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VOLUME 3 | 2015





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## Cover Photograph

by Jeff L. Homan

## Upcoming Issues & Deadlines

December 31, 2015  
WPCSA 2015 Journal  
National Regional and Shows, Year-End Results

March 6, 2016  
Welsh Review  
Sec. C & D, Dressage,  
Annual Convention News

June 6, 2016  
Welsh Review  
Sec. A Driving, Junior  
Riders

September 6, 2016  
Welsh Review  
Sec. B, Hunter, Stallions

# W E L S H

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This special junior edition of the Welsh Review is brought to you in part by a grant to the WPCSA Youth Committee from the United States Equestrian Federation.



## From the President

*One of the main focus points of this issue of the Welsh Review is our Junior members. We are blessed with some of the finest youth of any organization and they are the future of our breed.*

*In the coming months, we hope to expand the opportunities we give our junior members to participate in our organization and are looking for members who would like to join us in this endeavor. If you are able to volunteer on our Youth Committee, contact the office. Please pass on your knowledge of our wonderful breed so the future of the Welsh stays bright.*

*Speaking of committees, we are always looking for volunteers who are willing to give of their time and energy to better our association. You can find a list of all the committees and working groups on our website*

*~ Dr. Ruth*

photo by Megan Burtness

# 2015 Annual Youth Convention Orlando, Florida

Article by Sally Ross Davis

Coming to the AGM for the first time can be a wonderful experience. We had many first time attendees in our Youth group and were glad to get to know each other from all over the country. There were children from Mississippi, Texas,



Lila Sharp, Elise Heim and Samantha Kulp with WPCSA President, Dr. Ruth Wilburn photo by Greg Kulp

California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia in all. This group was proof positive that not only are Welsh pony people the best in the world but they raise the best children.

The first day we had our traditional meet and greet. Plane delays and unforeseen circumstances prevented me from attending so Pat Cochran was called in to the rescue. Pat had lots of arts and crafts and the children enjoyed making things and getting to know one another. I think Pat had fun with the children although she did say that they could be a tough crowd.

That night as the adults enjoyed the lifetime achievement awards we prepared for our traditional pizza and swim party. Unfortunately the pool was far too cold to swim in so once again it was



Audrey Schulze, Elise Heim, Samantha Kulp and Lila Sharp (aka the Fantastic Four) meet Charlie Davis, Secretariat's exercise rider photo by Greg Kulp

time to back up and punt. I had enlisted the help of all the parents to give me three things unique about their child. We then played a make shift version of "What's my Line." If you aren't aware of this Marissa Gomez from Texas is on the High School Weight Lifting team and Emily Maas from Texas used to cry if her trainer made her smack her pony. I really learned a lot about these kids and how special each one is. After that we played spoons and "I doubt it" until time to leave.

Saturday morning we were privileged to watch the Junior Banquet. Turner Davis and Brianna Conian





Top left arts and crafts time with Pat Cochran and Judy Hubert; top right Brianna Conian and Turner Davis emcee the junior awards banquet (photo by Lisa Conian), photo above “the Fantastic Four” at the Awards Banquet (photo by Ann Marie Snyder).

did an excellent job of announcing and the children really cleaned up well. After the banquet we were treated to a wonderful Junior clinic by Louise Gill. Being a pony club guru Louise told us some useful tips on show ring preparation and packing the trailer to go horse show. She even took questions from the audience and answered promptly Mason Davis’s question of “What do you do if your pony dies in the ring.” I am sure we are all glad that we have the answer to that one.

Evening rolled around and revealed that these dirty children from the horse show can really shine. Pretty gowns and suits and makeup really can make a difference. The banquet was fabulous as always and many awards were taken home by all. The older children continued to enjoy each other’s company deep into the night which is very satisfying considering these children are from all over the country. As in Adults I guess “Pony” is a universal language. I look forward to this next show season and hope to see many Juniors in San Antonio.

## WPCSA Junior Awards at the Annual Convention

This year’s All-Around High Point Youth Awards were presented at our awards luncheon in February. Our champion in the 12 & under age group was Robert Elwell with Jordyn Baxter reserve champion. In the 13-17 age group, Kaitlin Hofer was awarded the champion with Sara Frushour reserve champion. Congratulations to all of these young people for all their hard work and success showing their animals at WPCSA rated shows.

The WPCSA is also pleased to announce the presentation of Junior Merit Program awards at this year’s annual meeting. The WPCSA Junior Merit Program, initiated in 2010, is designed to recognize and encourage juniors to enjoy, compete, work with and learn about their Welsh. The Society was pleased to recognize the following juniors for their 2014 accomplishments:

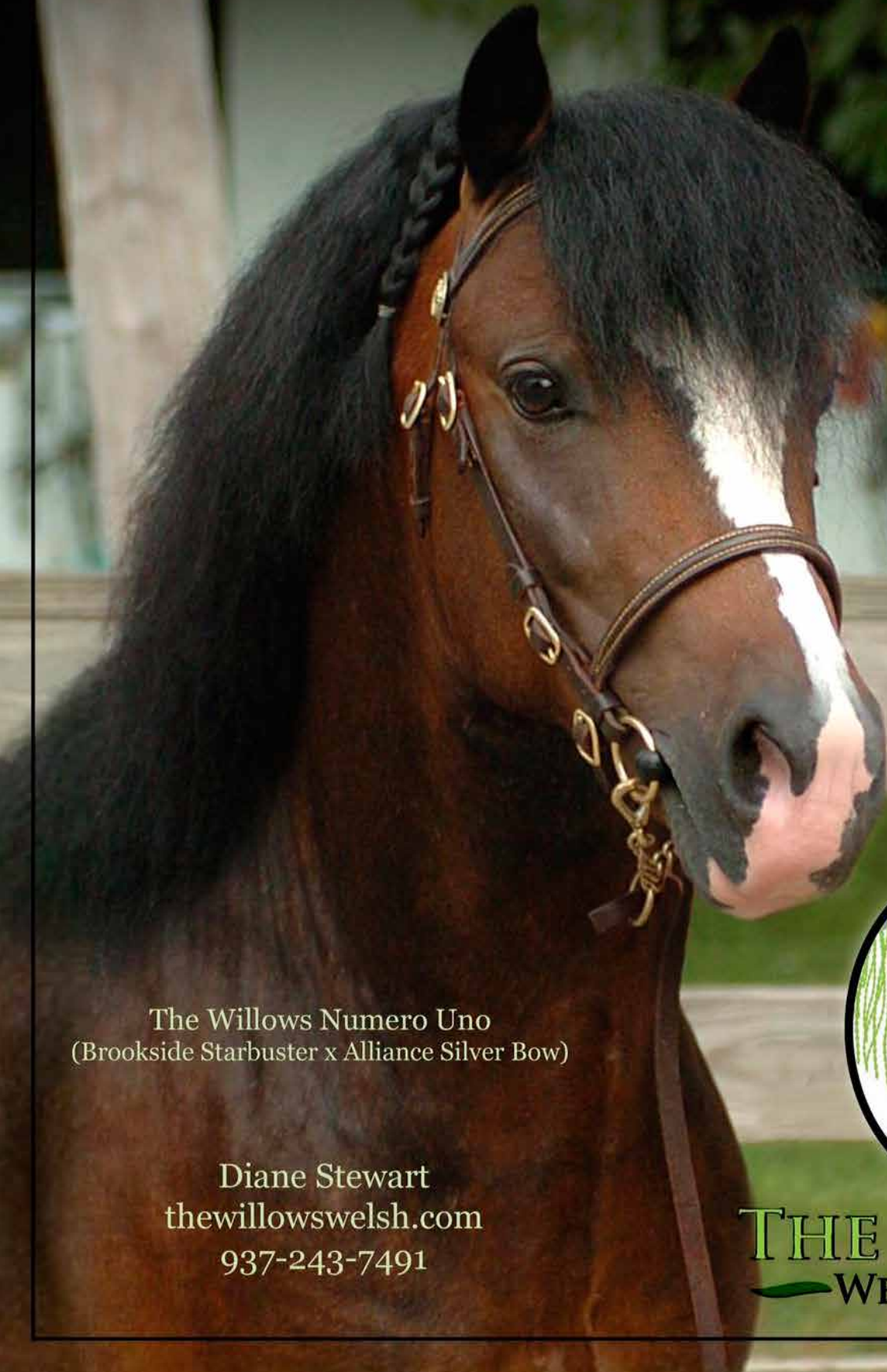
1. Kaitlin Hofer had a total of 908 points and received the large trophy cup this year.
2. Audrey Schulze had a total of 513.25 points and received the Gold Medal and the small trophy cup this year.
3. Lauren Scherrer earned a total of 128 points. She will receive a certificate, pin and a Bronze Medal.

WPCSA juniors are encouraged to sign up and participate in this self-paced program in the year ahead so they can receive their awards at next year’s annual meeting. Details about the WPCSA Junior Merit Program can be found under the Youth tab at [www.welshpony.org](http://www.welshpony.org).



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# The Versatile Section A

**S**carborough Crusader, or “Cruizy” for short, is a registered Section A Welsh who does it all. From winning in hand to winning in the driving world, he now has a new job to be the perfect hunt pony to his children Skyler (seven years old) and Zsa Zsa Beauchene. When he was originally bought, he was to be a stud pony, but fate decided that for some reason he didn’t breed well. So he was gelded and used as a driving pony, and he ruled the small pony divisions for many years. His owner Rachel Niceley is Skyler and Zsa Zsa mother. Now he is a fox hunting pony for Skyler with his Uncle Jose and Grandfather State Senator Frank Niceley. They go out whenever they can, and nothing fazes this spunky little Welsh. He even is turned out with the big hunt girls who are 17’2, and he still rules the pasture.



Article and photographs submitted by Cristy Grimsley. The farm is Riverplains which is owned by the Niceleys and the Hunt is TVH Tennessee Vally Hunt.

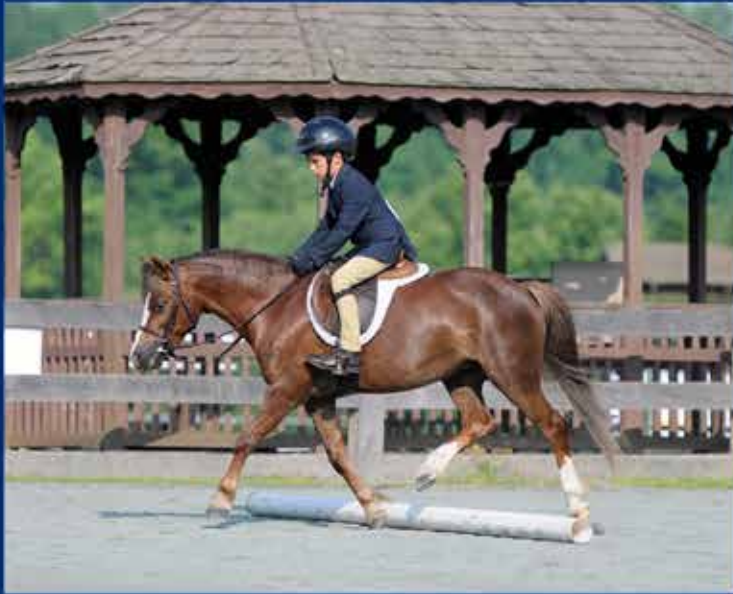




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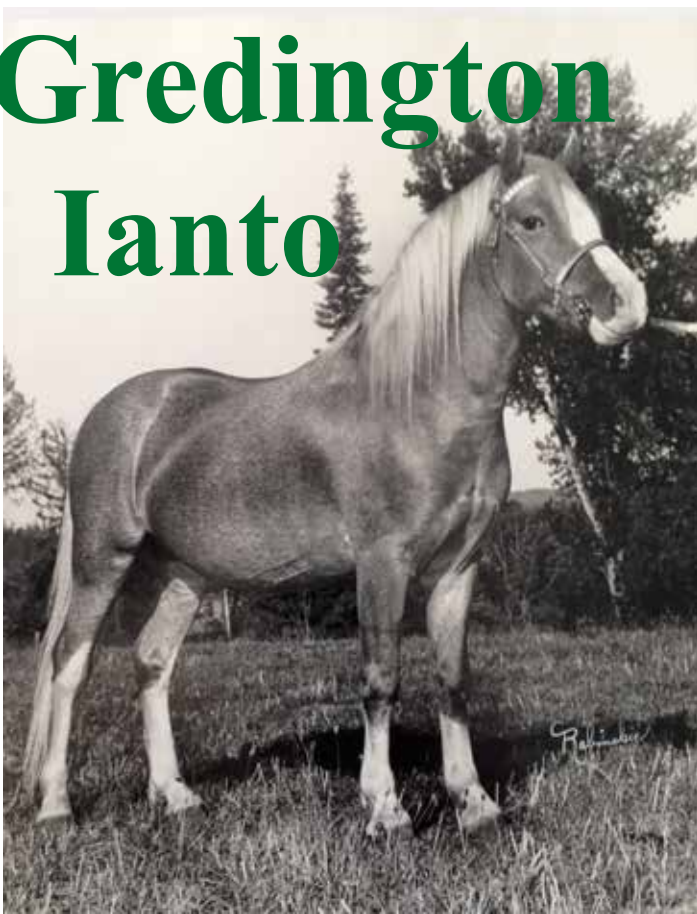
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# Gredington Ianto



(Coed Coch Madog x Coed Coch Seirian)

Submitted by Patricia Cochran

**G**redington Ianto was foaled in 1954 at The Hon. Lord Kenyon's Gredington stud. He matured to 11.2 hh, was brilliant chestnut roan with a flaxen mane and tail, sported four white stockings and a full blaze. Ianto was the result of a grandson to grand-dam cross, both parents being Royal Welsh champions. His dam, Coed Coch Seirian was the grand-dam of Coed Coch Madog, through her son Coed Coch Seryddwr. Madog, famous for his many show ring wins and outstanding foals, was also the sire of Gredington Ianto.

Gredington Ianto was purchased as a youngster by Llewellyn Richards of the Criban Stud. There, as a two year old, he sired Criban Pep, Criban Clipper, Criban Columbus, Criban Crofter, Criban Idris, Criban Fay and Criban Feebee. Criban Pep grew to be a stallion of note in the UK where his daughter Criban Glory Be produced the excellent stallion, Cantref Glory of the Waxwing Stud, as well as the Lacy Stud B-line: Lacy Glory Be, Little Bee, and Queen Bee. Criban Feebee was imported by Farnley Farm in the late 1950's where she produced Farnley Beebalm, Beefair, Beehave, Beemaster, Bumblebee, Honey Bee, Queen Bee, and Seabee.

James Brown, Kelvin Grove Stud in Hillsboro, Oregon, imported Gredington Ianto in February 1957, along with Criban Welsh Air, who was in foal to Ceulan Revolt. The following year, Brown imported seven more mares



Sire: Coed Coch Madog (Coed Coch Seryddwr x Coed Coch Mefusen)



Dam: Coed Coch Seirian (Bowdler Baron II x Coed Coch Serliw)

that would become the nucleus of his breeding program: Cui Chess (in foal to Dyrin Dun Dandy), Tycanol Stardust (in foal to Collen Sensation), Gurnos Delight, Fayre Kite, Rhaeadr Lynette, Cusop Bunting, and Revel Dainty Dandy.

As the foals began arriving, Brown registered them under the Kelvin prefix. The first five were named before he started to incorporate an alphabetical designation in 1960. Each year was a different letter of the alphabet with 1960 seeing Kelvin Acrobat, American Ace, Antenna, Angel's Delight, Aristocrat, and Animato. Animato was purchased as a weanling by Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Liedtke. Their daughter, Pam, drove him to much success for many years. Pam, now Pam Christensen, is still competing, and winning, with Welsh ponies! Ianto's daughter, Kelvin Feather, out of Fayre Kite, went to British Columbia where she produced the influential stallion, Tanglewood Lionheart, by Chamcook Mountain Cat. All told, Gredington Ianto sired 51 foals with the Kelvin prefix, most of them from the original imported mares and their daughters. Brown would register 89 foals (through the letter H) before dispersing the majority of his herd in 1968.

Gredington Ianto, a pony of such beauty and prepotency, died tragically in 1965 when he fell down an abandoned well and drowned.



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## WELSH PONY AND COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFORMATION CLINIC

Presented and produced by Cherry Wilson, WPCSA Judge  
Narration by Johnny Wilson

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### WPCSA CONFORMATION CLINIC DVD

Something NEW for the WPCSA! A long time coming, but there is now a comprehensive conformation clinic DVD for sale. It features; Breed Standards, diagrams, pictures, and judges comments. It was professionally engineered, and is presented and produced by Cherry Wilson, Bristol Pony Farm, a long time WPCSA and AHSA/USEF Welsh judge.

Ever wonder what the judge is thinking? Now you can hear comments as the pictures roll, and make comparisons for yourself to the Breed Standard. There are both good and bad examples of all four sections.

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## *Alvesta Tobias*

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## *Alvesta Brenin Arthur*

Welsh Section A Bay Colt  
\*Nerwyn Gwyn x Lianna L S Snow White



## *Alvesta Everlasting*

Welsh Section B Bay Roan Filly  
\*CadlanValley Pirate x Alvesta Fantasia



## *Alvesta Caelia*

Welsh Section B Grey Filly  
Alvesta Helios x Alvesta Fairy Lustre



## *Alvesta Maya*

Welsh Section B Bay Filly  
\*CadlanValley Pirate x Alvesta Monique



## *Alvesta Freya*

Welsh Section B Bay Filly  
Alvesta Helios x Alvesta Electra



## *Alvesta Infinity*

Welsh Section A Grey (born chestnut) Colt  
Cat Creek Innuendo x Alvesta Caris by \*Nerwyn Gwyn



## *Alvesta Passion Flower*

Welsh Section B Palomino Filly  
\*CadlanValley Pirate x Alvesta Lotus Blossom by \*Mynach Mystical



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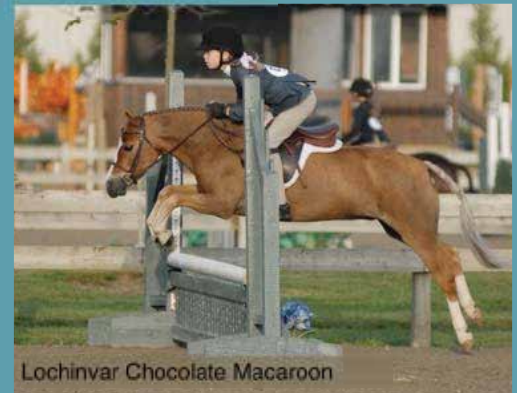
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Lochinvar Portrait of a Lady



Lochinvar Peter Pan



Lochinvar Paloma Mia

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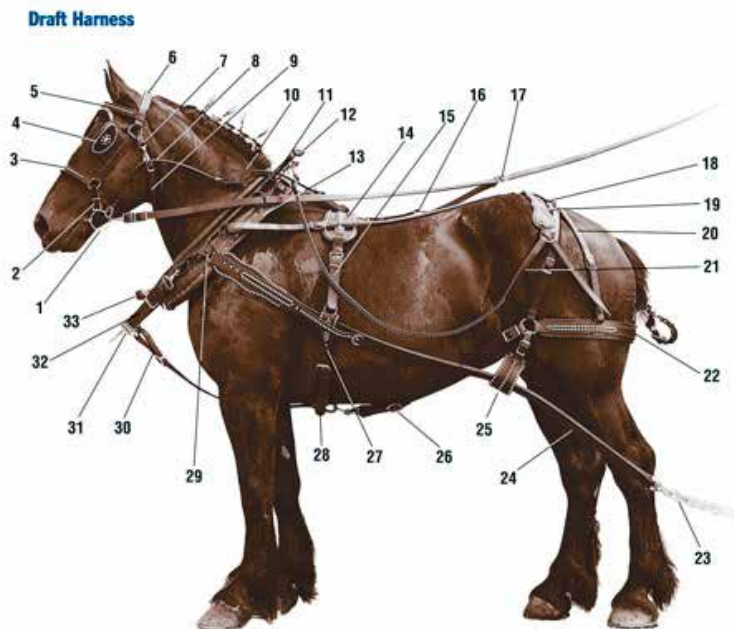
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# The Welsh Draft Division

Article and photographs submitted  
by Donna Ley

1. Bit
2. Bit Strap
3. Noseband
4. Blind
5. Browband & Winker Stay
6. Head Crown
7. Gag Swivel
8. Rein Round
9. Throat Latch
10. Rein
11. Hame
12. Hame Ball
13. Collar
14. Back Band
15. Market Strap
16. Rein Up Strap
17. Check Line
18. Back & Hip Strap
19. Trace Carrier
20. Hip Strap
21. Tie Strap
22. Breeching
23. Heel Chain
24. Trace
25. Lazy Strap
26. Quarter Strap
27. Belly Band Billet
28. Belly Band
29. No. 21 Connector
30. Pole Strap
31. No. 1616 Snap
32. Breast Strap
33. Hame Strap



Welsh ponies, cobs, half-Welsh and part-bred Welsh are incredibly versatile. They excel in every arena as well as outside the arena. Within the driving arena, there are many different classes, so that each Welsh can find its niche. The WPCSA offers classes in pleasure driving, carriage driving, roadster, formal driving, fine harness, and draft driving.

Today's show ring draft classes have their foundation in the commercial hitches at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The big multi-horse hitches not only transported goods, but were also a huge billboard sign for the companies they hauled for. It was a point of pride for teamsters to have very well-trained, beautifully turned out hitches, and they competed with each other on a daily basis to show off their skill in handling large hitches. The wagons that they called "express wagons" have evolved into our current "hitch wagons." One of the most well-known and respected makers of these sturdy wagons was the Studebaker company and today's hitch wagons tend to follow this design. (1)

The draft classes have been most popular in the Midwest. The big farms of this area relied heavily on big horses to do the farm work before the age of the tractor. Even after tractors replaced the working horse, those farmers still loved to drive their horses. As the farmers aged, they did not want to throw a harness up on a big horse anymore, so found a willing partner in a smaller size – the section A Welsh pony. The Welsh offered twice the fun at half the size and cost to feed! In the 70's and '80's, there were a number of Welsh pony breeders in the Midwest who bred specifically for the

draft pony market and showed their ponies in 2-8 pony hitches at local fairs, parades and shows. Two of the bigger breeders were Orear Welsh Pony Farm in Emporia, KS, and Vickers Welsh Pony farm in Creston, IA.

Welsh draft driving is an excellent class for young ponies to begin their show ring career because they only have to perform a walk and working trot. Article 113.3 WPCSA Draft Driving states "Classes open to Ponies/Cobs/half-Welsh/Part Breds. To be shown to suitable four-wheeled vehicle for multiples, or cart for singles or tandems. Utility is stressed for animals, harness and an appropriate wagon for multiple draft driving draft vehicles. Traditional type carts such as road carts or stud carts are suitable for singles and fifth wheel hitch wagons for multiples. Inappropriate equipment to be penalized. Draft type harness is required. To be shown both ways of the ring at a flat-footed walk and a working trot. To

halt, stand quietly and back readily. Individual maneuvers may be requested. A properly attired groom or passenger capable of rendering assistance in case of an emergency is required for all pairs and tandems; unicorns and four-in-hands require 2 grooms/passengers. To be judged 75% on performance, manners, movement and style; 25% on breed type and conformation. Working class to be judged 100% on performance." (2) Some of the individual maneuvers that can be requested in the working class are halting from a walk or trot and backing on the rail, figures of 8, and "swing" on the rail (pivoting the vehicle either 90 or 180 degrees with the inside wheel remaining stationary). Teams of 2-, 4-, 6-, or 8-pony hitches are expected to work



together as a team, with all ponies moving and working the same. Ponies should always be alert and ready to go to work. Judges are looking for a solid, well-trained pony that is dependable and willing. (2)

Draft harness in the show ring can run from simple working harness to the ultra-fancy show set with patent leather and chrome. Either is acceptable in WPCSA draft classes, but the harness must match the vehicle and fancy not to count more than simple. It must be neat, clean, fit well, and in proper working order. Single ponies use a 2 wheel cart like a road cart or stud cart. Wire wheeled training carts are acceptable as well. Gentleman drivers should wear a jacket with trousers or very nice jeans, tie, hat, and gloves. Ladies to wear a long skirt/dress, slack suit, or very nice jeans and shirt with long sleeves, hat and gloves. No bare shoulders or sequins/glitter should be allowed in the show ring. Aprons and a whip are optional. All multiple hitches require at least 1 properly attired groom capable of rendering assistance to ride along (2 for unicorn or 4-pony hitches). (2)

The best ponies for draft classes are powerful and compact. Those with a little bit more upright shoulder will fit into the full collars better than those with very laid back shoulders. They should be muscled and yet stylish. Ponies to be shown with long natural manes and tails, but draft-style braiding is optional. No ponies should have docked tails. Clipping of fetlocks is optional and shod ponies should have shoes that are of a reasonable size for the animal. (2)

Welsh ponies, cobs and part-breds are worlds of fun for everyone. Draft driving is just one of the many ways that people of all ages can enjoy their Welsh. Give it a try!

#### References

(1) Keeley, Elaine. (Feb 2008) Hitch Horses: Impressing the Generations [article]. Horsemen's Yankee Peddler. Retrieved from <http://www.cedarknoll.net/Hitch%20Horses.pdf>

(2) WPCSA. (1 Dec 2014) Sanctioned Show Rules, Judges' Qualifications, WPCSA Awards Programs.



CLEJAE Logan and Gallo Billy Bala, Jordon Ahrndt whip & Mark Erickson groom



Severn Orange Blossom, Chuck Erickson whip



Dandardel Lyric, LOM, Chuck Erickson, whip



Ronnie Schwartz photo by Stephanie Abronson



## Riley Hayes



by Debbie Elliott-Fisk and Judy Hubert, Southwest Regional Reps

One of the most enjoyable aspects of our world of Welsh ponies and cobs is seeing our youth with their animals in the show ring, as well as just visiting with them on the show grounds, seeing them have fun with their friends, and watching them so easily make new friends. A favorite young rider, and WPCSA and WPCAC (Welsh Pony and Cob Association of California) youth member, we would like to showcase here is nine-year old Riley Hayes from Clarksburg, California.

Riley is an amazing young person, with a big smile, a huge heart, and a lot of gumption! Other than that big smile, the first thing that jumped out at us at our Welsh shows is that Riley is an athlete, and a very hard-worker, in training with her ponies, so to speak. Her mother Rebecca was a major athlete while in school according to Rebecca's mother Debbie, and Riley has those same natural abilities. Riley starting riding when she was two, working with her aunts Alissa Kirtlan and Carrie Kirtlan, and grandparents Debbie and Bob Kirtlan at their Silver Bend farm (VintageOak prefix) in Clarksburg. Alissa raises section B Welsh ponies and Carrie section D Welsh cobs, so it made for lots of fun working with and riding the Welsh. Riley's mother Rebecca (sister to Alissa and Carrie) and father Roy Hayes support her riding and are always at the shows and other events, as is the entire Kirtlan family. They are all so accomplished and fun to be around, and Riley feeds off of this wonderful family energy.

Riley is one of those true pony kids that wants to do everything. She has ridden in all of the child's classes

for her age group, and has also shined in the show ring showing ponies (and cobs!) in hand, running them in their halter classes as well as competing in youth handler. Having excelled in the 8 and under ridden classes for a few years, in 2014, Riley moved up to the Short-Stirrup classes, and now in 2015, she is showing in the 17 and under ridden classes. She is also competing in pony hunter shows in California, as she is now riding her own WPCSA-registered section B pony Clanfair Fresco. With her big smile and "get up quickly if I fall down attitude," Riley wins everyone's hearts (and the ribbons). She is a true equestrian in our book!

A few show highlights for Riley to date include: (1) being awarded WPCAC's Windcrest Perpetual Trophy three years in a row (2012, 2013 and 2014); this trophy is presented for the highest yearly cumulative points earned by an eight and under exhibitor in any registered Welsh class which allows the entry of that age group, including halter, equitation, performance and junior Welsh handler classes (but not lead-line); winning this trophy three years in a row is an incredible achievement competing with our very talented youth exhibitors in California; (2) her accomplishments in Junior Welsh Handler, including the WPCSA Champion in 2013 (12 and under) and the WPCAC Champion in 2014 (17 and under); at the American National show in Tulsa in 2013, Riley won the large junior handler class with 19 kids in it (and she was one of the youngest competitors); (3) championships in Walk, Walk-trot and Walk-trot Poles for the WPCSA in 2013, as well as the WPCAC Walk-trot championship; and (4) WPCAC Short-Stirrup champion on Clainfair Fresco in 2014.

In addition to attending the WPCSA American National Show in Tulsa in 2013, Riley was able to fly with her parents Rebecca and Roy and grandmother Debbie to Minneapolis in February 2014 to receive her WPCSA national champion ribbons, where she won Walk, Walk-trot, Walk-trot Poles, and Junior Welsh Handler 12 and under. We really enjoyed seeing her receive these awards and experience the excitement of meeting all of the other talented young exhibitors. Riley had a lot of fun at all the youth activities and sight-seeing in Minnesota.

And beyond Welsh ponies and cobs, Riley loves to draw, hang out with her friends, and attends Delta Charter School. Congratulations to Riley on her hard work and accomplishments the last several years! We look forward to seeing you in the show ring, Riley!



## Emma Polus



submitted by Winona Myers South Central Regional Rep

Emma Polus leased her first Welsh Pony from Janice Early in 2011 and she hasn't slowed down since. She later bought Lazy J Balief's Alibi and Lazy J's Extreme Justice. She was WPCSA High Point Champion in 2104 in Stock Seat Equitation and Reserve Champion in Western Pleasure and Trail. She also shows Jr. Handler and halter classes.

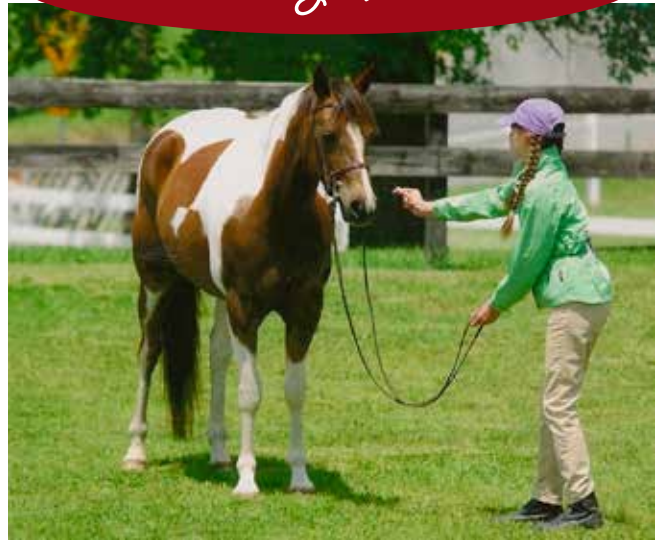
Emma enjoys training and finds the Welsh very easy to handle and train. Welsh enthusiasm spread to her sisters and brother as Jennie, Henry, Ellie and Gia also actively show their Welsh Ponies.

Among her numerous awards, Emma won the 2015 FFA Equine Science Award. Emma had the highest score in horse judging and was also recognized for her work helping others on the team.

"I'm really glad I got into the Welsh world because everyone is so helpful. I don't think I would be where I am without help from everyone."

Emma plans to become a large animal veterinarian. She is working this summer full time as a vet technician.

## Audrey Schulze



submitted by Christine Fisher, Northeast Regional Rep

Audrey is a 12-year-old girl from New Jersey who loves school, ponies and riding. When she was seven, she attended a week of horse camp at a county riding center. She continued, taking weekly lessons there for two years. Looking for something different, she found Elizabeth & Kaitlin Hofer at Lower Cross Farm. She rode with Liz twice a week until her lesson horse was retired.

Then this happened: Audrey fell in love with Welsh Ponies when she started riding Davric Honey Bee. She was hooked and found her own pony, Magical Masterpiece, soon after. Audrey spends a good part of her free time at the barn. She really enjoys working with Liz and training her pony. At first teaching her to be a suitable child's mount and now perfecting correct canter pick-ups and flying lead changes.

Audrey and "Maggie" have competed in WPCSA shows in the Northeast since 2013. Starting with Walk/Trot then moving up to Short-Stirrup and now in Half Welsh Hunter. Audrey loves to ride at shows, but her favorite class is Junior Welsh Handler. She says she tries to learn something at each show and especially likes it when a judge takes the time to explain the results and gives the children pointers.

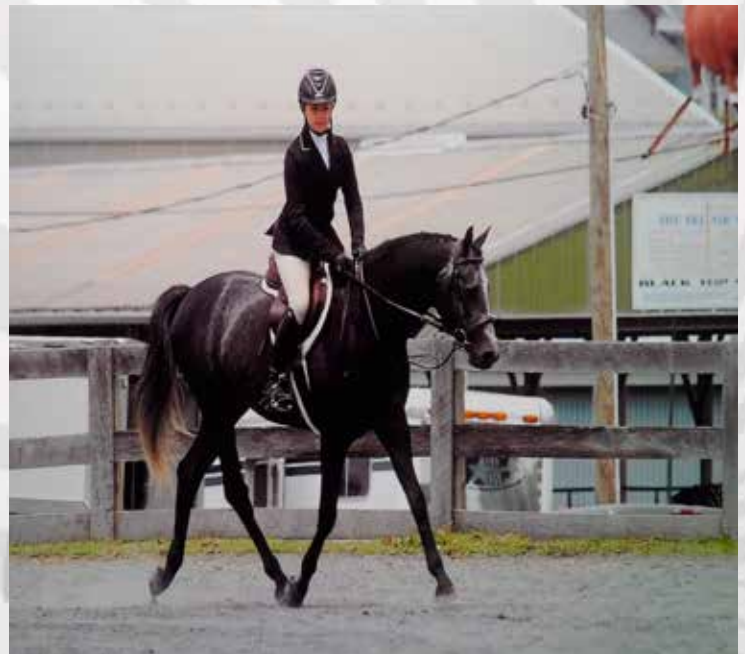
According to Audrey, the best thing about horse shows are the great friends you make, especially Samantha Kulp, Elise Heim and Lilia Sharp. And the worst thing . . . having to compete against those great friends.

In addition to show, Audrey and Maggie like to ride in Hunter Paces and have fun riding with friends at the barn. Sometimes Audrey even lets her mom ride Maggie.

While her love of Welsh Ponies remains the same, Audrey has not – she grew 5 inches in 2 years! She found Big Ben, a four-year-old 15.1 hand Half-Welsh who is also still growing.



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# Drive Your Horse Safely

Submitted by Deborah Branson & Marsha Himler

**D**riving is a fun sport that allows people of any age to continue to enjoy an equine after the children have outgrown it or when age makes it easier to get into a carriage than mount a horse. However, while safety in riding and driving should always be the foremost consideration, driving poses special safety issues, some of which can be quite life threatening should an animal get away from its driver with a carriage attached. Do we all assume that our animals will behave at all times? Do we get complacent? With a ridden horse, if it takes off after dumping its rider there isn't a large wooden or metal object following it and long lines dragging. Extra care must be taken if one is to safely compete with a carriage.

In the United States, the American Driving Society was established in 1975 to provide guidance and to set standards for driven competitions. At the very beginning of the 2015 ADS rulebook Article 1.2 states: "The purpose of ADS Rules and Regulations is to promote safety and provide standardization for conducting an ADS-recognized event or show." Given that the WPCSA incorporates a carriage pleasure driving division that is pointed both by the WPCSA and USEF for year-end awards, it behooves all of us who compete in this division to be aware of the rules, especially as they apply to safety when driving. Most of it is common sense but it never hurts to review the rules, especially as some of them are not written down.

So, how do you know if your carriage and harness is safe? Do you know what to look for to be sure it is?

There are general rules under Chapter 3 (ADS Rulebook 2015) regarding the responsibility of all drivers.

1. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound. The breast collar should not be so high as to cut off air to the animal's lungs nor so low as to impede the action of the shoulders. The breeching should also not be hanging low or be so loose that it is virtually useless. Your breeching is your brake and should fit snugly enough so that the carriage will not run up on the horse/pony, especially going down hills (presuming you have a carriage that does not have brakes) or when coming to an abrupt stop.

Check your vehicle for safety. If it is an antique, you should make sure the wheels are tight and without much "play". To check that, grab each wheel by the top and see if you can pull it back and forth toward you. If it seems

quite loose, it probably needs new washers (usually leather in antique vehicles). If you aren't sure, ask someone who is familiar with antiques and knows how to install new leather washers.

2. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that his/her animal is physically fit to fulfill the tasks required of them. This can also be a cruelty issue if the carriage is too heavy for the animal pulling it or if the animal becomes unsound during an event.

3. The driver should always be the first person to enter the vehicle and the last to leave. Do NOT leave passengers on the vehicle unless the passenger is knowledgeable about driving and has taken control of the reins.

4. All juniors MUST wear a properly fastened protective headgear that must be properly fitted with the harness secured. This rule is considered so important that you may be eliminated from the show for non-compliance.

5. The horse(s) should be under control at all times, a safeguard not only for the driver and his/her passenger as well as everyone involved in the sport.

"Under control" means that the animal is not misbehaving, not bucking, kicking or rearing or backing uncontrollably, etc. NOT "under control" is any time the animal is behaving in such a way that they present a danger not only to their driver but to other drivers/turnouts around them. DO NOT DRIVE ON THE BUCKLE! The most trustworthy animal in the world may get stung or just have 'a moment' where it leaps forward. Those few seconds getting the reins back (presuming they were not yanked out of your hands) can make a world of difference and may prevent an accident.

At a recent pleasure show, one of a pair of horses slipped its bridle and began to run. Fortunately, the driver was an experienced horseman and managed to get the team under control in short order but this could have been a disaster if he hadn't had quite a bit of maneuvering room or a crowd nearby. We've all probably been in a lineup at some point with misbehaving horses nearby causing us to worry about our safety and wondering if the ringmaster or judge would be able to correctly assess the situation and excuse a competitor.

Moving on:

1. No horse/pony may be led with the carriage attached.
2. No horse/pony may be left unattended while put to a vehicle. This also means you DO NOT TIE THE HORSE

**“Do you know if your carriage and harness are safe? Do you know what to look for to be sure it is?”**

## UP TO YOUR TRAILER WITH THE CARRIAGE ATTACHED!

3. When harnessing, a horse MUST wear a bridle with the reins attached to the bit and passed through the saddle turrets.

At one show during 2014, a competitor observed a turnout with a person “attending” the horse - if standing in front of the carriage and pony with her back to the pony not holding the reins and with no one in the carriage, and on her cellphone, can be called attending. Your reins MUST always be in your hand, especially if you are on the ground and they should not be just looped over your arm. A horse careening around a showgrounds with a carriage banging along behind is a life-threatening situation both for the equine and anyone in its path. It is even more important when the shows are ones with a multitude of spectators and children, most of whom do not know how to act around horses.

At this same show, a licensed ADS official was competing in the class and noted that there were a number of turnouts being held by someone on the ground but there was no one in the carriage. The ADS rulebook states in Chapter 3 section 5.7 that “if a driver dismounts for any other reason that to make minor adjustments to the harness, vehicle, or to unhitch, the reins should be given to a driver seated on the vehicle.” While one might argue the point that “should” could be an advisory term, most officials at shows take it as their mandate to approach and tell the person on the ground, whether it be the driver or another, that there must be a person in the carriage. If you must take a potty break, or walk your cones course, find a capable person to sit in the carriage.

Our Welsh ponies and Cobs are well known for being steady and intelligent partners but even the calmest can have a fright. At American Driving Society shows there always is a ringmaster who usually is a knowledgeable driver or horseperson. Do we always have a driving knowledgeable

ringmaster at our Welsh shows who would know what to do?

It would be in the best interest of all driving competitors and spectators for show management to make sure that such is the case in our WPCSA shows, if only for the driving classes. An experienced ringmaster can spell the difference between disaster and a safely run class.

A new driver, or even a seasoned one who wants to learn more (and don't we all?) should go to the American Driving Society's webpage to their guidance for new drivers: [http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/new\\_drivers\\_index.asp](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/new_drivers_index.asp) An especially good article on Road Safety can be found at [http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/New\\_Drivers/road\\_safety\\_series.pdf](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/New_Drivers/road_safety_series.pdf). The rule book for ADS can be found, and downloaded for free, from [http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/15\\_ADS\\_Rulebook/2015\\_clean.pdf](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/15_ADS_Rulebook/2015_clean.pdf).

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This article was written by Deborah Branson and Marsha Himler. Marsha is a well-known breeder of Welsh under the Stonecroft prefix. Her ponies have excelled in all disciplines. She is a popular judge and a stickler for safety in her show ring. Deborah has competed in Combined Driving and ADS and USEF recognized pleasure shows with singles, pairs and four-in-hands for 15 years. She came from 40 years of hunter and jumpers and found the Wonderful Welsh and driving at a later age. She has been breeding Welsh ponies under the prefix Odyssey for the past 15 years. She is very aware of safety issues having observed many instances of disasters that could have been averted.

*The photograph below was taken by Jody Cutler and appeared on the cover of the ADS magazine, The Whip. Jay Hubert is the whip and Nancy Reimers is the groom. Ponies are Leader – Coffing Oaks Felicity and Wheeler – Coffing Oaks Silver Shell.*





# News Bits

## REGISTERED PREFIXES

AREION	Keith or Lynne Ostrand
ARROWHEAD	transferred to Loree Adams
CURYLL	Michelle Hacker
HAYMAR'S	Haylee & Maria Scandell
LONGACRE	transferred to Jinny DePaul Pinnell
MARSH RUN	Catharine Kempson
MILLPOINT'S	Colleen Kelly or Susan Peltier
PEMBERLEY'S	Deborah James Dendtler
PLUM	Todd Plummer
SANGAMON	Zachary & Julienne Shields
SPELLBOUND	Kelly Noss

## ANNUAL CONVENTION

Make plans to join us from February 25-28, 2016 at the WPCSA Annual Convention to be held at the Embassy Suites in San Antonio, Texas. We will start with Committee and Board meetings on Thursday. Friday and Saturday will be reserved for our seminars, Annual General Meet-

ing, awards banquets and auction. We will conclude on Sunday morning with a judge's clinic. Sponsors, please make sure you register early so that we can make sure you are given proper credit and thanks for your donations! To register, visit the website or telephone the office at (540) 868-7669.

## WEBSITE UPDATE

Many new upgrades have been made to the website [www.wpcsamembers.com](http://www.wpcsamembers.com). These include interactive forms that will enable you to conduct a great deal of business with the office right from your computer. Membership renewals, stallion service report and applications for registration are now completely automated. You can upload documents right from your computer...no more printing out photographs. Give it a try! If you experience any difficulty, just give the office a call. We are happy to walk you through the process. We are still in the process of expanding the site. Once the database is complete, we will begin redirecting all traffic from [welshpony.org](http://welshpony.org) to the new site.



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