



*Thank You to Mary Carol Harsch for the Region IV Basket at the ACSP Annual Meeting*

## **NOTE FROM THE CHAIR**

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Region IV Chair. After a career on Wall Street and at Merrill Lynch, I'm now retired and live with my husband Bill in Camden, SC – the “Steeplechase Capital of the World” and “Oldest Inland City in South Carolina”.

I fell in love with Connemaras many years ago when I met Greystone Ian McVai while foxhunting in Charlottesville, Virginia. But I didn't own my first Connemara until the mid-90's when I bought Cloud Cover (aka “Ceile” or formerly “Petey”). Ceile, age 26, is with me still and is as full of himself as ever and was in-hand Reserve Champion at our last Region IV show. I've had two wonderful half-breds in the past – one (Piedmont Riviera) is excelling in the hunter ring and the other (Tully McVai) is making his mark as a dressage horse. I have just added a purebred mare to my little herd (Marshfield's Summer Keavey by Kerrymor Madison and out of a Caymus John mare) and plan to breed her in the spring. An exciting first for me! I've ridden since I was six and foxhunted with Arapahoe (CO), Farmington (VA), Mecklenberg (NC) and Camden (SC) where I now live. Several years ago I did quite a bit of low level eventing as well. I supported the Region III show when I lived in North Carolina and since moving to Camden in 1989 have been involved with Region IV. I've been our newsletter editor for many years and for the past couple of years have played the role of Hospitality by sending out welcome packages to new Connemara owners in our Region. I'm really excited to be chosen as the new Chair for our Region and plan to be very involved. Our Region IV Committee is wonderful – lots of experience and desire to promote our special breed.

Several of us (Carole Moss, Vanessa and Charlie Morgan, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, Mary Carol Harsch, Donna Miller Megan Harris and I) attended the ACPS Annual Meeting in Alpharetta, GA, in October. We put together our Region IV Committee for 2011 – Kate Denton, Chair and Hospitality; Vanessa Morgan, Secretary; Megan Harris, Store and shoe committee; Carole Moss, Newsletter and show committee; and Beth Davidson, Show Committee chair. We talked about our 2011 show – to be held at Poplar Place Farm in Georgia in June. We'd also hoped to have a trail ride in the Georgia mountains this month – but couldn't get a critical mass of people together. Hope we can plan this again in the spring.

We have opportunities to increase Connemara promotion in our area by offering Connemara ribbons at open shows. We are looking for a volunteer to lead this effort. We would also like to see if there are opportunities to get rated Connemara divisions in existing hunter shows. Please check with the rated shows in your area to see if we can make this happen.

Vanessa has agreed to maintain a Region IV ponies for sale list that will be included in the newsletter and linked to the Region IV webpage. Members need to send text suitable for copy and paste for the sales list. Ads will be removed from the list after three months unless otherwise notified. Send “for sale” listings to Vanessa at

[Vanessa@compfxnet.com](mailto:Vanessa@compfxnet.com)

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Several of us will be attending the USEF annual meeting in Lexington, KY, in January. There will be a meeting of the USEF Connemara Committee as well as various ACPS Committee meetings and a Board of Governors meeting. All ACPS members in Region IV are invited to attend.

Happy New Year! (and give your ponies an extra carrot for me!), Kate Denton, Region IV Chair

### **ACPS BUSINESS, OLD AND NEW**

#### **Concerning the BOG and ByLaws changes, from ACPS Chair Sally Oxnard:**

We did have an official proxy, with 115 proxies, all of whom voted for the new BOG candidates. I am happy to say that we have indeed elected our new BOG members, and at > the annual meeting we had voted to welcome them once elected. So congratulations to Cathy and Marilyn who are re-elected, and to Michael, Ginny, Gloria, and Vanessa who are elected (or re-elected as the case may be) and many thanks to Chris, Donna, Denise, and Kathy who are leaving us. I hope they will not be far away.

I hope to see most of you there for the January meeting.

Thanks- Sally O

#### **What do the new Bylaws mean to me??**

After mailing a second set of proxies out, we finally attained a quorum and passed the new Bylaws. Thanks to all of you who sent yours in. We will plan to do the next set electronically. Now the question is, what difference do they make??

For the Regions, the first difference will be how we elect our Region Chair and our Regional Governor. The new wording provides that that may be one person or two- if the chair wants to attend at least one ACPS BOG meeting a year to represent her Region, she may be the Regional Governor which is a three year term. If she (or he) does not, we elect a different Regional Governor. BUT only the voting members of the society may vote. That means the Senior or Life or Family members. Associate members do not vote. So if you want to vote, please step up to a Senior membership.

This means that we will have to have the nominating committees in the Regions check with the Region Chair, and be sure she will be generous enough to run again and wants to be a Regional Governor in time to have an email ballot go out and then the votes be collected at our regional meeting. And we need a quorum which is a majority of the members in the Region to vote!! In Region 1 that is at Field Day in May. It needs to be at least a month before the Annual Meeting of the BOG which is usually in September, so the ACPS Pres can be notified a month before the BOG meeting.

Likewise if the Chair does NOT want to be a Regional Governor, we elect that person every 3 years by ballot of the voting members in the Region.

So this means that each Region needs to have a mailing list (and email list) of their VOTING members. My hope is that this will encourage Connemara folks who are not members to become members and be more involved, that the Associate members will become voting members, and that those of you who have a vote will USE IT!!

Happy 2011!

Sally Oxnard, ACPS Pres

#### **RENEW NOW!**

Your membership in the American Connemara Pony Society will expire on December 31, 2010. In order to have your name listed in the 2011 Membership Directory, it will be necessary for you to renew your membership NO LATER THAN MARCH 30, 2011.

You can renew your membership online at [www.acps.org](http://www.acps.org) or by mailing in the application and a check.

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### Pony Inspections 2011:

I am being pressured to get a tentative head count of ponies who wish to be inspected in 2011 (probably in conjunction with our annual show in June). The head of the Inspection Committee would like this information by the end of the month (Dec 2010). We will need to have our preliminary list together for the Connemara meeting at the USEF annual meeting in January. So ... if you have a pony that you think you'd like to be inspected, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you have questions about inspection requirements, please contact me at [billandkate@truvista.net](mailto:billandkate@truvista.net)

Many Thanks, Kate Denton

### 2011 Calendar

- ☘ The American Connemara Pony Society will reconvene the 2010 ACPS General Meeting of the Membership At 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, **January 22**, 2011 At the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Lexington, KY
- ☘ *TENTATIVE:* Region IV Pony Show 2011 is penciled in for **June 25-26** at Poplar Place Farm, Hamilton, GA, in conjunction with their schooling show. Beth Davidson is our Show Chairman.
- ☘ Region III Show 2011 is set for **July 16-17** at Glenwood Park.

### Your new 2010-2011 Regional Committee:

CHAIR/HOSPITALITY Kate Denton (SC) 803-432-9850 [billandkate@truvista.net](mailto:billandkate@truvista.net)  
TREASURER: Stephanie-Fenton Hickey (GA) 770-474-6299 [sfenton@cbbullard.com](mailto:sfenton@cbbullard.com)  
STORE: Megan Buchanan Harris (GA) 770-833-5159 [fade2greyfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:fade2greyfarm@yahoo.com)  
SHOW CHAIRMAN: Beth Davidson (FL) 813-365-0520 [pcwertb@yahoo.com](mailto:pcwertb@yahoo.com)  
SECRETARY: Vanessa Morgan (TN) 423-744-9071 [vanessa@compfxnet.com](mailto:vanessa@compfxnet.com)  
NEWSLETTER: Carole Moss (TN) 423-698-1217 [cmoss41@comcast.net](mailto:cmoss41@comcast.net)

## NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION

*If you ever doubted "Connemaras Do It All", note the variety of pony activities happening in our region!*

### Show News from the Lewis family:

Avery Lewis (9) from Oxford, Georgia, leased Balmullo's Beacon (Bubba) from Vanessa Morgan in August of this year. Since then, the pair have done quite well in the show arena. In September and October they entered two local dressage shows and entered 4 classes at the Intro Level and one at Training Level (dressage score 67%) and won all five, winning overall champion honors for the two combined shows. They also entered the HJ Fox Hunter Classic in late October at The Georgia International Horse Park, and won 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> in the six Short Stirrup classes that they entered. Lastly, in late November they entered the HTPC Combined Training Show in Conyers, GA, and took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Tadpole class and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Beginner Novice class. In late November Avery progressed to her D3 Pony Club rating, and is working toward her C1 rating in 2011.

Avery has come, in the short time that she has ridden Beacon (Bubba), to develop a great deal of trust and confidence in her Connemara friend. Beacon has become a favorite on our family farm, moving to the top of the horse hierarchy. He truly is a wonder horse, and we look for many more great performances from the pair in the coming year.



*Avery Lewis on Balmullo's Beacon*

**Farm and Eventing news from Megan Buchanan Harris & Nancy Buchanan, Brambleridge Farm, Fayetteville, GA:**

The Brambleridge ponies will soon be relocating to Moreland, GA in Coweta County (the county South West of Fayette). Megan and her husband, Lee, are building a new farm there. Their property is actually in the Bear Creek Hounds hunt territory, so they will have access to more than 2500 hundred acres to ride on! Moving is guesstimated to be late January, or early February.



We have one new addition to our current herd, Balius Miakoda, 'Kody', joined us this fall. She was bred by Sally Green in NM, and Mary Yeager purchased her when she was a yearling to compliment her breeding program. She is by Tre Awain Cavan O'Conner and out of the imported mare, \*Tyan Travellers Joy. She's had three foals by \*Kilfenora Windy Isles, and is expecting one in March '10 by Moxley Duncan. She started her under saddle training this fall, and will resume after her foal is born this spring.

Megan moved Owen up to Training level after AEC's; they competed at Poplar Place in late September and brought home 3<sup>rd</sup> place. They wrapped the season up with a run at Chattahoochee Hills, earning a 4<sup>th</sup> place ribbon

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on their dressage score. Owen spent two months relaxing in the pasture, and is now preparing to run his first horse trial of the 2011 season in January.

### **Breeding News from Julie in Florida:**

Congratulations to Bill and Mary Jane Benson of Willow Bend South. Ivydell Jesse James, 2010 model Connemara cross gelding, was visiting their farm to have his feet trimmed, and Mary Jane fell in love with him. Bill's protests were overcome, and I predict that in a couple of years we will see Mary Jane and Jesse competing in CDE! Jesse is out of Ivydell Isabell and sired by that rascally fence jumping Arabian, BR Dream Shadow.

Julie VanderMeer, Ivydell Farm, Fountain, FL [www.ivydell.com](http://www.ivydell.com)



*Isabell and baby Jesse James*

### **Eventing Report from Barbie Beckford:**

Buddy (Balmullo's Swamp Fox: Seven Hill's Grey Ghost X Ballywhim's Candace) and I travelled up to Chesterfield, South Carolina last week, November 19-21 to compete at Novice level in the inaugural HEART OF THE CAROLINAS 3-Day Schooling Event at Southern Eights Farm. <http://www.classiceventing.com/EventingLogon/short.html>

Brad Turley, owner of Seven Eighths fell in love with long format eventing when he rode steeplechase a few years back. He made it his dream to promote the classic format (which includes Roads & Tracks and steeplechase) for lower levels beginner novice through training. These levels are normally not included in classic format three day events. In pursuit of this dream, Brad brought together advanced level riders and trainers Dom and Jimmy Schramm, FEI course designer Tremaine Cooper, FEI veterinarian Debbie Williamson, TD Cindy Deporter along with additional first rate staff including Shelley Spielman who organized the event. The purpose of this event was to teach those of us who've never participated in a classic format what it's about and how to do it. From the moment we arrived at the farm it was a bit like being on a Carnival Cruise vacation we were treated so well; everyone's goal was to help us learn about this and feel comfortable and safe. Every one of them made it clear that there were no stupid questions.

Friday morning began cool, bright and sunny with a group ride through the Roads & Tracks courses lead by Brad. These phases A and C were 2.2 and 3.3 km trails through beautiful, hilly, wooded and open terrain complete with

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improved footing, bridges and creeks. Following Roads & Tracks schooling we split into 2 groups by competition division and rode to the steeplechase course to be schooled by Dom & Jimmy Schramm. Most of us had never ridden steeplechase before. Novice and training levels rode together and we all schooled over a training height steeplechase jump which was 3'9" with the brush. I was not alone in being petrified but Dom calmly schooled every one of us over the jump at least three times. Even though Buddy could barely see over the brush, he jumped it like it was nothing. Dom discussed the differences between riding steeplechase and cross country and had each one of us gallop 1km at speed to learn what the steeplechase pace felt like. Following this we returned our horses to the barn, broke down into our competition levels and met Tremaine Cooper for a cross country course walk. Tremaine designed the course and when walking us through it discussed both how to ride it and the reasoning behind his design of the course. The jumps were absolutely beautiful, all maximum height and width and the course included bridges, streams, banks up and down and water with a fountain. Tremaine somehow managed to design the jumps to be huge yet inviting. They are the biggest I've ever jumped yet didn't scare me as many have in the past--they were just fun! After walking cross country we all converged at the barn, rushed to braid and clean up our horses and selves and met for the first inspection where Dr Debbie Williamson and TD Cindy Deporter tutored us on how to jog and present our horses to the jury. That evening we all met for a wine and cheese meet & greet and were given our final schedules for the next day.

Saturday morning began with dressage. Buddy had fallen in love with his trailer-mate and was pretty wound up about being separated from her. Our dressage was adequate but scores reflected his lapses in roundness & relaxation. We scored a 40.5 and were in 3rd place after dressage--the judging was fairly tough, the best score being a 34. We started Roads & Tracks phase A at around noon and once again Buddy was pretty distraught at being separated from his gal & pulled me around the 2.2 KM course. Not being familiar with the pace of this phase, nor how his or my stamina would hold up through this marathon, I tried to keep him at a slow trot and ended phase A going into B-steeplechase with some slow time penalties. Buddy ate steeplechase up--he "got" it and galloped and jumped boldly around the 2 lap/4 jump steeplechase course (phase B) like a champ. Phase C Roads & Tracks was a 3.3 km cool down after steeplechase and we walked and trotted it, again with Buddy pulling most of the way. We arrived at the 10 minute box for our pre-cross country vet check and were told that Buddy was a "standout" in how good his temperature, pulse and respiration were. We were released from the 10 minute box with an excellent bill of health. Phase D, cross country--what it's all about was next. I had been told that there's something about the steeplechase that gets horses in focus for cross country and it was true. Buddy has never been as bold or focused. Again, these were the biggest fences we'd ever ridden, along with bigger and more hills and tougher footing. My Connemara pony ate it all up, jumping everything boldly and galloping up and down the hills. It was absolutely fabulous. We arrived back at the vet check and Buddy's vitals were pretty much the same as before he ran cross country--piece of cake. We were released to return to the barn. Provisional scores posted that night put us in 1st place!

Sunday morning began with our final inspection which everyone passed. Dr Williamson had warned us the night before that our horses would likely be sore and we should get them out and warm them up WELL before the 9:30 AM inspection. For our safety, they were not going to allow any unsound horses to continue on to stadium jumping. Fortunately we all passed! The stadium course was as beautiful as cross country with well-packed beach sand providing excellent footing. As one end of the ring had an entire wall of mirrors and we were all worried that our horses would spook they let us hand walk our horses up to the mirrors. Buddy nickered at himself. The course was actually more of a "derby" in that after the 5th jump, you rode out of the ring, across to another ring which included a hill and a bank up, then back into the first ring for the last 2 jumps. Buddy jumped excellently and we were clear.

We won the novice division and also won "fittest horse". When the judge announced us she mentioned that Buddy is barefoot and called him "one tough pony".

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It was a fabulous experience and I am a confirmed classic format event rider now. Buddy clearly has the stamina and boldness. I've been a distance runner all my life, am used to endurance training and really enjoy this longer format. This format flows better than a standard horse trials and for all the work and preparation, it seems you get a whole lot more riding for your money! I encourage anyone who events to give a classic format event a try.

Southern Eighths Farm will be doing another schooling/training event such as this one and also will be hosting a recognized classic format event in April. I believe this will be the first of its kind: a recognized long-format event at the lower levels for beginner novice through training level. Buddy and I will be there attempting to qualify for the AECs!

I know we all feel this way after a successful outing such as this. But this morning as I watched Buddy eating his well deserved breakfast, there was no doubt in my mind that I have the best horse in the entire world.



*Barbie Beckford & Balmullo's Swamp Fox*



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### Endurance Race report from Peggy Clark:

Connemaras are not necessarily known for endurance racing...jumping, fox hunting, driving, eventing, family best friends, absolutely!...endurance racing, not so much...except at our house. TLC Chatta, the last foal of the golden cross Big Bear's Special Order x Big Bear's Georgia Whiskey (\*Kill Dara Swift Jonathan) is, at last (we waited til she was 4 1/2 to start her), under saddle and on the trail...

If you were unaware, endurance is a timed race across country, with strict veterinary oversight, mandatory fit to continue exams, and enough action and fun to choke the proverbial horse. Chatta comes to the sport honestly. Bear, her sire, raced from age 4 til age 12, when he was stricken with COPD, then hit by lightning and killed. Crystal, her dam, started at age 18 after a successful show career, and did her last race at age 22. Nvyo, Chatta's full sister, started her career at age 4 and still competes, qualifying for the AERC National Championships in the 100 and the 50 every year.

We refer to Chatta as the terrorist, because her opinion is the only one that matters; she rules the universe. Going 25 miles a day is easy, and all the food available makes life grand. Her first ride, we woke to find her still confined in our camp, so the weekend was a success. After her trailer buddies left for their own efforts, the terrorist did her (convincing) imitation of the warrior pony airs above the ground. Tacking up was exciting, and to be honest, I was not convinced that I was going to live through a ride. Her in-hand presentation brought gasps of amazement - both for the quality of movement, and the spooking at strange tigers in the trot lanes.

It took a very large friend to hold her so I could mount, she was that jacked up. However, as soon as I was mounted, there was a total personality change. Now the terrorist was professional-pony. We trotted down the trail, no spooks, no bucks, no nothing. When the trail buddy left, Chatta did not care - like at all! I pushed the trot button and got 7.5 miles per hour for 15 miles. Two hours, excellent for a first ride on a less fit pony! She learned a couple of valuable skills, too: poop and continue to move forward, canter!, and drink out of strange containers. All important. At the midway check, she pulsed in with a 56 heartrate, and all A's on hydration, metabolic parameters, and lameness checks. The second trail segment was exactly like the first, and that NEVER happens. We finished 41st, and I was proud.

I sponsor junior riders, and needed a mount for the next weekend. My other two horses were down, one with an abscess the size of New Mexico, and the other with a healing hairline fracture of the femur. My only option was Chatta...

Off we went. Normally, I don't take a young or new horse on back to back weekends, but after consulting with my vets, and the ones who vetted her at the first ride, Chatta was cleared for her next adventure. If possible, she behaved even better. Her newly learned canter stood her in good stead, netting an 8 miles per hour pace; 30 miles was easily finished, with pony to spare. We finished 13th. That was the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Now it is the Wednesday before Christmas, and the terror is back in full form. We have been informed in no uncertain terms that it is time to be back on the trail, and I am planning my attack for chasing points in 2011... Merry Christmas to you and yours, Peggy Clark and Chatta the wonder-terrorist

### Drill Team news From Boots Plyler:

Elk Creek O'Connor (4 year old gelding, Elphin Song Sparrow X Tower Hill Carmody) and I were members of the Foothills Foxes Drill Team which performed at the Rotary Jousting Tournament in Travelers Rest, SC, in October. It was a bit of a push for Connor who had only been to one show, but he behaved very well. He was the smallest at 14.2 with the largest being an Irish Draught!



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*Boots and Connor (center)*

## **Combined Driving report from Carole Moss:**

In November I had the delight to "gator" for Vanessa Morgan and her mare Foothills Hopefully in the Katydid CDE in Aiken, SC. They competed in Training Single Pony, a hotly contested division with 17 entries. Although the pair did not place in their first CDE, against many seasoned competitors, Vanessa and Hope performed flawlessly and had a great time! And all this as Hope had been in harness less than 90 days! Hope behaved beautifully in all three phases, Dressage, Cones and Marathon. The Katydid judge was WEG medalist Chester Weber. Congratulations Vanessa and Hope!



Thank you to the ACPS Awards committee for my Adult Scholarship for 2011. I plan to further my CDE training with a Connemara as well! Looking forward to more fun in 2011!



Farm Greetings from Kate and Bill Denton, South Carolina:



Happy New Year! Max and Minor, watching us being silly on New Year's Eve

**CLASSIFIEDS:**

**For Sale:** Homemade Chocolate (Dillon), a 15.2 H, 2003 gelding, is by the popular Balmullo's Beacon (Con) out of a TB event mare. He has good confirmation and is a pretty and correct mover. He was started a few years ago, but I have not had the time to continue riding him. He has good manners, stands well for the farrier, loads and hauls quietly. He will be ideal for anyone wishing to event, jump or dressage.

Contact Holly Prosis at Rainy Knob Ranch, 865-216-2549 or 865-556-7548 or [www.rkrlowlines.com](http://www.rkrlowlines.com)



*Homemade Chocolate*



## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR PONY OWNERS THROUGHOUT OUR REGION:

### Hay Quarantine:

Go to [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/fireants/downloads/fireant.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/downloads/fireant.pdf) to view the map of the hay quarantine areas in the US.

Restrictions are imposed on the movement of regulated articles from the quarantined areas into or through the non-quarantined areas. Consult your State or Federal plant protection inspector or your Ag county agent for assistance regarding exact areas under regulation and requirements for moving regulated articles. See 7 CFR 301.81 for quarantine details and regulations. Additional information can be found at <http://fireants.utk.edu/>. "In talking with Gray Haun, the Plant Certification Inspection Administrator in Nashville (615) 837-5338, I learned that it is a \$500/violation fine for moving hay from one quarantined county into a non-quarantined county inside TN. If it is moved from one state into another state, it becomes a federal issue and the penalties are greater, but Mr. Haun could only tell me what the Tennessee penalties were. FMI call the East TN Hay Inspection Service at 865-594-6098. Joanne Mitchell has since been contacted her Plant Certification Inspector for Monroe County. He came and saw that all our hay was not in direct contact with the ground, because it was up on wood pallets. He said he would send me the paperwork that I had to sign with the *permit number* that would be good for one year. That way if I was ever caught next year in an unquarantined area, I could show them the permit number and be all right. Seems like a lot of unnecessary bureaucratic paperwork to me but did not cost me anything."

Another resource, see this website: <http://southeastfarmpress.com/hay-quarantined-halt-fire-ants>

From the Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen, Dec 2010 [www.sabch.org](http://www.sabch.org)



*May you have warm words on a cold evening,  
a full moon on a dark night,  
and the road downhill all the way to your door.*

Thank you to everyone for your contributions to our Newsletter!

Please keep 'em coming, anytime during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carole Moss**

Reg IV Newsletter Editor

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