@yahoo.com
www.bohartkkranch.com

Flying C Ranch
Will & Asta Covert
3600 Roblar Ave.
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
(805) 688-1393 (phone)
info@tolt.net
www.tolt.net

Mountain Icelandic Farm
Annette Coulon
620 Calabasas Rd.
Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 722-8774 (phone)
annette@mountainicelandics.com
www.mountainicelandics.com

Valkyrie Icelandic
Laura Benson
1 Duane St. #33
Redwood City, CA 94062
(650) 281-4108 (phone)
laura@valkyrieicelandic.com
www.valkyrieicelandic.com

COLORADO

Hestar Ranch
Monika Meier-Galliker
P.O. Box 1744 / 30420 C.r. 500
Arboles, CO 81121
(970) 883-2531 (phone)
m.meier@hestar-ranch.us
www.hestar-ranch.us

Lough Arrow Icelandics
Andrea Brodie, D V M
22242 County Road 46.0
Aguilar, CO 81020
(719) 680-2845 (phone)
fiddlinvet@gmail.com
tinyurl.com/3xn3yys

Tamangur Icelandic Horses
Coralie Denmeade
P.O. Box 2771
Monument, CO 80132
(719) 209-2312 (phone)
coralie@tamangur-icelandics.com
www.tamangur-icelandics.com

GEORGIA

Creekside Farm
Katrin Sheehan
3170 Double Bridges Road
Rutledge, GA 30663
(706) 347-0900 (phone)
(706) 997-9011 (fax)
katsheehan@mac.com
www.creeksidefarm.com

INDIANA

Windstar
Bonnie L. Windell
4845 Warrenton Road
Evansville, IN 47725
(812) 983-4125 (phone)
bonniwindell@yahoo.com
www.windstarranch.com

IOWA

Eagle River Farm
Dr. Bradley and Kimberlee Dewall
2d1985 277th Ave.
LeClaire, IA 52753
(632) 895-699 (phone)
kimberleedewall@gmail.com

KENTUCKY

Littleiki Icelandics At Swallowland Farm
Carrie Brandt and Maggie Brandt
P.O. Box 7
Eminence, KY 40019
(502) 409-1924 (phone)
carrie@littleikiicelandics.com
www.littleikiicelandics.com

MAINE

Boulder Ridge Farm
Brian & Cindy Wescott
1271 Cape Rd
Limington, ME 04049
(207) 637-2338 (phone)
info@bricelandics.com
www.bricelandics.com

Grand View Farm
Charles & Peggy Gilbert
137 North Road
Dixmont, ME 04932
(207) 257-2278 (phone)
(207) 941-9871 (fax)
grandviewfarm@midmaine.com

MINNESOTA

North Star Icelandic
Deborah & Steve Cook
1250 Waterville Rd
Waterville, MN 56096
(507) 362-4538 (phone)
(507) 362-8090 (fax)
cookice@frontiernet.net
www.frontiernet.net/~cookice

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Icelandic Creations, Inc.
Debbie Dur
186 French Pond. Rd.
Henniker, NH 03242
(603) 428-8785 (phone)
ddur54@hotmail.com
www.icelandic-creations.com

NEW YORK

Sand Meadow Farm
Steven & Andrea Barber
300 Taylor Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
(585) 624-4468 (phone)
toltstar@yahoo.com
www.sandmeadow.com
toltstar@yahoo.com
www.sandmeadow.com





NORTH CAROLINA

Hulinndalur
Sara Lyter
372 John Weaver Rd
Columbus, NC 28722
slyterz@yahoo.com

OHIO

Common Ground Farm and Kennel
Jim and Laurie Blakey
12698 Mantua Center Rd.
Mantua, OH 44255-9368
(330) 995-9273 (phone)
commongroundfarmandkennel@gmail.com
poodlepony.com

Cytraas Farm
John R. Haaga
Call For Appointment
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
(216) 464-7260 (phone)
ellenhaaga@gmail.com
www.cytraas.net

PENNSYLVANIA

Burns - Anderson Stable
Mary Burns, Caleigh Anderson, and Connie Anderson
1641 Wildlife Lodge Rd.
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 337-4207 (phone)
caaenglishrider@yahoo.com

Meant To Be Farm
Juli & Steve Cole
109 Germanski Lane
New Castle, PA 16102
(724) 667-4184 (phone)
juli2875@yahoo.com
www.meanttobefarm.com

Mercer Icelandic Llc
Marjukka Miinala and Frank Curl
149 N. Diamond Street
Mercer, PA 16137
(724) 372-2537 (phone)
(814) 217-1324 (fax)
marjukka@icelandichorse.ws
www.icelandichorse.ws

SOUTH CAROLINA

Black Creek Farm
Sarah C. Elkin
449 Jewell Boone Rd.
Pelion, SC 29123
(803) 894-4514 (phone)
bigdoglady@pbtcomm.net
blackcreekfarm.us

TENNESSEE

Clear Springs Hollow Farm
Marianne E. Filka & Ronnie D. Roark
137 Hugh Garland Rd.
Jonesborough, TN 37659
(423) 753-6075 (phone)
(423) 753-6075 (fax)
filkaroark@embarqmail.com
clearspringshollowfarm.com

VERMONT

Silver Maple Icelandic Horse Farm
Susan Peters
106 Gilley Road
Tunbridge, VT 05077
(802) 889-9585 (phone)
susan.peters@gmail.com
www.silvermapleicelandics.com

Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm
Karen Winhold
3061 N. Fayston Road
Waitsfield, VT 05673
(802) 496-7141 (phone)
(802) 496-5390 (fax)
horses@icelandichorses.com
www.icelandichorses.com

WASHINGTON

Evans Farm-Orcas Island
Wanda & John Evans
P.O. Box 116
Olga, WA 98279
(360) 379-4961 (phone)
evansfarm@orcasonline.com
www.icelandichorsesnorthwest.com

Lone Cedar Icelandic Horses
Dawn Shaw
P.O. Box 524
451 E. Murray Road N
Grapeview, WA 98546
(360) 275-7542 (phone)
iceherd@hotmail.com
www.lonecedaricelandichorses.com

Red Feather Icelandics
Dick and Linda Templeton
24 Whitewater Drive
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(541) 490-0975 (phone)
redfeathericelandics@gmail.com
www.redfeathericelandics.com

WEST VIRGINIA

Deep Creek Farm
Curtis Pierce and Marsha Korose
537 Fjord Rdige Dr
Mathias, WV 26812
(304) 897-6627 (phone)
cepinwv@yahoo.com
www.deepcreekfarm.com

Icelandic Thunder
Denise & James Taylor
550 Hackers Creek Rd
Philippi, WV 26416-7198
(304) 457-4238 (phone)
icywoman@msn.com
icelandicthunder.com

WISCONSIN

Winterhorse Park Icelandic Horse Farm
Barbara and Daniel Riva
S75 W35621 Wilton Rd.
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 594-5152 (phone)
(262) 594-2720 (fax)
winterhorse@centurytel.net
www.winterhorse.com



GUDMAR PETURSSON'S TRANS-ATLANTIC OPERATION!

IN THE U.S. Gudmar will be a visiting trainer throughout the year at Carrie Brandt's beautiful new facility, Swallowland Farm in Shelbyville Kentucky, while continuing to conduct clinics all over the country, competing in sports and breeding shows, and riding with the Knights of Iceland.

www.gudmar.com
www.knightsoficeceland.com
www.stadarhus.com
www.america2iceland.com



IN ICELAND, Gudmar has a full training station and hotel at Staðarhús, his historic farm near Borganes which can accommodate up to 14 guests. America2Iceland runs 4-5 educational riding vacations per year and some of the regulars keep horses at the farm. In addition, Gudmar is the assistant manager and partner of Fákasel, the new Icelandic Horse Center in south Iceland where he created and produces the shows at the center. He was recently selected for one of the Masters Teams, which will compete this spring for highest honors.

email: gudmarp@gudmar.com
phone usa: 502 608 5804
phone iceland: 354 8966726
skype: [gudmartp](https://www.skype.com/user/gudmartp)

CLASSIFIED AD

HORSES FOR SALE

MUST SELL MY ICELANDIC HORSES. 2 MARES, ONE IS 8 YRS., HER SISTER IS 6 YEARS OLD. 1 GELDING ALSO, 6 YEARS OLD. BEAUTIFUL AND LOVED, BUT I AM DOWNSIZING MY LIFE. PICTURES ON REQUEST. MAKE BEST OFFER FOR EACH OR ALL. LOUEY5@GMAIL OR TRYGGUR3@HOTMAIL.COM

Ink and Brush Creations

Zazzle

<http://www.zazzle.com/inkandbrush>

Cafe Press

<http://www.cafepress.com/artbyshari/7733764>



Offering Use-able and wear-able Fire Art, for the Icelandic Horse owner on the go.

It's all horse talk!

Subscribe to Tölt News today!



Join the tölting revolution by subscribing and advertising today!
If you missed an issue or need extras, go to www.magcloud.com and search "Tölt News."
www.toltnews.com | tolt@toltnews.com | 518 929 0009

Are You an Ambassador for the Icelandic Horse?

Join the USIHC Annual Breed Ambassador Program

If you ride in:

- ☒ Parades
- ☒ Gymkhanas
- ☒ Open Breed Shows
- ☒ Organized Trail Rides
- ☒ Judged Obstacle Rides
- ☒ All-Breed Horse Events

Become an Ambassador.

Have Fun – show off your Icelandic Horse's skills – **Be Rewarded**

At the Drawing each year, 5 Winners will receive:

- ☒ USIHC Ambassador T-Shirt
- ☒ VISA Gift Card, \$50 Value

Remember, the more you ride, the more chances you have to win. Each time you participate in an organized event with other breeds, submit an entry in the Breed Ambassador Program Drawing.

The USIHC Annual Breed Ambassador Program

January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

Track your events. Follow the simple rules. Become an Ambassador. It's that easy.

Sign up today.

Visit: <http://www.icelandics.org/>

FIRST PRIZE 8.16



KALMAN

FRÁ LÆKJAMÖTI AI • HAND BREEDING • PASTURE BREEDING



CONFORMATION - 8.33

RIDEABILITY - 8.04

SAND MEADOW FARM BREEDING FOR QUALITY

AT BOTH YOUNG HORSE AND TRADITIONAL EVALUATIONS, KALMAN'S OFFSPRING ARE BECOMING WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL CONFORMATION, LIGHT MOVEMENTS, AND COOPERATIVE CHARACTERS. THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL TO LOOK AT, EASY TO WORK WITH, AND FUN TO RIDE EITHER ON THE TRACK OR TRAIL FOR ALL LEVELS OF RIDERS.

Our breeding mares are no less impressive in themselves and what they can produce:



Sædis frá Melabergi
IS1997225851
Total Score: 8.06
S: Roði frá Múla
(1st Prize for Offspring)
SS: Orri frá Púfu
(Honor Prize for Offspring)
DS: Hervar frá Sauðárkróki
(Honor Prize for Offspring)



Gíma frá Ytra-Dalsgerði
IS1997265791
Total Score: 8.01
S: Stígur frá Kjartansstöðum
(Honor Prize for Offspring)
SS: Náttfari frá Ytra-Dalsgerði
(Honor Prize for Offspring)
DS: Kjarval frá Sauðárkróki
(Honor Prize for Offspring)

(585) 624-4468 • toltstar@yahoo.com • www.sandmeadow.com



TÖLT TACK

THE U.S. SUPPLIER OF ICELANDIC TACK

NOW FORMATTED FOR US DVD PLAYERS

EYJOLFUR ISOLFSSON

**THE MASTER TRAINER FROM HOLAR
BRINGS HIS KNOWLEDGE TO US IN A
SERIES OF 3 TRAINING VIDEOS**



1. BASICS

2. BALANCE

3. COMMUNICATION

OUR 2014 T-SHIRT DESIGN

WOW!

FULL TACK SUPPLIER

FOR YOU & YOUR ICELANDIC

BRIDLES, SADDLES, GIRTHS, PADS, STIRRUPS, CLOTHING, BOOTS, GIFTS



INFO@TOLTTACK.COM

WWW.TOLTTACK.COM



Meant To Be Farm

www.MeantToBeFarm.com

Breeding and sales of quality Icelandic Horses

Also offering:

Stallion and broodmare management

Overnight stabling

109 Germanski Lane
New Castle, PA 16102

724-667-4184
juli2875@yahoo.com