



CURLY CUES

President's Message

Fall/Winter 2025

Fellow Curly Members,

This year, unfortunately, I was unable to attend our Annual Conference call due to a Family Funeral back in my home state of Wisconsin. My dear Sister, 5 years my senior, passed from Breast cancer that she had for 22 years. It seems like everyone now has a relative who is battling some form of cancer. It is a horrible disease, and I wish the medical companies would finally come up with some cures that could help.

So, I will continue with our Curly news, the minutes of the Conference call will be published in this issue of Curly Cues and on the ABC website to look through. I thank the Board of the ABC Registry for taking care of business in my absence. Yet again our volunteers come through!! If you wish to volunteer your time or run for office of the ABC Registry, feel free to contact any of the Board members.

Our Curly Horses are getting very, very curly now with the weather turning cold here in Nevada. I am posting some pictures of Curlies that were sent to me for this issue.

Remember, you can send pictures to me or the ABC office if you wish to have them published on the ABC Facebook page or in the Curly Cues.

Hope everyone's Thanksgiving this year and Christmas is especially joyful and hopeful!

Curly Wishes,

Joan Olson

ABC President

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CURLY CUES

CURLY HORSE SPOTLIGHT

Tiffinay Beechinor and Takoda Moon, ABC#3924, aka "Tucker"



Bryce Beechinor competing on "Tucker"



CURLY CUES

CURLY HORSE SPOTLIGHT

Tiffany and Tucker

It has been a very busy obstacle competition year for myself and Curly Horse (ABC 3924 Takoda Moon) aka. Tucker. Over the past year my son, Bryce and I have had the pleasure of competing in Obstacle Challenges through the California State Horsemen's Association (CSHA) on Tucker. At the end of September Tucker and I competed at the CSHA Trail Trials State Championships in Santa Cruz.

The 2025 Trail Trials Championships were held in the beautiful Henry Cowell Redwood State Park near Santa Cruz. There was some good competition, and the obstacles were very challenging. I made a few mistakes, but Tucker was just doing what I ask for like the gentleman he is. I learned what I need to work on for next year. It was two days of 4 plus hours in the saddle and 16 miles, but with the beautiful trails through the forest it was fun. In the end, we were able to beat our competition and take the Adult Advance Championship for 2025. I am so proud of Tucker. We have achieved so much in the last 15 years of competing in many different types of competition. Next year Tucker will be passed down to my son Bryce to do Trail Trials so I can ride my mare, Kahlua.

The 2025 Obstacle Championships were held the weekend after at Running I Ranch in Dunnigan California. This ranch is a competitive obstacle person's dream. They have many types of obstacles, a suspension bridge, a waterfall with a creek, a pond with multiple obstacles, tetter totter, different types of gates and many other fun things. One never knows what both the horse and rider will be asked to do. Many times, there are things that neither of us have ever seen before. This was also a two-day competition; my son Bryce and I were able to share Tucker. Bryce did an amazing job in Mini Youth Division which is 10 years and under. He competed against 4 other mini youth competitors and was the Champion in his division. I had some tough competition, with 4 great Advanced Division riders. On the first day of competition, I had some struggles with some difficult obstacles. We did much better on the second day, and we ended up in 3rd place in the Advanced Division. I have to say that Curly Horses are perfect for these types of competition because of their curious and willing personalities. Don't be afraid to try new things with your Curlies, you have to start somewhere, and you can only go up from there. Get out and show off these wonderful horses!

P.S. I just like beating the straight horses with my little Curly.



CURLY CUES

NEW REGISTRATIONS Full Book

ABC#4362

RGC Incredible Tara

Owned by Tavisalo, Tara

Pojanluoma, Finland



ABC#4363

Tara's Martin

Owned by Tavisalo, Tara

Pojanluoma, Finland



Curly Book

CB#460 Diamond E

Dust of Dreams

Owned by

Derrick Embry, Kentucky





CURLY CUES

Outcross Book

0110-S Cleopatra Morningstar

Owned by

Antje Avram

Usedom, Germany



0111 DE Aishihik's Wild Heart

Owned by Derrick Emby

Kentucky



0112 Black Dragon Morningstar

Owned by

Antje Avram Germany





CURLY CUES

ABC ANNUAL CONVENTION CALL MINUTES 2025

ABCR Annual Curly Horse Meeting

Sun, Sep 21, 2025

Attendance: Tiffany Beechinor, Melinda Martino, Marion Huurman, Sonja Oakes, Krista Harvey, Diane Mitchell, Shawn Tucker, Donna LaRue, Caren Schumann, Valerie Pain, Sonja Steinsiek

Summary:

The discussion centered on various aspects of the Curly Horse community, including attendance, technical challenges, and updates from members. Melinda noted the absence of Joan due to a family commitment and addressed technical difficulties faced by Tiffany and others in sharing the agenda. Valerie and Sonja introduced themselves as breeders from France and Germany, respectively, while the group acknowledged the presence of other members. The focus was on resolving these technical issues to facilitate smoother discussion.

Melinda shared her upcoming participation in a mountain trail class clinic and championships, which excited Tiffany, who has long awaited such an opportunity. Sonja Oakes humorously mentioned selling horses to a polo family and discussed the training progress of a horse lacking a mane. The conversation included light-hearted exchanges about the horses' appearances and training experiences, fostering a sense of camaraderie among the participants.

Financial matters were a significant topic, with Melinda presenting the treasurer's report, indicating a profit for 2024 and a positive financial outlook for 2025. She proposed a fee increase for breeders transferring multiple horses to address rising costs associated with mailing. The group reached a consensus on adjusting fees and discussed implementing a time limit for registrations to encourage timely processing. Diane reported an increase in funds for the Curly Horse Advocates due to donations, although no reimbursement requests for transportation costs had been submitted this year.

The meeting also covered updates from various districts, with members sharing their experiences and challenges related to breeding and horse ownership. Melinda proposed changes to the Curly Coat book's registration rules to align with those of the Mustang book, sparking a discussion on maintaining distinctions between Studbooks. The group considered the implications of these changes and the need for clear standards regarding foals from Curly BLM Mustangs. Additionally, Melinda and Diane emphasized the importance of accurate communication and strategies to boost membership engagement, while discussions on merchandise inventory and potential new offerings highlighted ongoing organizational efforts within the community.



CURLY CUES

Minutes Cont.

Chapters & Topics:

Technical Difficulties and Attendance Check

Melinda confirmed the attendance of several board members while acknowledging the absence of Joan due to a family funeral. Tiffany and others faced technical difficulties with sharing the agenda and recording the meeting. Valerie Pain and Sonja Steinsiek introduced themselves, with Sonja confirming her location in Germany and Valerie in France.

Updates on Mountain Trail Activities

Melinda is preparing for a mountain trail class clinic on October 11th, and Tiffany will compete in the mountain trail championships in November. Tiffany discussed the challenges of mountain trail events, including various natural obstacles, and shared her long-standing dream of participating. She also mentioned her support network of experienced friends who are helping her prepare.

Financial Overview and Membership Updates

Melinda opened the meeting by confirming the acceptance of the previous year's minutes after receiving no proposed changes. She then shared the treasurer's report, indicating a profit of \$2,400 for 2024 and detailing the current financial situation for 2025, which includes a profit of \$1,827. Additionally, she mentioned the updated DNA cost of \$37.

* Review and acceptance of previous meeting minutes.

Cost Increases and Registration Fees Discussion

Melinda outlined the impact of increased costs for DNA testing and mailing, proposing a fee adjustment for breeders transferring multiple horses. She suggested that the fee for breeders could increase for transfers beyond a specified number. The group generally agreed with her suggestions. Motion #1-Diane Mitchell-Breeder transfer fees be increased to include \$5 for each additional transfer over 2. Seconded by Sonja Oakes. Motion Carried.

* Financial reports and proposed changes to registration fees.

Curly Horse Advocates Update

Diane Mitchell provided an update on the Curly Horse Advocates, highlighting a current balance of \$1,885 from donations. She expressed concern over the lack of reimbursement requests from horse rescuers, despite her efforts to inform them about available support. Melinda supported Diane's initiative to encourage more people to seek help with transportation costs.



CURLY CUES

Minutes Cont.

District Reports on Curly Horses

Melinda noted that District 7 has been relatively quiet, mentioning a breeder in Kentucky who produces curly book horses. Sonja Oakes discussed the positive market for trained curlies and shared updates on Cedric, a horse involved in equine-assisted learning, who has become a great ambassador for the breed. She also mentioned two curlies that have gone to a polo family.

Updates from Districts and Curly Horse Initiatives

Melinda facilitated the meeting, stepping in for Angie, who is dealing with personal loss. Shawn reported on District 5's quiet status but mentioned plans for an equine therapy program for orphans in Belize. Marion shared a touching story about a horse that participated in a wedding, highlighting the bond between the horse and its owner.

* Ideas for organizing events and shows for curly horse owners.

* Discussion on breed standards and unique traits of curly horses. Diane proposed that the word 'could' replace 'should' when shedding is described in the breed standards. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the length of the back since removing the unique characteristic related to 5 lumbar vertebrae. It was determined that modern curlies may or may not have 5 versus 6 lumbar vertebrae depending on the breeder's preferences.

Breeding Challenges and Membership Updates

Marion shared her emotional struggles with breeding and the challenges of selling horses, emphasizing the need for trust in buyers. Krista Harvey proposed a mentorship program for new breeders to guide them through the breeding process. Melinda reported on current membership statistics and highlighted the necessity of transferring horse registrations to maintain accurate records.

* Strategies for increasing membership and engagement within the organization.

* Encouragement of members to transfer horses into their names and the implications for registration.

Curly Coat Book Rules Proposal

Melinda suggested that the Curly Coat book adopt the same registration rules as the Mustang book, specifically allowing curly book to curly book straights be registered with an S and to allow Curly book horses bred to other registered breeds to be registered in the Outcross division. Marion expressed concerns about keeping Mustangs separated. Melinda reassured Marion that she was not suggesting combining the Mustang and Curly books. The participants supported Melinda's proposal, noting the lack of pedigree information for many curly horses. The conversation highlighted the challenges of registering horses with straight coats and the existing limitations of the current rules. Motion #2-Sonja Oakes moved to adopt the Mustang rules for the Curly book horses. Second is Krista Harvey. Motion carried.

* Discussion on the curly coat book rules and their alignment with Mustang book rules.



CURLY CUES

Minutes Cont.

Curly Mustang Recommendations Discussion

Melinda discussed her concerns about foals from Curly BLM Mustangs that do not have a brand, questioning their classification. Sonja Oakes and Marion contributed to the conversation, with Sonja advocating for strict adherence to the branded BLM rule. They concluded that unbranded foals should be placed in the curly coat book instead of being classified as BLM Curlies.

Breed Standards and Characteristics of Curly Horses

Melinda addressed the breed standards for Curly Horses, proposing the removal of references to lumbar vertebrae and the requirement for shedding manes and tails. Caren highlighted the need to establish clear breeding goals, while Sonja Oakes recommended changing the wording regarding shedding to acknowledge the diversity in individual horses. The conversation also touched on the implications of outcrossing and the variability in horse conformation.

* Potential changes to the wording of breed requirements regarding shedding.

Discussion on Membership and Pricing Strategies

Melinda and Diane Mitchell addressed the significance of accurate terminology in their communications, with Diane highlighting her pet peeve regarding spelling errors, noting Conformation currently appears as Confirmation. Melinda will send changes to webmaster. They explored the idea of temporarily reducing prices to boost membership and discussed Melinda's initiative to provide one-year memberships for horse transfers. The conversation also touched on the challenges of organizing events due to geographical spread and low participation.

Inventory and Merchandise Discussion

Melinda highlighted the existing inventory of merchandise, including books and apparel, and the necessity to adjust shipping costs. Emily Oakes attended the meeting. Suggestions included distributing older items as gifts to new members and potentially creating a quilt from old sweatshirts or T-shirts. Emily expressed interest in preserving historical items and offered to digitize materials for future reference. Trophies will be given to Marion for her student program shows.

* Preservation of historical materials related to curly horses.



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Minutes Cont.

Action Items:

- * **Melinda will share the agenda for the meeting.**
- * **Melinda will send an email to the members regarding the new logins for the database and the members-only section.**
- * **Melinda will draft a proposal to increase the breeder's registration fees for transfers over a certain number.**
- * **Melinda will consider ideas for small thank-you gifts for new members and will accept suggestions via email.**
- * **Diane Mitchell will encourage people to request help for transfers and reimbursements for rescued horses.**
- * **Melinda will follow up with Marion regarding the new breeder, Kirsten Fortune in Kentucky, and their registration status.**
- * **Melinda will send information about the new breeders in Kentucky to Marion.**
- * **Melinda will propose changes to the curly coat book rules to align with Mustang book rules.**
- * **Melinda will ensure that the updated membership pricing and benefits are communicated to all members.**
- * **Melinda will deliver trophies to Marion for her kids during an upcoming trip.**
- * **Melinda will work on organizing historical materials into a secure format for preservation.**
- * **Emily Oakes will scan and digitize historical materials related to curly horses.**
- * **Louis and Shawn will send images of potential t-shirt designs to the group for feedback.**



CURLY CUES

Curly Foals 2025



Oakesmuir Nutella



CURLY CUES

ABCR CURLY HORSE BREED STANDARDS

Body Conformation

- A medium size head with well-defined jaw and throatlatch
- Wide set eyes with eyelashes that curl up
- Ears that are short to medium in length with curls inside (ear hair does not totally shed out in the summer)
- A medium length neck, deep at the base of the neck where it joins the base of the shoulder
- Noticeably short back, deep through the girth
- An appearance of a long under line and the belly cut high in the flank
- Heavy boned legs and short cannon bone as compared to the forearm
- Medium withers and a flat croup with a shallow slope to the base of the tail

Curly Characteristics

Body (Fine, soft hair)

- Ringlet (can be several inches long)
- Marcel Wave (deep soft wave in the body coat)
- Crushed Velvet (soft dense pile of curls in body coat)

Mane (Extra fine hair)

- Kinky –preferable
- Wavy
- Should shed all or partial in the summer
- Split mane (hangs on both sides of neck)



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Tail

- Ringlets
- Wavy
- Should shed partial at the head of the tail in the summer of some horses may shed tail completely

Fetlocks

- Curly –preferable
- Wavy
- Should shed in summer but still retain some long hairs

Hooves

- Almost perfectly round in shape
- Very hard and dense
- Proportioned to the size of the horse

Size and Weight

- Average-15 hands
- Average weight-800 to 1000 pounds

Unique Characteristics

- Curly coat can be hypoallergenic (the horsehair is round instead of flat and testing has shown the hair is closely related to mohair)
- Noticeably short, strong back
- Even-tempered disposition
- Quick pulse and respiration recovery
- Very dense bone in the legs



CURLY CUES

ABCR CURLY HORSE DATABASE

“FREE TO ABCR MEMBERS”

ABCR provides a fully linked ABCR Curly Horse Studbook ONLINE with more than 8,100 entries and 2,950 pictures including all ABCR horses. These are the features of this database:

1. Fully linked PEDIGREES WITH PICTURES
2. SIBLINGS VIEW: Find full and half siblings of a given ABCR animal at-a-glance
3. OFFSPRING VIEW
4. VERTICAL PEDIGREES: Vertical pedigrees list full siblings of each horse in the pedigree at-a-glance, which as a group represent various combinations of their parents' genes, and are good indicators of the range of possibilities that are likely to be passed on. Using vertical pedigree analysis gives breeders interesting insights e.g. about confirmation or the extreme characteristics that cannot be tracked in a direct manner.
5. REVERSE PEDIGREES: Reverse pedigrees show offspring of the offspring of a given animal.
6. TRIAL MATING: Try out mating's between ABCR horses and look how the confirmation or other characteristics would match.
7. Additional information such as COEFFICIENT OF INBREEDING (COI) and PEDIGREE QUALITY
8. Indication of DNA AVAILABILITY and EXTREME CHARACTERISTICS
9. NAME GENERATOR: Generator for horse names based on more than 40 years of ABCR Curly Horse names-always new and fancy combinations, fun guaranteed!
10. ADDITIONAL FEATURES: Advanced Search, Fully scalable between 3 and 8 generations, same ancestors highlighted, enlargeable pictures



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BREEDERS

District 1

#338 Joan Olson HIGH DESERT EQUINE CENTER

5555 Wilcox Ranch Rd, Reno, NV 89509 PH: 775-475-2250 E-Mail: ilovecurlies@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.hdequine.com>

Stallions: HD LAKOTA'S LEGACY, ABC# 4321

MAXIMUM'S PRIDE, ABC# 3650

STAG CREEK SOLEN ABC# 4075

District 2

Currently No Breeder

District 3

#317 Brandon & Jennifer Bennett

SUNFLOWER TRAILS LLC

147 Rocky Lane Bastrop, TX 78602

PH: 512-965-7543 E-Mail: sunflowertrails@curlypinesranch.com

Website: <http://www.curlypinesranch.com>

Stallion: SFT TRUE HEART ABC# 3644

#370 Angela Gaines

GOLDEN CURLS RANCH

7480 CR 4095

PH: 214-794-1776 E-Mail: angie@goldencurlsranch.com

Website: <http://www.goldencurlsranch.com>

Stallion: BLACK ROCK'S GOLDEN FIREFLY ABC# M1

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#15 Amy Wall

Stoney Acres W5374 Highway 64 Peshtigo, WI 54157

PH: 715-789-2243 E-MAIL: wallawall@yahoo.com

District 6

#79 Tom McNally

HARDSCRABBLE FARMS

7 Town Shed RD, Minerva, NY 12851-9713

PH: 518-251-3424 E-MAIL: curly-nut@frontiernet.net

Curlyhorselady67@yahoo.com

rubylab@barton.com

Stallions: THUNDER ROAD, ABC# 2800

WW QUARTER MOON, ABC# 2454

District 7

#385 Marion Huurman

HIDDEN CAVE RANCH Burkesville, KY 42717

PH: 270-404-6425 E-MAIL: marion@hiddencaveranch.com

Website: www.HCRcurlyhorses.com



CURLY CUES

BREEDERS

District 7 cont.

#412 Sarah Lewan

HIDDEN CATTLE COVE

107 Stooping Oak Rd Dunlap, TN 37327

E-MAIL: sarahfhcc@gmail.com

#428 Raenelle Meyer (Joiner)

14051 Noble Park Dr.

Odessa, FL

PH: 813-833-3473

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Meyer-Davis-Farms/100078442680088//>

#430 Derrick Embry

EMBRY FAMILY HORSES AND TACK

1676 Logansport Rd Morgantown, KY 42261

PH: 270-792-3453

E-MAIL: thunderbay@logantele.com



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**#18 Sonja/Greg Oakes
OAKESMUIR CURLY HORSES**

RR#5, Guelph, ONT, Canada N1H 6J2

PH: 519-822-1211

E-MAIL: bashcurl@golden.net WEBSITE: <http://curlyhorse.com>

Stallion: OAKESMUIR DUKE OF CURL, ABC# 2818

#166 Karalee Bell

WHIRLWIND FARM

4437 County Rd 12, RR#2

Lunenburg, Ontario, Canada K0C 1R0

PH: 613-346-5790 E-MAIL: bellkr@bell.net

WEBSITE: <http://www.whirlwindcurlies.com>

Stallions: JC'S JOKER, ABC# 512

DCC SANTA FE, ABC#2895

#316 Florence Martin

FLORELAKE CURLY HORSES

7830 Fourth Line, RR#2 Wallenstein, ONT, CANADA N0B 2S0

PH: 519-638-5819, FAX: 519-638-5668

E-MAIL: floralake@mwpol.ca WEBSITE: <http://www.floralakecurlyhorses.com>

Stallions: MEAD'S AISHIHIK TWIST, ABC# 3462

TO SHADOW'S BLACK DIAMOND ("OZZIE") ABC#3641

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BREEDERS

District 9

#279 Armi & Bertta Laaksonen

RATULAN KOTI OY / LAPIN CURLY TALLI

Ounasjoentie 5295, 99340 Raattama, Lapland, FINLAND

E-MAIL: armi@lapincurlytalli.fi

WEBSITE: <http://lapincurlytalli.fi/>

bertta@lapincurlytalli.fi/

Stallions: TROY, ABC# 3214

SUN WALKER, ABC# 2934

#298 Shawn & Louis Tucker

THREE FEATHERS NATIVE CURLY HORSES

Cristo Rey, Cayo, Belize Central America

E-MAIL: curls@three-feathers.com WEBSITE: <https://www.three-feathers.com>

Stallion: TFN Piya Heye Iha Ble BLM Mustang ABC#M11

#411 CVV-Elevage D'American Curly

170 Impasse de Sarrauton, 40350 Gaas, France

PH: +33 6 50 77 27 10 WEBSITE: [https:// www.curly-cvv.fr/](https://www.curly-cvv.fr/)

#418 Nina Vainio/Winsome Curlies

Saarenkylantie 385, Muurame, 40950, Finland

PH: +35 8 442 831 223

WEBSITE:

<https://hopoti.com/fi-fi/stable/WinsomeCurlies?fbclid=IwAR1rWkiNge4BZLixnilx5IWT7aaFqXUZkr7PnL5GeWhbSU2u3tz04LE2COM>



CURLY CUES

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#422 Gaby Trompeter

Nordstr 6, 32683 Barntrup, GERMANY

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Daniela Soehnchen

CURLY HORSES GERMANY

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PH: 0700-SOHNCHEN (76462436) or 11-49 (0) 2192 – 93 58 38

Cell: 011-49 (0) 178 76 46 24 3

EMAIL: curly-info@t-online.de WEBSITE: <http://www.curlyhorsesgermany.de/>

Stallions: CHG SPARTA GENTLEMEN, ABC#3912

FLORALAKE AISHIK ONYX, ABC#3921



CURLY CUES

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