



Fred Bennett and his pair of Belgians won their Carrier & Ives division at the ERDA Sleigh Rally. Photo by Gina Handy. Story on page 4

THE Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

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Representing Carriage Driving in the United States and Canada

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“Salute to Driving” Weekend: A Success on All Fronts

By Vicki Long



Joe Yoder was among the long-listed Advanced drivers who had a clinic with US Driving Team coach Michael Freund as part of the Salute to Driving weekend. Photo by Vicki Long.

The long Presidents' Day weekend (February 19-21) set the stage for a Salute to Driving in Aiken, South Carolina that was packed with sport, education and entertainment to benefit High Performance Combined Driving. The idea for the Salute was spearheaded by Lisa Singer, Bev Lescher and Wendy O'Brien, but the organizing committee was extensive. The Aiken Driving Club, under the direction of President Peggy Dils (also one of the organizing committee members) provided the necessary volunteer backbone. The clinics and Combined Test were set on three contiguous equestrian properties in Windsor, South Carolina, owned by Bev Lescher, Lisa Singer and Suzy Stafford. The event spilled over to Judy Portman's beautiful home in Aiken for a cocktail party Friday night for competitors to meet the clinicians, and Wendy O'Brien's stunning Trout Walk Farm was the setting for a Saturday night dinner and live auction that was heavily attended by equestrian enthusiasts of many disciplines outside of driving.

(Story continues on page 9)

A Message from The Executive Director



Mother Nature has been more than generous with the white stuff this year, so what do resourceful carriage drivers do when given a bunch of lemons? Why,

they make lemonade in the form of Sleigh Rallies, of course! The Columbus Wisconsin Winter Fair and Sleigh Rally was the first ADS-recognized Sleigh Rally using the new rules in the 2011 Rulebook. Conditions were remarkably good, considering that just three days before the event Columbus was hit with 18 inches of snow. But thanks to a big snowplow and resourceful organizers, the show went on. Another huge, unexpected snowfall tried to bury the spirits of the Winter Classic Sleigh Rally organizers in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, but to no avail. Twenty turnouts showed up there to experience all that is absolutely magical about riding in a horse-drawn sleigh. You can read more about this popular event on page 5.

The ADS Board of Directors held its January 2011 meeting in conjunction with the Carriage Association of America Winter Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our many thanks to Jill Ryder and Colonel Davis, President of the CAA, for inviting us to this first of what will hopefully be many more joint CAA/ADS events. Sleighing was again the theme for this meeting. Conference attendees were treated to a wonderful display of restored vehicles, sleigh bells, robes and other accoutrements as well as two days of sleighing on local golf courses.

After the event concluded, I was able to take ADS member Steve Woods

USEF Annual Meeting

The USEF held its Annual Members Meeting and Awards Banquets January 19-23, in Lexington, Kentucky. ADS President John Freiburger and Executive Director Susie Koos-Acker attended all driving-related USEF meetings.

The *High Performance Driving Committee*, chaired by Tucker Johnson, is working on a contract to hire Michael Freund to coach US drivers for at least a two-year period with provisions for extending that to four years. The committee feels that working with a consistent coach over a period of years will help to strengthen US teams and improve the performance of our International competitors. The Chef d' Equipe for the US Pony Team will be Chester Weber.

The *USEF Technical Driving Committee* assigns the venues for all National Championships, and has been seeking appropriate trophies for the National Pony and National Single Champions. (The Vanderbilt Trophy and the Moore Trophy are presented to the Team Champion and Pair Champion, respectively). Chester Weber, a member of the committee, offered to provide a trophy for the Singles to be called the Jamaica Trophy, a generous gesture that was received with enthusiasm! The Gladstone Equestrian Association, Myopia and Garden State also have dormant trophies which may be available for the ponies.

The *USEF Continuing Education Department* will support ADS officials' clinics again this year. There will be opportunities for instruction on measuring ponies so that measurement cards are easier to obtain. The USEF Technical Driving Committee is considering a joint Organizers' and Course Designers' Clinic in Florida in early 2012.

The *Carriage Pleasure Driving Committee* continues to work towards the goal of synchronized USEF and ADS Rulebooks. Greater cooperation between the ADS and the Committee is needed to accomplish this. The CAA will host a Pleasure Show at the Kentucky Horse Park July 1-3; it will be both USEF- and ADS-recognized. Non-member fees, level of USEF recognition and insurance are all topics that need to be addressed for this show. There continues to be a lack of USEF Carriage Pleasure Driving Judges and Carriage Pleasure Driving knowledge in the breed show judge ranks.

(Executive Director Message cont'd)

up on his offer of a sleigh ride at his farm in Elk Creek, Minnesota. Our small but dedicated group of hardy ADS members, including Bill and Nancy Lawson, Jamie Gassert, Dana Bright, Ann Davis and Pattie DeVault, braved an impending snowstorm and drove out to the countryside. Jamie is the newsletter editor and Patti is the president of the Whip 'R Snappers Driving Club of Southern California. Patti was enamored with the big snowplows clearing our path as she snapped pictures out my Subaru's windows. We all had a fantastic time on our bobsled tour of the beautiful snow-covered Minnesota rural landscape. Steve's four-in-hand of Morgan Horses negotiated the terrain and sometimes deep snow effortlessly, even bringing on a little speed as we swooped and swerved on the wooded trails. Cool crisp air, the smell of horses and the laughter of good friends... an experience I will remember for a long time. Thanks, Steve!

2011 ADS Committee Roster

Executive Committee: John Freiburger, President

Vice President—Mary Jo Stockman (MN), Treasurer—William Lawson (CT), Secretary—Ann Davis (WA)

Combined Driving: Marcie Quist, Chair

Dave Sadler (IL), Lisa Singer (PA), Mary Ruth Marks (WI), Marc Johnson (MA), Merridy Hance (WA), Allyn Carman (CA), JanJan Hamilton (FL), Keith Yutzy (TX), Mike Arnold (NC).

Development: Claire Reid, Chair

Audrey Bostwick (PA), Natasha Grigg (MA), Marc Johnson (MA), Susan Koso (MA), Jennifer Matheson (SC), Holly Pulsifer (MA), Jocelyn Scofield (MI), Lisa Stroud (PA), Mimi Thorington (PA), Kelly Valdes (NC), Boots Wright (FL), Hardy Zantke (CA)

Dressage: Tracey Morgan, Chair

Frank Luetz (CA), Mary Harrison (NJ), Dana Bright (PA), Deryn Stewart (OK), Larry Brinker (BC), Linda Yutzy (TX), Boots Wright (FL), Hardy Zantke (CA), Sue Mott (ON)

Education: Gerry Pearson, Chair

Holly Pulsifer (MA), Joanne Bellion-Povenski (PA), Muffy Seaton (SC), Samea Baker (PA), Penny Nicely (NV), Mary Anne Boyden (AZ).

Governance and Bylaws: Elaine Kendig, Chair

Natasha Grigg (MA), Susan Koso (MA), Jay Hubert (CA), Penny Nicely (NV), Myrna Rhinehart (WI), Mary Jo Stockman (MN)

Event Standards: Esther (Boots) Wright, Chair

Jacob Arnold (NC), Debbie Banfield (KY), EllenMarie Ettenger (FL)

Licensed Officials: Dana Bright, Chair

Audrey Bostwick (PA), Shelly Temple (VA), Tom Knicker (TX), Penny Nicely (NV), Micki Bowen (PA), John Freiburger (WI), Susan Koso (MA), Marcie Quist (NC), Larry Brinker (BC)

Marketing: Maureen Harkcom, Chair

Allyn Carman (CA), Amanda Horton (ID), Ruth Graves (TX), Wendy Ying (KY)

Pleasure Driving: Jeff Morse, Chair

John Greenall (VT), Susan Koso (MA), Ted Campbell (CA), Jody Cutler (CA), Sterling Grayburn (KY), Marsha Himler (NY), Mary Anne Boyden (AZ), Mary Jo Stockman (MN), Dana Bright (PA), Ruthie Graves (TX), Anne Councill (PA)

Recreational Driving: Larry Denny, Chair

Mary Winter (IA), Amanda Horton (ID), Alicia Pierce (MI)*, Nancy Lawson (CT)*

Rules: Simon Rosenman, Chair

Marc Johnson (MA), Jeffrey Morse (MA), Merridy Hance (WA)

**Pending BOD approval.*

Classified Ads

Classified ads are accepted for the *Wheelhorse* at a cost of \$1 per word with a \$15 minimum for a one-month insertion in the next available *Wheelhorse* publication. Payment must accompany ad text (checks, Visa, Mastercard accepted).

2-WHEEL RALLI CAR, 4-WHEEL WAGONETTE with shafts, pole and dickey seat, both show ring ready. 4 wheel, car tire all-terrain wagonette includes shafts and pole. 6 sets Smuckers harness. lamps, whips, 5.5-in bits. Located in S. CA. 760-868-6400 or venturefarms@verizon.net.

COMPETITION CONES: \$27 each. Marker Balls \$2.70 each. For practice at home, Pleasure Driving Shows, and CDEs. Accepting MC/Visa. Phone Gayla Driving Center 1-800-360-5774. (KY)

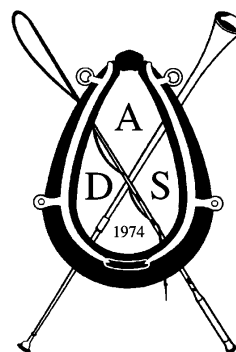
BORIUM SHOES: Large selection of Borium shoes plus custom work. www.theblacksmithshop.net 800-840-7463

From the LOC

The Licensed Officials Committee announces the following promotions:

- * Ted Campbell to "R" Combined Driving TD
- * Karen Garrett to "r" Combined Driving Judge
- * Susan Koso to "r" Driven Dressage Judge

We appreciate the hard work that went into these promotions, and are glad to add them to our officials roster.



Eastern Regional Draft Horse Association Holds Annual Seigh Rally

Story and photos by Gina Handy



What a sight! This team of Belgians hitched four abreast is owned by Harvey Hemstreet and Frank and Debbie Bradt

For many hardy Northeasterners, the driving season does not end with the last Pleasure Show, clinic or CDE in autumn. Sleigh rallies abound throughout the Region during the winter months, and this year the snow gods have been especially kind to those who enjoy trading carriages for cutters and hearing the sound of sleigh runners run over mounds of the freshly packed white stuff.

On January 30, the Eastern Regional Draft Horse Association held its annual sleigh rally at the home of Classic Carriage Service in Johnstown, New York. Now in its 11th year, the event serves as a fundraiser for the Rusty Bits 4-H Club. Organizer Tamara Healy promotes the rally as an old-fashioned, family-friendly event where members of the community can come and watch some competition, then enjoy a ride around the farm in a sleigh pulled by a team of sturdy draft horses. When spectators need to warm up, they can venture inside a heated barn and take advantage of the Rusty Bits' well-stocked concession stand. This year, several hundred spectators from Fulton County and beyond came to have some fun and support the club.

Last year, a lack of snow almost put a damper on things; this year, there was almost too much of it. Preparing the grounds included plowing out large areas for parking of trucks and trailers. A ring had to be constructed and trails broken for the teamsters. The plowing was, of course, handled by trucks, but Tamara, true to the spirit of the event, kicked it old-school and cut the ring and trails herself using an enormous snow roller pulled by her own team of Percheron horses.

Cold, cloudy skies and snow flurries greeted competitors in the morning, but conditions improved steadily as the day went on. Tom Baird, a local horseman, presided over a list of classes that included Currier & Ives, Reinsmanship, Sleigh Dog and Obstacles, with some divided according to single or team. Winners of the Currier & Ives classes received a special prize: glassware hand-painted by Tamara with pictures of last year's winners. This year, Sue Mallery took home the prize in Single Currier & Ives, while Fred Bennett's team of Belgians won his division. In Open Reinsmanship, Sue Mallery again won the blue, but lost to Glenn Van Oort in the Sleigh Dog class. Glenn, driving his speedy Morgan mare St. Gertrude, bested a field of five singles and teams to win the Obstacles class.



Glenn and Eileen Van Oort driving St. Gertrude, their Morgan mare; they won the Obstacles class.

2011 Winter Classic Sleigh Rally Draws 20-plus Entries

By Kay Konove

Photos by Lisa Cenis, www.shootthathorse.com

Sleigh bells were ringing during the Parade of Sleigh and all day at Orleton Farm in Stockbridge, Massachusetts on January 16—and after not enough snow the previous week, there was almost too much snow! The Orleton Farm staff created space for parking and showing so that volunteers from Colonial Carriage and Driving Society could present the Winter Classic Sleigh Rally. A record number of spectators enjoyed the roaring bonfire as well as the rides, given by Karl and Laura Riva in a stunning Albany six-seat sleigh (Caleche style) owned by Harvey and Mary Stokes Waller, and by Blue Star Equiculture Draft Horse Sanctuary and Organic Farm with drivers Angie Arahood and Justin Morace. The team of Charlie Daniels and Carter was put to a bobsled owned by club member Jim Leahey.

More than 20 entries arrived from all over New England to compete on the groomed snow in the crowd-pleasing Currier & Ives and Pleasure Sleigh Dog classes. Ladies, Gentlemen, and Seniors to Drive were on the schedule in addition to the traditional Pleasure and Reinsmanship ring classes. Obstacles (cones) and a Pleasure Obstacles Pace completed the competition. John Greenall from Vermont was the well-dressed judge, and Harvey Waller served as show manager and announcer.

Junior whip Onna Downey received the Championship prize in the Mini division, with Reserve Champion going to Judy Schnopp. The Pony Champion was Harley Waller, and Christina Alsop finished with the Reserve. In the Horse division, Bill Broe earned the Championship ribbon, with Lyn Howard getting the Reserve.

It was the first time out in a sleigh rally for several entries. John Frost brought his Standardbred, Action, and had a wonderful time. Rita Bellinger had just purchased a sleigh and was thrilled to show it off with her horse, Con Sealed.



Rita Bellinger found the Rally a wonderful chance to put her horse, Con Sealed, to her new sleigh

Many of the spectators commented on how much they enjoyed bringing their families to this event, even though they knew very little about horses. Watching the beautiful turnouts in the glorious winter setting took people back to a time long ago, when horse-drawn vehicles were a common sight.

The teamwork of the club's volunteers was outstanding, as they pitched in to keep everyone warm while doing their assigned tasks efficiently and, as always, with a smile. This event would not be possible without the support of Colonial Carriage or the generous hospitality of the Wallers, who graciously host the sleigh rally as well as the rest of the club's activities at Orleton Farm. We just hope the snow melts in time for the Pleasure Driving Show in June!



Rich Downey's pair of Minis (here in the Gentlemen to Drive class) made a fine showing in more than one class.



Given the sort of winter it has been, how appropriate that one Rally participant was John Frost, here driving his Standardbred, Action.

Ohio ADT Conquers the Cold

By Bob Burrows

Photos by Reuss Griffiths



A bundled-up Bob Burrows and Farrah Lu earned a personal best dressage score in Prelim Single Pony.

On the way to Windy Knoll Farm (Sullivan, Ohio) on Saturday, January 22 at 6:30 am for the start of the ADT, we learned about a new feature of our truck which many Ford owners probably never have an opportunity to experience. The temperature gauge records minus figures. The gauge in the truck read -11 F.

John Greenall, our event's ADS judge, is from Vermont and knows about cold—but had never judged an event at -11 before. It warmed up to +4 by mid-morning, the high for the day. We had a propane space heater in John's judge's booth and he was reasonably toasty, along with his scribe.

We had 20 competitors who came for the ADT, and only five last-minute scratches; those with open stock trailers chickened out, and rightfully so. People came from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York and Ohio. Fifty showed up for John's slide show on Saturday about the good, the bad, the ugly and the OH MY! of dressage turnout dress. (The slide show took place in the WARM viewing room over the arena.)

In the course of the event, several of us found out how to "plug in" our trucks, and several found out about how to jump-start their trucks. Everyone had a great time. We just did not let the cold bother us.

So, we proved that CDE-ers are very hearty folk. I had a record low dressage score of 47.9, pretty good for only the second Single Pony Prelim dressage competition for Farrah Lu and a reward for many clinics and many hours of hard work. (I think Farrah Lu may have been keeping her head down to avoid cold air freezing her neck, but one takes what one gets.) John said she stayed in frame for almost the whole test and did have some lengthening in her trot, which has been a struggle for us.

Event Format: Cold-Weather Strategy

We scheduled all three competitions in the same arena

and farm manager Ron Egan put torpedo heaters in the main aisle and harnessing area, warming them to about 35 degrees. There are four cross-tie stalls for harnessing and room to bring carriages into the main aisle, so three or four carriages could stand in the aisle and one could move past to exit. We had competitors go into Dressage in groups of four: They all went in and did a 15-minute warm-up, then one turnout stayed in the arena and three went into the relatively warm aisle area to wait up to 12 minutes to re-enter. We had the competitor hold in the arena until the next turnout came in and so forth.

We did Cones with a two-minute warm-up for each competitor, since the 15 gates only had a two-minute allowed time. We did Obstacles just like Dressage. First in was 8:30 a.m., we had 30 minutes for lunch and the last Obstacle driver finished at 3:30 p.m. John's slide show went at 5 p.m. on the dot. We think we can handle 30 competitors if we start at 8 a.m. and run to about 4:30 p.m.

The group worked together, followed simple instructions, were very civil and courteous to one another, and all worked well. The horses, of course, were very happy to be in the herd.

A Note from Susan Burrows

Bob asked me to make sure the article focuses on our wonderful judge and competitors. They make this thing work. John Greenall actually left his beautiful wife and



Pam Hess drives for frozen judge John Greenall (right) and scribe Heather Raw.

home and drove over the mountain Thursday to be assured of avoiding any weather issues and making his flight Friday. He arrived pretty much on time, which for organizers is worth a sigh of relief. We believe judges like John should be gold-starred for putting their own lives on hold to make an event successful.

We had four first-timers at this event. A group came up from Springfield, Ohio with a Haflinger and a Morgan, horses who had never seen a cones course, let alone an obstacle. Jodie Childs came out of the cones course smiling and said, "Now I know what to do--I need to do that again."

Ohio ADT (continued)



Colton Parker, although a junior, is so consistently successful competing with adults at Training Single Pony that he is being encouraged to move up to Prelim.

Our fourth first-timer is a very dedicated gal. She audited our Sterling Grayburn clinic on January 8 and brought her Icelandic Horse to this event. The little guy did not “break” in Dressage and she worked her way through Cones and Obstacles in good form.

As we gave out ribbons our youth driver, Colton Parker, was urged to go Prelim as he is winning Training Single Pony (we no longer separate him as youth). Carl and Lucy Workman drove their first event last year at our January ADT; this year they produced a 47.43 in dressage and took second in Training Single Pony for the event. The smiles on their faces just said it all: This is great fun.

Not to forget our volunteers: Heather Raw, who is between ponies, is a faithful dressage scribe. It was so cold her hot chocolate froze while sitting in front of her as she scribed. Don Dalton (who is horseless but works for Fieldstone Therapeutic Driving Center) and his wife are always there to help with Cones or anything else that comes along. We also could not get along without Wanda and Fritz Backsheider, who come as part of Colton Parker’s entourage, and do anything and everything. Also we had competitors Cathy Rhoades and Bob Franks; they could not make the event as drivers (weather, etc.) and came anyway as volunteers.

Driving Horses Win 2010 USEF Horse of the Year Honors

The following horses and ponies won USEF Horse of the Year honors for the 2010 competition year in the Driving divisions.

For Carriage Pleasure Driving --

Single Horse: VPF Nite Reign (owned by Chris Bickford, OR)

Driven Dressage, Training Level: Moses Meadow (Kelly Pesek, MA);

Driven Dressage, Preliminary Level: Middlemist Midnight Magic (Susan McLellan, NY);

Driven Dressage, Intermediate Level: Phil’s Ridge Harry Potter (Kathryn Clarke, GA).

For Combined Driving --

Single Horse: Laughlin (Kimberly Stover, DE);

Pair Horses: Boy W, Horus Du Bois, and Renow (Chester Weber, FL);

Four-in-Hand Horses: Boy W, Grumus, Horus Du Bois, and Para (Chester Weber, FL);

Single Pony: LR Ami B-Line (Shelley Temple, SC)

Pair Ponies: Dannyloo and Topper (Katrina Becker, SC).



LR Ami B-Line, a Morgan gelding owned, trained, and competed by Shelly Temple of Windsor, South Carolina, was named USEF Horse of the Year for Combined Driving-Single Pony for the third time in 2010.

Send us your Most Essential Tool stories!

We’ve had great input from many members about the equipment they think is most important in keeping their farms going. If you haven’t done so yet, please share your own experiences for a feature in the May *Whip*. Send your story of “the equipment I can’t do without”—and a photo, if possible—to

sandra.cooke@americandrivingsociety.org.

ADS Officers Column – March 2011

By Ann Davis, Secretary

For several years, the American Driving Society Board of Directors has sought an opportunity to hold an ADS Board meeting in conjunction with a Carriage Association of America Conference and Board of Directors meeting. Jim Keathley, ADS past President, also had served as President of the CAA and saw real benefits that could come from such a gathering.

The CAA and the ADS are both North American carriage driving organizations, but with different focuses. The CAA, the older of the two, is dedicated to Pleasure Driving and the preservation, restoration and use of horse-drawn carriages and sleighs. The main purpose of ADS is to promote the sport of driving horses and ponies, both competitively and for recreation. Notwithstanding their different emphases, the organizations share numerous areas of common interest, providing fertile opportunities for cooperation on a wide range of projects.

For example, both ADS and CAA had the opportunity to develop the Driver Proficiency Program, which CAA took up. It is an excellent program, and the ADS can continue to look for ways to help the CAA expand it. Both organizations have gathered information for their members on “Places to Drive” for fun; a joint effort would much better serve both memberships. The ADS Interactive Trail Guide may be a few steps ahead, and we might wish to cooperate with the CAA on a single Guide, with the ADS leading that operation.

With the goal of finding ways to work together, then President Keathley asked incoming CAA President Colonel Davis if the CAA Board was interested in our joining them at their 2011 Winter Conference, to be held January 27-30 near St. Paul, Minnesota, in conjunction with St. Paul’s Winter Carnival and a two-day Sleigh Festival with rally. Colonel Davis said yes, and the ADS Board of Directors voted in October 2010 to hold the winter meeting at this event. For a number of ADS Board members the choice made sense, as most of us are also CAA members.

The CAA Conference

I arrived in time to be a spectator at the CAA Board meeting on Thursday afternoon. (Tom Burgess, CAA Vice President, showed the same interest and was present for the entire ADS BOD meeting on Sunday morning.) CAA Executive Director Jill Ryder invited members of both Boards to a Directors’ “Dutch Treat” dinner that evening. Thoughtfully arranged place cards ensured that Directors from each board had the opportunity to exchange ideas. Jill seated me with Tom and Gloria Burgess, and we spent a wonderful evening discussing our common ownership of Friesian horses.

During the next two days we all enjoyed excellent

speakers, a trade fair, photographic exhibits, evaluation of carriages and sleighs for awards, a showcase of miniature reproductions, accessories such as bells and lap robes, excellent food, and plenty of time just to socialize. Saturday night featured both a silent and an active auction. The more hardy attendees (including myself) were bused out to the sleigh competitions on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. For those of us from areas that do not get much snow, it was “pretty exciting stuff” with all sorts of different sleighs, different horses and ponies (from a mini up to some drafts), and different hitches (single to four-in-hand).

The ADS BOD Meeting

After two and a half days of fun, on Sunday morning it was time for us to get to work. Our newly elected President John Freiburger was dedicated to moving the agenda along and started the meeting promptly at 8 a.m.

The minutes of this meeting, with important attached documents, are now up on the ADS Web site but I will mention two highlights. The BOD is required to pass a budget for the coming year during each ADS winter meeting. The 2011 budget presented by Treasurer Bill Lawson—the end product of months of work by the Finance Committee and ADS staff—was passed unanimously as presented, with the addition of an amendment to include \$10,000 from the ADS Fund.

The second highlight concerns ADS Standing Committees, those of a permanent nature that are required to carry out the ongoing business and purposes of the Society. The elected director / chairs choose members of their committees based upon needed expertise and with as much regard for geographical distribution as possible. ADS Bylaws require that the ADS BOD must approve the rosters. This was done with minor additions. The Executive Committee also had asked that the director / chairs present their 2011 goals for BOD approval. This step was to ensure that committee chairs had the opportunity to determine common interests for working together and for the board to be assured that ADS goals were being met. With minor changes, the BOD approved the committee goals for 2011.

Because of the opportunities for dialogue between ADS and CAA at this event, new strategies for cooperation were addressed. One ADS goal for 2011 will be working with CAA in the development and promotion of a Fourth of July weekend Pleasure Show in Lexington, Kentucky. Various ADS committees will work with CAA staff, especially the Marketing Committee. If the CAA can make this show a success with the assistance of the ADS, both organizations hope that a trade show, clinics and other events can be associated with it in future years, bringing together ADS and CAA members in one big arena.

“Salute to Driving” Weekend: A Success on All Fronts (cont’d from p. 1)

By Vicki Long

The goal of this event was to help raise USET Foundation funds dedicated to helping the best drivers and equines to represent the US in World Driving Championships and to bring home Team and individual medals. Although a final tally of the weekend’s proceeds was not available by press time, organizers estimate the event raised thousands for High Performance Driving.

The weekend featured two separate two-day clinics that were well attended and eagerly audited. Larry Poulin, retired from driving competition but still actively training and coaching drivers as well as pursuing his ridden dressage, shared his expertise in a Developing Drivers’ clinic. Michael Freund, newly appointed Driving Team Coach, held a rigorous two-day clinic for Advanced long-listed drivers. Altogether there were 29 participants in the clinics. As auditing was free, both clinics had an audience at all times; the experience was heightened by audio systems that allowed them to hear not only the clinician, but also the driver’s remarks. Participants and auditors were largely from the East Coast, but there were those from as far away as Kansas and Oklahoma. One brave soul left her long underwear in Montana for a taste of Southern sunshine.

Other educational events of the weekend included harnessing demonstrations, a detailed “cones walk-through” with Suzy Stafford, and a chance to learn navigating tips from Advanced gators Fran Doto (Shelly Temple’s navigator for 15 years) and Jay Breggia (Lisa Singer’s navigator for more than 10 years), both of whom have international experience. On Monday, Tracey Morgan provided ringside commentary on the dressage tests being performed for those interested. As one participant said, “Where else could I have had an opportunity to learn directly from so many talented people in the driving world?”

Thirty-seven drivers participated in Monday’s Combined Test, which offered Training through Advanced divisions. Martha Nicoll, Michael Freund and Craig Kellogg judged Dressage and Nancy Tomlinson judged Cones. Dressage scoring was tough, but Suzy Stafford did manage a 38 with her Advanced Single Pony. For complete results, see <http://drivingnews.us/results/results2011/SaluteToDriving>.

Entertainment highlights of the weekend were many. Saturday night’s cocktail hour at Wendy O’Brien’s took place in the stabling area. Dinner was served in a large festive tent on the lawn, and WEG videos were projected on the tent walls throughout the evening. More than 250 people enjoyed live music, cocktails, a raw oyster bar, hors d’oeuvres and a catered dinner. There was a raffle for items as diverse as horse gear, driving hats, a dinner prepared by a private chef, a photo shoot and dancing lessons. Live auction highlights included a signed Jamie Wyeth print, vacations at private homes on the Jersey Shore and Block Island, and lessons with Michael Freund and Chester Weber.

Perhaps the weekend’s biggest entertainment treat came on Monday with the performance of a *pas de deux* by eventer Phillip Dutton riding Isabella, a 13-year-old Oldenberg owned by Susie Beale and Jody Dady, and Shelly Temple driving her own current National Champion Single Pony, Cooper. Their performance, choreographed to Earth, Wind and Fire’s song “I Like the Way You Move,” pleased the crowd so much that there were cheers for an encore (which was graciously provided).

The weekend was both exhausting and exhilarating. Michael Freund’s focused energy and realistic approach to high performance driving have yet to be tested on US drivers. (This was, after all, only his second close look at the long-listed drivers.) There is a long road ahead to any championships. But he and the rest of the Aiken area’s equestrian community got a good long look at the enthusiasm of drivers for their sport, their horses and one another. The “Salute to Driving” was a success in showing that members of the driving community are willing to stand up for their own and be counted.

The success of this inaugural “Salute to Driving” has the organizers already thinking about the future. Based on feedback from clinic participants, auditors and those who came to enjoy the festivities and entertainment included over the three days, they plan on making this an annual event. It will again include a Combined Test open to ALL drivers. Watch for it on the Driving Calendar for next year. Meanwhile, enjoy a slide show of the Salute at the ADS Web site, americandrivingsociety.org.

Cat Luce Wins Photo Contest

Congratulations to ADS member Cat Luce of Wrentham, Massachusetts! She won the February photo contest at Equinesite.com with this snowy photo of her Haflinger mare, CountYourManyBlessings HS (Cory).





by Hardy Zantke

Thoughts on Suggested Changes

It has been a while since I read Pat Cheatham's column in the December Wheelhorse, "Where We Are and Where We Need to Go: An Outgoing ExCom Member's Perspective." I am sorry to not see Pat on the Board any more, as I value his work, dedication and judgment highly. We would not be where we are without Pat, and I think he assessed the positive points of that well. I compliment Pat and the previous ExCom on getting us here, and by what I can see so far I trust that we are in good hands also with our new leadership.

I would still like to comment on two of Pat's thoughts for the future:

Our 501c(3) Status: Pat asked the new Board to review carefully whether the benefits to the ADS of Not For Profit status outweigh the efforts required to keep it. I cannot speak to the efforts required, as I do not know how much work is really involved. I do agree with Pat that, to me personally, it does not make much difference if I can write my donations to the ADS off my taxes or not. However, I do strongly believe that having the status elevates the ADS into a whole different category as an organization. I believe that status is worth much more than a tax deduction, as it gives the assurance that one is really contributing not only to a good cause but, more importantly, doing that via a worthwhile organization. I think that by itself is of extreme value, and I would urge the new Board to not give up Not For Profit status. Former ADS President Natasha Grigg worked very hard to achieve it for the ADS (and in addition to her time, I believe she also spent a fair amount of her own money for professional outside help).

Preliminary and Intermediate Championships: Pat wants the ADS to hold physical Championships, not paper Championships as we currently do for the Intermediate Level (as well as for Young Drivers). Yes, in an ideal world that would be wonderful and much preferred-- however, I think the big stumbling block is the great distance across our country. So far we have not even been able to do that properly at the National / Advanced Level, even though the top drivers at that level are much more inclined to travel long distances. Most of those Championships are on the East Coast, putting the drivers from the rest of the country at a severe disadvantage—if not completely off the table.

We have tried a few times to have a National Championship further west (and Lexington, Kentucky I still consider to be—almost—the East). We twice had a Single Championship in Colorado and once a Pair Championship in California. The participation was disappointing as almost none of our top drivers from the East came to compete, while our drivers from the West have to make the long haul to the East every time if they want to attend. That is bad enough and, I am afraid, cannot be helped—but to try to do the same at Intermediate and Preliminary levels would simply mean that it would not really be a true National Championship; regardless of where it were held, it would only be a fairly "local" affair. Because of that, we are doing the paper championships to give everybody a chance, regardless where they are in our country. Yes, I hear the critics. There are many shortcomings with the paper championship too, as without going head to head it is not always fair what you compare. But I would rather have it that way, where everybody has an equal chance, than in a way where we shut out a large portion of our drivers due to their distance away from the location of a Championship.

New Subject—Exciting News: National Trainer for High Performance

In the meantime, I just read "Taking a Loop" by our new President, John Freiburger, and while I share his worry about the lack of growth in the High Performance division, I think the USEF High Performance Committee has just made a great move by establishing Michael Freund as a National Coach for all High Performance drivers. This is the first time we have ever had a permanent National Driving Coach for all our top drivers—Singles, Pairs, Teams, Horses and Ponies—and I could not think of a more qualified person for that position. Michael is one of the top team drivers of the World, has coached our two top drivers Tucker Johnson and Chester Weber very successfully for many years, and has also coached Fritz Grupe to the National Pairs Championship. Michael's stable manager, Thorsten Zarembowicz, is the current Single World Champion, and Michael's son Marco is competing successfully with a pony pair, so it is clear that our new coach is well versed in all the driving disciplines. He has made a great start in his new position already and we will see the results at the next World Championships. That will not solve all the problems of lack of growth yet, but I believe it is a very encouraging and welcome development and I applaud the High Performance Committee for this action and commitment to the sport.

As always, there is still a lot more to be done, not only at the top but at every level. So let's lend a hand, donate to the ADS Fund, put a shoulder to the wheel, recruit some new ADS members and pitch in where we can to further driving on all levels.

2011 Calendar of Events

Bold Type Indicates an ADS Recognized Competition

All driving activities may be listed in the Calendar, but as space is limited, please submit only dates of activities that are open to all ADS members. ADS recognized events that are printed in either Omnibus will not be listed in the Wheelhorse calendar. For a complete up-to-date calendar listing, visit www.americandrivingsociety.org/calendar.asp.

March

- 5 Gilcrest Farm HDT, Gilcrest Farm, Windsor, SC, www.gilcrestfarm.com. See website for details. Renie Gillis, 803-648-4500
- 19 MY LADY'S MANOR DRIVING CLUB INTRO TO DRIVING PART II, Goucher College, Towson, MD. MLMDC members only—new members welcome; with Anne Coucill and Dana Bright, 9-12 lecture in Kelley Lecture Hall, 1-3 demo & practice drive in covered riding arena. Continue your driving education where Part I left off. \$50 full participation very limited; \$30 audit; contact Kathy Schmitt, 717-235-7061, kawschmitt@att.net or Marjorie Richmond at 410-323-3837 or margiebr@earthlink.net. Bring your own lunch.

April

- 2 Gilcrest Farm HDT, Gilcrest Farm, Windsor, SC, www.gilcrestfarm.com. See website for details. Renie Gillis, 803-646-1175.
- 2-3 Schooling ADT, Black Prong Equestrian Center, Bronson, FL. Dressage (pick any 40x80 test) on Saturday. Cones on Saturday (timed competition) after Dressage. Hazards (4) on Sunday in arena. See www.cypresskeep.com for details. Erika Matulich, P: 813-982-2200.
- 7-10 Carriage Symposium, "Rolling Through the West," Parks/Janeway Carriage House, Santa Ynez Museum, Santa Ynez, CA. www.santaynezmuseum.org. Chris Bashforth (805) 688-7889, syvm@verizon.net; or John Crockett, john.syvm@verizon.net.
- 9-10 Northern Ill. Driving Club Spring Driving Clinic: Ross Arena, German Valley, IL. nihdc.org. Clinician Phil Odden. Contact Lisa Lovett, 815-973-0292, antietamfarm@dishmail.com.
- 23 **ROCKIN TP ADT**: Sanger, TX. www.northtexaswhip.com. Training, Preliminary. Mike Finney, P: 972-740-4967, finneybackhoe@yahoo.com.

June

- 4-5 Cypress Keep Schooling HDT, Plant City, FL. All levels, all equine sizes. 4-5 Km, 4-5 hazards. Dressage/cones Saturday, Marathon Sunday. See www.cypresskeep.com or contact Erika Matulich at (813) 982-2200.

July

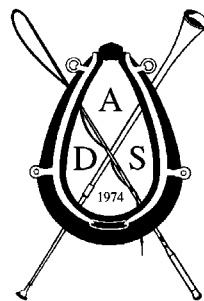
- 4-5 Mike McLennan Clinic at Crooked Pine Ranch, Sisters, OR. For more information, contact Kanoe Durdan-Godby, P: 541-977-4599, kanoeurdan@ykwc.net.

September

- 17-18 Rocky Mountain Carriage Club Fall Follies CDE & 2 Phase, Greeley CO. Nancy Bruckhauser, 303-776-6246, nbruck@earthlink.net.

October

- 4-9 The National Drive, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY. www.nationaldrive.net. Kathy Blank, P: (270) 378-5330, tnd2010@live.com.



OMNIBUS CHANGES

In response to ADS member comments, the Wheelhorse Calendar of Events will henceforth include changes in Omnibus listings, ADS meetings, deadlines for Licensed Officials applications, and those events sponsored by or of interest to ADS members. Please submit activities for publication in ADS publications and on the ADS Web site to the ADS office. View Omnibus Web pages for complete updated information. http://americandrivingsociety.org/06_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp

BLACK PRONG HDT: Bronson, FL. Date corrected to 3/12-13/2011.

NATURE COAST HDT AND CT: Bronson, FL. Recognition granted, officials updated

CAI LIVE OAK INTERNATIONAL: Ocala, FL. Opening/closing dates updated.

OHIO SCHOOLING CDE: Sullivan, OH Officials updated.

BRANDYWINE CARRIAGE DRIVING SHOW: Elkton, Md. Judge added.

ORLETON FARM PLEASURE DRIVING SHOW: Stockbridge, MA. Contact info updated.

SUMMER FESTIVAL CDE: Wilton, CA. Officials updated.

CDE AT INVALE: Philomath, OR. Marathon, other info updated.

Drivers in USET Foundation News

Johnson Awarded Whitney Stone Cup

Tucker Johnson, an internationally accomplished Combined Driver who earned individual bronze and team silver medals at the 2010 World Equestrian Games, received the USET Foundation Whitney Stone Cup for 2011 at a January ceremony in Wellington, Florida.

The Cup is awarded in honor of the late Whitney Stone, who was President and Chairman of the Board of the US Equestrian Team from 1953 to 1973. Mr. Stone was instrumental in creating a civilian equestrian team when the US Army withdrew from competitive horse sports after 1948. The Cup is presented annually to an active competitor who displays consistent excellence in international competition and high standards of sportsmanlike conduct while serving as an ambassador for the US and equestrian sport.

This is the second time that the Cup has been awarded to Tucker Johnson, who also received the honor in 2001. Previous winners of the Cup since its 1980 inception include top equestrians from several disciplines. The 2011 award is especially significant for Johnson, as he has announced that he plans to retire from competition.

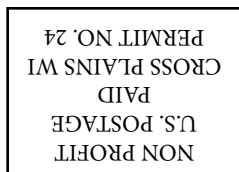
Chester Weber, Jack Wetzel Named to Board

New members elected to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees in February include eight-time US Four-in-Hand Champion Chester Weber and two-time Advanced Single Pony Champion Jack Wetzel.

Chester Weber of Ocala, Florida, a member of the silver-medal-winning team at the 2010 World Equestrian Games, won the individual silver medal at the 2008 Four-in-Hand World Championship (Beesd, The Netherlands).

Jack Wetzel of Aiken, South Carolina, who won the Advanced Single Pony National Championship in 2001 and 2002, is a founding member of the Four-in-Hand Coaching Club. His four-in-hand team, driven by Bill Long, represented the US at the 2010 WEG.

Also elected to the Board was Jenny Sutton of Naples, Florida, past member of the USET Foundation's National Advisory Committee and owner of Olympian Beezie Madden's jumper Prima. Sutton hosted the first ever stand-alone hunter derby at her Wrenwood Farm in 2008, and competes in the Adult Amateur Hunter division.



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