

ISSUE FOUR

THE

2013

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)

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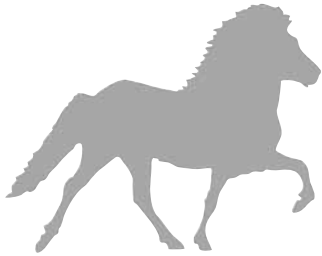
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THE
ICELANDIC
HORSE
QUARTERLY
Issue Four 2013

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

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On the cover: Isabelle Maranda, age 10, showing the mare Röst frá Húsavík (US2000266940) at the NEIHC Open Sanctioned Show this fall, where she received the NEIHC Feather Prize for good riding and good horsemanship. Isabelle is an outstanding young rider and competitor. She helps her family train and exercise the horses at the Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm. Photo by Martina Gates.



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; foreign friends, \$70. For more information, see the Congress website at www.icelandics.org/join.

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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; 866-929-0009; 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, and learn more about FEIF and the USIHC.

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YOUTH CHALLENGE

Young riders under age 18 can join the USIHC for free until September 2014. The new youth members will receive a year's subscription to the *Quarterly* and all other regular benefits of junior membership.

The Youth Committee is sponsoring this membership drive to introduce more young American riders to the benefits of USIHC membership, such as the chance to participate in the FEIF Youth Cup, to be held in Iceland in July 2014, and FEIF Youth Camp in 2015.

FEIF Youth Cup is an international Icelandic horse competition held in a different European country in even-numbered summers. Teams of six teenage riders from different FEIF member associations are made up on the first day. Renowned Icelandic horse trainers train the riders for three days, and a competition among the international teams is held on the last two days. Ages for Youth Cup are 14-17.

FEIF Youth Camp, held in odd-numbered years, is open to riders as young as 12. Organized by a different country each time, the goal of Youth Camp is to forge international friendships focused on a shared love



Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert and three other riders represented the USIHC at the Icelandic Horse World Championships in Berlin in August. See the event coverage in this issue. Photo by Mark R. Johnson.

of the Icelandic horse. Participants don't need to own a horse but should have riding knowledge. Youth Camp includes many different activities, both with and without horses, from hiking to sightseeing to visits to breeding farms. The 2013 Youth Camp was held in Norway.

Says youth committee representative Colleen Monsef, "Our youth have been called the future of the Icelandic breed here in the United States. As proof positive,

many young riders who have had the opportunity to attend the FEIF Youth Cup go on to become important promoters of our breed as leaders, emerging leaders, trainers, and riders. We all know a young person who loves Icelandic horses but may not be a USIHC member. The Youth Committee is asking all Icelandic horse owners and riders to sign these young people up."

New members can sign up online at www.icelandics.org/join or by using the mail-in form found in every issue of the *Quarterly*.

WORLD CHAMPIONS

Four riders represented the USIHC at the 2014 Icelandic Horse World Championships in Berlin, Germany in August. Congratulations to all four for their superb rides. See the full coverage of the event in this issue.

Ásta Dögg Bjarnadóttir-Covert competed on Dynjandi frá Dalvík, making the finals in both her events. In Tolt T1 she placed eighth with a score of 7.95 and in Four Gait V1 she also placed eighth with a score of 7.57. In the Four Gait Combination, she placed seventh (7.65).

Shannon Hughes competed in Tolt T1 (6.70) and Four Gait V1 (6.50) on Asi from Mill Farm—the first U.S.-bred Icelandic horse to compete in the sport competition at a World Championship. Chrissy Seipolt on Dreki vom Wotanshof competed in Tolt T2 (scoring 5.97), Five Gait F1 (6.27), Pace Test PP1 (5.96).



Recruit new USIHC youth members—for free—and give them their "best ride ever." Here, Jamie Blough on Rán and Madeline Pollock on Gjálp display their costumes for the Pairs Class at the Kraftur Show. Photo by Ásta Covert.

Chrissy placed twelfth in the Five Gait Combination with a score of 6.07. Madison Prestine on Straumur frá Enni competed as a Youth Rider in Tolt T1 (5.83) and Four Gait V1 (5.43).

The USIHC thanks U.S. Team Leader Doug Smith for his hours of logistical and administrative support. A number of trainers, parents, relatives, and friends also flew to Germany to coach and cheer on the riders. The team was outfitted by the Prestine family (who donated the team jackets), Flying C Ranch (who donated the polo shirts), and Paradise Valley Icelandics (who donated the team ties). The Seipolt family provided the supplies for the Nations Night party. The USIHC Youth Committee sponsored the U.S. banner, which was designed by Doug and signed by the four riders. The committee hopes to auction the banner off to raise funds for youth activities.

GRANTS AWARDED

Two proposals from Regional Clubs were received and approved by the Board in the new USIHC Project and Event Funding program. The Flugnir Club asked for and received a grant of \$1,000 to encourage youth and novice riders to compete at the Flugnirkeppni show in September;



Revia from Vinland, here ridden by Kristján Kristjánsson, qualified for the breeding show at the World Championships in Berlin with a score of 8.12. Photo by Martina Gates.



The Tolt T2 victory lap at the September Flugnirkeppni in Wisconsin, one of 10 USIHC-sanctioned shows held in the U.S. this year. Left to right: Carrie Brandt, Lori Cretney, and Debbie Cook. Photo by Sydney Horas.

the first 10 youth riders (16 and under) and the first 10 novice riders who have never shown, or who have only entered classes at one previous sanctioned show, each received a subsidy of \$50 of their class entry fees. The FIRC asked for and received a grant of \$300 toward the cost of holding a schooling show at a large public facility and promoting it heavily to the general public. Both grant proposals are available online with the September 2013 board meeting minutes so that other clubs and individual members can see what goes into a successful request.

BOARD ELECTION

The 2013 Board Election has been canceled. At the close of the nomination period, there were exactly three candidates for the three seats up for election. Incumbent board members Katrin Sheehan and Doug Smith will be joined by Juli Cole (currently the chair of the Promotion Committee) on January 1 for a three-year term. The Board thanks Lynn Wiese and her committee for agreeing to manage the election.

BREEDING SHOWS

A FEIF International Breeding Evaluation Show was held at Barb and Dan Riva's Winterhorse Park in Eagle, WI in May 2013. Despite the delayed arrival of the

judge, Johannes Hoyos, from Germany the show was very successful and extremely well organized. Two horses qualified for the World Championships in Berlin: the mare Revia from Vinland (8.12) and the stallion Piltur from Winterhorse Park (7.95). Unfortunately, neither of the horses could attend the championships.

Two farms have expressed interest in holding a FEIF Breeding Evaluation in Spring 2014: Winterhorse Park in Eagle, WI and Carrie Brandt's new Swallowland Farm in Shelbyville, KY.

Another FEIF Breeding Evaluation is tentatively planned to be held by the NEIHC regional club in Fall 2014 at Thor Icelandics in Claverack, NY. Hopefully there will be more horses coming up for evaluation, as many people are asking about breeding shows and have horses in training.

YOUNG HORSE EVALUATIONS

The 2013 young horse evaluations are still ongoing, with the rankings not yet available at this printing. They will be published online and in the March 2014 *Quarterly*. The results of young horse evaluations will also be published in World Fengur, beginning next year. According to new international rules, this will be an assessment form and percentages, not marks.

A new book about young horse evaluation by USIHC breeding leader Barbara Frische was published in October 2014. It is very informative and contains rules and guidelines, photos and video sequences, and offers explanations of how the young horse evaluation process is meaningful for the future adult horse.

Barbara Frische will conduct another Foal Tour in 2014 and possibly other interesting events for breeders. With the help of an official organizer, she is hoping to generate more interest and encouragement for and from the breeders of Icelandic horses here in the U.S.

2013 SHOW RESULTS

Results of nine 2013 Sanctioned Shows were posted on the USIHC website, www.icelandics.org (under "Ride"), when this issue of the *Quarterly* went to press: the CIA Open Spring Show (April), the Vorkeppni (May), the FIRC Icelandic Horse Show (May), the World Championships Tryouts (June), the Sumarmot (July), the Kraftur Show (September), the Flugnirkeppni (September), the NEIHC Open (September), and the CIA Triple World Ranking Show (October). Results of the Kentucky Show (October) should be online by the time this issue is published. The results are used to calculate the National Ranking, which can be found here: <http://www.icelandics.org/ranking.php>.

RIDING BADGES

Congratulations to Grace Livie Ames, Lucia Ellerson, and Celeste Leone Wise for earning their Basic Riding Badge Level 1 in 2013 and to Rose Terami for earning her Basic Riding Badge Level 2.

JUDGE TRAINING FUND

The Judge Training Fund, as announced at the 2009 Annual Meeting and published in Issue 2 2009 of the *Quarterly*, was established by an anonymous gift of \$10,000 to provide financial incentive for prospective Sports Judges in the U.S. to seek FEIF judging licenses. According to the terms of the gift, \$1,000 is payable from the fund when an individual receives his or her license. A second \$1,000 payment is available after he or she judges three sanctioned shows in the U.S. A final \$1,000 is paid when the individual renews the license for the first time.

At the October meeting, the USIHC Board awarded Will Covert \$3,000 from the restricted Judge Training Fund in recognition of his completion of each of the three stated milestones. Will had been considered ineligible in the past because he obtained his judge's license before the fund was established. But, since many years have passed with no one taking advantage of the opportunity, the original donor of the fund recommended that Will should be considered eligible.

PROMOTIONAL TOOLS

A plan for distributing the new USIHC Brochures was presented by the Promotion Committee and accepted by the Board at its September meeting. The brochures (a sample of which was included with each copy of Issue 3 2013 of the *Quarterly*) are available for free, in multiples of 50, to USIHC members and Regional Clubs upon request from the Promotion Committee Chair, Juli Cole, for use in promoting the breed and USIHC. The USIHC will pay for standard first class mail shipping of the brochures. Requests for quantities of 500 and above for use at events such as trade shows must be made at least four weeks in advance (to allow for printing of additional copies, if needed).

The Promotion Committee also recommended, and the Board approved, a change in the policy of distributing promotional copies of the *Quarterly*. USIHC members and Regional Clubs may now request free copies of the *Quarterly* to be distributed at events that are open to the general public. Quantities are limited, so copies are available on a "first come, first served" basis. There is no charge for the magazines and the USIHC will pay for the shipping. Requests must be made at least two weeks in advance of the event. Contact Juli Cole at promotion@icelandics.org or 724-667-4184.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the USIHC Board of Directors' meetings held in September and October, along with the monthly treasurer's reports, are available on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org) under The Congress, Board of Directors. There was no August meeting, due to the attendance of several Board members at the World Championships. In addition to the topics mentioned earlier in this news section, here are some highlights:

At the September 10 meeting the USIHC's response to FEIF's SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis was shared; it was forwarded to FEIF on September 1 and can be found online at www.icelandics.org.



Guðmar Pétursson, Terral Hill, and Carrie Brandt (left to right) in the Tolt T1 final victory lap at the 2013 Kentucky Show. Photo by Amber Parry.



Tolt T1 finalists and judges at the CIA Open Triple World Ranking Show, held in Santa Ynez, CA in October (left to right): Alexander Sgustav, Heidi Benson, Florian R. Schneider, Christina Grana-dos, Åsa William, Laura Benson, Nicolai Thye, Ásta Covert, and Will Covert. Photo by Sarah Ziller.

org with the September board meeting minutes.

The Sport Committee recommended, and the Board approved, a requirement that all USIHC-sanctioned shows include both the individual and group variants of the open tests (T1/T3, T2/T4, V1/V2, F1/F2) to bring the sanctioned show rules into alignment with the National Ranking.

At the October 8 meeting, the Youth Committee announced the beginning of their membership drive and reported on plans for U.S participation in the 2014 FEIF Youth Cup. Þorgeir Guðlaugsson has agreed again to judge the U.S. Youth Cup Tryout videos. The committee is investigating accommodations at Holar during the Youth Cup and has appointed a subcommittee to recruit volunteers for the required independent selection committee for the Country Leader and Team Leader applicants. Kelly Blough will be the lead on Youth Cup training options.

The question of an Annual Meeting versus general meetings and ad hoc meetings was again discussed, and the Board agreed that an Annual Meeting is necessary. Board members are considering a date and venue options for a 2014 meeting; the current working suggestion is Martin Luther King weekend in Las Vegas.

GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY

In September, three Board members, Ásta Covert, Katrin Sheehan, and Doug Smith, traveled to the NEIHC sanctioned show

at their own expense to host a pizza party and meet with the show participants. The three filed this report:

This pre-show meeting was open to all present at the show, including Congress members and others. The competition organizers included an opportunity for participants to submit anonymous questions when entering the show. The bulk of the meeting was spent addressing these questions.

Before getting to the summary of the Q&A session, it is good to take a moment to remember that “the Congress” is the entire membership—not just the nine members of the Board. If you find yourself saying, “What the Congress should do is...” remember that you are part of the Congress and you can help solve the problem you’ve identified by suggesting a solution. The contact information for every member of the board and all the committee chairs is available on the web site or on page four of every issue of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*.

Q. Why is there so much money in the bank?

A. For decades the various Boards managing the Congress have managed to accumulate a bank balance of a little over \$140,000 as of the end of September 2013. While this seems like a large amount of money at first glance, the more important number to consider is the annual change to that balance, which has been between \$7,000 and \$10,000

over the past few years. The Board has increased some spending this year in support of Board member travel to the FEIF Annual Conference. The Board has also budgeted the normal annual profit for the year to support members and Regional Clubs who submit grant proposals. (See the story in Issue 3 2014 of the *Quarterly*.) The Board remains committed to responsible fiscal management and finding ways to support the Icelandic horse community and the mission of the Congress through new initiatives.

Q. Should we allocate funds to sanctioned shows, breeding evaluations, and youth events?

A. There was an attempt in the past to find a formulaic approach to funding events. There is no easy solution to this, since each event has very different circumstances. Event organizers are free to structure their events to best serve their local communities. There is no way to level this playing field across the nation. This is the essential motivation behind the idea of running a grant program. There is a local ecosystem that tends to form around events like sanctioned shows and breeding evaluations. Trainers get more work. Tack sales increase. The community becomes more active. Those who benefit from the financial aspects of this ecosystem should consider giving back to help support the event at the center.

Q. The Congress should have representation at the FEIF Annual Conference.

A. Counting back over the past five years we’ve had between one and four individuals present at the FEIF Conference. These people have, until this year, attended at their own expense. Starting this year, the Congress is paying the conference fee for attendees. The cost of travel, however, is still borne by the individuals.

Q. What can we do to get more World Ranking shows in the U.S.?

A. The biggest obstacle is having legal tracks (that is, tracks that meet FEIF’s specifications for a World Ranking event). At the moment, there are only four in the U.S.: Mill Farm (NY), Creekside Farm (GA), Winterhorse Park (WI), and

Húnaveilir (CA). Aside from having a legal track, the local community needs to pull together to organize an event and recognize that it is expensive to import five judges. With some coordination of schedules, it might be possible to have events on consecutive weekends and share judges. The Sport Committee can help with this but the organizers need to communicate.

Q. Why are there so few breeding evaluations?

A. This is essentially the same situation as with World Ranking sport competitions. We don't have an abundance of legal tracks, and the local community needs to pull together to make the events happen.

Q. What is the Congress doing to train domestic judges?

A. This question was asked in reference to breeding judges, but it applies to both breeding and sport judges. There are simply not enough horses across the quality spectrum to adequately train judges in the United States. Serious candidates need to travel to Europe to get the necessary experience. There is a fund to help successful sport judges with the costs, but the fund only pays out after the candidate passes the FEIF examination at the national judge level.

Q. Why does the Congress endorse one person's opinion on Young Horse Evaluations?

A. The Congress doesn't endorse anyone when it comes to horse evaluation. FEIF is advancing a project to develop a process of evaluating horses before they are old enough to be under saddle. There is a significant amount of scientific support for the process, including a very strong correlation between the results of foal evaluations and the performance of the same horses when they have been trained and presented under saddle. This project is a formalization of the process many top breeders use in deciding which young stallions to geld. We happen to be lucky that the USIHC Breeding Leader, Barbara Frische, is one of the driving forces behind this FEIF project.

Q. Why did Barbara Frische represent Germany when judging at the 2013 World Championships in Berlin?

A. The Breeding and Sport judges have no national affiliation at the World Championships. The fact that there was any "affiliation" listed in the program was an error made by whomever on the organizing committee was responsible for the program. Clearly, there was no "fact checking" done.

Q. What are the Board's goals?

A. Our mission statement sums it up: Support the use and health of the Icelandic horse according to international standards. Advance the study, breeding, and exhibition of the Icelandic horse. Represent FEIF in the United States and represent the United States to FEIF. Maintain a registry of purebred Icelandic horses. That said, one of the side effects of having a very stable Board, as the United States has had for quite some time, is that we tend to be a little hard-pressed for fresh ideas. This is another motivation for the grants program. To date, that program has brought two fantastic ideas to the Congress: First, if a youth signs up for membership before September 1, 2014, their first year of membership is free. Second, the Regional Club Flugnir (in Wisconsin and Minnesota) applied for and received financial support for young and new (young to the Icelandic horse) riders at their summer competition. Should another club make a similar request, it would likely be granted.

Q. Why isn't there better communication with the membership?

A. This question came as a bit of a surprise since three of us traveled to New York from California and Georgia just for the purpose of this meeting. Beyond the in-person conversation opportunities, the Board routinely publishes its meeting agendas and minutes on the website. The membership is invited to listen to the monthly conference calls. The Board also makes sure *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly* receives copies of all the meeting minutes to publish a summary in each issue. As mentioned before, all of the committee chairs and board members are listed on the website and on page four of the *Quarterly*. All of us welcome any questions from any member.



Laura Benson and Terri Ingram wait for the awards ceremony of the three-gait class at the Kentucky Show in October. Photo by Amber Parry.

YOUTH CAMP

In July, the 2013 FEIF Youth Camp was hosted by the Norwegian Icelandic Horse Federation and Stall Kjersem, in cooperation with Stall SP and Vestnes Islandshestforening. Stall Kjersem is located in the idyllic Kjersem Mountains, halfway between Molde and Ålesund. There were 35 participants 13 to 18 years old from 11 member countries, along with few country leaders.

This sunny week in the Norwegian mountains was loaded with activities, such as riding up to Blafjallet, hiking with the famous Stein P. Aasheim, training with five-time world champion Stian Pedersen, observing the training of a green horse, watching old movies, and a trip to Sweden—all these activities included Icelandic horses. There was also sightseeing in Ålesund, competing in a local horse club at Tresjord hestesenter, and of course making new friends for life. Stian gave a lecture on how he trains his horses and told the kids how to get to the top!

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2013 Icelandic Horse World Championships were held August 4-11 in Berlin, Germany.

In the general (adult) class, Iceland and Sweden each received three Gold Medals; Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands each received one. In the Young Riders class, Germany received three Gold Medals, Iceland and Norway each two, and Sweden and Switzerland each one.

The Team Trophy 2013 was won by Iceland for the third time in a row. The Team Trophy is based upon the best two results in all World Championships tests: T1, T2, V1, F1, PP1, P1, and P2. It was established in 2009.

The Feather Prize 2013 was awarded to the Icelandic rider Bergþór Eggertsson. The aim of this prize is to encourage good riding and good horsemanship, a tribute to featherlight riding. The awarded rider sets an example to the Icelandic Horse World.

Again the Icelandic Horse World Championships proved to be a clean sport event: No prohibited substances were found in the different random taken



samples from sport and breeding horses.

Complete scores are available on the FEIF website, www.feif.org, under "Downloads." Also see the articles in this issue by USIHC members who attended.

FEIF & ICELAND

During the World Championships, the FEIF Board met with Sigríður Ingi Jóhannesson, Minister of Agriculture in Iceland, Kristinn Hugason, a senior adviser to the Ministry, Gunnar Snorri Gunnarsson, the Icelandic Ambassador in Berlin, Auðunn Atlason, the Icelandic Ambassador in Vienna, and other embassy staff. They discussed the place of the Icelandic horse in the equestrian world in Europe and finding new ways of promoting the Icelandic horse abroad. Details of the conversation included the development of the breed, new ways of thinking about sport, future strategies in marketing, education, and tourism, and future cooperation. The meeting set the cornerstone for closer contact between FEIF and the Icelandic authorities in their joint aim to strengthen the position of the Icelandic horse in Europe.

NEW JUDGES

The bi-annual test to become a FEIF International Sport Judge took place at Kronshof, Germany on October 3-4 in cooperation with FEIF and IPZV. The test was successful for four candidates (out of 22). FEIF welcomes new international judges Anette Lohrke (DE), Beatrix Berg

(DE), Alexandra Baab (DE), and Valdimar Auðunsson (AT). Isabelle Mertens (NL) also passed the test at a national level. There were six total candidates for the national level.

FEIF & MUSTAD

FEIF and Mustad announced a partnership between their two organizations. Mustad will financially support FEIF and will offer advice concerning scientific and commercial aspects for the better health of the Icelandic horse. As Icelandic horses are a breed with very specific hoof features, Mustad has developed a new horseshoe to provide comfort and support for the Icelandic horse. The Mustad DM IS shoe meets the specifications set out in FIPO and FIZO and is therefore recommended by FEIF. FEIF and Mustad are organizing a seminar to take place in 2014 or 2015 on the topic of shoeing Icelandic horses. The findings of the FEIF Hoof Study will be addressed during this seminar.

BOARD MEETING

The Board of FEIF and the different committees met the weekend of October 25-27 in Malmö, Sweden to prepare for the Annual Meetings during the 2014 FEIF Conference. The Sport Judges Committee and the FEIF Event Committee met as well, along with a special meeting for WorldFengur registrars. The USIHC secretary Doug Smith is on the Board of FEIF.



REGIONAL CLUB UPDATES

ALASKA

BY PERNILLA EKSTROM RYPKA



Bernie Willis rides Farandi in a clinic sponsored by the Alaska Icelandic Horse Association. Photo by Meghan Criss.

As the summer flew by, we were busy getting as much riding time in before the temperatures started dropping again. This summer we were fortunate to experience mostly very good weather here in Alaska, which made clinics, trail rides, and other horse-related activities more enjoyable for everyone.

We started the clinic season in May at the Willis's Arctic Arrow Farm, where we welcomed Steinar Sigurbjörnsson as our clinician. The clinic was very popular, and it was a great weekend filled with lots of good horse knowledge shared. It was nice to meet everyone after the long winter. Then in June we had a clinic with local riding instructor Gwen Bogart, who also did a great job. We again had good attendance and enjoyed a weekend in the sun with lots of horse fun.

We also had two wonderful clinics with instructor Bill Burke from Oregon, in August and September, just before the snow started to threaten to cover our riding arenas. As always we filled these clinics

with Icelandics and also some other breeds, since Bill teaches equitation and dressage, and everyone has something to learn from this wonderful instructor.

During the Alaska State Fair, a group of our members led by Lois Rockcastle and Tobi Lin Harvey managed a breed display, sharing information about the Icelandic horse. They had horses and information about the breed available, and took time to answer questions and let fair visitors pet, brush, and interact with the horses.

On the Kenai Peninsula, two of our Icelandics participated in the local U.S. Pony Club activities during the summer, and one of our youngest members, Miriam Bowser, rode her mom's horse Undrun in a three-day eventing clinic for Jim Briggs. They did a wonderful job and had lots of fun. For more information, see www.alaskaicelandics.org

FLUGNIR (WISCONSIN & MINNESOTA)

BY WADE ELMBLAD

Greetings from the Flugnir Icelandic Horse Association of the Midwest. The

pinnacle of our season was the return of the Flugnirkeppni competition, held at Winterhorse Park in Eagle, WI on September 7-8, with international sport judges Pétur Hákonarson and Halldór Viktorsson from Iceland. Scribing for us during the show were Kathy Love and Debbie Cook, with alternates Teri Ingram and Sharron Cretney. A big thank you on behalf of the Flugnir Board goes out to the many generous sponsors, volunteers, and special prize donors. We had participants at our show representing Canada, Minnesota, Kentucky, and Wisconsin.

The show weekend started Friday evening with a presentation on "Creating Harmony: Starting a Young Horse to Basic Gait Training" by Carrie Brandt and Terral Hill. Their presentation focused on the importance of understanding the fundamental concepts behind training during these early stages, and how to continue to build a harmonious relationship between horse and rider. Donations collected during their presentation went to the Flugnir Youth Fund. We closed the evening with a judges' meeting, pizza party, and the Flugnir annual meeting.

The Flugnirkeppni offered many spe-



Amber Parry with Pia from Winterhorse Park compete in the Flugnirkeppni show. Photo by Jaime Ballweg.



Nick Cook rides Sesar frá Vogum at the Flugnirkeppni show. Photo by Sydney Horas.



Jay Maio with Glytja from Winterhorse Park competes in the magazine race at the Flugnirkeppni show. Photo by Sydney Horas.



Jessica Elmlad and Leikur from Lone Star at the Flugnirkeppni show. Photo by Sydney Horas.

cial prizes, two of which were provided by Barbara Frische of Birkenlund Icelandic Horse Farm, Carlton, MN. The highest scoring amateur in a FIPO class, Nick Cook, received an autographed copy of Barbara's new book, *Description and Assessment of Foals and Young Horses*. The highest scoring youth under 18, Jessica Elmlad, won a chance to participate in one of Barbara's clinics in 2014.

During our show weekend, we offered the fun classes Ride-a-Buck, Underwear Race, Canter Race, Magazine Race, and Beer Tolt. Thorunn Kristjánsdóttir of *Tolt News* offered a magazine subscription to the winner of the Magazine Race, Dave Loftness. For the Canter Race, Flugnir Board member Kydee Sheetz donated the winning prize, which was awarded to Caroline Nase of Germany riding Fradmar from Winterhorse Park. It seemed like the traditional Canter Race elicited a lot of excitement from both riders and spectators alike. Every show has its special moments, and this September weekend was no different, with Terral Hill losing a bet and creating a memorable moment by wearing a small woman's pink shirt during his T1 final.

A very special thank you to all of our class sponsors who helped to make the show a possibility: Kathy Love; the Horas Family from OnIce Horse Farm; Jackie Alschuler; Barb and Dan Riva of Winterhorse Park; Carrie Brandt and Terral Hill



Terral Hill (who had to wear pink because he lost a bet), Nick Cook, and Jessica Elmlad ride a victory lap after the Tolt T1 competition at the Flugnirkeppni show. Photo by Susy Oliver.

of Lettleiki Icelandics; Terri Ingram; and Sharron and Lori Cretney.

Our Flugnirkeppni early registration winner was Haley Martens, of Eagle, WI. She submitted her paperwork and forms on time, and her name was drawn by Kevin Draeger randomly from the other several timely registering contestants. The prize was a gel saddle pad worth over \$80.

Our closing event for Flugnir's 2013 year will be the weekend outing, November 1-3, at Woodside Ranch in Mauston, WI. This is the third year the event has been held at this venue and promises to create special moments and great trail rides on the 1,400-acre ranch. For more information, see www.flugnir.org



Rich Moore Jr. shows winning form in the lead line class on Glanni from Burns Family Stables with Rich Moore Sr. and Pat Moore at the FIRC Schooling Show. Photo by Sean Kelley.

FRIDA (FIRC) (MID-ATLANTIC STATES)

BY RICH MOORE

During the summer, the members of the Frida Icelandic Riding Club (FIRC) enjoyed riding in unusually cool and dry weather. The highlights of club events



Mitch Martin on Jokull frá Austvaðsholti 1 at the FIRC Schooling Show. Photo by Sean Kelley.

were a picnic and tack swap in August, a schooling show in early September, and a performance before a large crowd by the FIRC drill team. The summer picnic was held on August 10 at Rich and Pat Moore's farm and attracted close to 20 club members. The tack swap was successful, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the club to help support activities.

Pat Moore reports: On September 7,

the FIRC held a schooling show at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon, VA. The day was crisp and sunny. The site is a public facility, with two outdoor arenas and one indoor, plus barns accommodating 170 horses and a training course for eventers, not to mention a fully functioning farm, carousel, and hay rides pulled by a large tractor. A total of 15 rider and horse combinations rode in the show. The classes combined those typical in a sanctioned show with several fun classes. Fourteen of the 15 offered classes were held with multiple riders in each class. The FIRC show committee, Sverrir Bjartmarz, Kim Davis, Pat Moore, and Sali Peterson, made all the arrangements. Katrin Sheehan was the judge, assisted by Susan McPhatter as scribe. Katrin's approach was to treat each part of the classes as a learning



Sali Peterson riding Askur from Cambria in the Musical Freestyle Class at the FIRC Schooling Show. Photo by Sean Kelley.

opportunity. Participants and spectators appreciated her positive, clear, and professional yet friendly approach. The most enthusiasm was generated by two of the classes. A lead-line class was held for adults who were required to "exercise" on horseback. The two participants received blue ribbons and much applause from the spectators. The root beer tolt was ultimately won by Sverrir Bjartmarz in a tight contest, keeping his reputation as the beer tolt king alive.

On September 15, the Icelandic Association of D.C. held its summer picnic at Rich and Pat Moore's farm and FIRC members were invited. The theme of the event was the Icelandic horse. The FIRC drill team of Sverrir Bjartmarz, Antje



Sverrir Bjartmarz on Pokkadís frá Traðarlandi at the FIRC Schooling Show. Photo by Sean Kelley.



Charlotte Reilly on Spettur from Destiny Farm at the FIRC Schooling Show. Photo by Sean Kelley.

Freygang, Mitch Martin, and Rich Moore put on a demonstration for over 100 spectators, including the ambassador of Iceland to the U.S., Guðmundur Stefánson, and his wife and granddaughter. The performance was described by some as "spectacular." After the ride, children (and some adults) were given a chance to ride Icelandic horses. Curt Pierce brought his horse and helped with the rides, along with the drill team members. The picnic was a great opportunity to promote the



Sverrir Bjartmarz riding, with scribe Susan McPhatter and judge Katrin Sheehan, at the FIRC Schooling Show. Photo by Sean Kelley.

breed. Cooperation between the riding club and the local Icelandic community was of great benefit to both groups.

Looking ahead, the Third Annual FIRC Sanctioned Show is scheduled for May 16-18, 2014, at Frying Pan Farm Park with Will Covert as judge and Susan McPhatter as scribe. The FIRC is also on the books for another schooling show on September 6, 2014, at Frying Pan Park. The FIRC Show Committee will handle both events. Mark your calendars and join us in 2014. For more information, see www.firc.us

KATLA (VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE)

BY ALICE RYAN

The Katla Icelandic Riding Club had a busy summer with several schooling shows held at Silver Maple Farm in Tunbridge, VT, and a group trail-ride in Tunbridge in August. A number of members attended the NEIHC Open Sanctioned Show at Thor Icelandics in Claverack, NY in September. Several trail rides at Groton

State Park have taken place this fall, with hopefully more to come. Plans are being made to participate again this year in the Wassail Parade in Woodstock, VT. For more information, see www.katlaicelandic-horseclub.com.



Guðmar Pétursson, Laura Benson, Scott Prestine, Laurie Prestine were rider Madison Prestine's "prep team" for the 2013 World Championships in Berlin. The photo was taken at Mountain Icelandic Farm by Colleen Monsef.

KRAFTUR (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)

BY KELLY BLOUGH

What an exciting summer it was for the Northern California Icelandic Horse Club (Kraftur)! We were most proud to send one of our very own youth riders, Madison Prestine, to the World Championships in Berlin in August. (*See the article in this issue of the Quarterly.*) Madison, along with her trainer Laura Benson (also a Kraftur member) and her teammates Ásta Bjarnadóttir-Covert, Chrissy Seipolt, and Shannon Hughes, represented the United States at this prestigious competition. Fellow Kraftur members showed their support for Madison and her team by setting their alarm clocks and convening during the wee hours of the night to watch the video stream of the competition. Madison's beautiful stallion, Straumur frá Enni, logged his frequent-flyer miles like an old pro, but seemed delighted upon arrival back at his barn in Loma Serena, where his fellow Icelandics eagerly awaited his triumphal return.

At Loma Serena, the summer was unusually quiet. In addition to the absence of Straumur, four of the Los Gatos Icelandics spent the summer months at Mountain Icelandic Farms in Watsonville on a working vacation. Kraftur members Jessica Blough, Elizabeth Robertson, and



Lucy Nold on Dama frá Ósi, Elizabeth Robertson on Tjara from Iliffs Icelandics, Jessica Blough on Hugljuf frá Vatnshölti, and Jamie Blough on Rán frá Hofi enjoy a summer beach ride. Photo by Marvin Blough.



Lucy Nold worked at the farm all summer, training horses and riders for upcoming competitions and events. The three also took time out of their rigorous training schedule to represent the Icelandic breed at the Northern California American Saddlebred Horse Association Summer Classic All Breed Horse Show. The Icelandics and their riders performed admirably among several other gaited breeds, including Paso Finos, Tennessee Walkers, and of course Saddlebreds. Jessica Blough, riding Hugljuf frá Vatnsholti, won the Sit-a-Buck competition at a fast canter.

Kraftur members took time out over the summer to travel with their horses, including a fun ride along the beach for members Annette Coulon, Bruce Coulon, Lucy Nold, Elizabeth Robertson, Jessica Blough, Jamie Blough, Marvin Blough, and Kelly Blough. The ride included an impromptu swim for Jessica and Hugljuf frá Vatnsholti, and an unplanned dismount by Jamie, when her horse, Rán frá Hofi, was hit by a rogue wave. The group learned that sand provides not only soft footing, but a gentle landing surface.

The Blough and Pollock families took a more ambitious vacation with their equine family members, loading up five horses to travel to the Double J Ranch in Santa Ynez. Riders Jamie and Jessica Blough, Gabrielle and Madeline Pollock, and Katherine Monsef took advantage of the beautiful equestrian facilities at the Ranch to bond with their equine friends without the pressure of a show.

This summer a group of Kraftur members from Santa Cruz joined Heidi Benson and Centaur City Icelandics for a riding clinic with Guðmar Pétursson at Staðarhús in western Iceland. The group was able to experience some Icelandic culture, visit some amazing places in the country, attend a competition, and of course do a lot of riding. Some of the students even brought home four-legged souvenirs!

The Northern California club came

Scenes from the Kraftur Show, held at Mountain Icelandic Farm in Watsonville, CA in September. Photos by Asta Covert.

together at the end of the quarter for the Annual Kraftur Sanctioned Show, hosted by Annette and Bruce Coulon at Mountain Icelandic Farm. The show experienced its largest turnout ever, with 39 horse and rider combinations, including two riders from Southern California, Willy Ma and Ásta Covert. Will Covert judged and Doug Smith worked as scribe, as well as administering IceTest. In addition to offering the standard sanctioned show classes, the Kraftur show featured several “fun” classes including a Pairs Class, a Beer (or Root Beer) Tölt, a Youth Horsemanship Class, and Sit-a-Buck. Capping Saturday’s classes, Bert Bates and his horse Eyrarrós frá Gufudal-Fremri performed a beautiful dressage routine that demonstrated the talent and flexibility of our breed in other disciplines.

Kraftur riders will also have a busy autumn. Many young Kraftur riders are creating videos and completing applications for the 2014 Youth Cup, and several Kraftur families plan to participate in the CIA Triple World Ranking Show in Santa Ynez in October. For more information see www.kraftur.us

MAINE

BY NANCY WINES-DEWAN

Members of the Maine Icelandic Horse Association brought friendly horses and great enthusiasm to the annual Common Ground Country Fair in Unity, ME this past September. Common Ground is an agricultural fair sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. The theme of our demonstration was “the versatility of the Icelandic horse.” This was our second year at the event, which draws approximately 25,000 fairgoers each of three days. Friday is the day when many schools attend the fair. There were so many interested students, some even had notepads and took notes. One man took a liking to Ari, a four-year-old gelding and said he had to go get his wife to see him. It seems she wasn’t a fan of Icelandics until she visited Iceland recently and rode one. Now she wants one! One woman said she came to see what Icelandics looked like, and stayed for the duration of our hour-long demonstration. We demonstrated driving with Sinna, a 10-year-old mare owned by Nancy Wines-DeWan. Sinna was then unhitched and saddled for a riding



Sinna from Icelandic Magic, driven by Nancy Wines-DeWan at the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity, ME.

demonstration with Trudie Lee and her 21-year-old mare, Orka. This was followed by a ground-work demo with two four-year-olds, Ari and Agustina, owned by Jackie Eagles. Jackie quipped that Agustina thought she was auditioning for the Lipizzaners at one point. She assured the audience that the little mare’s flights into the atmosphere were her idea! After the demonstrations, we took the horses out of the arena so fairgoers could get a closer look (and touch!).

In other news, the number of driving Icelandics in Maine is increasing! For several years, Sinna from Icelandic Magic, owned by Nancy Wines-DeWan, was the lone Icelandic at driving events around the state. Nancy is now training Brenna from Ice Follies, a four-year-old mare, to drive. In addition, Deborah Rice now has two driving Icelandics: Jonas vom Sandloh was imported in utero by Clear Lake Farm in northern Ontario. He was a stallion for five years and sired a number of offspring. Deborah bought him when he was 10 years old, and he is now 13. He is an excellent riding horse, very smart, forward, and eager to please. Jonas is now working on being a great driving horse as well. His big “sister” Ljóma frá Feti also rides and drives. For more information, see www.maineiclandics.org



Nancy Wines-DeWan riding Sinna and Trudie Lee riding Orca at the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity, ME.

NORTHEAST (NEIHC) (NORTHEASTERN U.S.)

BY AMY GODDARD

The USIHC Board of Directors hosted a General Members Meeting (*see the USIHC News section of this issue*) and pizza party on Friday, September 20 at Thor Icelandics in Claverack, NY, in conjunction with the NEIHC Open sanctioned show that weekend. USIHC Education Committee chair, Katrin Sheehan ran the meeting, and was accompanied by three members of the USIHC Board: Doug Smith, Secretary; Ásta Covert, Registrar; and Will Covert, Sport Committee chair.

The NEIHC Open, held at Thor Icelandics on September 21–22, was our first sanctioned sport competition. We are pleased to report that 39 riders and 43 horses participated, from many states throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic—as well as Ontario, Canada and Vero Beach, Florida! Will Covert was the judge; Doug Smith and Ásta Covert accompanied him. Show results can be found on the USIHC website. Isabelle Maranda, age 10, won the Feather Prize (*see the cover of this issue*), which is awarded to one rider who has demonstrated good riding and horsemanship throughout the show: a tribute to feather-light riding.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who made our first sanctioned show a success, as well as our silent auction donors and class sponsors! We could not have done it without your countless hours of time and financial support! We apologize for not announcing class sponsors during the show, but would like to do so here: Nancy Adler; ArtistTec, Inc.; Boulder Ridge Icelandics; Juli Cole; Equine Medical & Surgical Associates; Antje Freygang; Frida Icelandic Riding Club; Frost's Fine Furniture; Andrea Hanson; High Country Icelandics; the Horas family from OnIce Farm; the Huss family; the Kooyman family; Susan and Donny McPhatter; Silver Maple Icelandics; Stan Hirson; The StudBook; TöltNews; Vindbrekka Farm; Wescott & Sons, Inc.; Ellen Wilson; and Winterhorse Park.

The NEIHC will have a booth at the Massachusetts Equine Affaire, November



7–10, at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. Volunteers are needed! Please contact Cindy Wescott: cindsyedge@yahoo.com.

NEIHC members are encouraged to

Scenes from the NEIHC Open, held in Claverack, NY in September. Clockwise from top left, Kristján Kristjánsson shows Revia from Vinland in Open Tolt (photo by Martina Gates). Amelia Maranda, age six, and Grant frá Skeggjastöðum won the Mix-in-a-Bag class (photo by Betty Grindrod). Dropi frá Blönduósi with rider Caeli Cavanagh (photo by Betty Grindrod). Youth rider Alicia Flanigan and Funi from Boulder Ridge (photo by Martina Gates). Rose Terami riding Oskadis from Mill Farm in Youth Tolt (photo by Betty Grindrod).

join the NEIHC Yahoo mail group, check our website, neihc.com, and our Facebook page for news and upcoming events. Or contact club president Martina Gates: martinagates@mac.com.

ST SKUTLA (CENTRAL & WESTERN NEW YORK)

BY STEPHANIE SHER

This summer our club had quite a few people worrying about their horses' weight. We had spectacular weather in northwestern New York state, and farmers were able to have two or more good hay cuttings despite early heavy rain. Under these conditions, horses with pasture access blew up like balloons, even if they were only grazing for half a day. There have been studies done showing that part time grazing does not cause weight loss. Our Icelandics are supremely endowed with the ability to turn grass into blubber.

Several people tried using grazing muzzles, based on recommendations from other club members who had been using them for years with good success. I found

this is a lot trickier than it looks, at least with my horses. Oгри developed an uncanny ability to remove the muzzle. After I put a muzzle on Oгри, I watched him in the pasture for about 10 minutes. He walked briskly to a wooden fence pole, positioned his head just so, and scraped the muzzle off in one motion. Other horses got scrapes and rubs from the muzzles, which required some custom padding with sheepskin. Two horses kept on muzzles which attach to a halter, while the other three did better with muzzles that come with a built-in halter. It took at least a month of adjustments to fine-tune each muzzle to the individual horse. I definitely would have given up without encouragement from other club members.

Finally all of my horses learned the technique required to eat while muzzled. Then they stopped spending all day trying to rub off the muzzles. The technique they used

was to press the bottom of the muzzle against the grass and eat the grass which stuck up into the hole. They all developed a kind of sewing-machine motion: press down, bite off grass, repeat. The mule developed her own technique of eating fallen apples: Push against the branches of the apple tree until several apples drop to the ground. Squash apples into mush with your hoof. Eat apple-sauce off ground. Repeat. The horses quickly learned the apple technique also.

By the end of the summer, all my horses could keep the muzzle on 24 hours a day, with only a couple of short breaks to eat salt and scratch the itchy spots. Most of our club members preferred the Best Friend muzzle, but some people found the Tough-1 Easy Breathe Grazing Muzzle works best with their horses. For more information on our club activities, see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Skutlaclub/>



Hrókur frá Hlemmiskeiði 1A enjoys some lush spring pasture at Sand Meadow Farm in Mendon, NY. Photo by Steven Barber.

THE 2013 ICELANDIC HORSE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY MAIKE LIEKWEG

“Out of the darkness of time, proud head held high, nostrils flaring and hooves flying...”: Those were the opening words of the 2013 Icelandic Horse World Championships, celebrating both the long history of our wonderful breed and our horses’ amazing natural talent. The championships were held in Berlin, the capital city of Germany, on the famous Karlshorst Trotters Race track from August 4 through 11. Riding for the U.S. were Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert, Shannon Hughes, Chrissy Seipolt, and youth member Madison Prestine; our team leader was Doug Smith. My husband, photographer Mark Johnson, and I attended as the USIHC’s official press representatives.

The 2013 event in Berlin sported a long list of “firsts”—all of which made it once again an unforgettable event. Although some previous World Championships have been held at commercial facilities, holding one in the center of a capital city like Berlin was a first. The Pferdesportpark Berlin Karlshorst (Karlshorst Equestrian Horse Park), located in the former East Berlin, underwent substantial construction to add an oval track and a pace track to FEIF’s exact regulations. The city location attracted not only Icelandic horse fans, but also thousands of other horse enthusiasts. The number of spectators on Sunday topped 17,000—an all-time World Championship record! Add the 1,000-plus volunteers, the over 800 invited attendees, and the press, photographers, and videographers, and the number becomes even more impressive.

RELAY RIDE

The traditional relay-ride arrived 300 horses strong, coming down the main roads of Berlin right up to the famous Brandenburg Gate (*see the story in this issue*). This former city gate is one of the most well-known landmarks in Germany, built in 1788. During the Cold War, the



Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert carries the flag for the U.S. in a victory lap at the World Championships. Ásta placed eighth in the world in both Tolt T1 and Four Gait V1 riding Dynjandi frá Dalvík.

Brandenburg Gate was left isolated and inaccessible in “No-man’s Land,” in between the two walls that separated East Germany from West Germany. Throughout its existence, the Brandenburg Gate has been the site of major historical events, and it is now considered a symbol of the tumultuous history of Europe and Germany, but also of European unity and peace.

Once the Wall started to open in 1989, the Brandenburg Gate was once again featured and—after major renovations—once again opened to the public. Being able to freely walk through the Brandenburg Gate is an extremely emotional event, and seeing well over 300 Icelandic horses riding up to this gate was an even bigger thrill.

Both sides of the street were lined with literally thousands of people, horse-enthusiasts and onlookers alike, overwhelming the riders with applause and appreciation. The president of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, and the governing mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, oversaw the hand-

ing over of the relay baton, and the wife of the Icelandic president, Dorrit Moussaieff, participated as a rider.

ENTERTAINMENT

The opening day events continued at Karlshorst, with a celebration of all kinds of different horse breeds: Friesians, Andalusians, Lusitanos, Arabians, draft horses, and of course many Icelandic horses. In the show, HorsePower, superstar Lorenzo flew through the arena on his snow-white Lusitanos in a breathtaking choreography. Such a large-scale opening celebration was the first ever—and set the tone of excitement and love for our breed.

Another “first” was the extensive entertainment program that ran at different venues within Karlshorst during the week—ranging from drill team presentations to an Icelandic choir singing during lunch break to Cornelia Schaer, an IPVZ-trainer, presenting the “ISIWAY” of life with her mare as a circus lesson.

THE BREEDERS' FORUM

With the 2013 World Championships so centrally located in Berlin, Marlise Grimm, the FEIF Breeding Chair, wanted to feature a forum not only for breeders, but also for the general public, to highlight the importance of the breeding standards and their impact on the Icelandic horse's pleasure and sports riding ability. A large tent in the center of the exhibition area offered, for the first time at a championship, an informative national and international meeting point for all Icelandic horse breeders and those interested in breeding. Besides offering casual social interactions, the Breeders' Forum was the site of many presentations, discussion rounds, and other educational events that were held during the week. Topics included the Icelandic horse breeders' databank, WorldFengur, professional breeding magazines, and presentations on important breeding horses from different countries, which were supported by their farm displays. Other topics included improvements to WorldFengur, artificial insemination and embryo transfer, genetic research on colors and gait distribution, and the discovery of the pace gene.

HORSE CAREERS

So many teenagers (and adults) dream of having a career in the horse world, and



The mother of the German Youth Rider Charlotte Passau hugs Uni vom Kronshof after her daughter was named Youth Rider World Champion in Tolt T2 with a 6.92. Photo by Mark R. Johnson.



Jóhann R. Skúlason riding Hnokki frá Fellskoti, World Champion in Tolt T1 with a total score of 9.61—and a perfect 10 for fast tolt. Photo by Mark R. Johnson.

not only with Icelandic horses. For them, a separate Career Center was set up to interest and educate visitors to the championships about the wide variety of careers in the horse industry. Exhibitors included veterinarians, trainers, horse physical therapists, practitioners of holistic medicine, nutritional consultants, farriers, and many more.

YOUTH CHAMPIONS

For the first time at a World Championship, the Youth Riders were celebrated with their own Finals. Both Adults and Youth Riders competed in the same preliminary tests; then the top five Youth Riders competed against each other in a separate event and a new slate of Youth Rider World Championship titles was created.

The 2013 Youth Rider Champions are:
Tolt 1: Oda Ugland from Norway
Tolt 2: Charlotte Passau from Germany
Four Gait: Johanna Beuk from Germany
Five Gait: Lara Balz from Switzerland

OLD HEROES

Susanne Georges asked herself a simple question: "What happened to all of those amazing horses from the past World Championships?" This question sparked an international Facebook campaign to get those "Old Heroes" back to Berlin to show our admiration and to honor them. Twenty-nine amazing heroes were featured

in Berlin—all of them over 20 years of age. Unfortunately, the oldest horse, Glaumur frá Sauðárkróki, at 35 years old, had to decline the invitation for health reasons.

The "Old Heroes" presentation brought tears to many longtime Icelandic horse fans. The presentation of each horse reminded me of the opening ceremony of the Olympics. A sign with the full name of the horse was carried in front, followed by three people each waving a flag—one flag for the country of birth and two flags of the country where the horse earned the highest honors—followed by the horse, and then a crowd of about 20 people per horse, each waving flags and all dressed in beautiful jackets embroidered with "Old Heroes—We



Hnokki frá Fellskoti (ridden by Jóhann R. Skúlason) in a quiet moment with Jóhann's wife Stina Larsen and their child. Photo by Mark R. Johnson.

300 HORSES IN THE HEART OF BERLIN

BY LONE HØGHOLT



Crowds lined the road to watch the FEIF relay riders approach Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. Photo by Florian Luft.

Leading up to the opening of the World Championships, more than 300 horses took part in the final leg of the FEIF Relay Ride at Brandenburger Tor (the Brandenburg Gate).

The day before, all the riders and horses were tested outside Berlin to make sure that they could handle the presence of a lot of people, loudspeakers and music, flags, and photographers. Detailed descriptions of the event to take place the following day were provided to all the riders.

In the sunshine on Sunday morning, all the horses gathered on the beautiful street "Strasse des 17. Juni," leading from the impressive Siegessäule to Brandenburger Tor. In the front were riders carrying flags representing all the FEIF countries, under the lead of IPZV leisure riding director Christian Eckert, who was responsible for the event at the Brandenburger Tor. They were followed by the invited VIPs—like Dorrit Moussaieff, wife of the Icelandic president, FEIF president Jens Iversen, IPZV president Karly Zingsheim, and many others—and riders from all over Europe.

Some riders had spent more than a month in the saddle participating in the Relay

Ride, and the age span among them was very broad—it's thought that the most senior participant was 80! All colors of horses were represented, reflecting the rich variety in the Icelandic horse.

It was a really impressive scene when the riders, three by three, came from the Siegessäule towards Brandenburger Tor to unfold and stand in a half circle in front of the Tor—pretty much on the place where the Berlin Wall used to be.

The President of Iceland, Olafur Ragnar Grímsson, the Lord Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, and IPZV vice-president Peter Nagel spoke to the riders and to all the spectators, who included tourists from several countries.

In a moving ceremony the messages of the north, west, and south routes were read by Corinna Langer, Christian Eckert, and Christel Velte. The relay batons were handed over and brought with an escort directly to the World Championship stadium in Berlin Karlshorst.

The media covered the event very well: It is hard to imagine a better promotion of the good character and wonderful features of our Icelandic horses.

For all the participating leisure riders, another challenge was yet ahead: to enter the oval track as part of the opening ceremony for the World Championships at Karlshorst. At this point, the Saturday testing of the horses and riders was probably even more important than during the morning's event at Brandenburger Tor. Some of the horses had never been on an oval track before, and to them the opening was great in more than one meaning: thousands of people, loud music, speakers, and enthusiastic spectators!

On behalf of the Leisure Riding Committee, I would like to thank all the participants in this great event, as well as the organizers and the city of Berlin for having made it possible. In some countries "virtual tours" or local events have taken place, and miles or kilometers compiled, as a contribution to the Relay Ride; thanks for those contributions as well.

Lone Høgholt is the FEIF Director of Leisure Riding.



More than 300 FEIF relay riders packed the street on the way to the Brandenburg Gate in the heart of Berlin. Photo by Gerald Erdmann.



The U.S. Team shows their spirit at the opening ceremony of the 2013 World Championships in Berlin. Photo by Scott Prestine.

are coming to Berlin!” Once all of our old heroes entered the middle of the oval track, it was just a huge sea of flags and proud, smiling faces. Each and every horse was introduced by its full name and its amazing accomplishments; many were shown once again on the track. It was simply mind-blowing to see those “old guys” showing off once again on the track with power, elegance, speed, presence, great gaits—like they had never left the show circuit.

THE FEATHER PRIZE

The Feather Prize, to reward light and harmonious riding, was first awarded at a World Championship in 2002, so it wasn’t a “first”—but maybe a “best.” The recipient is selected via secret ballot by the active judges, and one prize is awarded each year. The 2013 Feather Prize was given to Bergþór Eggertsson.

THE CHAMPIONS

The 2013 Berlin World Championships did not only attract the largest number of riders, but they were also riders of exceptional quality, talent, and skill. A total of 163 riders competed, among them eight defenders of previous World Championship titles. There were 81 riders registered for the adult classes, 46 youth riders (ages 16-21), and 28 reserve riders. There were 44 horses in the breeding evaluations in three different age classes for mares and stallions.

In each class, the number of competitors was:

- Tolt T1: 60 riders, including 23 youth riders
- Tolt T2: 49 riders, including 17 youth riders

- Four Gait V1: 58 riders, including 25 youth riders
- Five Gait F1: 46 riders, including 16 youth riders
- Pace Test PP: 61 riders, including 19 youth riders
- Pace Race P1 (250m): 37 riders, including 10 youth riders
- Pace Sprint P2 (100m): 50 riders, including 14 youth riders

In terms of the countries represented, Iceland sent 18 riders, including World Championship defenders Bergþór Eggertsson, Eyjólfur Þorsteinsson, and Jóhann R. Skúlason. Norway was represented by 17 riders and two World Championship defenders: Anne Stine Haugen and Tina Kalmo Pedersen. Sweden had 16 riders, including the defending World champion Magnús Skúlason; and Denmark also had 16 riders, including the defending World Champion Tania Højvang Olsen.

Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands each sent 15 riders; the Netherlands’ team included defending World Champion Sigurður Marínusson. Switzerland showed 12 riders. The UK sent 10 riders; Finland, 9 riders; France, 8 riders. Canada had 3 riders; Belgium and the Faroe Islands had 2 riders each; and Luxembourg was represented by 1 rider.

TEAM USA

Team USA was represented by 4 riders: Ásta Dögg Bjarnadóttir-Couvert competed on Dynjandi frá Dalvík, making the finals in both her events. In Tolt T1 she placed eighth with a score of 7.95 and in Four

Gait V1 she also placed eighth with a score of 7.57. In the Combination: Four Gait, she placed seventh (7.65).

Chrissy Seipolt on Dreki vom Wotan-shof competed in Tolt T2 (scoring 5.97), Five Gait F1 (6.27), Pace Test PP1 (5.96). She placed twelfth in the Combination: Five Gait (6.07).

Madison Prestine on Straumur frá Enni competed as a Youth Rider in Tolt T1 (5.83) and Four Gait V1 (5.43). (*For her thoughts on her experience, see the story in this issue.*)

Shannon Hughes competed in Tolt T1 (6.70) and Four Gait V1 (6.50) on Asi from Mill Farm—another “first”: Asi from Mill Farm is the first U.S.-bred Icelandic horse to compete in the sport competition at a World Championship and, we hope, a trendsetter.

To create a World Championship team requires an extraordinary level of commitment from the riders and their families—who pay all their own, as well as their horses’ travel expenses—and from the USIHC Sport Committee, which recruits a Team Leader and organizes the tryouts. Thanks go to Team Leader Doug Smith for his amazing organizational skills and to the wonderful crowd of trainers, parents, relatives, friends, and fans who cheered on the team and provided much-needed financial support. The many donors to the USIHC’s World Championship fund paid the teams’ stall fees in Berlin and some of the Team Leader’s expenses; the team’s uniforms and supplies for the Nations Night party were donated by the Prestine family, the Seipolt family, Flying C Ranch, and Paradise Valley Icelandics. The U.S. banner, designed by Doug and signed by the four riders, was sponsored by the USIHC Youth Committee.

More about the 2013 World Championships, including all of the scores, can be found on the FEIF website at www.feif.org in the “Downloads” section. Stay tuned to that website, also, for news of the next Icelandic Horse World Championships, to be held in 2015 in Herning, Denmark. If you would like to be part of the 2015 USIHC World Championship team, go to http://www.icelandics.org/competition/wc_team.php for requirements and tips on how to prepare for the tryouts.

JOURNEY TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY MADISON PRESTINE

This journey, like any other trip, was full of challenges and amazing memories. I have always been fascinated by the chemistry between horse and rider. When I met Straumur frá Enni, I knew I had found my perfect match. I had a talented partner and was ready to pursue my dream of riding in the 2013 World Championships as a Youth Rider. We began preparing physically and mentally to travel and compete in Berlin.

The physical aspect for Straumur and me was practice, practice, practice. Laura Benson, who accompanied us to the World Championships, is our trainer, and she is passionate about working with young riders. We set our goal of riding in the World Championships two years ago. She believes that if you ride to better yourself, instead of to beat someone else, you will be more relaxed, have more fun, and therefore perform better.

Straumur and I embraced her philosophy and worked hard to improve our communication and riding skills, frequently meeting her at 5:00 a.m.! We spent weekends together video-recording programs, and enlisted the help of experts to critique our rides. We received hundreds of hours of competition instruction from Laura, and at clinics held at Flying C Ranch with Asta and Will Covert. Gudmar Petursson also visited us and provided needed education



Youth rider Madison Prestine's official World Championship souvenir photo.

and guidance in program transitions. We planned a busy competition schedule, and I retired from my high school varsity sport to ride more. I focused all of my energy on being with Straumur and building our strength and endurance.

Mental preparation was a challenge for me. Riding in front of 16,000 fans, and alongside many of the greats in our sport, was intimidating. I saw many of the young riders I competed with at the FEIF Youth Cup, and I knew they rode at my level or above me. To fight my nerves, I used visualization techniques with Laura to mentally

prepare for my programs. Our team leader, Doug Smith, removed eligibility requirements and other distracting details from my responsibility. My teammates Asta Covert, Shannon Hughes, and Chrissy Siepolt, were incredible sources of strength for me. Asta's advice kept me calm. "It is an ordinary show," she said, "with extraordinary circumstances." I didn't miss one of their rides and they didn't miss mine. I now possess a mental toughness that I know I will use throughout my life.

Going to the World Championships could never have happened without the support of my family. My Mom, Dad, and younger brother traveled to Berlin to cheer us on. My aunt and my cousins also came. We had approximately 30 U.S. fans at the event. I bonded with the friends and family of my teammates, and I know my family did too.

The experience is why we take the journey. I rode in Berlin to better myself and to improve my riding. Competing in the World Championships with Straumur was an adventure I will never forget.

Madison Prestine, age 17, is a senior at Los Gatos High School in Los Gatos, CA. She trains with Laura Benson at Valkyrie Icelandic in Redwood City, CA. For more information see www.valkyrieicelandic.com.



Madison's horse Straumur frá Enni arrived in Germany a few days before the championships and had time to acclimate to his surroundings. Photo by Laura Benson.

A TOURIST AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY ALEX PREGITZER

At first I was not sure I wanted to go. Like most people, there seems to be a consistent lack of time or money to do all the things I like to do, and going to see the Icelandic Horse World Championships never seemed to make it to the top of my priority list. I think I get too itchy watching others ride if I cannot ride myself.

Then I found out that the 2013 World Championships would be taking place in Berlin. What a coincidence! Not only is Berlin only three hours by train from my family in Germany, I had wanted to go there this summer to visit some friends. I was not sure what to expect. Some kind of large competition with top-notch horses, I guessed. I knew I would not be able to stay the whole week, but could only go for a couple of days. So I got the tickets. Booking tickets online was very easy, although there were some little things that were not self-evident to a first-time visitor like me. One of those was seat selection.

WHERE TO SIT?

The seating is divided into blocks by country. There's the Icelandic section, the German section, etc. Then there



A favorite event at this year's championships was the celebration of "Old Heroes"—world champion horses that are 20 years old or older. Photo by Alex Pregitzer.

The pace races are always exciting. Here the riders are leaving the starting box. Photo by Alex Pregitzer.



are blocks of seats that are mixed. I was not sure if the decision where to sit was up to me or based on my nationality or residence, but I learned it did not matter. I decided for a mixed block and really liked that decision, as we sat among rows of Swedes, Icelanders, Germans, Brits, etc. It was a fun melting pot of cultures and very friendly. Had I not been in that block, I would never have heard the Icelandic gentleman who stood up to sing along with his anthem. Not just sing along, but sing *alone*—there were not many Icelanders around us—proud, loud, clearly, and not missing a note. I just love that Icelanders as a people know how to sing. It was most definitely a goosebump-triggering moment.

Knowing the weather in Germany would not be reliable, I booked seats in a covered area rather than taking a risk. It was super hot and sunny, of course. One of the days I was there it did rain, but the storm was so severe that everybody was called off the bleachers and urged to take cover as the metal bleachers were not considered safe.

I had already spent a few weeks in Germany before going to Berlin. I arrived, met my friends, got my subway route all planned, and was at the World Championships right on time Friday morning. My first impression upon exiting the subway station in Karlshorst, however, was to feel thrown back in time into the former East Germany—except that there was construction everywhere. The less-than-attractive station, in combination with the construction fences everywhere and a lack of good signs, made me wonder how a first-time visitor to Berlin would feel when he or she arrived here. I felt somewhat embarrassed for my home country. Berlin is such a cool city, but it is a huge city and has a rainbow variety of different shades of attractiveness to it. I hope that many of the visitors to the World Championships took time to discover what Berlin had to offer beyond this specific train station and the path leading to the Trabrennbahn Karlshorst, the World Championship location.

For lack of experience, I can't compare this World Championship location to others from recent years, but my impression was that it was okay. The bleachers were very nice, allowing a good view of the track. I believe most seats were good seats and allowed a decent view. The first rows were closer to the track, of course, and those people sitting there had the chance to get a closer look at the horses and riders. The upper rows where I was seated did not offer the same close-ups, but had a great overall perspective, which I liked. When you pick your seats, you may want to consider that and think about what you might prefer.

TOURING THE GROUNDS

The stable tents did not look appealing to me. Would I really want to have my horse in there all week long or even longer? But then, could any stable tents be great, no matter how well made they were? There were some paddocks for turnout, as far as I could see, but they were small. Unfortunately, it was a week of extreme heat in Germany. It does not usually get that hot. I am sure the horses would have been happier with cooler weather. I am not sure it is possible to provide more luxurious accommodation for the horses, but I wish it was. It may even be the case at other World Championship locations in the past and future.

There was a large variety of different stores and food vendors. It seemed you could pretty much indulge all day long and shop for reins, bits, helmets, treats, or the latest, hippest riding pants—whatever was on your wish list. I did not think the prices were a bargain, but there certainly were a lot of choices. I still wonder, though, why would they sell sunglass cases with the WC logo on them?

One of the days, our friend Goetz George, the Canadian team leader, invited me and my friends into the Canadian camp, where we met some Canadian and German friends and hung out for a while. The Canadian riders were very welcoming and happy to chat, and it was great to see some old friends.

Doug Smith, the U.S. team leader, had also invited us to the U.S. camp, but when it came down to it, I felt it would be asking too much of the U.S. team to babysit me and my friends. They had been in Berlin's desert heat for a while, and I was sure they were exhausted. I was happy to run into Asta Covert and Laura Benson (who was coaching youth rider Madison Prestine), and glad I could congratulate Asta on her fantastic riding. I watched both Asta and Madison ride: They had fabulous rides and looked great! I did not get to see all the U.S. and Canadian performances, but was so happy to see at least those two and to witness how very well they represented the USIHC.

STUNNING RIDES

Two things stuck out for me as being the most impressive and enjoyable of my first visit to the Icelandic Horse World Championships. One was obviously the opportunity to watch so many amazing horses and riders: In the two days that I watched, I barely saw any mistakes. The riding was so good and accurate it was a joy to watch. The horses were so talented it was sometimes beyond belief. I enjoyed watching all the different classes: Tölt, Four-Gait, Five-Gait, Pace Races, both the youth riders and the regular classes. There also was an event called "Old Heroes," which showcased former world championship horses. Most of them were in their late teens and up to their thirties; some of them were shown ridden and were still extremely impressive.

The second most enjoyable part of the World Championships for me was watching these stunning performances together with good friends who feel the same way as I do about these horses. I was fortunate to have great company. My friends from Berlin hosted me and came along one day and another friend traveled a long way just to spend the day with me.

My bottom line is that the World Championships were fascinating to watch and I am glad I decided to go. If you get the chance to go—without having to rob a bank or make too many other compromises—I would absolutely recommend it.



Alex posing next to one of the painted horses, the ambassadors for the World Championships in Berlin. Photo courtesy Alex Pregitzer.

DESTINATION: BERLIN

“ONE WORLD – FIVE GAITS!”

BY LYNN LAPOINTE WIESE

“My legs are burning—don’t leave me behind,” called out my friend Nancy, as we raced up the staircase in one of Berlin’s confusing S-Bahn stations. I laughed because Nancy, despite her petite frame, has easily out-paced me throughout our travels. We were only able to navigate Berlin’s train system through the help of friendly locals. Our question, “Do you speak English?” was always met by the answer, “A little”—followed by sentences of fluent English and our sighs of relief. After a week in Berlin, we never did master the subway system, but those train experiences only added to our adventure in seeing the 2013 Icelandic Horse World Championships in Berlin, Germany.

My journey to Berlin actually began a week ahead of the Opening Ceremony. I am lucky enough to board my Icelandic horse, Svörður, at Creekside Farm in

Rutledge, GA. In addition to having access to high-quality horses and great instruction, I have made lasting friendships with many of the talented German riders who have visited the farm. Going to Germany prior to the championships would allow me to visit the homes and farms of some of them.

FAIRYTALES

Our first stop was the little village of Wetter, located about an hour north of Frankfurt. The charming village was truly reminiscent of a fairytale; in fact, a small tower jutting from a half-timber structure at the edge of the village was the inspiration for the story “Rapunzel.” My host, Lilli Cassebaum, and her family-owned Amönau Farm have a herd of about 50 horses. Nancy and I were treated to tolt-filled rides through the village and out to the countryside. So typical of the Icelandic horse character, my horse matched my need at that moment;

slower and careful when I felt jet-lagged, and faster, carefree tempos when my energy was up. On one of our rides, the Icelandics drew a huge amount of attention when passengers of a tour bus disembarked. With their excited foreign chatter in the air, they began snapping pictures and videotaping us. Another fairytale came to mind—“The Pied Piper”—when the throng of tourists continued to excitedly follow us through the village.

Our friend and USIHC breeding leader, Barbara Frische, took us to Rappenhof farm near Kassel where her daughter Milena is a trainer. Rappenhof Farm is owned by August Hofmann and is well known among Icelandic horse lovers all over the world for its top quality breeding. Especially notable is their stallion Tyr vom Rappenhof who was a three-time World Champion. We were greeted by August’s son, Ludgar. The barn was busy with boarders readying their horses for pleasure rides and others preparing for lessons. When asked if we would like to ride, we jumped at the chance to ride some of their choice horses. Maybe the fact that we were wearing our jods and using our helmets as purses filled with cell phones, sunglasses, wallets, etc. was a slight give-away. Nancy had an exhilarating ride on Píla vom Rappenhof, while I rode a gorgeous silver dapple pinto, Randalín von Birkenlund. Milena and Ludgar coached us through our rides and the horses made us look like we knew what we were doing.

ON TO BERLIN

Our strategy for the World Championships was to watch the Opening Show and Ceremony on Sunday evening and return Monday morning to get the bulk of our shopping done and see some of the Preliminaries. The rest of the week was going to be a mixture of sightseeing, the show grounds, and visiting friends.

On Sunday, this year’s relay riders were joined by over 300 riders to ride through the historic Brandenburg Gate, a former



The view from our guest house window. Photo by Lynn Wiese.

symbol of a city divided. (See the story in this issue of the Quarterly.) The group proceeded to the tournament grounds, Pferdesportpark Karlshorst, and entered the oval track as the crowd was rocking to the official World Championship song “Gates (Gaits) to the Heart,” sung live by Sebastian Frisch and his band. We sang along and stomped our feet to the chorus catch phrase, “4 on the floor, Hey! 4 on the floor.” If you haven’t heard the song yet, you can find it on YouTube: It is definitely worth a listen.

The Opening Ceremony introduced all the team participants as they walked onto the oval track. Each team was decked out with the colors of their country and carried their respective flags. Team USA looked great in their white pants and shirts, navy ties with red and white stripes, and navy blue blazers.

The Preliminaries were more leisurely and afforded us an opportunity to sit with friends who were generous with their knowledge of the Icelandic horse breed. Our friend Barbara Frische, a FEIF International Breeding Judge and the U.S. Breeding leader, would join us when she wasn’t judging or giving presentations, and Nicole Kempf, a FEIF International Sport Judge, had reserved a seat with us. Throughout the week we received a first-rate education on everything from Icelandic horse gaits, transitions, and riding techniques to pedigree and its impact on performance. Barbara and Nicole would often predict who the winner of a class would be and why, and the fact that they were never wrong is a testament to their expertise.

The most charming ride of the preliminaries had to go to Silvia Ochsenreiter-Egli riding Heljar frá Stóra-Hofi for Switzerland in the F1 (Five-Gait) category. Heljar is the only stallion in the world to have received a score of 10 for walk (Dritteltreffen Süd in Wurzburg on May 7, 2011). During his program, he strutted his way around the track to the beat of the Pink Panther Theme song.

One of my favorite aspects of the World Championships was meeting new people from different countries. People were so warm and welcoming. We quickly learned just how small the world of Icelandic horses really is: Nancy and I would strike up conversations with people, and inevitably we would discover we had friends in common.

The crowd swelled on Saturday with



Ásta Covert and Dynjandi frá Dalvík showing off at the World Championships. Photo by Alex Pregitzer

the rowdiest (and the most fun) of the bunch being the Icelanders. We were seated adjacent to them, and it was easy to get caught up in their enthusiasm. They vocally supported their team with cheers for good scores and boos for scores that didn’t meet their approval.

Sunday was the pinnacle of the World Championships because of two events: The Finals and the Closing Ceremony. First, the Finals. What can you say about watching the world’s best Icelandic horse and rider pairs in a stadium with over 13,000 fans? It was awesome. The air was filled with anticipation. With such evenly matched fields, the win was anyone’s to take. I imagined that as the champions performed their victory lap and then climbed onto the medal podium, they must have felt like rock stars. And finally, the Closing Ceremony. My favorite part of the Closing Ceremony is when the volunteers paraded around the track carrying sunflowers. A rider I met at Creekside Farm, Fräncey End, had spent six months in Berlin organizing the volunteer effort, and I know how hard she worked. I was so pleased to be able to cheer and show my appreciation to these volunteers.

KRONSHOF FARM

With the Closing Ceremony finished and the World Championships officially ended, we were leaving the train stations of Berlin behind and heading for the beautiful German countryside. We were comfortably nestled in an air conditioned car (did I mention the temperature was in the 90’s

during our stay in Germany?) driven by Barbara Frische. With the city behind us, the distance looked stormy, but the German countryside welcomed us with a double rainbow. I imagined that our destination, Kronshof Farm, lay at its end.

Kronshof is located near the small village of Dahlenburg, which is about three hours northwest of Berlin and an hour southeast of Hamburg. The farm greeted us with several welcoming signs leading to homey brick buildings that were surrounded by lush gardens in full bloom. Kronshof Farm is one of the largest Icelandic horse farms in Germany and is owned by the Schenzel family, headed by Lothar and his wife, Elke. They offer breeding and training in addition to their riding school. There are quaint guest houses and apartments where Icelandic horse enthusiasts can come and stay for lessons, seminars, or riding holidays.

The fact that this farm has sent horses to the World Championships consistently for many, many years is a testament to their successful breeding and training programs. This year Frauke Schenzel won the V1 Four-Gait with her 11-year-old chestnut gelding, Tígull vom Kronshof, with an overall score of 8.3. Frauke told me that she had trained for six years with Tígull in preparation for the World Championships. In the breeding competition, Frauke captured the gold medal with Óskadís vom Habichtswald in the class for seven-year-old and older mares and took home the silver medal on Embla vom Kronshof in the class for six-year-old mares.



Straumur frá Enni shares his thoughts on the World Championships, while Ásta Covert and Laura Benson (far right) take a well-deserved break in Berlin's 90-degree heat. Photo (left) by Laura Benson, (right) by Alex Pregitzer.

A labeled aerial view helped orient us on the large farm. We started our day by riding a five-year-old bay dun, Selma von Birkenlund, who has been in training with Frauke. Nancy really clicked with this mare and ended up taking her on a trail ride. Selma's outstanding character shined through when a large tractor sped by: Selma showed no reaction while an older, more experienced horse spooked.

The ride ended just in time to greet the Kronshof team as they arrived home from Berlin. We watched as the three champions, Tígull, Óskadís, and Embla were unloaded and turned out onto a small pasture. They

grazed nonchalantly, unaware of their crème-de-la-crème status in the world of Icelandic horses. Frauke took us to see the breeding mares and some of the older babies. Frauke, Barbara, and Nancy had an intellectual conversation on breeding pedigrees while I stood nearby, occasionally nodding in agreement while the conversation swirling in my head was more along the lines of, "Oh my God, that one is so cute" and "I wonder how much it costs to export a horse?"

Elke ushered us to a long table where we sat with the family and their friends and staff. We enjoyed coffee along with fresh desserts from a local bakery. The gathering was

relaxed and easy, despite the fact that most of them had just returned from a lengthy stay in Berlin. I was surrounded by warm conversations, English on my left and German on my right, on a beautiful Icelandic horse farm. What a great way to close out my journey.

For information about the farms and professionals mentioned in this story, see Creekside Farm (www.creeksidefarm.com), Rappenhof Farm (www.rappenhof-breuna.de), Kronshof Farm (www.kronshof.com), Nicole Kempf (www.nicolekempf.de), Barbara Frische (barbarafrische@web.de), and Amöna Farm (dcassebaum@yahoo.com).



A parade of volunteers at the closing ceremony. Photo by Lynn Wiese.

YOUTH PAGES



Jasmine McRae (in the red) and Bangsi working with Abby Moerer and Muska in the ring. Photo by Heidi Benson.

THE GALLOPING HILL

BY JASMINE MAYA KALENDER MCRAE

It was a sunny afternoon. It was warm. I tacked up my horse, Bangsi, for a trail ride with my trainer, Heidi Benson. We mounted our horses and headed out. I was so happy to be riding the trails with Heidi. The wonderful view of Monterey Bay was beautiful, and I relaxed. I could feel Bangsi beneath me and realized he was eager to go. We decided to pick up the pace and we began to tolt. Heidi mentioned there was a big hill ahead. Was I comfortable galloping?, I asked myself. I felt nervous and excited because this was a new horse for me. I saw the hill. I was listening for the beat of Bangsi's hooves, the one-two-three beat. The closer we got to the hill, the more nervous I felt. But I had confidence in my horse and myself. Finally we were on the hill. I felt like I was flying. I was happy and proud of myself and my horse. I fully realized my love

of riding that day and have been riding ever since. As for Bangsi, he loves it too. Thanks to Heidi, I have come a long way since I was seven. Thanks Heidi!

Jasmine is 10 years old and trains with Heidi Benson of Centaur City Farm, Santa Cruz, CA, www.centaurocity.com.

ZERO

BY MADELINE POLLOCK

The butterflies in my stomach were flying around like crazy before I entered the track at the Kraftur Horse Show in Watsonville, CA. My hands were sweating inside my gloves, and my arms were sticking to the silky lining of my jacket. The first day we rode in the competition, Gjalp frá Hólmahjáleigu, Madison Prestine's horse, and I got a 5.4, which was the best score we had ever received together. On day two, I was competing on Gjalp again, but this time in the finals. The whole time I was waiting

to enter the track, I was worrying about getting the right lead in canter and having a collected walk. Over the noise in my head I heard the announcer call my name.



Madeline Pollock and Gjalp frá Hólmahjáleigu, taken at the 2013 Spring CIA Open in Santa Ynez, CA.

HORSE SENSE • BY EMILY BENITO

Out on the trails
With none of those rails

Riding in the tall trees
I can feel the cool breeze

Smooth reins in my hands
I have no cares or plans

I can hear her hooves pounding
With her joyful whinny sounding

As I gallop along the blue ocean
It's like drinking a magic potion

And as I look out and smell the sea
It's amazing how it surrounds me



Emily is 12 years old and has been riding Icelandic horses for about two years. She boards her horse, Dua, at Coast Ranch Stables in Santa Cruz, CA. Her trainer is Laura Benson of Valkyrie Icelandics, www.valkyrieicelandic.com. Emily Benito and Dua in competition. Photo by Kathy Sierra.

CHRISTMAS HORSE • BY CLARA CHILTON

The wind blows against my back,
The grass is soft and wet.
I sit on Vaengur's back
With his red bow,
On Christmas Day,
He looks like a sleigh horse,
My Christmas horse.

The bells softly ring
On his big red bow
As we walk around.
His fur is long and shaggy.
With his round belly,
Long fur,
And short legs,
He looks like a tiny,
Fat, pony.

The air carries the smell
Of fresh grass.
It fills my mouth
Bringing in the taste
Of the ocean,
Not too far away.

I feel as if
There was a connection
Between Vaengur and me
Through the rope.
I've felt this sensation
Every time I've ridden him
Like we know how
Each other thinks.

No one knows
The joy of riding
Unless they ride.
They don't understand
The feeling
Of the power
Under you
When you canter,
When you run,
When those legs,
Beat under you.

I never want
To leave his back.
I want to ride around
All day.
But I can't.
I have to get down,
Get on with my day.
I have to leave
My Christmas horse.
Vaengur.

Clara, age 15, wrote this poem for her English class. She trains with Heidi Benson of Centaur City Farm, Santa Cruz, CA, www.centaurcity.com. Clara Chilton and Vaengur. Photo by Barbara Downs.



“Here we go,” I whispered, as we entered the track. After all of the riders entered the ring, we showed walk, trot, and tolt. During tolt I remembered to do what Madison had told me, keeping my hands back, thumbs up, and squeezing with my calves. The only worry left in my head was canter: As I slowly got her ready for canter, I was hoping that I would get the right lead.

“1-2-3,” I said in my head, as we took off in beautiful canter! I felt like we were flying around the hard golden track. Once we landed, and the judges called out our marks, I thought I would get a four at the least.

I heard all of my opponents’ scores for canter and then mine was called. I heard the announcer say, “Madeline Pollock: ZERO.” It was the wrong lead. It felt like I had been punched in the stomach and I wanted to cry. But I didn’t! There were too many people taking photos. I decided to put a smile on my face.

Once I got back to my trailer, I was still a little bit choked up. I was embarrassed that I had gotten a zero. I felt like I had failed in front of all those people, but I was still extremely proud of Gjalp.

My best friend, Katherine, came to talk to me after I put Gjalp back in her stall. She reminded me, “A show can be your best ride ever, and sometimes it won’t be.” You can’t be embarrassed if you know that you did your best. Which was true. What Katherine told me did make me feel better. I realized that even the best horseback riders in the world have received zeros. I learned from that mistake and will learn from many more.

Madeline is 12 years old and is in seventh grade at Fisher Middle School. Her trainer is Laura Benson of Valkyrie Icelandics, www.valkyrieicelandic.com.

RIDING WITH GREAT-GRANDMA

BY EDEN HENDRICKS

In 1926 my great-grandma, Fassy, rode horses in southern Mississippi, at Gulf Park Boarding School, on the Gulf of Mexico. She used to wake up every morning and tack up her horse and ride in the arena and on trails with big oak trees covered in Spanish moss. Eighty-seven years later I do the same thing, but in Santa Cruz, CA at Wilder State Park, on Icelandic horses.

I imagine she enjoyed the same things



Youth rider Eden Hendricks at Centaur City Farm. Photo by Michael Hendricks.

I do. For example, the sound of the birds that love stable life, the smell of oats and alfalfa, and the smell of my horse when I hug him. I love the feeling of galloping up hills and racing in the arena with my friends. I’m sure she did too. One day when I was riding it was close to summer and the grasses were high on the trail, the sun was bright, and the ocean was clear in our view. I never thought about all the homework I had or after-school chores. I

think Fassy probably thought horseback riding was her escape from the hard parts of boarding school too. Riding has definitely been a big part of both of our lives.

Eden wrote this essay for a school art project. She is 11 years old and trains with Heidi Benson of Centaur City Farm, Santa Cruz, CA, www.centaurcity.com. She once told her dad, “I don’t want to learn German or Spanish or French, I want to learn Icelandic.” Asked why, she said, “That’s what Heidi’s horses understand!”



Three youth riders stepping in sync at Centaur City Farm. From left to right, Abby Moerer on Muska, Jasmine McRae on Bangsi, and Clara Chilton on Vaengur.

LEARNING AT UPPSALA

BY SANDIE WEAVER

The 2013 FEIF Education Seminar was held in the Agersta Icelandic Center near Uppsala, Sweden on September 6-8. It was meant for trainers, sport judges, and breeding judges, and since I am none of the above, I had to get special permission to go. After all of the qualified people who wanted to go had signed up, they had a few spots open for “trainee trainers”—so that’s what I am. Here I’d like to share some of my notes from the first evening’s presentations; the next two days we spent watching the trainers in action.

THE PACE GENE

The first presentation, “The Pace Maker or the Gait Keeper: The Genetic Key to Flying Pace and Natural Tolt,” was by Kim Jäderkvist, a Ph.D. student at Uppsala University. Kim and her colleagues are the ones who discovered the mutation of a gene which gives certain Icelandic horses the ability to pace. (See “The Pace Gene” in Issue 4 2012 of the Quarterly.)

There are about 20 researchers working on this project, including about five in the U.S. at the University of Minnesota, Texas A&M, and the University of California. They are studying 60 gaited breeds, and have tested 70 Icelandic horses so far.

Kim said they want more horses for this study. It requires pulling a few mane hairs and answering five to six questions about your horse. Here is her contact information: kim.jaderkvist@slu.se.

Longterm implications of these studies suggest that the DNA results could be published in *WorldFengur* for each horse, and possibly that the DNA results could be taken into consideration when scoring horses at breeding evaluations, as the horses with the pace gene scored lower in walk, tolt, and canter.

METTE MANSETH

The next presenter was the Norwegian trainer Mette Manseth, who recently became the first woman to pass the Master of Equitation test at Holar University in Iceland. When she was a child, Mette

bicycled a half hour each day to ride at a stable. No one else in her family was the least bit interested in horses. Because of that, she is always asking trainers, “Why?” Not because she is critical, she explained, but because she is curious.

She is also curious about all methods of horse training, and has tried all sorts of different approaches. She keeps what works, she said. For example, she recently started training a young horse with a neck ring. (She had a halter on it in case it decided to run away or buck.) She was amazed at how quickly the horse learned to stop with the neck ring, but when she proceeded with a bridle and a bit, the training didn’t transfer and she had to start over again.

Concerning training, she thinks that when you close your hands on your reins, the horse should automatically stop or back up. Closing your hand on one rein should mean automatically turn. Pressure with both legs should mean “go” at once. Pressure with one leg should mean go sideways. Most riders are not aware that their horse is not responding to their aids.

She asked us the question, “Who gets to decide how a horse should move?” Many responses were that the judges decide, and Mette encouraged everyone to think this through and to come to our own conclusions as to who should decide. She was not making a value judgment, she stressed. She was just getting everyone to think about what is best for the horse. She thinks each horse should have an interesting and nice life. How much are we willing to put the horse through to get it to do what we want?

Other questions she asked were, “What should we expect from a six-year-old horse?” and “What should we expect from a 16-year-old horse?” She has trained many, many young horses for two or three years, and has let them all go. But now she has three or four horses that are 10 to 11 years old, and will be keeping these horses for the rest of their lives, because she wants to know what to expect from the Icelandic horse at all ages.

STIAN PEDERSEN

The next presenter was Norwegian rider Stian Pedersen. Stian started riding when he was nine and credits his stepfather with teaching him how to treat animals humanely. Small daily personal records are his biggest happiness—not his five gold medals at the Icelandic Horse World Championships.

Stian does not believe that people are (or are not) born with the “rider’s touch.” When he was growing up, a man told Stian that he did not have “the touch.” Another man told him that when he looked into Stian’s eyes, he could tell that Stian could make it all the way to the top. Stian decided when he was young that he was going to win a World Championship before he was 50. He is 38.

Stian is very humble and has a dry sense of humor. He told us a story about asking a FEIF judge, several years ago, what he thought about Stian’s new horse. The judge said, “He’s okay, but he will never be an international horse.” The horse they were speaking about was Jarl frá Miðkrika, with whom Stian has won four of his five gold medals.

As a trainer, Stian uses Natural



Mette Manseth spoke at the FEIF Education Seminar in Uppsala. Photo by Martina Gates.



Stian Pedersen, shown here at the World Championships in Berlin, was one of the three trainers lecturing at the FEIF Education Seminar in Uppsala. Photo by Mark R. Johnson.

Horsemanship to understand the horse. He believes the horse starts learning from birth, and every time the horse sees you coming, it is sizing you up. Horses are curious and will try to do things that they will be rewarded for. It is important to let the horse's confidence grow. You should use pressure and release, so that the horse is not always under pressure. That way they will stay forward-thinking horses. Most riders he sees are too stiff in the hands, he believes. The line between the mouth and the hands should be diagonal—more up than down. You should make the horse soft and loose, both in body and in mind. They should be strong in the stomach, but relaxed in the topline. The horse must learn to enjoy being collected.

MAGNUS SKULASON

The last presenter for the evening was Icelandic rider Magnús Skúlason, winner of the Five-Gait gold medal at the 2013 World Championships. Magnús grew

up on an Icelandic horse farm riding very good horses, which he now appreciates, he said. He grew weary of the tedious chores of farm life and left when he was 18 to work out at sea. After several years, he came home and went to Landsmót, the Icelandic National Horse Show. He saw that many of his father's horses did well and he was bitten by the bug again.

Horse training, according to Magnús, starts with the inside of the heads of the horse and the rider. You must understand the talent of your horse. What feeling does the rider have? The biggest problem he sees is that the rider is unaware of what kind of horse he or she has.

When he gets a new student he wants to know about the horse's background—did it have a good life growing up? Then he wants to know about the rider's experience. Then he assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the horse. He assesses the balance of the rider and what the rider is interested in doing with his or her

horse. Most riders do not understand how much work is involved in achieving what they want to do. He advises the riders to develop their own strengths.

In the horse's early years, from ages 4-7, he says to develop the athleticism of the horse. Then when the horses are 8 to 13 years old, that's when you will find their talents. A horse is developing all the time. An older horse needs a different type of training, but the same focus.

How are the minds of the horse and the rider connected? Where do you start? When is it time to take the next step? These are things he asked us to think about.

One training technique he encouraged was to always find something good that the horse is doing.

To learn more about FEIF's seminars and other educational offerings, see www.feif.org under "Education" or contact the USIHC Education Committee chair, Katrin Sheehan, at education@icelandics.org.

A PERFECT TAIL, EVERY TIME

BY JESS HAYNSWORTH



As all Icelandic horse lovers know, the crown jewel of this breed is its hair. Thick, luscious manes and long, flowing tails are prized so highly by owners and breeders that we award a separate score for mane and tail quality at breeding horse evaluations. The general rule with hair is that more is better, but in my opinion, there may be such a thing as too much. Fortunately, if you want to trim your horse's tail, there's an easy trick to make it beautiful and even. It's called "banging," and it will give you a gorgeous tail with ends that hang perfectly straight, no matter how fast your horse is moving.

WHY CUT A TAIL?

This may sound strange, in a breed so interested in having lots of hair, but I have found cutting my horse's tail to be an important part of equine maintenance. A long tail is a liability. If your horse's tail is too long, he may step on it if he backs up suddenly or spooks at something. His pasture mates may step on it as well. It can even happen under saddle—recently, I saw a horse step on her own tail while she and her rider were practicing a turn on the haunches. Horses tend to panic when they stand on their tails, which can create a dangerous situation for anyone nearby.

Standing on a tail can rip out enormous clumps of hair at the roots, sometimes as much as half of the tail. That's hair that won't grow back for a long time—many experts say it takes *seven years* to grow a single tail hair to full length! Long tails are also susceptible to becoming tangled in objects on the ground, or weighed down with dirt and mud. This not only results in hairs getting ripped out or broken, but can also become a seri-

Banging a tail keeps it safe from being stepped on—and makes for a beautiful show look. Photo by Anne Hyde.

ous safety issue on trail rides, if a horse's tail becomes tangled in something and causes the horse to panic.

Another reason you might want to trim your horse's tail is if your horse has a short, thin, or uneven tail. It may seem counter-intuitive, but cutting a tail evenly actually gives the shorter hairs a chance to catch up with the ends, allowing the tail to thicken in appearance and fill out. I like to cut young horses' tails when they first come in for training, for this reason. Of course, another great reason to trim

a horse's tail is for beauty. Many competition horses have their tails banded, so that the ends hang perfectly even, giving them a polished appearance on the track.

HOW LONG IS TOO LONG?

If your horse's tail can touch the ground, in my opinion it is too long. The way to gauge this is not only to look at the tail length when the horse is moving or standing at rest, but also to back the horse up and see if the tail brushes the ground. The reason for this is that a horse lowers his hind end when he backs up, and

since backing up is something our horses frequently do out in the field (we've all seen them run backwards at each other, pushing their hindquarters into each other to settle dominance disputes), it is important that your horse's tail is nowhere near the ground when he or she moves backwards. To be on the safe side, tails should be at least six inches from the ground when the horse is at rest. The good news is that it's very easy to bang a tail, and it looks beautiful on the trails or on the track.

HOW TO BANG A TAIL:

What You'll Need:

An assistant. This is a two-person job!
A flexible-bristled tail brush
Detangling product
Scissors



Step 1: Brush out the tail very well. Use an alcohol-free detangling product and a flexible-bristled brush, to avoid pulling out or breaking hairs. The tail must be tangle-free and must hang down without kinks.



Step 2: Lift the horse's tail, and have your assistant place her forearm under it, holding the tail up at the base. When a horse is in motion, he will hold his tail up slightly, away from the buttocks. A tail cut evenly when a horse is at rest will be uneven when he lifts his tail and begins moving. Holding up the tail for banging takes some strength, especially if your horse is a little shy, or not used to having his tail handled. Horses may try to "clamp down," so your assistant should have a strong and steady arm.



Step 3: Starting at the dock, grasp the tail and run your hand down it, all the way to where you want to cut. Don't let any hairs escape; don't hold the tail off to one side or the other. Be as even as possible.

Step 4: Cut the excess hair in a straight line. Make your cut at least six inches from the ground, no longer. If you're worried about cutting too much, make a longer cut at first, and then have the horse walk, so that



you can see how the tail will hang when the horse is in motion. You can always cut more if you don't like your first cut. Remember, the longer you leave the tail, the more frequently you will have to do maintenance trims, to keep the tail from getting dangerously long. I find most horses need a twice-yearly trim.



Step 5: Brush out the tail again, and have your assistant lead the horse for you, so you can admire your work. If you've held and cut the tail properly, it should hang perfectly, even when the horse moves.

SHOWING OFF THE ICELANDIC HORSE

BY JULI COLE



Dream big! If we do, someday the crowds at U.S. horse shows will look like this one, for the 2012 Landsmót in Reykjavík. Photo by Lisa Keller.

There are many different ways of promoting the Icelandic horse, but the one that is essential and most effective is exposing the horse itself to the general public. Seeing the beauty and spirit of the Icelandic horse in the flesh gives the curious newcomer an experience that they will not forget, and that will encourage them to learn more about our wonderful breed—and hopefully inspire them to become owners of Icelandic horses. Trade shows and breed demos can be used for this method of promotion, and of course anytime an Icelandic horse owner participates in an activity with his or her horse—such as a trail ride or all-breed show—they are also actively promoting the breed.

This article will address how we can use sanctioned shows and schooling shows to promote the breed to the general pub-

lic. To start, these shows are the perfect showcase to demonstrate all of the qualities of the Icelandic horse. Members of the general public who come to a show as spectators will get to see our breed in action, going through all of the gaits with a variety of riders from the young to the young at heart, from beginner riders to professionals. The temperament of the breed will be seen firsthand, as will the camaraderie between the participants.

So how do we get the general public to come watch a show? The answer is, to paraphrase a famous quote, “If you promote it, they will come.” The promotion of a show should start about a month in advance of the event and continue through the weekend of the event. This promotion also can be done at little to no cost to the show committee or organizer.

WHO CAN HELP?

Local newspapers often have a “Community Calendar” to list upcoming events that people in the area may be interested in attending. Even the “free papers” or “free classifieds”—often going by names such as *Pennysaver*, *Bargain Hunter*, *Bargain Trader*, etc., have sections for community events. The cost for advertising in these sections is usually much less than for regular classified ads and is often available for free. Advertising the show in these Community Calendar sections is a very effective method of drawing spectators.

Show committees can also check with the community news department of the local papers to see if they will write a brief story about the show. One good way to hook a newspaper’s interest is to mention that there will be local participants, especial-

ly if they are children or amateur riders, as that makes a good human interest story and demonstrates something good and positive about the local community members.

Many radio stations, especially AM stations and “family friendly” stations, such as those with an “oldies” genre for their playlist, also have a service where they announce upcoming activities. A more adventurous show committee may wish to check with one of the stations to see what is involved in having a remote broadcast done by one of the radio station DJ’s for a few hours during the show. Remote broadcasts are appealing, as the DJ at the station will usually “check in” with the DJ doing the remote broadcast, who will tell all of the listeners about where he or she is, what is going on, and what is available for the general public to stop in and do. The key to investigating radio stations is to go to one with a genre that will appeal to a broad demographic of prospective Icelandic horse owners, and not necessarily the stations that play the music you most enjoy. The stations that play a mix of popular music from the 1960s through the 80s is usually a good choice.

Fliers for the show are a tried-and-true method. Post them at tack and feed stores, grocery stores, convenience stores, diners—anywhere people go. Just be sure to check with store management first if there is not a community bulletin board at the store.

FUN! FREE!

Just what should you include in these newspaper ads, fliers, or radio spots? The wording will be dictated by the amount of space or time available, however there are some key phrases you want to be sure to include, along with the details of when and where (be sure to give a full address). These phrases are:



The audience at the 2013 NEIHC Open at Thor Icelandics spread out over the hill to watch Jessica Haynsworth and Glaeta frá Brekku, Fljótsdal. Photo by Lisa Keller.

- *Fun For All Ages:* These words tell people right away that this is an event for anyone and not oriented around either children or adults, so a wider demographic is reached.
- *Free Admission and Free Parking:* These two phrases work like magic when it comes to attracting people to an event. Everybody likes “free,” especially if they are looking for something to do on a beautiful weekend.

SHOW TIME

Now that you have the advertising done, you will want to make sure you have some small signs made up to place at close-by intersections on the day of the show to help direct people to the show grounds.

It will also be helpful to have a basic program made up to hand out to spectators: It should include a description of the classes and gaits and, if possible, the names of the horses and riders by number. People always have more fun, and their interest is held longer, if they can follow along and have a basic understanding of what is going on. If space allows, including the English

definitions of the horses’ Icelandic names can be both interesting and fun for the spectators who don’t know what they mean.

Have information about the breed, such as the new USIHC brochures and free copies of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly* (both brochures and magazines are available from the Promotion Committee), as well as literature from the represented farms, trainers, and breeders set up on a table so that the people attending can take them home to look at.

It is also helpful to have a handful of volunteers to walk around the viewing area, doing a “meet & greet” to welcome the spectators and answer any questions they might have. The show announcer can help get the spectators involved, especially during the fun classes such as beer tolt, by encouraging them to cheer on their favorites.

To conclude, by promoting our sanctioned and schooling shows to the general public, we are giving them an inside opportunity to see exactly what goes on in “our” world and how much fun they can have by joining us. These opportunities to show off the Icelandic horse should not be missed.



A good turnout at the 2013 Kentucky Show watches Carrie Lyons Brandt and Sváli frá Tjörn (son of the current five-gait world champion) in the Pace Test. Photo by Amber Parry.

NUTRITION FOR ICELANDICS

BY NICKI ESDORN

When I first brought my geldings home to my new backyard barn, I had to figure out what and how much to feed them. I had boarded them at several stables over the years, and visited farms in Iceland and all over the United States. I found that every stable had their own way of feeding their horses. Even the hay that was fed was different, with people recommending first cut or second cut, and different kinds and sources. Some had their hay tested routinely, some said not to bother. Some fed two flakes, some four. How big is a “flake”? Should the horses get grain and supplements? Some people fed a tiny handful of grain, some none, and some a “coffee can.” The feed companies have more varieties of grains and pellets than there are cereals in a big supermarket. What to choose? Soon my feed room was stacked with buckets, cans, and packets of various vitamins, minerals, and supplements. Sound familiar?

LEARNING ABOUT NUTRITION

I went on a mission to figure this nutrition question out. I considered the recommendations of friends who had obviously healthy and fit Icelandics. I discussed options with my veterinarian and a nutritionist from Purina. I found a great Equine Nutrition course on the internet, *for free!* It is called “Equine Nutrition” and is taught via Coursera by Dr. Jo-Anne Murray of the University of Edinburgh. No previous experience is required; it is a basic course for every horseperson. It will be taught again starting January 27, 2014, and I highly recommend it. This article is based on information from that course.

In a natural environment, horses will roam over 5 to 20 miles a day and graze for 16 to 20 hours, on low nutritional quality feed that is high in fiber. Compare that to the life of a riding horse—much more confined, even with turnout, eating often just two big meals a day of much richer food, while the animal’s digestive system and behavioral needs remain the same. Health problems like gastric ulcers



An easy way to weigh a hay portion by stepping on a footscale. Weigh yourself first without hay, then with it, and subtract.

and laminitis can be the result. Many Icelandic horse owners keep their horses in a more natural way than big sport horses are kept, but even here, improvements can be made.

The gastrointestinal tract begins at the lips and ends at the anus. It is about 100 feet long in a mature horse. It is very interesting to learn what form of digestion occurs where, and how, and this leads to an understanding of how easily the system can get upset—and that lack of knowledge or care in feeding can be really dangerous for the horse’s health. For example, the horse’s stomach is relatively small and inelastic, with a capacity of only

about 8 quarts. It is important not to overfill it with large meals of more than 3 or 4 lbs of grain. This is the reason we should feed little and often. Also, the horse’s 80-foot-long (!) small intestine is much less likely to twist if it is constantly getting filled with some forage.

All the food that horses eat is composed of water, carbohydrates, protein, fats, vitamins, and minerals. Water, of course, is essential. About 65 to 75 percent of a mature horse’s body weight is water. Water is required for metabolism, gut function, excretion, thermoregulation, and transport of nutrients. Horses must have access to fresh, clean water at all times.

Carbohydrates can be structural (fiber) or non-structural (sugar and starch). Carbohydrates are the main source of energy. The online nutrition course explains in detail about the components of all carbohydrates and how the sugar/starch content of grass is highly variable depending on the season and time of day. Protein is needed for various functions, for example, to build muscle and grow skin and hair, as well as for enzymes, hormones, and the immune compounds that fight infection. Minerals are required for growth—they are co-factors to enzymes and are involved in the transport of energy. Vitamins are needed in small amounts, but are vital for many functions, among them vision, immune system, growth, blood clotting, and bone development.

WHAT TO FEED

What do horses need to eat in order to get all the necessary nutrients? First of all forage, such as grass or hay. Many Icelandic horses in this country are turned out on grass, but horses boarded with other breeds and horses stabled for training get a lot less time in a pasture. They need to eat hay, or haylage. The nutritional content of hay varies a lot, just like grass, depending on the pasture quality and when it was cut.

Horses who work hard, breeding horses, or horses that are still growing

need more energy than just forage can provide. Cereal grains such as oats, barley, and corn have a high starch content and deliver lots of energy. However, they need to be processed to improve digestibility, as the horse's digestive system cannot handle large amounts of starch all at once. The online nutrition course mentions sugar beet pulp as a very good cereal replacer. It must be soaked well, otherwise it is dangerous and can cause choke or stomach distension, but it is highly digestible and healthy. Vegetable oils are added to grains mainly to give calm energy, improved athletic ability, and a better body condition to horses in hard work.

The online course covers all these foods in detail and stresses that horses need to get most of their nutrition, at least 70 percent, from high-quality forage like grass or hay. Grain or feed concentrates should be fed little and often, and only as a supplement to a fiber-based diet.

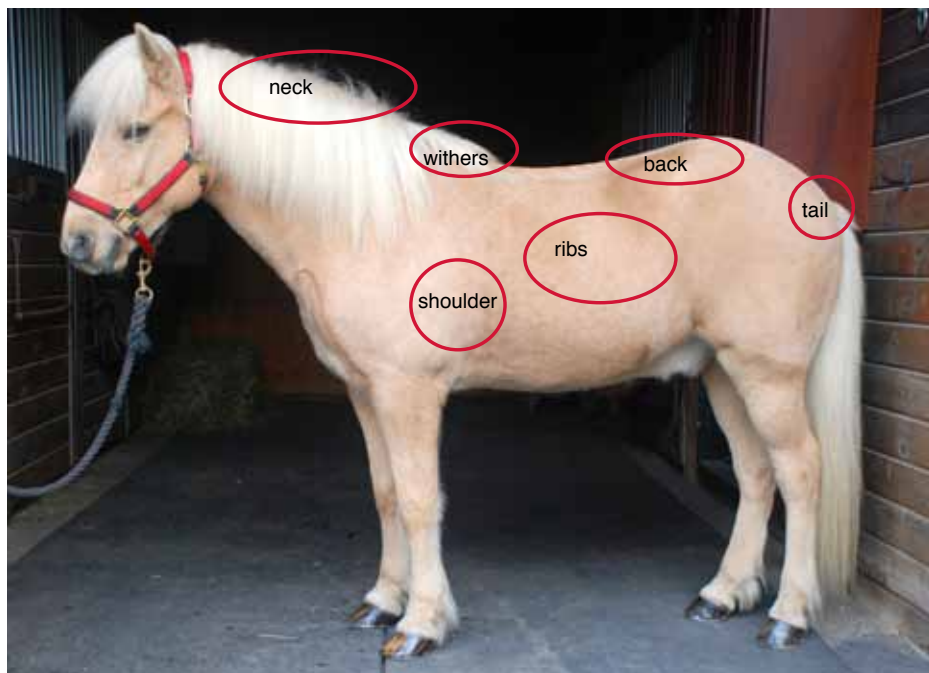
HOW MUCH TO FEED

How much do horses need to eat? The quantity of hay and grain is determined by the horse's body weight, its condition, and its workload, including breeding and growing.

The only accurate way to get a horse's weight is by weighing it on a scale at an equine clinic. Weight can also be determined with a weight tape placed around the heart girth, which gives you an approximate reading.



Two horses sharing hay from a NibbleNet. The net is hung low to allow for a natural head carriage while eating. It is secured on the bottom so it will not turn.



The Henneke body condition score is widely used by Veterinarians to describe a horse's body-weight and condition. The areas circled in the photo are checked and described in a scale from 1 (extremely emaciated) to 9 (extremely fat). Ideal is a score between 5 and 7. The 18-year-old gelding Dagfari fra Blonduosi scores a 6 overall and is in excellent condition with slight fat deposits in those areas. For more information please look up http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henneke_horse_body_condition_scoring_system

To describe a horse's condition, the Henneke Body Condition Score is used. You look at the neck, withers, shoulders, ribs, back (loin), and the tailhead area. A score of 5 to 7 is ideal. Our Icelandics are often a 6 or 7, unless they are very fit.

The online course describes the nutritional needs of breeding and growing horses in detail, but this is beyond the scope of this article. It is interesting, however, that a mare in early lactation has a higher energy requirement than a racehorse! And that a foal in its first year grows to 80 or 90 percent of adult height if it is fed appropriately.

Most of our horses are doing light to moderate work, which is regular recreational riding and training. They require 2 percent of their bodyweight in food. If your horse comes in around 800 pounds on the weight tape, it needs 16 pounds of food. Supplementary feed could be a low-energy pelleted feed, sugar beet pulp, alfalfa, and oil. A broad spectrum vitamin and mineral supplement should be given.

A so-called forage balancer is recommended for horses who can maintain proper body weight on moderate-to-good quality forage alone. The vitamin, mineral, and protein content of regular grain mixes is calibrated for bigger breeds, who are fed

large quantities of grain: 7 or 10 pounds, or more. To get all the necessary nutrients, you have to feed that amount of grain, or add supplements to a lesser amount. A forage balancer will contain all the nutritional requirements of protein, minerals, and vitamins for a 1000-pound horse in one pound of grain mix and have a controlled starch/sugar content. It eliminates the need for additional supplements and takes the guesswork out of feeding. An 800-pound Icelandic would require 1 pound of forage balancer and 15 pounds of hay to make up the 2 percent of body weight, 16 pounds. To figure out how much my flakes of hay weigh, I use a footscale in my stable. I weigh myself first, and then with hay in my arms. (A good way to keep track of my own weight...)

I used to feed lots more hay in cold weather and ended up with fat horses in the spring. I learned that fiber digestion in the hindgut (cecum) creates heat as a byproduct. The 2 percent of bodyweight in hay fed throughout the whole day and night are enough to keep a horse warm with this internal oven; only in extremely cold conditions below freezing is a pound or two more per day recommended.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The last week of the course addresses the nutritional management of horses and ponies with special needs, like susceptibility to laminitis, obesity, weight loss, or old age. Laminitis is an inflammation of the hoof laminae, often caused by carbohydrate overload. As Icelandic horses have evolved to be easy keepers to survive Icelandic winters, they are more at risk. To avoid laminitis, avoid turnout on too-rich pasture. The sugar content of grass is highest in late spring or early summer and also in the late afternoon. Consider turnout on pasture only for a few hours or less at that time of year and in the mornings, rather than the afternoons. However, do not turn your horse out on pasture that has been exposed to a frosty night, followed by a bright, sunny day, as sugar content will be high. Horses prone to laminitis should have regular exercise, be kept at a fit weight (condition score 5), and be fed a very consistent diet with no sudden changes.

The best way to deal with an overweight horse, according to the course, is to eat less and exercise more. Surprise! However, this needs to be a long-term commitment of at least 4 to 6 months or even longer. All high-calorie food should be eliminated (grain and treats), and the horse may need to stay away from pasture. Studies have shown that horses on a diet can eat more than their portion of grass in a few hours. The diet should begin at 2 percent of body weight and may be reduced to 1.5 percent of body weight, but never less than 1 percent of body weight. The rations should be divided into at least 3 to 4 feeds per day. Regular, realistic exercise must accompany the diet.

Underweight Icelandics are rare, but can be the result of their caretakers thinking they have a super easy keeper who needs no grain or supplements and will thrive on a bit of hay. The fact that Icelandic horses can survive harsh conditions does not mean they should endure them, as grave health problems and stunted growth can result. Underweight horses (condition score 4 or less) need veterinary attention to make sure their teeth and health are okay and the change in feed must be gradual and well managed.



A weight tape is applied around the heart girth, where the front edge of a saddle girth would be placed.

RULES TO FEED BY

To sum up, the rules of feeding a healthy Icelandic horse are:

- Provide adequate, good quality forage as the main source of food (at least 70%, up to 100%).
- Provide clean, fresh water at all times.
- Provide social contact and regular exercise.
- Feed grain in moderation and only as supplement to a fiber-based diet. Consider feeding a forage balancer.
- Weight should be checked monthly with the weight tape and the body score system, and the amount of food and exercise adjusted.
- Feed consistently (amount and type of feed) and often. Using a slow feeder like a hay net with small holes lets horses spend a lot more time eating, which simulates natural conditions. They will nibble and work to eat every stalk without any waste.
- Control parasites with a worming program prescribed by your veterinarian and/or with fecal checks.
- Have your horse's teeth checked once a year and maintain them.

Good dietary management can prevent disease and improve health. Prevention is better than a cure!

LETTERS

“HUNTER PACE!”

RESPONSE BY CHARLOTTE KOOYMAN

Riding a hunter pace is a lot of fun, but riding a hunter pace with your child is just extra special. This fall, my son Michael, age 10, rode his very first hunterpace with me, the Bedford pace mentioned in Nicki Esdorn’s article in Issue 3 2013 of the *Quarterly*. Michael had been taking lessons in hunter pace riding with Nicki before he even entered a pace. He knew when to speed up, and when to slow down, so he could ride a 1 1/2 hour pace and still come home with a happy horse. We probably would have gone too fast, if Michael had not been leading our team. Michael and Nicki had practiced all kinds of skills like passing, overtaking, stopping, jumping, riding away from a group, and so on, so we were well prepared for riding a big hunter pace with lots of other people. We had a great ride and in the end, we also got lucky because we rode the optimal time for the junior division and won the blue ribbon!



Michael Kooyman on Dagfari and his mom, Charlotte, riding Hreyfing. Photo by Kathy Mathew.

Editor’s note: Michael won his second blue ribbon, riding the Greenwich hunterpace with Nicki on October 13. Their friends Charlotte Guernsey and

Dennis Vetrano also won ribbons both in Bedford and Greenwich. Hannah Huss and Nicki placed third in the junior division in Bedford.



Riding in the Stirling Hunter Pace were Anne Owen on Gna and Sandy Perkins on Aria (who took first place), and Donna Millard on Freyr and Marilyn Weiner on Stigandi (who took second place).

“HUNTER PACE!”

RESPONSE BY ANNE OWEN

Two teams from Tolt Farm participated in a local Hunter Pace at Lord Stirling in September. There were over 100 riders—and our Icelandics proudly won first and second place. Our team-members’ ages ranged from 50 to 70.

As 70-year-old Donna Millard noted, “Once again, our Icelandic friends performed to perfection. My first riding ribbon is proudly displayed. The memories live on and I look forward to many more years of fun and adventures with my wonderful four-hoofed friends.”



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Application Renewal

Membership Type: Individual Family Junior
 Foreign Friend of the US Icelandic Horse Congress

Name:

Address:

City: State/Province : Postal Code: Country:

Phone: Email:

- Keep my name and contact information private.
- Never use my email address instead of the US Mail to notify me of official USIHC business.
- I prefer **not** to receive a copy of the *Quarterly* magazine in the US Mail.

Regional Club:

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

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

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

Farm:

Owners:

Address:

City: State/Province : Postal Code: Country:

Phone: Email:

Fax: Web:

Membership Fees & Restrictions			
Individual	\$45/year. One adult. One vote.	Membership Fee:	\$.....
Family	\$65/year. Two adults and unlimited children living in the same household. Adults vote.	Farm Listing Fee:	\$.....
Junior	\$25/year One child (under 18 years). Not eligible to vote. Free until September 2014	World Championships Donation:	\$.....
<i>Members in the categories above with non-US mailing addresses must be US Citizens</i>		Youth Fund Donation:	\$.....
Foreign Friend	\$70/year. One adult non-US Resident/non-US Citizen with limited benefits. Not eligible to vote.	(optional support for youth programs)	
		Total:	\$.....

Make checks to "USIHC" and mail to the MAIN OFFICE address.
Congress memberships are for one year. Your membership is active on receipt of payment and expires one year later.

MAIN OFFICE: 300 South Sawyer Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066
 Phone: (866) 929-0009 [extension 1] Email: info@icelandics.org



Give young riders their Best Ride Ever!

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

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

**FREE youth membership to
the USIHC in 2014!**



THE ICELANDIC HORSE MARKETPLACE



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)

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.

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.

QUESTIONS: If you are unable to access the Internet or have questions regarding advertising, please contact Juli Cole at 724-667-4184 or juli2875@yahoo.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 3/8" x 3 3/4")	\$ 50
Quarter page (3 1/2" x 4 3/4")	\$ 35
Classifieds (text only)	\$ 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.

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Sali Peterson, marketing, sagasayer@cox.net

Kim Davis, registrar, cottongrassfarms@cox.net

Sverrir Bjartmarz, regulations, sverrirbjartmarz@hotmail.com

Sean Kelley, Photographer

Building a Tradition





F A R M L I S T

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

CALIFORNIA

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Bonnie and Randy Bohart
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(949) 660-7139 (fax)
bonnielou92660@yahoo.com
www.bohartkk ranch.com

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(805) 688-0629 (fax)
info@tolt.net
www.tolt.net

Gold Leaf Onyx Ranch
Robert and Patricia Terrell
5731 Gold Leaf Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 957-4226 (phone)
(530) 622-3331 (fax)
potpigs@att.net

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

Om Icelandic
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4560 Blanchard Road
Ste A
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 295-8257 (phone)
routsonranch@att.net
routsonranch.com

Valhalla Icelandic Horses
Stina & Steinar Sigurbjornsson
17498 Santa Rosa Mine Rd
Perris, CA 92570
(818) 808-8089 (phone)
(818) 890-4569 (fax)
stinabk@mac.com
www.valhallaicelandic.com

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

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Hanging Valley Ranch
Garry & Sharon Snook
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1555 Nettle Creek Road
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(970) 963-3517 (phone)
(970) 963-3503 (fax)
snookcolorado@gmail.com
icelandicmountainhorses.com

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

Lough Arrow Icelandics
Andrea Brodie, Dvm
22242 Cr 46.0
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fiddlinvet@gmail.com
tinyurl.com/3xn3yys

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

GEORGIA

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

INDIANA

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

IOWA

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

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Gudmar Petursson Icelandic Horses
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 New Castle, PA 16102
 (724) 667-4184 (phone)
 juli2875@yahoo.com
 www.meanttobefarm.com

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Clear Springs Hollow Farm
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 137 Hugh Garland Rd.
 Jonesborough, TN 37659
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 (423) 753-6075 (fax)
 filkaroark@embarqmail.com
 filka-roarkhorses.com

VERMONT

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

WASHINGTON

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

Lone Cedar Icelandic Horses
 Dawn Shaw
 P.O. Box 524
 451 E. Murray Road N
 Grapeview, WA 98546
 (360) 275-7542 (phone)
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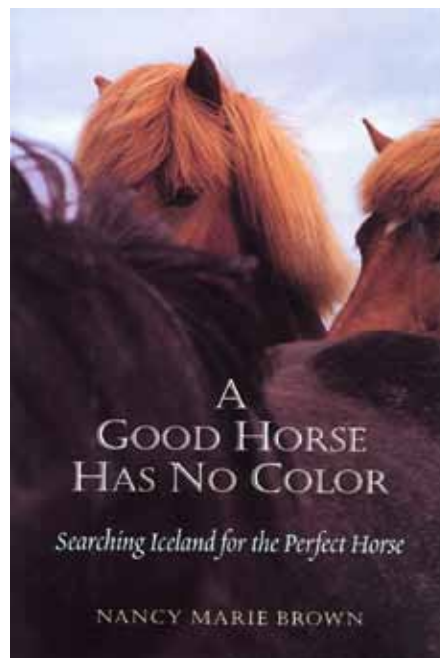
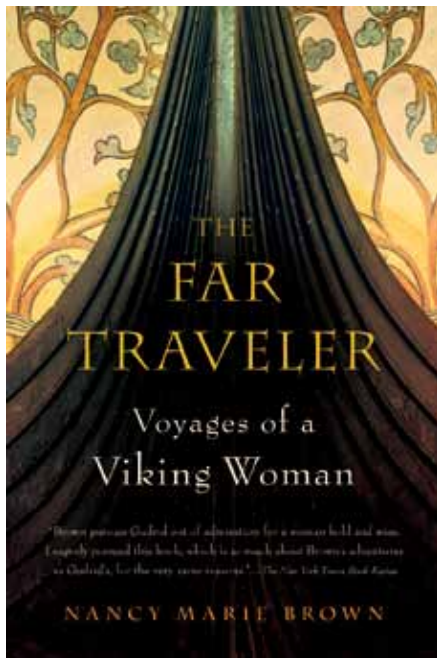
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 cepinwv@yahoo.com
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 Denise & James Taylor
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 icywoman@msn.com
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ÁLFADANS FRÁ INGÓLFSHVOLI (IS1996187025) is an elegant first-prize stallion standing at stud at Birkenlund in Minnesota. His offspring have competed in the World Championships with one mare taking silver in the 2013 breeding show in Berlin, Germany. His evaluation score is 8.20.

BARBARA FRISCHE has nearly 40 years of experience riding, training, breeding, and judging Icelandic horses. Many horses from her Birkenlund breeding have competed at the World Championships including a stallion from her breeding that received gold in Young Riders Four Gait at the Berlin competition. She has taught countless successful riders throughout Europe and the U.S. and is skilled at working with both new riders and World Championship competitors. She has judged over 20,000 Icelandic horses since 1988 and is adept at assessing young and ridden horses and helping breeders and riders achieve their goals.



BARBARA IS GREAT TO WORK WITH, A GOOD TEACHER, AND EXTREMELY knowledgeable about the breed and breeding. I am thrilled she has moved to the U.S. permanently. That is good news for the future of the Icelandic horse in the U.S. - GUDMAR PETURSSON

“ BARBARA HAS AN EXCELLENT WAY OF ASSESSING THE POTENTIAL OF each horse and finding a very individual and fitting approach to teaching each pair how to work together towards the next steps to a successful relationship. - CORALIE DENMEADE



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PHOTO: DYNJANDI FRÁ DALVÍK RIDDEN IN A BRIDLE FROM FÁKUR, BIT BY ÁSTUND, BOOTS BY G-BOOTS AND IQ SADDLE BY TOP REITER



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