

ISSUE FOUR

THE

2009

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)

HANDICAPPED RIDING • USING WORLDFENGUR • STARI FRAN BREDHALL

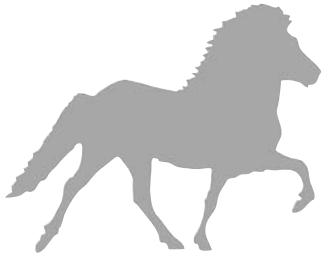
TÖLTNEWS

AMERICA'S ICELANDIC HORSE MAGAZINE



FOUR TIMES A YEAR. FULL COLOR. FANTASTIC.

TO SUBSCRIBE: WWW.TOLTNEWS.COM



THE
ICELANDIC
HORSE
QUARTERLY
Issue Four 2009

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

©2009 All rights reserved.

The Icelandic Horse Quarterly is
published in March, June, Sep-
tember, and December by the
USIHC as a benefit of member-
ship. Membership fees of \$45
per individual (\$35 for youth
members) or \$65 per family (2
adults and children) are due
on January 1 each year. Renew
online at www.icelandics.org.

USIHC members are encour-
aged to submit articles and
photos or illustrations for pub-
lication. 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 edi-
torial committee at quarterly@icelandics.org. We reserve the
right to edit submissions.

Advertising rates and instruc-
tions are also online at www.icelandics.org.

Back issues of *The Icelandic Horse
Quarterly* may be purchased for
\$5.00 each as available.

Quarterly Committee: Heidi
Benson, Andrea Brodie, Nancy
Marie Brown, Denise Chyth-
look, Alys Culhane, Yvonne
Eberling, Anne Elwell, Amy
Goddard, Maike Liekweg,
Penny Miller, Alex Pregitzer,
Chris Romano, Judy Strehler
(chair), Thorunn
Kristjansdottir, Bernie Willis,
Nancy Wines-Dewan

Graphic Design: James Collins

Contact the Editorial Commit-
tee at quarterly@icelandics.org

ICELANDIC HORSE

Q U A R T E R L Y

5 NEWS

5 USIHC News

10 FEIF News

12 International News

13 Regional Club Updates

19 FEATURES

19 The 2009 Icelandic Horse World Championships *by Maike Liekweg*

24 The World Championships: An Alternate's View *by Kari Pietsch-Wangard*

27 Behind the Scenes at Youth Camp U.S.A. *by Barb Riva & Anne Elwell*

31 A Kid's View of Youth Camp 2009 *by Emily Pfoutz*

33 Cold Feet: An Interview with Jan Gerd Rhenius *by Yvonne Eberling*

34 Teachers and Trainers: Who Is Knútur Berndsen? *by Alex Pregitzer*

36 Winter Boredom Breakers *by Yvonne Eberling*

40 Rising to the Challenge *by Marilyn Tully*

43 LETTERS

47 MARKETPLACE

ON THE COVER: Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert and Dynjandi frá Dalvík [IS1997165190] at the 2009 Icelandic Horse World Championships in Brunnadern, Switzerland. The pair took second place in the Four-Gait Combination, having placed third in T1 Tolt and fourth in V1 Four-Gait. Photo by Mark Johnson.



FEIF AND THE USIHC

FEIF is the international association dedicated to the protection and promotion of Icelandic horses. Comprised of the National Breed Associations of 17 European countries (including Iceland), Canada, and the United States, it governs competition activities and regulates the breeding and registration of Icelandic horses throughout the world outside of Iceland. See www.feif.org for more information.

The United States Icelandic Horse Congress 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. As a FEIF member organization, the Congress maintains the Registry of Icelandic Horses in the United States, sponsors U.S. participation in international competition, and regulates breeding and competition activities in the United States in accordance with FEIF rules. USIHC also sponsors activities, events, and educational programs in the United States which are beneficial to the overall interests of the breed. Yearly membership is \$45 (\$35 for youth members); family membership, \$65. For more information, see the Congress website at www.icelandics.org.

Contact the USIHC:

United States Icelandic Horse Congress
c/o Kari Pietsch-Wangard
4525 Hewitts Point Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
(907) 357-4233
info@icelandics.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ásta Covert
Anne Elwell (incoming 1/1/10)
Kathy Lockerbie
Sara Lyter (incoming 1/1/10)
Karen Olson-Fields
Susan Peters
Kari Pietsch-Wangard
Doug Smith (term ends 12/31/09)
Cindy Wescott
Bernie Willis (resigning 12/31/09)

Officers will be chosen in January

REGISTRY

The Congress maintains the Registry of Icelandic Horses in the United States in accordance with FEIF rules. The Registry Rules and all forms needed to register an Icelandic Horse in the United States are available on the Congress website at www.icelandics.org. Contact Asta Covert P.O. Box 1724, Santa Ynez, CA 93460; 805-688-1393; registry@icelandics.org

WEBSITE

Visit www.icelandics.org to update or renew your membership, download the electronic Quarterly, subscribe to RSS feeds for the Events Calendar or web updates, register for WorldFengur, find a Regional Club or USIHC registered horse, join a committee, download USIHC guidelines and forms, submit a proposal, and learn more about FEIF and the USIHC.

COMMITTEES

USIHC programs are organized by the following committees. To join a committee, contact the following:

Breeding

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

Constitution Review

Kari Pietsch-Wangard (907-357-4233)
constitutional_review@icelandics.org

Education

Alex Pregitzer (608-436-1751)
education@icelandics.org

Pleasure Riding

Karen Olson-Fields (801-523-5077)
pleasure_riding@icelandics.org

Promotion

Cindy Wescott (207-637-2338)
promotion@icelandic.org

Quarterly

Judy Strehler (763-498-8432)
quarterly@icelandics.org

Regional Clubs

Barb Riva (262-594-5152)
regional_clubs@icelandics.org

Sport Competition

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

Website

Doug Smith
website@icelandics.org

Youth

Susan Peters (802-889-9585)
youth@icelandics.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bernie Willis writes: A friend of mine is running for the local assembly. He has ideas he feels will make our community a better place to live. He sees a need and has the time and ambition to fill it. I applaud him. Here at the USIHC our situation is much the same: While some of us feel the strain of time and other issues, other members see needs within the organization and have the ambition to meet them. Our constitution allows us to save some money by not having an actual election when those running are unopposed for the seats available on the Board. This year is the first time this has happened, and it will save several hundred dollars of printing and mailing. Our new Board members are Cindy Wescott for another term, Sara Lyter as a new member, and Anne Elwell returning after a short time away. Please welcome them to the Board personally when you see them. I have confidence that they will do well, and that our organization will benefit from their hard work.

I've been asked to explain my situation. I have to admit that in my last president's letter, when I announced that I would not be running for reelection next year, I had miscalculated the length of my term. Since I first joined the Board, the term lengths changed from two to three years. I simply did the math wrong. Nevertheless my reasons for not continuing on the Board remain the same, so I will make my resignation effective the end of this year. I trust the new Board will use this open position to the advantage of the club by appointing someone who can fill a specific need of the Board. Much of the development of the organization in recent years has come because of individuals who had special talents for certain projects. Our website and financials are two of these special areas.

It has been a wonderful year for the USIHC. We can all reflect on the unparalleled success of the FEIF Youth Camp at Winterhorse Park, thanks to all the volunteers and youth involved and hosts Dan and Barb Riva. You can only imagine my pride when sitting in the stands at the



Congratulations to Asta Covert for winning the bronze medal in T1 Tolt at the 2009 Icelandic Horse World Championships in Brunnadern, Switzerland. Photo by Mark Johnson.

World Championships in Switzerland this summer as the president of FEIF, Jens Iverson, announced "the best of all youth camps" having just been completed in the U.S.

Our presence at the World Championships was not over with that announcement. Will Covert was there for nearly every class, judging with the team of International Judges. Then there was the incredible performance of Asta Covert in tolt. The crowd went wild when they saw Dynjandi and Asta literally dance the slow tolt together. It wasn't only a moment of brilliance, but a performance that continued the full distance. Most of us had never seen such riding before. I wish all of you could have been there to share the experience. You can get a hint of it on YouTube (search for "Islandpferde-WM 2009 - T1-Finale - isibless").

This is my last letter from the president's position. It's been a grand adventure filled with apprehension, suspense, and success. I wish the best to those who follow and remain committed to the understanding and promotion of the Icelandic horse.

2009 ELECTION

Dawn Shaw, chair of the Election Committee, reports her committee received only three qualified candidates for this year's Board of Directors election. In accordance with Article IV Section 3 of the Constitution, no ballots will be sent to the membership and the three candidates will join the Board effective January 1, 2010. Bernie Willis has tendered his resignation effective with the arrival of the new Board. Therefore, the 2010 Board will have one vacancy to be filled at its discretion. The new Board will consist of Ásta Covert, Anne Elwell, Kathy Lockerbie, Sara Lyter, Karen Olson-Fields, Susan Peters, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, and Cindy Wescott. The new Board will elect its officers at the first meeting in 2010.

TIME TO RENEW!

Your membership in the U.S. Icelandic Horse Congress expires December 31, if you joined before December 1, 2009. Please continue your support of the Icelandic horse in the United States by renewing for 2010 now. Timely renewals help advance all of the Congress's proj-



ects—not least of which is the *Quarterly*.

Early this year the Board made a commitment to establishing a balanced budget. Each member contributes to the accuracy of this budget with a timely renewal, letting the Board plan ahead and avoid financial problems. In the opening months of 2009, for example, the Board's concern over not meeting expenses directly contributed to the suspension of financial support for new competitions in the United States.

A postal and/or electronic mailing will be sent out in December reminding everyone to renew their memberships. This year the mailing will include a detailed summary of your contact information, information about the optional farm or stallion listings associated with your membership, your Pleasure Rider Program enrollment status, and a summary of your committee membership.

In the electronic version, there will be a link allowing you to renew your membership (if no changes are needed) with one click of the mouse. When you click on the link you will be routed directly to PayPal, where you can review the fees and arrange payment from your PayPal account or by major credit card. If you do not have a PayPal account and opt to use your credit card, none of your card information will be saved.

Please consider taking advantage of the electronic notification and the use of PayPal to pay for your member-

ship. When you use PayPal you help the volunteers who have generously given of their time to staff the Congress office. All membership transactions paid via PayPal are completely automatic and instantaneous. If, instead, you choose to receive your notices via the U.S. Mail, you are asking someone to print the letters, stuff envelopes, address them, add postage, and take them to the post office. After you let the reminder sit on your desk for a few days or weeks, you then have to write a check, address an envelope, and get it to the post office. When it arrives in the Treasurer's mailbox, she has to open the envelopes, prepare a bank deposit, make the deposit, and update all of your information in the membership database before your membership is once again active. Isn't that an immense amount of unnecessary time and effort? Please allow us to contact you via email.

Over the past two years nearly one-third of the membership has opted for electronic notification of official Congress business, such as notices of election, annual meeting invitations, and membership renewal reminders. Your privacy is protected, as your contact information is never shared with anyone not on official Congress business. The number of email messages we send to you is kept to a strict minimum. Rarely is an email message sent that does not have an accompanying postal mailing to the rest of the membership.

As part of our pledge to respect your



privacy and in agreement with our Internet service provider, we cannot contact you via email without your permission. Granting (or revoking) that permission has never been easier. Just visit www.icelandics.org/contact and follow the instructions.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark this date, January 16, 2010. Have you ever wondered why so many Icelandic horses are ridden with a dropped nose band? Why not use an English cavasson or some other bridle arrangement? Common snaffle bits are popular but are they the best for our horses? What does blood in the mouth really mean? We've all heard about spavin and don't want to see it in our personal mounts, but how can we prevent it? We all like pretty horses and perhaps have a favorite color, but what's behind these beautiful colors?

Sigridur Bjornsdottir, Ph.D., assisted by her husband Olafur I. Sigurgeirsson, M.S., will be our guest speakers at the USIHC Annual Meeting. Their presentation will focus on these topics: bone spavin, insect bite hypersensitivity (summer eczema), color variation, and bits and biting. Systa is the Icelandic state veterinarian and earned her Ph.D. in Sweden studying spavin. Her study of the genetics of spavin continues. She probably knows more about the subject than anyone in the world, especially when it comes to Icelandic horses. Systa is also part of the FEIF veterinary group that deals with the welfare of the horse in competitive events like Landsmot and the World Championships. Olie is a research scientist associated with Holar University. Although his primary responsibilities are in aquaculture, he knows genetics and will share his knowledge of Icelandic horse colors. Here is our opportunity to ask the experts. They will be open to any health questions about the Icelandic horse.

This unique opportunity with Systa and Olie will start after lunch Jan. 16, 2010, in association with the USIHC Annual Meeting. The morning will be filled with reports and discussion, and in the evening please join us for the annual awards banquet. This year's Annual Meeting will be held in Virginia at

the Sheraton Reston Hotel. It is located four miles from the Dulles International Airport and about 20 miles from Washington, D.C. Shuttle service is available. Make your reservations at a special rate by Jan. 1, 2010 by calling 1-800-325-3535.

The official notice of the Annual Meeting will be in your mailbox soon. Olie and Systa are volunteering their time with us, but we must cover their expenses. There will be a nominal charge for their presentations, and separate charges for the banquet. You will receive the schedule and other details in your Annual Meeting notice. For more information and a link to make hotel reservations online, see the Event Calendar on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org).

BREEDING JUDGE PROPOSAL

Katrin Sheehan, in her capacity as chair of the Breeding Committee, has withdrawn the proposal discussed at the May Board meeting and reported in Issue Three 2009 of the *Quarterly* (see page 10). The idea was to establish a written



program that would lead a person to become an International Breeding Judge as recognized by FEIF. Since the proposal was withdrawn, the Board has taken no action on the idea.

TRAINERS LIST

The Education Committee has prepared a list of certified horse trainers and riding

instructors in the United States. The list links to a description of the FEIF education matrix and an overview of two of the most common FEIF-recognized trainer licensing programs: FT from Iceland and the German trainer program IPZV. Individuals who have completed the necessary requirements to be certified by one of these programs are listed. The trainers list can be found under Training on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org). The Congress does not endorse any of these individuals: This information is provided as a resource for Icelandic horse owners in their search for trainers. You should interview any potential trainer to confirm the trainer's experience is appropriate for you and your horse. Please contact education@icelandics.org if you believe any of the following information is factually inaccurate.

NEW PAYPAL OPTION

The Icelandic Horse Registry now accepts PayPal for all fee-based transactions, including transfer of ownership, new registrations, duplicate certificates, and late/amended stallion reports. To use PayPal, fill in a short form on the USIHC website under Breed Registry. After you complete the transaction, just include a copy of your PayPal receipt with your registry forms.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

The USIHC is on Facebook. To become a fan simply search for USIHC and click the "Become a Fan" button. As a fan, you can write on the USIHC page's "wall" and make other contributions. The page is a resource for the membership but isn't directly maintained by the USIHC; currently, two Congress members administer it, but they are not acting in any official capacity.

Facebook is the most used social networking website worldwide. Users can add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Additionally, users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region. The website's name stems from the colloquial name of books given at the start of the ac-



ademic year by university administrations with the intention of helping students get to know each other better. The site was founded by a group of computer science students at Harvard, then quickly expanded to other Ivy League schools. As its popularity grew, the site came to include any university student worldwide, followed quickly by any high school student, and finally anyone aged 13 and over. The website currently boasts more than 250 million active users worldwide.

FALL SHOWS

The Flugnrkeppni Competition was held September 11-13 at Winterhorse Park in Eagle, WI; organizers were Barb and Dan Riva (winterhorse@centurytel.net). As this issue of the *Quarterly* was in press, the Eastern Seaboard Icelandic Horse Show, held October 2-4 at the Lexington, Virginia Horse Center, had just concluded; the organizer was Anne Elwell (pruthur@aol.com). The Kentucky Icelandic Horse Show was to be held October 31 to November 1; a breeding evaluation was planned to precede it on Oct. 28-29; organizer of both was Kathy Love (kathrynlovemd@aol.com). The CIA Open Fall show was to be held Nov. 7-8 at Flying C Ranch in Santa Ynez, CA; organizer was Asta Covert (asta@tolt.net). All four shows were USIHC-sanctioned and will contribute to the National Ranking. Scores will be posted online on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org) under Shows and Competition.



YOUNG HORSES

Young horses from foals up to and including three-year-olds were evaluated by FEIF International Breeding Judge Barbara Frische, with help from USIHC Breeding Leader Katrin Sheehan, at several locations this fall, including Alaska, New Hampshire, Washington, Wisconsin, and Georgia. Horses were shown in hand and at liberty (in a round pen) and scored on conformation, temperament, and gaits. Owners received written assessments and comments, and scores will be officially recorded. Contact the breeding committee for information on future young horse evaluations.

BOARD MEETINGS

The USIHC Board of Directors met in August and September; the Board voted to cancel the July conference call after reviewing old and new business, as the Youth Cup and World Championship preparation were deemed more pressing than any issue on the July agenda. Board members Ásta Covert, Kathy Lockerbie, Karen Olson-Fields, Susan Peters, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, Doug Smith, Cindy Wescott, and Bernie Willis were present. Observers were Annette Coulon, Anne Elwell, Barb Riva, Dawn Shaw, and Katrin Sheehan. Complete minutes can be found on the USIHC website; a summary follows.

Treasurer's Estimate: Kari Pietsch-Wangard received a preliminary estimate from Barb Riva of the final youth camp

expenses. The estimate reflects the possibility of a small profit from the camp.

Translation Decision: Bernie received word that IPZV is very close to making a final decision with regard to granting permission to translate their educational materials from German to English.

Regional Club Renewals: The committee is forming a proposal to streamline the Regional Club renewal process. The committee hopes to have a proposal by the October Board Meeting.

Website Updates: The electronic version of the September *Quarterly* was published on the website on August 15. A link to the USIHC's Facebook page has been placed on the Bulletin Board. The Education Committee's Trainer pages have been formatted and posted. PayPal is now also an option for individuals to use to pay for registry transactions.

Website Stats: The SSL certificate for the website was renewed after an extended process of working with Kari, USIHC accountants, the State of New Jersey, and the SSL issuing authority to get the USIHC back in good standing as a New Jersey corporation; the certificate is valid for three years. In addition, the USIHC has lost two website sponsors—both for reasons beyond the control of the Congress. Doug also noted that the USIHC has reached the limit of our current disk space quota for storage on the website. This, he says, is the result of archiving messages from the various mailing lists, the space needed by the *Quarterly* editorial staff to produce the magazine, and routine website storage. Our Internet Service Provider will charge us over-quota penalties unless we upgrade our plan. He proposes that we double our storage capacity, taking our monthly rate from \$9.95 to \$17.95 effective immediately. All voted unanimously in favor of this.

Tiered Pricing for Website Ads: Doug noted that the website sponsorship program has turned out to be far more successful than expected. However, there is one aspect that has proved to be problematic for the Treasurer and Webmaster. The current quarterly payment scheme introduces significant overhead. It would help reduce some of the workload for all

involved to provide an incentive for the sponsors to pay for a longer period. Doug suggested a 10% discount for semi-annual payment and a 20% discount for an annual payment. This amounts to \$60/quarter, \$108/half year, and \$192/year. Doug then made a motion that the Board authorize the proposed tiered pricing structure for web ads. Kari seconded, the other Board Members voted in favor.

Debtor Members Working Group Motion Passed: The election committee requested a definition of the term "not in good standing" from the Board. Kari observed that one of the requirements of a Board candidate is he or she is "in good standing." As the ballots must be prepared, approved, and mailed before the next meeting, they asked for an immediate decision. Bernie Willis then made a motion that any member more than 60 days in arrears in payment of fees or monies owed to the USIHC is deemed to be not in good standing. All voted in favor of this. Doug was instructed to update the published policies on the website to reflect this definition. He was further instructed to contact the election committee and ask that all candidate names be vetted by the treasurer before they are placed on the ballot.

Errors & Omissions Insurance: Kari obtained a quote for errors and omissions insurance for the Board and Registry. The rates for the insurance are a function of the amount of coverage, and the Congress's annual gross income. Based on the 2008 total gross income, the rates range from \$681 to \$930 for a year's





coverage. The corresponding levels of coverage range from \$250K to \$1M with a \$1,000 deductible. Doug made a motion that the USIHC purchase and maintain Errors and Omissions Insurance for the Board and Registry with a \$250K level of coverage and an annual premium not to exceed \$700. This was seconded by Kari, and unanimously passed by the other board members.

Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker: The Board discussed several options in relation to the 2010 annual meeting keynote speaker. It was the general conclusion that having a true expert in the Icelandic horse breed speak was more valuable than having an individual who, while expert in his or her field, may not have in-depth experience with the Icelandic horse. Doug then made a motion that the Board invite Systa Björnsdóttir, State Veterinarian of Iceland, and her husband, Olafur Sigurgeirsson, to speak at the 2010 Annual Members Meeting, with their cost of travel to the meeting and hotel room and meals during the meeting to be reimbursed, not to exceed \$2,000. Rich Moore, the meeting coordinator, is to charge \$10 to each individual attending the meeting and/or the awards dinner to offset the speakers' expenses. This motion was seconded by Karen Olson Fields. All but Kathy Lockerbie voted in favor.

Monthly e-Newsletter: The Board talked

about ways in which news and events might be passed on to the membership in a more timely fashion. It was mentioned that all the current information is already on the website. The possibility of a monthly email-based newsletter was discussed, as was putting the website news on a site similar to *Hestafrettir* or *Eidfaxi*, which are more commercial. The discussion concluded with the observation that the USIHC does not have the resources to produce anything better than what is currently in place.

Vermont Judging Seminar Refund: Alex mentioned that one participant had planned to attend the judging seminar and learned at the airport upon departure that she was not booked on her flight. She could not fly to Vermont on time for the seminar and so stayed home. The USIHC cancellation policy is clear: no refund. Yet it was a very frustrating situation for this participant, as she had all intentions to attend. Doug made a motion that the USIHC Board stand behind the published policy not to refund deposits for events and deny this request for a refund. This was seconded by Susan Peters. Board Members then expressed concerns about deviating from its policy of declining to issue refunds in circumstances where a member is unable to attend an event. Events are booked in anticipation of securing sufficient attendees, and the Board relies upon the deposits to ensure that the USIHC will not incur a loss. Deposits are clearly described as non-refundable and, while the Board understands that personal circumstances may result in a member being unable to attend an event, the Board is concerned about overall fairness to the membership through applying policies consistently and fairly across all members. A vote taken, all voted in favor of the above statement.

Committee Membership: Doug asked: At what point do we want to cull non-USIHC members from the committee rosters? As of September 1, the Education, Quarterly, Pleasure Riding, and Regional Clubs are in this position. None of the non-members receive any of the emails sent to the committee mailing lists. They remain on the committee roster on the website with the note their membership has not been

paid. Bernie Willis then made a motion that any member of a committee who has not renewed his USIHC membership by March 1 shall be removed from the committee membership and has the option of rejoining each committee once his dues are paid. This was seconded by Kathy Lockerbie; the rest voted in favor.

Annual Youth Camp: Based on the success of the FEIF Youth Camp at Winterhorse Park, the Youth Committee is interested in hosting an annual national Youth Camp. Bernie made a motion that the Board endorse the exploration of an annual or semi-annual camp. Kathy Lockerbie seconded. All present Board members voted in favor.

2014 Youth Cup: Susan received a request from FEIF that the U.S. host the Youth Cup in 2014. The Board is flattered that FEIF has extended this invitation. However, concern exists as to our ability to gather a sufficient number of appropriate horses for the Youth Cup. Further, the Board expressed concern that we have never hosted a national Youth Cup event and that it might be premature to host an international event. Doug made a motion that the Board endorse the exploration of annual or semi-annual national Youth Cups. Bernie seconded. All present Board members voted in favor.

Re-testing of Trainer Level 1: Bernie mentioned that one of the participants in the first trainer course passed all of the elements of the examination except for the trail course portion. The examiner at the time indicated she would be comfortable with any FEIF International Judge retesting the applicant in this one element. There is currently no policy for retesting trainer applicants in the U.S. The IPZV trainer education program, upon which ours is based, allows for retesting within a five-year period. Bernie added this item to the agenda as the applicant in question is scheduled for retesting with Will Covert before our Board's meeting in October. *(Since Bernie is related to the applicant, he left the meeting during the discussion of this item. Susan Peters took charge of the meeting.)* Kathy Lockerbie made a motion that the Board accept any FEIF International Judge retesting any Trainer Level 1 ap-



plicant, until such time as the Education Committee can formulate a formal policy on retesting. This was seconded by Doug Smith. Cindy Wescott and Kathy Lockerbie also voted in favor, Kari Pietsch-Wangard voted against, Ásta Covert abstained. Karen Olson-Fields was not in attendance.

Breeding Evaluations: The Board accepted a discussion of the pending proposal regarding funding for Regional Club-sponsored breeding evaluations. After comments were made by Katrin, Barb, and Anne, the Board reaffirmed its request from the May conference call that the Breeding Committee submit a revised proposal addressing the questions of funding sources, program administration, and the reasons for only supporting regional-club sponsored evaluations.

WC Team Support: The working group was unable to make any significant headway with regard to team sponsorship. No funds were raised to assist with travel or general expenses. Team clothing was the only sponsored item. The team jackets were obtained at a discount price; thanks to Bruce Edwards and Annette Coulon for their help obtaining the discount, and Doug and Gayle Smith for paying for the balance of the costs. Laurie and Scott Prestine donated and coordinated the embroidery, as well as the black team

shirts. In addition to the Kraftur donations, Flying C Ranch (Will and Ásta Covert) donated the team baseball caps and Anne-Marie Martin donated the team ties.

Regional Clubs Committee Chair: Annette Coulon submitted her resignation with the recommendation that Barb Riva assume her position. All voted in favor of this motion.

GREAT PHOTOS

If you haven't visited the USIHC website lately at www.icelandics.org, take a moment to check out the beautiful new array of photographs contributed by USIHC members and other friends of the Icelandic horse—19 photographers in all. The updated "look" is the result of a year-long effort coordinated by the website committee, whose members are Asta Covert, Gayle Smith, Dawn Shaw, and Doug Smith. As Doug explained in the *Quarterly* last spring, "Our overall goal is to convey the spirit of the Icelandic horse and the USIHC to website visitors who have little or no knowledge of either." The new photos are clear proof the committee reached its goal.

YOUTH CAMP A SUCCESS

The FEIF Youth Camp 2009 was held at Winterhorse Park, Wisconsin. Seven awesome days passed by, containing everything from trail riding on Icelandic horses to a visit to the local saloon (a pizza parlor), treasure hunting and western lessons, a native American dance show, a day at America's biggest water fun park, tubing down the Wisconsin river, and shopping at a big American mall! The USIHC, together with Barb and Dan Riva and numerous volunteers, ensured that this first FEIF youth event on U.S. grounds was a great success right from the start. A wide variety of great food, American as well as international, was served throughout the week and was part of the international experience. The great hospitality of the U.S. team was to be seen everywhere. Nothing was impossible, and at the end of the camp all participants and leaders got a photo of the group as well as a camp t-shirt as a memory of this fantastic week. Thirty-two participants (as well as several leaders) from nine countries took part in this FEIF Youth Camp, and at the end a lot of email addresses were swapped by the very tired and very happy participants! Thank you USIHC and Barb and Dan Riva for pulling this off so well!

YOUTH CUP 2010

The next FEIF Youth Cup will be held in Denmark, July 9-18, 2010, on Kalø ecological agricultural school, which is situated in a beautiful area by the sea in the mid-east of Denmark. The aim of the Youth Cup is to give our young riders an opportunity to meet peers from other countries, make friendships across borders, develop riding skills, and compete across nationalities. Moreover, the Youth Cup is to help young people build up a positive personality in a world with great temptations.

To the Youth Cup, every FEIF country is allowed to send eight youngsters aged 14-17 (i.e. you shall celebrate your 14th or 17th birthday in 2010), one team leader, one country leader, and, if wanted, one judge. Well-known and experienced teachers and trainers will train the young-



FEIF Youth Camp leader Barb Riva introduces campers to the great American picnic game: bobbing for apples.

sters in theory and practice. At the end of the week, a well-supervised competition will be held, where the youngsters compete in international teams. The idea behind the international teams is to provide a natural way for the participants to get to know their peers from other countries, make friends for life, and at the same time to practice and develop their language skills. If you want to participate in the FEIF Youth Cup 2010, contact your national youth leader for information about application rules in your country.

SUCCESSFUL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The hospitality and professionalism of the Swiss organisers and the hundreds of helpers, including the inhabitants of Brunnadern, made the 2009 World Championships an unforgettable event. Even two days with heavy rains couldn't

spoil this. On the contrary, it showed once more that Icelandic horses and their riders can perform under any conditions. For FEIF it was a big step forward to show breeding and sport classes at the same tracks, in a nice mix. It showed how successful breeding can lead to high performance in sport.

Winners included four Gold medals for Iceland, two for Norway, one for Denmark, one for Germany, and one for Sweden. The complete result lists of the sport classes and the breeding show are available for download from the FEIF website (www.feif.org).

This year FEIF awarded for the first time in its 40-year history a Team Trophy for sport classes. At previous European Championships and World Championships only the individual participants were honored. The first team to receive the trophy was Iceland.

The FEIF Feather Prize 2009 was

awarded to Gudmundur Einarsson, World Champion 2009 in Pace Test PPI. The aim of this prize is to encourage good riding and good horsemanship, a tribute to feather-light riding. The awarded rider sets an example to the Icelandic Horse World. The prize is awarded by the Board of FEIF, upon advice of the active sport and breeding judges at the World Championships. It shows clearly that a nice riding style, riding pace, and being a World Champion go together seamlessly.

SPORT JUDGES' SEMINAR

September 19-20, 2009, FEIF organized an Open Sport Judges' Seminar at Islandpferdehof Vindholar in Stapelfeld, near Hamburg, Germany. Connected to the seminar was a test to become a FEIF Licensed Sport Judge or a National Sport Judge. The focus of the seminar was on practical judging; practical experience as a sport judge at a national level was required to attend. Nine candidates (out of 15) passed the test to become an International Sport Judge. FEIF congratulates Andreas Windsio (D), Birgit Quaschnitschka (D), Caro Klein (D), Hendrik Gepp (D), Jean-Paul Balz (CH), Kristinn Bjarni Thorvaldsson (IS), Lutz Lesener (D), Mark Tillmann (D), and Susanne Brengelmann (D). One judge passed the test for national judges: Hanne Hestevik (NO).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NEW STALLION BOOK

Martina Gates and Thorunn Kristjansdottir have decided to found an annual North American Icelandic horse stallion magazine. The first issue of *The Icelandic StudBook - Icelandic Stallions of North America* is planned for February 2010.

Notes Thorunn, "We felt rather frustrated at times by the lack of resources and information about breeding options in North America. For example, who is the highest judged stallion for talent in North America? Who is the highest judged stallion for conformation in North America? Off-hand, we couldn't think who they were. And there wasn't a resource that has all of this data (that we could think of), unless you hand-sift through WorldFengur or know everyone and every stallion.

"We also felt that more and more people were becoming interested in breeding," she continues, "but oftentimes weren't sure where to turn to find a selection of stallions to choose from. Arising from our own frustrations came our want to create a resource for other enthusiastic Icelandic horse breeders. *Eidfaxi* publishes one such magazine every year (which they do a terrific job of), but it primarily lists stallions in Iceland, secondly in Europe, and thirdly in North America."

Martina and Thorunn's StudBook will be a yearly publication with a comprehensive listing of USIHC-registered stallions in the United States and CIHF-registered in Canada.

In addition, The StudBook and accompanying website will feature lists of the top 10 scoring stallions in all divisions, articles on breeding and breeding-related subjects, advertisements for Icelandic horse-related services and products, and photos by premiere photographers. For more information, see www.theicelandicstudbook.com.

CENTERED RIDING

From Eidfaxi.is: The Agricultural University of Iceland held a seminar on Centered Riding in conjunction with the horse farm Hestabúgurdurinn at Thingeyrar last August. The instructor was Susan



A stallion in action. Photo by Martina Gates.

Harris, who holds the highest degree as a riding instructor for Centered Riding; she studied from Sally Swift, who developed the technique.

Centered Riding (see www.centeredriding.org) emphasizes how the rider's mind and thoughts affect his/her body while riding the horse, as well as during its training and formation. The technique is supported by in-depth knowledge of the horse's as well as the human's body structure. Tai Chi, the Alexander technique, and Pilates are applied subjectively in order to have the rider adopt the correct body usage, breathing, and thought. The goal is to make riding safer and more pleasurable.

Attendance at the seminar, which was held in English, was good. It started with a lively instructional lecture and ended with a demonstration at the Horse Center of the Agricultural University, in which riders Jakob Sigurdsson and Torunn Hjelvik worked with Susan.

LANDSMOT

From Eidfaxi.is and Landsmot.is: Preparation for the biannual National Icelandic Horseshow, Landsmót 2010, at Vindheimamelar in Skagafjörður began last fall. A new home page has been set up at www.landsmot.is; all interested are welcome to register for the Landsmót mailing list.

Say the organizers, "All of Iceland's best horses and riders will gather here to compete in various disciplines and breeding classes. It is an event like no other and the atmosphere is unique, with guests from all over the world sharing their common enthusiasm for the Icelandic horse. Exciting competition, beautiful horses, great riders, tingling atmosphere, modern showgrounds, the fun people and the awesome nature—all these and much more will make you want to come back again and again."

The show has grown a great deal in magnitude as far as both horses and competitors concern. At the first Landsmót in 1950, there were 133 competition horses; at the most recent Landsmót, the number of horses was about 1,100 and riders numbered over 500. The Landsmót committee met at Vindheimamelar this summer and agreed that, although area looks fine, some improvements need to be made. Considerable discussion has been about the fence around the competition track inhibiting the vision of both spectators and photographers. The most comprehensive project is the laying of pipes for running water to the tournament area. This is the contribution of the Skagafjörður community.

HORSE BREEDERS WEB

A new homepage for the Horse Breeders Association of Iceland (Félag Hrossabanda) is online at www.fhb.is. It features information on the association and its operation, along with all kinds of interesting information on the Icelandic horse, both in Icelandic and in English. More is being added, including photos, links, and educational material. Horse people are encouraged to send comments. The site is designed by Orion Web and the FHB webmaster, Hulda G. Geirsdóttir.

REGIONAL UPDATES

ALASKA ICELANDIC HORSE ASSOCIATION (AIHA)

Alys Culhane writes: The riding season is winding down here in Alaska: By the time you read this, we'll have held our fall meeting/teleconference in South-central Alaska. Participants will include Interior and Kenai-based club members. We're planning on giving a barn tour and will talk about ways of including youth in club activities, establishing a site for schooling shows, and next spring/summer's clinic list.

In the meantime, trail rides remain a club mainstay and form of communication, as do email messages, letters, and phone calls. Much of the talk lately has centered around Drynur, Kohlfaxi, Drynfari, and Drottning: Their former owners wisely recognized that their horses needed more time and attention than they could provide and, when approached with offers, willingly agreed to sell them.

Fairbanks members worked collaboratively to rehabilitate Drynur and Kohlfaxi, relying heavily on their collective Team training. They had the animals examined by a veterinarian, and had their hooves trimmed. In addition, the horses were assessed and treated by a physical therapist. This complemented the much-needed, daily Touch work. What was most impressive about the rehabilitation process was that they kept a collective journal detail-

ing each day's work. This kept the lines of communication open and insured that the horses progressed with their handling.

Bernie Willis took excellent care of the horses in his care. He had five-year-old Drynfari castrated and trained him to accept bridle and saddle. He re-educated 20-year-old Drottning, so that she could safely be ridden by an older, returning rider.

This story continues on a very happy note. Drynur remained in Fairbanks and is now with Mary Gleason, who is the AIHA vice-president. Kohlfaxi is now in South-central, where he resides with Dick and Mariann Stoffel. Drynfari and Drottning were purchased by Lois, Eric, Alea, and Andy Rockcastle, and have been moved to Eagle-River based Mountain Haven Farm. The four horses have settled into their new homes and are doing quite well.

The focus on breeding continues: an early September Young Horse Breeding Evaluation was held at Bernie's Wasilla-based Arctic Arrow farm. There were eight horse attendees; Katrin Sheehan was the sponsor and Barbara Frische was the evaluator. All in attendance were provided with a succinct verbal evaluation and later were given a written evaluation. (Sheehan did an exemplary job as scribe.) Over dinner, any and all questions were answered by the visiting professionals.

Lastly, our club has a now updated website, the address is www.alaskaicelandics.org. Take a look: You'll be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

CALIFORNIA ICELANDIC HORSE ASSOCIATION (CIA)

Ásta Covert writes: CIA had two members compete in this year's World Championships, held in Switzerland at the beginning of August. Both horses were accompanied by the U.S. Team Leader Doug Smith, and they flew directly from California to Luxembourg, where they met up with the three U.S. horses from New York. They then traveled together to Switzerland. Anne-Marie Martin rode Húni frá Torfunesi and received a score of 6.2 in T2. And Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert rode Dynjandi frá Dalvík, whose exceptional performances earned her a spot in the A-Finals in both T1 and V1. They ended up fourth in Four Gait, third in T1 Tolt, and second in Four-Gait Combination. Here are their scores:

Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert and Dynjandi frá Dalvík [IS1997165190]:

T1 Tolt Preliminary Round:
7.8 - 8.0 - 8.0 - 8.2 - 8.3 = 8.07

T1 Tolt A-Final Total: 8.16

Slow Tolt: 9.0 - 8.5 - 9.0 - 8.0 - 9.0 = 8.83

Lengthen Stride:
7.5 - 7.5 - 8.0 - 8.0 - 9.0 = 7.83

Fast Tolt: 8.0 - 7.5 - 8.0 - 8.0 - 7.5 = 7.83

V1 Four-Gait Preliminary Round:
8.0 - 7.5 - 7.7 - 7.6 - 7.4 = 7.60

V1 Four-Gait A-Final Total: 7.50

Tolt, Slow Speed:
8.5 - 9.5 - 8.0 - 7.5 - 8.0 = 8.17

Trot, Slow to Medium:
7.5 - 7.0 - 7.0 - 7.5 - 8.5 = 7.33

Walk, Medium Speed:
7.0 - 6.5 - 6.5 - 7.0 - 7.0 = 6.83

Canter, Slow to Medium:
7.0 - 7.5 - 7.5 - 8.0 - 7.5 = 7.50

Tolt, Fast: 8.0 - 7.5 - 7.5 - 7.5 - 8.5 = 7.67

Anne-Marie Martin and Húni frá Torfunesi [IS1992166203]

T2 Tolt Preliminary Round:
5.4 - 6.3 - 6.3 - 6.0 - 7.0 = 6.20

The CIA hosted another show November 7-8 at Flying C Ranch, and Olil Amble will be back in December for another clinic hosted by the CIA and Flying C Ranch in Santa Ynez, CA.



CIA member Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert showed Dynjandi frá Dalvík in an award-winning tolt at the World Championships in Switzerland. Photo by Mark Johnson.



CIA member Anne-Marie Martin aboard Húni frá Torfunesi in the T2 preliminary round at the World Championship in Switzerland. Photo by Mark R. Johnson.

CASCADE ICELANDIC HORSE CLUB

Jean Waller writes: The Cascade Icelandic Horse Club had a great summer, packed with interesting events. Our club meeting at Red Feather Ranch on August 23 in Trout Lake was well attended. The ranch is fantastic and several members joined up for a trail ride after the meeting.

The annual winery ride on September 12 in Yakima, Washington was hosted by Lori Birge this year. There were six horses and riders, followed by a ground crew to collect purchased wine. The group rode through vineyards and fruit orchards against a beautiful mountain backdrop on a warm, sunny weekend. This is always a great event; what could be better than Icelandic horses, friends, and good wine?

Mandy Pretty of Icelandic Horse Farm has been to our region twice this year to give Connected Riding Clinics, offering a wonderful combination of the teachings of Peggy Cummings and Linda Tellington-Jones. The clinic sold out both times, and the feedback was excellent. Thanks to Claudia Rancore of Wrenhill Farm in Ridgefield,

Washington for hosting these great clinics and to Mandy for traveling here to share this phenomenal way of being with our horses. The weather for the September 19 and 20 clinic was perfect. Attending were Becky Coulter, Rachel Knowlton, Alice Heller, Bonny Houghton, Mary Montgomery, Claudia Rancore, Janella Radetich, Pam Wheeler, Sandy Schultz, and Jean Waller. A special thanks to Linda Eddy for organizing both clinics. Mandy taught basic TTouch and TTeam and offered great visualizations for increasing Connected Riding skills. Her watchful eye gave each of us personal attention to improve our riding with the five points of contact. The horses loved the bodywork and showed their enthusiasm out on the track.

The club was lucky to have International Breeding Judge Barbara Frische and USIHC Breeding Leader Katrin Sheehan put on a Young Horse Evaluation September 13, also at Wrenhill Farm. There was an outstanding turnout of 18 young horses. Horses were shown in hand and at liberty and scored on conformation, temperament, and gaits. Judge Frische was impressed by the quality of

the horses. The informal “first place” went to a month-old stud colt, Leiknir, out of Beyla fra Alfasaga by Svartbakur fra Hólum, owned by Jean Waller. Second place went to Dynfaxi from Rivendell, owned by George and Lisa Lowe. This was an amazing opportunity to learn about conformation and gaits in young horses.

Dawn Shaw took three horses to the Western Washington State Fair in Puyallup, to be part of the Animals of the World exhibit. For five days of the fair, Dawn, Thoka, Pala and Bryja watched several hundred thousand people parade past. Dawn answered questions, while the three horses accepted pats and attention from children and adults. Great way to acquaint the public with our great Icelandic horses, and a lot of fun.

Linda Eddy, former club vice president, and her six-year-old mare, Brana from Icelandic Horse Farm, profited from a year of immersion in TTeam/Connected Riding work. Linda attended five TTeam clinics at the Icelandic Horse Farm in Vernon, B.C. and in Hawaii over the last three years, and is working to become a TTouch/TTeam practitioner. This year, she offered an introductory TTeam workshop for her Icelandic riding group in Ridgefield, WA. She also spent three days at Icelandic Horse Farm in Vernon’s snowy winter working with Mandy Pretty on TTeam and Connected Groundwork with a variety of horses in January 2009. Mandy is a TTeam practitioner level two and has been studying and teaching Connected Riding for a number of years. Linda found that building a relationship with her horse the TTeam way enabled someone relatively inexperienced with young horses to build a secure, trusting relationship. Spending the summer working with TTeam and Connected Groundwork exercises has allowed Brana to move with more freedom, offer a softer tolt, and perform better turns on the forehand, turns on the hind, and leg yields. Linda and Brana have great times together on the trail, learning basic dressage and just doing whatever there is to do.

The club is looking forward to some great fall events as well, including a sale at Red Feather NW Icelandic Horse Center in Trout Lake, October 9 through 11.

FLUGNIR ICELANDIC HORSE ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDWEST

Barb Riva writes: Our group has been quite active in 2009. Our annual breed fairs represented the Icelandic horse beautifully. The Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, Wisconsin was performed completely by our Youth Riders. Needless to say we were very proud of their excellent performance and hope they are willing to participate again next April. The Minnesota Horse Expo provided a number of good opportunities for riders to show the horses throughout the weekend. This event always attracts participation from our Minnesota members.

Deb Cook hosted an Icelandic horse riding clinic with Knutur Berndsen. Knutur and his wife own the farm Pangaea Equestrian Services LLC located in New York. Board member Kydee Sheetz organized a very fun group campout with horses at the St. Croix State Park Camping weekend. Members enjoyed each other's camaraderie and some great meals. Our hope is that we can offer this event at least once a year in the future.

Winterhorse Park of Eagle, Wisconsin held the first FEIF event ever in the U.S.: 31 kids from 8 different countries, along with chaperones, took part in the FEIF/USIHC Youth Camp. Winterhorse Park is very proud, and could not have done it without the great response of help. Flugnir members Deb Cook, Judy Strehler, and Amber Parry loaned horses to be used by the campers for the week. Our president, Deb Cook, also spent the entire week on the grounds helping with kitchen detail and taxi service to our off-farm events.

Our annual Flugnirkeppni competition offered two International Judges in September 2009, Halldor Viktorsson from Iceland and Einar Ragnarsson from Austria. We also want to thank everyone for their support and membership, along with Shelley Elmblad for taking on the Ice-test responsibility of tabulating the scores for the show.

We are thrilled to have the addition of two new board members, Kydee



Scenes from the 2009 Flugnirkeppni show in Eagle, Wisconsin. Clockwise, from top left, are Eve Loftness and Spyrna frá Reykjavik, winners of the first cross-country event at Winterhorse Park; Nick Cook in the trail class on Svipur frá Nordurstjarna; Kathy Love on Pegasus frá Skyggni; Carrie Lyons Brandt on Thröstur frá Innri-Skeljabrekku; Sharon Johnson on Raudskinni fra Grafarkoti; Cynthia Nadler on Andri fra Hólabaki in the cross country event; and Kevin Draeger on Glotti fra Saudárkróki. Photos by Neil Schloner and Deborah Cook.

Sheetz of Minnesota and Wade Elmblad of Wisconsin. Their input to our regional club has brought some fresh new ideas to our group.



FIRC members Sali Peterson, Megan Milloy, and Susan Milloy raised over \$1000 for women's health in the "Susan G. Komen for the cure" trail ride.

FRIDA ICELANDIC RIDING CLUB (FIRC) OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Rich Moore writes: The Frida Club had a quiet summer but is gearing up for a busy fall. Members of the club planned to ride at the Eastern Seaboard Show at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia in early October.

On October 10, three FIRC members and their Icelandic horses joined 200 riders in Northern Virginia to ride through the woods, over fields, streams, and bridges to raise money for "Susan G. Komen for the cure." Riding were Sali Peterson on Askur, Megan Milloy on Vindur, and Susan Milloy on Riddari. The FIRC team raised \$1,150 for women's health, with money still coming in as of this writing.

In mid-October, Magnus Larsson will be putting on a clinic at Suzi McGraw and Sandy Newkirk's farm in West Virginia. At the end of the month, a number of club members will be riding at Gudmar Petursson's show in Kentucky. Members of the FIRC drill team hope to participate in the drill team competition.

The club has trail rides scheduled for early November at the Manassas Battlefield in Virginia and at the end of the month in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. In mid-December, the club will be participat-

ing in a Holiday Equine Parade in Charles Town, West Virginia. For additional information on club events, please see the FIRC events calendar at www.firc.us.

MAINE ICELANDIC HORSE ASSOCIATION (MIHA)

Nancy Wines-DeWan writes: After two months of solid precipitation, Maine riders were anxious to take their horses out once our short summer finally arrived. Individual members got together in various parts of the state for planned and impromptu trail rides. Member Jan Fletcher and friends explored trails in the Damariscotta region of Maine and rode a wonderful 26-mile circuit, along the coast, through the woods, with a stop at a favorite general store serving much-appreciated cold treats! Several other members enjoyed the multi-use trails of Bradbury Mountain, in Pownal, Maine. Philly and Dave Smith took the opportunity to spend a couple of weeks driving the carriage roads of Acadia National Park. Their Icelandic mare drives single and as an unmatched pair with her much taller stablemate. Philly reports that although they look a bit unusual, they work very well together.

The end of August found us once more engulfed in rain, just as several of our members headed out to what was planned to be a three-day camping trip in New Hampshire. They were able to get in

a good day and a half of riding before the deluge began. With tents, sleeping bags, riders, and horses drenched, they packed up a day early and headed for home. Despite the rain, they all reported that they had a great time.

Steinar Sigurbjörnsson presented a clinic early in the fall, hosted by Cindy Wescott of Boulder Ridge Icelandics, Limington, Maine; it received rave reviews from participants. We are looking forward to two more events in October: a clinic and trail ride at Jen Grady's Acorn Hill Farm in Whitefield, and our fourth annual Popham Beach Ride in Phippsburg.

NORTHEAST ICELANDIC HORSE CLUB (NEIHC)

Amy Goddard writes: Although we had to cancel our fall breeding evaluations, Lori Leo stepped in and held a young horse evaluation in its place, at her Four Winds Icelandic Horse Farm in Hanover, MA.

Recent clinics in the northeast included Jana Meyer at Karen Winhold's Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm and Gudmar Petursson at Brian Puntin's Berkshire Icelandics. Lori Leo will be hosting a three-day clinic with World Champion Stian Pedersen on November 20-22.

The annual Turkey Tolt group ride is scheduled for November 28th at Rockefeller State Park Preserve. For those who haven't attended, the Turkey Tolt is always lots of fun and a great chance to ride and socialize on beautiful carriage trails before winter sets in. Our Thorablot and annual meeting is yet to be scheduled for sometime in February or March 2010, but certainly not to be missed!

NEIHC members are encouraged to check the NEIHC Yahoo mail group, our website, neihc.com and our Facebook page for news and info on upcoming events.

THE SAINT SKUTLA ICELANDIC HORSE CLUB

Stephanie Sher and Andrea Barber write: Many of the members of the Saint Skutla riding club concentrated on trail riding this summer. We had a short, cool summer which kept the bugs down and made riding very pleasant. We have a lot of parks and riding trails in our area, which means that within



Maine club members Dave and Philly Smith driving their Icelandic mare, Fala, and her stablemate in Acadia National Park.

an hour or less we and our horses can be having adventures on the road.

Rodi from Rhythmhill [US1996 100812] is now a camping pro. Rodi's owner, Jodi Towne, and he have camped at Otter Creek Horse Trails three times this year. He is a hit with the other campers every time. Jodi says she has yet to find anything that bothers him on the trail, and he loves to lead. The Otter Creek Horse Trails are a series of interlocking horse trails comprising about 65 miles. They are located on both the Independence River Wild Forest Unit of the Adirondack Forest Preserve and on the Independence River and Otter Creek State Forests on the western border of the Adirondack Park in Lewis County. The trail system uses a series of old, sandy roads and woods trails to traverse a beautiful diverse area with the trails winding their way along spirea flats and wooded areas, accessing picturesque Adirondack ponds and following or crossing several rivers. It is a very popular destination for serious trail riders from all over the East coast.

The Outlet Trail is seven miles running on the old tow path of the Crooked Lake Canal connecting two of the Finger Lakes, Seneca Lake and Keuka Lake. That canal was a very busy place 200 years ago, with 40 mills making use of the canal as a power source and an easy way to get

raw materials to and finished goods from the mills to eastern markets. As you ride along the Outlet Trail, you see some of these historic buildings, and well as seas of beautiful wildflowers. The trail is a favorite of Steven and Andrea Barber. They've ridden it several times this summer, most often on their older geldings Víkingur frá Götu [IS1989184930] and Nökkvi frá Lágafelli [IS1989184357], who both enjoy brisk gallops on the trail's excellent footing. Other Outlet Trail devotees this



Mendon Pony Club members, Caity Wischermann (Level B) and Greta Muxworthy (Level C2), both 14, get an introduction to riding Icelandics on Kitla from Rhythmhill and Nökkvi frá Lágafelli, owned by Saint Skutla members Andrea and Steve Barber. Photo by Kate Ackerman.

summer were Cordy Sullivan on Lysingur frá Eyjólfstóðum [IS1992156186], Sandy Plumb on Flygill from Vesturbaer [US1992103541], and Stephanie Sher on Ögri frá Saudárkróki [IS1991157002]. Steve gives a very good on-the-fly riding clinic as you ride down the trail knee to knee. Lots of fun!

Our only show entry this summer was nine-year-old Ashley White, a student of Jen Lilly, one of our members. Ashley needed to find another horse to ride because her grandma's old horse went lame. Nótt frá Sæfelli [IS1986287002] came to the rescue for the season. Nótt is owned by Harriet Rubins, who loaned her to Ashley. The two made a wonderful team. After just one hour's ride to learn about each other, the two entered the Livingston County 4-H show and took the Reserve Championship in the walk-trot division. They entered every class and had a blast. It was evident from Nótt's perky ears and careful attention that she enjoyed her little rider. And Ashley? She never lost her smile. Besides this show, the team won ribbons at two more and excelled in the 4-H drill team. There was lots of interest in the audiences, most of whom had never seen an Icelandic before.

The Barbers also had a chance to educate some local youth this summer



Girls from the Mendon Pony Club braiding Kalman frá Lækjamóti's enormous mane and tail. Kalman is owned by Saint Skutla members Andrea and Steve Barber. Photo by Kate Ackerman.

when they hosted the Mendon Pony Club at their Sand Meadow Farm. A nice sized group of all ages came to learn more about Icelandic horses. The Mendon Pony Club is a 48-year-old member of the United States Pony Clubs, one of the original clubs of the Western New York Region. Understandably this club has much history and tradition, most of which does not include gaited breeds! However, all the kids, parents, and instructors were very open to learning about Icelandics. Two of the older girls, who are experienced riders, got to try the tolt and other gaits on the five-gaited mare Kitla from Rhythmhill [US199201396] and the four-gaited gelding Nökkvi frá Lágafelli. Although both girls did a great job and quickly picked up

on the tolt after a little instruction, they seemed to have the most fun taking the horses out on the trail and then galloping back up the driveway in a big flurry to impress the crowd. While the older girls were riding, the younger kids could not hold back from a major braiding session on Kalman frá Lækjamóti [IS1995155106], who has more than enough mane and tail to go around. Although it's unlikely that we will see an Icelandic participating in traditional pony club activities anytime soon, the group did walk away with new knowledge about a different riding discipline and the challenges and fun that it holds.

Now we're entering the best part of the riding year here in Western NY state.

The woods will be glorious, the temperature cool and crisp, and there will be NO bugs. We're all hoping to get a good few more miles on the trails before the snow starts.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ICELANDIC RIDERS

Kimberly Hart writes: Southern California Icelandic Riders has been busy all summer. We had a fire evacuation drill put on by the San Diego Humane Society. They came to our homes with their volunteers and photographed and logged our animals and practiced loading animals they did not know in case of evacuation. In the event we were unable to evacuate our animals, they are now catalogued with our local organization.

We've had an eventful year. At our last meeting, Safari gave us a great slide show of her trip to Wisconsin and FEIF Youth Camp—what a great experience! Thanks to all of you who helped make this trip possible for Safari and Patty.

We are just back from horse camping in Bonita. There were 24 of us sitting around the campfire, singing along with Bob Tutelman on his guitar. Our group is growing. We now have families attending with their children for the second year in a row. Our next camping trip is scheduled for the first weekend in November.

Everyone is looking forward to the Annual Christmas Party and Tack Swap. We will be riding in the Encinitas Holiday Parade this year for our ninth time on December 5.



Southern California Icelandic Riders camped out in Bonita in September.

THE 2009 ICELANDIC HORSE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY MAIKE LIEKWEG, PHOTOS BY MARK JOHNSON

“Feel the Beat” was the motto of the 2009 Icelandic Horse World Championships, referring not only to the special gaits of the Icelandic horse, but also to the “rhythm of the times.” It signaled some good changes to this biannual event.

Brunnadern, population 900, lies in the romantic Neckartal region of Toggenburg, Switzerland. From August 3 to 9, 2009, the entire town became the event venue: Tents, temporary stalls, and trailers ran from one side of town to the other, with the training area and competition grounds beside a river in this narrow valley, majestic mountains on each side. Additional trains transported people from the nearby towns, and shuttle busses ran back and forth on the only road. Volunteers checked in at the local firehouse, the press center was in the local school house—truly the entire town took part in this international event.

The Swiss organizers had taken good notes at the event in Holland two years ago. Parts of the bleachers were covered to protect the spectators from rain, and the entire site was laid out with a geogrid to avoid any kind of mud problems. The pace track and the oval track were located next to each other, so nobody had to move from one location to the other, and the overall organization ran with the precision of a Swiss watch.



Children in traditional costumes led Brown Swiss cows and goats.



The Swiss ambience at the 2009 World Championships. Here, bellringers greet the crowd.

The International Evening was the most amazing evening party of any World Championship, people said. At the International Evening, each of the different nations presents their local food and beverages. The American team made fresh salsa and guacamole. Belgium offered Crement Champagne. Switzerland had chocolate. Slovenia offered wine. Norway provided smoked meat and Aquavit. Canada had lox and whisky. Finland served salami and licorice... But no lamb came from Iceland. The entire shipment of lamb got stuck in customs, and we got a daily update on its whereabouts until it finally arrived. The missing lamb was substituted for on International Night by Brennivin, the famous schnapps that is said to help the digestion after a lavish meal.

The relay riders entered the oval track on Tuesday, the second day of the event. A soft wind billowed the flags of the nations taking part, and chilled the riders' beaming, heated faces. Many strong horses bridled with simple bits proved, in that exciting atmosphere, that on their

trip to Switzerland they had seen many more unusual sights than an oval track. It's a good old tradition that the FEIF baton travels from country to country, connecting the friends of the Icelandic horse along the way. This year's group of multinational riders covered nearly 1,000 km (620-plus miles) from the venue two years ago in Oirschot. The route had 35 sections through some of the most beautiful countryside, and the riders presented the breed to many fans along the way. Many riders had planned to ride a day or two, but ended up riding four or five days: a true testament to how well this group bonded with each other over their love for the Icelandic horse. Solemnly the baton was passed: Bernhard Rees handed it to FEIF president Jans Iversen, who handed it to the president of the Swiss Icelandic Society. In two years, the baton will travel from Brunnadern to Austria.

“Gruezi miternand!” With this authentic Swiss-German greeting, “Hello everybody,” the opening ceremony started. Switzerland is rich in tradition, and



Asta Covert and Dynjandi fra Dalvik wowed the crowd with their slow tolt. The FEIF newspaper called their ride “an amazing light-footed dance” and “the biggest surprise of the preliminary round.”

they were proud to show the international audience some of their well-known symbols: A group of nine men, each balancing two huge cowbells made their rounds through the oval track, the bells filling the valley with the familiar and powerful sound. They were followed by a group of women blowing the alphorn—each more than 10 feet long—as well as the local Alpen Club singing in the soon-to-be familiar Swiss German.

A not-always-well-behaved group of the typical Brown Swiss cows made their entrance. Some of them could not help themselves, but jumped the barrier off the oval track and had a quick munch on the lush green grass. Their handlers, adults and kids in traditional Swiss outfits, tried their best to keep the cows in the track—much to the amusement of the audience. The white goats handled by the kids did a much better job of staying on the track. These are all the sounds and sights deeply lodged in the long tradition and history of Switzerland and left everybody with a deep appreciation of being made so welcome in this little country.

An authentic (although rebuilt) Swiss Mail carriage entered, drawn by six Swiss-

The U.S. team, with team leader Doug Smith holding the sign.



federal horses, carrying all the dignitaries of the 2009 World Championships. After the welcome message and the official greeting, each of the 18 nations entered, led by their team leaders, all in their uniforms with flags in hand. Each nation was welcomed with cheers and applause, the flags were swinging, excitement was in everybody’s faces: riders, trainers, team leaders, audience ...

VET CHECKS

But there was a serious side to the competition too. FEIF made a very determined effort this year to “put the welfare of the horse first.” Nothing became more apparent at the numerous vet checks: before the competition, before and after each ride, and by the judges raising blue cards during competition, meaning that the horse appeared “off” and must be checked again.

Anton Fuerst and his team of six veterinarians carefully examined about 200 sport and breeding horses at the vet check and the “fit-to-competete” check. Eight horses were rejected, all with lameness. “That is within the normal range,” said Fuerst. He noticed that exercising mostly takes part on hard ground and without bandages and tendon boots. “Most horses are

well and muscled,” he also noticed; apart from some exceptions, he had nothing to complain about the horses’ backs. Their hooves were generally okay, the more so as it is very important to FEIF that shoeing and trimming go according to the rules.

Fuerst has seen a lot of horses. The veterinarian from the Vet-Swiss Department has been veterinarian-in-chief of many World and European Championships. He was the Swiss equestrian team vet for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Sydney, and Athens. The 45-year-old Fuerst liked what he experienced with the Icelandic Horse World Championships in Brunnadern. “They wanted the vet checks to be serious and they wanted the sport to be fair on the horses,” he said in an interview printed in the official championships newspaper. “The mouth check is very interesting,” he added, noting that other horse competitions should do this also.

In the same interview, FEIF Sports Director Marco Mazeland emphasized, about the vet checks, that “We have always done that.” However, external experts are increasingly being employed: FEI-credited vets are being consulted, and FEIF has been taking part in trials and research projects at the universities in Uppsala and Zurich.

FEIF has also found a good way to balance the welfare of the horse with the interests of the rider. If a vet check raised issues about a horse, the rider had the opportunity to present the horse again the next day. If the issue appeared to have been resolved overnight, the rider was cleared for one ride; the horse was then checked again. At this World Championships, three horses were under this kind of monitoring by the vet team.

There were also great improvements with the mouth checks. Claudia Glueck was one of the vets who contributed to the FEIF guidelines for mouth checks; she had checked the horses at the 2007 championships in the Netherlands.

The wounds now found in the horses’ mouths—which were checked in plain site of the spectators—were only Category 1: minor. The awareness of the riders had greatly improved over the past two years.

Horse sports have been criticized in the news recently, due to the high number of doping scandals, but once more competition with Icelandic horses was shown to be a “clean” horse sport. All 20 doping tests taken at Brunnadern proved



U.S. Team member Sigrún Brynjarsdóttir and Parker frá Sólheimum show canter in the preliminary round of V1 Four Gait.

to be negative: no doping. The procedures followed were exactly the same as for other international horse events (like the Olympic games).

THE U.S. HORSES

The term “World Championships” does not take on its proper meaning unless competitors and riders from around the world join the event. But the U.S. team had to face many obstacles and expenses to reach Switzerland. The team consisted of 26 people: trainers, coaches, and grooms, as well as a farrier, and, of course, the nine riders: eight adults and one junior rider. Five of the horses had to be flown from the U.S. (the other four horses live in Europe). If the USIHC has a reported 450 members, that’s one horse per 90 members! Compare that to Germany, where 2,350 IPZV members “shared” each horse. That alone shows the dedication of the American team.

Doug Smith, the U.S. team leader explained, “We had two horses from Kentucky—Tyr and Pegasus; one horse, Parker, came from Vermont; and two horses, Huni and Dynjandi, came from Los Angeles.” The horses were trucked to the nearest airport (this was quite a long travel leg for the horses from Kentucky), then flew to Europe.

When horses travel by plane, they typically share a specially designed container for horses, three horses per container. These containers look very much like a three-horse, side-by-side trailer. Hay and water can be offered through the front area, and there typically is a lot of shavings on the ground to pad the footing and offer a splash-free pee area for the geldings and stallions. The U.S. team horses traveled together in these boxes and were regularly fed and watered by their grooms, who rode with them in the cargo hold area. The two horses from California ended up sharing a box with a warmblood; the big horse was quite nervous in the beginning, but the two calm and level-headed Icelandics seemed to calm his nerves and he settled down quite nicely. Take-off and landing are the most stressful times. The G-forces plus the noise and vibration of the plane can really freak out a horse. But all the U.S. team horses (and the warmblood, too) made it through the flight all right and did not need any sedation.

Said Doug, “We met in Luxembourg, and then traveled together with four German team horses to Switzerland.” All this took not only several days of travel, but several weeks of work on Doug’s part to



U.S. Team member Chrissy Seipolt and Hjalti vom Blitzberg on the track in the V1 Four Gait preliminary round.

coordinate and arrange, making sure that all the travel documents, vet tests, and documents were in order for each horse, even though there are no special vaccinations or quarantine regulations. (The same was not true in 2007, when a major strangles outbreak threatened the travel of two of the U.S. team horses. Almost daily vet checks, cultures, and tests were required until the two horses were finally cleared for travel. Can you imagine the stress and pressure that was put on the riders of these horses, not knowing if they could go or not? Luckily, none of that was an issue for the 2009 competition.)

THE U.S. RIDERS

The U.S. team was selected at tryouts in May, but between May and August one rider, Steinar Sigurbjornsson, had to drop out. The final team was: Asta Bjarnadottir-Covert, Anne-Marie Martin, Gudmar Petursson, Kathy Love, Sharon Johnson, Sigrun Brynjarsdottir, Chrissy Seipolt, and alternate Kari Pietsch-Wangard; the youth rider was Caeli Cavanagh.

Caeli was sponsored through an 18-month fundraising effort by IBENA, Martina Gates and her magazine ToltNews, and me, Maike Liekweg. With the help of many Icelandic horse owners across the

country who purchased IBENA blankets, we raised \$3,200 to sponsor her. Caeli had also been saving up money for three years; between her savings and the sponsorship, she was able to travel to Nicole Kempf's farm, train on one of Nicole's wonderful stallions, and then compete with a great, clean ride.

Each of the other U.S. team members also delivered a good ride in their different disciplines (for more about the team's experience, see "An Alternate's View" by Kari Pietsch-Wangard). But USIHC members who were following along at home via the Internet can be forgiven if the only rider they paid attention to was Asta Covert. Her amazing first ride on Dynjandi fra Dalvik [IS1997165190] was a show-stopper. Here is what the official World Championships newspaper reported about the Tolt I Preliminaries (in a translation I did from the German):

... "If riding looks difficult, it's a sport ... If it looks easy, it's true art." Using that definition, in this tolt preliminary competition, there is very little sport, but an amazing amount of art. [2007 World Champion] Stian Pedersen is here again and so is Jarl, but unfortunately we will not see them as a team on the oval track. ... It quickly became apparent that neither the horse

nor the rider from 2007 will be the new World Champion. But who will take their place?

It became really exciting once the third block of riders started. The bleachers started to vibrate, a wave of black-red-and-gold flags were raised high: Lena Trappe on her shiny black stallion Vaskur vom Lindenhof was able to break the 7.0 mark as the 23rd rider to take to the track. Transitions were ridden on point, the fast tempo tolt was much improved over the previous riders. Impressive was the truly explosive showing of the team which had never been better in the preliminary rounds, gaining a score of 7.13. ...

Into even higher levels of scores and an instant shot into the A-Final were the teams in the fourth starting block: Thorvaldur A. Thorvaldsson had an explosive mount to work with, a half brother of Moli fra Vindasi. But he handled all that power so skillfully that the judges awarded him a 7.67. Uli Reber's horse Dröfn frá Littla-Moshvoli was obviously in a good mood, she performed well in working tempo as well as fast tempo and was awarded at 7.70. It was quite obvious that Hjalti's Gudmundsson's horse, Reynir frá Hólshúsum, is related to the Tolt-Champion Hvinnur fra Holtsmula (see below—and with an end result of 7.77 an impressive pair.

The biggest surprise of the preliminary

round came with the 38th rider in the colors of the USA: Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert on *Dynjandi frá Dalvík* won the hearts of the audience within the first few meters of her ride — an amazing light-footed dance in slow-tempo tolt, followed by an almost flawless gala performance. The judges honored her efforts with an 8.07, a score that filled the rider with amazement and pride. Second Place.

That's the same ranking the T1-Runner-up Champion *Thórarinn [Toti] Eymundsson* and *Kraftur frá Bringu* occupied in Oisshot; however, in *Brunnadern* the former dream team was slightly out of rhythm, so to speak, with a score of only 6.73.

Iceland has not given up hope to win the trophy back. The World Champion from 2005, Johann R. Skulason, was ready to re-gain the all-important tolt trophy on *Hvinur frá Holtsmúla*. ... Unfortunately, the chance to defend his title in 2007 was spoiled when his horse lost a shoe. A very sad and disappointed Skulason fought the tears back. But now he can smile again: Like no other he showed his true art today, and rode with a large margin to the top of the class with an amazing score of 8.42...

It was even more exciting in person. And for those of you who may have missed the results, Johann and Hvinur [IS1997186699] took first with 8.78; Toti and Kraftur [IS1995165864] took second with 8.22; and Asta and Dynjandi took third with 8.16, just 6 hundredths of a point less—and Asta received the highest score of any competitor for slow tolt: 8.83! Thorvaldur and Moll [IS1998125074] came in fourth with 7.72.

As if to prove that their artful performance wasn't a fluke, Asta and Dynjandi repeated it in the Four-Gait competition, winning fourth place with 7.50. (For complete results, see www.feif.org and look under Sport/World Championships.)

THE CLOSING CEREMONY

Sunday was the last day of an amazing week of beautiful horses, harmonious rides, friends, and excitement. In typical World Championships tradition, the normally perfect schedule of the Swiss ran an hour behind... It always happens, at every World Championships on the last day.

Then all the teams rode and walked onto the oval track, filling it with the colors of the Icelandic horse and the formal uniforms of the riders and team leaders, carrying flags and flowers. Close to 150 horses completely filled the inside of the

track when the last team entered. The applause rose to an even higher level, making a group of horses scoot forward—and what were nice groups of individual teams, suddenly became a mixed-up pile of horses and riders. Order was restored quickly and the announcer encouraged the riders to dismount as a huge wave of red flowed down the track: the volunteers, in their red t-shirts, who took care of everything from garbage to security, you name it. It still always amazes me how many people it takes to make such an event run smoothly.

At previous European Championships and World Championships, only the individual participants were honored. This year FEIF awarded for the first time in its 40-year history a Team Trophy for sport classes. The first team to receive the trophy was Iceland: The team competition is based upon the highest sum of marks in the preliminary rounds, plus the highest marks in Pace Test PP1 and the fastest times in Pace Race 250m and SpeedPass 100m.

The Board of FEIF invited interested parties to make a proposal for the trophy's design. The one chosen was a bronze by Dutch artist Jos Dirix. As Jos explained, "The lower part is half a globe, with the FEIF logo on it. Three persons carry the other half of the globe, where

five horses in the specific gaits of the Icelandic horse move around. The three persons personify the respect and passion we share for the Icelandic horse. The trophy also resembles the grail Vikings used to drink from, to link the trophy to the history of the Icelandic horse as well." The trophy is a perpetual trophy, for the Icelandic team to hold until the next World Championships; the winning country also received a small copy to keep.

As one of the highlights of the Closing Ceremony, the team trophy was carried in by four men, as it is quite heavy. When the winning country of Iceland was announced, a team member "tolted" in his white jodhpur pants and traditional royal-blue FT jacket to receive it. Call it the strength of the Vikings or just pride and adrenalin, but he lifted that trophy high over his head in pure joy.

The 2009 Icelandic Horse World Championships was over. The Swiss organizers had thought of everything. The venue was amazing, the schedule on time—even the weather cooperated (except for one day). Just one thing got missed: How are all these horses and riders going to exit the oval track? There was no plan for that, and after some initial confusion and the announcers' chuckles about the missed planning detail, one by one the riders left the track, all ready to do it all over again in two years in Austria.



Asta and Dynjandi riding a victory lap alongside T1 Tolt second-place winner Thorarin (Toti) Eymundsson on Kraftur frá Bringu.

THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: AN ALTERNATE'S VIEW

BY KARI PIETSCH-WANGARD

Think the only way to have a “team experience” is to be a full riding member of the U.S. team competing at the Icelandic World Championships? Not necessarily! Read on...

For many who love the Icelandic horse, attending the World Championships is an event not to be missed. Held every other year, the event brings together teams from all of the FEIF countries (currently 18 countries) to compete in Sport and Pace events, as well as to present their country's best at Breeding Evaluations. For many of those who enjoy competing with their Icelandic horses, the honor to represent your country at this event has become a goal.

FEIF allows each country to send up to seven adult and three young rider competitors for the Sport competitions (V1 Four Gait, F1 Five Gait, T1 Tolt, and T2 Loose-Rein Tolt) and Pace events. This year I tried out for the team and, while I received scores above the minimum requirement, I was not in the top seven. Did this leave me out of the team experience? Absolutely not!

I had always planned on traveling to Brunnadern, Switzerland, to watch the championships and cheer on our team. Knowing this, team leader Doug Smith invited me to take part in all team events, including walking in the opening and closing ceremonies, even though I was not a riding team member. “You are a member of this team, the only difference is that you're not on a horse,” Doug said. I would be given the same credentials as the rest of the team, meaning that I would have full access to the stabling and training areas. This was an incredible opportunity to experience what these competitors go through during the championships—without the stress of actually competing.

Then late one evening in mid-July, I received an email from Doug: “One of the

team riders has to drop out of the team. You are now the first (and only) alternate member. If you can arrange for a horse, there is a stall available. No guarantee that you will be competing in the WC. Let me know as soon as possible.”

All of a sudden I was no longer an observer. If I could find a suitable horse, I would be training with the rest of the team and there was the possibility that I might be riding if something should keep one of the team's riders or horses from competing. In 2005, days before the event began, one of the U.S. team riders fell off her horse and was no longer able to ride. The alternate team rider had decided not to attend that year's event, but if she had, she would have filled the now-open spot on the team. Remembering this, I felt it was an opportunity not to be missed, and my husband was behind me 100 percent.

But, how was I to find a horse for the World Championships in eight hours? With no time to waste, I contacted Nicole Kempf. Earlier in the year, Nicole had taught the FEIF trainer seminar held at Katrin Sheehan's Creekside Farm, which I had attended. Nicole told me, “If you ever need a horse for the World Championships, call me.” Nicole was coaching our team's Young Rider, Caeli Cavanaugh. Nicole did not have a horse of her own to offer me, but she did have an idea. By the end of the day, she had teamed me up with a first-prize, nine-year-old stallion named Sikill frá Sperdli [IS2000184702] who is owned by Katrin Sheehan and stabled in Germany. Katrin's enthusiasm, generosity, and support were amazing. Having been on the 2007 U.S. team, she said it was one of the most exciting experiences in her life. She wanted me to have the same chance, and felt Sikill and I would be a good match. Team member Chrissy Seipolt kept her horse at the same farm and could bring him along with her horse to Switzerland. Everything was falling into place.



Kari Pietsch-Wangard was the alternate rider on this year's World Championship team. Photo by Stu Wangard.

SWITZERLAND HERE I COME!

I arrived in Zurich at the same time as Doug's wife Gayle and Lucy Nold, who would be grooming for Asta Covert and Anne-Marie Martin. Doug piled us all in the van and met up with some of the team at the holding farm where the U.S.-based horses were stabled until being allowed onto the show grounds. I had heard horror stories about the "unteam-like" attitude in previous years and was a bit nervous as to how I would fit in. As soon as I saw Gudmar Petursson, Kathy Love, Sigrun Brynjarsdottir and her husband Jason Brickner, as well as Asta and Anne-Marie, I knew this year was going to be different. The mood, while filled with anxious anticipation, was one of good spirits and fun. I felt totally accepted and welcome.

The next day, Thursday, we arrived in Brunnadern with the horses. Each horse had to be unloaded individually and inspected by a veterinarian. Aside from checking temperature, soundness, and mouth wounds, they also matched the horse's registration with their ID mark (brand) or microchip to ensure the correct horse was being presented. For horses arriving from the U.S., they also checked their vaccination records and health history, which has very strict protocol. Once they passed, we were escorted to our assigned stabling area. The stables were located in what had been a cow pasture. There were a number of temporary paddocks set up outside the stabling tent, one for each horse. The displaced cows would line up along the fence that separated them from their old grazing area with their bells clanging away... Welcome to Switzerland!

As a group, we started to unload, get organized, and set up the Team USA base camp. Doug had brought along grease boards in the shape of surf-boards, which were used to keep us informed with the days' events, training times, and other important issues that would come up. He and Gayle also brought along a mascot, the Team Turtle, to keep us amused. The turtle had his own ID badge and attended all team events with us. We were given our team shirts, hats, ties, and jackets (which were generously provided by Annette Coulon and Bruce Edwards, Doug and Gayle Smith, Anne Marie Martin, Asta and Will Covert, and Laurie and Scott Prestine.) We had lots of American flags



Team members gather at their stable area for a meeting. Photo by Stu Wangard.

to wave during team events and when each team member was performing on the oval track.

The next few days consisted of cleaning stalls and tack, training, and taking the horses to their turnout area or out for walks. We took turns getting up for early feeding duties so the others could grab an extra hour of sleep before meeting for breakfast at the hotel. Any time a problem arose, Doug would say, "Don't worry, I'm on it!" followed quickly by "Problem solved!" There was nothing he could not fix and make right, usually with a good dose of humor. He kept everyone on an even keel so they could focus on performing to the best of their abilities. The amount of paperwork he was processing every day for us was numbing. Gayle's job was keeping Doug sane while the rest of us were making him anything but.

TRAINING ON THE OVAL TRACK

Team USA was given blocks of time to train on the official oval track on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Doug made sure everyone had a chance to practice their program(s). They were still setting up around the track, with tractors hauling things all around us. I decided to use my first time on the oval track walking, to gauge Sikill's reactions. The JumboTron was set up and playing the DVD of finals from the 2007 World Championships with full sound on the loudspeakers. It was quite a unique feeling to ride up to the track from the collecting area and enter the oval track with the recorded sound of

crowds cheering and music playing. And Sikill? He just seemed to enjoy the whole spectacle, showing no tension, just taking it all in (just like me).

Doug approached me with the possibility of being a demonstration rider for one of the day's Individual Program events. The demo rider performs the test for the judges before the event begins each day. Was I game? You bet! Sign me up for T1 Tolt. It would give me something to focus on during our future training sessions.

On Sunday our final team member, Sharon Johnson, arrived. Sharon had been training at Wiesenhof for the previous month with a horse she had on loan from Anne Elwell. But there was a problem identifying the black stallion without a microchip or a brand, and the officials didn't want to allow them to enter the grounds. This was my first brush with the possibility of being elevated from my alternate status. The problem was resolved when one of the German National Judges stepped forward and vouched that they had judged this horse and could state for certain that he was the same horse on the registration paperwork. That was a very close call! Starting in 2011, all horses must be micro-chipped or they will not be allowed onto the grounds.

Monday morning dawned along with our final track practice. I rode my T1 Tolt program and was thrilled with how well Sikill and I were working together. The afternoon would bring our "fit-to-compete" vet check. This check was more thorough

than the earlier one. Once again they checked the temperature of each horse, looked over their legs for any swelling, and opened their mouths looking for oral wounds. Then each horse had to walk and then trot before the vet to check for soundness. Hooves were measured for angles and shoes for thickness. They were also photographing each horse's hooves for a research project. This final check is where my second brush with a change in team status occurred. One of the team horses had developed an abscess that made him lame enough for the official vet to feel he should not compete. When the shoe was pulled, the abscess began to drain, and it was decided to allow the horse to remain in the veterinarian's holding stall and check him again in the morning. If he showed enough improvement, he would be re-shod and checked again one hour before the event began. If he did not show any signs of lameness, he would be allowed to compete—which is how things turned out.

THE COMPETITION

Wednesday was the day for the opening ceremonies. All of the teams marched onto the oval track alphabetically by country, with the flags of all of the competing countries flying. I felt so honored to be a part of this team representing the U.S. During the many speeches given, the U.S. was complimented for holding the FEIF Youth Camp and it was proclaimed a huge success! During the week I was often stopped by parents of some of the kids who had attended the camp held at Winterhorse Park, and they were so very enthusiastic about their child's experience.

Wednesday was also the day for T1 Tolt, and Asta provided the first of two outstanding performances with Dynjandi. I had never seen this horse-rider combination before: The slow tolt was breathtaking, the speed changes spot-on, and the fast tolt just plain amazing. When their score of 8.07 was announced, they had earned the second position in the T1 Tolt finals. It was the first time since 1999 that the American team had a rider make it into one of the A-Finals. (In the A-Finals, the top five scorers in the individual program compete; they are joined by the winner of the B-Finals, who are the second five scorers in the individual program.) Proving this was not some fluke,

Asta and Dynjandi repeated their sterling performance in the V4 Four-Gait individual program, and again were in second position for the A-Finals. Now we really had something to cheer about!

On Saturday, the skies opened up and dropped an immense amount of rain on us. By mid-afternoon, we had a flood running through our tack rooms. With the help of the WC Volunteers, we found enough pallets to keep our feed, tack, and equipment high and dry. Our other concern was Dynjandi, as his stall was also filling with water. Using bags of bedding, we made an island for him and prayed that the rain would stop soon. It did.

The skies cleared for the competition's last day and the A-Finals. We all headed to the stands to cheer on Asta and Dynjandi in the Four-Gait finals. A-Finals are always exciting to watch, but to have your team member as a major contender adds a whole different dimension. Asta and Dynjandi came in fourth position, with the final scores being very close, only 0.1 separating them from the Bronze medal.

The T1 Tolt A-Finals were very interesting. Kraftur fra Bringu had won the B-Finals and was in the sixth position coming into the finals. The 2005 T1 World Champion, Hvinur fra Holtsmula, also was in top form and in first position. Asta and Dynjandi must have used the Four-Gait final as their warm-up, because they pulled out all the stops in the Tolt finals. They had the top score overall of 8.83 for Slow Tolt! Hvinur took the gold and Kraftur the silver medals, with Dynjandi receiving the bronze—only 0.06 point away from the silver. Seeing Asta on the podium with the American flag being raised is a sight I will never forget. To be a part of this U.S. team was a real honor.

THE CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony once again brings all teams together onto the oval track. The difference is that you have the option of riding instead of walking. Sikill had proved to be such a solid horse all week that I decided to put on my uniform and ride in the closing ceremony. Once again, all of the teams met in the collecting ring. Many of the horses being ridden were stallions, which can create some interesting situations. Ten feet away from me, one stallion reared up and climbed onto the back of another horse whose

rider was caught in the middle. Some very quick-thinking people, including U.S. team-member Gudmar Petursson, quickly untangled the horses. Sikill stayed completely calm and under control.

Team USA was one of the last to enter the track. The other teams had lined up on the opposite side on the infield grass. When the Swiss team entered (the host country enters last), the Swiss section in the stands went crazy ... which caused the horses standing in front of them to swerve, creating a chain reaction. It looked like a wave had hit this entire row. We, being on the opposite side, had a view but, thank goodness, not the effect of the commotion. Then the medal winners of the A-Finals entered the venue with their country flags. Once lined up, the winners of the combination awards were announced, with Asta and Dynjandi receiving the silver medal in the Four-Gait combination (a combination of best scores from their preliminary T1 Tolt and V1 Four-Gait events).

Last, and certainly not least, the hundreds of volunteers entered the track. They looked like a sea of red, cheering, singing, and waving as they came behind us on the track.

After the celebrating, it was all over. We met back at the stables and began to pack up and say our goodbyes. I had made so many new friends and seen many old friends too. After being with him every day, it was strange to leave Sikill behind knowing I would not be coming back. He had given me a wonderful ride during the week and proved to have an exceptionally solid character.

My "alternate" experience was all the richer because of many people. From Doug, who first made me feel part of the team, to Katrin, who loaned me a very special horse, to the rest of the team and their family members, who all supported me and each other during the emotional ups and downs of the week, and of course to my husband Stu, who was with me every step of the way, being an alternate team member was more than I ever thought it could be.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT YOUTH CAMP U.S.A.

BY BARB RIVA & ANNE ELWELL, PHOTOS BY DEB COOK

Barb writes: Winterhorse Park of Eagle, Wisconsin, held the first FEIF event ever in the United States: 31 kids from eight countries (Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S.), along with eight chaperones, took part in the FEIF/USIHC Youth Camp. This event has been reported internationally to be the “best ever” youth camp held. Winterhorse Park is very proud, and could not have done it without the great response of help from USIHC members and individuals who donated their horses and time to make it all happen.

Our itinerary was a good combination of on-the-farm and off-the-farm, horse and non-horse activities. We were able to present the campers with a true Native Indian experience, with a dance and drum group from the Lac du Flambeau Indian tribe located in the upper Wisconsin area. The kids joined in Pow-Wow type dancing and later enjoyed a meal of buffalo burgers, wild rice, and corn on the cob. They worked on an Indian bead craft project during the rare down times they

had throughout the week. They also took part in Indian games and some gymkhana games with their horses.

We took the campers on fun outings almost daily. We spent a day at Noah’s Ark in Wisconsin Dells. This is the largest water park in the world and, while the weather was on the cool side that day, it didn’t stop any of the campers from having a great time. We also were able to schedule a western horse riding experience at Sun Fire Stables in East Troy. Each camper got to ride western style and also take part in some fun traditional picnic games like a sack race and bobbing for apples.

One day the campers were organized into small groups to ride the trails of the Southern Kettle Moraine Forest. They all met in Eagle, where we hitched up the horses and enjoyed pizza and Pepsi at a western style pub called Suhmers Saloon. It was quite a sight to see close to 40 horses hitched at every possible place outside that corner restaurant.

Another extremely fun outing was floating down the Wisconsin River on innertubes. This event, I think, was one of the most popular. We packed our lunch

and floated the cooler along with us, stopping on a sandbar to eat and build sand sculptures along the way. Finally, we could not finish the week without some kind of shopping. The campers had fun exploring the shops at Mayfair shopping mall. Both campers and chaperones seemed to enjoy this experience.

PLANNED A YEAR AHEAD

Barb writes: The task of planning this kind of event is quite overwhelming, to say the least. The planning started a year in advance, searching for cots, a portable shower unit, tables and chairs, and transportation, and researching places the campers might enjoy experiencing.

Three meals a day were offered on the farm or packed to take on an outing, with the exception of the pizza lunch in Eagle. The task of feeding this many people for a week was quite an accomplishment. My good non-riding friend Rita and I planned shopping trips weeks before the event to Sam’s Club, stocking up on non-perishable items first. Meal planning came closer to the event: We cooked dinners for 40 people and froze and labeled them. Our dinners were all



Campers and counselors at the 2009 FEIF Youth Camp, held at Winterhorse Park in Eagle, Wisconsin. It was the first FEIF camp held in the U.S.



Campers tried out Western-style riding on “big horses” at Sun Faire Stables.

home cooked and made from fresh ingredients. Needless to say, they were enjoyed immensely by all.

THE HORSES

Barb writes: Initially in our planning we felt we could only accommodate one horse for every two campers. However, with the generosity of many Icelandic horse owners, each camper was able to care for and ride a horse of his or her own. The horses were all phenomenal additions to this event. We could not have done this without the trust and generosity of the owners of these very special horses. The campers also did their part. As one horse owner commented

afterwards, “We loaned horses of varying talents and training levels, and every one of them came home a better horse than when they left here. That says a lot for the talent of the kids.”

Anne adds: Horses had been brought from North Carolina, Vermont, and Minnesota to make sure that each camper would have a horse of his or her own for the week. (Camp can have its difficult moments, and a horse is incomparable solace.) The full care of the horse—hay, feed, supplements, grooming, shoe checks, pasture, and stall access—was the camper’s responsibility. The incredibly gifted Ann Heemann from Germany was



Nearly 40 Icelandics were hitched in front of Suhmer’s Saloon—a Western-style pizza pub. Volunteer Eileen Gunipero kept watch for rustlers.

responsible for all horse issues and spent most of the first day matching horses and campers. She created four teams of riders, mixing countries and riding skills in each group to assure that they would be equal and competitive. Good horsemanship was the priority, and the kids thrived with the responsibility and the riding challenges—gymkhana games and long trail rides.

THE UNSPOKEN GOALS

Anne continues: We were real babes-in-the-woods regarding this event, having no certainly at all as it grew closer that we could pull it off. There we were, never having organized a camp, most of us never even having gone to camp. Some of us were parents but that hardly qualifies as expertise.

Looking back on it I realize that we were in absolute agreement on several goals. We never spoke of them but they were premises in everything we did. They were:

- This camp was going to be warm and nurturing.
- This camp was going to provide the kids from Europe with a clear understanding of what Americans did with their Icelandic horses.
- This camp was going to show the kids from Europe what Americans were like—what we do, what we eat, what we think is important, what we think isn’t.
- This camp was going to expose American kids to kids from different countries and cultures so that they could discover that some things are very different and most things are exactly the same.
- This camp was going to be active, strenuous, and fun for everyone involved, including the grown-ups.

As the least important member of the group (the most useful thing I did was wash dishes), I was able to observe everyone else’s contributions and they were extraordinary. The transportation and food crews were the first in action. Rather than hiring a large bus for the whole group, we picked up the kids in small vans, seven or eight to a van and the trip from the airport already engaged them in questions and exchanges with the adults. When they finally arrived at Winterhorse the exhausted travelers were met with big pots of soup and crusty bread before falling into bed.



The Lac du Flambeau dancers performed at Youth Camp, and then invited the campers to join in.

EVERYONE PARTICIPATED

Writes Anne: The distinctions between campers and grown-ups was minimal. For example, when the Lac du Flambeau Indians came to show ceremonial and non-ceremonial Indian dances, Dan Riva and all of the boys enthusiastically participated in the “male-fish-fertilizing-the-eggs” dance, while the girls rolled on the ground laughing ‘til they cried. After a meal consisting of foods that had come from Indian culture (lots of corn and bison burgers), kids and grown-ups enjoyed an evening of incredibly raucous Indian games put together by Eileen Gunipero and Susan Milloy—things like slingshot competitions with slingshots we had to make.

Campers and country leaders went inner-tubing down the Wisconsin and shared the three-hour trail ride into town. The kids teased the grown-ups, the grown-ups teased the kids. The country leaders teased each other and everyone teased the food crew. We had one quite serious medical crisis which became a very positive experience for the camper involved because of the support of the group, adults, and kids alike. When we parted on the final day, most of us were crying—kids, grown-ups, even the two farm dogs looked a little heartbroken.

VOLUNTEER HELPERS

We would like to thank the following individuals who donated their time and efforts in hands-on labor and skills:

Annie Heemann from Melle, Germany, for her work with organizing the horse activities, training, and care.

Eileen Gunipero, who traveled from North Carolina to Wisconsin a week prior to help with set-up and organizing on-the-farm activities and chauffer service to and from O’Hare airport in Chicago and off-the-farm events.

Susan Milloy, who flew in from Virginia a week in advance to work with on-the-farm activities, chauffer service, and all-around help where needed.

Anne Elwell who traveled from North Carolina to Wisconsin a week prior to help with organizing the camp week and for her work with camp rules and acting as chauffer to get injured and ill kids to the local hospital and runner for supplies and groceries.

Deb Cook from Waterville, Minnesota, for her chauffer service to off-the-farm events and kitchen help throughout the week, along with acting as our camp health advisor.

Susan Peters, Youth Committee Chairman, who traveled from Vermont to work with all chaperones to organize events and take care of any issues and insurance coverage.

Rita Otahal for her diligent work in grocery shopping, meal preparation, and serving and general all-around kitchen detail and clean-up.

Sharron Cretney, for taking a week’s vacation to help with kitchen detail and clean-up.

Sherrie Kellogg, for kitchen detail and clean-up.

Beth and Jim Slocum, for the rope halter craft, buffalo burger delivery, and location of a great donated cake for our last evening meal.

Kari Pietsch-Wangard, for trail leader of a group of campers to Eagle and financial recording through the USIHC treasury.

Monica Everson, for her chauffer service to the many trips to Chicago and back.

And Dan Riva, for set-up, clean-up, and putting up!

We would like to thank the following individuals who allowed the campers to use their horses for the week:

Deb Cook for Vissa, Blitha, Kormakur, Ari, Ljufa, and Draumur

Judy Strehler for Osk, Josafina, and Manadis

Amber Parry for Onn and Seimur

Susan Peters for Farri

Ron and Robbie Rose for Straumur and Grimur

Dennis Engler for Thokki

Tia Greenfield for Funi

Alice Read for Petra

Elizabeth Everson for Glima

Stephanie Astrin for Spuni

Roger and Kathleen Haab for Dynur and Sjofn

Sally Ward for Frami

Cheri Krause for Hallengur

Anne Elwell for Gaefa

Dan & Barb Riva for Fjalar, Fengur, Vinur, Pia, Ovissa, Oskar, Graside, Glytja, and Flis



Tubing on the Wisconsin River was a favorite camp activity.

WHAT MADE IT WORK?

Anne writes: During the last evening's events, the FEIF Youth Leader said to everyone, "This has been the best FEIF Youth Camp ever." On the way to the airport the next day Susan Peters told the FEIF Youth Leader that the organizers would now probably start thinking about the things they could have done to make it better. Anne Svantesson looked at her, started to laugh and said, "What could any of you possibly have done to make it better?"

All of us who were there have asked ourselves and each other, "What made it work?" A lot of things, of course. The place (Barb and Dan Riva's wonderful Winterhorse Park), the planning, the skills of all of the people involved were excellent. But in the final analysis, I believed it worked so magnificently because all of us there really loved doing it and that kind of positive energy unites and enlarges everyone involved. May we have this energy in all that we do together for the benefit of our horses.



Sack races! Another picnic favorite.



Campers enjoyed gymkhana games.



Youth Camp coordinator Barb Riva having a well-earned nap.



A hayride ended the day of Western-style events.



Volunteer Beth Slocum working with campers on the rope halter craft.



Apple-bobbing was one of the many American picnic games the campers were introduced to; some were more enthusiastic than others.

A KID'S VIEW OF YOUTH CAMP 2009

BY EMILY PFOUTZ

We walked out of Chicago O'Hare International Airport and discovered that Wisconsin was windy and cold. The groups who had just arrived—eight kids from Germany, two girls from Denmark, and two of us from the United States—followed Susan Peters out to the parking lot, huddling in our jackets, wondering where Wisconsin had hidden summer, because this most certainly did not feel like June. I crammed myself into Susan's car along with the two girls I'd just met from Denmark, their country leader, and all of our luggage (which took up more space than we did—how it's possible to pack as much as everyone did for just one week, I have no idea).

Two hours later, we pulled into Barb and Dan Riva's beautiful Winterhorse Park farm. The first thing you see when you come in the driveway is the regulation track, set off by flags from several different countries, already a sign that this was more than the stereotypical American horse camp. Walking into the very cozy, lodge-style room where we were all going to sleep, that could not have been more apparent. Chaos surrounded us in several different languages, as 20 or more other teenagers tried to find a place to put down their suitcases and lay out their sleeping bags. The cots were already breaking (an occurrence that would plague us the rest of the week) as campers jumped around hysterically, not realizing that they'd regret sleeping on a broken bed for the next six nights.

That seemed to be everyone's first impression of FEIF's 2009 Youth Camp.

HAY IN PAJAMAS

Organization imposed itself bright and early the next morning, however: We all stumbled out of bed at 7:00 am (which felt like various different hours



New "best friends forever" made at the 2009 FEIF Youth Camp. Our reporter, Emily Pfoutz, is second from right.

of the night for those who'd come from Europe) to take care of the horses. One of the fantastic things about Winterhorse Park is that the main sleeping and dining room connects right to the barn, so you can walk out in your pajamas and start feeding hay.

Later that first morning, we were each assigned a horse to ride and care for over the duration of the camp. I remember mounting my horse, Elja (a really sweet mare who I had showed the previous October and was already acquainted with), and looking around somewhat incredulously at all the strangers riding around the ring. Here were 31 kids from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S.—most of whom were between 15 and 17, but some as young as 8—all in the same room. It was very surreal, seeing as

less than 24 hours ago we were on separate ends of the world, and I wondered if that would change, if we'd eventually feel at home with each other.

It was not an "eventually." My doubt barely lasted through the afternoon. By dinner, with the help of Dan and Barb's unending warmth and sense of humor, and the fact that we'd all come a long way to pursue a very unique passion, we were all sitting around tables talking and getting to know each other. By the time we were supposed to go to bed, we had ended up in a circle, falling on each other and laughing about absolutely nothing until we couldn't breathe. By the time I actually went to bed, I had more inside jokes with this group of people than I'd ever had after just 24 hours of knowing someone. After the camp was over, I decided that it was the most I've ever laughed in one week.



Emily and her four-legged best friend at home.

TOLTING FAST

The days ran together after that. After getting up early to turn out horses, feed, and clean stalls, we'd eat breakfast, scramble to find an open shower, and then start barreling through our ever-extensive, but very exciting, list of activities for the day. One of my favorite events was riding to the nearby town for lunch; in our assigned riding groups, we left the barn and made our way through trails in the woods and bucolic green Wisconsin fields, tolt as fast as we could to avoid the mosquitoes. We ended up in town (where the country leaders were stopping traffic to let us cross the highway) and tied the horses up while we ate pizza, before heading back to the farm, trying, but not succeeding, to get back before the rain poured on us. There was also the memorable time when we found ourselves at a Western ranch, taking lessons that would, for many campers, be their first experience riding a "big horse."

Another day, the horses got a break while we went tubing in the Wisconsin Dells. Although the rain held off this time, it was cold out that day, and the water was only a few feet deep, so what was supposed to be a relaxing float down the Wisconsin River turned into something else entirely: dragging tubes behind us while we ran, throwing mud, and trying to balance on the tubes until we realized that being able to ride a horse doesn't

translate into skill at standing on an inflatable ring that's moving down a river.

The seven days we were there also included a Gymkhana, a treasure hunt on horseback, making rope halters, going to America's largest water park, and even going shopping at a nearby mall, where we awed a shoe salesclerk who was impressed that we'd come from all over Europe to ride horses together. The really meaningful memories weren't always on the itinerary, though; having water balloon fights around the track, playing the rather vicious card game "Spoons" and destroying all the plastic tablecloths (about which Dan and Barb were, thankfully, very understanding).

INSTANT RAPPORT

I think it was the last night, country night, when I realized why it was those particular, seemingly insignificant moments would stand out. We had all made up short performances that were supposed to describe our experience in America. For instance, my group did the chicken dance. I looked around at everyone eating the foreign candy (whether or not the Icelanders' crunchy fish snacks tasted good was debatable) and I realized that I'd only known these people for one week. I was shocked. I had literally forgotten what it was like not knowing all of these friends. However clichéd this sounds, I have no other words for it:

They really had become like family, and it truly did affect my life. Something about having everyone travel so far for such a specific passion, and something about the unspoken but very apparent knowledge that Icelandic horses are a huge part of all of our lives—that gave us a common understanding, an instant rapport that created what felt like lifelong friendships in just a week.

Particularly in America, where such a relatively small number of people, especially teenagers, are involved with Icelandic horses, I've always felt like my horse obsession existed in a separate world, estranged from the other world of my friends and my life at school. Growing up falling in love with horses, I had a persistent need to know that there were other people my age that felt like I did. The youth camp not only bridged that gap, it bridged gaps between people of my generation *all over the world*. I don't know what could be more important for our global community right now. The camp was the catalyst for a lot more connections I know we'll all make down the road; maybe that's what made this experience so valuable.

Whatever it was, I know that it was infinitely more than I had expected. Early one morning, as I was filling up water tubs outside, I stopped and looked around at the horses impatiently anticipating their breakfast. I thought about how many languages I'd learned to say "sweet dreams" in the previous night (as well as some less appropriate phrases, not all of which I fully understood as I said them!); and for once, the sun was shining and it wasn't cold out—everything was just making itself beautiful. I glanced out at the endless green field that bordered the entrance to Winterhorse Park, and I knew that I had never felt more whole.

COLD FEET: AN INTERVIEW WITH JAN GERD RHENIUS

BY YVONNE EBERLING

With winter at our doorsteps, we are confronted with cares about our horse's feet. Unlike us, horses do not wear cozy and protective shoes, but they still require us to give their feet a different treatment than during the warm summer months.

When I came up with the idea for this article, however, I was overwhelmed by the amount of information I was able



What do a horse's feet need in the winter?
Photo by Nancy Marie Brown.

to acquire. Worse, some sources were telling me the total opposite of others. I quickly came to the conclusion that I might not be the perfect author for this topic; luckily I found Jan Gerd Rhenius, a well-known German master farrier, to help me out.

Jan has been riding Icelandic horses since his early years, competing at national level; he later trained horses in Iceland and acquired his Icelandic trainer certificate. After working at several well-known Icelandic horse-breeding farms in Germany and Iceland, he became a state-certified master farrier; he now trains future farriers. For years he has been engaged in promoting the importance of proper hoof care, giving interviews and contributing to many publications. He agreed to answer a few of my questions regarding winter hoof care.

What forms of winter shoeing are available? What do they look like? Which ones can be re-used?

Winter shoeing helps avoid the buildup of snow balls under the hoof and prevents the horse from slipping.

Solutions against slipping include: Normal iron or aluminum shoes with mounted or removable cleats or studs, or synthetic (plastic) horse shoes or boots with spikes.

Solutions against snow build up include: Insoles or grips (these will be nailed onto the hoof along with the horseshoe); self-adherent hoof-cushions or "hoof putty," which can be worked into the hoof by anybody (these can be added later to the shoe); or synthetic horseshoes, which inhibit the buildup of snowballs because of their shape and flexibility. Aside from the hoof cushions, all options named above can be re-used.

In your opinion, which solutions are the most reliable and safest?

The bare hoof is very adequate for winter because of its profile. The combi-

nation of standard horseshoe and hoof grip is very effective and very affordable. Synthetic horse shoes with spikes are a little bit more expensive, but in some cases more horse friendly.

It depends on how the horse is kept. A horse kept in a paddock stall has to be taken care of differently from a horse that lives in a box stall and only occasionally encounters snow. Also, snow is different from place to place. In Germany, because of the muddy and clotting snow, hoof grip is essential; in Iceland on the other hand, cleats are sufficient, since Iceland's snow is powdery and falls off. You probably have both kinds in different parts of the U.S.

What dangers are our horse's hooves exposed to during the winter?

On frozen ground, they can suffer from bruises and irritations of the frog and digital cushion, causing laminitis due to mechanical overstressing. Additionally, the hoof is exposed to a higher abrasion of the horn, while the hoof is growing on a reduced speed.

In snow and ice, slipping can lead to damaged tendons and ligaments; it can also cause trauma to the joints. Slipping can cause the horse to trip and fall. Horses can also trip and sprain their feet due to balled-up snow.

In general, there might be an increased occurrence of hoof rot due to damp and soaked horn and also due to increased restraint in a stall.

What can we do to see our horse's hooves safely through winter, no matter if he is barefoot or shod?

If the hoof is constantly soaked and damp, it will lose its rigidity, so you should offer dry sleeping and feeding spots and take good care of the hygienic situation of the stall. In some cases, you will need to disinfect the hoof. Hoof rot has to be avoided and if it is occurring, it has to be fought. Greasing and oiling can temporarily protect the hoof from dampness.

TEACHERS AND TRAINERS: WHO IS KNUTUR BERNDSEN?

INTERVIEW BY ALEX PREGITZER

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

I have been interested in horses since I was a small child, but I did not get to start riding until I was 12. From that time on, riding has been my central focus. Like so many other young horse trainers in Iceland, I attended Holar University College. After graduating in 1995 I still felt driven to learn more, so I continued going to clinics and working with trainers whose methods appealed to me. In 2001 I went to a clinic with classical dressage trainer Horst Becker. After the clinic I asked if I could visit his farm during a trip to Germany. Instead of a visit he offered me the opportunity to come to his farm and work for the summer, which I eagerly accepted. During this time I learned a good deal from him and was lucky to work with some other very exciting trainers. Several years later, while working in Germany I met Ute Lehmann, who is the main natural horsemanship instructor in Denmark. I was so impressed with what she was doing that I leased a farm next to her training facility to continue learning from her. I was able to take private lessons and to help her with clinics throughout Denmark. During my time there I also was able to work with an incredibly gifted clinician, Honza Bláha. Over the years I have had a fairly broad experience when it comes to horse training, but I believe in continuous education, so I attend clinics and seminars as much as possible. On top of my training experience, I attended the Kentucky Horseshoeing School and graduated in 2006.



Knutur training a horse to drive at Mill Farm in New York.

WHAT ARE YOUR TRAINING AND TEACHING PHILOSOPHIES?

When it comes to training and teaching, I use a lot of natural horsemanship techniques, especially when it comes to young and problem horses. I add in dressage as needed to supple and develop muscles. I feel that it is important to teach people a mix of natural horsemanship and dressage because it helps to build their confidence and communication skills with their horse. This in turn helps their horse to develop trust and confidence in them.

DO YOU HAVE A BREEDING PROGRAM?

I have been breeding since 1991, with my first foal born in 1992. I have been fortunate to produce some great horses, among them the first-prize mare Drifa fra Reykjavik, who has 9.5 for pace and 8.33 for ridden ability. This year my wife, Cerice, and I bred one of our mares in the U.S. to a promising young stallion, Valur from Ice Follies in Maine, which we are very excited about. We also leased the first-prize mare Gidja frá Skidabakka 1 (8.31 overall) and bred her to Gaumur from Audshotshjáleigu (8.69 overall and 9.05 ridden ability). We have high hopes for that offspring. We have strong ambitions to help improve the quality of breeding horses in the U.S. We have been able to help some of our friends in



Knutur riding Andi on the trails.

this country acquire some very promising breeding horses, and I look forward to doing more of that in the future. I think that there are some very good breeders in this country, but that they have not had enough opportunities to show off their horses. I'm sure that this will get better in time, as it has in other countries.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?

This is our first year in business, so we have been working on establishing our business through training horses and providing clinics, as well as making more contacts in the U.S. We have also been working on putting together some educational videos for our website which we are very excited about.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE ICELANDIC HORSE IN THE U.S.?

My hopes are that the Icelandic horse will continue to catch on as a very versatile breed. Despite the breed's popularity here being several years behind what it is in Europe, I hope that with continued effort on everyone's part the Icelandic horse will have the same success here in the U.S.

CONTACT:

Knutur Berndsen
Pangaea Equestrian
259 Pugsley Hill Rd.
Amenia, NY 12501

Phone: 845-789-1076
Email: PangaeaEquestrian@live.com
Web: www.pangaeaequestrian.com



Knutur and Atario at work.

WINTER BOREDOM BREAKERS

BY YVONNE EBERLING

Winter is approaching. Writing this article in mid-September, winter seems far away, but the first signs of it are already showing. My Icelandic horse, Gladur, is already shedding his light summer coat, and the first impatient leaves are turning color. So it is time to plan and think about what to do when it gets too icy and the weather is too harsh to have an enjoyable ride in the park.

Some people are blessed. They can take their horses' shoes off and put them out on pasture and give them a nice winter vacation—while they, themselves, go skiing. Others, like me here on Long Island, don't have the ability to do so, due to the lack of pastures. On top of it all, some of us are "blessed" with easily bored horses that tend to find their own entertainment. Last year my horse found out, again, how to open doors and gates. One day the barn manager found him with his head stuck in a gate—God alone knows what he intended to do.

So what to do with a horse like him in winter? Duct-taping him to the wall seems like a good idea sometimes. Short of that, here are a few strategies on how to entertain him and keep his brain cells working in a productive way.

ENTERTAINING WORK

We split our winter work up among a few different topics. First, there are would-be Circus Tricks or, to stick to the terms of classical dressage, "circensic lessons." Second, we concentrate on anti-spook and trust work, which can be a nice group activity. And, for sure, we lunge during the winter, but that already was another story (see Issue Three 2009 of the *Quarterly*).

In the following paragraphs I will give you a few ideas on how to pursue our winter activities—ones that turned out to be fun and inspiring. They can give you a great time with your horse on days when you can't ride, and both the confidence the horse will gain and the fun factor are not to be dismissed. But even if this sounds like a "how-to" article, please be aware that these are my personal experiences. I am only sharing with you how I reached my



Balloons and balls can be scary. All illustrations by Nancy Wines-DeWan.

goals and how it worked out for us. I am not a professional trainer. But I am my horse's *personal* trainer and entertainer. You might want to try some of these ideas in a completely different way, one that matches your horse's abilities and personality. Some of you might use the clicker method to reward your horse, some might use cookies or carrots, and some might only use praising words. Whatever works for you and your horse is what's important. Never forget that you do these things to entertain your horse,

keep its mind going, and to have fun. Never pressure your horse into doing things that might cause too much stress. Every horse is different.

CIRCUS TRICKS

I strongly recommend warming up and maybe stretching your horse before doing these exercises. There are some very good guides for stretching and preparing horses before work. I really love the instructions in Linda Tellington Jones's *Improve Your Horse's*

Well-being (Trafalgar Square Publishing, ISBN 1-57076-133-7). I use the leg work and some of the T-Touches every time before I start my work with Gladur.

1. *The Spanish Walk*: This is a very impressive little trick I started teaching Gladur last winter. We are not perfect, but since we never plan on doing this for anything else than fun, I am happy with it.

First of all, the horse has to learn to lift his front leg after being gently touched with the tip of the riding whip. This can take time. Gently touch the lower front leg of your horse with the whip, add a voice command like "step," and see what happens. If your horse makes just the slightest movement that resembles lifting the leg, praise him. Try it with the other front leg. Does your horse lift his other leg too? Be glad and praise your horse! He just saved you quite some work!

We stopped after that. The height he raises the leg doesn't matter yet. I recognized that Gladur started to lift his leg higher and higher with every time he got praised, being proud and satisfied at pleasing me. If this doesn't happen, my trainer recommended gently grabbing his leg when he lifted it to show him that he could lift it higher.

You cannot expect your horse to understand how to do the same thing on the left side once he knows it on the right side. Sadly our horses don't work like humans do, and they have to re-learn things once for the left side and again for the right side. So be patient if it doesn't happen immediately.

Some horses take a few times to learn this step, and that is perfectly fine. If it takes longer, just stand by your horse and gently touch the leg again and again until your horse shows the first sign of moving, even if he didn't really understand why you were touching the leg. Sooner or later he will realize that lifting the leg is what you want. I cannot impress upon you enough how important it is to praise your horse over and over again. It motivates him and is just a great confidence booster for your horse.

So, now your horse is lifting his leg. What now? This became the worst part for us, and it took us some time to get it figured out. It requires multitasking and was quite frustrating the first time.

If your horse follows you without a lead line, this is the best situation. Luckily Gladur does, and I didn't have to bother handling the line too. Here's what to do: Walk

backwards in front of your horse, holding two very long whips (I prefer driving whips) and see if he follows. Walk steadily and in an even pace, so your horse will be able to follow you doing the same. Also stop, and see if your horse stops. If your horse tries to go sideways, show him that you want him to stay in that straight line by using the whips as a barrier.

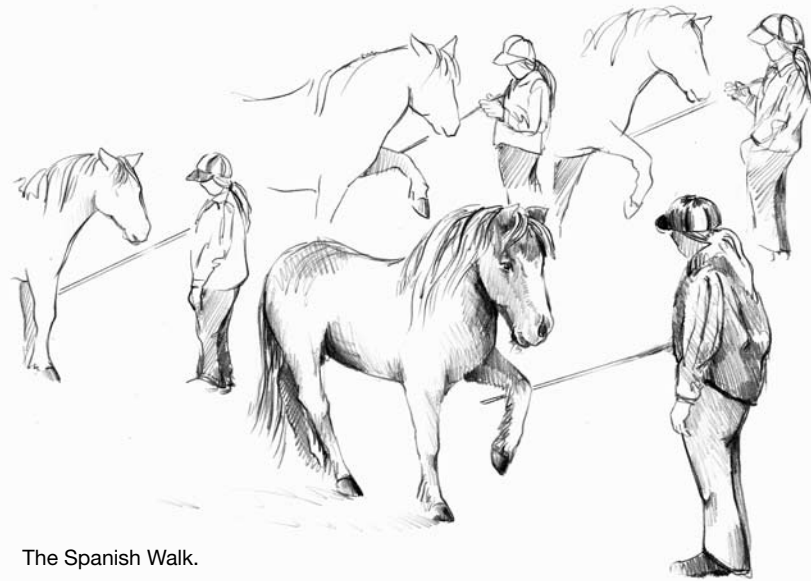
Now, do this again: Start walking backwards, having your horse following you, and then stop and immediately touch one of your horse's lower front legs and make him lift his leg like he has learned to do. When this happens, tell him to also finish this step and follow you. Ideally your horse will now learn to pick up a forward movement after

lifting his leg. Keep walking steadily and then stop again and repeat this step with the other leg. I moved on with the training after he showed me that he understood this concept.

Next time, repeat the already learned and hopefully understood exercise, and then add something new: While walking, touch the leg, which he has already started to raise and move forward, with the whip and give him the command to lift that leg. Ideally he will lift that leg high, or at least do something that resembles the previously learned movement. Let him do so, let him finish that step, and praise him like he just invented the wheel. It is very important not to ask for the lift with every step, as this



Teaching Gladur to bow.



The Spanish Walk.

would be overwhelming for your horse. Give your horse at least two or three steps in between to recollect and to get the beat, then ask him again to lift a leg while walking.

Down the road you will be able to ask for it after every second step, and then later for every step. That is the Spanish Walk. It is something very nice and impressive to do with your horse and it can be so much fun. Don't get frustrated and pressure yourself and your horse too much for the perfect execution of each step. It takes time to learn—and winters are long.

2. *The Bow:* Some trainers suggest a so-called foot lunge to teach this trick, but I tried to teach Gladur without it and it worked just fine. That's why you will now read about teaching your horse to bow without the foot lunge. Again, we took our time, had fun, and spent some good time together, which was our first goal.

It is very important that you understand that some horses become uncomfortable doing a bow, since the horse has to sink down on its knee and so gives up its ability to flee. Some horses do not like to give up control, so this is very good trust work. The horse has to learn to trust you to do this exercise.

First I taught Gladur to lift his leg, like I would to pick out his hoof, but he had to learn to hold that quiet leg in position for a few seconds. This is where some trainers prefer the foot lunge method. I feel uncomfortable strapping up my horse's leg with a line, since that just screams "accident" to me. So, I made him lift and hold his leg. I started with the side he prefers, his "good"

side. Once he had learned to hold his leg like this for a few seconds, then he had to learn to lower his body down and lean on the bent leg.

Gladur is very food driven. Looking at him, this fact is not hard to miss. So the next step was very simple! I made him lift his leg and then I showed him that there was a delicious cookie right there at his chest. He tried to grab it and lowered himself backwards until he was resting on his bent lower leg, with the other one stretching out straight in front. After doing so he got his cookie and even another one, which he could munch in this position. Then, naturally, he tried to get up, so while he was doing it, I connected that movement with the command, "Up."

If you want to teach your horse this exercise, make sure you are doing it on a soft surface and your horse is not hurting itself. I also would recommend that before you attempt to lower your horse, you make sure your horse really feels comfortable with you. People who have just bought their horses might not be "there" yet, since some horses need more time to warm up to their humans.

3. *Roll Out the Carpet:* Simple but fun! It requires, though, that you teach your horse to walk over surfaces that are strange for him. A suggestion on how to do so is shown in the next section of this article, under "Scare Tactics."

Use a cheap carpet that you can roll up and unroll. First show your horse the rolled carpet. Let it become accustomed to it. Place a tasty cookie on top. Sooner or later

your horse will understand that the carpet is something fun and interesting.

Now, unroll the carpet. Let your horse sniff again, then place a cookie at one end and wrap one or maybe two layers of carpet over it. Your horse will know there is a cookie inside. If not, let the cookie stick out at one end, so he can smell it and see it but still has to unroll the carpet to get to it.

Do this again and again, putting more and more layers of carpet over the cookie. Sooner than you imagine, your horse will be able to unroll a carpet for you!

SCARE TACTICS

In my first riding years, I wondered why I would purposely try to scare my horse. But now, living in a rather crowded area, with garbage bags and cans lying at the curbsides on the way to our park, not to mention the occasional party balloons attached to mail boxes and all those other things that seem to be nice troll and fairy hiding spots to Gladur, I came to the conclusion that it's time to get him to be more confident.

Like always, safety first! I would not recommend doing any scare tactics on a day when the ring is covered in sheets of ice or it is so muddy the horse could trip and fall and get hurt. If you deal with a really spooky horse, I would recommend wearing a helmet and maybe having a second person on hand to help. You know your horse best and you will know what you can do and what not. After all, this is about getting the horse's brain cells going during a rather boring time, getting some bonding done, and having fun.

1. *The Noise Bag:* This exercise is a favorite at our barn. It's amazing how much terror something so simple can spread, and how easily the horses overcome their fear of it. Just take a bag—I prefer a see-through plastic bag—and fill it up with a bunch of empty cans and plastic bottles. (It's very convenient, after the exercise you can just drive over to the supermarket or recycling center and fetch the deposit for those.)

Now the fun can begin. If your horse doesn't know anything like this, give him some room. First place the bag on the ground and give your horse a chance to sniff and get accustomed to the look and smell of it. Never forget to praise him and give treats to him when your friend does a good job, like walking fearlessly toward the bag and even touching it.

Then let your horse step a few steps

away and move the bag a tiny little bit and see how your horse reacts. Is he spooked? Is he still interested? Praise your horse and show him that he does not have to fear the bag; down the road your horse won't be bothered by it anymore. And even better, if you ever meet a stray plastic bag or garbage bags on the curbside on a ride in the future, they will appear less frightening. It might take a little time to get your horse used to this, but in the end you will win.

2. Pool Noodles: At first sight, this sounds simple, and I must confess I underestimated the scariness of pool noodles. Since I usually use them to mimic Michael Geitner's dual alleys, I was confident that Gladur wouldn't be bothered by them. But I was wrong. Having them lying still on the ground is one thing. Having them swirl around him in the air is something completely different!

Just grab a few pool noodles, place them in an upright position in a bucket in the middle of the ring, and lead your horse to it. Let him sniff at it and then take one out and try to touch him everywhere with it. In some cases you may recognize, your horse will flinch a little bit. So repeat the touch and praise your horse, maybe giving him a treat. After a while he will get used to the noodle and accept being touched by it without flinching.

Once touching is okay, try to move the noodle faster around your horse. Gladur didn't have any problems with it moving through the air, but he got terrified when I moved it fast over the ground. It made him very nervous, and we had to invest quite a bit of time before he got used to it and started to ignore it.

I guess down the road one day, this might save me from an accident. Before we tried this exercise, he always spooked when a chipmunk or a squirrel fled past us just a few feet away. Nowadays, he has learned that fast movements on the ground are not always a sign of danger. He still looks at whatever it is and pays attention to it, but he doesn't make the decision to bolt.

3. Balloons and the Gymnastics Ball: This is another favorite game. I discovered that Gladur was afraid of gymnastic balls when I bought him one as a toy. He was not amused by that thing at all.

So he had to be de-sensitized.

I started to let him sniff at it, and when he started to feel comfortable around it, I gave the ball a little tip and it started

to move slightly. I repeated this until he started to feel comfortable around this too, and then I started to show him how to play with it, kicking it and chasing it.

After mastering the ball, I tried to do the same with balloons. They add a little spice to everything, since they can be used in various ways. You can purchase helium-filled party balloons, which are the scariest things in the world. They flap around in the wind. Some of them are sparkly and reflect light in the way that, normally, only Icelandic trolls do when they are out hunting horsemeat.

Take balloons that are filled with normal air and let them lie on the ground. Eventually we reached a point where Gladur started to fearlessly pop them, not being bothered by the noise at all.

Bounce them off your horse's body. That is a nice perk if you have kids in the neighborhood who play soccer. Once Gladur got hit by a soccer ball thrown by a mindless (and certainly inconsiderate) teen, and he didn't even blink: He was used to the sensation of a ball. (The teen on the other hand did blink quite a lot after I was done with him.)

4. Strange Surfaces: Being able to walk over strange surfaces may come in handy too, from time to time. Earlier I described a trick using a carpet; sometimes gardeners throw old plastic covers from their flower beds into the trash, and these are blown around by the wind. Inevitably they end up

where you ride. It can be so inconvenient to have to dismount; this exercise allows you just to walk over them.

So just find all possible "surfaces": carpets, bags, tarps. Spread them out, let your horse examine them and get used to them, and then slowly and patiently try to lead him over them. Step by step. It is very important that your body and your way of leading him are telling him that you are confident and that he is safe following you over that surface.

In fact, during all of this trust and de-sensitizing work, you always should be aware of your body language and attitude. Always be encouraging and show your horse that you are confident the situation is safe and that he doesn't have to worry about anything.

Doing trust work also means being fair and never asking too much from your horse. Never lead him into situations you are not sure he will be able to deal with safely. Also keep in mind "safety first!" Not only your safety matters, your horse should stay safe too. Some things that seem appropriate for humans to climb on, walk over, or deal with can be extremely dangerous for a horse, since their motor skills work completely differently than ours.

I hope that on the previous pages I have given you some inspiration on spicing up your winter program. There are many resources available in various forms, and if you are interested just drop me an email at quarterly@icelandics.org, and I can forward you a list of publications that helped Gladur and me build up a great anti-boredom program for any time of the year.



Yvonne and Gladur.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

BY MARILYN TULLY

After raising three daughters, I was ready to return to my love of horseback riding, which I had put on hold since my fox-hunting days in my twenties. My first magic carpet ride on an Icelandic horse was about four years ago, when I signed up for a local two-hour trail ride. I tolted along the trails, cantered, and jumped across streams and over logs with comfort and ease, and I became instantly smitten and yes, addicted. I had to have one, so I bought a 12-year-old blue dun pinto mare, Glaeta, from the herd; she has become the center of my life since then.

Trail riding through some of the most beautiful countryside in the world, here in southeastern Pennsylvania, is a glorious experience. But I wanted to go outside my comfort zone and see if Glaeta and I could rise to the challenge of competition. Where could I learn the basics of competing in an Icelandic horse show?

One day, I read on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org) that Red Feather Ranch in Trout Lake, Washington, was hosting an Icelandic Horse Sports Competition Clinic and Schooling Show. It was too far to take my horse, but I signed up anyway. Upon inquiring, I learned that the clinic would be held from Friday, May 29 to Sunday, May 31 and they would have a horse I could ride.

The three-day clinic included classroom instruction, private lessons with Alex Pregitzer (IPZV certified trainer and intern judge) and Svanny Stefansdottir (FT certified trainer)—both accomplished Icelandic horse trainers—practice competition classes, and then on Sunday, the real thing: a competitive Icelandic Schooling Show!

And what a stunning venue. The Red Feather Ranch is on the banks of the picturesque White Salmon River. It contains red barns, wood fencing, and an official

FIPO standard oval track. Our hosts, Dick and Linda Templeton, could not have been more gracious. They cleared out an area of their barn for classroom instruction complete with whiteboard, long tables and chairs, refrigerator, and coffee and tea. On Friday evening, they hosted an evening of music and barbecue on their flagstone terrace overlooking the White Salmon River.

Private lessons were scheduled throughout the day on Friday, during which Alex and Svanny took time with the participants to assess their abilities and advise them on which schooling show classes would be a good fit. The official start of the clinic was Friday at 5 p.m., when we all gathered for the introduction and the classroom portion of the clinic. Alex first covered horse show rules and terminology.

Icelandic horse sport events are all governed by FIPO, the sports competition



Red Feather Ranch in Trout Lake, Washington, was the site of a Schooling Show Clinic last May.

rules of FEIF, which is the International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations (www.feif.org). The FIPO document is lengthy, and I was quite intimidated. But Alex and Svanny are knowledgeable guides and helped me through it.

103 PAGES OF RULES

The FIPO regulations cover everything from oval track specifications to the position of horseshoes to bits and bridles permitted and much more. It describes all the FEIF competition classes: There are seven tolt tests, six four-gaited tests, three five-gaited tests, and five pace tests, as well as some dressage arena tests and fun challenges like the beer tolt and trail obstacle course. (Any show organizer is free to add non-FIPO classes, which are usually fun classes like pole bending and ribbon tolt.) It was recommended that we print out the FIPO rules guide and study it, even though it covers 103 pages!

So as not to impart too much confusion, let me just say that class names start with letters: T for tolt, V for four-gait (it comes from the German for four, *vier*), F for five-gait, P for pace, etc. A number such as T1 or T2 follows each one. In some classes, riders compete on the track by themselves, while in others there are several riders on the track together. In the individual programs (T1, V1, and F1), the rider competes by himself and without instruction by the speaker. In V1 and F1, the rider chooses the order of gaits performed. In T1, the order is set. In the other classes, riders compete in small groups and are instructed by a speaker.

There are seven tolt classes named T1, T2, T3, T5, T6, T7, and T8, each for a different skill level or emphasizing a different aspect of the tolt. The tolt classes give the rider a chance to show how versatile their horse's tolt is compared to the other competitors' horses. For example, the T1 individual test asks the rider to show a slow tolt and a fast tolt as well as the transitions. To succeed, you and your horse must know how to make speed changes quickly and ride the transitions smoothly.

All the other tolt classes are conducted with at least two riders on the track at the same time. T2, the loose-rein tolt, asks riders to show no rein contact for part of the test, so that the judges can see how well the horse tolt on its own with no



Clinic participants learned what judges look for: performance, beat, quality, form, expression, and the rider.

rein aids. Alex showed me how to do this by giving the horse lots of looping rein and how to correct if necessary.

T8 asks riders to show any tempo tolt. It was designed as a youth class, but is suitable for novice riders or green horses. In order to pick the right tolt class to enter, you need to know your horse's unique abilities. Alex impressed upon us the importance of knowing your horse's stronger or more supple side and said to take notice if the class you are entering will ask for a change of rein. Then you should begin the test so that you are performing the more difficult part of the test on your horse's better rein.

There are six four-gaited classes, known as V1, V2, V3, V4, V5, and V6. Of course, the riders must show the walk, trot, tolt, and canter and be able to transition between all the gaits as asked and do so on both reins. But each class is slightly different. Let's take a look at the V4. According to FIPO, the V4 test is the only class that judges "the style of riding and the seat of the rider and not mostly the gaits of the horses. What also matters is the harmony between rider and horse, the correctness of the performance and the obedience of the horse." In this test, the judges are looking for more than

whether your horse can perform the gaits correctly. Even the tempo and style of your horse's walk is evaluated.

In all classes, Alex noted that judges are looking for an active, energetic walk where a horse is at least "tracking up" or preferably making big steps in an "overreaching" manner. What is tracking up? Tracking up is when a horse leaves a hoof print on the ground with his front foot and the hind foot comes up and reaches into the first imprint. Overreaching means the horse's steps are bigger. And, instead of tracking up, the hind foot reaches over the imprint of the front foot. The movements are big and energetic, but the horse is not rushing and should be supple. Judges want to see that you and your horse are sharp, yet fluid, in all gaits. For this specific class, the guidelines say that minor faults in the beat influence the marks only slightly, as long as the riders' aids are correct. A highly disciplined horse and rider will gain the most points in the V4.

I also learned some codes of conduct. If you want to impress the judges, you need to know how to handle yourself on the track. For example, in an individual program such as the T1, the rider enters the track and proceeds to the middle

of one of the short sides. The rider then begins his or her program by nodding to the judges, an important gesture that I almost forgot because my nerves were a bit frayed. After the rider has finished the test, she nods to the judges again at the middle of the short side.

Nodding is not necessary in the group classes. Group classes can be less intimidating because the riders receive instruction from the speaker. Some advice to keep in mind is to pass other riders on the inside, if possible. In addition, if your horse leaves the track with all four feet (i.e. jumps out!) or you dismount without permission, you will be disqualified. That includes falling off your horse as well!

THE JUDGES' VIEW

It is especially useful to know just what the judges will be looking for. Alex was able to impart some of her first-hand knowledge of how things look from the judge's perspective. First and foremost, the judges are looking for *Performance*: the right gait as asked and at the right speed. If your horse breaks gait, try to remain calm and use your aids to put the horse back into the correct gait.

Second, the *Beat*. Walk has four beats, tolt has four beats, trot has two beats, and canter has three beats. Alex advised that if you are walking and you think your horse might be walking too slowly, but otherwise is moving in four beats, think again before trying to speed up your horse. You may lose the beat resulting in point deductions.

Third, *Quality*. The judges want to see long strides, supple movements, and good action.

Next, *Form*. The judges are looking for a horse that is stepping under from behind, carrying itself well and balanced, preferably bent at the poll and on the bit, and in a nice shape that is in harmony with the horse's movements and speed. He should be supple and relaxed, yet energetic.

Fifth, *Expression*. Your horse should look happy and proud.

And, finally, the *Rider*. Riders are no longer judged with separate scores for seat and aids. Primarily, the horse's performance is being judged, but the riding style influences the total score per gait. In the upper part of the scale, excellent harmonious riding is a must. Poor, or even



The beer tolt is a favorite event at any Icelandic show. Here, clinic members practice.

rough, riding can lead to point deductions, an informal warning, or possibly a yellow or red card!

I also learned a good bit about scoring. The calculations are somewhat complicated. Points range from 0 to 10. Most scores at local competitions lie between 3 and 6. It was helpful to see a breakdown of what the scores mean:

- 0 – 3.5 = faulty
- 4 – 4.5 = transition to average
- 5 – 6.5 = average
- 7 – 7.5 = transition to good
- 8 – 10 = good performance

Even World Championship scores can be anywhere on this scale, with advanced riders often scoring between 6.5 and 8. So, don't feel bad if your scores are down in the 4's. Keep it in perspective.

The basic difference between a schooling show and a USIHC-sanctioned show is that the schooling show's sole purpose is learning experience and fun: It is less competitive. There are no rules for the track size, and you are not required to have a FEIF international sports judge. The organizers can pick the classes or can even make them up. Sanctioned shows can still include numerous fun classes but must follow all the FEIF rules.

Participants at the Red Feather Ranch event came from as far away as Canada, Alaska, and Pennsylvania. Everyone was excited and most had never shown before. One participant, Penny Gammond expressed her reaction to the clinic this way: "You always get your money's worth even if you learn only one thing that you can use." Rachel Knowlton of Vancouver, Washington, summed up her experience this way: "The clinic provided the perfect balance of learning how to ride in specific classes and then applying what we learned and practicing it in the schooling show. Both Svanny and Alex provided thorough and professional instruction, and the enthusiasm of other participants was contagious. It was the perfect learning environment, with a beautiful backdrop of snow-covered Mount Adams in the distance."

LETTERS

Have an observation, an opinion, or a gripe you want to share?
Send your letters to quarterly@icelandics.org.

FIGHTING THE BIT?

For the last four years, as I've gotten into Icelandic horses (as a newbie to both horses and Icelandics), I've been watching the videos and reading the articles about the "abusive" practices against Icelandic horses. Abuse/cruelty allegedly inflicted by virtually anyone riding in the "traditional Icelandic way," and in particular those involved with competitions at any level.

This was disturbing to me for a long time, and honestly when I first met Gudmar Petursson, Laura Benson, and Steinar Sigurbjornsson, I expected to find the secret Chamber of Horrors where they kept their instruments of torture. (Later I realized that all Laura has to do is start swearing in Icelandic, but that's a side story...)

But slowly I began to find that things were not always as they appeared, or that I was led to believe. As always, separating fact from fiction is made a whole lot harder when there *are* grains of truth embedded within some otherwise irrational, technically incorrect assumptions and assertions.

Nowhere was this more obvious to me than the issue of Icelandic horses "fighting the bit." Here are some of the old ideas I had on this, and where I've reconsidered.

OLD IDEA #1: *Icelandic horses in videos are always fighting the bit.*

NEW PERSPECTIVE: The majority of videos (and photos) posted online are taken at extreme situations—shows, evaluations, demonstrations, etc.—and show the horse in an unusual environment.

EVIDENCE: My Draumur, the most docile, low-energy horse on the planet at the time of his first show, "fought the bit" to break into canter from tolt during the novice tolt class. Sure enough, there's a picture online of Draumur "fighting the bit," and my husband and I keep laughing when we see it, knowing how un-Draumur-like that was.

BOTTOM LINE: Most Icelandic horses—including those in the videos—are *not* always "fighting the bit," but the skewed nature of public videos/photos means



This horse is fighting the bit. Is she saying, "Help, it hurts!" or "Let's go faster! Much, much faster!" From just a photo, how can you tell?

we see a high percentage of images from horses during those rare and extreme situations, and see very little images/video of those same horses/riders during the other 358 days a year.

SOLUTION: We need to be posting more video and photos of these horses in their "normal" everyday riding/training!

OLD IDEA #2: *Icelandic horses fighting the bit are always doing so because they're miserable.*

NEW PERSPECTIVE: Sometimes it may be just the opposite. In many cases they "fight the bit" because they are so *not* miserable! They're spirited, proud, fit, and ... ready to show off. They're expressing their opinion, and that opinion is often, "Let's go faster. Much, much faster."

EVIDENCE: Horses that are fit and happy, in their natural state in the herd, are *not* docile and compliant. They play hard, like to go fast, and "argue" with even their best herd buddies. That they fight the bit at certain times no longer seems unnatural to me. Also, I've watched specific horses I know become 100% compliant about speed when they are ill or depressed, but regain their interest in

"testing" for most speed when they were at their fittest/proudest/happiest.

BOTTOM LINE: Icelandic horses "fighting the bit" may be doing it from a perspective of high spirits and pride, not fear and pain. What I once saw as evidence of abuse is now—sometimes—evidence of the opposite of abuse: a horse that is expressing the most natural desire to show off.

SOLUTION: I don't know, but if I thought there was a chance my horse would fight the bit—and that I was working him or her close to this state of optimal fitness/spirit—I would want to use the softest bit possible and be very careful with my hands. The combination of a horse fighting the bit with a harsh bit/rough hands does seem cruel. Obviously training and leadership plays a huge role here. But again, we're talking about a behavior that happens *only* during an extreme situation, not horses that routinely argue during normal riding/training.

OLD IDEA #3: *To put a horse in a high-adrenalin situation where they do feel the need to "fight the bit" is cruel/abusive.*

NEW PERSPECTIVE: You need only take

a non-nervous horse you dearly love to a high-energy event to see how much it *enjoys* and thrives on the experience. Again, the opposite of cruel. I'd seen non-Icelandic show horses needing anti-anxiety meds to make it through a show, but the first time I took my horses, it was clear that they were having the *time of their lives*. In other words, for some of my horses perhaps going to an adrenalin-charged show is as fun for them as it is for me to go skiing. Sure, it's more "comfortable" to be sitting at home on the couch watching TV, but it doesn't make me feel as alive, strong, and *human* as when I'm carving fast down a challenging hill. I now think of it as the same for my horses—yes, it's more cozy back in their paddock, but when they're out there competing with the other horses and showing their stuff, they are feeling more alive and stimulated, and behaving more like they did when they were young and at their most aggressively playful.

None of this would make sense—and could in fact be quite damaging—for a highly anxious, nervous horse. But that does not describe any of the horses I currently have, and most of the ones I've seen at the shows. What I now see is the horses I know and love—mine and those of my roommate, husband, and friends—having extreme amounts of fun.

I realize there *is* some cruelty and harsh bits/hands and extreme pressure associated with Icelandic horses at some of the highest levels of competition, but I'm so grateful I've done a 180 at least with respect to the local USIHC shows. I've yet to see so many horses having so much fun. If my horse could talk, I'm *quite* certain that he would say, "A few moments of strong contact and not letting me have my way about speed/gait in exchange for this big adventure? No brainer. Bring it. When's the next show?"

I have no idea if anything I've written here is correct, but it does reflect a dramatic change in the way I view things today. I would deeply appreciate any corrections, thoughts, etc., from any of the (all more experienced) folks reading the *Quarterly*.

Kathy Sierra
kathysierra@rocketmail.com
submitted April 12, 2009

WHY EVALUATE?

"Breed evaluations are for breeders," someone said on an Internet list. I respectfully disagree. Here's my story. I'm from Germany and have ridden German dressage since I was 14. I could not imagine a better, more beautiful horse and discipline than German-bred warmbloods and dressage. Well, until I rode a fuzzy little red mare named Ljufa and fell in love with her and bought her, shortly after meeting her. I knew nothing about gaited breeds, let alone Icelandics, and I was so worried about hurting her or screwing her up: She was just too wonderful for that.

So, to do right by her, I took a two-week sports judging seminar with Lars Karaup in Canada. Not to be a judge, but to learn what a tolt is, the history of the breed, their upbringing, the values ... and I ended up connecting with a whole bunch of wonderful people up there who I'm still in contact with. As a matter of fact, I sat with Lars and his wife at the gala during this year's World Championships and I once again learned a lot from him.

I'm now running a very successful breeding operation here with three late-gelded stallions... I have no interest in breeding and never will. But every year, I attend and help out at a few breeding evaluations. Why? Because here in the U.S. we have very few opportunities to see a wide range of horses within our breed. It's also a great way for people new to the breed, people wanting to buy or sell, getting into sports competition, etc., to connect with wonderful people who are very knowledgeable about stuff: anything from bits, saddles, history, vet care, feeding... Since we have so few events that focus on our beloved breed, these kinds of contacts can be so valuable over time.

The evaluation scores are also a great communication tool if you are buying, selling, or trying to assess your own horse. When I was looking to buy a new horse, I was able to describe my dream horse by using breeding scores. It was a universally understood language with little wiggle-room. I wanted a horse with a minimum of 7.5 for tolt. Everybody knew what that meant. It's a better language than saying that you want a horse with a "good" tolt. A good tolt can be anything. It can be big and flashy, high action but hard to maintain, easy to find and maintain,

comfortable for the rider. There are lots of different interpretations.

One of the main areas for potential buyers to look at might be spirit and willingness. If you want a nice trail horse, why go for a horse with an 8.0 for spirit? We really need to understand the scores, and have to move away from the notion that the higher the number, the better. If a buyer knows what type of scores they want in their dream horse, breeding evaluations will provide them with a look into the full range of Icelandic horses that are out there, and a communication tool that will help them search and choose a horse that will meet their criteria.

And besides all of that, breeding evaluations will connect you to a wonderful, loving, caring, and oh-so-knowledgeable array of people who will be able to help you in your long-term journey with your horses.

Maike Liekweg
mliekweg@gmail.com
Submitted August 21, 2009



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Membership Application Membership Renewal
 Individual Family Junior Membership

Name:
 Address:
 City: State: Zip:
 Phone: Email:

Keep my name and contact information private.
 When possible, 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.

Enroll me in the Pleasure Rider Program. 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: Zip:
 Phone: Email:
 Fax: Web:

Membership Fees & Restrictions	
Individual	\$45/year. One adult. One vote.
Family	\$65/year. Two adults and unlimited children living in the same household. Adults vote.
Junior	\$35/year. One child (under 18 years). Not eligible to vote.

Membership Fee:	\$
Farm Listing Fee:	\$
Pleasure Rider Program (\$15/adult, \$12/junior)	\$
International Fee: (\$15 for non US addresses)	\$
Total:	\$

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

MAIN OFFICE: 4525 Hewitts Point Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, USA (907) 357-4233 info@icelandics.org

REGISTRY: PO Box 1724 Santa Ynez, CA 93460, USA (805) 688-1393 registry@icelandics.org

THE ICELANDIC HORSE MARKETPLACE



AD FORMATS: Upload only ads that are camera-ready and in Mac-format PDF, JPG, or TIFF. No PC formats accepted. Ads should be full-size, saved at 300 dpi.

DEADLINES: • January 1 (Issue 1 mailed in March) • April 1 (Issue 2 mailed in June)
• July 1 (Issue 3 mailed in September) • October 1 (Issue 4 mailed in December)

PAYMENT: All advertising can be placed online at www.icelandics.org/quarterly.php. Simply click on the link that says "ad purchase and upload page" and you will be directed through the process of buying an ad. If you are unable to access the Internet or have questions regarding advertising, please contact Denise Chythlook at 907-317-5141 or denise@mydailychoices.com.

RATES AND SIZES:	per issue
Color Pages (7 3/8" x 9 3/4")	\$ 200
Full page (7 3/8" x 9 3/4")	\$ 150
Half page (7 3/8" x 4 3/4")	\$ 75
Third page (7.2/8" x 3 3/4")	\$ 50
Quarter page (3 1/2" x 4 3/4")	\$ 35
Classified (up to 40 words)	\$ 25

The USIHC reserves the right to reject any advertising at any time. Each advertisement is accepted with the understanding that the advertiser is authorized to publish its contents and agrees to indemnify the USIHC and the Icelandic Horse Quarterly against any loss or expense resulting from claims arising out of its publication.

4-beat LLC

teaching & training alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de (608) 436-1751 www.4-beat.com



Renewals

All memberships expire on January 1st (unless you join in December in which case you're good until the end of the following December - 13 months).

Renewals can be handled on-line at www.icelandics.org/renew You can pay with a check via US Mail or PayPal online.



thorunn designs



Thank you Knutur

For the wonderful job you have done training our young horses. We are extremely pleased with your methods and results and love working with you.

Ice Follies

Deb Plengey and Trudie Lee

Icelandic Horses for Pleasure and Sport
Stallion Service, Trained Young Stock, Boarding

159 Lyons Road
Manchester Me 04351
207-621-2942
icefolliesfarm.com



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.

ALABAMA

Blackjack Farms
Kaci Sims
2420 Burns Lane
Birmingham, AL 35210
(205) 936-9627 (phone)
kdsims@uab.edu
www.geocities.com/kacidsims/
blackjackicelandics.html

CALIFORNIA

A breeding farm for Icelandic Horses,
Schmalztopf
Nancy & Arvid Schmalz
9499 Santa Rosa Road, (P.O. Box 67)
Buellton, CA 93427
(805) 693-9876 (phone)
schmalztopf@earthlink.net
www.icelandichorsebreeder.com

Flying C Ranch
Will & Asta Covert
3600 Roblar Ave.
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
(805) 688-1393 (phone)
(805) 688-0629 (fax)
asta@tolt.net
www.tolt.net

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

Sunland Ranch Icelandic Horses
Kimberly Hart
3675 Copper Crest
Olivenhain, CA 92024
(858) 759-1626 (phone)
(858) 759-8577 (fax)
kmbryhrt@sbcglobal.net
www.Sunlandranch.com

Valhalla Icelandic Horses
Stina & Steinar Sigurbjornsson
11127 Orcas Ave.
Lake View Terrace, CA 91342
(818) 808-8089 (phone)
(818) 890-4569 (fax)
valhallaicelandic@mac.net
www.valhallaicelandic.com

Valkyrie Icelandic
Laura Benson
1 Duane St. #33
Redwood City, CA 94062
(321) 278-0250 (phone)
leiri91@aol.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

GEORGIA

Creekside Farm
Katrin Sheehan
411 Old Post Rd.
Madison, GA 30650
(706) 347-0900 (phone)
(706) 342-2026 (fax)
kat@joeandkat.com

INDIANA

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

KENTUCKY

Gudmar Petursson Icelandic Horses
Gudmar Petursson
8901 Hwy 329
Crestwood, KY 40014
(502) 243-9996 (phone)
gudmarp@gudmar.com
www.gudmar.com

MAINE

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

Ice Follies
Deborah Plengey & Trudie Lee
159 Lyons Rd.
Manchester, ME 04351
(207) 621-2942 (phone)
debplengey@roadrunner.com
MaineleeMorganHorses.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Berkshire Icelandics
Brian Puntin
P.O. Box 550
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 822-9550 (phone)
bpuntin@bcn.net
www.berkshireicelandics.com





Four Winds Farm
Lori B. Leo
703 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
(781) 829-9901 (phone)
lori@neprc.com

Roberts Woods Farm
Kathryn & Marc Roberts
P.O. Box 549
45 Art School Road
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-6188 (phone)
(413) 528-6193 (fax)
kroberts@sequoiagroupe.com

MICHIGAN

Afangi Icelandic Horses
Marcia Stacy
86 Meridian Court
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(989) 773-5807 (phone)
mstacy@voyager.net
www.afangi.com

MINNESOTA

Crow River Icelandics
Sharon & David Johnson
2277 Colbert Ave. N.w.
Buffalo, MN 55313
(763) 682-3815 (phone)
sharonhilljohn@hotmail.com
www.crowrivericelandics.com

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

Penridge Farm
Gloria & Vince Verrecchio
14323 Ostrum Trail N.
Marine On St. Croix, MN 55047
(651) 433-4934 (phone)
(651) 433-2910 (fax)
verrecchio.dvm@frontiernet.net
www.penridgeicelandics.com

NEW YORK

Icelandic Sports, Ltd
Daniel Slott
P.O. Box 113 - Rt.3
Ancramdale, NY 12503
(518) 329-0185 (phone)
(518) 329-0188 (fax)
dslott@icesport.com
www.icesport.com

Sand Meadow Farm
Steven & Andrea Barber
300 Taylor Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
(585) 624-4468 (phone)
(585) 624-9361 (fax)
toltstar@yahoo.com
www.sandmeadow.com

Thor Icelandics
Kristjan Kristjansson & Family
76 Catskill View Road
Claverack, NY 12513
(518) 929-7476 (phone)
(518) 392-5718 (fax)
kristjan@fairpoint.net
www.thoricelandics.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Hulinndalur
Sara Lyter
415 Bluebird Lane
Marshall, NC 28753
slyterz@yahoo.com

OHIO

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

Northstar Farm
Lanny L. Carroll
11783 Temple Road
P.O. Box 63
Brookville, OH 45309
(937) 687-7103 (phone)
ohioicelandics@yahoo.com
www.northstaricelandics.com

OREGON

Alfasaga Farms
Karen Brotzman
5039 Cherry Heights Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
(360) 798-9286 (phone)
info@alfasaga.com
www.alfasaga.com

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 & Sanctuary
Juli & Steve Cole
109 Germanski Lane
New Castle, PA 16102
(412) 779-2679 (phone)
juli2875@yahoo.com

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
filka-roarkhorses.com

UTAH

Shaggy Mtn Icelandic Horses
Karen Olson-Fields & Eric Fields
56 Shaggy Mtn Rd.
Herriman, UT 84096
(801) 523-5077 (phone)
kjo@xmission.com
www.omurfrabrun.com

VERMONT

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





Solheimar
Sigrun Brynjarsdottir & Jason Brickner
387 Strafford Road
Tunbridge, VT 05077
(802) 889-9472 (phone)
Sigrunb@aol.com
www.usicelandics.com

Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm
Karen Winhold
P.O. Box 577
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
Ogla, WA 98279
(360) 379-4961 (phone)
evansfarm@orcasonline.com
www.icelandichorsesnorthwest.com

Lone Cedar Icelandic Horses
Dawn Shaw
P.O. Box 524
Grapeview, WA 98546
(360) 275-7542 (phone)
theherd@oz.net
www.lonecedariclandichorses.com

Mountain Valley View Farms, Inc. Dba
Icelandic Horse Acres
Karen and Jim Hood
4301 South Chapman Road
Greenacres, WA 99016
(509) 924-8112 (phone)
(509) 922-9949 (fax)
karenjeanhood@hotmail.com
www.icelandichorse.com

Red Feather Icelandics
Dick and Linda Templeton
24 Whitewater Drive
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-9380 (phone)
(541) 386-7831 (fax)
lrtempleton@prodigy.net
www.redfeathericlandics.com

WEST VIRGINIA

Icelandic Thunder
Denise & James Taylor
Rr 1. Box 219
Philippi, WV 26416
(304) 457-4238 (phone)
gaitedgirl@verizon.net
icelandicthunder.com

WISCONSIN

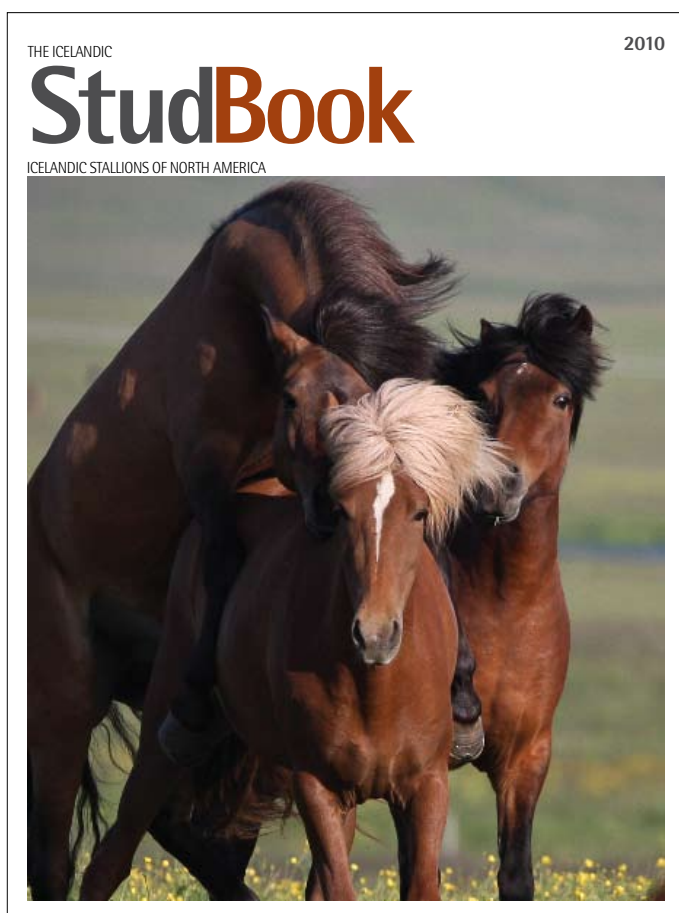
Winterhorse Park Icelandic
Horse Farm
Barbara and Daniel Riva
S75 W35621 Wilton Rd.
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 594-5152 (phone)
(262) 594-2720 (fax)
winterhorse@centurytel.net
www.winterhorse.com



THE ICELANDIC

StudBook

ICELANDIC STALLIONS OF NORTH AMERICA



Cover photo by Martina Gates

The Icelandic StudBook will be available in February 2010!

Are you interested in breeding your mare, but aren't sure what stallions are available for breeding in North America, where they are located, or how to contact their owners? Or perhaps you are a stallion owner, and you would like to promote your stallion's studding availability.

The StudBook can help.

- The StudBook is a yearly publication with a comprehensive listing of USIHC registered stallions in the United States and CIHF registered in Canada.
- The stallion listings include the stallion's lineage, registration number, evaluation and BLUP scores, location, owner, contact information for breeding, if live breeding is offered, AI and / or hand breeding, and photo(s) of the stallion.
- In addition to a stallion listing, The StudBook features lists of the top 10 scoring stallions in all divisions.
- The StudBook features and offers a listing of the next generation of stallions – young stallions (2-3 year olds). These young stallion listings include the stallion's lineage, USIHC / CIHF registration number, BLUP scores, location, owner, contact information for breeding, and a photo of the young stud.
- The StudBook also features articles on breeding, and breeding related subjects.
- Advertisers of Icelandic horse related services and products both in North America, as well as in Iceland and Europe can be found in the publication.
- The StudBook magazine and website showcase photos by premiere Icelandic horse photographers.
- The StudBook is printed on premium glossy paper and is professionally designed to best showcase the stallions, advertisements and content.

To list your stallion, to advertise, or to subscribe to The StudBook, or for further information, please call us or see our website.

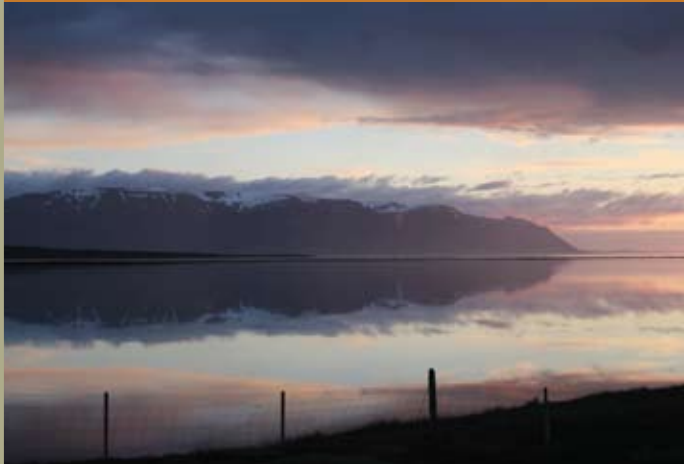


The Icelandic StudBook
518 929 0009
stud@theicelandicstudbook.com
www.theicelandicstudbook.com



LANDSMÓT 2010

CLINIC • LANDSMÓT • RIDING TREK



Details available soon on our website. LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. Get on our list now.
Email or phone Rebecca at: (207) 221-2620, info@america2iceland.com

◀ WWW.AMERICA2ICELAND.COM ▶