

In a dramatic upset, James Fairclough won the National Four-in-Hand Championship at The Laurels at Landhope. Story on page 4. Photo by Pics of You



Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

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Tropical Storm Irene Devastates GMHA

By Karey Manner



The Finish Box for Marathon was completely under water during the flood. Photo by Wendy Hunter-Higgins

August 28, 2011 was scheduled to be the final day of GMHA's annual Combined Driving Event. The day usually includes several hours of cones competition, followed by awards presentations and victory gallops. Instead, the GMHA grounds withstood the heavy rains brought by Tropical Storm Irene, and the subsequent flooding. Luckily, the Combined Driving Event schedule was modified so that the competition finished on Saturday afternoon, allowing drivers to travel home safely.

As many of you know by now, the GMHA grounds were mostly underwater during the storm. Our gentle babbling brook grew to resemble a raging river, washing away our bridges, rings, porta-potties, cross-country jumps, and the floors of C and D Barns. The brook re-routed itself through much of the cross-country course and grounds, leaving a carpet of silt, rocks, and debris in its wake.

In addition to the destruction of our grounds, our community, along with many across the state, suffered mass destruction. Major roads washed away, making travel nearly impossible for a few days. Two weeks after the storm, some parts of our area still lacked power and phone service. Homes and businesses in Woodstock, Bridgewater, Reading and Quechee, to name a few, sustained severe damage.

The destruction left GMHA unable to hold several of our popular fall events. The 100-Mile Ride, Fall Driving Classic, and September Horse Trials were cancelled. Since putting out the word about the destruction of our grounds, GMHA has enjoyed terrific support from our members, competitors, and friends. Our recent volunteer work days, which focused on clearing debris from our grounds and silt from our buildings, drew more than 50 people to GMHA. Estimates place our grounds restoration at \$200,000. We hope to open for 2012 looking better than ever!

More about Irene's effects on the Northeast Region on page 3.

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A Message from The Executive Director



I hope that you all have been receiving the news from the ADS, USEF, Hoefnet.com and DrivingNews.us about the recent World Championships. The Pairs

competed in August in Conty, France and the US team was made up of three relative newcomers to international competition: Misdee Wrigley-Miller (Kentucky), Joe Yoder (South Carolina) and Katherin Dancer (California). They had some brilliant moments and a very respectable finish. I am sure there is nothing but great things for these three drivers in the future.

The US Pony World Championship team, in contrast, was comprised of veterans of international competition: Shelly Temple (South Carolina), Randy Cadwell (North Carolina), Jennifer Matheson (South Carolina by way of Canada), Wendy O'Brien (South Carolina), Lisa Stroud (Pennsylvania), Laurie Astegiano (a US citizen living in Roussac, France) and individual competitor Suzy Stafford (Delaware). This team of successful, determined women captured the Bronze Team Medal and Suzy won the Individual Bronze Medal for Single Ponies.

These people are some of our sport's best heroes. Not only are they all fine horsemen, but they support and give back, helping to grow carriage driving and challenge all of us to be better drivers simply by their own performances. For most of us, international competition is not on our bucket list—but without our international competitors and their drive to be the best our sport has to offer, I believe our sport would languish in the eyes of new drivers.

You can't deny the tingle you get when you watch Chester Weber perform a dressage test or Randy Cadwell and Kabam whip through the obstacles at breakneck speed. When you watch a video clip or, better yet, a live competition, you can't help but feel excitement, admiration, won-

The Officers' Report: Making the Membership Meeting Happen

By Ann Davis, ADS Secretary

The Northwest Region of the American Driving Society will host the ADS Membership Meeting Saturday October 15 and Board of Directors activities Friday and Sunday of that weekend. While the ADS Board of Directors meetings will be held in Portland, Oregon, the Saturday membership activities will be held at Happ's, one hour north of Portland in Ethel, Washington.

In order to involve as many members as possible in its membership meetings, the ADS Board of Directors schedules these meetings in different regions of the country. This will be the first time the meetings are held in the Northwest Region.

Planning for the 2011 meeting started early at the January 2009 ADS Board of Directors meeting. Since that date, countless hours have been spent by the Planning Committee to make this one of the best-ever ADS membership meetings. The 2010 meeting was held in conjunction with the 2010 World Equestrian Games and an array of WEG-related activities, but the 2011 Committee not only had to do the careful planning for the dinner and meeting, but also put together a schedule of carriage driving-related activities attractive enough to interest ADS members from all over the country as well as the Northwest. The results of all the planning are impressive: six educational clinics, a light-hearted obstacle competition between Board of Directors members driving local VSEs, an opportunity to ride with selected Northwest drivers through Happ's challenging hazards, shopping at vendor booths, and time to socialize and sample Northwest wines and food.

All the details of this event have been publicized in several previous issues of the *Wheelhorse* and the *Whip* and are also on the ADS Web site along with registration material.

Before closing, I would like to give credit to the important volunteers who are making this happen. The Planning Committee has been working for more than a year, and I have served as the Coordinator for this group. Other members are Maureen Harkcom (ADS Director and Chair of the Marketing Committee), Merridy Hance (ADS Director at Large), Peter Lofgren (ADS Northwest Regional Director), Laura Hill (active ADS member from Oregon) and Susie Koos-Acker (ADS Executive Director). Each has taken broad responsibilities in promotion, finding sponsors, planning entertainment, arranging for clinicians, research for contracted services, arranging transportation and making all the other details happen. Assisting the Planning Committee are a number of other ADS members working to make this an outstanding event, including those who will bring horses, ponies, and VSEs for the driving activities.

The Planning Committee members and other volunteers deserve a big thank you for all their work!

der—and all those emotions can inspire commitment to set goals, such as attending your first Driving Trial, or improving your own dressage score. Thank You to all our international competitors for all YOUR commitment, drive and desire, and for being our own, real-live Heros!

Irene Curtails RIDC Carriage Days

Story and photos by Catherine Luce



Irene's heavy rains drenched Celtic Cross Farm and put much of the marathon pace course under water, forcing Show Manager Marguerite Tomany (left) to end the show early.



Not even the threat of the largest hurricane since 1938 could dampen the spirits of the Rhode Island Driving Club. Their intended two-day show ended up as a one-day, two-phase.

Despite a milky overcast sky, the grounds at Celtic Cross Farm looked lovely. The farm, situated in south central Massachusetts, is the home of Rhode Island Driving Club members John and Adrienne St. Cyr. Each year the St. Cyrs graciously open their farm for the club's use and their hospitality and kindness is greatly appreciated. The St. Cyrs are also the owners of Showtime Stall Rentals, America's choice for quality temporary stabling, and this year they provided the club with two huge tents to protect competitors and spectators from the weather and one for the local Boy Scout troop (who provided everyone with lunch).

Show Manager and RIDC President Marguerite Tomany did a fantastic job with show preparations, but there was nothing she could do about the impending weather. Luckily, the rain held off so that ADS Dressage Judge Marsha Himler and ADS Cones (learner) Judge John Freiburger were able to watch all the competitors complete their rounds. It was during the downpour which accompanied the competitors course briefing that TD Dana Bright decided the course was too sloppy, and therefore potentially too dangerous for horse and driver. But even though the marathon pace got cancelled, everyone had a wonderful time and were rather happy to have a few extra hours to pack up and head home before Irene could catch them on the road.

Also affected by Irene's New England floodwaters was the Tunbridge (Vermont) CDE, cancelled after road washouts made the venue inaccessible. "In our area of the White River Valley the roads, including VT Rte 107, which we live on, were hit hard. Route 107 is still closed to through traffic," Tunbridge Organizer Cheryl Rivers reported on September 5.

Intermediate CDE Champions for 2011

This Championship is in its second season of awards designed to encourage and inspire drivers of all levels. Although we cannot all compete "head to head" because of the size of our country, these Championships will enable us to measure ourselves against others at the same level of proficiency nationwide. We eventually hope to award a Championship at Preliminary Level as well. Championships criteria: You must be a member in good standing; you must be competing at Intermediate level; you must be qualified to compete at Intermediate as per the ADS Rulebook, Article 905.14; you can compete with more than one horse/driver combination; however, scores submitted for a Championship must be earned by the same combination; you are automatically entered just by competing. Congratulations to this year's champions!

Single Pony Champion: Paul Maye
Reserve: Janelle Marshall

Pair Horse Champion: Fritz Grupe
Reserve: Pat Hastings

Single Horse Champion: Lowell Nelson
Reserve: Jill Warren Pond

Team Pony Champion: Heather Schneider

Single VSE Champion: Merridy Hance
Reserve: Mandy Hood

Pair Pony Champion: Boots Wright
Reserve: Sherri Dolan

Pair VSE Champion: Wanda Lusk

The Laurels at Landhope Marks a Low-Key 25th

By Louisa Emerick

The 25th Anniversary of the Laurels at Landhope has come and gone without much fanfare. However, Jimmy Fairclough certainly had reason to celebrate with his win over eight-time National Champion Chester Weber. Fairclough, sporting a gray topper as the owner of the horses, had not competed since last year's World Equestrian Games. Weber left the door open when he went backward through a gate in Hazard 3. "An inexcusable mistake," he said. "I walked it that way." Fairclough had confidence in his team even though he switched the horses around for Cones, putting a new combination in as wheelers. "It worked out," he said. After winning the first National Championship decades ago before an engraved trophy was awarded, and being the Reserve National Champion 14 times, it was undoubtedly gratifying for Jimmy to take the National Championship with horses now owned by him and his family.

Now only the Singles division of the USEF National Championships remains to be decided in November. Kim Stover and her Connemara/Thoroughbred gelding, Laughlin, are set to make a strong bid for the title. Kim and "Lucky" won Dressage and Marathon at The Laurels, holding off challenger Jacob Arnold. Kim then came back to win the Intermediate division with her new horse, a Friesian/Thoroughbred cross, with a strong Dressage and solid top-three performances in Marathon and Cones. Kim has been a consistently strong competitor for a number of years and is pointing her goal toward next summer's World Singles Championship.

The "tag team" Hurricanes Irene and Lee could have made a quagmire out of the Laurels grounds. This year, however, due to economic downturns and more than 8 inches of rain, organizer Jamie O'Rourke made a number of proactive decisions that kept the grounds useable and may have preserved the future of the event. When it was clear that sponsorships and entries were down about 30 percent weeks before the event, spending was cut drastically. Decorations were almost non-existent, some amenities were cut, plans to redesign a hazard were scrapped, and event souvenirs were limited to existing inventory. Jamie released some judges and scheduled one dressage ring, a fortuitous decision when the rains began. The practice rings became competition rings and the judges were moved from ring to ring for the classes. No one ring was pummeled for later competitors.

Sections A and D were shortened and hazards were eliminated for all divisions. Because there was no parking suitable to support the cars, the Friday night Art Show and the Saturday night Competitor Party were cancelled. No vehicles were permitted out on the grounds; everyone walked out to study the hazards. The grounds held up well con-



Kim Stover won the Intermediate Single Horse division with her new horse, Bruce Wayne, a Friesian/Thoroughbred cross. Photo by Pics of You

sidering the conditions, and the competition went forward without incident, injuries, or serious metabolic problems for horses competing in the heat and high humidity.

When asked about the future of the event, O'Rourke responded, "I have no idea whether there will be a next year. Each year we evaluate how much money we have to plan for another year. I cannot pick up the tab afterwards. To be able to continue we need sponsor support. To have sponsors, we need spectators; to have spectators, we need entertainment to draw those who are not involved in horse sports. It is exhausting work, and in our case, some of our key volunteers are aging out. We need new blood to carry on. I make no promises for next year. Just as in the business world, I need to see how we come out financially when the numbers are all in. This year people appeared to leave happy. We even had a number of people who donated their refunds for the cancelled dinner party. We have attracted people to the area over the years who have enjoyed the show, the vendors and the entertainment. We have invested \$400,000 in facilities built for this event. Over our 25 years we have donated over \$250,000 to New Bolton Center, Brandywine Conservancy, LAPS, and the Cheshire Land Preservation Fund. However, our sport is shrinking and the activity is moving south. A number of events in this area have been lost due to a lack of organizer interest, financial support and entries. It has become a huge challenge to continue to produce such a quality event in such difficult times. I hope we can survive the challenge."

Complete competition results can be found on Driving-News.us.

Photos of all competitors can be found on PicsofYou.com.

Pennsylvania Four-in-Hand Conquers Mount Washington



The team of Percheron mares had never been driven together until less than two weeks before their climb up Mount Washington. They proved more than equal to the task. Photo courtesy of Mount Washington Carriage Road.

When Mennonite farmer Stephen Burkholder told his friends Judith Kinney Paisley and her husband, Marvin, that his dream was to drive a four-in-hand up Mount Washington this summer on the historic Mount Washington Carriage Day, they agreed to be part of the trip—although not without some misgivings. Judith shared these photos to give an idea of the challenge of the climb and the scenic rewards awaiting intrepid whips and riders at the top. Read her full account of the adventure on the ADS Web site.



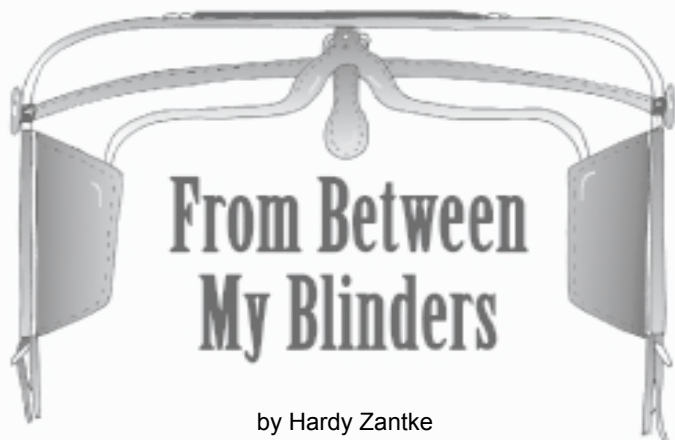
A high-tech braking system—a thick rubber mat chained to the carriage, with one or two passengers standing on it—eased the descent and spared the carriage brakes. Photo courtesy of Mount Washington Carriage Road.



The view from 6,000 feet. Photo by Judith Kinney Paisley

Below, the bumper stickers earned by horsemen who rode or drove up the mountain.





More on Rule Change Proposals

In my September 2011 column, "Thoughts on Rule Changes and Penalties," I wrote some critical remarks about those Rule Change Proposals (RCPs) which were marked with "supported with change." I thought we were left in the dark as to what the changes would be. I was wrong, and thus would like to apologize to the Combined Driving Committee and the Rules Committee (as well as to my readers) for my mistake, which Simon Rosenman, the very capable chair of the Rules Committee, brought to my attention after reading my column. We were not left in the dark: The text of each RCP which was marked with "supported with change" did incorporate those changes already, and was the latest version of that RCP at the time it was published for public input. Accordingly it had been worked over by the CDE Committee already—the work that I had thought was still missing. So, my apologies for my mistake.

In reviewing the RCPs again with that new knowledge, I can agree now to the "Twice Around" RCP 39 (and 44) last version, as I see the Omnibus publishing requirement—my main objective—still stands, and only "schedule permitting" was added. I have no problem with that, as I think it was always implied anyhow. (Most of the stated reason then, however, was misleading; it was valid only to the original suggestion, and no longer to the "supported with change" reason.)

But the rest of my critical remarks about some of the other RCPs still stand. We will see in due time what the Technical Committees will adjust, change, drop or uphold after reviewing our public input. They will work out details with the Rules Committee to present their suggestions to the Board of Directors at the fall meeting, and it is then up to the Board to accept, turn down or further modify their proposals. (See Simon Rosenman's great article in the June *Wheelhorse* on "How a Rule Change Evolves.")

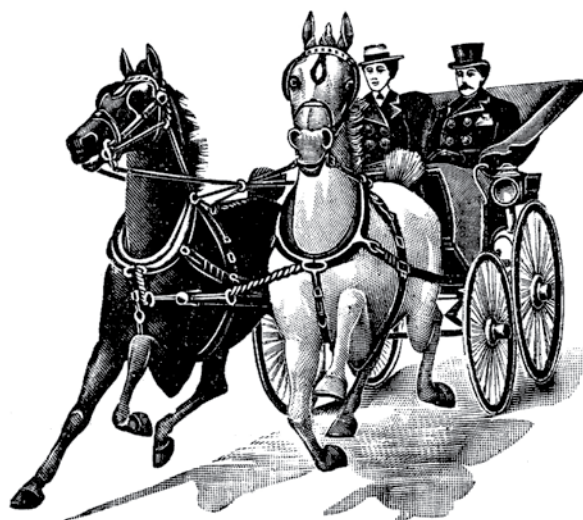
Even though I was wrong with my statement about the lack of clarity on the "supported with change" RCPs, I had also noted that on some of the other RCPs I found questionable, another ADS Committee felt likewise, as we could see the statement "Not supported by Event Standards."

So it is my hope that the CDE Committee will review the

proposals carefully and will still make some changes or withdrawals where appropriate. I also hope that the Board of Directors will not just blanket "rubber stamp" what is brought in front of them, and will at least review carefully those that the underlying ADS Committees were or still are not in agreement on, and in some of those cases, perhaps send them back to the drawing board. After all, if even the committees have disagreements about the RCPs, perhaps it really is questionable whether they are in the best interest of our sport and are really necessary at this time. Perhaps another round of discussion on some of them might be a wise choice. If they really are that good, it should not be that hard then to convince the rest of us next year.

Regardless of the outcome, I thank all involved for their hard and dedicated work on all of our behalf and look forward to seeing the results on the ADS website by December 1.

Reminder to our Young Drivers: As every year, our deadline for your entries for our Annual Youth Championships for CDE, Pleasure and Recreational drivers is November 30. See all details on the ADS Web site under Award Programs - Annual Youth Championships. Get your entries ready, make sure, all is correct according to the rules as stated on the Web site, and send them in on time.



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).

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)

2011 Calendar of Events 2012

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.

October

- 4-9 The National Drive, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY. www.nationaldrive.net. Kathy Blank, P: (270) 378-5330, tnd2010@live.com.
- 15 **ADS ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING:** The Governor Hotel, Portland, OR / Happ's, Ethel, WA.
- 29 JRDA Arena Driving Trial: Meadow Event Park, Doswell, VA. Training, Prelim, VSE, singles, multiples. \$60 entry fee, stalls available thru Meadow Event Park. Judge Martha Nicoll. Sally Sutherland, 804-784-3168, ssutherland.ppp@juno.com.

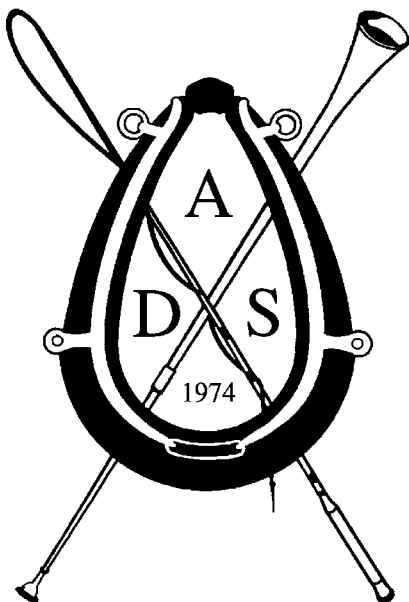
December

- 3 Gilcrest Farm HDT, Gilcrest Farm, Windsor, SC, www.gilcrestfarm.com see Web site for more details. Renie Gillis, P: 803-648-4500
- 11 Lisbon Maryland Old Fashioned Christmas Horse Parade, Lisbon, MD. For more information contact Lem Cissel, P: 410-916-5037.

2012

January

- 7 Gilcrest Farm HDT, Gilcrest Farm, Windsor, SC, www.gilcrestfarm.com see Web site for more details. Renie Gillis, P: 803-648-4500
- 28 Gilcrest Farm HDT, Gilcrest Farm, Windsor, SC, www.gilcrestfarm.com see Web site for more details. Renie Gillis, P: 803-648-4500



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

Oct. 6-9: Kentucky Classic, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY. TD information updated.

Oct. 8-9: Garden State CDE, Horse Park of New Jersey at Stone Tavern, Allentown, NJ. Mailing address updated.

Oct. 8-9: Tunbridge CDE, Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, VT. **Cancelled.**

Oct. 22: Jameswood Fall Pleasure Driving Classic, Belle Grey Farms, Upperville, VA. Officials, class info updated.

Oct. 28-29: Chapter One Fall HDT, Chapter One Farms, Pedricktown, NJ. **Cancelled.**

Nov. 5: Halloween Hustle, Oak Run Farm, Moorpark, CA. Secretary's contact info updated.

Nov. 5: Houston Area Carriage Association ADT, Burleson County Saddle Club, Caldwell, TX. **RESCHEDULED FOR NOV. 12.** Cones info updated.

Medals and Valuable Mileage: US Drivers' Summer in Europe

Double Bronze in Slovenia

The US Pony Drivers defended a third-place marathon finish in the final phase of their competition, driving a confident cones phase to secure a Team Bronze medal at the 2011 FEI Pony World Driving Championships in Lipica, Slovenia September 23-25.

Their three-phase total of 402.3 guaranteed Bronze behind driving powerhouse nations Germany, who won on 359.4, and The Netherlands on 375.4.

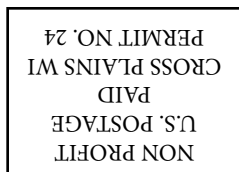
Additionally, Suzy Stafford—competing as an Individual for Team USA—drove an impeccable cones phase to move from fourth to third, securing her second consecutive Individual Bronze medal.

Disappointment in France

Kathi Dancer, Misdee Wrigley-Willer and Joe Yoder represented the US at the 2011 FEI World Pairs Championship in Conty, France August 24-28. This was the first World Championship competition for all three whips.

A strong start in the first phase, highlighted by Joe's sixth-place dressage score in difficult muddy conditions, put the team fifth going into the marathon. However, the US experienced some setbacks. Joe had to put a groom down in a hazard when one of his pair got a leg over a trace. Misdee, apparently on course for a very good score in cones, was eliminated when she missed the next to last gate. The US team finished in 10th place and garnered valuable experience for these drivers' next international effort.

Watch for exclusive coverage and photos of both the World Pony Championship and World Pair Championship in the November 2011 issue of the Whip.



THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY
P.O. Box 278
Cross Plains, WI 53528
Phone 608-237-7382
Fax 608-237-6468
e-mail info@americandrivingsociety.org
www.americandrivingsociety.org

