

The WRS Whinny

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2009

All American Quarter Horse Congress



WRS is happy to report the success of its members at the 2009 All American Quarter Horse Congress. Nine of WRS's horses hit the road on October 10 for the 12-hour (almost to the minute!) drive to Columbus, Ohio. The first day at Congress consisted primarily of unpacking, dismantling stalls, and assembling the tack room, feed room, and lounge areas that we utilize while there. Although there were a couple of days of bitter cold, the weather graced us with sun and warmth for the most part. Our home while in Columbus is a nearby hotel.

Enough with trivial details, since everyone is wondering how the WRS Congress Team did, let me fill you in!

Libby Rinder showed Hot Rockin Potential ("Sonny") in horsemanship and western pleasure and Knot on Time ("Stroker") in trail. Libby and 4-year-old Sonny set the tone for their upcoming years in the showing together by placing 7th out of 113 entries in Novice Youth Western Pleasure 14-18!

Irene Bugliari showed Unzip My Imagination ("Simon") in trail, equitation, and showmanship. Irene and Simon made a spectacular finale in their last year of novice showing by placing 9th out of 90 entries in Novice Youth Trail 14-18!

Ashley Sinclair showed Zips Investor ("Max") in horsemanship, equitation, and showmanship. It is noteworthy that although Ashley owned and showed Max for several years, they had limited time to prepare for the Congress as her new horse Richie was laid up with an injury earlier this year. Ashley and WRS thank Ashley Grasso and her family (Max's current owners) for allowing Ashley S. and Max the opportunity to show at Congress. Not only did the pair show, they made it into the Finals in Novice Youth Western Horsemanship 14-18 out of 146 entries!

Sue Sinnott showed her horse Zip A Shady Lad ("Alvin") in showmanship. The team made a strong showing in both their showmanship classes at their *first ever* appearance at Congress despite a setback rendering Alvin unable to compete in the under saddle classes.

Tristen Perry and Dream Principle ("Bailey") showed in trail, horsemanship, equitation, and showmanship. They both did a great job in all of their classes- even in their eq class where they almost missed their split! As this team matures, they are bound to have many successful Congresses ahead of them.

Ashley Chello showed Lukes Little Star ("Polaris") in equitation. This gorgeous duo has worked tirelessly to improve and their hard work was reflected in their pattern.

Ana Griffin showed Dude Do Me Right ("Dude") in equitation, horsemanship, and showmanship. Ana's elegance and dedication shined in her patterns highlighting the teamwork the pair has worked to develop.



Whitney Lagace also showed Sonny in Green Trail and She Made It Happen ("Skyler") in Senior Trail. Sonny's youth contributed to his distraction while showing which cost them a placing, but they plan on winning trail for the rest of their careers, so it's ok. Skyler had a lovely go, however 3 ticks on course out of 157 entries is enough to knock a horse out of the placings.

WRS is unbelievably, inexpressibly proud of everyone who showed at one of the biggest shows on Earth...Congress!!

Photos courtesy of Ashley Chello.

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Birthdays and Congratulations

- Happy Thanksgiving!
- Merry Christmas!
- Happy New Year!
- Happy Birthday Alyssa S.!
- Happy Birthday Beth!
- Happy Birthday Denise!
- Happy anniversary Leslie & Hugh!
- Welcome to the world Mason & congratulations Stanton & Sinclair families!
- Congratulations to Irene on her Top Ten win in trail at Congress!
- Congratulations to Libby on her Top Ten win in pleasure at Congress!
- Congratulations to Ashley S. as a Finalist at Congress!

Welcome

- Welcome Luke!



The Popping Pony Riders Give Back



WRS's Popping Pony Riders 4-H Club are active and busy! The club held a give-back day in October in order to thank WRS. 4-H members painted trail poles, cleaned tack, and other helpful tasks. To make it fun, the girls shared dinner and snacks and camped in tents in the indoor arena. The campers were up early the next morning to help ready and load the horses leaving for Congress in Ohio. Although they didn't get much sleep, they all had a great time and they all helped improve the barn!



Upcoming QH shows:

December 25– January 3

Florida Gold

Coast Horseshow

Spooktackular Party

A barn party was held Saturday, Nov. 7 at WRS. Although it was post-Halloween, the indoor was transformed by decorations and there were still some great costumes to be seen (Elvis and Whitney-impersonated-by-Libby seem to come to mind). A bonfire, heater, and dance floor kept people warm on the chilly night as did the endless delicious food and great company.

During the party, the Popping Pony Riders showed their gratitude by presenting Sue Sinnott with a card and flowers for all of her help in coaching them in showmanship at open shows. The club recognizes how lucky they are to have someone as knowledgeable and talented as Sue to coach them!

On a personal note, I was especially grateful to have the opportunity to see everyone before I departed on my trip. Whitney and Christine made a beautiful (which I am tearing up at just writing this) speech and I was given a bracelet with a charm from each family. I wear it constantly and it reminds me all of you. Ana dubbed it The Traveling Bracelet and that's exactly what it shall be.

Thank you to everyone who made the party a great success! Hopefully everyone had a terrific time with all the wonderful people at WRS!



Pumpkin Dip Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 (8-oz) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1 (15 oz) can solid pack pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger

Directions

In a medium bowl, blend cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Gradually mix in the pumpkin. Stir in the cinnamon and ginger until smooth. Chill until serving.

Goes great with sliced apples or ginger snap cookies (Anna's brand is especially delicious).



Included especially for Denise.



So far, the Traveling Bracelet has been to England, Hungary, and Slovakia and is looking forward to more destinations!

New Additions

WRS just keeps getting better. The final touches are being made to the barn thanks to hard work from a lot of people. The bath stalls, complete with hot and cold water, are now installed and fully functional! A big thanks to Joe Alger for his time and expertise in installing those wash stalls. Thanks to Jeff Sinnott for the ceiling fans which are also up and running (well, when it's warm again!). The heating system will be here just on time for winter. Of course, a huge thank you to Mike who is the driving force behind all the changes at the barn. Keep a look out for new additions and thank those that make them possible!

Holiday Gift Ideas



Please keep in mind that horseback riding at WRS makes for a memorable Christmas present! A gift certificate for riding lessons is great for horse-lovers of all ages. Although summer is a ways off, enrolling a child in WRS's Summer Riding Camp is another clever gift idea.

Visit www.whitneyridge.com for details.

WhitneyRidge.com

Visit the new WRS website at www.WhitneyRidge.com! Although much more is to come, the website is up and running with a new design. The site features links including training, showing, boarding, lessons, and sales. There is also a section that will provide access specifically to WRS clients for updates, schedules, and other important information. We'd love to get some feedback on the site so be sure to check it out and tell others about it too!

Congress Queen Contest

This year was the first year I represented the Connecticut Quarter Horse Association at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in the Congress Queen Contest. I competed against 19 other contestants representing their respective QH associations. The competition is intense and the winner not only receives the title of Congress Queen and the duties of representing AQHA at major shows across the country, but she also receives numerous gifts, including a trailer.



The contest began with check-in and an orientation dinner on October 14th and progressed to the true competition the next day. The first section of the test was an oral interview conducted by three judges not affiliated with horses in any way. The written test on the AQHA Rules & Regulations was administered early Friday morning. The test is detailed and aimed at determining the contestant's verbatim knowledge of the rulebook. Everything from AQHA's phone number to the spacing of cones in a western riding pattern appeared on the test. The final portion- a western horsemanship pattern- was held Saturday evening. When we weren't competing, we spent our time walking around in 'Queen's wear' (skirt, hat, crown, sash, boots, etc.) thanking vendors for their support, talking with visitors, and handing out class awards. As a part of the experience, a style show is held to raise money for the Shirley Bowman Breast Cancer Nutrition Clinic. The style show was followed by an autograph session during which I signed posters for two hours straight. I'm fairly certain most girls under 6-years-old are under the impression that I'm truly royalty and group me in the same category as Disney princesses.



The culmination of the crowning and awards was held Monday evening. Each contestant walked down a red carpet in the spotlight during the ceremony. Although I did not place in the horsemanship due to a communication malfunction, I am proud that I placed in both the oral interview and the written test for an overall ranking of sixth- a great honor, especially since most girls have been preparing for over a year while I have only been preparing since late September! The new Congress Queen is Ashley Cooke from Ontario, Canada for anyone mildly interested (I'm only joking).

Overall, it was one of the best experiences of my life. It was amazing to meet so many people and I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity. I know that I could not have done it without all the help and support from WRS.

Thank you Christine for all of your time and hard work helping me get my outfits together, thank you Irene and the Bugliari family for letting me borrow outfits and jewelry, thank you Libby and the Rinders for letting me ride Sonny in horsemanship, thank you Whitney for coaching and encouraging me, thank you Derek for helping me prepare for the horsemanship (and also for perfecting my runway walk and playing the part of Christine at dinner), thank you to the Sinnott family for all your help, thank you to Carol Watson for your help and hats, thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets, thanks to everyone who came to watch me, and a huge thanks for all the encouragement, love, and support everyone has given me!

Photos courtesy of Irene Bugliari.



"Never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear, or a fool from any direction."

- Cowboy Saying



Oops!!

I know it's hard to believe, but every once in a great while I mess up. Oops! I'd like to make the following corrections to the prior issue (Issue 5) of the WRS Whinny.

1. The gross oversight and omission of one of our finest rider and equine teams of the WRS Congress Team: Tristen Perry and Dream Principle prepared tirelessly for the Congress and WRS is proud that they represented us! *See Tristen on the cover
2. Somehow, my final edition did not include credit for the photographs that appeared in its pages! Irene Bugliari provided the photos of the deer and puppies and Christine Griffin provided the Queen's headshot. Both Irene and Christine are talented with a camera and deserve recognition!





WHITNEY RIDGE
STABLES
HOME OF LAGACE
PERFORMANCE HORSES

227 Little City Rd.
Higganum, CT
06441

Phone: 860-345-3948
Fax: 866-739-6877
Email: whitneyridge@aol.com



Editor & Designer of The Whinny:
Veronica Hay
vnh85@hotmail.com



Whitney Ridge Stables was founded in 1999 by Whitney Lagace. The farm is operated by the head trainer Whitney, her husband Mike Lagace, and barn manager Diane Planken. Assistant trainer Veronica (Roni) Hay has worked for the business for nine years. The farm also employs trainer and instructor Derek Bonk. Riding instructors include Kim Antol and Lynn Ficara. Boarding, training, sales, and English and western riding lessons are all services available at WRS. The operation specializes in cultivating successful partnerships between horses and riders. The primary focus of WRS is the training and showing of American Quarter Horses at both a local and national level.

Just for Fun

The Ten Commandments of The Congress



ASK MERLIN

What is your favorite part of the holidays?

~ Santa

That's a tough one. Thanksgiving always means turkey juices and other yummys to garnish my kibble. For Christmas, even though I'm not allowed to play with the bulbs on the tree, there are always toys just for me beneath it. I love to unwrap my gifts by myself on Christmas morning! It's hard to wait sometimes though, so I'll sniff through the wrapping. I always find it curious that golf balls are always mislabeled, they must be for me and not for Roni's dad. Most of all, I love being around family & friends (because I can always get someone to play with me!)

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

~ Merlin, CBD

If you have a question for me about the barn, horses, or myself please contact my secretary, Roni at vnh85@hotmail.com.



1. You ask "What day is it?" at least once because your internal clock has been so mangled by sleepless nights and driving that you haven't a clue. Not that it really matters what day it is so long as you know what classes are running.
2. You drive a golf cart at least once (without hitting a person, horse, dog, other golf cart, car, truck or trailer- even though you come really, really close). You drive this same golf cart through the drive-thru at McDonalds. This is one of your most memorable Congress experiences.
3. You eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the above-mentioned McDonalds (several days in a row) and are grateful for what you know will be a coronary 20 years down the road.
4. You wonder where all of the footing from the ring is going until you blow your nose- the contents of which could create another whole arena.
5. You raid the candy bowls displayed in front of other barns at least once.
6. Getting cut-off in the practice ring becomes a training method to ensure quick halts.
7. You eat the required number of cinnamon rolls from the Sweet Shop (quantity determined by height, weight and years of experience at the Congress).
8. You end up with a new puppy from Puppy Alley without intending to. (For you, Leslie. :))
9. You stop to wonder at a beautiful horse or a cute cowboy, whichever comes first. Or both.
10. (Most importantly...) You thank your lucky stars that there is a Congress and good friends to go with!

Obtained at www.oqha.com and heavily modified by yours truly.



This edition of *The Whinny* is coming to you from Newmarket, England. I hope everyone has enjoyed reading the newsletter as much as I have enjoyed writing it. This will probably be the last issue, but if I get a chance to get another one out, I will. If you haven't already, be sure to find me on Facebook so I can keep in touch. I miss you all and am so lucky to have you all in my life!!

~Roni