



Annual Meeting 2024

Report from Education, Promotion & Youth

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2/22/2024*



January



Demo riders at the Breed Demo, from left: Scott Smith on Loki, Brynja Meehan on Blæja, Maya Fischl on Takki, Shelby Walker on Balthasar and Ebba Meehan on Ófeigur.



Visitors at the Demo Day, wanted to meet Moli of course!

Musical Mondays are uplifting in January, we had mild weather and took advantage of it. Some new riders joined the group lessons offered on Mondays. Drill Team practice started up again with coach Erika Tighe at Merrimack Valley Icelandics, MA. Drill Team meets on weekly basis and extra DT lesson was added to invite new members.

A successful Breed Demo Day was held January 8th with about 20 visitors from age 4 and up. I think we should add more Demos on the schedule of NEIHC!



From left: Kate, Stina, Lexi, Scott, Shelby and Cindy coming back from Musical Monday.



Brynja Meehan on Blæja, demonstrating the Tölt.



February

Monday horse swap was a good learning experience for students. One horse can teach you a lot and trying another horse can teach you a whole lot more!

Solheimar Farm hosted “Beauty Tölt” competition in the snowy VT with good number of participants.

Number of members follow online courses, enjoy education series from USIHC, or Meistaradeild and take it easy or plan summer adventures!



Above: Sólheimar Farm hosts a winter show.



New student on Takki in the round pen.



Horse swappers from left: Val, Erika, Kate, Shelby and Scott.



Youth members from left: Maya Fischl, Lexi Mitchell and Brynja Meehan.



March

Of course Thorrablót was the kickstart of March.

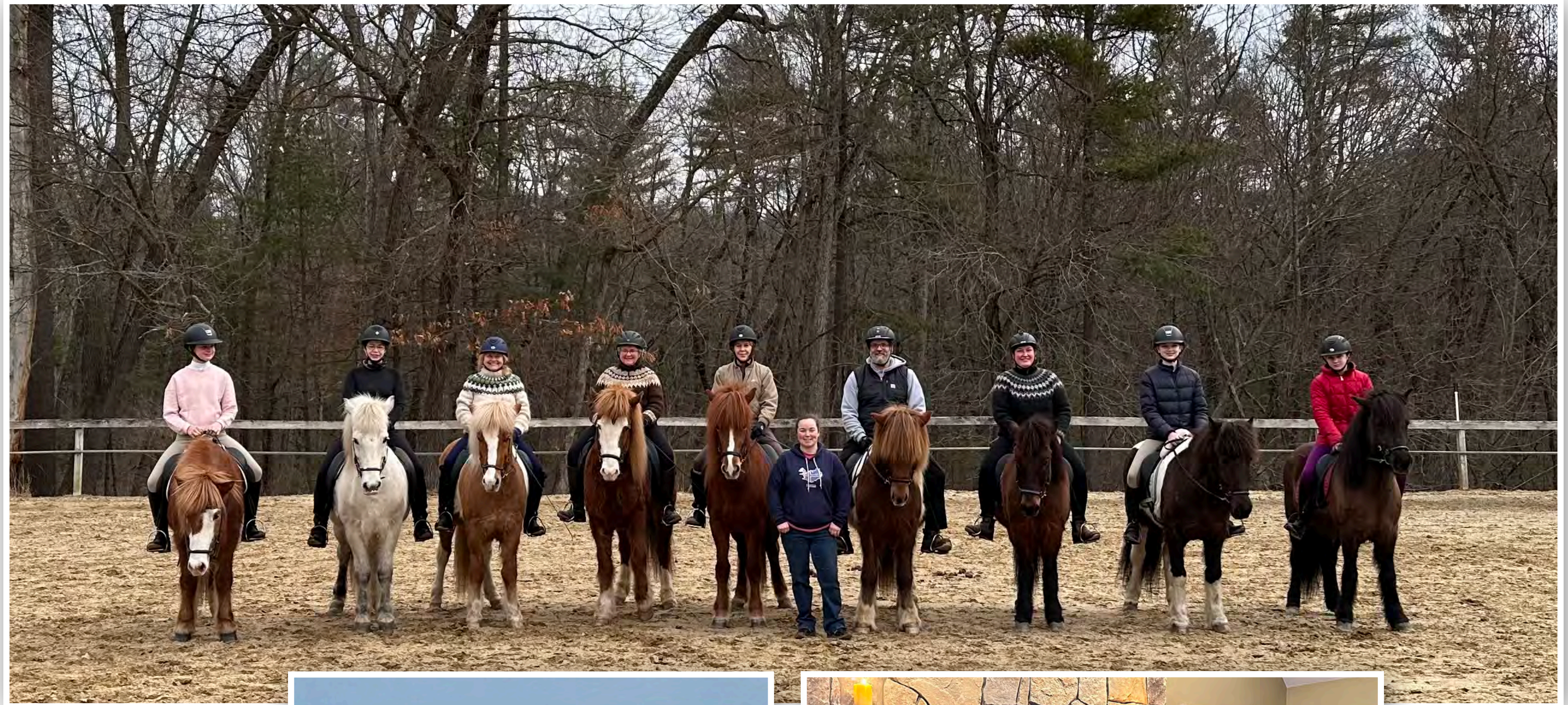
Shelby Walker, Scott Smith, Nancy Rholf and Greeley O' Connor went to Winter Workshop at Hestaland in West Iceland.

Some NEICH members joined Resonant Riding online Course.

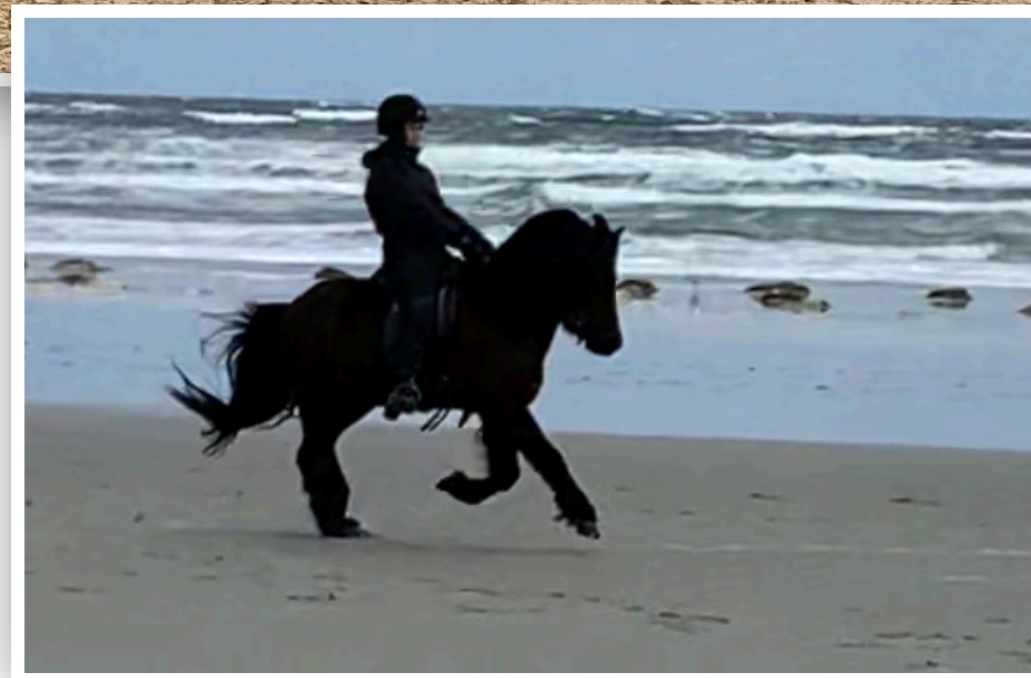
Crane beach is one of the best "promotion site" for the breed. March is the best month for it!

Trail rides and prep for virtual show has been on the daily agenda this month.

Brynja and Ebba Meehan spent a week at Hestaland to train and learn. Highlight was to watch Meistardeild "live".



From left: Maya, Stina, Kate, Cindy, Valerie, Erika, Scott, Shelby, Brynja, Lexi.



Tölting on Crane Beach.



Annual Meeting starting! From left: Julia, Valerie, Erika, Arlene, Kate, Andrea, Ebba.



April

The first **Resonant Riding** Clinic was hosted April 22, 23 and 24th filled with 12 members riding and 6-8 guests to watch. Laura Benson and Carrie Brandt evaluated horses and paired riders/horses to create a musical freestyle. Everyone had to practice free flow riding with music and stay in sync!



Above: Everyone ready for a lecture.

Left: Greeley, Shelby, Kate, Val.



May

Rebekah's Godek's 13 year old Mimir from Pangaea, better known as Maple, exemplifies the beauty and friendly character that Icelandic horses are known for, making him the perfect breed ambassador.

Equine Activities:

Berwick, ME and Topsham, ME – Skijoring practice and competition.

Tunbridge, VT – Solheimar Farm – Firmakeppni

Madbury, NH – Wentworth Hunt Club, fox hunting

Deerfield, NH – Northeast Friesian Horse Show Classic, Intro Dressage Test

Public-facing Activities:

Wells Beach, ME – many publicized beach rides (both day and night) where we invited the public to approach for meet & greets and selfies.

South Berwick, ME – Aubrey's Coffee Shop visits for coffee and selfies with guests.

Service Activities:

South Berwick, ME – informal horse therapy for children.

South Berwick, ME – Seacoast Christian School, Family Farm Day

Kittery,

ME – Durgin Pines Assisted Living and Rehabilitation, window visits to residents.





June

With horses in their shiniest coats MVI had another **Demo Day & Open House** on June 23rd. A crowd of riders and guests came up to about 20 people. Gait demo with 5 riders and Erika Tighe describing went well.

Visitors were excited meeting the horses and surprised to see how powerful those smaller horses are. Good food afterwards topped it off.

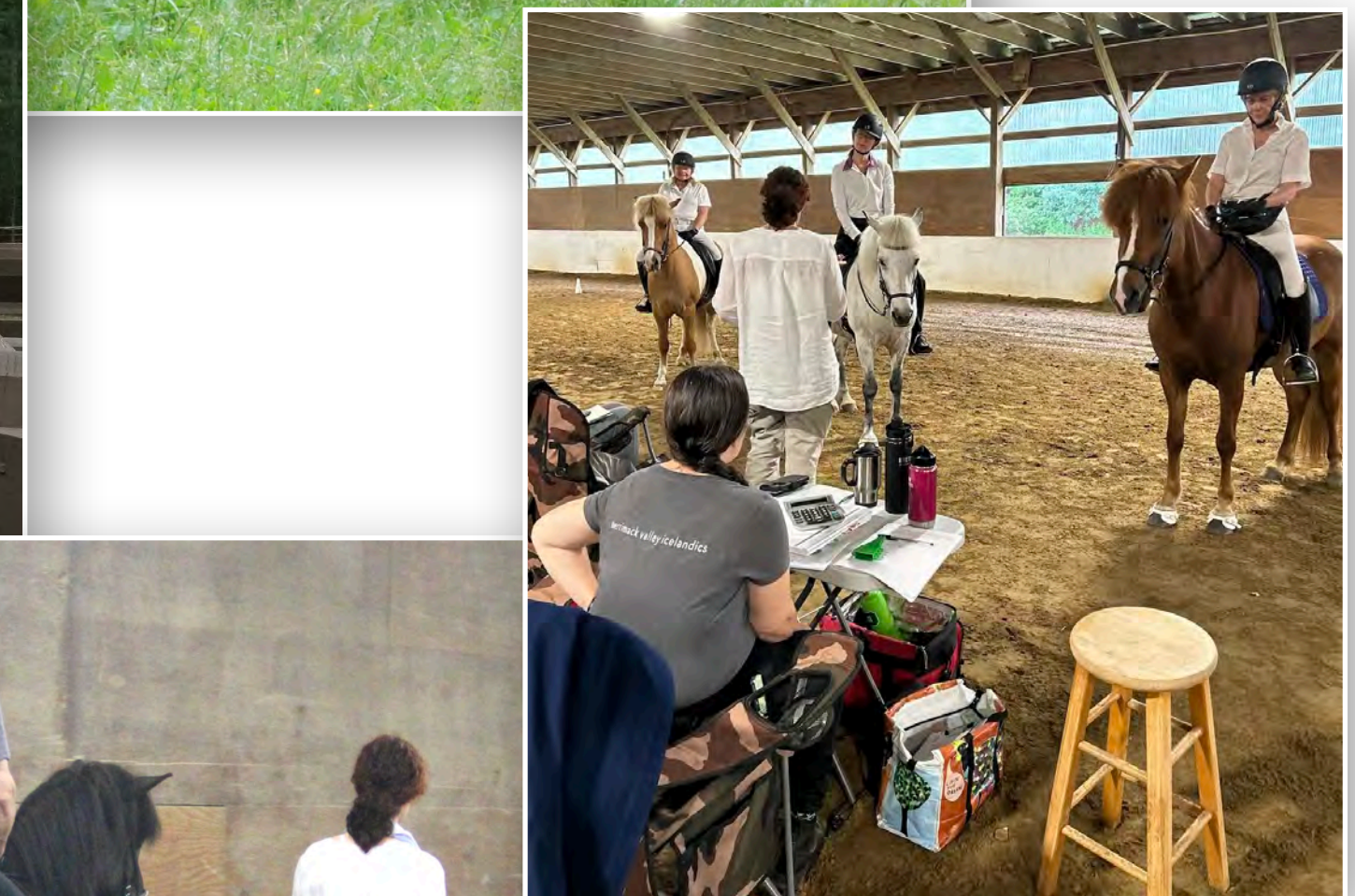
June 26th MVI held a clinic with Alex Pregitzer from Four Beat LLC.

Lessons were given in FEIF Classes in the am. In the afternoon everyone rode their FEIF classes and got scored by the judge and feedback was received for each rider/horse.

Lecture about “competing smarter” was helpful and we highly recommend this format of learning and competing in stressless setting for all levels.

7 riders took part and number of people audited.

Photo credit to Stina Lewis.





July

The Icelandic horse promotes itself in Iceland of course and many people come to us after meeting the horse in Iceland and realize they can meet them here back home! With that said MVI ventured out to Iceland for two treks with Hestaland. Twelve NEIHC members and guests took part in a week long trek visiting Pingvellir National Park, some members kept going for the second trek also week long where beach riding was the focus.

This August two treks are planned and are almost full.

Solheimar Farm Hosted Triple Crown National Ranked Shows through the summer and fall with increasing number of riders participating.



Very top: At National Park Thingvellir area.

Above: At Longufjorur Beach.

Far left: Sigrun and Kami.

Left: Youth members with Jana Mayer.



August

After a summer break MVI decided to support Sólheimar Triple Crown Show on the 19th and 20th. Six horses went with their riders and gained experience on the oval.

Eight horses will be going again in October to compete in this relaxed, fun and friendly environment.



Future looks bright in this youth class at Solheimar NR show.

Some people have such fun at the shows!



September

The Myopia Hunt, warmly welcomed Icelandic horses to their Hilltoppers field in 2023. Myopia continues to grow the sport for all breeds, including Icelandics, which are well suited due to their strong athleticism and stamina, combined with their level-headed and flexible nature when working closely with other horses. From Cedar Tree Stable in Ipswich Mass, Phebe Kiryk, on Grima, as the first Icelandic member of the Myopia Hunt, with Brenda Nishamura on Ævar, and Anna Wallstrom on Kraftur joining as “cappers”, or guest riders, enjoyed the expansive North Shore conservation forests, beaches, and meadows riding out enthusiastically with 15-30 horses and as many hounds! Phebe Kiryk welcomes questions about joining a hunt!

The Icelandic riders at Cedar Tree Stables- held 8 clinics

- Jana Mayer
- The Masterson Method
- Lucile Bump- expert on Sally Swift's Centered Riding
- Mountain Trail/Obstacle riding where our Icelandics were fearless and athletic on all types of challenges- unstable bridges, moving planks, ascending and descending pyramids.

Each clinic had 8-12 participants.



Phebe and Brenda with Grima and Ævar.



October

The MVI Drill Team performed at The Topsfield Fair, 8 riders performed. A gait demo with 10 horses was performed as well.

Six MVI riders went to **Sólheimar Farm for the Triple Crown Show Series.**

ECTA Hunter Pace in Hamilton was attended with at least 8 to 10 Icelandics.



Friendships are important! Liesl, Ninja, Kami and Miette.



Introduction at the Topsfield Fair.



November



Nancy Rholf's organized a group ride/potluck on November 5th with good attendance of 16 riders! A good appearance of the breed at Bradley Palmer State Park.

At least 6 to 10 Icelandic Horses attended ECTA Hunter Pace in Hamilton, MA.

Equine Affair had 6 MVI riders perform a demo on Saturday and Sunday in the Coliseum and Malory Buildings.

Congratulations to Lexi Mitchell on her first Icelandic Horse Vinur.

Congratulations to Shelby Walker and Scott Smith on their new farm across the street from MVI! They moved their 4 horses Oddur, Rom, Loki and Balthasar in and we have a fast growing community of Icelandics right here in Boxford.

November 18th through the 20th MVI held a combo clinic with Carrie Brandt and Gudmar Petursson.





December

MVI hosted a clinic with Vibeke Thoresen on December 16th and 17th, filled with 14 NEICH riders.

In December the Youth FEIF Cup team was announced.

Two NEIHC youth members, Liesl Kolbe and Brynja Meehan made it and we are crossing fingers we can send the third youth member Miette Jennings. It will be known mid April. The other Team Member is from KY.

