

ISSUE ONE

THE

2011

ICELANDIC HORSE

Q U A R T E R L Y



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

HANDICAPPED RIDING • USING WORLDFENGUR • STARI FRAN BREDHALL

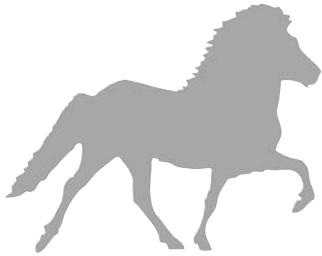
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On the cover: Fun loving foals, Magni from Sand Meadow (chestnut) and Aska from Sand Meadow (black) frolic at sunset. Photo by Andrea Barber



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 Ásta Covert: P.O. Box 1724, Santa Ynez, CA 93460; 805-688-1393; registry@icelandics.org

WEBSITE

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

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ANNUAL MEETING

The 2011 Annual USIHC Members Meeting took place January 15 at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. The January Board of Directors meeting, held the night before, was summarized at the opening of the members meeting, followed by reports from the officers and committees. In the afternoon, Katrin Sheehan gave the presentation prepared by Barbara Frische, who had just undergone surgery and could not attend. The annual awards dinner was catered at the hotel Saturday evening. Full committee reports can be found on www.icelandics.org. Highlights follow.

REGISTRATIONS

USIHC registrar Asta Covert reported that 221 horses were registered in 2010, bringing the total number of US-registered horses in the database to 4,264; another 209 registrations were transferred to new owners in 2010. Of the new registrations, 130 were mares, 52 were stallions, and 39 were geldings. Of the 152 mares recorded as bred in 2009, 53 of their foals born in 2010 have been registered.

BREEDING EVALUATIONS

The Breeding Committee reported that 31 horses were fully evaluated at the

three 2010 breeding evaluations held at Creekside Farm, GA; Winterhorse Park, WI; and Mill Farm, NY. Twenty horses were evaluated for conformation only. Young horses were also assessed at Creekside Farm, Winterhorse Park, and several private breeding farms. The linear assessment form for young horses "has proven itself as a great learning tool for breeders, handlers, and interested spectators," said committee chair Katrin Sheehan. She noted that the committee finalized the breeding handbooks for organizers and riders/handlers. The handbook will be published online.

ANNE ELWELL AWARD

The 2010 award goes to Dan Slott as the breeder of Hamur from Mill Farm. In the 2010 Mill Farm Breeding Evaluation, Hamur scored 8.16 for conformation and 7.79 for rideability. His overall score of 7.94 was the highest received by any domestic-bred horse in a U.S. evaluation in 2010.

TRAINER CERTIFICATIONS

Dawn Shaw was the only FEIF Trainer Level 1 to be certified in 2010; she passed the exam in March at Creekside Farm, GA. (See "Who Is Dawn Shaw?" in this issue of the Quarterly.) The Education Committee has posted a list of all certified trainers who are USIHC members on the



Laura Benson riding Rimma frá Saurbae at the Eighth Annual Kentucky Icelandic Horse Show in October. She won a track record in the SpeedPass with a time of 8.99 seconds. Photo by Deb Cook.

USIHC website. "The listing is voluntary," noted chair Alex Pregitzer. "Trainers who are not in good standing with their USIHC membership are taken off the website." The committee also implemented guidelines for FEIF trainer seminars in 2010. The guidelines include information on eligible participants, trainers, examiners, hosts, locations, administrative support, exams, re-testing, prerequisites, and other details. The committee also completed negotiations with IPZV in Germany, resulting in permission to translate the Trainer C seminar materials into English for use in FEIF level 1 seminars in the U.S.

RIDING BADGES

Riding Badge Level 1 and/or Level 2 clinics were given at three locations in 2010: Solheimar Farms, VT; the Kraftur Regional Icelandic Horse Club, CA; and Red Feather Ranch, WA. A total of 10 students passed the exams. The new Riding Badge FAQs were posted on the website and printed in the Quarterly. A manual for Riding Badges Levels 1 and 2 is in progress.



Gudmar Petursson, Laura Benson, and Kevin Draeger (left to right) were finalists in the Five-Gait Open at the Eighth Annual Kentucky Icelandic Horse Show, a FEIF World Ranking show held in October. Gudmar won on Raudskinni frá Grafarkoti. Scores for this and all USIHC-Sanctioned shows can be found at www.icelandics.org/showresults.php. Photo by Deb Cook.

EDUCATION SEMINAR

In January, the Education Committee invited USIHC members and other friends of the Icelandic horse to attend "Conformation and its Correlation in Training and Riding," a seminar to be given by breeding judge Barbara Frische and trainer Gudmar Petursson on April 16-17 in Prospect, KY. The two-day seminar is a repeat of last year's successful seminar on the same topic (see the article in Issue 4, 2010 of the *Quarterly*.) Fees are \$295 for USIHC members and \$335 for non-members; auditing is \$100 for members and \$140 for non-members. Stall fees are extra. For more information, contact education@icelandics.org.

The committee is at work finding additional locations and clinicians who will team up with Barbara to offer this seminar. Other ideas being considered are general clinics and lectures (first aid for horses on trail rides, young horse seminar, etc.), judging seminars for intern judges, seminars for trainers, and breeding seminars.

PLEASURE RIDERS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 Pleasure Rider Program awards. Winners in the Central/Mountain region were: (1) Amber Parry, (2) Cindy Nadler, (3) Kydee Sheetz, and (4) Karen Olson-Fields. East Coast: (1) Alice Ryan, (2)



Anne-Marie Martin placed first in the 2010 National Ranking in T2, loose-rein tolt, with an average score of 7.55. Here she rides Húni frá Torfunesi in the CIA Open in May 2010. Photo by Will Covert.

Ellen Wilson, and (3) Elizabeth Haartz. West Coast: (1) Lori Birge, (2) Jan Gray, and (3) Ronelle Ingram. Youth: (1) Caleigh Anderson, (2) Kelly Zhou, (3) Nia Chantana, and (4) Callie Rich. All Stars: (1) Anne Owen, (2) Nancy Wines-Dewan, and (3) Donna Rich. The LAIHC and Flugnir clubs tied for Regional Club winner. Janet Boggs, Alice Ryan, Sue Staggemeier, Sheryl Togami, and Kelly Zhou earned 100-hour

patches. Nina Beyer earned a 500-hour patch. Walter Davis, Karen Olson, and Amber Parry earned 1000-hour patches and vests. The 2500-hour *Tolt News* subscription winners were Anne Owen and Nancy Wines-Dewan.

PROMOTION

The USIHC had displays at three trade shows in 2010: the PA World Expo, Equine Affaire in Ohio, and Equine Affaire in Massachusetts. The Promotion Committee is actively seeking West Coast promotion opportunities.

KNIGHTS OF ICELAND

Gudmar Petursson's performance team, "The Knights of Iceland," was a big hit at the Equine Affaire in Massachusetts. See the write-up in the NEIHC's Regional Club Update in this issue and the "Knights of Iceland" website at <http://he-star.nano.is>.

The team was also featured on "The Horse Show with Rick



Clinics are fun! Here, Mark Bromley and Debbie Lemieux during the clinic at Riga Meadow given by Gudmar Petursson in November. Photo by Betty Grindrod.

Lamb" on RFD-TV last December. The host received a riding lesson and participated in the drill team on Pegasus. Viewers commented that it was "definitely a great show for the breed" and "represented Icelandic horses and trainers beautifully." The show is available online at www.thehorshow.com. Look for Episode 316: Knights of Iceland.

FREE QUARTERLIES

In December, the Board approved a plan by the Website, Promotion, and Quarterly committees to allow USIHC members to send a free copy of the *Quarterly* to anyone to whom they sell or give an Icelandic horse. The Website Committee will adapt the current "Magazine Request" web page. The Promotion Committee will author a cover letter. Gayle Smith will process these requests in conjunction with mailing new member "welcome" packets.

2010 SHOWS

Ten USIHC sanctioned shows were held in 2010, with two of them qualifying as FEIF World Ranking competitions. Shows were held in California, Kentucky, Vermont, and Wisconsin. A total of 322 horse/rider combinations showed in 2010, with the largest show (in Wisconsin, June 18-20) having 55 horse/rider combinations and a total of 108 entries. Scores for all shows can be found at www.icelandics.org.

NATIONAL RANKING

The Sport Committee announced the National Ranking Award winners for 2010. Tolt competition winners are Asta Covert (T1-average score 8.65), Anne-Marie Martin (T2-7.55), Lucy Nold (T3-7.20), Milena Frische (T5-6.20), Kari Pietsch-Wangard (T6-5.33), Laurie Prestine (T7-5.35), and Rachel Ng (T8-7.15). Four-gait winners are Asta Covert (V1-7.85), Lucy Nold (V2-6.95), Amber Parry (V3-5.90), Berta Glazer (V5-6.00), and Rachel Ng (V6-7.15). Five-gait winners are Gudmar Petursson (F1-7.03) and Anne-Marie Martin (F2-5.95).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tryouts for the US team will be held in May. Judge Thorgeir Gudlaugsson has judged more World Championships than any other judge; he is a member of the FEIF International Sport Judges committee and the Exam team that certifies FEIF International judges. The tryout rules and procedures, as approved in November 2009, are available at www.icelandics.org.

WC SPONSORSHIPS

As of January, USIHC members have donated \$3,452 to support the US World Championship team at next year's competition in Austria. For information on how to contribute, see the notice on page 50 of this issue.

NEW WEBSITE

The look of the USIHC website has been updated, and the site navigation changed, to make the site more compelling, user-friendly, and functional. The emphasis now, says Doug Smith, is on "what people do with their horses rather than on how the Congress is structured." A beautiful image of a running herd, donated by Martina Gates, is the background of the masthead on all pages. See "What's New at www.icelandics.org?" in this issue of the *Quarterly* for the first installment of a tour of the new site.

YOUTH CLINICS

The Youth Committee is organizing a clinic at Wiesenhof Farm in Germany, tentatively to be held July

11-20. For information see www.derwiesenhof.de or contact youth@icelandics.org. Information is also available on the German Youth Championship, July 20-24, and the FEIF Youth Camp in Scotland, July 23-30. A FAQ sheet on youth riders at the World Championships is in the works.

BEST YOUNG HORSE

The *Icelandic StudBook* magazine will give an annual award to the best young horse in North America starting in 2011. To qualify the horse has to be located and registered in the U.S or Canada and assessed at an official young horse assessment. Once the year's scores are tallied, the judge(s) will announce the best young horse. The *StudBook* will award that horse's owner a certificate and a trophy made by Bradford McDougal. The breeder of the horse, if different than the owner, will receive a certificate as well. International judge Barbara Frische, who has judged these horses in the last few years, says that the best young horses found here are comparable to the best in Iceland and Europe. *StudBook* owners Martina Gates and Thorunn Kristjansdottir feel that young horses are the future of the Icelandic breed. "It is so important to highlight the best ones, and what background and bloodlines they have, etc.," Martina writes, "because these horses will one day soon represent the U.S. and Canada."



After performing at Equine Affaire in Massachusetts in November, Gudmar Petursson gave a clinic at Riga Meadow Equestrian Center in Salisbury, CT. Here Gretchen Hachmeister rides Michele Ferraro's mare, Lista. Photo by Betty Grindrod.

BOARD MEETINGS

At the December 16 Board of Directors meeting, new chairs were announced for the Pleasure Riding Committee and the Regional Clubs Committee.

Ellen Wilson will take over as Pleasure Riding chair. Ellen, a FIRC member, is an avid Pleasure Rider and Pleasure Riding Program (PRP) award winner. She is also a volunteer Mounted Ranger for the Wharton State Forest service. The transition to the new chair would follow the close of the 2010 PRP.

Lori Gillespie of the Texas Tolter Club will take over as Regional Clubs chair once all the clubs have renewed for 2011.

The Board also approved the revised forms for USIHC Procedures for Breeding Evaluations with three minor corrections. Revisions to the Registry Rules were withdrawn by the Breeding Committee pending an evaluation of the need for these revisions given this year's revisions to the registration forms.



The *Icelandic StudBook* magazine is offering a yearly trophy for the highest judged young horse (under three years old). The trophy was designed by Bradford McDougal.



An aerial view of the site of the 2011 World Championships, Islandpferde Reithof Piber.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Magic Gaits” is the slogan of the upcoming World Championships for Icelandic Horses 2011, to be held August 1-7 in St. Radegund, Austria. The FEIF Event Committee (Jens Iversen, Marko Mazeland, and Wolfgang Berg) met with representatives of the Organising Committee (Karl Piber and Karina Frauscher) and the Austrian Icelandic Horse Association ÖIV (Piet Hoyos and Johannes Hoyos) to discuss the details. All parties involved look forward to the biggest international event for Icelandic horses in 2011.

For the Icelandic market our Icelandic member associations BÍ and LH will organize a domestic Icelandic event (Landsmót 2011) that will not have the status of a FEIF Event. However BÍ and LH will also put maximum effort into supporting the World Championships 2011. FEIF will not play any active role in Landsmót 2011, but will support Landsmót 2012 and the biannual setup of Landsmót in the even years and World Championships in the uneven years.

Elke Beckedorf and Carmen Baldus are coordinating the World Championships’ 400 volunteers. Tasks for the volunteers—such as construction work, planning of the camp site, organizing the catering, etc.—will be communicated in April and May 2011. To volunteer, see the applica-

tion form in this issue of the *Quarterly* or go to the webpage www.islandpferde-wm.at/ volunteers.

The World Championships will be held at Islandpferde Reithof Piber, where the proper handling of the Icelandic horse and the art of its riding have been taught since 2002. High-profile sporting events such as the Austrian Championships, World Championship qualifying events, IPZV tournaments, and the FEIF Youth Cup dominate the agenda of Islandpferde Reithof Piber. For more information, see www.islandpferde-wm.at.

TUG OF WAR UPDATE

The presentation by Gerd Heuschmann on equine biomechanics and its application to the Icelandic horse at the 2010 FEIF Education Seminar in Wurz, Germany is available on YouTube. The link to part 1 of 7 is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuhQBbthFck>. The other segments are linked to this one.

See Issues 1 and 3 (2010) of the *Quarterly* for Bernie Willis’s review of Heuschmann’s book *Tug of War: Classical versus “Modern” Dressage* and his comments on the FEIF meeting.

MOBILE WEBSITE

FEIF has launched a new website for mobile users (PDA and smart phone) with faster ac-

cess to news, WorldRanking, yearly ranking, addresses, and documents. The website also provides direct access to sport results of riders and horses. Go to www.feif.org/mobile.

FEIF CONFERENCE

The 2011 FEIF Conference was scheduled to take place February 25-27, 2011, in Vienna, Austria. The conference combines general meetings about interesting subjects with the yearly Delegates’ Assembly (the highest authority within FEIF) and the different annual department meetings for Chairmen, Breeding, Sport, Education and Youth. The theme for the 2011 conference will be internal aspects within FEIF and the member countries. Many representatives from the different member countries are expected to take part in specific and general discussions.



REGIONAL UPDATES

ALASKA

Alys Culhane writes: New Year's day, 2012. Last night, Pete and I brought bridles and saddles into our kitchen, so that they'd be warm the next morning. We'd agreed to go out early, so that Siggí and Raudi would have time to cool down before the temperature again dropped. We tacked them up, and then hand-walked the two down the road. Both, we determined, were feeling good, and not at all sore from the previous day's long ride.

We were quite the sight. Pete and I had donned our bulky Refrigerware suits, and were wearing baclavas under our helmets. Before mounting, we talked with a neighbor, who wondered why we were out riding on such a cold, windy day. I said that we were doing it for the horses, who needed to get out. What went unsaid is that we also do it for ourselves. We live in a semi-remote area, and riding enables us both to deal with mild bouts of cabin fever.

My expressed thoughts turned from life on the homefront, to horse care, to what I'd write about in the next regional report. I bemoaned the fact that not much was going on, so my report would be brief. In response, Pete said, "Write about horses!" This statement was in reference to a 1976 *New Yorker* cartoon. A woman addresses a man who is sitting at a typewriter and is surrounded by dogs. She says to him, "Write about dogs!"

It's then that I saw the obvious. The Alaska Icelandic Horse Club is rather unique in that staying connected with one another is our biggest challenge. However, our primary commonality, that is, our love of Icelandic horses and a desire to share this interest with others enables us to transcend distance-related drawbacks. We share ideas, thoughts, insights, revelations, musings, and practical information via the phone and Internet. Teleconferences bring us one step closer, as do clinics, trail rides, and impromptu get-togethers. And, we are further drawn together by our twice-yearly newsletter, which Fairbanks editor Fran Buntzen puts together.

My thoughts strayed a bit as Pete and



Scenes from the Fall 2010 CIA Open, a FEIF WorldRanking show held Oct. 16-17 at Flying C Ranch in Santa Ynez, CA. Judges were Einar Ragnarsson, Pétur Jökull Hákonarson, Will Covert, Claudia Glück-Ragnarsson, and Elisabeth Jansen. Scores for this and all USIHC-Sanctioned shows can be found at www.icelandics.org/showresults.php. Photos by Willy Ma.

I mounted up and turned onto a nearby trail. It is one of our favorites, and in fact, we covered it this past summer, when we hosted a AIHA trail ride. There were nine of us on Icelandics, and it was raining. It was a more rigorous ride than expected, but everyone finished, and the horses all acted in an exemplary fashion.

2010 was a good year for the Alaska Icelandic Horse Club members. Bernie Willis hosted three well-attended clinics, and there were numerous local gatherings. There were also many horse-related milestones. I ran them through my head by region, starting with the Kenai. Nilla Pillan purchased Bernie's mare Rjupa, who gave foal to BoB, err Lundi, who she also purchased. Amy Rogde took Lysi on several long rides and on a few hunting trips. Kim rode her mare Undrun in one of the Willis's clinics, and had several ah-hah moments.

We all saw much, but not enough of Cindy and Chuck Miller, who live in Tok. She came down to Bernie's for a clinic with her horse Manadis. And she and her husband Chuck left with Drinfari, who used to be owned by the Rockcastle family. Cindy did very well this past summer in the Bald Mountain Butt Buster Competitive trail ride, finishing in very good form.

The news from the interior came to us all in bits and pieces. Miki and Julie Collins, who are known statewide as the Trapline Twins, had quite the story. The two were on a trip in the bush when Dropi and Meyla ran off. Four months later, a pilot spotted the horses, who were by then just a few miles from home. (Read Julie's story in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* here: http://newsminer.com/view/full_story/10648600/article-Wayward-horses-return-after-summer-roaming-Alaska-wilderness.)

At about the same time, Bill Collins (who is not related to the twins), had his two Icelandics run off while on a hunting trip. They were later found. Nick Cas-sara, who was wanting to find a new home for his old horse Raudar, took on Bill's remaining mare. And former AIHA Club President Susan Tilly found a new home for Raudar.

In southcentral Alaska, Vicki Tal-

bot and Hunar did very well together.

This past fall they competed in the Bald Mountain Competitive trail ride, then the next week entered a horse trail-trial. This proved to those locals who are skeptical about such things that the Icelandic is indeed a very versatile horse. Club newcomer Marj Weathers attended all the local club events, and in December purchased a half-Icelandic named Delilah.

My thoughts were interrupted by the matter at hand. Pete and I had just come to an area where the creek overflow had slopped over onto the trail. The question was, should we ride or walk through it, or just turn around and go back the way we came? We decided to let the horses have a say in the matter, in part because they have ice shoes and rim pads. Pete sat quietly and Siggj moved forward, with Raudi following. Both horses were cautious, but unafraid. In fact, halfway across, Raudi stopped and listened to the sound of ice shifting beneath her hooves. I laughed and squeezed on the reins. She snorted softly and moved forward.

There was also some sad news this year. Bernie's Pia and Ginny's Lysa both passed on. Both were well loved mares, and will be missed by their owners and those who knew them.

We continued on our ride, and marveled at the sight before us. We are lucky to live at the foothills of the Talkeetna Range, where the view is always changing. Because we did not want the ride to end, we got off and walked. By now, even the dogs, who'd expended considerable energy chasing spruce hens and squirrels, were content to walk at our horses' heels. Upon reaching the road that leads back to our place, I began thinking about the day ahead. My plan was to get on the Internet, and write individual messages to Mary, Cindy, Marj, and Fran, telling them about our latest ride. However, I instead put the day's ride into the context of a regional report, that is one in which I implicitly stated that remaining connected is what gets us all by here in Alaska. Our horses are better for it, and so are we. What I did not say, and should have, was this would be close to impossible if we didn't have a regional club affiliation.

FIRC

Sam Castleman writes: The following was lifted from a year-end notice that went out from the Frida Icelandic Riders Club (FIRC) Board to its membership. I thought it useful to all to see the recap of FIRC's 2010 activities.

What a year 2010 was! FIRC members showed tremendous support for their club by their attendance and enthusiasm at a wide variety of numerous events. For fun let's look at some of these events (this list is by no means comprehensive) and pat ourselves on the back for the fabulous variety.

Get-togethers (parties and picnics with no horses): Holiday Party at Barbara Sollner-Webb's, MD (January); 2010 FIRC Kickoff at ThorpeWood, MD (March); Picnic & Annual Meeting at Stoney Lick Farm, MD (July). *Clinics and other learning opportunities:* Free Clinic and Quadrille Practice by Sandy Newkirk, Plantation Valley Farm, MD (April); Spring and Fall Clinics by Katrin Sheehan, Stoney Lick Farm, MD & Flying Change Farm, WV (May & Sep.); Horse camp at Stoney Lick Farm, MD (July-August); Dressage Lesson with Elizabeth Madlener (August); Lesson by Gudmar Petursson at Kilmurray Farm, VA (August); USIHC Conformation/Riding Clinic in North Carolina (August); FIRC Fun Day at Flying Change Farm, WV (September).

Scheduled Rides: Rosaryville State Park, MD (June); Virginia Arboretum Ride (August); Rosaryville State Park, MD Halloween Ride (October); Turkey Tolt at Little Bennett Regional Park, MD (November); Charles-town Christmas Horse Parade, WV (December: cancelled due to weather).

Standig Rides: Manassas Battlefield, VA (Sunday mornings).

This year we re-introduced the FIRC Pleasure Riding Competition with a new way of tracking it on our FIRC Member Sharing Center. The fun thing about this method of tracking (for all to see) is that for those of us who are bit competitive, we can see how others are doing in direct comparison to our activity. A little friendly competition can sometimes help motivate us to do what we love doing in the first place—spending loads of time with our horses. Looking forward to another splendid year of toltng!



Woodside Ranch offers trail riding Western-style on their horses, but allowed the Flugnir Club members to bring their own horses for the weekend at no additional charge.

FLUGNIR

Barb Riva writes: Ten Icelandic horse riders took advantage of the opportunity to spend a weekend at Woodside Ranch in Mauston, WI, organized by the Flugnir Icelandic Horse Association of the Midwest. Woodside offers trail riding Western style on their horses. Accommodations, meals, and all the activities were rolled into one weekend price per person. Woodside also allowed us to bring our own horses for the weekend at no additional charge. This plan proved to work well for some of us who would prefer a warm bed and running water over camping with our horses for a weekend. Eileen Guniperro of Dunne and Krumm drove in from North Carolina with her saddle trees and saddles, bits and tack, for anyone interested, and put on a very informative saddle-fitting clinic in the dance hall of the Trading Post, a perfect place to gather for a “little sodie” or an adult beverage, complete with pool tables, arcade games, and table tennis.

Each morning we were invited to a fantastic breakfast cooked on an open fire out in the forest. Riding up to the smell of that good food was absolutely delightful. Bacon...oh, the bacon was the best. We had to leave our cholesterol counts (and diets) back at the ranch because there was no avoiding that Woodside bacon, along with eggs made to order, pancakes, French toast with hot syrup, coffee, hot cocoa, milk, or orange juice. After breakfast we'd take our full bellies out for another trail ride, absolutely sure that there was no way we could fit in lunch. However, about 12:30 that lunch bell would ring



Ten Icelandic horse riders spent a weekend at Woodside Ranch in Mauston, WI, organized by the Flugnir Icelandic Horse Association of the Midwest.

and we'd belly-up to that dining room for yet another wonderful meal of lasagna or chicken.

After lunch on Saturday we took part in archery lessons—really quite a nice, easy activity on a full stomach. After shooting those arrows into the wild blue yonder, each of us finally did hit the target. Again, we all groaned, saying there was no way we could eat dinner. After another afternoon trail ride, like Pavlov's dog, we again came a runnin' when that dinner bell rang. Saturday night dinner was buffalo burgers on the grill with some great salads. Woodside Ranch also raises buffalo, which were kept right next to the Icelandics' paddocks. After the horses got used to that strange animal's aroma, and after a little posturing by one of our geldings, Frami, who designated himself as the great protector, both

horse and buffalo went back to a more important task: eating!

During the weekend we took up the offer of two guided trail rides. One was on Friday upon arrival. After enjoying a pot-luck lunch we brought from home, we headed out to get the lay of the land. Saturday, after lunch, we took another guided trail to what they called the cliff area. The trails were great. Some areas were wide enough for riding abreast, other areas just a single-lane path. Footing was mostly hard-pack or sand, and at that time of

year sometimes covered with fallen leaves. I have to say that between the wonderful trail rides, great food, and a lot of laughs, there will be more visits to the Woodside Ranch. All who attended agreed that this was a perfect place to meet and have a fun and relaxing weekend with our horses.

Plans have been made for our 2011 activities. Depending on our weather here in Wisconsin, we hope to return to Woodside Ranch on March 18-20. We will again be performing breed demonstrations at the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, WI, on April 15-17 and the Minnesota Horse Expo in St. Paul, MN, on April 29-May 1. Our annual sanctioned competition, Flugnirkeppni, is slated for September 17-18. Then we'll end our year of group activities with another visit to Woodside Ranch on November 4-6.

KLETTAFJALLA

Florie Miller writes: Winter is traditionally a quieter time for the club. The snow in Colorado makes riding and driving harder. But that doesn't mean nothing is happening here. Members voted to expand the board from three people to five, so we can be in touch with more people's needs and organize more events. It is very exciting to have so many people passionate about Icelandic horses in the region. Lots of ideas are brewing so take a look at the website every now and then: klettajalla.com.

Riding in the snow can also be lots of fun, and my kids are having a blast when Perla pulls them on the sled. When you are not riding you could attend one of Coralie Denmeade's winter clinics at Tamangur Icelandics, where the focus is on theory and learning more about our special breed. I think this was another great initiative by a Klettajalla member.

The new year is off to a great start: We still have much to look forward to.

KRAFTUR

Bert Bates writes: An annual highlight for the Kraftur Club of Northern California is the Los Gatos Christmas parade. The Kraftur club had yet another strong presence at the parade, so lots and lots of innocent bystanders got to see Icelandic horses in action. It's a great way to introduce folks to the breed.

Kraftur members love clinics! Fall 2010 found Kraftur members attending local clinics held by Steinar Sigurbjornsson, Svanhildur Stefansdottir, and other notables. As if that weren't enough, some Kraftur members are so obsessed they traveled to Santa Ynez and Los Angeles for even more clinics.

In 2001, Steinar, Svanhildur and our own Laura Benson will be holding local clinics, and there are rumors that even more outstanding clinicians will also be visiting. As those rumors solidify, we will post updates on www.Kraftur.us.

Most of you will probably relate to the notion that Kraftur has its list of "summer" trails and its more restricted list of "winter" trails. For us, winter trails are



Ayla Green and Sleipnir of the Kraftur Club get ready for the Los Gatos Christmas parade in northern California. Photo by Lin Campbell.

those that resist mud. Top of the list for winter riding is Salinas River State Beach. The good news is that it's never muddy. The bad news is that if you go, you have to be able to read the tide charts—low tide is essential for a good ride! Club president Annette Coulon is planning monthly club rides starting in late January.

We hesitate to relate the following, but it has come to our attention that several Kraftur members have been seen taking dressage lessons with their Icelandics! In addition to all of the Icelandic-oriented clinicians that support us, we're also fortunate that renowned dressage clinician Jec Ballou resides in the Santa Cruz area. Jec is an awesome instructor and author. Among her books are two bestsellers: *Equine Fitness: A Program of Exercises and Routines for Your Horse*, and *101 Dressage Exercises for Horse and Rider*. Those renegeads who have been taking dressage lessons report that Jec's approach works hand-in-glove with the philosophies of our Icelandic clinicians. Their horses are getting fitter, stronger, and more agile.

Last fall, Asta and Will Covert hosted a worldranking show in Santa Ynez. Kraftur members in attendance were: Elizabeth Robertson on Tjara, Sarah McWaid on Draupnir, Madison Prestine on Sleipnir, Annie Dillon on Glampi ("Batman"), Laurie Prestine on Ran, Lucy Nold on



Julia Hasenauer and Aegir at the Kraftur Club's holiday parade. Photo by Lin Campbell.

Andri, Cait Nold on Kani, and Annette Coulon on Mosa. For many riders, this was a special opportunity to experience a five judge show. Thanks to Asta and Will for hosting such a great event. We look forward to attending both Icelandic and multi-breed shows in 2011.



The November 2010 Equine Affaire Icelandic horse breed demonstration in West Springfield, MA. Photo courtesy of Pangaea Equestrian Services.

We hope it goes without saying that our rides, shows, and clinics are open to everyone. Our New Year's resolution is to be a bit more organized. Specifically, our goal is to firm up schedules early, and to post them to our website, Kraftur.us. Special thanks go to Gayle and Doug Smith for keeping our site up to date.

NEIHC

Amy Goddard writes: Last fall and early winter were busy for the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club, with numerous events all over the Northeast! Alice Ryan riding Mani raised \$900 for the Susan Komen "Ride for the Cure" held last October 10 (10-10-10) in South Woodstock, VT.

Due to overwhelming enthusiasm from participants attending the August clinic, Heleen Heyning hosted her second "sold out" clinic with Steinar Sigurbjornsson October 22–24 at her farm in Delhi, NY. The first day consisted of private lessons; group lessons were held on Saturday and Sunday. Most of the August attendees rode again, and a few new riders joined in. For those who have not had the pleasure of working with Steinar, he is really quite remarkable. He zones in on each horse and rider team, and individualizes his

approach to each, combining a variety of horsemanship methods into a seamless package. Centered riding, dressage, natural horsemanship, Icelandic tradition, "energy" and motivation—it's all there. He finds the good in each horse and builds on it to motivate the rider, so that the horse and rider work together as a team.

Once again, Heleen "out-cooked" herself with homemade lunches consisting of delicious soups, macaroni and cheese,

salads, local veggies and freshly-baked pies and tarts.

Clinic attendee Stephanie Sher writes: "The theme of the weekend was: relax, relax, light, light, light. Steinar asked me what my goal would be for Ogri, and I said that I wanted him to look like he does when he goes up to mares: dancing, proud, and powerful. But only when I ask him!" (See her full review of the clinic in this issue of the *Quarterly*.)



Visitors to Equine Affaire in Massachusetts get to know an Icelandic horse. Photo by Hulda Geirsdottir.

In Vermont, future horsewoman Kamilla Brickner was born November 17 at 11:01 am: 19 inches, 7.4 pounds. Proud parents Sigrun Brynjarsdottir and Jason Brickner are enjoying their new life with this precious addition to the family.

The annual Turkey Tolt ride was held the Saturday after Thanksgiving at Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Sleepy Hollow, NY. Organizer Nicki Esdorn writes: "Eighteen brave riders came from near and far on a cold and breezy day for Turkey Tolt! The horses loved the weather, of course, and we had a very spirited ride—without a rest stop, just many walk breaks, as we did not want the sweaty horses to stand around in the cold wind. Thank you to everyone for coming and hope to see you all on a balmy spring day for Bunny Hop 2011!"

Sue Sundstrom writes that her mare, Melkolka frá Grytu, has become a certified field hunter. "I often tell the people in my fox hunt club, the North Country Hounds, that her name means "witchy woman"—most people in the club had never seen an Icelandic horse, never mind know what the language is all about, so they really believe that that is her name. Mel isn't really witchy—she just knows her own mind; however, she is the smartest horse I know and if, or when, I get myself into trouble, I'd rather be on her than any other horse. She is also very sure-footed and can run forever, which makes her a great horse for a fox hunt.

"I am not sure what ever possessed me to fox hunt except that it had something to do with Richard Davis dragging me to one a couple years ago. I almost killed myself that day and thought that I'd never do it again. But since I had already bought all the clothes—including the ridiculous yellow vest—I decided to try it again when another friend talked me into it last year with the North Country Hounds. I found that I loved it! All four of my horses have done it and seem to enjoy running through the woods and fields with a bunch of hounds and horses, but Mel is my star. This year I rode Mel most of the time. To my surprise, Melkolka received an award at our annual hunt ball: She was accredited as a certified field

hunter. I'm not sure if any other Icelandic horses are certified field hunters, but I do know that Mel is probably the first around central Vermont."

Cerice Berndsen writes: "Equine Affaire 2010 in West Springfield, MA proved to be one of impressive Icelandic horse presence. In addition to the fantastic annual representation by Promote Iceland (formerly the Icelandic Trade Council) with their impossible-to-miss display booth, the Icelandics had two ridden demonstrations, a breed segment in the Youth Pavilion, and a powerhouse night presentation in the Pfizer Fantasia.

"On Thursday and Friday afternoons in the Mallory Arena, the stands were brimming with people wanting to learn more about or show their support for the Icelandic horse. The team of riders consisted of Caeli Cavanagh, Cerice Berndsen, Christianie Able, Knutur Berndsen, Lori Leo, and Marissa Dillon. The riders performed a drill pattern followed by a demonstration of gaits with the help of Gudmar Petursson, who took over announcing to better explain the gaits of the horse. On Saturday afternoon, Caeli and Cerice gave a presentation for the Icelandic horse breed segment, with Caeli's mare Hremsa as ambassador for the breed.

"The Knights of Iceland brought down the house each night in the Pfizer Fantasia, after a public outcry due to the lack of Icelandics in the 2009 lineup. Their performance was a big exclamation point on the statement made by a great show of support and interest in our incredible breed of horse at the 2010 Equine Affaire."

In addition to the demos and the Fantasia, Marissa Dillon and Caeli Cavanagh impressed the crowds with their outstanding rides in the Versatile Horse and Rider Competition. (See Marissa's article in this issue.)

Heleen Heyning writes: "Steinar and his lovely family visited us again in Delhi, NY, on Dec. 16-17. Even though it was the week before Christmas and very short notice, he ended up teaching nine private lessons to those of us within relatively easy driving distance. It has been extremely

beneficial to work with one trainer consecutively, and he has certainly managed, in a very short time, to create quite a following here in the Northeast. We are eagerly awaiting his next visit!"

We look forward to our annual meeting and Thorrablot, tentatively scheduled for February 19. New NEIHC member and web designer Kara Noble will be developing an updated NEIHC website over the coming months. NEIHC members are encouraged to check the NEIHC Yahoo mail group, our website (neihc.com), and our Facebook page for news and info on upcoming events. Or contact club president, Brian Puntin by phone: 413-528-3003 or e-mail: bpuntin@bcn.net.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Kimberly Hart writes: The Southern California Icelandic Riders had a difficult year. It was an emotional time for many of the board members with close family losses all around. As we all continue on our journey of recovery our horses and our friends provided warmth and respite from our challenges.

I'm happy to report that despite the difficulties in 2010, we were still able to organize a few fun events. We camped in Bonita. We rode in Rancho Santa Fe. We rode at Fiesta Island and on dog beach. We had a Photo Ride, well-attended and well-photographed by Elisabeth Haug.

Along with these outings we also had a great educational opportunity from a visiting clinician from Sweden. Charlotta G ripenstam taught us a lot about our horses and our riding styles. If you ever have the opportunity to ride with Charlotta, don't miss it. Her insight and assistance were invaluable.

We are planning a summer trip to Iceland as a group, with trekking and seeing all the best spots! Lobster at Stokkseyri, lobster bisque at Humarhusid, hot dogs in Reykjavik, and more.

CLINICS WITH STEINAR

BY HELGA THORDARSON AND STEPHANIE SHER

Editor's note: In the last issue of the Quarterly, Stephanie Sher wrote about a clinic she took in August 2010 in New York with Icelandic horse trainer Steinar Sigurbjornsson. Her article ended (or should have ended, if the last sentence hadn't been cut off): "Would I go to another Steinar clinic? You bet!" It didn't take her long. Her report, below, is from late October 2010. Stephanie's experience prompted Helga Thordarson, who lives near Steinar's Valhalla Icelandics in California to contribute her thoughts. We'll begin with Helga's story.

HELGA'S TIPS

How do you get the most out of a clinic? I have had horses for 30-plus years, and Icelandics for the past 20. The approach I will describe here has worked wonders for me over the last four years. I am more motivated, more mindfully focused, and more excited about the horses than ever before—after 30 years! I give my trainer, Steinar Sigurbjornsson of Valhalla Icelandic Horses in Lakeview Terrace, CA, much of the credit. He is a gifted teacher and natural collaborator. The other half of the equation has been me and my horse Tyr doing our homework joyfully and religiously!

One thing that has helped me immensely is being extremely disciplined about immediately writing down detailed notes on *everything* I learn at a clinic, followed by practicing those exercises in my own structured program. One day a week is a formal "schooling" day for me and Tyr. I envision a specific goal: balanced corners through better use of the outside rein, or light downward transitions, or a feeling of forward energy flow in trot with suspension, or whatever. Over coffee, I select from my clinic notebook the "ingredients" that will help us get there, and we have a plan for the morning! Tyr and I head out and practice those four or five specific "building block" exercises. I give all the exercises nicknames to remember them easily. On other days we trail ride, do ground or liberty work with games, hike the hills, whatever, but we always work in a few exercises from my



Heidi Gardarsson on Knar frá Skollagrof (left) and Helga Thordarson on Tyr frá Ytri Kongsbakka ride in the Trabuco Canyon arroyo.

notebook. This has helped to solidify and build on what we've learned at clinics.

I've seen real progress in our partnership since starting this self-structured program a few years back. The whole goal was to build a continuity "bridge" between clinics, whether they are given by Steinar, or by Eyjolfur Isolfsson from Holar in Iceland, or by another clinician, so that development can continue after we have returned home.

I certainly don't recreate or perform the exercises perfectly, but it is far better than forgetting it all! This program has worked very well for me and Tyr. It is extremely gratifying to see some progress maintained (even growth!) between isolated lessons, clinics, and those few

months that Tyr is with Steinar for full-time training (when I can save enough!) . Since Tyr and I committed to really doing our "homework" between professional consultations, everything has changed and the sky has opened for us!

My long-time goal has always been simply to be "worthy of my horse" and to see him happy, balanced, feisty, and forward. But I had plateaued on that journey and what I was doing (clinics, lessons, working harder in a type-A fashion) was not really working. I love that my collaboration with Steinar over the last two years has reignited a passion and mindful focus in me that had been lost. My horse is the happier for it, and we are becoming a true team. Steinar's message to "wake



Helga Thordarson and Tyr frá Ytri Kongsbakka.

up” our own senses and body awareness shines through in the intensive, open, learning atmosphere of his clinics. I like very much that Steinar works as a “coach,” not as a horse-trainer-who-gives-lessons. His clinics are very hands-on: molding, mentoring, encouraging, correcting, and motivating riders, not just horses.

Here is something I found useful: Before we rode, he had us humans walk and jog in figure eights with the aim of developing a “mind-map” of the course we’d later take our horses through. We side-passed (stretching our hips widely!), we walked with “action” and spirit—shoulders opening, we jogged, bringing our bodies under ourselves in a balanced, light, powerful way. We compared that to moving stiffly, without the use of our hips and shoulders, etc. For the first time I really “felt” how the horse’s fluid movement can flow through a figure eight, how my weight should “float” sideways with the horse to enhance his balance in a turn, versus how taking a corner stiffly—with a collapsed or popping inner shoulder—

just grinds both horse and rider into the ground. This exercise developed a kinesthetic meta-sense of what I wanted to recreate when mounted and moving. It is hard to explain, better just to try it! This one exercise dramatically improved my riding in the session that followed. I *felt* it from the inside-out; it was not an abstract, cerebral, top-down exercise.

I feel this whole approach is transforming me as a rider. It is also incredibly fun.

STEPHANIE’S NOTES

Last weekend there was another very good clinic by Steinar at Heleen’s Heyning’s farm, West Wind, in Delhi, New York. This one was more on the serious side, pretty heavy-duty compared to slaloming through the barrels yelling “Whoopee,” like last time. I went down to Delhi on the first day, Friday. It was raining heavily and sleeting—some drive over the hills on the dirt roads! Those of us who went on Friday were able to have a private lesson with Steinar. I asked him to ride my horse Ogri, and that was very exciting. First he took off the curb chain entirely and loosened the noseband (not dropped) completely. He said that Ogri



Lori Horner and Elsa from Willow Bend. Photo by John Giraldi.

would be more expressive this way, and light. He didn't care if Ogrí opened his mouth. He had Ogrí raised up and toting with really good energy, and also some very quick leg-yielding and shoulder-in back and forth. I just wanted to see what Ogrí was capable of doing, so that I can see my goal. It was well worth it.

Saturday there were a lot of people there, including quite a few members of our club, the Saint Skutla club in western NY. There were 12 riders, a full house, and a lot of people came by to watch. There were some really beautiful horses and some really good riders. The main theme of these clinics was lightness. No hauling the horse around, and no pulling on you by him. This is an ambitious and exalted goal. How wonderful it would be to achieve this together! So this clinic built on the last one, although there were three new riders and Steinar allowed for them.

We started with ground work, of course! Steinar had us exaggerate our body position to let the horse know when we wanted to stop or go so there was no need for rein cues. Then we went on to lateral work on the ground, using the lightest possible touch of the whip to just show the horse what was wanted. One of my nicest memories was walking backwards in front of Ogrí, having him glide from left shoulder-in to right shoulder-in with the slightest motion of my whip.

Steinar asked, "Are you dancing?"

Yes, we were dancing.

After the morning session, we had a short lecture on dressage riding styles. Steinar wants a relaxed hand with just finger motions to give the cues. That was the theme of the weekend: relax, relax, light, light, light.

Steinar asked me what my goal would be for Ogrí, and I said that I wanted him to look like he does when he goes up to mares: dancing, proud, and powerful. But only when I ask him!

The afternoon sessions were ridden versions of the morning's work in hand. Lots of turns on the forehand around barrels, lots of shoulder-in, haunches-in, and sidepass. Not as easy for me and Ogrí to get that lightness under saddle that we had in hand. Steinar suggested that getting shoulder-in could slow and stop a horse without hauling on the reins, and I know that's so, theoretically, but it's going



Helga Thordarson cantering Tyr with a neck ring. One day a week is a formal "schooling" day.

to take a lot more work for us. We did do some very nice lateral work, but it was very physically challenging for the rider, and of course for the horse too. Sometimes you'd get two or three wonderful steps, and then fall on the forehand again. It was a trip back to the real world after the class, when I went to put Ogrí out in a little pasture and he pulled me along all the way! More ground work!

Sunday morning was more of the same, and *faster*. Whipping around a barrel and toting very briskly to the other end of the ring and around the barrel there. Since the horses all were going at different speeds and different directions, Steinar looked like he was going to be mowed down, as horses and riders converged on him from all directions. Somehow things managed to get sorted out each time, and he didn't even look that worried.

Even one of the first-timers, who said that she only ever tolted uphill, not on the flat, was whizzing around on her cute little horse. Nobody resists Steinar's mix of urging and encouragement. One of

the riders said that what she liked most about Steinar's clinics was that they were so hands-on. I'll say! If your horse is being a slug, Steinar's not above giving him a slap on the rump, raising a cloud of dust!

Outside the ring, the clinic was beyond anything you've ever experienced at a clinic. Heleen made wonderful homemade meals for lunches. Homemade soup, macaroni and cheese, red peppers and avocado slices, pies of several sorts—a cornucopia of food! There were always bowls of fruit and candy (Ghirardelli chocolates!), fruit juice and sodas, delicious whole grain breads with butter from Ireland. The barn and ring were always perfect, there were plenty of places to turn your horse out for some relaxation, there were places to put your tack (with saddle racks!), delicious-looking green hay—I could just go on and on. The drive home was breathtaking, as the southern parts of the New York hills were still in their fall glory. I'm already planning what to do at the next clinic (but not too soon, oh Lord).

WHAT'S NEW AT WWW.ICELANDICS.ORG

BY JULI COLE

The USIHC website is a valuable source of up-to-date information about our beloved breed. It has always been a very user-friendly website, but in January 2011 it was updated to become even more so. With just a few keystrokes and clicks of the mouse, you can find explore many useful, interesting, educational, and informative topics related to Icelandic horses.

The website address is www.icelandics.org. To those who have visited the site in the past, the first obvious change is the design of the Home Page, which now greets the visitor with a beautiful banner photo of a running herd of Icelandic horses. Immediately below the banner photo are tabs that will take you to various pages within the website. Scrolling over these tabs will open up drop-down boxes for use in accessing the pages related to those topics.

The new Home Page features the USIHC **Mission** and information about and links to the *Quarterly*. Also new to the Home Page are the **Recent News** and **Upcoming Events** columns. This is a fantastic change, as now any visitor to the USIHC website can instantly see what is going on and what will be happening in the future right away, without needing to click on any additional tabs or drop-down boxes.

Another great new feature is found in the upper right-hand corner, where a **Search** function tab has been added. Clicking on the word "Search" will open an inquiry box where a word or phrase can be typed. Click the Search button after typing your inquiry and *voilà!*—within a fraction of a second, you will see plenty of relevant links to the information you are looking for.

While on the subject of links, another new feature that should be pointed out are all of the available **hyperlinks** throughout the website. These links are usually found (depending on how your web browser is set up) written in blue font that will dim slightly when scrolled over.

Click on these blue words and you will instantly be taken to the website of a farm, to the results from a show or Breeding Evaluation, or to one of many other areas of interest.

And, if you are on any of the various pages of the website and would like to return to the Home Page instantly, just scroll over the USIHC logo or "United States Icelandic Horse Congress" as written out in the upper left-hand corner of the page. See how they dim like the other hyperlinks do? Just one click on either area will take you back to the Home Page.

Next to the Search tab, is a **Log In** tab for current USIHC members to use to access the members-only sections of the website. Logging in is quite easy to do. It requires only your email address and a password. If you have never used the members-only functions on the website before, you can request a password easily by following the hyperlink that will appear in the box that opens up after you click on "Log In."

In this and the next several issues of the *Quarterly*, we will explore what is available in the tabs and drop-down boxes on the Home Page. We'll start with the **Membership** and **Breed** tabs.

MEMBERSHIP:

Certain tabs in the Membership drop-down box are for current members only, and will require logging in to use. These areas include **Your Membership Profile**, where your own membership information (such as your mailing address for receiving the print issue of the *Quarterly*) can be updated or edited. You can also renew your membership and pay your dues on this page.

Another members-only area is the **WorldFengur Access** area, where you will receive instructions on how to activate your free subscription to the international WorldFengur website, which is one of the great benefits of being a USIHC member.

(To learn more about WorldFengur, see the article "Fun with WorldFengur" in this issue of the *Quarterly*.)

A tab for the *Quarterly* magazine will be found in the Membership section as well. Most of this page is available to anybody to view, including back issues of the *Quarterly*. Please note, however, that the current year's issues of the *Quarterly* may only be viewed online by current USIHC members. You must be logged in to do so.

Rounding out the Membership area of the website are links to the **Member List**. Here you can find a map of the United States showing how many USIHC members there are in each state. There is also a list of all current members of the USIHC. (If you can't remember if you've paid your dues, look for your own name on the list!)

Following this is a **Farm List**, where contact information and links (where applicable) for various Icelandic horse breeders and trainers can be found.

Finally there is a **Regional Clubs** link that will take you to a list providing the contact information, location, and website (where applicable) of each of the various Regional Clubs for Icelandic Horses in the U.S.

BREED:

Back on the Home Page, the tab to the right of Membership is **Breed**. Rolling your cursor over this tab will open up a drop-down box that combines the content of the old website's Breed Registry and Breeding pages.

The first feature available is the **Breed Standard**. One click will take you to a page that provides pertinent information, guidelines, and breeding goals for the ideal Icelandic horse. A table of contents is listed in hyperlink form, so that you can simply click on the topic you wish to read about and be instantly taken to that paragraph.

The next feature in the drop-down box will take you to a page listing **Breed-**

ing **Evaluation** results in hyperlink form. These hyperlinks will take you to the PDF files of the complete results for each respective Breeding Evaluation held in the U.S. You can open, read, and print these PDF files using Adobe Reader.

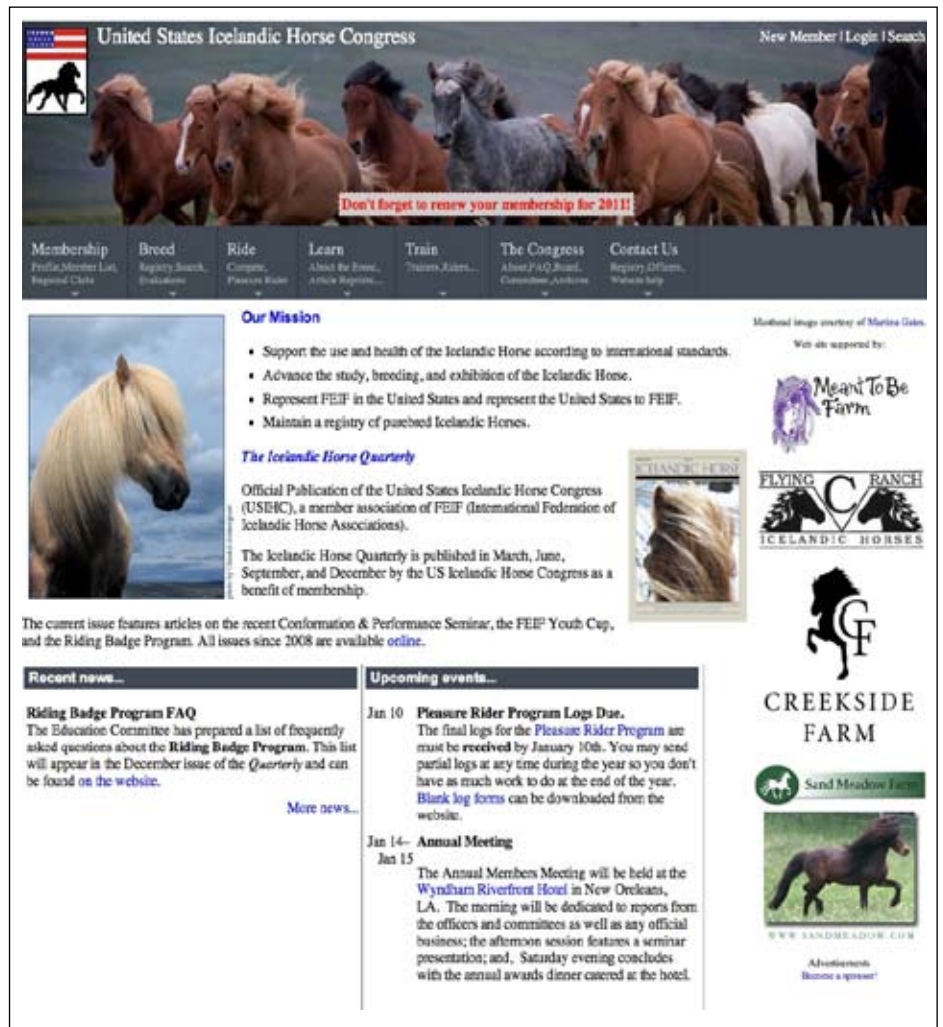
Scrolling over **Registry** will open a secondary drop-down box that provides all the necessary information about the USIHC's registry of purebred Icelandic Horses in the U.S. Within this secondary drop-down box, you will find **Registry Information**, which gives a summary of the role the USIHC plays in maintaining the breed registry, and also a map of the U.S., showing how many USIHC-registered horses there currently are in each state.

Through the **Registration Forms** link, you can access easy-to-follow instructions for registering a horse with the USIHC. There are also samples of the forms and/or documents you will need to complete the registration process and instructions for downloading the forms. The **Registry Fees** page gives you all of the current charges for registration and related services. Finally, the **Registry Pay-Pal Payments** link will take you to a page for using PayPal to quickly and easily pay for any fees related to USIHC registration services using your PayPal account or a credit card.

The next item on the list is a really great feature: **Registered Horse Search**. This link takes you to a search function that allows you to look up any horse that is registered with USIHC. You can search for the horse in a variety of ways, including its name, registration number, FEIF ID number, or DNA file number.

When using the registered name or USIHC or FEIF ID numbers to search, you do not need to have the complete information about a horse to find it. For example, entering "US2009" in the appropriate field will give you 54 results: all the registered horses born in the U.S. in 2009. Entering "IS1990" in the FEIF ID field will provide you with a list of 101 horses in the U.S. that were born in Iceland in 1990. Using the name field, if you type in "Saeta," you will receive a list of six horses registered with the USIHC with "Saeta" as part of their name.

Once you find the horse you are looking for in the search function, clicking on its name will activate a hyperlink that will take you to that horse's basic



A screen shot of the new USIHC homepage.

information. At the top of the information box, notice that the horse's FEIF ID number is in blue—it is another hyperlink, and a fantastic one at that! For current USIHC members who have activated their free WorldFengur subscription, this hyperlink will take you to the WorldFengur website log-in page. Once you are logged in, you will be taken immediately to the basic information page of the same horse you were searching for on the USIHC website. From there, all of the other information pages on the horse can be accessed as well—such as the pages on your horse's sire and dam—along with the entire WorldFengur website. (Again, check out the article later in this issue to see how much fun you can have with WorldFengur.)

The final link under Breed is to the **Stallion Book**. Clicking on this link will take you to a list of fully evaluated stallions available for breeding in the

U.S. Please note that this page is a paid advertising page, so it may not include all the fully evaluated stallions in the U.S. Each stallion's name is another hyperlink that will take you to a page giving more detailed information about the stallion, including his evaluation scores, pedigree, and owner contact information.

With all of the great hyperlinks on the Home Page, Membership, and Breed tabs, there is plenty here for you to explore and enjoy until the next issue of the *Quarterly*, when we'll continue our tour of the user-friendly and informational USIHC website.

FUN WITH WORLDFENGUR

BY PAMELA S. NOLF



Svanny Stefánsdóttir rides Madonna from Rhythmhill (barn name Glodis) in a tolt. Photo by Jean Waller.

One of the benefits of your USIHC membership is free, unlimited access to WorldFengur, the international breed registry for the Icelandic horse. You can look up the pedigrees, assessments or evaluation scores, number of offspring, owners, breeders, and a lot of other information on over 300,000 Icelandic horses around the world. Usually a 12-month subscription is 69 Euros (approximately \$92) so you are getting a bargain for your USIHC membership fee of \$45.

Ah, but you say you are not a breeder so why would you want unlimited access to a breed registry? How about finding out the predicted potential of your own horse, conducting virtual breedings, searching for famous ancestors, or checking out competition records? Let's take a look at some of the fun things you can do with WorldFengur and see if we can change your mind.

GETTING ACCESS TO WORLDFENGUR

Here are the directions for getting access to WorldFengur:

Go to the WorldFengur Page of the USIHC website, www.icelandics.org/wf_access.

Log in to the USIHC web site using your email address and password. (If you haven't done this before, clicking on Login, in the top right corner of the page will walk you through the process.) After you have logged in, click the "Activate My World Fengur Subscription" button. It may take a day or two for WorldFengur to grant you access. You must be a current member of USIHC to get free access.

LOOKING UP A HORSE

Jean Waller from Battle Ground, WA, a member of the Cascade Icelandic Horse Club, owns three Icelandic horses who live on her small farm. Jean has agreed to let us use her mare Madonna as an example. Madonna is chestnut with a

A screenshot of the WorldFengur website's search interface. The header includes the logo "WORLD FENGUR The Studbook of Origin for the Icelandic horse" and navigation buttons for "SALES-HORSES", "ASTUND", and "Fjöldi bestamanna hefur valið Tjarnabyggð". The main search area has a "Search for horses" field and a "Note! FEIF-ID number and identification number always begins with the country code e.g. IS for Iceland. If WorldFengur finds only one horse according to the search criteria then the basic information page for that list of horses" message. Below this is a "Special letters" row with characters á ö é í ó ú ý þ æ ö á ä ü ß ø. The search criteria include: FEIF-ID number (input field), Name (input field with "from" dropdown), Colour (dropdown menu), Fate (dropdown menu), Country of current location (dropdown menu), Farm (studname) number (input field), Area number (input field), and Area (dropdown menu). A "Search" button is at the bottom right. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links: DISCLAIMER, INTRODUCTION, HOME PAGE, LANGUAGE, PADDOCK HORSE, Search, Advanced search, Search - Assessments, Colour table, Virtual Mate Selection, HORSE NAMES, PERSON, SHOW, FARM (LOCATION), REPORTS, EXIT, and a "Ice Events" logo.

Figure 1. The WorldFengur search page.

Number : 2

FEIF-ID number	Name	Name of the farm (studname)	Colour code	Area	Country	Life sign	BLUP Evaluation	Father	Mother
IS1990286199	Primadonna	frá Bakkakoti	2510	86	US	Alive	87	All frá Kýrhóli	Toppa frá Bakkakoti
US2001201782	Madonna	from Rhythmhill	1522	06	US	Alive	105	Hrafn frá Gardabæ	Lava vom Wiesenhof

Figure 2. Results of searching for horses named “Madonna” in the U.S.

light mane and tail. She is 13.3 hands. Jean bought Madonna from The Icelandic Horse Farm in Vernon, BC, in 2009. Madonna is described “as a very friendly horse who loves attention, although she is quite bossy with other horses.”

So let’s take a look at Madonna’s information in WorldFengur.

Sign on to WF w/ your username and password. Under Horse on the menu on the left, click on Search. The Search Screen displays as shown in Figure 1. .

The easiest way to look up a horse is to enter its FEIF-ID number or registration number. In this case, you only know that Jean has a horse named Madonna, which is located in the U.S.

Type **Madonna** in the Name field. Select United States in the Country of Current Location field. Click on Search.

WorldFengur displays the search results at the bottom of the page, as shown in Figure 2. There are two Icelandics in the U.S. with “madonna” in their names. You know that Jean’s horse is domestically bred, so Madonna from Rhythmhill must be the horse in which you are interested.

Click on US2001201782, which is the unique FEIF-ID number for Madonna from Rhythmhill. Madonna’s individual records will display, as shown in Figure 3.

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE HORSE

As you can see in Figure 3, Madonna’s information is arranged like files in a file cabinet. Each tab represents a file name in the file cabinet. You can click on any of the displayed tabs, such as Assessment, Horse Owner, BLUP Evaluation, Offspring, etc., to bring up additional information about the horse. The default tab is Basic Information.

You can tell from the FEIF ID

numbers that Madonna’s sire, Hrafn frá Gardabæ, was bred in Iceland (IS = Island), and her dam, Lava vom Wiesenhof, was bred in Germany (DE = Deutschland). The first two letters of the FEIF ID number represent the country of origin, the next four digits represent the year of birth. The other digits refer to area of birth and number of horses born in that area. Judy Pittman was responsible for Madonna’s breeding and, oops, it looks like somebody hasn’t updated the transfers in ownership.

You can also get additional information from the horse’s registered name, which is constructed as follows: <Name> <word meaning “from” in the language of

US2001201782 - Madonna from Rhythmhill	
Basic information	
FEIF-ID number	US2001201782
Name	Madonna
Name of the farm (studname)	from Rhythmhill
Farm ID number	060049
Area	06
Colour code	1522
Colour name	Chestnut with star silver grey mane and tail
Country of current location	US
Fate	Alive
Father	IS1994125409 - Hrafn frá Gardabæ
Mother	DE1986210539 - Lava vom Wiesenhof
Horse owner	US0000000049 - Judy Pittman
Breeder	US0000000049 - Judy Pittman
Date of record	09.03.2005 20:59:17.0

Figure 3. Basic information for Madonna from Rhythmhill.

IS1994125409 - Hrafn frá Gardabæ	
Basic information	
FEIF-ID number	IS1994125409
UELN	352002994125409
Name	Hrafn
Name of the farm (studname)	frá Gardabæ
Farm ID number	120000
Area	25
Colour code	2700
Colour name	Svartur
Country of current location	US
Fate	Alive
Father	IS1986186055 - Orri frá Þófu
Mother	IS1981213001 - Buska frá Gardabæ
Microchip	145914170A
Freeze mark	94125409
Horse owner	US0000001067 - Betsy or Will Covert
Breeder	IS0407464399 - Kristján Jóhann Agnarsson
Lifenumber	US94101333 - US - 14.01.2009
Remark	General remark
Date of record	06.06.2000 18:45:57.0

Figure 4. Basic information for Hrafn frá Gardabæ.

the horse’s country of origin> <Name of farm responsible for breeding>.

For example, you can determine that Madonna’s dam, Lava vom Wiesenhof, is from Germany if you know that “vom” (or “von” can be used) means “from” in German. (It would be “du” in France, “de” in Spain, not used in Italy, frá in Iceland, från in Sweden, etc.). And Wiesenhof is a famous German breeding farm, founded by the late Bruno Podlech, known for the quality of its horses.

WHO’S THE DADDY?

Now let’s see what you can find out about Hrafn frá Gardabæ, Madonna’s sire.

Click IS1994125409 – Hrafn frá Gardabæ, which appears in the Father field. The Basic Information Screen for Hrafn displays as shown in Figure 4.

This screen gives you the same basic information about sire, dam, color, etc., but you will notice some new symbols displayed in the upper right-hand corner under the tabs. If you use your cursor and slowly scroll over these symbols from left to right, you can see that they show that photo, assessment, identification, DNA, DNA, and DNA are available for this horse. We know that Hrafn was assessed at several breeding evaluations, so let’s take a look at his scores.

Click on the “Assessment” tab at the top of the screen. Hrafn’s list of assessments are displayed, as shown in Figure 5.

Mating return record	Foaling return record	Horse owner	DNA/Blood	Health record	Location	Remark
Basic information	Photo	Assessment	Identification mark	BLUP Evaluation	Offspring	Pedigree tree
Breeding assessment						
Date	Show	Total				
30.09.2006	Cascade Icelandic Horse Club Evaluations		View			
08.06.1997	Héraðssýning á Gaddstaðafötum		View			
01.08.1999	World Championship Rieden	8.24	View			
09.06.1999	Borgames	8.2	View			
12.07.1998	Landsmót á Melgerðismelum	8.12	View			
30.05.1998	Héraðssýning í Viðidal í Reykjavík	8.09	View			
25.05.1999	Héraðssýning í Viðidal, Reykjavík	8.04	View			

Figure 5. List of assessments for Hrafn frá Gardabæ.

Wow! This is an impressive list of assessments. If you investigate these assessments and look at some other resources, you find that Hrafn was the winner of the four-year old class at Landsmót in 1998 and he was assessed at the World Championships in 1999.

Let's take a closer look at one of the assessments.

Click View to the right of the World Championship Rieden. Hrafn's assessment from the 1999 World Championship displays, as shown in Figure 6.

Sigrún María Brynjarsdóttir (now of Solheimar Farm in Tunbridge, VT) rode Hrafn to achieve scores of 9 in tolt, trot, and canter, with a total rideability score of 8.33. The 5 for pace indicates that Hrafn is a 4-gaited horse and he does not have a flying pace. Assessment scores for gait range from 5 (not shown), 6 (undesirable), 7 to 7.5 (average), 7.6 to 7.9 (good), 8.0 to 8.9 (very good), 9.0 and over (exceptional).

BLUP

BLUP stands for Best Linear Unbiased Prediction. According to C. Clarke (2010), BLUP indices are "statistical values that are designed to help predict likely future developments based on past performance... However, in animal husbandry they are most widely used to improve the genetic quality of the breeding herd and, although originally introduced for dairy cattle, they are now regarded by many as an essential tool in the sports horse breeder's armory." A more detailed investigation into BLUP is beyond the scope of this article, but you can refer to

Identification number of the rider		IS2708733599																							
Name		Sigrún María Brynjarsdóttir																							
M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11															
138																									
L.f.	R.f.	L.h.	R.h.	Print the assessment																					
Conformation													Ridden abilities												
Head 7.5													Tölt 9												
Neck-Withers-Shoulders 8													Trot 9.2												
Back and Croup 8.5													Pace 5												
Proportions 8.5													Gallop 9												
Legs (quality) 8													Temperament 8.5												
Legs (joints) 8													Character 8.5												
Hooves 8													General impression 9												
Conformation 8.1													Walk 8.5												
Total 8.24													Rideability 8.33												

Figure 6. 1999 World Championships assessments for Hrafn frá Gardabæ.

T. Árnason's (2010) article *International Genetic Evaluations with the BLUP method* for more information on how WorldFengur calculates BLUP.

To summarize, BLUP is a statistical method used for predicting the breeding value of animals based on field assessments of that animal's progenitors. Sports competition scores do not factor into the BLUP calculation for Icelandic horses. BLUP has been used to improve the breeding of French riding horses, Dutch trotters, and American quarterhorses (Árnason and Van Vleck, p.485). As a casual user, the important thing to remember about BLUP is that it is a predictor only. Now let's find the BLUP for Madonna.

If you have been using this article as an online tutorial, I am going to let you figure out how to access the BLUP for Madonna from Rhythmhill. Figure 7 displays Madonna's BLUP.

In interpreting BLUP, you consider a score of 100 as average. As you look at Madonna's BLUP, you can see that she is predicted to have a nicely above average conformation (110), well proportioned

and with a strong back. Looking at her gait scores, you can predict that she will be able to perform a slow tolt and a fast tolt, is probably 4-gaited, and has a nice trot and gallop. Based on the number of assessed horses in her pedigree, BLUP has a calculated accuracy of 60 percent. An accuracy of 60 percent is fairly low. BLUP accuracy can go up to the high 90s. At this point, we only know that Madonna is predicted to have above average gaits; we really don't know the quality of her gaits in reality.

As you look at other horses, remem-

International BLUP

Head	102	Tölt	105
Neck	105	Trot	109
Back	108	Pace	90
Proportions	107	Gallop	110
Quality of legs	105	Spirit	105
Legs joints	101	General impression	109
Hooves	105	Walk	105
Mane and tail	107	Rideability	102
Conformation	110	Slow tölt	104
Total score	105		

Figure 7. BLUP for Madonna from Rhythmhill.

ber that BLUP is only a predictor with varying accuracy. As M. Gates (2010, p. 16) cautions, BLUP is a valuable guide in breeding but "BLUP scores are not always accurate, due to the fact that some breeding horses are missing either pedigree or evaluated parents in their bloodlines, and are therefore automatically scored lower." The BLUP score will change over time as assessments are added to horses in the pedigree tree. However, BLUP can give you some hints as to what to look for when you see the real horse: Does BLUP



Figure 8. Pedigree tree for Madonna from Rhythmill.

predict that this horse will have a better than average conformation but average gaits (or vice versa)? Is the slow tolt score much lower than the tolt score? Does BLUP predict that this horse will be taller or shorter than average? Have fun playing with this model.

LIVING LEGEND

Let's investigate the Pedigree Tree for Madonna from Rhythmill, as shown in Figure 8. You have two views of the Pedigree Tree—the small view goes back two generations, the large view, three generations. Madonna's BLUP shows an inbreeding co-efficient of 1.74 percent so her sire and dam have a common ancestor. If you are online, see if you can figure out the name of the horse (answer displays at the end of the article). You will notice that Orri frá Thúfu (IS1986189055), a very famous stallion, shows up in the pedigree tree.

Orri frá Thúfu's quality was recognized very early. In their book *The Icelandic Horse*, Björnsson and Sveinsson describe Orri as a friendly, easy-to-handle black stallion with four great gaits (Orri sires few pacers) with high leg action and wide movements. The reason that Orri is so famous is not only for the quality of his gaits, but for how many of these abilities he passes along to his offspring.

As Björnsson and Sveinsson proclaim, "There is no doubt that Orri has been the strongest stallion in Iceland for years. His influence will be seen for a long time, and many superb sons and daughters will still show up" (p. 235). Orri has been awarded "honors stallion" status in Iceland.

You can view a video of Orri's performance at the 1994 Landsmót via the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bze4E31DpdQ

Fourteen years later, Orri still had incredible presence as shown by the following videos in which he was filmed in the stallions' paddocks at the 2008 Landsmót: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUAWgnBnZvY and www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQrEy5KyqIU

In 1978, FEIF established the rules for awarding honor status to stallions and mares. An honor horse not only has great conformation and outstanding performance, they are so genetically stable that they pass on these traits to a large number of their offspring. Very few horses achieve honor status. When looking at your horse's pedigree, you will want to keep an eye out for other honor stallions.

Breeding has often been described

as a crapshoot, but selecting the right stallion can certainly help you weight the dice. If you look at the breeding results of some of the honor stallions, the results are astounding. At the time this article was written, Orri frá Thúfu had 1170 registered offspring of which 48 were 4 years old or younger. If you subtract the number of young horses from the total and calculate the number of assessed offspring, (544/1122), an astounding 48 percent of Orri's offspring were assessed, with over 40 percent making first or second prize. Note that the author hand counted some of this information, so the percentages may not be accurate.

VIRTUAL BREEDING

Interested in breeding but don't have the money? Want to know what would happen if that world class stallion in Norway were bred to your mare? WorldFengur has an option, Virtual Breeding, that allows you to predict the results.

Using the main menu that displays to the left of the screen, click on Virtual Mate Selection.

Enter the FEIF ID for the mare and stallion to be used in the virtual breeding.

Figures 9 and 10 show the predicted results if Madonna were bred to Jarl frá Midkrika (IS1995184968), who made such an impression at the 2009 World Championships, or line bred back to Orri frá Thúfu. Compare how the virtual offspring from Jarl and Orri will vary in conformation and quality of gaits. For example, Orri is predicted to have a greater impact on the quality of back, but a lesser impact on legs when compared to Jarl. WorldFengur also gives possible color combinations that can result from the breeding.

Of course there is much more to evaluating a horse for breeding than looking at the information in WorldFengur. However, it is a useful starting place. And using the virtual breeding option, you can "breed" all the horses you want and not be responsible for their upkeep or training.

Mating between sire **Orri fr.Þúfu IS1986186055** (Colour code: 2500) and dam **Madonna fr. Rhythmill US2001201782** (Colour code: 1522): **R% = 28,454**

Potential offspring - BLUP - F% (inbreeding coefficient)

Height	Mane	Slwt	Walk	Head	Neck	Back	Prop	Legs	Corr	Hoof	Tolt	Trot	Pace	Gall	Form	Spir	Conf	Rid	Tot	F%
0,7	114,5	111	102,5	104,5	107,5	108	106	107,5	98	116,5	113,5	111	97,5	115	118,5	114	116	111,5	115	14,227

Figure 9. Results of virtual breeding for Madonna from Rhythmill.

Potential offspring - BLUP - F% (inbreeding coefficient)

Height	Mane	Slwt	Walk	Head	Neck	Back	Prop	Legs	Corr	Hoof	Tolt	Trot	Pace	Gall	Form	Spir	Conf	Rid	Tot	F%
3,8	104	108	107	105	109	98,5	112	114	99,5	114,5	112,5	111,5	93,5	115,5	116,5	108	118	109	113	4,725

Figure 10. Results of a different virtual breeding for Madonna from Rhythmhill.

ADDITIONAL FUN

As you can see, WorldFengur is a very rich resource, with so many options that this article can only cover the highlights. And it is continually evolving and improving. Because of the incidence of the disease spavin in Icelandic horses, WorldFengur recently added the ability to track radiograms and the occurrence of spavin. Scientists and researchers have mined this database for various studies. But the occasional user can have a lot of fun with this on-line database.

You can investigate a horse you may be interested in buying or breeding, search for honor stallions in your horse's pedigree, speculate if that fancy colored horse on Dreamhorse may really be worth that amount of money, or test your eye for conformation by comparing your assessment against the results in WorldFengur.

If you are in a silly mood, you can see how many Icelandics have your first name or unexpected names like Zorro (18), Pamela Anderson (1), or Bambi (6). The list of activities is almost endless.

Be sure and check out the wonder-

ICELANDIC HORSE AWARDS

From Martina Gates (2010, p. 16)

FOR ASSESSMENT:

Horses are considered **second prize** if they have been evaluated and have a combined score (rideability and conformation) of 7.75 to 7.99 for stallions and 7.5 to 7.99 for mares. Horses that have received a combined score of 8.0 or higher are considered **first prize**.

For Offspring:

First prize stallion status: minimum BLUP of 118, 15 to 29 judged offspring OR minimum BLUP of 113, 30 or more judged offspring.

Honor stallion status: minimum BLUP of 118, 50 or more evaluated offspring.

ful articles “*WorldFengur for Beginners*” and “*WorldFengur for Advanced*” written by Martina Gates for *Tolt News*. These articles are available as an online aid on the WorldFengur site. Click Introduction on the main menu on the left of the WorldFengur site to access the articles. Martina's much longer articles go into a lot more detail than this article does. But be careful, as Martina warns, this site can be addictive.

Answer: Hrafn frá Holtsmúla (IS1968157460), an honor stallion. You have to look at the large pedigree trees of Madonna's sire and dam to find him. “Lava vom Wiesenhof” displays twice in Madonna's pedigree tree, but if you look closely, the mares share a name but have two different registration numbers, and so it is two different mares.

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HONOR STALLIONS

From Martina Gates (2010, p. 15)

- 1978 Sörli frá Saudárkróki
- 1982 Hrafn frá Holtsmúla
Tháttur frá Kirkjubæ
- 1986 Ófeigur frá Hvanneyri
Náttfari frá Ytra-Dalsgerdi
- 1990 Hervar frá Saudárkróki
Gáski frá Hofsstöðum
Ófeigur frá Flugumyri
- 1994 Thokki frá Gardi
Kjarval frá Saudárkróki
Stigur frá Kjartansstöðum
- 1996 Angi frá Laugarvatni
- 1998 Stigandi frá Saudárkróki
- 2000 Orri frá Thufu
Kolfinnur frá Kjarnholtum
- 2002 Thorri frá Thufu
Gustur frá Hóli
Oddur frá Selfossi
- 2004 Kraflar frá Midsitju
Ódur frá Brún
Andvari frá Ey I
Galsi frá Saudárkróki
- 2006 Hugl frá Hafsteinsstöðum
Keilir frá Midsitju
- 2008 Hróður frá Refsstöðum
Saer frá Bakkakoti

Some other influential foundation horses that are not honor stallions include: Nökkvi 260 frá Hólmi, Lysingur 409 frá Vodmúlastöðum, Hörður frá Kolkuósi, Raudur frá Kolkuósi, Gustur frá Saudárkróki, Adam frá Medalfelli, Otur frá Saudárkróki

WHO IS DAWN SHAW?

INTERVIEW BY ALEX PREGITZER

WHAT IS YOUR HORSE EXPERIENCE?

I rode whenever I could as a kid, walking up and down the street begging friends and neighbors to allow me to ride their horses, but I didn't actually own a horse until I was 30. I didn't really learn how to ride until after I got my first Icelandic in 1997. He was a fear bolter, essentially non-gaited, and totally the wrong horse for me. I got hurt several times, and he badly shook my confidence, but instead of giving up I decided to learn as much as I could about riding, general horse care, training, and specifically about the Icelandic horse as a breed.

My earliest influence and Icelandic horse mentor was Magnús Lárusson. I began by taking numerous lessons and



Dawn Shaw and Freyja from Lone Cedar at a clinic this past September.



Brjann frá Nedra-Seli early in his training. Dawn Shaw starts horses in a sidepull and uses two sets of reins to transition them to the bit.

clinics from him, and in 2002 I spent six weeks working with him at Hestamidstöðin Gauksmyri, the farm he was training at in Iceland.

Yet I did not rely solely on Magnús for my education. I have taken and continue to take lessons and clinics from a number of professional Icelandic horse trainers and clinicians as the opportunities arise.

I participated in the first FEIF Level 1 Trainer Certification Course offered in the United States, taught by Walter Feldmann Jr., and have since earned my FEIF Level 1 Trainer certification. In 2010 I took a Sport Judging course offered in Canada, which gave me a better understanding of what judges are looking for in sport competition. Passing the course qualified me as a Canadian National Sport Judge.

I have ridden for evaluation judges and participated in the World Championship tryouts, as well as in parades, gaited horse shows, and in breed demonstrations.

I currently take regular dressage lessons from a certified Centered Riding Instructor and have started competing in entry-level dressage competitions with my horses. The goal of Centered Riding, which was developed to encompass all styles of riding, is to achieve classical principles using body awareness, centering, and imagery, as well as enhancing clear communication between horse, rider, and instructor. This goal compliments my personal riding and training goals.

I own and operate Lone Cedar Icelandic Horses, a small breeding and training operation.

WHAT IS YOUR TRAINING PHILOSOPHY?

My objective is to produce a safe, happy, cooperative horse that is respectful and cooperative on the ground and calm yet responsive to the rider under saddle.

My specialty is starting young horses. I install good brakes, yet work to maintain energy, encourage forwardness, and to develop confidence in the horse. I use positive reinforcement so that the horse enjoys the work. Once under saddle, I do the majority of my training on the trail, so young horses learn to go out alone and to move forward independently. They are also then exposed to a variety of obstacles and situations.

Through teaching a horse self-carriage and balance and working with the horse's natural abilities using dressage techniques, I am able to train the horse to do the gait I ask for when I ask for it. I discourage hollowness of the back and neck and encourage the horse to be properly on the bit. I minimize the use of artificial devices, as I do not believe in forcing a horse into a particular frame but rather encouraging the horse to find the correct position on its own.

From Magnús Lárusson and his partner Svanhildur Hall I learned the "From 2 to 1" philosophy. I have taken TTouch and TTeam clinics at The Icelandic Horse Farm in Canada and I have adopted some of the Parelli ground work techniques. I use a combination of these and other techniques I have learned from various instructors to develop my own style.



Sóla frá Northstar, started under saddle in December of 2009. "This is probably her second or third ride," Dawn Shaw says.



Beowulf was part of the Extreme Icelandics rehoming project in Washington. "Though he'd had some handling and halter training," says his new owner, trainer Dawn Shaw, "he is suspicious of people and difficult to approach."

WHAT IS YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY?

I consider myself more adept at training horses than teaching people, but I do want to be sure that an owner understands how the horse is trained and I work to help each owner communicate effectively with his or her horse.

Also, because I have had to overcome my own fear issues, I understand the feelings that riders experience when they are timid and afraid. Most of that fear comes from the feeling of not being in control, so I work to build confidence and trust between the horse and the rider.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR ICELANDIC HORSES IN THE UNITED STATES?

I advocate education. I am hopeful that people who acquire Icelandic horses will make an effort to understand the history and tradition of the breed. It is also my wish that people who choose to breed Icelandic horses make an effort to understand the breeding standards put out by FEIF. Even if they choose not to follow those standards, they should at least be aware of what they are. If they set their

own breeding goals, I am hopeful that they will be able to recognize whether or not their breeding program is successfully achieving those goals and, if not, that they will be able to make adjustments.

I'd like to see a versatile horse that can be appreciated and enjoyed by riders in many disciplines. Since Icelandic horses come in a wide variety of temperaments and aptitudes, I'd like to see horses and riders appropriately matched to reduce injuries, increase enjoyment for horse and rider, and ultimately bolster the reputation of the breed.

I'd like to see more trained horses, yet equally as important I'd like to see more trained riders, emphasizing balance and correct use of the aids.

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EVERY DAY AN ADVENTURE

BY JESSICA HAYNSWORTH

At this time last year, my life felt like it was at a standstill. I had dropped out of the first college I attended because it wasn't the right fit, and I had several months to kill before I could start as a journalism major at Emerson College, where I had just been accepted. The job market in Boston was terrible, and even most volunteer jobs had a huge waiting list. It seemed that my days were mostly filled with sleeping, filling out dead-end job applications, and waiting for my friends to get out of their classes. There was no question about it—I was bored.

Since the age of nine, I had been riding horses. I rode every day all through grade school and up until my junior year of high school. During those years, I spent almost every weekend of spring and summer competing in horseshows, with very successful results. When the pressures of college applications and senior year course loads became too much, however, I started to back away from the horses. I felt guilty keeping a horse if I couldn't train and exercise it every day, and by the end of senior year I had only two horses left, both living four hours away at the Winholds' Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm.



Jessica Haynsworth and Ágústa Baldvinsdóttir kiss the legendary stallion Galsi frá Saudárkróki on the nose. Photo by Caroline Allansson.

I missed the horses terribly, though, and with this new time on my hands, an old dream of mine returned to me: to go to Iceland and study under a master trainer. It has never been enough for me to just ride a horse; I have to understand

them inside and out, to make them better with each ride, whether I'm schooling them in the ring or riding out for fun, racing along the riding roads with friends. I find this level of communication so rewarding, and, in the way it engages every part of one's mind and body, to be like a dance. The more I thought about it, the more certain I became that going to Iceland was exactly what I needed to get my life back on track. I didn't know many people in Iceland, but I had visited the country once before, briefly, to purchase a competition horse. It took me a while to work up the courage, but finally I typed up and sent an email to the man I had bought my horse from, three years before.

Fast-forward to now: I am still in Iceland, after 10 months. I went home for a few weeks in the summer to compete on my horse, Thór frá Skorrastodum IV, but other than that my days have been spent at Efri-Raudalækur, the training stable and breeding farm of the great Baldvin Ari Gudlaugsson ("Baddi"). This year, 2010, Baddi was awarded Rider of the Year and Breeding Farm of the Year, and his stable



Jessica Haynsworth mounted on her "project horse," Dugur, during a very snowy winter "rekstur." Photo by Baldvin Ari Gudlaugsson.

lounge is so full of trophies and medals that there is almost no room for the kitchen table. Baddi and his relatives have become like a second family for me, his daughter and son becoming the younger siblings I always wanted but never had, his wife and parents wonderfully supportive and kind, and I believe that he himself is truly the best teacher and boss I could ever hope for.

I work for him as an assistant trainer, together with usually one other girl at a time, and our duties are wide-ranging. In addition to starting 30 young horses under saddle in the fall, training a stable full of horses (41, the last time I counted) all winter, and competing on and conditioning the horses all spring and summer, we also provide all aspects of care for the horses in the training stable, and assist with the maintenance of the breeding farm. Eighty percent of my day is spent in the saddle, however, and the three of us (Baddi, myself, and whoever else is working with us) are each personally responsible for the training of 10 to 15 horses at a time. That's a lot of horses to work with every day, but luckily I also spend a good part of my day laughing, because everyone I work with has a good attitude about life, and an excellent sense of humor. We work hard, but we play hard too, and I improve as a rider and trainer every day.

I still can't get over the fact that I get to ride such unbelievably talented, well-bred horses, and that I get to learn from and work alongside such incredibly skillful horse people. I will be at Efri-Raudalækur until after the Landsmót and the World Championships this year, and then I am scheduled to return to college in September, although the possibility of applying to Holar University in Iceland has also occurred to me. What I do know for sure, now, is that I'm doing exactly what I love, and what makes me happy. The horses are back in my life for good now, and I can't wait to see where this adventure takes me.

So now that I've introduced myself, I'd like to introduce my horse, Dugur. I own fifty percent of Dugur, and Baddi owns the other half. I have worked with countless horses since I've been in Iceland, and I also own fifty percent of a future Efri-Raudalækur broodmare, but Dugur has taught me the most by far. Dugur came to Efri-Raudalækur one month after I did, and it seemed to me that his

life was at a standstill, too. Baddi had been trying to purchase the nine-year-old gelding for many years, because he is the full brother of a very good horse that Baddi once competed on at the World Championships. By the time Dugur's owners were willing to sell him, however, he was all but unrideable.

There are many ways to train a horse, and while some ways might be very effective with certain horses, I believe that the job of a trainer is to realize when something isn't working and to adapt his or her methods to the individual horse. For whatever reason, Dugur had not had a harmonious relationship with his former trainers, and as a result he had become intensely afraid of people and somewhat dangerous. When any leg pressure was applied to his sides, he threw his head in the air, thrust his tongue over the bit, and ran—fast. He did not do this with malicious intent—the horse was simply terrified of humans touching him, being around him, and riding him, particularly in tölt.

The first time Baddi tried him, he returned shaking his head. "I feel sorry for him," he said. He told me that he wanted to give Dugur a chance, but that he wasn't sure the horse would be worth the time and effort it would take to fix him, or the money it would take to buy him.

Anyone could see that this gelding's conformation was almost perfect, and that he was very naturally talented, but it was also clear that his problems were too severe to sort out quickly, if they could be sorted out at all. Baddi gave him to me to work with, and after a week of doing anything I could to gain the horse's trust—standing in his stall with him, offering him cookies from my hand, trying to get him to allow me to pet him, lunging him long and low in a neck stretcher—I began to see a change. It was small, but I saw his eyes soften. When I turned him out, he stood by the gate and watched me. I was enchanted by his beauty and enormous springy stride, and I didn't like the idea of him returning to a place where he had been made so tense. It seemed to me that the horse had gotten a bit of a bum deal so far in life, and I've always had a soft spot for the underdog. I couldn't afford to buy the horse myself, but after digging into my savings, I asked Baddi if he would be interested in buying and training the

horse together.

"Sometimes you win, and sometimes you lose," Baddi warned me. "It may be that, in a year, we are lucky to get half of this price for him." He also told me, regarding Dugur, "The problem with me is that I love a challenge."

That was something I could definitely identify with. I love a challenge, too, and I knew that I wanted the chance to try to heal this horse.

Working with Dugur has absolutely changed my life, and when I see him now, when he hears my voice and raises his head over his stall door to look for me, or when I hop on him with no saddle and bridle and he carries me willingly, I simply can't believe that he's the same horse. Over the past 10 months, I have watched his muscles redevelop. I have seen his expression soften and his true character emerge, and it was quite a pleasant surprise when he became friendly. Far from being the nervous horse that used to cower in the back corner of his box stall, he now pokes his nose out to greet me, and he often leads the way on "reksturs"—our weekly exercise runs for the horses, in which we let the entire stable run free, with mounted riders in front of and behind the herd, driving them along the riding roads at varying speeds.

Dugur has also become very good at dressage, and I have taught him flying lead changes, something I couldn't imagine he would ever have the collection for a year ago. I have begun teaching him to jump, and at a show in the spring I will be doing a special demo on him showing these things. He is high-stepping, powerful, and brave, and although his training is far from finished, there is no longer any doubt in my mind that we made the right choice taking a chance on him. The smile on Baddi's face when he sees me riding him now, or when he himself rides him, is almost as rewarding as the changes in Dugur himself.

For the next issues of the *Quarterly*, I am going to be writing articles about my ongoing experiences with Dugur, as well as my adventures living and working in this crazy, beautiful country, Iceland. Hopefully I will soon be writing about my first competitions with Dugur, but in the meantime you can learn more about where I spend my days at www.efriraudilaekur.is.

THE VERSATILE HORSE AND RIDER COMPETITION

BY MARISSA DILLON



The Versatile Horse and Rider Competition at Equine Affaire is a timed obstacle course: speed counts. Here Marissa Dillon takes Demba over a tricky jump.

Oh, the Equine Affaire! Four days every horse-crazy nut looks forward to each year! With clinics, seminars, breed demonstrations, shopping 'til you drop, and of course the horses, it's a horse lover's haven! Even if you're not as horse crazy as me, it's still a super fun and educational experience.

I've been a faithful attendee of the Equine Affaire (EA) in Springfield, MA, for about nine years now, but it was just last year that I finally got to see what it's really all about. In July 2009, scanning the EA flyer to find out when I could start ordering my advance tickets, I first saw it advertised: The Versatile Horse and Rider Competition. Interested, I looked into it. (Thank you Google and YouTube!)

The Versatile Horse and Rider Competition, I found out, is a timed, judged race through an obstacle course.

It tests your horsemanship skills while you are riding over, through, or past various obstacles, "spooky" objects, or jumps, and doing gymkhana games. Riders are given points based on their horsemanship and how fast they get the job done. It looked like something for "big" horses and seasoned cowboys. So of course I got this crazy idea and said to myself, "We can do that!"

Down to the ring I went and set up an obstacle course. Demba, or "BamBam," as we call her, had only been under saddle since January 2009, but she had more guts than my older quarterhorse. BamBam was given to me by very dear friends from Canada. She hadn't done much in her old home besides bullying their two other geldings and eating. My friends were getting older and sold one of their geldings. With one horse gone,

there was more for BamBam to eat and less for her to do: BamBam foundered.

I had been bugging my friends every time they came down to the States to bring her along so I could train her to get experience, since training horses is what I am most passionate about. When she foundered, they called and offered her to me. By the end of the weekend, the situation had been discussed, plans made, and she was mine! On Halloween night 2008 we drove eight hours to Ontario, and I got to see her for the first time. She was six years old, overweight, out of shape, and totally green. I had my work cut out for me! We brought her home, and I started working with her immediately, not knowing that in just one year we'd be having our biggest year ever together.

The first time I ever worked with her, I brought her down to the ring and thought it would be a good idea to hang a tarp on the fence for some desensitizing. As I was hanging the tarp up, I was in shock at how she stood right by my side and watched me fumble with it. So instead of hanging it, I took it off the fence and threw it on the ground. I offered BamBam a carrot to follow me and, without flinching, she walked right over it! Every time I worked with her after that, I introduced something new: from balloons to exercise balls to a little bit of basic dressage work. She picked up everything I could throw at her. She was the smartest, boldest horse I had ever worked with. She trusted me, so we made an awesome team from the get-go.

On her first-ever trail ride, in May 2009, it felt like we had been riding out there all along. Nobody could believe how brave, yet easy-going she was. So when I first said that I wanted to enter the Versatile Horse and Rider Competition, I got a good amount of support. Yet as it drew nearer, and I researched more past videos, my confidence faded. She was only six years old and had only been

under saddle for nine months. We would be going up against trained professionals. And I had no previous show experience. It was a joke. They would never pick us. And then the call came. We had done it! We made it in! It felt like I had won the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes. Shortly after that, I was asked to participate in the Icelandic breed demos as well. So what started out as a joke turned into the biggest event of my whole life!

After I found out that we were definitely in, the countdown was on and we trained like crazy. The weeks flew by, and before I knew it we were in Springfield for the 2009 Equine Affaire. By some stroke of misfortune, I came down with the flu. I would sleep when we weren't practicing for the breed demo, and struggle to make it through the buildings to shop or watch a clinic. When it came time for our first demo, my head was too foggy to be nervous. To my absolute delight, BamBam and I pulled it off without a hitch!

Come the second day, it was like we did this kind of stuff all the time. I was already so proud of her. But by the third day my flu had worsened, and I was living on a strict diet of Motrin. I spent most of the day resting and all of a sudden it was time for the Versatile Horse and Rider Competition. Almost my whole family and everyone that is closest to me had shown up for my big day, which lifted my spirits. About five minutes before I was supposed to enter the coliseum, a wave of panic flowed over me. I hadn't eaten all day and I was hit with a huge amount of adrenaline. I thought I was going to fall off my horse, so my fiance ran and grabbed me a soda and a pretzel. BamBam and I shared the pretzel, and then it was time.

Our names were called, and we went in. It was the most amazing moment! The crowd went absolutely nuts for my fuzzy little "pony." She was the only horse in the competition to receive a response like that. Amazingly, being almost blacked out on adrenaline, we remembered the whole course and finished in what seemed like no time. The only thing I remember about being in there that night was the crowd screaming BamBam's name and cheering so wildly for us. My little "pony" and I went in there and did just as well as the seasoned cowboys and all the "big" horses! Unfortunately we finished 25 seconds over the time limit and didn't place,



Marissa Dillon has ridden Demba (better known as BamBam) twice in Equine Affaire's Versatile Horse and Rider Competition in Springfield, MA.

but it was an experience that I would never trade and will never forget.

I'm still so proud of her for how well she did in 2009, and no one can ever take that away from us. So this year, now that we were "seasoned" I figured we'd go for it again, this time we'd mean business! We worked on what we didn't do so well on in 2009, sent out the video, and waited for the response. By golly we had done it again! And this time I was ecstatic to find out there would be another Icelandic, and a Norwegian fjord! Three "small" horses in this "big" horse sport. I had fierce competition this year, so I knew we had to bring our A-game. With help from a fellow rider, we worked on time, which was our biggest issue last year. And again, all too quickly the big weekend was here.

This year we knew more what to expect, we were focused—and flu-less. I got to enjoy more clinic and shopping time this year, which kept the lingering panic down. I was also kept busy with the breed demos again, with five other fantastic riders and a wonderful horse that was loaned to me for the demos. We had lots of fun putting on the demos, and they helped to boost my confidence. It also made me feel great to help out my fellow Icelandic rider, Caeli Cavanaugh, because it was her first time. I shared some tips and cheered like crazy for her. And they did such a great job!

Then, once the family showed up, we put our game faces on and got ready.

BamBam was almost falling asleep in the warm-up area outside of the coliseum, until we were next in line and we entered the arena. I thought my horse was going to have a meltdown! With every clap and whistle from the crowd, BamBam got more panicked. So my horsemanship came into play, and I talked and patted my horse until she calmed down and we got into the ring for our time to shine. Thankfully because she trusts me, we were able to pull off an outstanding run in which she was almost flawless and fast enough! When we finished our run, I wrapped her in the biggest hug and gave her the biggest kiss for doing such a great job. I've never been more proud of anything in my whole life, I was almost in tears! Although once again we didn't place, it was a fantastic experience and I would recommend that anyone try it at least once. It's a great test of horsemanship and overall it's a super fun time showing just how versatile the Icelandics can be.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE

Editor's note: Both Marissa's and Caeli's 2010 competition rides are available on video on YouTube.

Watch Marissa's ride at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPXPiQ5SnUI>

Watch Caeli's ride at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttqaQI9Xkkg&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL.

HNYKILL

BY REGINA BERRISH

“M o-ommm! What do you *mean* you are buying a horse? You know nothing about horses. Why do you even *want* to buy a horse?”

“I don’t know why,” I told my daughter, who really was asking valid questions, because my background as a New York City gal offered me no equine experience ever, and I was already entering my sixth decade of life. It didn’t make any sense to my logical daughter, and in reality, much less to me.

“Listen,” I said, “I don’t want to just buy a horse. I want *this* horse.” I was referring to a little brown gelding whose name I could not even pronounce and who had just flown to this country from Iceland a few months earlier.

His name is Hnykill, and to say it properly it should sound as though you are gagging on something in the back of your throat. (*Hi- nhkhkhkhkh*). The English translation means, “little ball of fur,” which is exactly what I thought of when I looked at him. I was happy that he had a nickname: Nik.

“He is so nice and so adorable, Alexandra. I don’t know why. I just have to have him. He makes me feel good inside.”

“So, now, Mom, I have to worry about you on a horse? Great.”

And so, of course, I bought him, and of course, I immediately thought to myself, “Okay, now what? What do I do with him?” I had no way of knowing then that Nik was going to take me on a most remarkable personal journey, which is still unfolding today.

As a proud new owner, I kept Nik on his original farm—quite a hike from my home, 100 miles away. Still, I managed to get there a few times each week and never less than once weekly. I would pull out a folding chair from the trunk of my car, set it down outside the riding ring and just sit and stare at all the horses who roamed freely around that farm. When winter came, I sat in the car and was content to feel the peace and serenity all around me, and I loved watching the herd play in the snow and always rewarded them with carrots or apples.

Meanwhile, I really *did* want to ride



Regina Berrish and Hnykill before a ride. Photo by Anne Owen.

Nik, but I didn’t know how, and I admit I was afraid. Occasionally, I would join a slow trek with experienced riders, and I was happy that Nik just followed the crowd. I had learned that in his homeland, he had been trained as a sheep herder, so I prayed when I was on his back that we would never see any sheep he thought he had to herd because, in those days, I didn’t know where his gas pedal, steering wheel, or brakes were. His back was like a chair to me. I sat on the chair, and it moved while I held on for dear life.

I laugh now hysterically at some of

the experiences I had as a “very green” horse owner. One time I decided while at the farm to groom my boy and spend some quality time with him. I pulled a little brown horse out of the herd (and that took courage), tied him to the post and meticulously brushed him, combed him, gave him treats and oohed and aahhed at him for an hour telling him how happy I was that he was my boy while the rest of the herd milled about looking for a loose strand of hay. One little guy kept nudging me, which I found to be frightening at the time, and I tried to shoo him away. I found out later

that I had groomed the wrong horse, to the delight of his owner, and that the nudger was Nik!

Another time, I thought I was “good to go,” having tacked Nik up without help only to be told that I had the bridle upside down and the saddle so loose that it was ready to spin! All this equipment was so foreign to me. And I remember envying riders who would tack up their horses in minutes while I struggled seemingly forever trying to decide which buckle went with which strap. Nik would stand so patiently, not moving a muscle, for as long as it took for me to “get it right,” and in so doing, he began his role as my teacher and friend. I learned to be patient with others in the same way that he was patient with me. Yes, Nik taught me patience.

There came a time when I decided to be serious about riding, and to that end, I moved Nik to a beautiful ranch close to my home where he still lives today with two other Icelandics and a sweet quarterhorse who all became friends. The owner became my friend, who helped me learn how much fun a trail ride could be even though I was still holding on and sitting as a passenger in the “chair.” I know Nik must have sensed my goal to become a better rider, because at this very time, he stepped up his teaching program and presented me with some hurdles I never faced with him before. All of a sudden, he would not allow me to catch him. I tried bribing him with a treat, but he would grab it and run away. I tried begging him (foolishly), and I even tried getting angry with him (more foolishly)—

all without success. One day, I went out to the paddock with a halter and lead rope and an attitude of confidence, and that was the lesson Nik wanted me to learn. He wanted me to show him that I was the boss here and confident enough to take care of him. Maybe it was the way I walked when I approached him or the way I spoke to him that convinced him that I had discovered what he needed in me and had learned how to be confident around him. I’m not sure what it was, but I continued to approach him in the same way as I did that day, and he never again was difficult to catch. Yes, Nik taught me confidence.

It was much the same with mounting him. I could now easily catch him, but no matter what I did, he stopped standing still for me and would move in any direction necessary to prevent me from mounting. The only way I could “climb aboard” was to have someone hold him. Once I was on his back, he was a perfect gentleman and always took excellent care of me on the trails. However, his objections to allowing me to mount got louder and louder until it was so frustrating for me that I would just give up. I couldn’t figure out on my own this time exactly what he was trying to tell me, so I decided to seek professional help with this problem. I searched for a trainer experienced with Icelandic horses and found a magical place and the perfect trainer for Nik and me. Anne Owen of Tolt Farm in Whitehouse Station, NJ, had Nik standing perfectly still for me within one week. Then, she began working her magic on Nik and me as a team. Anne showed

me how to find the tolt and stay in that gait for as long as I wanted. She taught me how to transition from one gait to another and how to make Nik listen to me so that I wasn’t just sitting in a “chair” and hoping it would move! Yes, I was *riding* my boy and tolt, tolt, tolt, tolt through woods and streams and fields!

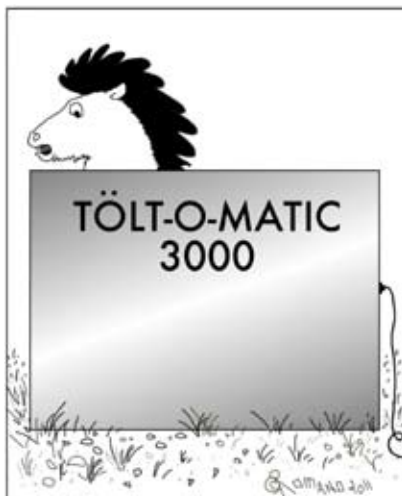
Now, if my daughter were to ask me the question, “Why do you even *want* to buy a horse?”, I know the answer. When you are on the back of a well-trained horse, you feel a sense of freedom such as you’ve never felt before. It is exhilarating!

If there is anyone out there who keeps putting off that dream of owning and riding your very own horse, I would tell you to run and find that horse of your dreams. It is never too late. Even if you are inexperienced, it doesn’t matter. Together, you and your horse can learn, and I assure you that the horses from that far away land called Iceland are kind and sweet and will want to be your friend if you find the one just right for *you*.

I have no doubt at all that it was my little brown horse with the funny name who taught me both patience and confidence and who brought me friends I shall have for the rest of my days. I like to think that deep down in his kind and generous heart, he found a way to teach me the best lesson of all. By being a little mischievous, he led me to a kind and generous teacher, and together, they taught me to ride!

Hmmm! I wonder what his next lesson will be in my life. When I find out—I’ll let you all know!

CARTOONS



BY CHRIS ROMANO

THE YEAR OF THE RESCUES

BY NANCY MARIE BROWN

On May 28, 2008, *Time* magazine announced “An Epidemic of Abandoned Horses”: “Rising grain and gas prices, as well as the closure of American slaughterhouses, have contributed to a virtual stampede of horses being abandoned—some starving—and turned loose into the deserts and plains of the West to die cruel and lonesome deaths,” the magazine reported.

By the time this article was published, I knew the “unwanted horse” was a national problem. I had been following the work of the Unwanted Horse Coalition, a project sponsored by the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Horse Council, and many other equestrian organizations, since its founding in 2005. I wrote about the coalition in the June 2010 issue of the *Quarterly*, in the context of wondering if I should breed my own mare; see “The Horse in My Head,” Issue 2, 2010. I knew there were an estimated 170,000 unwanted horses in the U.S. each year.

But it wasn’t until 2010 that the problem of unwanted horses really hit home. This was the year that over 150 unwanted *Icelandic* horses had to be rescued.

THE FIRST RESCUE

I did not hear of any Icelandic horses being “turned loose” to starve. But in May 2010, Schmaltztopf, a farm that has for many years been included in the USIHC Farm List in this magazine, arranged with FalconRidge, a nonprofit horse-rescue organization in San Diego County, CA, to “rehome”—give away—100 Icelandic horses.

The story is outlined in the blog by Nicki Branch of Falcon Ridge; see <http://falconridgerescuenews.blogspot.com/>.

On May 14, Nicki drove to the farm in Solvang, CA, where the owners signed over 50 horses to FalconRidge. The plan was to move a small number of horses at a time to Monty Roberts’ Flag Is Up Farms, into the care of head trainer Maya Horsey; from there they would be made available for adoption.



“Silke has shown steady improvement since I got her,” Cheryl Herndon notes. “She however has always had a little issue with being touched for the first time each day.” Catching her and then immediately turning her loose again in a small grassy round pen has made her more comfortable with the idea.

The Icelandics, wrote Nicki in her blog posts, were “gorgeous, bright and curious, fat and healthy.” Most had “minimal handling” and were kept “in large pastures on a 100-acre farm where they lazed away their days.” Many of the horses were unregistered—and some unregistrable, since there were several stallions and parentage could not always be verified. The horses’ owners, Nicki continued had “reached the age and time where it became difficult to continue to care for them. Thankfully, they reached out for help.”

A few weeks later, Nicki reported that Petsmart Charities had donated funds for vaccines, wormers, farrier, vet, and castrations for the herd. The USIHC Breeding committee offered to help with registering the horses; that offer was turned down. Many individual USIHC members also offered their assistance. But FalconRidge seemed to have things under control. Several horses had found homes already, Nicki reported on her blog; by June, that number was 22.

By December, however, the situation had changed. On a second blog (<http://icelandicrehomingproject.blogspot.com/>), Nicki wrote that “approximately 75 Icelandic horses are available directly from the breeder.” Flag Is Up Farm was no longer involved, nor was FalconRidge organizing the “rehoming.” The owners of the horses, wrote Nicki, had been “unavailable for several months due to an illness in the family... Now, due to financial constraints, they need to place the remaining horses as soon as possible.” Adopters can “come to the farm and choose the horses themselves.” She referred interested people to the breeders’ website, www.icelandichorsebreeder.com.

But by then, there was competition.

THE SECOND RESCUE

In late October, readers of the Internet list *icehorsesworldwide* were alarmed to learn that 62 Icelandic horses had been sent to Rebels Equine Feedlot in Zillah, WA. They were apparently on their way to a slaughterhouse in Canada. USIHC



Silke and Cheryl Herndon practice going through an obstacle course, which includes a tire filled with sand and a step-up jump made out of railroad ties shaped into a horseshoe with sand in it. "Ground work really makes a difference," Cheryl says.

members and other Icelandic horse enthusiasts made a sustained effort to have the horses taken off the lot before they were shipped to slaughter, and to learn where the horses had come from.

Within a few days all the horses had been bought off the lot—at "meat" prices. According to Helen Love, who set up the Rebels Equine Feedlot Sales Facebook site, "The largest of the ponies weighed over 1300 pounds and sold for \$575, with the mid-range ponies selling for \$475 and the smallest \$375."

As Helen wrote on the Facebook site, "Gotta say this has been one of the wildest days I've ever seen on this board. The Icelandic Pony community has pulled together with a speed and strength, the likes of which I have never seen before... There were so many responses from so many places the phone lines were clogged... But, as of now at least half of the herd will be on its way to new homes by tomorrow. And we will be working to get the rest transported ASAP... I have been assured that, as far as we know at this moment, not a single one of the 62 is in danger of shipping to slaughter."

But many of them still did not have permanent homes, and there were about 25 more horses available at the farm where the 62 had come from, Extreme Icelandics in Ellensburg, WA. Darick Sanderson, an employee at Extreme Icelandics, took responsibility for trying

to find the remaining horses homes. (He has been identified on the Internet as the "farm manager," but he calls himself "just an employee" in a recent post on the Facebook group, Inland Icelandics.) The first group of Icelandic horses had been shipped to the feedlot apparently without his knowledge.

A few days later, Darick sent a message to a USIHC member who posted it to the icehorsesworldwide list: "Thank you all for the interest you have shown in adopting our horses. Due to the overwhelming interest in adopting we are moving to a silent auction. The first adoption will be November 21. There will be a preview of horses starting at 9 AM. Bidding will begin at 11 and end at noon. All proceeds will go to support the USIHC. The remaining horses are not halter broke and unregistered. We are hoping to have a catalog of horses for adoption done before the adoption on the 21st."

An update was posted on a blog, <http://amandasveranda.blogspot.com/2010/11/washington-icelandics.html>. There, we learned that "None of these horses are registerable. That does not mean that they can't bring you years of companionship, smooth riding and joy. Icelandics are incredibly strong friendly horses that are easy to train."

The auction went through, and Darick is continuing to provide many of the new owners with advice and sup-

port through the Facebook page, Inland Icelandics. The unregistrable horses, he explains there, were "unplanned foals" born since 2007. Some of the older horses can be registered, if their new owners are willing to make the effort.

THE DEBATE

The two 2010 rescue situations sparked passionate discussions on several Internet lists on the issue of responsible horse breeding, the cost of rescuing horses, the effect these rescue horses will have on an already weak market, and the definition of a "good" horse. USIHC members and other Icelandic horse enthusiasts debated the proper response to rescue situations in general, including the possibility of organizing an Icelandic horse rescue service or a network of retirement homes for Icelandic horses. They also proposed ways the USIHC could help.

For example, Ed Hilgaertner submitted the following letter to the *Quarterly*:

Irresponsible breeding probably does not begin intentionally, but rather from an inability (or an unwillingness) to think about and plan for the long-range consequences. The attraction of high profits for a relatively limited investment can lure some folks into ignoring the day-to-day difficulties and expenses associated with operating a breeding facility. Additionally, current nationwide economic conditions can contribute to less-than-ideal markets.

The difficulty many of us face is how to deal with the reality of the situation, where individual breeders find themselves suffering from the consequences of their lack of foresight. (This is as nicely as I can put it.)

There is a natural tendency among decent folks to want to “do something” when these situations become public. The difficulty is that, often, both economics and reality get in the way. Few of us can afford the rather large unplanned expenses associated with horse rescue. The larger problem is that often the quality of the animals involved is either not known or questionable, due to the unscrupulous practices of the breeders, and makes registration difficult or impossible. While the “culling” that has occurred over the years in Iceland is to many of us difficult to accept, it is certainly better than the wholesale slaughter of entire herds.

In this country, where individual freedom is highly regarded, it will always be difficult, perhaps impossible, to prevent irresponsible breeders of Icelandic horses from “doing their thing.” Facing this reality may not be comfortable for most of us, but it will continue to happen. I find it remarkable that in my 20-some years of involvement with the Icelandic horse in America, there are only two cases of substantial notoriety thus far.

Continuing education and the evolving natural horsecare movements can certainly contribute to the reduction of abuses to our friend, the Icelandic horse.

THE RESPONSE

When the first rescue situation arose, at Schmalztopf in California, the USIHC Board reached out to see what the Congress could do to help. According to USIHC president Anne Elwell, “Several members of the Congress Board were in contact with the Schmalz family and the organizations working on finding homes for some of the horses. We thought that there might be a helpful role we could take with regard to the registration of some of the horses, and at one point we considered the possibility of waiving registration fees. The Breeding Committee was asked to discuss this possibility and make recommendations to the Board. After lengthy discussion they recommended against a waiver of registration fees, and the Board accepted

that recommendation. No request has come to the Board regarding the second rescue situation,” at Extreme Icelandics in Washington.

Anne continues, “Several members of the Board offered to form a committee to discuss whether or not there is any role that a national breed organization can realistically take to help in these situations. Sara Lyter, chair of the committee, reached out to a number of people who have been interested in the two situations. We have batted the question around and, quite bluntly, haven’t come up with anything much that a national breed organization can do in these situations. Emotions are high, facts are fluid, and each thought seems to give rise to a host of negative consequences.”

Adds Board member Kathy Lockerbie, “When the horses in southern California came into similar circumstances as the ones in Ellensburg, WA, the USIHC Board of Directors discussed what could be done to help the horses and the people who adopted them. Each situation is somewhat different. Because there hasn’t been much we could do in southern California, we have not announced to the membership that we even considered that situation. The Board feels that the members are interested in helping the horses. We need to get something more structured into place, because it appears this type of situation happens more often than we ever believed possible.”

The Promotion Committee has also discussed the problem of what the USIHC can do to help. One solution is to send free copies of the *Quarterly* and a letter inviting the new owners of the rescued horses to join the USIHC and take advantage of the educational resources on the USIHC website. To extend the plan to future rescue situations, the idea is to place a form on the USIHC website where USIHC members can request that this invitation letter and a free copy of the *Quarterly* be sent to anyone to whom they give (or sell) a horse.

Says Anne, “This is the one suggestion in the Rescue Committee so far that is likely to happen.” She adds, “Some members familiar with Registry Rules and Procedures have also offered to be available to answer questions related to registration issues of these horses.”

A HAPPY ENDING

Rescuing a horse is not cheap. Nor is it easy to make a riding horse out of an animal that has lived in a large herd and had “minimal handling” all its life. Ten weeks after the feedlot incident, USIHC member Pamela Nolf writes, “Yesterday, I met up with a woman at a team sorting event (I live in Washington where the Extreme Farms is located) who adopted two Icelandics from the feedlot. She says they are still wild as hares. People at the event seemed surprised at how calm my Icelandic, Blessi, was compared to these youngsters from the feedlot. I don’t know how much training or socialization these horses are getting. At least one of the feedlot horses had to be rehomed already since the new owner couldn’t handle the horse.”

By mid-January, some of the adopted horses were already coming up for “re-adoption.”

Yet for some of the rescued horses there is a happy ending. One such is Silke from Extreme Icelandics in Ellensburg, WA. Silke was adopted by Cheryl Herndon of Wild Acres Stables in Vancouver, WA. Cheryl is a member of the Cascades Club, a USIHC Regional Club. She owns two other Icelandics and is chronicling her training of Silke in a blog, <http://silkesprogress.blogspot.com>. She has given the *Quarterly* permission to excerpt from her blog posts.

Cheryl notes that trainer Dawn Shaw picked up Silke and three other horses in Ellensburg on Nov. 19, narrowly missing a bad snow and ice storm. Cheryl then trailered Silke and another horse rescued by Bonnie and Pedur Swenson from Dawn’s place in Olympia on November 20. She began chronicling her training two days later. Silke spent her first five years in the herd at Extreme Icelandics. She had never been haltered or trailered, nor had her feet ever been trimmed. Says Cheryl, “I am so blessed to have found her and this wonderful breed.” After only a month of training, she reports, Silke is under saddle. She has “some minor objections to direction, but she seems to really like being ridden. She has very beautiful movements and she really loves to run.”

SILKE'S PROGRESS

BY CHERYL HERNDON

November 23: Today was not as good as yesterday, but we accomplished taking the halter off and on a lot. Then she decided she didn't want to be caught...

I am finding out who Silke is. She ... comes up to the rail when I call her name, and she follows me around the space when I am cleaning up after her... I make contact every day, but I don't always ask for progress. If she presents an opportunity I try to use it as a positive re-enforcement. For example, if I ask her to move away, I always ask her to come to me to balance it out.

I am so amazed with my new horse. Silke is now allowing me to ride her. Last night I went out and decided to play for the second time in the day. Our biggest problem is catching her, so I decided it was time for the catching game. I took her into my indoor oval pen and turned her loose and let her go where she wanted. Every time she looked at me I would squat down and turn away. Eventually she started to come to me out of curiosity. When she turned her butt to me, I would apply pressure and send her away, she always came back. So I took the halter off and on several times. Then I started throwing the rope over her back, butt, neck and legs front and back. I went and got my bareback pad and started putting it on and off as if I had done it a million times. She just stood there. I decided it was time to cinch her up. She didn't like it as well, but she accepted it, so I asked her to move. We walked, trotted, and cantered in both directions. As if that were not enough, I was also able to pick up all four feet. When I went to put her away, I decided she needed to be groomed. I even got the tangles out of her tail.

Today I caught her in record time, less than a minute. We played in the big arena. I cleaned all four feet and she just stood there. I decided to put the bareback pad on and see if it was any different. She just stood there and waited; the cinching even went well. I have been working at getting her to the mounting bench and standing still. She didn't disappoint me. She stood still, so I sat on her, she lowered her head as if to



Silke in the pasture at Extreme Icelandic. "Before I picked her out," says her new owner, Cheryl Herndon, "she came up to me and touched me between the wood rails, so I took her picture."

say, "I'm ready, let's go." My friend led me around. I put a bosal with reins on her, and she was okay with that too. We only walked, but she was completely unconcerned. My friend rode her too, and when she was done she slid off her butt! That was fun to watch. Then I decided to put my lightweight western saddle on her. To her it was no different than the bareback pad. I went up and down in the stirrup on both sides. She didn't seem to mind. (I had been jumping up and down beside her daily.) What an awesome mare.

December 11: I went to Florida for a week, so it was interesting to find out what would happen after a week off. I went into her stall, and it was just like the first day. She was very timid. I really thought I had lost everything I had gained. She kept moving away, so I just kept doing approach and retreat. Every time she looked at me, I turned a shoulder to her and squatted down and looked to the ground, very submissive-like. All of a sudden I could see her soften, she remembered! I walked up to her side-to-side and backed my way over to her in a zigzag fashion until I was touching her all over. She let me put the lead rope on. She seemed relieved.

December 12: Today was even better. I was able to catch her in less than a minute.

I took her to my working pen and let her loose. She stood and let me pick up all four feet. She allowed me to brush her, and I sprayed Vetrocyn on a spot on her back that she had when I got her. Spray doesn't bother her either. I put on the bareback pad several times. She moved away after I cinched up a couple of times, so I sent her out and when she looked my way I would back up and turn a shoulder and squat down. She actually started stepping toward me!

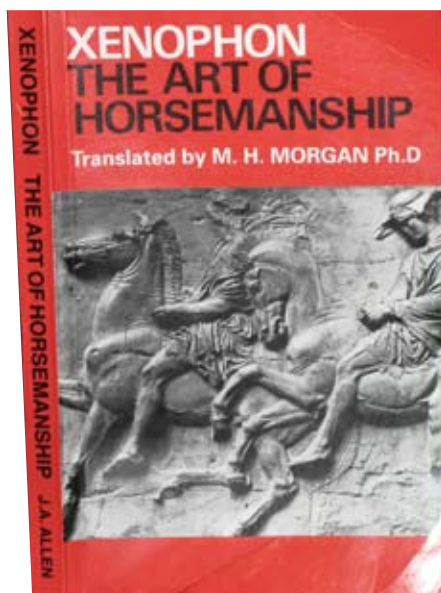
We did several turns with her facing me to change directions, yay! Eventually she followed me all over the pen. I took off the bareback pad and tied her to the post, and went to get my lightweight western saddle, I put it off and on ten times from each side. Then I cinched it up and sent her to the right and then the left. She seemed to like it. So I got a portable mounting block and worked her to stand still to be mounted. First we did the right side and then the left. She would drop her head every time I stepped into the stirrup even on the off side; she didn't seem to know the difference. At one point she took a step when I had all my weight on her, as if to say "Let's go." I didn't ride because I was by myself in the barn and I wanted someone to be a spotter. (By the way I always wear a helmet.)

I left her in the pen for several hours and came back. She followed me all over the pen loose. I also had put up a hot wire at the end with flags on it, so she could get used to our electric fence before being turned out. She honored it well.

December 14: Today was the day to get her feet trimmed for the first time in her life—keep in mind she is five years old, My farrier was amazed. He said he had never had such a good first-time appointment. We evidently prepared her well. He did say that I should also extend her feet out front and ask her to put her foot on something to imitate the farrier stand. I know this sounds silly but today she actually blew out a couple of times, and I knew she had accepted me as her owner and partner.

THE ART OF HORSEMANSHIP

BOOK REVIEW BY BERNIE WILLIS



Many, many books on horseback riding feature quotes from Xenophon. Who was he and why should we care? While perusing the offerings at the gift shop in the Spanish Riding School, I saw it: *Xenophon: The Art of Horsemanship*. It was added to the stack without a second look. This review is about what I discovered inside a while later.

Morris H. Morgan, Ph.D, an assistant professor at Harvard University, translated this book because, he says, he found earlier translations inadequate. His translation was first published in 1894 and has been reprinted eight times, the latest in 2007. There were earlier translations in English (1771), in German (1813), and in French (1825). Apparently the Greek text is available in an Oxford University Press edition.

Morgan's translation of Xenophon consists of only 54 pages in the small 4.5- by 7.25-inch book. But that's not all. Included in the edition is a 37-page essay on the Greek riding horse. In this essay we learn about the man Xenophon, his family, his soldiering, why he wrote the book sometime around 400 BC, and also about the horses of his time. This section is followed by another 10 pages entitled "Points of the Horse," by 10 Greek and

Roman writers of antiquity. The last 85 pages of the book are notes on the text and explanations of the illustrations.

A quick read will only add to your question list. This is a book to be studied. Let me illustrate. On page 17, we read, "A double back is easier to sit upon, and better looking than a single one." The note on page 125 adds, "The idea is that in well built horses, in good condition, the flesh rises on each side of the spine so that the latter does not stick up like a ridge but lies in a slight depression. This quality was of course even more highly appreciated before the days of saddles than it is now."

Here in the translated words of Xenophon are some comments on the rider's seat from pages 40-42: "When the rider takes his seat, whether bareback or on the cloth, I do not approve of a seat which is as though the man were on a chair, but rather as though he were standing upright with his legs apart. Thus he would get a better grip with his thighs on the horse, and, being upright, he could hurl his javelin more vigorously and strike a better blow from on horseback, if need be. His foot and leg from the the knee down should hang loosely, for if he keeps his leg stiff and should strike it against something, he might get it broken; but a supple leg would yield, if it struck against anything, without at all disturbing the thigh. Then, too, the rider should accustom himself to keep his body above the hips as supple as possible; for this would give him greater power of action, and he would be less liable to fall if somebody should try to pull or push him off. The horse should be taught to stand still when the rider is taking his seat, and until he has drawn his skirts from under him, if necessary, made the reins even, and taken the most convenient grasp of his spear."

Xenophon not only shares his experience and ideas but provides the reasoning behind them. After the section on the rider's seat he continues with a step-by-step plan for developing maneuverability. "When the horse gets the signal

to start, let him begin at a walk, for this frets him least. If the horse carries his head low, hold the reins with the hands a bit high; if he carries it somewhat high, then rather low: This would make the most graceful appearance. Next, by taking the true trot, the horse would relax his body with the least discomfort, and come with the greatest ease into the hand gallop. And as leading with the left is the more approved way, this lead would best be reached if the signal to gallop would be given the horse at the moment when he is rising with his right in the trot; for, being about to raise his left foot next, he would lead with it and would begin the stride as he comes over to the left, for the horse instinctively leads with the right on turning to the right, and with the left on turning to the left."

What impressed me most about this book it not what Xenophon knew so many centuries ago, but what we have forgotten from generation to generation. Like many graying adults, I rely more and more upon younger folk to answer my "how to do it" questions about electronic technical stuff. If only each generation had asked their old folks "how did you do it" questions from their past. Fortunately Xenophon wrote about horsemanship for his sons. I wonder if they read what is so interesting for us to read today.

This edition of *Xenophon: The Art of Horsemanship* was published in Great Britain by J.A. Allen (ISBN-13: 978-0851310411).

PRINCIPLES OF HORSE LEARNING

BY PAMELA S. NOLF

We constantly debate different horse training methodologies—Parelli versus Anderson, classical German dressage versus classical French dressage, development of Alpha horse versus partner relationships, etc. I decided I have been getting caught up in labels and trainer personalities, so I thought I would try to switch my thinking from what is a “label” to “how does the horse learn.”

Most of us borrow a technique from TTEAM, a tip from our Pony Club teacher, some Centered Riding, a dash of tolt training from our Icelandic instructor, the friendly game from Parelli, but why do we select those particular training techniques?

My Icelandic horse Blessi is really my best guide to what works for us. He usually likes doing new and different things, but he is quick to respond to something or someone he thinks is unfair, confusing, aggressive, or overly repetitious.

Robyn Hood, who has trained Icelandic horses for over 30 years using Tellington TTouch training, recommends the following litmus tests when trying to find a trainer: “Put yourself in your horse’s hooves and see if you could figure out what the trainer is trying to teach the horse. How does the trainer respond when what he/she is doing doesn’t work and the horse isn’t getting it? Does he keep repeating the same thing, increasing the pressure or does he have alternative approaches? Does he get abusive and/or upset? Remember one of Xenophon’s quotes: ‘When knowledge ends, violence begins.’” (*Editor’s note: See the review of Xenophon’s *The Art of Horsemanship* in this issue of the *Quarterly*.)* Another really important question, says Robyn, is, Could you, the horse owner, do what is being done? Otherwise the horse learns something that you can’t follow through with.

I have heard Robyn say that horses respond well to training that is “chunked



TTeam methods are used during a Starting Young Horses Clinic at The Icelandic Horse Farm, Vernon, BC. Instead of increasing pressure, Robyn Hood and a class participant use grain to encourage Gander to lower his head and move forward a few steps. Photo by Barbara Owens.

down”: the trainer rewards small steps and the trainer has good timing when cuing the horse. I realized that the training techniques that I have found to work best with Blessi follow her general guidelines.

THE TEST OF SCIENCE

I was doing some online research when I came across the following article: “Does Your Training System Stand the Test of Science?” published by the International Society for Equitation Science (ISES). McGreevy and McLean reviewed the scientific research on equine learning theory and ethology to define what equine training principles are effective. The principles they lay out, paraphrased below, apply across all equine training methodologies from natural horsemanship to classical dressage.

1. *Equine learning theory needs to be followed:* Positive reinforcement, negative

reinforcement, and habituation can be used effectively but they must be used properly. Negative reinforcement must have a release, and there should be no prolonged pressure.

2. *Train easy to discriminate signals:* To be clear to the horse, certain signals can only be applied to the appropriate parts of the horse anatomy, and you should not confuse the horse by applying multiple signals at the same time.

3. *Train and shape responses singularly:* In other words, “chunk down” the steps and build them up one by one.

4. *Train only one response per signal:* One signal should have one response, but you can use several signals for the same response (i.e., several different ways to ask for backing on the ground), but once again this should be shaped and developed progressively.

5. *Responses are to be completed within*

a consistent structure to confer predictability: Learned responses should be trained and occur within a certain timeframe so that they become habitual.

6. *Train persistence of responses or self carriage:* We should train the horse to self-carry or continue with behavior without excessive nagging or pressure.

7. *Avoid associations with flight responses/fear because they are difficult to extinguish:* “When animals experience fear, all characteristics of the environment at the time (including humans present) may be associated with the fear. It is known that fear responses do not fade as other responses do, and that fearful animals tend not to trial new learned responses. It is therefore essential that fear is avoided in training.” (ISES, paragraph 9)

8. *Incorporate relaxation and ensure the absence of conflict in training:* Make sure that the horse is relaxed during training. Avoid using uncomfortable tack or restraining devices.

TIES TO ICELAND

When I looked back at the techniques that Blessi and I liked from Methodology X, they followed the above principles. When I looked back at bad experiences that Blessi and I had with Methodology Y, those methods broke the above principles, especially 7 and 8.

Believe it or not, there is a close

tie between ISES and Iceland—and not just through my evaluation of Blessi’s training experiences. For many years, the renowned International Center for Icelandic Horses at Hólar University College, Iceland, had a research association with the University of Pennsylvania.

In 2002, the Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation (associated with the University of Pennsylvania); the University of Lincoln, Great Britain; and Hólar University College, Iceland sponsored a historic conference on horse welfare and behavior at Hólar. Daniel Mills, Principal Lecturer in Behavioural Studies & Animal Welfare, University of Lincoln, Great Britain, proclaimed this conference “probably the greatest gathering in recent times of equine behaviour and welfare scientists, with expertise spanning five decades of research” (2002, para 1).

Scientists from Europe, North America, and Australia traveled to Iceland to present papers on topics such as horse housing, medical research, and social behavior. These presentations can be found online at the Havemeyer Foundation link cited in the references below. The site is a treasure trove of research articles on the Icelandic horse.

Conference attendees acknowledged that the public and science have to take co-responsibility in promoting

the welfare of the horse. Since 2002, scientists specializing in equine research have continued to hold yearly conferences to this end, and ISES was founded as a result of these conferences. ISES’ mission is to apply the results of scientific research to help improve the welfare of horses and their treatment by humans. And to think this all started in Iceland!

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Freyja is a little nervous about going between tarps, so the handler chunks down the exercise. She begins by taking Freyja past one side of the tarps. After Freyja is comfortable going past one side of the tarps, the handler begins to lead the young horse through both tarps. Photos by Barbara Owens.



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.
- [] When possible, use my email address instead of the US Mail to notify me of official USIHC business.
- [] I prefer **not** to receive a copy of the *Quarterly* magazine in the US Mail.

[] Enroll me in the Pleasure Rider Program. **Additional fees required.** Regional Club:

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

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

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

Farm:

Owners:

Address:

City: State/Province : Postal Code: Country:

Phone: Email:

Fax: Web:

Membership Fees & Restrictions			
Individual	\$45/year. One adult. One vote.	Membership Fee:	\$.....
Family	\$65/year. Two adults and unlimited children living in the same household. Adults vote.	Farm Listing Fee:	\$.....
Junior	\$35/year. One child (under 18 years). Not eligible to vote.	Pleasure Rider Program (\$15/adult, \$12/junior)	\$.....
<i>Members in the categories above with non-US mailing addresses must be US Citizens</i>		World Championships Donation:	\$.....
Foreign Friend	\$70/year. One adult non-US Resident/non-US Citizen with limited benefits. Not eligible to vote.	Youth Fund Donation: (optional support for youth programs)	\$.....
		Total:	\$.....

Make checks to "USIHC" and mail to the MAIN OFFICE address.
Congress memberships are for the calendar year. If you join after December 1st your membership includes the following year.

MAIN OFFICE: 4525 Hewitts Point Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, USA
Phone: (866) 929-0009 [extension 1] Email: info@icelandics.org

Application form for volunteers for the World Championship 2011



Dear Volunteers,

we're happy to welcome you as a volunteer for the World Championship 2011. Please fill in the form below in block letters and send it via post or fax to Islandpferde Organisations GmbH. Please find the address in the footer of this form.

Personal data:

Surname..... 1st Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... City.....

Country..... E-Mail.....

Phone..... Mobile.....

Date of birth..... Female Male

Skills and experience

Education/graduation.....

Job experience (e.g. First-Aid, Catering, Security, ...)

.....
.....

Foreign language competence.....

Further information

.....
.....
.....

Islandpferde WM Organisations GmbH • Schwabenlandl 10 • A-5121 St. Radegund/Oberösterreich
Tel.: +43 (0) 6278/8517-0 • Fax: +43 (0) 6278/8517-4 • [E-Mail: info@islandpferde-wm.at](mailto:info@islandpferde-wm.at)

I'd like to work...

- in the morning during the day in the evening at night

Possible timeframes...

Preparation

Starting from now until 25th of July 2011

The concrete schedule of the event will be set up during this phase.

Although there's still time left until the World Championship gets started, the organization has partly begun. We're currently searching for sponsors, signing contracts with fitters and we're working out our official website. Further duties are the creation of volunteer's work schedules and the preparation of the location.

Mounting and assembly

25th of June - incl. 1st of August 2011

During this stage the venue needs to be further prepared for the World Championship.

This phase will require a lot of physical strength. There will be a lot of organizational work – also in our various offices. The sports office for example will welcome riders and horses from all over Europe and USA.

Event

1st of August – incl. 7th of August 2011

It's Showtime! Now the event gets started and there's quite a lot of work to do – selling tickets, serving drinks, cleaning toilets, looking after judges and officials and so on. A lot of volunteers and your organizational talent will be needed. In this phase we'll offer a great variety of different duties.

Dismantling

8th of August – incl. 15th August 2011

At this stage the location will need be cleaned up and temporary buildings (i.e. stands) will be dismantled. Also the final accounting and other duties in financial administration will need to be done.

Accommodation ...

- Camping site** (own caravan/tent needed)
 Gym
 I don't require sleeping accommodation

Privacy Policy...

None of the personal data of the volunteers will be forwarded to any third party.

I agree that my name and country are announced on the website www.islandpferde-wm.at in the category "Unsere fleißigen Helfer".

- Yes** **No**

Date.....

Signature.....

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 Nancy Marie Brown at 802-626-4220 or gaeska513@gmail.com.

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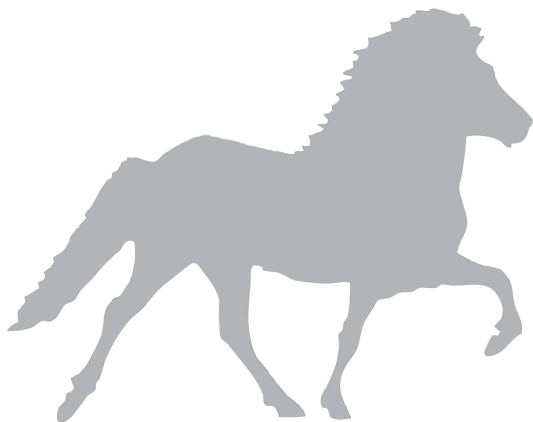
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Svanhildur Stefansdottir will join Barbara in Battle Ground, WA (20 minutes from Portland, OR), April 9-10. Fees are \$380 per horse. Stall fees are extra.

Gudmar Petursson will join Barbara in Prospect, KY, April 16-17. Fees are \$295 for USIHC members (\$335 for non-members); auditing is \$100 (\$140 non-members). Stall fees are extra.



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For more information on this or future seminars, contact the Education Committee at education@icelandics.org.



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