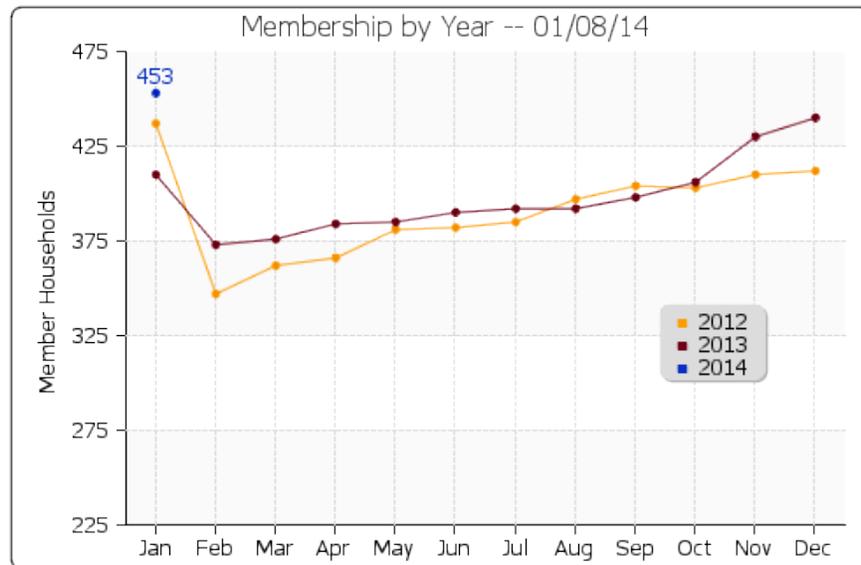


USIHC 2014 Secretary's Report

Doug Smith

Membership

The overall membership levels continue to follow the historic norm. The traditional metric has been households rather than individuals. A family membership with two adults and two children contributes one household and four persons.



The Free Youth Membership drive has had an impact in the overall levels but this may be somewhat misleading. There are cases where there is a family membership and one or more youth memberships active at the same address.

Closer inspection of addresses with more than one active membership reveals the following cases:

- More than one individual membership. [3 households, 7 members]*
- Individual membership with youth memberships. [5 household, 10 members]
- Family membership with youth memberships. [1 household, 3 members]
- Family membership and individual membership [1 household, 4 members]*
- More than one youth membership [3 household, 6 members]

While none of these numbers is extreme, the total represents the majority of the increase in memberships over the historic baseline. It, therefore, appears much of the early impact of the Free Youth Membership drive has been inside our normal constituency instead of broadening the membership base.

* These cases are either several adults at the same address or a family with an adult child that has been moved off the family membership to an individual membership in accordance with the Congress membership rules.

Committee Activity

In April, the Board discussed the various levels of activity in each committee using number of email messages in the monthly archives and reports to the Board as metrics. The statistics reported in April covered 2012 and 2013 to date. The complete 2013 statistics are:

Email Activity

	Board	Breeding	Education	Promotion	Quarterly	Regional Clubs	Sport	Youth
Jan	343	140	6	9	243		1	9
Feb	333	127	1	9	145		28	2
Mar	370	128	4	17	169	30	44	5
Apr	306	102			265			
May	329	176			132	31		1
Jun	332	113		41	96	3	5	2
Jul	308				103		10	7
Aug	314			23	70			
Sep	242			18	73	3		18
Oct	245	50	1	11	153			35
Nov	235		24		85			6

There was no email activity from the Youth Board or the Pleasure Riding Committee.

In comparison to the figures reported in April, the Board and Quarterly Committee continue to be the most active working groups. In both cases, the level of activity is higher than the same time in 2012. Breeding was much more active in the early part of 2013 than in 2012. The Youth Committee's activity increased in the last quarter of 2013. The other committees email activity remained largely the same as in 2012.

Reports to the Board

	Breeding	Education	Promotion	Pleasure Riding	Quarterly	Regional Clubs	Sport	Youth
Jan			X	X				
Feb	No Board Meeting							
Mar	Budget Meeting – No committee reporting							
Apr			X	X		XX	XX	XX
May					X			
Jun	X		X		X			
Jul		XX	X		X			X
Aug	No Board Meeting							
Sep			X	XX	X			X

“X” indicates a committee report was published in the agenda and minutes. “XX” indicates the committee responded to the call for reports with nothing to report. A blank box indicates no reply to the call for reports.

In summary, the Quarterly and Promotion committees reported to the Board on the same, very frequent level. The Youth committee became active at the end of the year but was otherwise less active than in 2012. The other committees submitted fewer reports throughout the entire year.

Conclusion

Based on these two metrics, it appears the Congress working groups were less active in 2013 than in 2012. It is any consolation, this trend matches what has been reported across the FEIF member associations.

Election

Once again, there was insufficient interest from the membership to support holding a Board election this year. We had one member, Kathy Lockerbie, decide not to stand for re-election and one nomination, Juli Cole, to fill the seat.

After the election, Barbara Frische resigned her seat on the Board because her work-related travel commitments do not afford her enough time to dedicate to the position. Barbara will remain the US Breeding Leader. The Board asked Andrea Barber to fill the vacancy and act as liaison to the Breeding Committee.

It is certainly a cost and time savings to not have to manage an election. The procedures are now in place to conduct the Board election online through our website. The procedures have been tested and are ready to go should we find it necessary to hold an election again.

Meetings

FEIF Conference

The US representation at the 2014 FEIF Conference in Reykjavik will be fairly typical. The US delegation consists of only two people: Will Covert (Delegates Assembly and Sport Meeting) and Barbara Frische (Breeding Meeting). We continue to have no representation in the other key FEIF departments: Youth, Education, Leisure Riding, and the Chairmans group.

US Annual Meeting & General Meetings

The attendance at the NEIHC-hosted general meeting was fairly typical. The meeting was made very effective thanks to Amy Goddard's efforts to gather questions beforehand so we could work from a list of topics known to be interesting to the audience.

Most of the topics were centered around the spending of membership funds. Essentially, the solution to this problem is coupled to the solution of the general apathy problem. We are short of good ideas and energy to implement them. The Board's offer of a grant program was well received and seemed to spark some interest in exploring new ideas. It remains to be seen if any momentum will build.

The meeting scheduled for January 2014 will likely be very poorly attended. The Congress will lose a significant amount of money in support of a meeting which has almost no member interest. Nevertheless, the gather has an opportunity to be productive as a face-to-face meeting of the Board and satisfies New Jersey's (our state of incorporation) demand for such a meeting.

United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.
Balance Sheet Standard
 As of December 31, 2013

	Dec 31, '13
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Associated Checking acct.	17,248.89
Associated Money Market Acct.	131,626.87
Total Checking/Savings	148,875.76
Other Current Assets	
CD ownd by USIHC matures 4/7/13	3,000.00
CDs for Judge Scholarship Fund	
CD-matures 10/5/17	3,034.63
CD-matures 10/5/15	3,018.03
CD-matures 9/29/16	1,003.51
Total CDs for Judge Scholarship ...	7,056.17
Total Other Current Assets	10,056.17
Total Current Assets	158,931.93
TOTAL ASSETS	158,931.93
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Unexpended Judge Schlshp. Fund	7,000.00
Unexpended World Champshp F...	1,053.23
Unexpended Youth Funds	5,727.70
Total Other Current Liabilities	13,780.93
Total Current Liabilities	13,780.93
Total Liabilities	13,780.93
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	96,926.56
Retained Earnings	41,178.38
Net Income	7,046.06
Total Equity	145,151.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	158,931.93

United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.
Income & Expense Report
January through December 2013
Page 1

Income		Expense	
		Breeding Committee Exp.	
		FEIF Evaluation fees	213.21
		Elwell Breeding Award	48.50
		Total Breeding Committee Exp.	261.71
Competition Inc.		Competition Comm. Expense	
FEIF World Ranking Comp Fee Inc.	329.84	FEIF World Ranking Comp. fee	673.30
Sanction Competition fee	872.52	National Ranking Award Expense	697.30
Total Competition Inc.	1,202.36	Total Competition Comm. Expense	1,370.60
Education Seminar Inc.		FEIF Conference exp.	
Riding Badge Inc.	80.00	FEIF 2013 Conference exp.	1,359.46
Total Education Seminar Inc.	80.00	Total FEIF Conference exp.	1,359.46
		Grant Expense	425.00
Interest Income	265.23		
Membership Related Income		Membership Related Expenses	
Farm Listing		Administration	
2013 Farm Listing	2,909.09	Mbshp. Postage	76.42
2014 Farm Listing	640.86	Office/Supplies Exp.	85.78
Total Farm Listing	3,549.95	Tax. Prep. Services	350.00
Membership Dues		Total Administration	512.20
2013 Membership dues		FEIF related expenses	
2013 Youth membership	377.08	FEIF Mbshp fees	1,690.25
2013 Family Membership	5,315.16	Total FEIF related expenses	1,690.25
2013 Individual Mbshp	11,792.06		
Total 2013 Membership dues	17,484.30	General Meeting Expense	477.23
2014 Membership dues		Insurance	715.00
2014 Family Mbshp	1,004.96		
2014 Individual Mbshp	2,041.81	Quarterly Expenses	
Total 2014 Membership dues	3,046.77	Graphics	4,000.00
Total Membership Dues	20,531.07	postage for Quarterly	1,720.07
Quarterly Inc.		Quarterly Printing	5,284.65
Quarterly Adv. Inc.	2,717.97	Total Quarterly Expenses	11,004.72
Quarterly back issue sales	82.20		
Total Quarterly Inc.	2,800.17		

United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.
Income & Expense Report
January through December 2013
Page 2

Income		Expense	
		Service fees	
		Bank Fees	49.00
		Total Service fees	49.00
Website Inc.		Toll Free line	155.40
Website Ad Inc.	1,524.26	Website	181.40
Total Website Inc.	1,524.26	WorldFengur Exp.	570.54
Total Membership Related Income	28,405.45	Total Membership Related Expenses	15,355.74
Other Income		Other expenses	
Booth Deposit/Refund	64.71	Expense to be reimbursed	7.67
Total Other Income	64.71	Total Other expenses	7.67
		Pleasure Rider Program Exp.	
		2012 PRP Award exp.	722.38
		Total Pleasure Rider Program Exp.	722.38
		Promotional Exp.	
		Display booth shipping	336.20
		Equine Affair Exp.	900.00
		Other Booth rental Expense	350.00
		Promotional postage expenses	247.29
		Promotion Material Printing exp	1,816.66
		RC Co-op promo exp.	565.47
		Promotional Exp. - Other	170.36
		Total Promotional Exp.	4,385.98
		Registry Expenses	
Registry Income		Clerical for registry	2,358.00
Duplicate Registration fees	488.40	Printing & reproduction-Regist.	247.74
Late Stallion Report fees	1,474.40	Registry Office supplies	119.47
Registration fees	3,317.09	Reg. WorldFengur Sbscrptn exp.	119.46
Transfer fees	2,501.05	Registry Postage	309.14
Total Registry Income	7,780.94	Total Registry Expenses	3,153.81
		WC Team Tryout Expenses	
USIHC Non-Member fees	668.21	WC 2013 Tryout exp.	2,656.21
WC Team Tryout Inc.		Total WC Team Tryout Expenses	2,656.21
WC 2013 Team Tryout Inc.	2,493.63	World Championship Expenses	
Total WC Team Tryout Inc.	2,493.63	WC 2013 Berlin Expenses	4,215.91
		Total World Championship Expenses	4,215.91
Total Income	40,960.53	Total Expense	33,914.47

Net Income: 7,046.06

Annual Report: Icelandic Horses Registered for year 2013

	Domestic Bred Under 12 Months	Imported Under 12 Months	Domestic Bred	Imported from Iceland	Imported from Canada	Imported from other countries	Total Registered		Total Transfers
Mares	19	0	12	9	1	1	42		104
Stallions	18	0	4	2	0	0	24		11
Geldings	5	0	9	11	3	0	28		60
Total 2013	42	0	25	22	4	1	Total	94	175
Total 2012	67	0	42	38	5	1	Total	153	179
	-25	0	-17	-16	-1	0		-59	-4

2013: Total number of horses registered: 94
2013: Total number of horses transferred 175

Domestic Horses registered **2902**
 Imported Horses registered in Worldfengur **2546**
 Total number of Icelandic horses registered in WorldFengur 12/31/2013 **5448**

Education Committee Report for 2013

The following members have passed the USIHC Basic Riding badge level 1:

1. Celeste Léone Wise
2. Grace Livie Ames
3. Lucia Ellerson

The following members have passed the USIHC Basic Riding badge level 2:

1. Rose Terami

The german version of the Trainer C educational material is still in translation process. It is our goal to have the complete material translated until the end of April 2014.

Bernie Willis has written a study guide for preparation of the USIHC badge program. It was reviewed by Gloria Verrecchio and is in the process of being reviewed by the education committee chair.

USIHC 2014 Promotion Committee Report

Juli Cole

In 2013 the designing of the new USIHC brochures was completed and the first run of 5,000 brochures were printed. These new brochures are owned by USIHC which gives us the ability to update the text and/or photos as needed and to print the brochures as needed. The Promotion Committee also developed a distribution policy for the new brochures which can be found under Policies & Procedures on the USIHC website. The brochures are free of charge to any USIHC member & all USIHC Regional Clubs. USIHC will also pay for USPS First Class postage for shipping the brochures. The distribution policy for promotional copies of the Quarterly was also updated to reflect that there is no charge for the copies to members or Regional Clubs requesting them. This can also be found on the USIHC website under Policies & Procedures in the section regarding the Quarterly.

To help make using the USIHC promotional display booth even more user friendly, the USIHC has developed a procedure for return shipping of the display booth via UPS. When a member or Regional Club requests the display booth, a pre-paid UPS return shipping label will now be sent to the user along with the display booth. Once the event is over, all the user needs to do is attach the pre-paid label to the booth's shipping container and call UPS for a pick up or hand the booth to any UPS driver, or drop it off at a UPS Customer Service Center.

To close out 2013 the Promotion Committee developed an exciting new program, called the Breed Ambassador Program, that will be launched in 2014. Any USIHC member who participates in any organized all-breed horse event with their registered Icelandic Horse is eligible to enter this contest and have the chance to win prizes in a lottery style drawing. Look for complete information about this program on the USIHC website and in the March 2014 Quarterly.

Moving ahead in 2014 the Promotion Committee plans to continue researching and implementing effective methods of introducing the Icelandic Horse breed and USIHC to potential new members/owners. These plans include developing a guide that will help interested organizers of Sanctioned Shows and Breeding Evaluations promote their events to the general public to help increase the number of spectators at these events.

Projected changes to the 2014 Promotion Committee budget include removing the expense for the printing of the new USIHC brochures and adding approximately 350 for prizes for the new Breed Ambassador Program. It is also anticipated that the expenses for the MA & OH Equine Affairs will increase, and an expense for a promotional "give-away" item (examples: window sticker, fridge magnet, key fob) for members may be included to the 2014 budget.

USIHC QUARTERLY COMMITTEE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

submitted by:

Nancy Marie Brown and Nicki Esdorn, co-chairs

January 9, 2014

Long-time committee chair Judy Strehler stepped down this year and we thank her for her years of contributions and support; we're happy she's agreed to stay on the committee. Committee member Nicki Esdorn volunteered to co-chair the committee with Nancy Marie Brown. Committee membership averaged 15 members, all women—we hope some male USIHC members will join us in 2014 and contribute their insights. (More women are always welcome on the committee too.) In addition, we have a number of regular contributors who are not committee members. We thank them all for their support. Finally, we'd like to thank Doug Smith, as USIHC secretary and webmaster, whose contributions to the Quarterly are essential, and Juli Cole, as Promotion director, who has worked hard to include use of the Quarterly in USIHC promotional activities.

In 2013, the Quarterly Committee produced four issues of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*. Each issue was 52 pages long, with a color cover and a total of 41 feature articles and numerous news items written and illustrated by committee members and other USIHC members.

The four 2013 issues were released electronically as PDF files and posted by the USIHC webmaster on www.icelandics.org on approximately Feb. 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15, and mailed approximately two weeks later. Design costs of \$1000 per issue included both the electronic (full color) and the print (black-and-white with color cover) editions. Costs for printing were just over \$1200 per issue for 500 copies; of these up to 418 were mailed directly to members and contributors, 30 were given to the Membership Director for Welcome Packets for new members, and the remainder given to the Promotion Committee for promotional use. Postage (by the most economical bulk mail method) and handling totalled roughly \$500 per issue. Copies to our FEIF colleagues were sent electronically.

The goals of the Quarterly committee are to educate and entertain the membership, and to promote the USIHC and the breed, by showing the versatility of the Icelandic horse and focusing on its health and welfare in the U.S. The committee continued its efforts to present “best practices” in both text and photographs. Topics covered all facets of the Icelandic horse world, including: interviews with top riders and breeders, updates on research into summer eczema and spavin, training tips, youth essays, thoughts from the Pleasure Rider Award winners, and news from the Regional Clubs, USIHC Committees, the USIHC Board of Directors, and FEIF.

Starting in March 2014, *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly* will upgrade to a full-color magazine. Simultaneously, we are launching a membership drive, printing 1000 copies and giving away at least half to potential new USIHC members. The committee is very excited about this opportunity; from the response we have already received to our membership drive, so are the general USIHC members. Advertising, both paid and free ads for Congress and Regional Club events and programs, has increased for the March issue. Trainers and breeders have requested free copies to give to their non-USIHC clients, and requests from individual Regional Club members who are not already USIHC members have already begun coming in.

In conjunction with the membership drive, Quarterly co-chair Nicki Esdorn has volunteered to take over the job of sending out Welcome Packets to new USIHC members (we're hoping to have dozens of these in the next six months). She is also coordinating with secretary Doug Smith to make sure we do not send out duplicate copies of the magazine.

Preparation of the March 2014 issue is on schedule; the electronic edition will be released Feb. 15 and the print edition will be mailed on March 1.

The March 2014 issue of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*—our first *full color* issue—features 52 pages of fun and information about the Icelandic horse. Stories include an interview with breeding award-winner Martina Gates, profiles of our FEIF Youth Cup candidates, an update on summer eczema research, film reviews, an adventure in

Iceland, and an introduction to the newest Icelandic show team in the country, along with the latest news from the Regional Clubs, the Board of Directors, and our parent organization, FEIF. This issue also includes pages on “Why Join the USIHC” and “Why Register Your Icelandic Horse,” which will become standard in future issues.

USIHC Sport Committee 2013

Sanctioned Shows in 2013

Location	Date	FEIF International Judge(s)
Santa Ynez, CA	April 27-28	Rune Svendsen
Eagle, WI	May 11-12	Nicolai Thye
Reston, VA	May 18-19	Ann Winter
World Championships		Thorgeir Gudlaugsson
Tryouts CA, DE, GA, NY, NY 1	May 25- June 1	
Eagle, WI	July 20-21	Halldór Gunnar Victorsson
Watsonville, CA	Sept 7-8	Will Covert
Eagle, WI	Sept 7-8	Halldór Gunnar Victorsson, Pétur Jökull Hákonarson
Claverack, NY	Sept 21-22	Will Covert
Prospect, KY	Oct 12-13	Pétur Jökull Hákonarson, Nicolai Thye, Åsa William
*Santa Ynez, CA	Oct 18	Florian Schneider, Alexander Sgustav, Nicolai Thye, Åsa William, Will Covert
*Santa Ynez, CA	Oct 19	Florian Schneider, Alexander Sgustav, Nicolai Thye, Åsa William, Will Covert
*Santa Ynez, CA	Oct 20	Florian Schneider, Alexander Sgustav, Nicolai Thye, Åsa William, Will Covert

*FEIF World Ranking competitions

2013 There were a total of 11 Sanctioned shows vs. 7 in 2012

Year End National Ranking 2012			Year End National Ranking 2013		
Award Winners			Award Winners		
Discipline	Rider	Average	Discipline	Rider	Average
T1	Asta Covert	8.80	T1	Asta Covert	8.80
T2	Anne-Marie Martin	7.50	T2	Asta Covert	7.40
T3	Dominic Ng	6.19	T3	Dominic Ng	6.50
T4	Doug Smith	6.55	T4	Doug Smith	6.65
T5	Dominic Ng	6.22	T5	Mitch Martin	5.67
T6	Willy Ma	4.47	T6	Willy Ma	4.80
T7	Colleen Monsef	5.95	T7	Colleen Monsef	5.95
T8	Elizabeth Monsef	6.15	T8	Elizabeth Robertson	7.00
V1	Asta Covert	8.02	V1	Asta Covert	8.03
V2	Lucy Nold	6.19	V2	Rachel Ng	6.45
V3	Dominic Ng	6.27	V3	Laurie Prestine	6.05
V5	Colleen Monsef	6.09	V5	Colleen Monsef	6.09
V6	Jessica Blough	6.15	V6	Elizabeth Robertson	6.35
F1	Gudmar Petursson	6.70	F1	Carrie Lyons Brandt	6.90
F2	Barbara Chilton	3.59	F2	Kari Pietsch-Wangard	6.00

FEIF World Ranking

There were 3 FEIF World Ranking events in 2013 and 7 US riders ranked on the FEIF list in 2013

To view the complete FEIF World Ranking List:

<http://www.feif.org/WorldRanking/tabid/188/Default.aspx>

US Team Results at the World Championships Held in Berlin Germany August 4- 11, 2013

Preliminary Round Results

F1 – Five Gait

18 173 Chrissy Seipolt / Dreki vom Wotanshof [DE2003134634] / US 6,27
6,4 - 6,1 - 5,9 - 6,3 - 6,4 6,27

PP1 - Pace Test

21 173 Chrissy Seipolt / Dreki vom Wotanshof [DE2003134634] / US 5,96
1st Heat 4,0 - 7,0 - 7,5 - 6,0 - 9,9" 5,83
2nd Heat 4,5 - 6,5 - 7,0 - 6,0 - 9,5" 6,08

V1 – Four Gait

08 172 Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert / Dynjandi frá Dalvík [IS1997165190] / US 7,60
7,7 - 7,7 - 7,2 - 7,6 - 7,5 7,60

26 175 Shannon Hughes / Asi from Mill Farm [US2000103634] / US 6,50
6,7 - 6,0 - 6,6 - 6,4 - 6,5 6,50

40 174 Madison Prestine [YR] / Straumur frá Enni [IS2003158450] / US 5,43
5,5 - 5,3 - 5,8 - 5,5 - 5,1 5,43

T2 – Loose Rein Tolt

32 173 Chrissy Seipolt / Dreki vom Wotanshof [DE2003134634] / US 5,97
6,1 - 5,8 - 6,0 - 6,1 - 5,3 5,97

T1 – Tolt

12 172 Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert / Dynjandi frá Dalvík [IS1997165190] / US 7,70
7,7 - 8,0 - 7,7 - 7,7 - 7,7 7,70

30 175 Shannon Hughes / Asi from Mill Farm [US2000103634] / US 6,70
6,8 - 6,3 - 6,5 - 6,8 - 6,8 6,70

40 174 Madison Prestine [YR] / Straumur frá Enni [IS2003158450] / US 5,83
5,2 - 6,2 - 5,8 - 5,5 - 6,2 5,83

Results from Final Rounds

T1 - Tölt T1 Adults - B-Final

08 172 Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert / Dynjandi frá Dalvík [IS1997165190] / US 7,95
Slow Tölt 8,5 - 8,0 - 7,5 - 8,5 - 8,0 8,17
Lengthen Stride 7,5 - 8,0 - 8,5 - 7,5 - 7,5 7,67
Fast Tölt 8,0 - 8,5 - 8,0 - 8,0 - 8,0 8,00

V1 - Four Gait Adults - B-Final

08 172 Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert / Dynjandi frá Dalvík [IS1997165190] / US 7,57
Tölt 7,5 - 8,0 - 7,5 - 8,0 - 8,0 7,83
Trot 7,0 - 7,0 - 7,5 - 7,0 - 7,0 7,00
Walk 7,0 - 7,5 - 6,5 - 7,5 - 7,0 7,17
Canter 8,0 - 7,5 - 7,5 - 8,0 - 8,0 7,83
Tölt 8,0 - 8,0 - 7,5 - 8,0 - 8,0 8,00

Combination: Five Gait Adults

10 173 Chrissy Seipolt / Dreki vom Wotanshof [DE2003134634] / US 6,07

Combination: Four Gait Adults

07 172 Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert / Dynjandi frá Dalvík [IS1997165190] / US 7,65

United States Youth

2013--A Year of Growth



USIHC Youth Committee
January 7, 2014

United States Youth Report 2013

It is impossible to capture in a written report the spirit of the Youth riders in the United States in 2013. Word is spreading throughout the United States on the valor, energy, beauty and grace of the Icelandic horse, and the youth of the country are leading the charge. In 2013, the United States was very proud to send one of its youth members, Madison Prestine, to the FEIF World Championships in Berlin, marking the second time that a young rider from across the Atlantic has participated.



Madison Prestine riding Straumur frá Enni at FEIF World Championship, Berlin

Youth Membership

The numbers are impressive: youth membership in the U.S. Icelandic Horse Congress (USIHC) nearly doubled in 2013 to 101. In the nation's two largest regional clubs, youth membership climbed dramatically. The Northeast Icelandic Horse Club had the most impressive growth, from only four young members in 2012 to 36 in 2013. The Northern California Icelandic Horse Club doubled its youth program, from 15 members to 30 over the span of the year. These numbers clearly represent the growing enthusiasm for the Icelandic breed in the United States. We believe that we have a unique opportunity to ensure that this new generation of riders continues to act as ambassadors for the breed to their peers throughout the country, and to spread nationwide their love for the Icelandic horse.

Forty-six of the fifty U.S. states are represented in the USIHC membership, with 589 members total. Like the U.S. population, membership tends to be concentrated into the Northeast and the West Coast, but the USIHC also boasts membership in areas as geographically and culturally diverse as Alaska and Hawaii.

National Support for Youth

The USIHC supports young riders directly in many ways. USIHC has traditionally offered financial assistance to youth for educational opportunities such as clinics and seminars, and to cover some costs related to participation in international activities. In 2013, youth riders were awarded scholarships for show participation, international competition, camps and clinics. In addition, at its 2013 Annual Meeting the USIHC conducted a raffle to benefit youth. To promote youth membership and education, the USIHC is currently offering a free one-year membership to first-time youth applicants.

Communicating with and creating relationships across a membership that is as diverse as the United States membership is a challenging endeavor. The USIHC's primary methods of communicating, and of connecting its geographically dispersed members are the website, www.icelandics.org, and The Icelandic Quarterly publication. The magazine, offered free with a USIHC membership, is an informative and entertaining magazine published by the USIHC and avidly enjoyed by all of its members, particularly the youth. Among other things, the Quarterly provides updates on the activities of each regional club, educational articles on the Icelandic breed, and calendars of upcoming and recent events.

The Quarterly is host to a regular youth column which is written by one or more youth members. The "column" has expanded to several pages in recent issues, and has become a popular way for young riders to share their experiences, including stories, poetry and even artwork. In 2013, the column included articles written by young riders on such topics as: getting a "zero" score in a

show for having the wrong lead; trying Dressage with Icelandic horses; trying out for the World Championship team; and learning how to use leg and seat aids more effectively. Most importantly, the Icelandic Quarterly is providing youth with a way to connect with each other, share their experiences, and feel a part of a larger community of Icelandic horse lovers.

Having members that can live as far as 8000 kilometers from each other makes national events quite difficult and cost-prohibitive, especially for young riders, so it is not possible for the USIHC to equitably support or host national events or shows. Therefore, in addition to the direct support described above, the USIHC supports young riders indirectly through many regional clubs. These regional clubs encourage youth-oriented local and regional events that are more accessible. There are fourteen official regional Icelandic riding clubs in the United States, each of which sponsors its own events and activities with the support and encouragement of the USIHC.

Regional Clubs Support for Youth

There were numerous youth activities and events sponsored by regional clubs in the United States in 2013, including nine sanctioned shows, all of which provided youth-oriented classes such as V6 (Youth Four Gait), VBR (Beginning Rider Four Gait), T8 (Youth Tölt) and TBR (Beginning Rider Tölt). The majority of the shows also incorporated fun, youth-oriented classes such as Pairs, Sit-a-Buck, Root Beer Tölt, costume classes, lead-line classes, and youth horsemanship classes.

In addition to shows, here are just a few more examples the ways in which regional clubs encourage and support their youth members through fun and educational events and activities.

Youth Days

Regional clubs across the country sponsored several Youth Days and “Hestadagar” events to bring geographically dispersed young riders together. In Northern California, obstacle courses, games and races were used to encourage good horsemanship, teamwork, and fun. In the Northeast, the regional club designated June 15, 2013 as Icelandic Horse Youth Day, and several farms across the region participated with youth demonstrations, games, events, and riding opportunities for members of the public interested in learning more about Icelandic horses.



Katherine Monsef (Minnie) with her horse Fleygur(Mickey) in “Costume Tölt” at CIA Show

Camps and Clinics

Camps and clinics specifically designed for youth riders were held across the country in 2013. In California, the Northeast and the Midwest scholarships, free auditing, and free loaner horses were offered to young riders to enable broader participation.

Veterinary Clinics

Clinics with local veterinarians were organized in California to educate young riders on basic horse care, first aid, and lameness detection. Over 25 youth participated in these clinics, which were provided free to regional club members.

Drill Teams and Parades

Several regional clubs across the country created “Drill Teams” where groups of young riders practice riding in formation and synchronization.

Kentucky Youth Participate in Clinic



Badge Programs

A Riding Badge Program was formed in the Northeast modeled on the Swiss program. The program was designed to teach young riders the basics of horse care, gaits, training and competition. The Northeast regional club intends to assist other clubs in 2014 to create similar programs.

Breed Publicity and Education

Throughout 2013, U.S. young riders showed their enthusiasm for educating the rest of the country on the fabulous Icelandic breed.

Young riders show off their Icelandic horses at gaited horse show in CA



Across the country, young riders showed off the breed in several horse shows and equestrian events not dedicated purely to Icelandic horses. In **Alaska**, young riders participated in Pony Club activities, trail trials and eventing clinics. In **Oregon**, club members showed off the breed at the Northwest Horse Expo, showing off their drill team and educating hundreds of potential young riders. In **California**, young riders competed in all-breed (gaited) horse shows hosted by the American Saddlebred Association. In **Maine**, the Icelandic club presented a demonstration “The Versatility of the Icelandic Horse” to an audience of hundreds of school children and other fair attendees at the Maine Agricultural fair. In the Midwest, the regional club youth participated in club-sponsored Icelandic horse demonstrations and educational seminars at two Spring horse fairs, the **Minnesota** Horse Expo and the Midwest Horse fair in **Wisconsin**. Also in Wisconsin, young riders brought their Icelandic horses to a local festival “Scandinavian Days”, presenting gait demonstrations and other educational information about the Icelandic horse. The Rocky Mountain regional club, which spans several U.S. states, took eight Icelandic horses to the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver, Colorado, to show off the breed to young riders in the wild west.

Some of the publicity and educational efforts of regional clubs in 2013 had dual purposes. Regional clubs across the country participated in and sponsored youth

activities to raise money not only for their clubs but also for deserving charitable causes. Young riders took their horses to fairs and offered rides to children to support museums and to fund building houses in Mexico, among other causes.



Jessica Blough, 14, offers rides to children on her horse, Hugljúf, in support of house building in Mexico.

Icelandic youth riders took to the streets in December to show off their breed in holiday parades. The Northern California Icelandic Horse Club showed off the largest equine group in their holiday parade with 23 horses, the vast majority of them ridden by riders under the age of 18.



Internships

At least three U.S. youth held internships at U.S. Icelandic farms over the summer of 2013, one in Vermont and two in California. These youth, ages 14 to 16, were given the opportunity to train, ride, ground-work and even be involved in starting and breeding Icelandic horses.

About The USIHC Youth Committee

The Youth Committee of the USIHC consists of any USIHC member who wishes to participate. It has members from across the United States, including California, Wisconsin, New York, Massachusetts, and Virginia. It meets by phone once a month, and additionally as needed. It communicates with members primarily through regional club communication lists, through the USIHC website, and through the Icelandic Quarterly magazine (see Communication and Publicity above).

USIHC Youth in 2014

The United States has big plans for its young Icelandic riders in 2014. Eight young riders have submitted applications to the FEIF Youth Cup in Iceland in 2014, and many other young riders have expressed an interest in attending clinics in Iceland over the summer as well.

Closer to home, the USIHC Youth Committee hopes to capitalize on the growth and enthusiasm that we saw in 2013 and to further grow our youth participation and membership. In particular, the Youth Committee hopes to spread to other parts of the country certain activities and events that were particularly successful in 2013. For example, members from Northern California who organized successful veterinary clinics would provide information to other regions on organizing similar events. The NEIHC will be assisting interested clubs in establishing a successful badge program. The Committee plans to promote and encourage fun events such as Hestadagar and Water Play days, and plans to expand the very successful Youth Day created by the NEIHC to more clubs across the country.



Young riders Jamie Blough and Madeline Pollock ride a Pairs class at NCIHC show