

2023 USIHC Annual Report

Membership:

852 Members, 655 Households (February 2024)

Treasurer Report (Leslie Chambers)

Organization Balances - 2019 to Present						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Current 2024
Cash Balance	115,444	132,732	147,074	176,071	208,166	205,616
Fund Balances	17,408	20,212	23,313	29,561	47,904	92,904
Adj Cash Balance	98,036	112,520	123,761	146,510	160,262	112,712
Year End Profit/(Loss)	2,411	14,484	11,241	22,748	8,752	
Dedicated Funds						
	At 12/31/2023	Board Add	At 2/14/2024			
American Youth Cup Fund	25,290	-	25,290			
Education Fund	234	10,000	10,234			
Breeding Fund	2,554	5,000	7,554			
Judge Scholarship Fund	4,000	-	4,000			
World Championship Fund	5,303	10,000	15,303			
Youth & Youth Camp Fund	10,523	10,000	20,523			
Leisure Fund	-	5,000	5,000			
Promotion Fund	-	5,000	5,000			
Totals	47,904	45,000	92,904			
Remaining Cash Balance	112,712	Cash in bank less dedicated funds				
One year expenses - cash reserve	85,000	Recommended reserve				
2024 budgeted one-year deficit	14,227	Includes \$10k one-year admin/bookkeeping contract, to be reviewed				
Undedicated cash reserve	13,485					

Registrar Report (Asta Covert)

Annual Report: Icelandic Horses Registered for year 2023

	Domestic Bred Under 12 Months	Domestic Bred	Imported from Iceland	Imported from Canada	Imported from other countries	Total Registered	Total Transfers
Mares	34	4	16	4	0	58	68
Stallions	20	3	4		1	39	9
Geldings	1	1	19	3	1	25	47
Total 2023	55	8	39	7	2	Total 122	124
Total 2022	43	25	58	6	1	Total 143	103
	12	-17	-19	1	1	-21	21

2023: Total number of horses registered: 122

2023: Total number of horses transferred: 124

Domestic Horses registered in Worldfengur **3643**

Imported Horses registered in Worldfengur **3343**

Total number of Icelandic horses registered in WorldFengur 12/31/2023 **6986**

Affiliated Club Committee Report (Leslie Chambers)

Defining the duties of the Affiliated Club Committee (ACC) and Chair

The purpose of the Affiliated club is to promote the knowledge of the Icelandic Horse and its correct use as a competition and riding horse in accord with the policies of FEIF and the United States Icelandic Horse Congress. If the club's by-laws are revised at any time during the life of the club, they must be re-submitted for approval.

Duties of the Affiliated Club Committee Chair:

1. Review applications of clubs seeking recognition as an Affiliated Club of the USIHC. Maintain records of required documents.
2. Review renewal applications of clubs seeking to maintain their status as an Affiliated Club of the USIHC. Renewal period begins the first of August and ends the last day of August of each year.
3. Maintain club member lists of each Affiliated Club, these lists are required of clubs renewing and applying for recognition as an Affiliated Club of the USIHC.

4. Assist in calculating the USIHC/regional club census for FEIF renewal documents (Fall of each year)
5. Oversee committee discussions and present any proposals to USIHC board of directors, act as liaison between the clubs and the board.
6. Oversee any programs dedicated to the Affiliated Clubs.
7. Review icelandic.org website pages dedicated to Affiliated Clubs on a Quarterly basis and submit any necessary changes or updates.
8. Keep the clubs informed of information from the board meetings.
9. Promote and facilitate club to club interactions.
10. Arbitrate any club to club issues, if needed.

Duties of the Affiliated Club Committee Members:

1. Encourage clubs to share ideas and discuss them in a constructive manner.
2. Encourage clubs to promote USIHC membership among their members.
3. Review club information on the icelandics.org website for accuracy on a quarterly basis, report any needed changes to ACC chair.
4. Share information back to your Affiliated Club, report any relevant feedback or comment back to this committee.

Review of 2023

- We ended the year with 12 regional and no activity club(s):
 1. Alaska Icelandic Horse Association
 2. California Icelandic Horse Association
 3. Cascade Icelandic Horse Club
 4. Flugnir Icelandic Horse Club
 5. Frida Icelandic Riding Club
 6. Hestafolk
 7. Klettafjalla Icelandic Horse Club
 8. NEIHC
 9. NWIHC
 10. Saint Skutla Icelandic Horse Club
 11. Sirius Ohio Kentucky Icelandic Horse Club
 12. Toppur

USIHC-FEIF Census and Affiliated Club Renewal Report (Fall 2023):

Twelve regional clubs have renewed their USIHC Affiliated Club status and contributed member lists for the census report.

The census number reported to FEIF will be the number of USIHC members at time of FEIF request.#

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017*
Total USIHC members	835	789	778	767	748	682	653
Total USIHC and Regional Club members			-	953	1003	1008	1008
Number reported to FEIF#	835	789	778	767	748	1008	1008
Regional Clubs (reported members)**	618	653	623	623	688	643	664
Alaska IHA	50	46	33	33	48	52	73
Cascade	27	20	26	21	24	32	24
CIA	20	17	19	19	17	22	23
FIRC	76	68	103	114	85	60	60
Flugnir IHC	27	52	38	35	69	60	93
Hestafolk	42	33	23	23	29	33	33
Klettafjalla IHC	47	54	54	48	43	54	58
Kraftur		42	43	44	42	26	67
NEIHC	188	180	157	164	190	170	150
NWIHC	28	28	22	22	26	11	7
Saint Skutla IHC	36	36	34	33	34	30	34
Sirius OH KY IHC	37	46	40	34	31	49	38
Toppur IHC	40	31	31	33	35	32	7
USIHC members who belong to No RC	-	-	-	285	288	339	-
% RC members who also belong to USIHC	62.5%	60.1%	58.2%	62.4%	47.5%		
# RC members who also belong to USIHC	386	361	337	355	295		
People who belong at least one RC		601	579	569	621	-	-
People who belong to 1 Additional RC		21	33	45	46	-	-
People who belong to 2 Additional RCs		5	6	8	11	-	-
People who belong to 3 Additional RCs		1	4	4	5	-	-
People who belong to 4 Additional RCs		-	-	1			

2017* data was merged by Doug Smith. Regional Club numbers collected by Leslie Chambers. 2018-2020 data collected and merged by Leslie Chambers.

2021 data collected by Leslie Chambers

** numbers do not account for multiple club memberships

Originally, the census number reported to FEIF only included USIHC members. In 2017, FEIF decided to allow countries to also count members who belonged to regional clubs, but not the USIHC. This counting method allowed the USIHC to increase their voting power in FEIF. However, it created a problem with how the USIHC was billed for World Fengur (basically we were being billed for the additional members, who because they were not USIHC members, had no access to World Fengure). Therefore, in 2019, the Board (see BOD meeting minutes from 9/10/19) decided to report the number of USIHC members only to FEIF.

2023 Data	Regional Club	Also USIHC member	% USIHC members
Regional Clubs (reported US members)			
Alaska IHA	50	42	84.0
Cascade	27	18	66.7
CIA	20	20	100
FIRC	76	37	48.7
Flugnir IHC	27	15	55.6
Hestafolk	42	27	64.3
Klettafjalla IHC	47	24	51.1
Kraftur			
NEIHC	188	102	54.3
NWIHC	28	23	82.1
Saint Skutla IHC	36	11	30.6
Sirius OH KY IHC	37	37	100
Toppur IHC	40	30	75

8/30/2023 Leslie Chambers

updated

Summary of FEIF Census:

Fall 2023, the USIHC reported 835 members*.

Please note the continued increase in USIHC membership over the last 7 years (2017-653, 2018-673, 2019-748, 2020-767, 2021-778, 2022-789).

Regional Club Clinic Support - Policy #31, 2023

Summary of 2023 Clinics:

Five (of 13) Regional Clubs were able to hold clinics which were supported by Policy #31 funding in 2023. The USIHC paid out \$1500 of the \$6500 budgeted for this program. Each club was eligible for one grant not to exceed \$500 in 2023 (grants were based on number of USIHC members in participation and whether clinician/judge was US licensed).

1. Alaska IHA: clinic in Wasilla, AK
2. CIA: clinic in Santa Ynez, CA
3. Klettafjalla: clinic in Larkspur, CO
4. Sirius: schooling show in Shelbyville, KY
5. Toppur: clinic in Truro, IA

Summary of 2022 Clinics:

Four (of 13) Regional Clubs were able to hold clinics which were supported by Policy #31 funding in 2022. Hopefully this is the beginning of the recovery from COVID years. The USIHC paid out \$1000 of the \$3500 budgeted for this program. Each club was eligible for one grant not to exceed \$250 in 2022 (grants were based on number of USIHC members in participation).

Summary of 2021 Clinics:

Two (of 13) Regional Clubs were able to hold clinics which were supported by Policy #31 funding in 2021. COVID-19, still affected many clubs ability to hold their group events. The USIHC paid out \$500 of the \$3500 budgeted for this program. Each club was eligible for one grant not to exceed \$250 in 2021 (grants were based on number of USIHC members in participation).

Summary of 2020 Clinics:

One (of 13) Regional Clubs held a clinic supported by Policy #31 funding in 2020. Due to COVID-19, most clubs had to cancel their group events in 2020. The USIHC paid out \$250 of the \$3500 budgeted for this program. Each club was eligible for one \$250 grant in 2020. (No more than one grant/club was approved. Maximum of \$250.)

Summary of 2019 Clinics:

Ten (of 14) Regional Clubs held 10 clinics which were supported by Policy #31 funding in 2019. The USIHC paid out \$2275 of the \$3500 budgeted for this program. Each club was

eligible for one \$250 grant in 2019. (No more than one grant/club was approved. Maximum of \$250.)

Summary of 2018 Clinics:

Ten (of 14) Regional Clubs held 10 clinics which were supported by Policy #31 funding in 2018. The USIHC paid out \$2500 of the \$3500 budgeted for this program. Each club was eligible for one \$250 grant in 2018. (No more than one grant/club was approved. Maximum of \$250.)

Summary of 2017 Clinics:

Ten (of 14) Regional Clubs held 17 clinics which were supported by Policy #31 funding in 2017. The USIHC paid out \$8500 of the \$12000 budgeted for this program. Each club was eligible for two \$500 grants in 2017. (No more than two grants/club were approved. Each at a maximum of \$500.)

Summary of 2016 Clinics:

Eight (of 12) Regional Clubs held 8 clinics which were supported by Policy #31 funding in 2016. The USIHC paid out \$4000 of the \$6000 budgeted for this program. Each club was eligible for one \$500 grant in 2016. (No more than one grant/club was approved. Each at a maximum of \$500.)

The committee's request to continue funding of Policy #31 for 2023 has been modified to encourage the use trainers and judges found listed on the USIHC website (icelandics.org). Funding of \$6500 has been requested, Budget meeting is set for February 7 2023

Promotion: Regional Clubs banner Update:

Promotions working in collaboration with AC committee was budgeted \$1960 in February 2020 (\$140/club, figuring 14 clubs) for creating banners to promote both the affiliated club and the USIHC. A Google form has been provided to each club to submit their request, files and information. To date, four clubs their banners.

Banners Received:

1. Sirius (2020)
2. Hestafolk (2020)
3. Klettajalla (2020)
4. NEIHC (2021)
5. Toppur (2021)

Banners in Planning:

1. CIA (2023/24)
2. Cascade (2023/24)
3. NWIHC (2023/24)

4. Saint Skutla (2023/24)

Funding will be requested to continue into 2024 for the clubs who have not yet received/requested their banners. Banners are budgeted for \$200 each. 2024 may be last year for this program.

2023 Breeding Committee Report (Virginia Lauridsen)

There were three breeding events in 2023: an official FEIF Breeding Assessment at *Montaire* in Middleburg, Virginia; a clinic on “*How to Ride a Breeding Assessment*” with Ólil Amble and Disa Reynis at *Harmony Icelandics* in Truro, Iowa; and a Young Horse Assessment in Colorado.

The assessment at *Montaire* included educational seminars as well as an official FEIF assessment. Eldrottning from Beat N’ Branch, owned by Ron and Sherry Hoover, was presented by Carrie Lyons Brandt for a score of 7.56 and is the winner of the 2023 Cantella Award for the highest evaluated American bred mare. Carrie noted that “after her presentation, Eldrottning was trail ridden and shown in a fun show by her owner Sherry Hoover the same weekend. Quality horses that can handle the assessment process are also the best possible riding horses.” Mackenzie Durbin presented Freyja frá Skör for a score of 7.95 – so close to first prize! This was the first time Mackenzie had ever presented a horse for assessment and said it was a wonderful experience. She not only learned a lot but had a great time.

Judges Elizabeth Jansen and Óðinn Örn Johannsson both were extremely helpful and encouraging, and did educational lectures about conformation and movement. FEIF Level IV trainer Nicole Kempf helped coach the riders. Carrie noted that “although the event was small, it was an example of generous hosts sponsoring the event, judges committed to educating breeders and the community in general, and breeders and owners committed to quality and further development of the breed in the United States, and trainers willing to team up and show the horses to the best advantage.” Everyone in attendance learned a great deal and had a positive experience.

The clinic on “*How to Ride a Breeding Assessment*” in Iowa was a three-day clinic intended for trainers and riders planning to present horses for assessment in the future. World champion rider and breeder Ólil Amble worked with 8 horse and rider pairs for the first two days. Riders had private lessons and Ólil evaluated the horses’ gaits and gave the riders methods to improve them. On the third day, former breeding judge Herdis (Disa) Reynis joined Ólil. Everyone gathered in the arena to discuss the conformation assessment and how best to present the horses for conformation. Disa gave the participants a lesson on aspects of the conformational assessments and how the judges evaluate each category. All of the participants took a hand at assessing conformation and compared opinions. Following the seminar on conformation, all of the riders presented their horses on the

breeding track. Ólil coached the riders, teaching them the essentials a rider must display to receive various scores. Disa gave feedback as a judge; she gave the riders an idea of what scores the horses might receive, and how the riders could improve those scores at a future assessment. It was an invaluable experience for all!

The Colorado Young Horse Evaluations were held at the fairgrounds in Trinidad, Colorado with former international breeding judge Herdis (Disa) Reynis. The fairgrounds are a fantastic facility. Organizers Kat Payne and Andrea Brodie had use of the entire fairgrounds; the rodeo arena, a smaller sand arena, all of the pens, and the camping facilities. Having the facility for four days made organization easier. Eleven horses were presented for evaluation, and people all the way from New Mexico attended. Disa explained everything to the owners, both the good and bad. Andrea commented that Disa's detailed explanations gave her new information which will influence her in the future. Disa also gave theoretical lessons in biomechanics and the science of breeding.

The Breeding Committee is committed to educating breeders and improving the quality of breeding in the United States. It has been amply demonstrated that this improves all of our riding horses. Breeding Assessments can be loads of fun and are always educational. We encourage everyone interested in the Icelandic Horse to educate themselves on breeding and join the fun!

Education Report (Caeli Cavanagh)

This year saw both the culmination of the efforts of certain education committee projects, as well as laying the foundation for exciting new endeavors.

Virtual Education Series

The Virtual Education series, organized by Virginia Lauridsen, was widely attended and very successful. The series provided high quality education for the membership in topics such as shoeing, conformation and movement, saddle fitting and the gaits of the Icelandic Horse. Due to the popularity and success of the program it will be extended into the new year. Both the saddle fitting and shoeing seminars have been held already, and we are excited to hear from Sami Browneller on the topic of endurance riding with Icelandic horses on March 16th, and protecting your horse legally from the USIHC Board's own Jeff Rose on April 20th. There will, in addition, be an Introduction to Icelandic Horse Sport webinar series taught by Jana Meyer and Alex Pregitzer starting April 5th. This series will also be a prerequisite for future USIHC judging seminars.

Trainer's Certification

In the realm of Trainer's Certification, 2024 marks the last year for the Fast Track certification program. This means that the subcommittee has been hard at work outlining the module system that will provide the educational backbone of Level 1 Trainer

Certification. We hope that this not only allows us to provide high quality education for future certified trainers, but also increases the number of educational opportunities for our entire membership. Currently under development is the outline of five course series and six practical clinics that will be required as prerequisites for taking the certification exams. The module outlines will act as templates or course plans for certified instructors to develop their own educational materials that fit the requirements of these modules. Once an instructor's educational material is approved by the subcommittee, members can take these practical clinics and lecture series in order to attain the education needed for Level 1 Trainer certification.

The modules will be as follows:

Lecture Series

Equine Business - a five lecture series covering the basics of ethics, accident prevention, basic legal knowledge needed in equine business, customer oriented business models and the broader Icelandic Horse organizations in order to understand both national and international programs in a larger context.

Pedagogy - a five lecture series covering the important theoretical knowledge needed to be a successful riding instructor. This series covers learning theory, teaching skills and styles, how to safely and effectively organize and execute both group and private lessons as well as skills needed for riding and oral presentations.

Riding and Training Theory - an eight lecture series covering important topics both to hone a riders own training skills as well as solidify knowledge in order to best teach it in an instructional context. This series will include lectures on the rider's seat, the rider's aids, tack, riding etiquette, history of horsemanship, using both the arena and trails for training, training systematically while tailoring approach to needs of different horses, as well as basic equine biomechanics.

Equine Management - an eight lecture series covering important topics to effectively and safely manage a stable and safeguard the welfare of horses in your care. The topics will include basic daily horse care, shoeing and trimming, feeding and nutrition, topics in equine health such as vaccination and worming, common equine diseases, equine welfare and well being, equine behavior and equine first aid.

Practical Clinics

There will be seven practical clinics required as well as a number of hours of practical instruction received in Icelandic Horse specific training and methods, at a level to be determined by the committee. The required clinics will be:

Lunging - a clinic focused on the use of lunging in a training setting in order to improve balance, strength and gait quality.

Ponying - a clinic focused on the use of ponying as a way to increase bravery and improve conditioning of training and riding horses.

Teaching Practical - a clinic focused on effective teaching methods for riding instructors including the teaching of both private and group lessons.

Ground Work - a clinic focused on the use of ground work for mental training as well as conditioning, balance and strength training. The methods taught will include both natural horsemanship groundwork as well as bridle work in hand.

Dressage Clinic - a clinic focused on the use of dressage exercises for increases the balance, gait quality, suppleness and plasticity of training and riding horses. This clinic will also solidify understanding of the topic in a way that will help riding instructors to best convey the same topics to their students.

Icelandic Horse Gait Clinic - a clinic focused on practical ways to improve the quality and separation of the gaits of Icelandic Horses. This clinic will also include how to analyze the quality of the horses gait both when riding and from the ground.

Obstacle Clinic - a clinic focused on teaching horses to approach obstacles which may cause hesitancy or fear and use these obstacles to increase bravery, trust and confidence. This module will cover both ridden and on the ground approaches to the topic.

Exceptions to the requirements due to previous certification, education and accomplishments will be decided on a case by case basis.

Trainer of the Year

Our nomination for trainer of the year this year was the very deserving Jana Meyer. Jana is an impressive and accomplished equestrian who has offered invaluable help to the entire Icelandic Horse community in the United States. Jana served on the USIHC Trainer Certification Committee, helping to develop a system to certify American trainers according to the FEIF matrix.

She was also a trainer at the 2019 and 2023 North American Youth Cups and was the USIHC team leader at the 2023 World Championships in the Netherlands. Jana has also led several educational seminars for our community and will co-lead a judging webinar in 2024. In addition to her FEIF Level II certification, Jana holds a USIHC Sport Judge B license and has judged national and world ranking shows throughout the United States. We are a growing community and thankful to Jana for her tireless efforts to promote the Icelandic Horse in the United States. The FEIF instructor of the year for 2023 was awarded to Lena Maxheimer. However, we still wish to congratulate Jana on her nomination as well as thank

her for her numerous and continuous contribution to Icelandic Horse education in the United States.

USIHC Education Book Club

New in 2024 will be a USIHC Education Book Club led by Education Committee member Kristina Behringer. Every quarter the committee will chose an educational text and read it as a group, with a quarterly zoom meeting to discuss the book. This meeting will also sometimes have a guest speaker to provide additional insight on the book's topics. We are excited to introduce this new opportunity to grow in education and community together. Keep an eye out for our announcement of the first book and book club meeting to be announced soon!

Leisure Report (Janet Mulder)

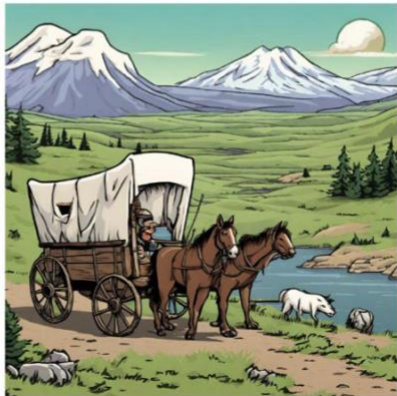
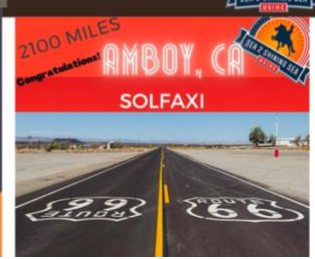
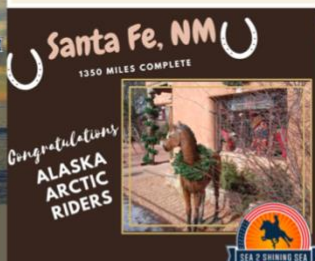
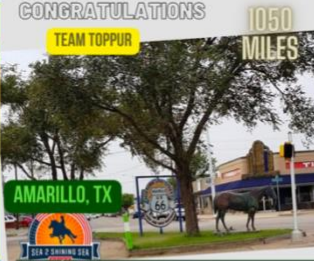
2023 S2SS Ride

- Followed Route 66
- 100 Riders
- 17 Teams registered
- 13 Individual Riders
- Ice Trekkers first to finish - June 2
- 11 Teams completed the 2,400 Mile Virtual Ride
- Pierre Lessard the furthest Individual rider - over 900 miles



16 Checkpoints

221 Checkpoint Celebrations on the FB group!



Oregon Trail



Appalachian Trail

2024 S2SS Ride

4000 MILE VIRTUAL RIDE

JOIN A TEAM OR RIDE AS AN INDIVIDUAL

WWW.ICELANDICS.ORG TO SIGN UP

Currently: 77 Riders registered, 18 Teams

Promotion Report (Emily Potts)

Policy 21 USIHC budgeted \$750 to support Affiliated Clubs attending expos and riding in demonstrations to promote the breed. In the past, this Policy has helped us reach over thousands of equine enthusiasts each year.

Two Affiliated Clubs received Policy 21 funding in 2023:

- Flugnir - Minnesota Horse Expo, St. Paul MN
- NEIHC - Equine Affaire, Springfield MA

Advertising

USIHC advertised in the 2023 Best of Breeds Horse Illustrated issue with a full page ad placed directly next to the Icelandic Horse article.

- 58K+ Print readers
- 750K+ Digital readers
- Demographics of readers:
 - 89% own a horse
 - 54% keep their horses at home
 - 67% compete
 - 82% trail ride

USIHC Partners

USIHC continued Partnerships to support Membership benefits. USIHC Partners include: Scootboot - USIHC members receive a 10% discount on Scoot Boot products. Flying C Ranch Tack Shop - USIHC members receive a 10% discount for Flying C Ranch Tack Shop

Banners

Funding was requested to continue into 2024 for the clubs who have not yet received/requested their banners. Banners are budgeted for \$200 each. 2024 may be last year for this program.

The Icelandic Horse Quarterly Report (Nancy Marie Brown and Nicki Esdorn, co-chairs)



In 2023, our 20-plus committee members produced four 52-page full-color issues of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*. More than 50 contributors per issue provided the exceptional content and editorial oversight that makes the Quarterly such an effective “face” of the USIHC, as well as the advertising that helps us produce such a high-quality magazine.

Our committee membership itself is widely representative of Icelandic horse owners in the U.S. We have members from Maine to Alaska. We are professional writers and editors, photographers, illustrators, and graphic designers, but also horse trainers, a veterinarian, college professors, and business people. We are trail riders, competition riders, and breeders. Some of us have many horses, and some only one. Some are new to the breed, and some have over 25 years of experience with Icelandics. The only thing we don’t have on the Quarterly committee are any men! We’d love to have you join us (male or female).

Please also continue to send us your stories and photos. You don’t need to be a committee member to contribute to the Quarterly: All articles represent the opinions of their authors alone. And remember that we are always looking for “Wow!” photos for the cover.

In keeping with the USIHC mission statement, the Quarterly committee has three broad goals:

- to promote the knowledge of the Icelandic horse within the United States and its correct use as a competition and riding horse;
- to facilitate communication among all USIHC members;
- and to encourage Icelandic horse owners in the US to join the USIHC.

As one of our goals is to educate Icelandic horse owners, we focus on commissioning and printing stories about training (basics, groundwork, training methods, and fitness), stories highlighting the versatility of the Icelandic horse, and stories that promote the welfare of the horse. In 2023, we printed feature stories, for example, on:

- the training pyramid for Icelandic horses
- an introduction to the gaits
- best practices for shoeing and saddle fitting
- choosing a stallion to breed to your mare
- choosing and importing a horse from Iceland
- the effects of conformation on movement
- certified trainers Alex Venable and Virginia Lauridsen
- practicing equine bodywork
- understanding equine behavior
- understanding horse insurance
- new technology in microchips
- the US team at the World Championships
- the American Youth Cup
- the USIHC Board members
- the aging horse and the aging rider
- reviews of books of interest
- and a new section: Letters From Our Readers.

In keeping with our goal of providing a two-way communication channel for the Board, the Committees, the Affiliated Clubs, and the members, we dedicated 86 of the 208 total pages printed in 2023 to USIHC News and announcements, FEIF News, and Club News.

Paid advertising accounted for another 59 pages, bringing in \$9000 to offset the cost of publishing the magazine. We'd like to thank Jean Ervasti for doing a great job as our advertising rep. We thank, as well, outgoing treasurer Lori Cretney for handling invoicing and helping us track our advertising income.

While USIHC members reside in 644 households (as of November 2023), some members choose to receive only the e-Quarterly. In 2023, member households received 528 copies in March, 535 in June, 543 in September, and 561 in December. Advertisers and contributors to the Quarterly can receive an extra copy of the magazine; in 2023 we sent 17 contributors' copies in March, 20 in June, 18 in September, and 23 in December. As the magazines are mailed at the most economical rate, printed copies were received by all members by the end of March, June, September, and December.

Thanks to webmaster Emily Potts, the e-Quarterly of each issue was posted on the USIHC website and announced on social media by the first week of March, June, September, and December. They have been added to our online archive and topical index of all issues back to 2008.

The additional copies printed each quarter support the third goal of our committee: to promote the USIHC and the Icelandic horse in the US. We accomplish this through our

policy of giving out free copies of the magazine to Quarterly contributors and advertisers and to other USIHC members for distribution to prospective new members at expos, demos, and other events. We welcome requests from any USIHC member or club for copies of the magazine to use to promote the USIHC and the Icelandic horse at 2024 events, but please get your order in early, as we may have to increase our print run to cover these requests.

Thanks for your support in 2023. We hope to bring you four more spectacular issues of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly* in 2024. Write to us at quarterly@icelandics.org to request extra copies, to join our committee, to share your story, or to tell us what you think about the magazine.

Sport Report (Asta Covert)

National Ranked Events in 2023

Show	State	Month	Judge(s)
CIA OPEN	CA	April	Nicolai Thye
Gamankeppni	KY	April	Halldór Victorsson
Virtual Spring Show		May	Nicolai Thye, Halldór Victorsson, Stefan Hackauf, Lutz Lesner, Sophie Kovac, André Böhme, Freija Thye
ICE Championships ^3	KY	May	Hulda Geirsdóttir, Hinrik Már Jónsson, Þorgeir Guðlaugsson, Malin Elmgren, Will Covert, Alexandra Pregitzer
Toppur Spring Show	IA	June	Hulda Geirsdóttir
Solheimar Triple Crown I	VT	July	Hulda Geirsdóttir
North American Youth Cup	VA	July	Nicole Kempf
Solheimar Triple Crown II	VT	August	Þorgeir Guðlaugsson
Tamangur Fall Show	CO	September	Hulda Geirsdóttir
AIHA	AK	September	Þorgeir Guðlaugsson
NWIHC	OR	Septmeber	Elisabeth Jansen
Locust Hill Gamankeppni	KY	September	Sigurður Kolbeinsson
Harmony WR ^3	IA	September	Will Covert, Þorgeir Guðlaugsson, Hulda Geirsdóttir, Guðmundur Skúlason, Alexandra Montan Gray, Halldór Victorsson, Jana Meyer
Solheimar Triple Crown III	VT	October	Hulda Geirsdóttir

Virtual Fall Show

November

Þorgeir Guðlaugsson, Asa William, Malin Elmgren, Alexandra Montan Gray, Alexandra Pregitzer

*FEIF World Ranking competitions ^3 separate Sanctioned Shows Held

Year End National Ranking 2023

Award Winners

Test	Rider	Avg.
T1	Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert	7.20
T2	Laura Benson	7.32
T3	Carrie Lyons Brandt	7.07
T4	Laura Benson	7.27
T5	Darlene Johnson Skow	6.55
T6	Emelia Stewart	5.84
T7	Eveline Clark	5.80
T8	Emelia Stewart	6.50
V1	Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir-Covert	7.00
V2	Lucy Nold	6.99
V3	Darlene Johnson Skow	6.30
V5	Greta Alsaukas	5.70
V6	Emelia Stewart	6.33
F1	Caeli Cavanagh	6.53
F2	Laura Benson	6.22
F3	Samantha Harrigan	5.53
P2	Heidi Benson	9.11 sec.

US Bred Green Horse Tölt

Álfasyrpa from Aslan's Country 6.00

US Bred Green Horse Fourgait

Viðar from Five-Gait Farm
6.03

In 2023 We had Three of our riders nominated for the Good and Harmonious riding list of FEIF.

Leading the list Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir Covert with 2 nominations, Caeli Cavanagh and Alexandra Dannemann with 1 nomination each

Many more US riders made it on to the WorldRanking lists in the disciplines they competed in in 2023. To name a few Jeff Rose, Coralie Denmeade, Darlene Johnson Skow, Heidi Benson, Molly Stotts, Paetra Hennigar, Mackenzie Durbin, Lucy Nold, Laura Benson, Carrie Lyons Brandt, Terral Hill, Emelia Stewart, Caeli Cavanagh, Ásta D. Bjarnadóttir Covert, Alexandra Dammenman and more.

The highlights are Lucy Nold and Laura Benson are leading the V2 and T4 WorldRanking. FEIF keeps WordRanking both annually where you need 2 scores over 5.5 in the same year to get on that list and also a 2 year WorldRanking list where you need 3 scores over 5.5 in a 2 year period.

The World Championships

The World Championships were held in the Netherlands in August 2023. US sent 5 riders to participate. 2 of the riders traveled with their horses from the states and the other 3 have horses in Europe already.

Our team members were

Jana Meyer Team Leader

Laura Benson and Geysir frá Kvistum

Caeli Cavanagh and .eyr frá Ytra-Vallholti

Alexandra Dannemann and Ára frá Langholti

Jenny Melville and Feykir frá Ey I

Fleur Brown and Ás Eyfjör. frá Bakka

Team USA results at the world championships.

Full results can be seen in the IceTest app or at [https:// ticker.icetestng.com/event.cfm?id=a8684f3d-4a5f-4d6b-80245a495d5e205d&lang=en_US](https://ticker.icetestng.com/event.cfm?id=a8684f3d-4a5f-4d6b-80245a495d5e205d&lang=en_US)

PP1
46 combinations
37 Caeli Cavanagh and .eyr frá Ytra-Vallholti 2.71
F1
42 Combination
42 Caeli Cavanagh and .eyr frá Ytra-Vallholti 4.53
V1
54 Combinations
32 Alexandra Dannenmann and Ára frá Langholti 6.27
36 Jenny Melville and Feykir frá Ey I 6.13
51 Laura Benson and Geysir frá Kvistum 5.47
54 Fleur Brown and Ás Eyfjör. frá Bakka 4.43
T1
50 combinations
33 Alexandra Dannenmann and Ára frá Langholti 6.00
41 Fleur Brown and Ás Eyfjör. frá Bakka 5.43
T2
52 combinations
27 Jenny Melville and Feykir frá Ey I 6.60
33 Laura Benson and Geysir frá Kvistum 6.00
33 Caeli Cavanagh and .eyr frá Ytra-Vallholti 6.30
C4
52 combinations
31 Jenny Melville and Feykir frá Ey I
35 Alexandra Dannenmann and Ára frá Langholti
41 Laura Benson and Geysir frá Kvistum
52 Fleur Brown and Ás Eyfjör. frá Bakka
C5
20 combinations
20 Caeli Cavanagh and .eyr frá Ytra-Vallholti

Youth Report (Lucy Nold)

Past Events

FEIF Youth Camp 2023

The USIHC had 4 youth members attend the FEIF Youth Camp 2023 which took place in Finland last summer. The goal of the camp is to bring together young people from different countries who will improve their horsemanship skill and better understand cultural differences in our approach to the horse. The camp aims to foster international friendships and raise the standards of all aspects of horsemanship. Mia Mulder, one of the four camp

participants from the US, says “It was an amazing experience. Thank you and the rest of the board for sponsoring our countries participants!” The camp takes place every other summer in different countries. Please consider donating to the Youth Fund to help us continue sponsoring our youth members to attend this wonderful event! If you are interested in attending this event in 2025, stay tuned for the application on our website’s youth page.



North American Youth Cup 2023

The North American Youth Cup 2023 was a huge success! 19 young riders qualified and participated in the event (18 USIHC members and 1 CIHF member). The event was held at the beautiful Montaire Icelandics in Middleburg, Virginia and proved to be a perfect facility for bringing our youth together. A few participants were able to bring their own horses but most rode borrowed horses generously donated to the event. Upon arrival, participants were broken into four teams with a team leader to guide and help them. The teams developed team names, team flags, team chants and build their very own team cardboard horse which they used to demonstrate the gaits in a fun competition. The first four days were dedicated to training for the competition and each participant worked with all of the four trainers practicing for oval track sport classes as well as dressage and trail classes. On Friday, the horses rested while the kids went on a tubing adventure off the farm. Saturday and Sunday were a National Ranking competition with spectators and the teams cheered each other on as they competed both for individual marks as well as for team marks. The event was marked a huge success as many tears were shed during goodbyes on Sunday. So many strong connections and friendships were made between these young equestrians

who share a strong passion for the Icelandic Horse! To continue seeing this wonder event happen, consider donating to the North American Youth Cup Fund!





Current Programs

Pen-pal Program

The youth committee encourages youth members to sign up for our pen-pal program to get to know other youth members from other areas of the country! Youth members can sign up by filling out a form on our website and writing their first letter to their pen-pal. They will then be connected with another youth member to exchange letters with for the year. A list of topics and ideas for these letters will be provided. Each year youth participants will receive a new pen-pal but can decide to also continue writing with their previous pen-pals. We hope this will forge new friendships for youth who love Icelandic horses!

The Spaeri Youth Award

Spaeri is the Icelandic name of the Icelandic endurance horse known as Remington, famous for his determination, passion and indomitable will. This award is intended to inspire and encourage these same qualities in our youth when spending time with Icelandic Horses.

The Spaeri Award will be given annually to a youth who clearly demonstrates commitment to and love for Icelandic horses. The recipient of the award will be chosen from USIHC youth who submit articles demonstrating these sought after qualities for publication in the Quarterly during the calendar year. Articles will be reviewed at the end of the calendar year, and the Quarterly staff and Youth Committee will select one winner who will receive the award, along with \$50.

How to Qualify:

A recipient must be a USIHC member under 18 years of age during the entire year the article is submitted. The recipient must submit a self-written article for publication in the Quarterly, along with a high resolution photograph of him/her and the horse or activity. To demonstrate the desired qualities, the article may describe any horse-related activity, such as trail or competition riding, driving, gymkhana, endurance, dressage, team penning, or jumping. Participation in non-riding activities such as 4-H, therapeutic riding, rescue and adoption, or simply training or caring for Icelandic horses, as long as the activity demonstrates love and commitment to the Icelandic horse. The youth writing the article

need not own the Icelandic horse. Youth Articles for submission should be sent to quarterly@icelandics.org identified as a Youth Article submitted for the Spaeri Award. Submissions must be received by December 31 to be considered. The winner will be notified early in the following year and announced in the first issue of [The Icelandic Horse Quarterly](#) of the year.

Upcoming Events!

FEIF Youth Cup 2024

The FEIF Youth Cup 2024 will be held in Switzerland this coming summer. The USIHC hosted tryouts for this event in conjunction with the Fall Virtual Show and we are excited that 5 riders qualified. The US is given 3 participant spots by FEIF so the top three riders will be attending while the others remain in reserve positions while we request additional spots. Additional spots will be announced in mid April. Currently our team consists of Country Leader Greenly O'Connor, Team Leader Maria Octavo, and team members Greta Alsaukas, Liesl Kolbe, and Brynja Meehan. Our reserve team members are Miette Jennings and Wells Wappet. Our team will borrow horses which adds the challenge of getting to know a new horse during the training week before competing on the weekend. Upon arrival to the event, they will be put into international teams who they will spend the week with and at the competition they compete both for their country and for their international team. This event is huge in fostering international friendships and is such an amazing learning experience for our young riders. Consider donating to the Youth Fund to help our riders with team apparel and getting to attend this incredible event!



North American Youth Cup 2025

The North American Youth Cup will take place July 22nd-29th, 2025 at Harmony Icelandics in Truro, Iowa. The event will accept 20 participants by application which will be released later in 2024. The event will consist of four days of training with four trainers, team building activities and will include a National Ranking competition on the weekend. It is sure to be another wonderful bonding and friendship building week for our youth Icelandic Horse enthusiasts! Consider donating to the North American Youth Cup Fund to help make this event possible!

FEIF Youth Camp 2025

The FEIF Youth Camp 2025 will take place in July 2025. FEIF has not announced the location or dates but check our youth webpage for details as the event gets closer as well as an application to participate!