

The Pony Parade

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Chairman's Corner



Welcome to this special issue of *The Pony Parade*. This Fall issue came about when we realized we needed to provide our membership information regarding the upcoming elections in November and also keep everyone updated on the results of M&M showing opportunities across the country.

Our Nominating Committee has been working hard, and the results of their efforts can be found inside. I'm grateful to these members for volunteering their time to review the positions that needed to be filled and the candidates nominated to fill them. Also included is information on our open nomination process and the necessary forms to get member sponsored nominations on the ballot.

As promised, we have some new faces joining our NPS America family of volunteers. We have spotlighted these folks on page 3 along with the hardest working Vice Chairman in the business, Kelly Davidson Chou. I know you will enjoy reading about these dedicated NPS America volunteers.

With our elections on the horizon, please watch for your ballot to arrive in October and mail it in by the postmarked deadline. Every vote counts, and as our organization grows and moves forward, member support is crucial.

Finally, take a close look at the photo banner to the right of this page. We are hoping to include a new photo banner in each issue of *The Pony Parade*. This issue's theme is "Kids and Ponies". I believe it is our children that make our work worthwhile and they, in turn, will surely expand on our achievements as they "take the reins" in the not so distant future. They are important to NPS America and the equine world as a whole. I am proud to celebrate them.

Wishing everyone the very best,

Kathryn Rayner Freeman



**Spotlight on Council Member & Vice Chairman
Kelly Davidson Chou**

Kelly discovered Dales Ponies while taking an equine reproduction class in the summer of 2004. She did a little research on the breed and found a stallion, Colliery Alick, and two mares for sale in Alberta, Canada. Within three months of discovering the breed she brought the small herd to California where “Alick” quickly became a very special ambassador for Dales Ponies. The stallion excels in combined driving, pleasure driving, show jumping, and has earned multiple grand championships in M&M in-hand competitions. While her focus remains on the Dales breed, Kelly also competes her Welsh Cobs, and is now championing another M&M bred - the Dartmoor Pony – which is very rare on the West Coast of the United States.

With degrees in Biological Anthropology and Environmental Education, Kelly started her own business, Epona Environmental Consulting, seven years ago. When asked about the name she explains, “Epona is the Celtic horse Goddess. I needed Her blessings to help me care for all of my rescues and pay for my very expensive M&M pony habit!” Kelly notes that the best thing about her day job is helping kids make a connection to the environment. “When they realize that they can change the current world view they feel empowered to make things better.”

Kelly is currently the NPS America Vice Chairman and Marketing Officer. She is responsible for our newsletter, which is sent out 2 to 3 times a year, our full-color brochure and bookmark, and our 2 beautiful event banners. She also submits articles to *The Paisley Pony* in the US and *The Native Pony* in the UK. Kelly was instrumental in getting our bylaws written and finalized. She works closely with our Web Master – her husband Al Chou – to make sure our Web site is current and user friendly. Her most important job, however, is ensuring that the growing organization meets its members’ needs. It’s a demanding job, but she always finds a way to get it all done!

A little known fact about our Vice Chairman - she’s a huge *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fan! She was thrilled to meet one of the show’s popular cast members, Anthony Stewart Head (that’s “Giles” to the uninitiated) during her trip to the UK in March 2008. “He and his partner Sarah were very gracious and are big proponents of animal welfare. It was a real treat to talk with both of them and see some of the work they are doing for the horses and other animals. I would LOVE to get them involved with NPS America’s (yet to be established) welfare committee.”

Kelly lives in Clayton, CA with her husband, their 14 ponies and horses (many of which are rescues), 10 cats, 2 Dalmatians, 17 rescued bunnies, and 2 Barbados Sheep!

Kathryn Rayner Freeman

New Appointments

NPS America thanks **Roger Cleverly** for his past work as Treasurer and Council Member and wishes him the best of luck as he focuses on his new training facility in Knightsen, CA!

Treasurer: Adrienne Grasso

Adrienne is a successful Hunter/Jumper trainer based in Livermore, CA. She has been showing Pony Hunters for many years. She discovered the M&M breeds in 2006 and has successfully shown Dales, Dartmoors, and Welsh both in-hand and under saddle. She is looking forward to competing in her first carriage driving show this fall.

Council Member:

Rosemary Hardwick Harris

A native of the UK, Rosemary now resides in Norwalk, CT and has extensive experience as an M&M breeder, owner, and as a judge! Understanding how the NPS works in the UK will only enhance her ability to see our unique problems and issues in the US. Rosemary will bring a very special perspective to the organization, and we can’t wait to put all of that British “know-how” to work for NPS America!

Council Member: Mary Prewitt

Mary owns Wildwych Connemaras in Elizabeth, CO. Mary strives to produce ponies that are true to type and can be brilliant performers - or best friends. She is enthusiastic about creating showing and networking opportunities for all M&M breeds in the US, and she will bring a wealth of pony knowledge to the organization.



Kelly with Dennis Urwin (Colliery Alick’s breeder) and Dales mare Colliery Emerald, during her UK adventure in March 2008



NPS America Champion M&M Pony Farnley Justinian (Dartmoor gelding) enjoys a tasty Rosette treat!



Highland mare, Fourmerk Roseanne, owned by Sharon Bao Hoang won the 8 and under mare class.

Photos by Pat Brescia

Thank You!

The NPS America Council extends a very heartfelt "Thank You" to the 2009 Elections Nominating Committee:

Roger Cleverly

(Discovery Bay, California)

Susan Deuterman

(Reidsville, North Carolina)

Kathryn Rayner Freeman

(Grass Valley, California)

Darlene Raspotnik

(Ashland, Wisconsin)

Region III Connemara Show Holds First M&M Division!

By Judy Brescia

For the first time in its 23-year history, Region III of the American Connemara Pony Society (ACPS) hosted a Mountain and Moorland (M&M) Division at its annual pony show. The show was held at the lovely Glenwood Park in Middleburg, Virginia July 18 – 19th. Classes included dressage, a combined test, and a yearling futurity, as well as numerous under saddle and in-hand classes traditionally open only to Connemaras. This year, the other eight M&M breeds were invited to participate in their own division as well as additional open classes.

NPS America graciously provided lovely Champion and Reserve Rosettes for the in-hand M&M winners. Kinko Hackney from Parkton, Maryland judged the M&M in-hand classes and said that she was very pleased with the entries. The breakdown for the 4 in-hand classes were as follows: mares 8 and under, mares over 8, colts and geldings 8 and under, and geldings over 8. Two under saddle classes were held including: Mountain & Moorland under saddle and a hunter hack.

Fifteen M&M ponies participated in the show, including 7 Dartmoors, 3 Highlands, 3 Dales, 1 Fell, and 1 Section D Welsh. The NPS America Champion M&M Pony was the Dartmoor gelding Farnley Justinian, owned by Teddy Mulligan and ridden by Elizabeth Dyke. This lovely pony also won both under saddle classes. NPS America Reserve M&M pony was Cyfaenad Cadr-Brenin, a Welsh Cob owned by Pat and Judy Brescia.

All registered purebred mares and geldings from the following breeds were eligible to participate in the M&M classes: British Shetland, Dales, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Fell, Highland, New Forest, and Welsh. The show offers a relaxed friendly atmosphere and is a great place to bring young ponies and even timid riders. The show management was pleased with the turnout and invited the M&M exhibitors and ponies back to the show next year to be held July 17 – 18, 2010. Hopefully we will see many of you there!

RETURN ADDRESS

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The Pony Parade is usually published twice a year

If you have information to share with other members of NPS America, please send it to the Newsletter Editor at Kelly@NPSAmerica.org. All pertinent articles, stories, Member Spotlights, and photographs will be considered for publication in *The Pony Parade*.

Next submission deadline is November 1st, 2009!

Our Mission

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

The M&M breeds are:
British Shetland, Connemara, Dales, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Fell, Highland, New Forest, and all sections of Welsh!

NPS America

Council Members:

Kelly Davidson Chou
Kathryn Rayner Freeman
Adrienne Grasso
Rosemary Hardwick Harris
Caroline Nesbitt
Wendy Rowe
Mary Prewitt