

The Pony Parade

www.NPSAmerica.org

Chairman's Welcome!

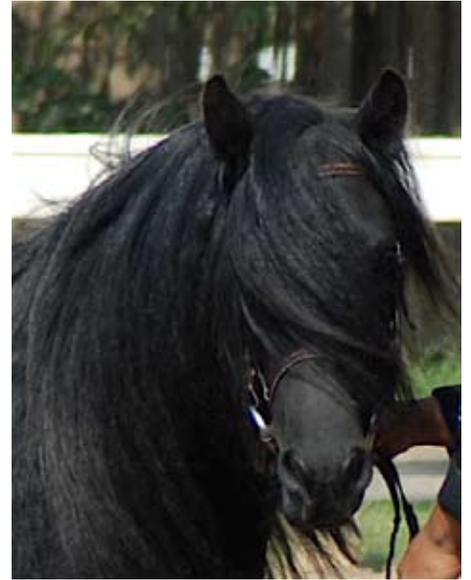
Welcome to our first Newsletter! In a correspondence recently, I used the phrase "Now that NPS America is up and running". After writing that phrase, I had to stop myself and ask: are we really running? It often feels more like crawling; crawling ever so painfully slow in fact! Then, however, I reminded myself that you have to walk before you can run, crawl before you can walk. We have so much to do, so many great ideas surfacing, and so many wonderful folks coming on board. We have accomplished a lot in a short time and we are accomplishing more every day with a great group of dedicated volunteers who are giving their best efforts.

Our membership information is now available online and I encourage all Mountain & Moorland and British Riding Pony enthusiasts to join. Let your voice be heard – whether it be via emails, volunteer positions, or future elections. NPS America is here, with your help, to shape the face of British Native ponies in America. Continue to check our website for updates and improvements – there will many additions in the coming year.

Our plan is to put out two newsletters a year - summer and winter. Please communicate news about events or special recognitions received by Mountain & Moorlands to our Newsletter Editor, Kelly Davidson Chou. We also want pictures of you and your ponies showing, competing, and having fun. You can reach Kelly at Kelly@NPSAmerica.org. Let her hear from you!

Best wishes for a fun filled summer with your favorite ponies,

Kathryn Rayner Freeman



Rene Bender's Fell Pony stallion
BroughHill Hadrian's Wall

Our Mission

To support, promote and recognize the Mountain & Moorland and British Riding Ponies in the United States.

NPS America Council Members:

Rene Bender
Roger Cleverly
Kelly Davidson Chou
Elaine Dunson
Kathryn Rayner Freeman
Anna Hill
Caroline Nesbitt
Wendy Rowe

and a British Riding Pony
Representative TBA!

A Letter from the NPS America President

In the spring of 2007 I received an e-mail from Kathryn Rayner Freeman about the National Pony Society (NPS) and British Native Ponies in general. We exchanged emails for several weeks before she asked me if I could recommend an NPS judge that would come over to California to judge the Mixed Mountain and Moorland classes at the West Coast Connemara Show. I jumped at the chance. Although I had lived in Southern California for three years as a teenager, I had never been to Northern California.

In August my friend Gemma Stanford and I flew to LA and then took a flight on to Sacramento. We were met by Kathryn and her family whom we stayed with during much of our trip. After a day of touring and sightseeing we were picked up and taken to the show at Brookside Equestrian Center in Elk Grove. There were lots of lovely ponies and the show was really well organized. Even the weather was good to us. A cool breeze kept up all day which I was very pleased about. Because England has such a cool climate, if it had been as hot as it sometimes can be, we could have found it difficult to cope. In the evening there was a BBQ and I gave a talk on British Native Ponies. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming it made our time at the show very enjoyable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathryn and her family for taking such good care of Gemma and me. I would also like to thank all of you who brought your beautiful ponies to the show for me to judge. It was a wonderful experience!

While I was over in the States it was a great opportunity to discuss and plan the creation of NPS America. As NPS Chairman this was too good an opportunity to miss. Kathryn had already put the idea to me by e-mail; I had discussed the idea with the rest of the council and went hoping to get all the details sorted. Kathryn, Kelly, Roger and the rest of the team had a good idea of how they would like the new organization to go, so our discussions were invaluable. I am delighted that NPS America is now well and truly on course for a great future. This new overseas chapter has inspired Native Pony and British Riding Pony enthusiasts in Austria and Germany to begin negotiations to form NPS Europe. You are all trend setters!

I am so proud to have been asked to be your first honorary President and will do all I can to help and advise. I congratulate the founding members of NPS America - this is truly history in the making! I wish all of you good luck for the future.

Mrs. Linda Impey



Mrs. Linda Impey and her home bred Highland mare Oak Croft Connista - affectionately known as "Connie".

Current Founders Circle Members

- Davidson Dales Pony Farm
- Dream Hayven Farm Fell Ponies
 - Elaine Dunson
 - Epona's Pasture
- Free Rayn Hill Connemaras

See your farm, family name, or enterprise here and on our Founder's Circle Web page
www.NPSAmerica.org.

Become a founding member today!

Greetings From the Secretary

As your Secretary, I am very excited about the future of NPS America. Though we are just getting started, we have the potential to greatly benefit M&M ponies and their owners in the United States. NPS America provides a chance for all British native pony owners, breeders, and enthusiasts to work together to create competitive, educational, and networking opportunities that can benefit all of us.

A perfect example is the annual Pacific Coast Classic Welsh Show in September at the Brookside Equestrian Center in Elk Grove, CA. From this small showing opportunity in 2006, NPS America was born. I always enjoy watching the different M&M breeds in the show ring and I know the audience does too! I am excited to be attending and exhibiting at the Equus Survival Trust Event at the Kentucky Horse Park where more owners will share their ponies with the public.

Many thanks to Kathryn Rayner Freeman and Kelly Davidson Chou for endless work making NPS America happen. Kelly's husband and computer "genius" Al Chou deserves special recognition for creating our wonderful Web site. I also want to acknowledge the council members and volunteers for their involvement. And of course, Linda Impey, our honorary President, deserves a very special thank you. Without her belief in us, NPS America would be nothing but wishful thinking!

If you are currently a member we really appreciate your vote of confidence in us. If you aren't yet a member, I really hope to be hearing from you soon! Our membership will determine just how effective this new organization will be.

Elaine Dunson



NPS America Secretary Elaine Dunson with her Fell Pony gelding Stonecreek Magical Celebration.

Join NPS America Now!

Become an NPS America Member! You do not need to join the NPS in the UK to become a member of NPS America. Membership in NPS America has a number of benefits:

- Participation in NPS America awards programs.
- Place to network with other M&M and British Riding Pony enthusiasts.
- Eligibility for NPS America educational scholarships.
- Eligibility to participate in NPS America Committees, hold NPS America Officer positions, and vote in NPS America elections.

Membership Levels

Junior (under 18 years): \$25

- All benefits noted above except will not be allowed to vote in NPS America elections or hold NPS America elected positions.

Standard: \$35

- All benefits noted above (one individual membership and one vote).

Family/Farm: \$50

- Family members are the parents/guardians and all children under the age of 18 years living in the same household with said parents/guardians. A family membership shall be entitled to one vote per parent/guardian (limit two). Children under 18 years of age shall be designated as Junior Members.
- Farm membership allows for ponies owned by farm members to earn points for year end awards regardless of the membership status of the pony's exhibitor. Farm membership will be entitled to two votes.

Lifetime – Founder's Circle Special: \$300

- Lifetime membership is a one time fee for the lifetime of an individual/farm. Between May 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008, NPS America is offering Founder's Circle membership for a reduced rate of \$300. Founder's Circle membership is a one time offer, and Lifetime membership will increase to \$400 as of January 1, 2009.

**Please Visit
www.NPSAmerica.org
for more information and an application**

Join Today!

NPS America Sponsors the First Mountain & Moorland Breed Awards at Ram Tap CDE 2008!

Though still a very new organization with a small membership (and an even smaller bank account), NPS America wanted to start the 2008 show season off with some fanfare. The dream of holding our own Mountain and Moorland (M&M) show is still a ways off, but we wanted to make our presence felt in some way. As many of us know, M&M ponies have found success as dressage competitors, 3-day eventers, hunter/jumpers, competitive trail ponies and even as endurance mounts. But it seems hard to argue that the biggest M&M impact has been in the carriage driving world. With that in mind, NPS America decided to pilot test an M&M breed awards program at the Ram Tap Combined Driving Event (CDE) in Fresno, CA last April. This is the longest ongoing major CDE on the West Coast - a perfect venue to see what we could pull off!

As NPS America Vice Chairman I did a little homework and soon discovered that the M&M breeds at the 2008 event included a Dales Pony (OK ... not much work there, it was my stallion!), a Connemara Pony and all sections of Welsh Ponies and Cobs. I had heard rumors that a Fell gelding was entering, but unfortunately, he never materialized.

We decided that part-breds would be allowed to compete for the awards but all ponies had to be registered with either a North American or UK M&M breed society. It took a few phone calls and e-mails (and more phone calls and e-mails) but eventually I got in touch with all the M&M owners/competitors to find out which ponies were registered. From there I could figure out the classes and order the ribbons. I even placed an NPS America advertisement in the Ram Tap Program, but many of the competitors were still surprised to get their awards! Below are the winners from each of the six classes. Congratulations to all!

Kelly Davidson Chou

- Training Single Pony - Denise Hinder - Smoke Tree Golden Sun - Welsh Section B
- Training Single Horse - Debra Hilberg - Larkyn Aldredd - Welsh Section D
- Preliminary Single Pony - Kathy Freeman - Coffing Oaks Knight Music - Welsh Section A
- Preliminary Single Horse - Jill Warren Pond - North Fork's Sir Bailey - Welsh Section D
- Preliminary Pairs and Multiples - Donna Yanic - "Rio" and "Bravo" - Welsh Section A pair
- Intermediate Single Horse - Tasha Wilkie - "Princeton" - Half-Welsh



Preliminary Single Pony Champion Kathy Freeman with her Welsh Section A gelding "Spats" win the Best M&M Preliminary Single Pony award at Ram Tap CDE.

Spotlight on Kathy Freeman

No, she isn't the NPS America Chairman - that's Kathryn Rayner Freeman. This is Kathy Freeman, an accomplished CDE competitor, a dedicated CDE volunteer, and a Welsh Pony owner and enthusiast! She and her husband Barrie acquired Coffing Oaks Knight Music (a black Sec. A Welsh Pony with white hind "spats") from fellow CDE competitor and Welsh breeder Jay Hubert in 2001.

Kathy has been driving competitively for about 9 years and she and Spats are really coming into their own in 2008. The team has racked up an impressive number of blue ribbons this year - but Kathy plans on sticking with Preliminary level for a while still.

Kathy came to driving and horses late in life. When Barrie wanted his wife to become involved in his horse passion, she tried riding. Unfortunately, she has a bad hip that made sitting in a saddle very uncomfortable. They both decided to try carriage driving and the rest is history! Kathy says, "We have found that the driving folks are much friendlier and that we simply like the driving world better." Congratulations Kathy, Barrie, and Spats for your many recent accomplishments!



Donna Yanic and her winning Welsh Section A pair Snow Valley Eternally Yours and Snow Valley Millennium Gold known to their friends as "Rio" and "Bravo"

2008 M&M Showing Opportunities

Festivale of Endangered Equines

September 5-7, 2008

At the Kentucky Horse Park

The Equus Survival Trust will host an endangered breeds weekend at the world famous Kentucky Horse Park (KHP). The Festivale of Endangered Equines will focus on raising awareness among the general public and encourage networking among breeders and their associations to help in the conservation of their respective breeds. For more information please visit: www.equus-survival-trust.org.

Brookside Welsh Show and Pacific Coast Classic

September 10-14, 2008

Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA

For the third year in a row, the September show will offer 2 Mixed M&M In-hand classes, the Ridden M&M class, and championships. Additional M&M performance classes may also be included. Contact Kathryn Rayner Freeman at: Kathryn@NPSAmerica.org for more information!

Let us know about your event!

A Mountain & Moorland Adventure

Read About Kelly and Kathryn's UK trip for the NPS Annual General Meeting in

The Paisley Pony!

Check out the online version of the March/April 2008 issue and the upcoming June/July 2008 issue. Visit

www.ThePaisleyPony.com



These adorable "Salt & Pepper" British Shetlands were spied from the road during one of many adventures in the United Kingdom - March 2008.

NPS America Needs You!

As you can imagine, we have a lot more work to get our fledgling organization off the ground than we have people to do it. If you think you have the time, energy, and talent to help us out we would love to hear from you! Currently, we are looking for "people friendly" folks who could act as Breed Representatives or Area Representatives for NPS America.

If you are interested - contact the NPS America Vice Chairman at Kelly@NPSAmerica.org.

Council Member Spotlights

Anna Hill

Anna spent most of her lifetime with horses. Her first experience with horses was in Saudi Arabia, when her father worked for ARAMCO Oil Company, under English riding instructors. It was here that a love of native breeds began. After schooling in the UK, she returned home and began working with large horses of various breeds, but M&M ponies have always "been in her blood".

She has owned several M&M breeds including Welsh ponies, Welsh Cobs, and a Connemara. She has always had a special love of the large M&Ms. In 2004, after many years of research, she purchased her first Dales Pony.

This has become her passion, and she now owns 8 Dales Ponies, 6 of which are imported, bringing new bloodlines to the US. Her hope for NPS America is to help promote the M&M breeds through networking various breed communities together to help support one another. Anna lives in Louisiana with her husband Randy Baudoin and their 3 children Daniel, Cody, and Courtney Hill.

Caroline Nesbitt

Caroline Nesbitt began her riding career on Welsh ponies, many with the Farnley prefix. She fell in love with Connemaras at age 10, and finally bought her first mare Gilnocky Chantilly Lace 16 years later. "Mattie" was followed by Greenway Pollyanna, and the dun stallion *Chiltern Colm, and Wintervale Farm was born.

For 20 years Wintervale made the hunter show rounds as well as making babies. Now in a second generation with two daughters and a granddaughter of Mattie and Colm, a new dun stallion - Morning Glory's Ilyushin is standing. Wintervale remains very small, aiming to produce typical Connemaras of older lines with scope, substance, and generosity.

Caroline is the author of 'The Pony Breeders Companion' and proprietor of Epona's Pasture (www.EponasPasture.com), which specializes in rare Beswick England Mountain & Moorland ponies and Davenport 'Britain's Wild Ponies' plates. Caroline is a vintage Pony Clubber, holds an ancient A.I. from the Potomac Horse Center, is a past Chair of the American Connemara Pony Society (ACPS) Region 1, a former member of the ACPS Board of Governors, an ACPS Inspector, and a sometime judge. Caroline lives in New Hampshire with her family.

Look for more Council Member Spotlights in future issues of *The Pony Parade!*

Contact Information:

Board of Officers

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Roger Cleverly, Treasurer	RogerCleverly01@cs.com

Newsletter Editor - Kelly Davidson Chou

Sponsors Needed

Do you know a company or organization who would like to become an NPS America Sponsor?

Please let us know!