



AREAVII

Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Association, Inc.

FALL 2018

Celebrating our Congress Champions!

THR's Sweet Victory

- » Grand Champion Classic Mare-Over
- » Champion Classic Sr. Mare-Over
- » Champion Classic 3 & 4 Year Old Mares-Over
- » Champion 4 Year Old Classic Pleasure Driving Futurity
- » Champion Classic Youth Mare, 8-12
- » Champion Classic Mare Solid Color



Comferts Kiss Good Night

- » Reserve Champion Foundation Yearling Filly
- » Champion Foundation Youth Halter Mare, 8-12
- » Champion Foundation Youth Halter Mare, 13-17

Claybury J-Js Heir Borne

- » Grand Champion Foundation Gelding
- » Sr. Champion Foundation Gelding
- » Champion Foundation Gelding 3 & 4 year olds
- » Champion Foundation Youth Halter Gelding 13-17
- » Reserve Champion Foundation Youth Halter Gelding 8-12
- » Reserve Champion Foundation Country Pleasure Driving 42 & Under



Anivia Equine

Stacy Sachen • Park City, UT • anivia.com • Visit us on Facebook

DOUBLE E RANCH

*Specializing in the Breeding and Showing
of Miniature Horses*

Jacob Elliott and Richard Erickson

www.doubleeranch.us

*Anivia
Equine*



Stacy Sachen
(773) 251-1445



www.redwoodacreranch.com

2018 Officers and Committee Members

President: Jacob Elliott

Phone: (916) 479-0962

bigjasper5@aol.com

Term of office: 2 years, 2018–2020

Vice-President: Susan Browning-Wroe

Phone: (916) 969-9722

wroemarvin@cs.com

Term of office: 2 years, 2018–2020

Secretary: Melissa Berschens

Phone: (530) 620-2751

melissa@silverbuckleservices.com

Term of office: 2 years, 2018–2020

Treasurer: Michele Nelson

Phone: (510) 326-6487

michelenelson@nelsonpics.com

Term of office: 2 years, 2018–2020

Director: Richard Radulovich

Phone: (209) 368-2026

penny@radulovichfarms.com

Term of office: 2 years, 2018–2020

Director: John Gracey

Phone: (530) 741-1092

j.gracey@comcast.net

Term of office: 1 year, 2018–2019

Director: Robert Blackwell

Phone: (916) 723-6932

donny56b@yahoo.com

Term of office: 1 year, 2018–2019

Past President: Susan Browning-Wroe

Phone: (916) 969-9722

wroemarvin@cs.com

Membership Committee:

Michele Nelson: (510) 326-6487

membership@areaviiclub.com

Show Committee:

Melissa Berschens, Robert Blackwell, Lynn Blackwell, Susan Browning-Wroe, Jacob Elliott, Richard Erickson, Julie Mabie, Michele Nelson, Kathie Peterson, and Richard Radulovich
showchair@areaviiclub.com

Sunshine Committee

Linda Anastasio: (209) 838-6399

Cell: (209) 614-9346

apanastasio@aol.com

Newsletter and Website:

Michele Nelson: (510) 326-6487

michelenelson@nelsonpics.com

Area VII National Directors:

Shetland Seat

Julie Mabie, (831) 684-1555

WhisprPony@aol.com

Term of office: 2017–2019

Open Seat

Eric Tani, (310) 704-3833

etani2@roadrunner.com

Term of office: 2016–2018

Mailing Address: 5619 Market Street, Apt. B, Oakland, CA 94608-2809

info@areaviiclub.com • www.areaviiclub.com



Area VII Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Assoc., Inc.

The Area VII Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Association, Inc., was incorporated on June 14, 1998 by the Board of Directors: President Marjorie Vliet, Director Virginia Flint and Director Jim Curry. It is and has always been member supported and driven, with a dynamic group of people volunteering to run the club.

Area VII is an American Shetland Pony Club/American Miniature Horse Registry/American Show Pony Registry (ASPC/AMHR/ASPR) registered and recognized club that is primarily active in California, though our area encompasses California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii. Our membership includes owners of both ASPC Shetlands and AMHR Miniature Horses. Area VII welcomes members from all over—and you do not need to own a mini or pony to join.

Area VII's membership is spread across California and Nevada at this time, with members of all ages, with varied backgrounds and interests. Area VII is primarily a club for those that enjoy their Shetlands and Miniatures, with a particular interest in showing.

“We are an informal group of people of all ages who gather together for the enjoyment of friendships made, and the promotion of our beautiful equine. As members of this organization, we help maintain the recognition that our fine Shetlands and Miniatures deserve at the ASPC/AMHR level.”



Calendar of Events

For updates, go to www.areaviiclub.com

SEPTEMBER

6-16 AMHR Nationals

Expo Square, Tulsa, OK

www.shetlandminiature.com

15 Santa Cruz County Fair (Classic, AMHR)

Full class list for Classic Shetlands, performance only for AMHR Miniature Horses, Open classes for all horses and ponies 46" and under.

Julie Mabie, (831) 684-1555

OCTOBER

4-7 California Fall Classic CDE

ADS approved. Third leg of the 2018 West Coast Triple Crown. VSEs and Ponies welcome! Volunteers needed, no experience necessary. Lunch provided for volunteers! Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA
Deb and Stan Packard, (916) 952-2196
www.claystationhorsepark.com

12-14 Spooktacular Jubilee Show

Hosted by the Oregon Pinto Horse Assoc. Pinto and "Open" to ALL Breed classes for horses, ponies and Miniatures in Open, Amateur and Youth Divisions. Lots of High Points! Onsite registration.
Linn County Fair & Expo, Albany, OR
www.oregonpinto.com

27-28 Clay Station Horse Driving Trials

Each day is a separate event. VSE and Pony divisions. Volunteers needed, no experience necessary. Lunch provided for volunteers! Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA
Deb and Stan Packard, (916) 952-2196
www.claystationhorsepark.com

NOVEMBER

8-10 ASPC Convention & Annual Meeting

Omaha, NE

Hotel room block expires October 7

Registration due before October 15

www.shetlandminiature.com

DECEMBER

8 Area VII Annual Meeting

Location TBA

2019 Events

APRIL

20-21 California Classic 2019

(AMHR, Classic, Modern, ASPR)
Area VII SP&MHA
Murieta Equestrian Center,
Rancho Murieta, CA

MAY

9-12 Western States Horse Expo

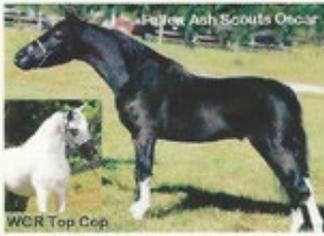
Murieta Equestrian Center,
Rancho Murieta, CA



Wesco Farms
AMHA & AMHR Miniature Horses

Michelle Sharrock
POB 426 Winters CA 95694
530.795.1595
michelle@wescofarms.com

wescofarms.com



Message from the President

It's Showtime! AMHR Nationals are upon us, and I can hardly wait. I'm looking forward to seeing members of Area VII, as well as friends I've met through the years as a part of this amazing industry. Following our performance/liberty show at the end of June, Rich and I were able to take a short vacation back east. We had the opportunity to visit our old friend Gail Byrnes in New Hampshire. We had a very short, but amazing visit and talked incessantly the whole time about our mutual interests. After visiting some family in Columbus, Ohio, Rich and I stopped in St. Louis and were able to attend the ASPC Congress for a couple of days. It was a real treat seeing these incredible ponies.

I cannot say enough how excited I am for 2019! Our club should enjoy a productive year following the close of show season. We are currently working on transitioning to non-profit status which will enable our club to seek corporate sponsorship. Our California Classic show is set for the third weekend in April. Hopefully, we'll enjoy the same success as we did this year. Our summer performance show promises to be spectacular, as NORCAL is planning to join us for a combination AMHA/AMHR show. Let's get the word out for next year, and please be generous with your sponsorships! Every bit helps! Hope to see y'all at nationals!

Yours,
Jacob Elliott



Performance Classic 2018

We hosted our inaugural Performance Classic show at Murieta Equestrian Center on Saturday, June 30, 2018. The turnout wasn't quite what we had hoped for, but that's often the way it goes for a new event. Plus, it was hot. Really, really hot! It was 108 when the show ended on Saturday afternoon.

This was a rated all-performance show for Classic Shetland Ponies and AMHR Miniature Horses. The class list included Pleasure Driving, Country Pleasure Driving, Western Country Pleasure Driving, Classic Carriage Driving, Obstacle Driving, Halter Obstacle, Hunter In Hand, and Liberty.

This show was successful enough that we are planning to do it again at Murieta Equestrian Center in 2019. We're talking to NorCal about combining our resources so we can do an AMHR show and an AMHA show the same weekend. Stay tuned for updates.

The obstacle courses were the star of this particular show. Susan Browning-Wroe took on the task of designing the courses, and wow, she did not disappoint! The courses were amazing, and the exhibitors really enjoyed them. Thanks to Susan and all of the Ravenstar crew for the great job!

After watching Lana Grieve on course in the halter obstacle classes, the Griggs boys were delighted to receive a Star Point Horsemanship package donated by Lana including a DVD and a training halter and training stick. Lana's training DVDs focus on groundwork and they are excellent.

As usual, there are lots of people who deserve our heartfelt thanks for making this show happen. Jacob Elliott and Richard Erickson of Double E Ranch sponsored the arena (and also provided gallons of Gatorade to keep us all hydrated in the heat!) Our judges, Cindi Carlson and Laurie Villalpando, and our ASPC Steward, Rob Crater. Our amazing Show Manager Rinda Pullen. Our announcer, Mark Nelson—sadly he is retiring from the announcer's booth, and this was his last show. Richard Radulovich for taking charge of the club trailer—giving it a home, getting long-overdue maintenance done, and hauling it to and from the show. Class sponsors Pat and Linda Anastasio of Bellota Miniatures, Melissa Berschens of Silver Buckle Services; Susan Browning-Wroe, Marvin Wroe,

Robert and Lynn Blackwell, and Daniel Benner of Ravenstar Farm, and Lana Grieve of Star Point Horsemanship.

And of course, thanks to everyone who brought their wonderful horses and ponies and braved the heat to participate in our show.
—Michele Nelson

Illustration: Melissa Berschens





Photos by Menanie North,
Turquoise Buffalo Photography

The Rescue of “Shawn Boy”

By Daniel Benner

So it was the last class of the California classic on Sunday and there were 10 or 11 entries in carts, and a baby bird flew into the middle of the arena. He kind of looked this only meant by all the excitement around him. The headers were all on the rail outside the arena, and they all noticed the bird. What seemed to be the mother came down and kind of showed the baby bird how to fly up into the rafters above, but the baby bird looked like he wasn't quite ready to fly that high yet. All the headers on

the rail were worrying about young Bird getting hit when the carts turned around. They reversed at the walk as instructed, and none of the carts even came close to the bird. When it was time for the carts to line up in the middle of the ring, the headers were all yelling at the drivers to not hit the bird. When the announcer said “headers in,” Shawn Hester walked in and picked up the bird and put him in his jacket.

After the class, Shawn remembered that judge Kim Sterchi's husband raises birds, so he asked Kim if she could take the baby bird home. Kim, who has a soft spot for animals, happily put it in the basket that was meant for the judges' snacks on the center ring table, and put some cloth around it so it be comfortable. After the show, she took it home and took care of it. A few weeks later, Kim posted on Facebook that the bird was doing great. This just goes to show you the exciting things that can happen at the Area VII California Classic! So don't miss the next one because who knows what will happen?

From Kim Sterchi: For those of you who have been wondering how the dove was doing that Shawn Hester rescued from from the last driving class of 20 circling wheels and 40 pounding hoofs at the Rancho Murieta show, you will be glad to hear that “Shawn Boy,” as we call him here at Sierra Ranch, is doing well and thriving. I have hand fed him for about a week now but it is time he eats on his own.



Photo: courtesy Kim Sterchi

Resetting the Relationship

By John R. Killacky

My Shetland pony has been pulling me in a cart for seven years. Neither of us are show quality, we enjoy working together in the indoor arena at the boarding barn I stable her at. Living in Vermont, the winters are long, and every spring she is a bit barn sour, and we need to recalibrate our driving relationship.

This spring she became particularly ornery, refusing to drive in one direction while the other way, she glided along smoothly without any bother. Balking, shying, and crow-hopping was hazardous to other equestrians in the ring. I lost confidence and worked with our trainer to address performance issues to no avail.

Her crankiness persisted for weeks. The pony and I were both frustrated, so I decided to give us a staycation. No more hitching up and pulling in the cart, but lunging over poles on the ground and then over small jumps got us into a more playful relationship. Of course, treats were never too far away, she certainly knew which pocket they lived in.

Weeks later, we began again with our trainer as if we have never driven before. Back to the basics, working on engaged, but not too tight rein controls, keeping the pony straight through the shafts even in turns, half halts to moderate tempo when necessary, and me relaxing while still maintaining control.

In breaking down and analyzing these components, I realized I had been unconsciously triggering the pony's behavior by tensing up in the area where she had been shying, cueing her instead to pull away. It became an interesting exercise to release my grip on the reins exactly where the issues had been.

As well, I was continually reminded to look beyond the pony in the direction I wanted to go. How many times had I heard this before? Far too many I admit. However, I had gotten focused on the problem at hand and not the horizon ahead. Once I focused on the desired destination in front of us, the pony relaxed and trotted forward easily.

Beginning again with a beginner's mindset allowed us to reset our relationship. We are having fun again. Her mouth is soft and foamy after a drive—signs she is happy with a job well done. I too am joyful once more as the pony and I fly unabashedly together.



Photo: James Buck

Yet again, barn lessons help in life: giving up control is not always a bad thing and looking beyond difficulties is sometimes necessary. How grateful I am to have this Shetland pony.

John R. Killacky is running for a seat in the Vermont House of Representatives this November.

Seeking Success Training Small Equines



Thoughts—By Sherry Ward

I would like to share an experience I had attending a small clinic with my beloved ASPC fellow,

VooDoo. The presenting clinician was represented as a talented natural horsemanship expert. It was suggested that I offer up my pony for a demo, something I trustingly expected to be quite educational and fun.

Most folks find my Voo to be a nicely mannered pony, but this “clinician” had pretty different standards about literally every move he made. Voo was not allowed to even look away without being abruptly corrected, or perhaps more correctly, harassed. This showed me that this person did not recognize that sometimes an equine can’t look at you if they are unconfident, or they might not want to look at you if you fail to provide engaging and interesting leadership. It wasn’t long before I was feeling just like Voo, and perhaps we both agreed that this person was a nitpicker and pretty irritating. Both the pony and I were thinking, where is the next off ramp?

The demo went on for a long time with a lot of proposed “fixes,” though I was not impressed with the level of minutia. I tend to not be impressed with robotic horses, which seemed to be the objective. In front of a lot of other guests, I was getting very uncomfortable, but trying to not cause controversy. I would later learn that others in the audience weren’t pleased either. The “clinician” ignored several hints that it was time to wrap up. She had the spotlight and wasn’t ready to step out of it.

To allay reader concerns for my pony, anyone that knows me has no doubt I would have taken any measures necessary to stop what was happening if I saw it as causing harm to Voo. However, as this demo dragged on, the methodology was offensive to the program I have personally adopted. We had reached a point where Voo’s body language let it be known that he hit the wall on learning, making progress impossible.

Recently I had the pleasure of seeing several presentations by another clinician that uses what I feel are much better practices to keep the animal in a good place physically, mentally and emotionally. I love watching him as he keeps the animal very engaged and actively involved. If engagement is fading, he offers a break. I also got to view a DVD where this same fellow worked with a very challenging and almost feral pony (yes, a clinician featuring a pony!). He also offered breaks when there were good responses, to reinforce with comfort and rest. The progress was impressive.

This reminded me of a very important part of training—knowing when to stop! And I didn’t insist upon that on behalf of Voo at the aforementioned demo. I was watching him go inside his head to a more peaceful “happy place” because he had been made to feel

wrong so many times, and he just had no more responses to offer. Voo had really just exhausted all ability to soak up any further information.

Needless to say, both Voo and I felt relieved when this person finally ended the demo. The organizer wasn't at all happy with me when later I stated the clinician was not going to be allowed to touch my pony again. Voo and I have since moved on to follow instruction focused on better rapport with equines!

This experience reminded me to always stay aware and read my animals when I am training them myself. Sometimes what I might get is a brace or a resistant reaction (often called opposition reflex) because I have introduced something difficult, new, or unclear. There is nothing wrong with working through resistance with persistence! If I find myself feeling a little frustrated or seeing my pony start to check out, this might be miscommunication or perhaps an exhausted reaction and a regroup is also an option. And exhaustion, just as with humans, can be physical, mental or emotional.

Sometimes Voo and I make a great little breakthrough after we take a little break and I let the pony hand graze while I think about why we have hit resistance or this "fail-yuh to communicate." If I get a little inspiration for something else I might try, Voo often feels a lot more receptive after a short rest and a little comforting reward. And, there is nothing wrong with calling it a day and sleeping on the challenge or doing a little research if I don't immediately come up with a new idea to try!

I encourage my fellow small equine lovers to set things up for success, keep it fun, and definitely keep it engaging. If either you or your equine stop making progress, take a break or even hang it up for the day. The old cowboy trainers called this "soak time." And Voo has shown me it's a real process. Voo also asked me to ask humans for their patience with equines, as typically, tomorrow will be better! Happy Training!

Silver Buckle Services

MULTIPLE AWARD WINNING

Marketing & Design
that leaves a lasting impression.

Print & Web | Social Media | Consulting & More
All Breeds | All Disciplines | All Business

See what we can do for you!

www.silverbuckleservices.com | Kasha Ford (TX) 512.259.6765 | Melissa Berschens (CA) 530.620.2751 | #fordable & Reliable Award Winning Design



Member Spotlight

by Jacob Elliott

Cassidy Blanton

Trainer at Drive 'Em Wild Ranch, Reno, NV

Cassidy is one of the most successful performance trainers in the world. She has won numerous world championships, including world Grand Champion Roadster, Single, Pleasure, and Country Pleasure in AMHA. This year, she is making her much-anticipated debut at AMHR nationals. Her background includes reining and dressage with big horses. Indeed, she still attends clinics in dressage and infuses what she has learned into the ring. She obtained her first miniature after seeing her neighbor's and soon after decided to show. Cassidy took lessons from Michelle Meachem who once lived close by and soon became addicted to appearing in the show ring. As a youth, Cassidy won numerous titles in various categories. Towards the end of her time as a youth, several people approached her for lessons and tips. At that time, she opted to become a trainer. The rest, they say, is history.



Charmayne Harrah Zucker

Owner of Rockin Z Miniatures, Reno, NV

Charmayne comes from a background in full-size horses. At her zenith, Charmayne earned the rank of Grand Prix Special in dressage—the highest ranking attainable. Sadly, her career came to an end when she suffered a horse-related back injury. Not one to give up, Ms. Zucker opted to explore the world of minis. She purchased her first mini from Cassidy Blanton in 2016, and a star was born. Because of her background, Charmayne was a very quick study that rapidly translated to winning results in both country pleasure driving and roadster. Ms. Zucker is very hands-on with all her horses and gives them all her love and respect. She is a welcome addition to the miniature



horse world. Although she originally showed in AMHA only, Charmayne has crossed over to the “dark side” and is currently showing in AMHR and will make her debut at nationals this year. I am certain she will enjoy rousing success!


CARINGELLO FARMS

CLASSIC SHETLAND PONIES

20200 Almaden Rd., San Jose, CA 95120
408-205-5892

News from Jim Curry

For those of us that don't have the opportunity to actually travel to the national events we still have the chance to be involved by watching on various devices. I watch on my computer and did watch the Shetland Congress. The coverage was really good, none of the problems from last year. Members of Area VII that attended had a good show. Our president Jacob Elliott and Richard Erickson were there as spectators. I predict they will be showing ponies in the near future.

The AMHA World show begins on August 24th and many of our members have horses that are registered with both AMHR and AMHA will be attending. The show runs through September 1st so will have ended a couple of days before we receive our newsletter. I hope those not attending will have taken the opportunity to watch at least part of the show. I know I will be watching most if not all of it and will be proud of our members' accomplishments and congratulate all that participated.

Our own AMHR Nationals begins September 6th and runs through September 16th. I for one will try to watch the complete show but will miss the last couple of days as I will be judging the Santa Cruz County Fair. While thinking of this fair I do hope our members support it, as it is one of the last county fairs that still offers classes for our animals. The AMHR Nationals usually has about 1600 entries and is well worth watching, it is an even better experience to attend and I hope to be there next year with my stallion SMHC Armani. Those who have double-registered horses or ponies, either AMHR/AMHA or AMHR/ASPC or in some cases triple-registered AMHR/AMHA/ASPC really have wonderful opportunities to participate at the highest level in one or more of these national events.

While we all can't travel and participate in these shows we do have the ability to watch them from home and enjoy them as spectators. I for one enjoy the live coverage and urge others to share the experience.—*Jim Curry*

Show Pony for Sale

Wilk. Royal Oaks Raven

Double registered Classic ASPC & PtHA Gelding
45 1/2" tall • DOB 7/16/2016



Black with four high white socks, fancy mover, show potential. Stellar mind, very friendly, easy to train. Clips, ties, cross ties, trailers, bathes, good with farrier

Sells as a green driving pony, cart/harness not included.

Located in Royal Oaks, CA

Beth Rounsevell
(831) 728-5464
rouns@aol.com

Video available: <https://youtu.be/IYQDFy2C9No>



Connie's Itsy Bitsy Ranch
 home of
Scott Creek Mystic Tempo
 Registered AMHA/AMHR Miniature Horses

Ed and Connie Hawkins
 209.536.1240
 itsybitsyranch@mlode.com
 21871 Sawmill Flat Rd. • Sonora, CA 95370

STEP-N-STONE



~American Shetlands~

Howard & Shirlee Busbee
 23180 Biggar Lane ~ Covelo, CA 95428 ~ (707) 983-8482
 Fax: (707) 983-8212

Whisper Equestrian Center
 American Shetland Ponies
Breeding, Boarding, Lessons

120 Pine Forest Drive
 Aptos, Ca 95003
 831-685-1342
 fax 831-684-1842



Whisperponyjulie@gmail.com
 www.whisperponies.com

REDSTAR

RANCH

Kathy Courtney • Reno, NV

Tomahawk Ranch
Nancy Turner

5250 Mill Creek Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 433-4346 • tomamini@sonic.net

ROCKIN Z
MINIATURES

Charmayne and Jon Zucker
Reno, NV