



FLUGNIR

ICELANDIC HORSE ASSOCIATION of the MIDWEST



Upcoming events:

July 17-19 Fun Show in Hinckley, MN

July 21-26 Youth Cup

Sep 4-6 Flugnirkeppni Competition

We Want To Hear From You!

Please send your photos, stories, and ideas to flugnir@gmail.com to be featured in our next newsletter!

Open Gaited Breed Fun Show

Saturday, May 9th was a beautiful day for a horse show, near 70 and everyone was sun-kissed. Based on the success of last summer's gaited horse celebration show in Hinckley, MN, the Minnesota Walking Horse Association invited Flugnir to participate in their annual spring show, the Doc Bol Memorial Fun Show. The event was outdoors at the Washington County Fairgrounds near Stillwater, MN, easy to get to with a large oval arena. This was a great opportunity for a spring tune-up with our horses, and the Icelandic classes offered were simple novice and intermediate levels. Our esteemed judge Debbie Cook offered great commentary as recorded by her trusty

scribe Terri Ingram. Debbie has recently earned Regional Sport Judge so this was a great chance for her to apply her learned skills.

There were ten Icelandic horses at the show with ten enthusiastic riders, all Flugnir members: Jackie Alschuler with Leo; John and Pat Curtin on Dreyri and Von; Diane Hovey on Lilla, Eve & Dave Loftness rode Una, Spyrna and Demantur; Cindy Nadler on Andri; Kat and Judy Payne with Bleiktoppa and Kaffeinn. The tenth rider was ten-year-old Kaellie Young. Fellow Icelandic horse owners Linda Fog and Pam

Hanson stopped by to cheer on the group. For some of the riders, this was their first experience in a judged competition. Kat Payne's mom Judy had a great time as a rookie rider on Bleikka, realizing the importance of putting the first 'track' experience behind her to look forward to the next event. Kat herself rode both her horses well in the Icelandic classes, besting her own previous score in one of them. She was the only Icelandic horse rider that ventured into open gaited breed classes against Walking horses, capturing a blue ribbon to make us all proud. The open gaited breed obstacle courses challenged several of our riders, particularly the enormous ball that was bigger than our horses. It was impossible to move the ball without some human assistance, but our persistent horses did not shy away from trying.



A highlight of the show was a new youth rider, Kaellie Young. The Icelandic rider group at Riverbrink has been providing instruction to Kaellie over the last few months, even coordinating lessons for her with Barbara Frische. Kaellie has impressed us all with her natural abilities and overwhelming eagerness to learn. At the show, she rode Demantur calmly to a blue

ribbon in the youth obstacle challenge, and then rode Andri to first place in youth tölt and an open gaited breed class against a Walking horse. Amazingly, this was perhaps her tenth time ever on horseback. Kaellie will undoubtedly continue to impress us.

With the fantastic sunny day, the friendly camaraderie and the constructive feedback from our judge, it was an awesome experience. Please visit the Flugnir website to find other events that promise to be just as entertaining. The 2015 Minnesota Celebration is July 17 – 19 in Hinckley, MN and is open to all gaited breed riders.

- Dave & Eve Loftness



Flugnir "Gallop into the Future" at Midwest Horse Fair

The Flugnir Icelandic Horse Association of the Midwest participated in the Midwest Horse Fair April 17-19, 2015. Flugnir has participated many times at the Midwest Horse Fair, however this time we had new barns, beautiful weather and record breaking attendance. For the 2015 fair the theme was "Gallop into the Future." This is the first time the event took place with the new "New Holland Pavilions." The Pavilions encompass a total of 290,000 square feet and replace nine agricultural barns. We had absolutely gorgeous weather all weekend contributing to breaking attendance records. Attendance was 61,000 per Midwest Horse Fair.

Six riders helped make this event a success for Flugnir and the Icelandic Horse. Discussions occurred on how to incorporate the theme into the booth, breed demonstration and costuming. Time was not always our friend resulting in some things having to either be cut or made simpler. The six riders that participated in the breed demonstration were Jaime Ballweg, Margaret Flanagan, Sydney Horas, Helga Ros Nielsdottir, Soley Elsa Magusdottir Blondal and Lori Cretney. We spent time practicing the breed demonstration drill. We wanted to make a drill that would be entertaining and fun to perform. Flugnir had two breed demonstrations during the fair. The first one was in Pavilion 2 and the second was in the Coliseum. We received many compliments on the drill. Several people stopped by the booth to talk with us and to see the horses.

The booth this year was of photos of Icelandic Horses. We also received many compliments on the booth and how stunning the photos were. Thank you to Andrea Barber Photography, Amber Perry, Verrecchio Joyride Photography, and Gigja D. Einarsdottir for letting us display their photos.

It was a very successful fair and having the new Pavilions made it even better. Thank you to the volunteers who help make this year's fair come together: Winterhorse Park (Barbara and Daniel Riva), Wade Elmlad, Tori Ballweg, Margaret Flanagan, Sydney Horas, Jessica Elmlad, Helga Ros Nielsdottir, Soley Elsa Magusdottir Blondal, Jaime Ballweg, Sharron Cretney and Susan Ballweg.

- Lori Cretney

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