

Dear NHHJA,

I would like to formally announce the passing of Polly Gilchrist Murphy, 38, of Nottingham NH. She died peacefully on January 15, 2009, surrounded by loved ones after a courageous eight-month battle with cancer.

She was born April 24, 1970 in Salem, Mass., daughter of Richard J Murphy and Patricia A. Matheson. Her childhood was spent in the Monadnock Region, and she was a graduate from Conval High School. She is survived by her mother and father as well as her sister Lisa Whitcomb and brother Matt Murphy. She was preceded by her sister Jennifer Ann (Murphy) Geib.

For those of you who knew Polly we will always remember her bright smile and positive, energetic attitude. She would want us to remember her as the "Life of the Party", with her ability to light up a room wherever she went. She loved life and her many friends and family. She would do anything for anyone, expecting nothing in return.

Her life on this earth was short but luckily she was able to fulfill her dreams of having a child and a farm to call her own with the help of her fiancé Ian Rollins. One of her greatest joys was spending time with her son Hunter, 4, and fiancé Ian on their farm in Nottingham. Polly named the farm Hunter's Run after her energetic, and vibrant son; as it would be a place that he could grow, and learn to share her love for animals.

As with most of us at NHHJA her passion was the horses. She has been a NHHJA competitor, committee member and friend for many years. Her love for the sport of riding could only be parallel to her love for the horses themselves. Riding to Polly meant more than just a blue ribbon. She appreciated her horses for what they were, unconditional friends, and took nothing for granted (even the occasional buck or stop). Her dedication to the sport and to her horses should be a lesson to all young riders today. And her appreciation for life even in the face of a terminal illness should be a lesson to everyone.

I would like to take this time to invite you all on behalf of her family to a celebration of Polly's life to be held on Saturday May 9, 2009. The service will take place in North Conway as it was her wish to be laid to rest next to her sister Jenny who passed ten years ago of cancer. The time and address of the service has not yet been finalized and will be posted on this website when they become available.

For those of you who can't make it to the service in May, I want to extend an invitation to you and everyone at NHHJA to join us at the second annual Polly Murphy Benefit on Saturday July 11th at the NHHJA Summer Festival in Hampton Falls, NH. There will be a Gala Garden Party from 4pm-8pm on Saturday July 11th and tickets will be offered at \$50.00 each. Please come enjoy free beer, wine and appetizers as you bid on an array of wonderful silent auction items. The proceeds from this event will help Polly's family to pay some of the debt Polly incurred while undergoing treatments and will add to the education fund set up for her son Hunter. For tickets to the event, please email me at kthigpen22@gmail.com or call (603)-365-9922. More information will be posted on the NHHJA website soon regarding the event. Donations would be greatly appreciated and checks can be made payable to *The Polly Fund* and sent to Katelyn Thigpen 432 Post Rd, Greenland, NH 03840.

As Polly's best friend and partner in crime I would like to personally thank everyone at NHHJA for their continued support. The committee has been an enormous help in allowing me to continue to raise money for Polly and her family. Their efforts to keep Polly's name and story alive have been a true testament of their loyalty and commitment to their members. I am blessed to have all of you in my life, and will always cherish the memories created at your wonderful horse shows.

With Love,
Katelyn Thigpen

