



Breanna Sheahan driving in Suzy Stafford's upper level pony clinic in California. Photo by Todd Ruston.

THE Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

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Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!



Else Bigton of Norsk Wood Works in Barronett, Wisconsin took this Christmas 2009 photo of Crysten Nesseth of Cameron, Wisconsin driving Marcy and Herger put to a traditionally carved Norwegian sleigh. The pair of Fjords is owned by Else and her husband, Phil Odden. Else and Phil's wood carving studio is located in the former dairy barn on a farm that has been in Phil's family for many years.

In snowy Wisconsin, the Northwoods Harness Club has sleighing activities scheduled for January 16 and 24 and on February 20 (www.northwoodsharness.org). If you live in a region where snow is a normal part of winter, check with local driving clubs for opportunities to get out and enjoy the white stuff with other whips.



A Message from The Executive Director



Happy New Year! The ADS is about to start another year, with a new, enthusiastic Board of Directors willing to hit the collars and work together to help

grow the sport of carriage driving in the United States and Canada.

To date the ADS has 2740 paid memberships, which total approximately 3,280 members. (Some are Family Memberships, which comprise at least 2 people.) Our membership has been very steady, even experiencing little blips of growth over the last five years. That is quite a testimony to the dedication and commitment carriage drivers have to their sport and their national organization, especially in one of the toughest economic times this country has ever experienced.

For 2011, the ADS has recognized 41 events for the first half of the competition year, as opposed to 37 in 2010. Ohio is becoming a real hub of ADS driving with four recognized events planned there in the first half of the year. The Garden State CDE has moved to October 8-9 and will be managed by Karey Manner, a familiar name to Green Mountain Horse Association (GMHA) competitors.

The Kentucky Classic CDE (October 7-9), back after its brief hiatus for the World Equestrian Games, will offer the only Advanced division in the Midwest area of the country. The National Drive will also be taking place in the Kentucky Horse Park during the Kentucky Classic—so you can bring your horse to the event, drive around the park and then watch some exciting Combined Driving competition!

Here's to a great year for driving, and for the ADS!

Susie

Richard Nicoll Appointed to FEI Executive Board

FEI president HRH Princess Haya has named the chairman of Geographical Group VII, Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa (Bahrain), and the chair of the Driving Committee, Richard Nicoll (US), as members of the FEI Executive Board

Sheikh Khalid and Mr. Nicoll will serve on the Executive Board alongside the first vice president, John McEwen (Great Britain), and the second vice president, Pablo Mayorga (Argentina), who were approved at the FEI General Assembly.

Sheikh Khalid, whose career as a sports administrator began in 1987, is an international judge in endurance. He has been chair of Group VII since 2006. He has been the vice president of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation and the Bahrain Olympic Committee since 2009. This year, he became the chief executive officer of the Bahrain Olympic Committee. In the past, he has been involved at the senior level in international sports clubs and committees for motor sports, jumping, and endurance.

Richard Nicoll, who was born in Britain but is now a permanent resident of the US, has been involved in the sport of driving since the early 1970s. He is currently an O-level course designer and technical delegate for driving and has designed courses for the 1993 World Pairs Championship in the USA, the 1998 World Single Horse Championship in Austria, the 2004 World Single Horse Championship in Sweden and the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky. He is currently in his second term as chair of the Driving Committee.

The FEI Bureau decides on the specific mandate of the Executive Board, whose role is generally to interface with FEI Headquarters to oversee and support the implementation of resolutions further to an agenda approved by the Bureau.

CT Valley Driving Club Hosts First Virtual Presenter

On January 8 the Connecticut Valley Driving Club will host the first ever “virtual presenter” at their monthly club meeting. What is that? Well, the ADS and CVDC have joined forces to orchestrate a meeting where the guest speaker is present via the internet. Marc Johnson will present his Navigating for Beginners seminar from his computer in Massachusetts to a site in Connecticut.

This format will allow the club to contract with more carriage-driving professionals for learning sessions that they otherwise might not have been able to host, due to travel costs and other constraints. The club members will all be able to hear Marc, view his presentation on a computer projector and then ask live questions.

After the presentation, there can be a round table discussion between members about that night's topic. The technology and training for this meeting is being provided by the American Driving Society with the hopes that more clubs will pick up on the idea and also want to host their own “virtual presenter” meetings.

Taking a Loop: ADS Version 2.0

By John Freiburger, ADS President

Pat Cheatham provided a detailed reflection in the December Wheelhorse on his four years as vice president of our Society. He focused on evaluations of what the ADS does well and where it needs to improve. I'd like to follow up, not with a line-by-line commentary on Pat's thoughts, but rather with a similar set of comments that reflect his ideas, my ideas and the ideas of the Board and private members whom I've had the pleasure to question and receive comments from in the few months since our Kentucky general membership meeting.

The ADS does indeed do a good job of providing good value for membership. We have a great staff, world-class publications and a Web site with a great deal of helpful and valuable information—at least for those members who compete. I have concerns for the recreational members' perception of value, and the perceptions of all those drivers who are not ADS members.

The Recreational Driving Committee is a key factor in adding value to ADS membership for the non-competitor. Further development of our interactive trail guide, redevelopment of a layover lodging list, and interaction with distance drivers and other low-pressure competition organizations and drivers will be key to the expansion of ADS's value to recreational drivers.

The ADS is in good financial shape. We are close to running a balanced budget, but still rely upon ADS Fund money for some operational costs. The Fund is a very important outreach tool and its prosperity and the general solvency of the ADS are closely linked.

The idea of endowments may be considered so that we, like many other equine organizations, have a sum of invested capital from which we can draw income each year, without spending down the invested sum.

There may be multiple approaches to this. First, we may wish to invest life memberships. Currently we decrease the membership by fifty dollars each year, drawing the sum from the membership basis, be it an old \$500 or a newer \$1,000 membership. After 10 to 20 years, that money is gone. If it were invested, we might be able to draw the same amount each year, but in perpetuity.

Similarly, the ADS Fund may be able to gather donations for an endowment in amounts and from persons that are hesitant to donate to a fund where the money will not be a perpetual benefit. Bequests in wills and donations from foundations may be easier to garner if the money is going into an endowment sector in the ADS Fund. This would be building for an unlimited future.

The ADS is open and responsive and will continue to be. Having been involved in local and state government for more than two decades, I have seen the immense damage non-responsive governance can cause. It is an absolute necessity to treat every ADS member and possible member with respect,

loyalty, courtesy and sympathy, providing any reasonable request for information or comment on policy with a response that recognizes that the person has invested, or may invest, something of themselves in the ADS.

All committees must match the responsiveness of the Rule Committee in making timely modifications of the rules. We look to the committees, in the formation of their goals and forward thinking, to consider not just who or what the ADS is and represents now, but what we can be in the future as both a broad-based organization and one that supports high performance sport at the same time.

Pat had several suggestions for what I call "value added", beyond those mentioned above. Partnering wherever we can with the CAA is a goal we set. The winter board meeting is in St. Paul during the CAA convention for exactly that reason. As Jim Keathley has pointed out, the small North American driving community can support two organizations, with each organization having its own focus. But where those two organizations can coordinate and cooperate, as in promotion for driving proficiency, mutual growth will be the result of such cooperation.

The US Polo Association, like many other equine sport organizations, provides insurance benefits the ADS does not. Further, land owners who host ADS events often must take out umbrella policies, a disincentive to hosting competitions on their land. We shall investigate enhanced insurance offerings.

The webinars have been a hit and Web-based education is part of our future. We have an Executive Director who was hired at least in part because of her ability in the digital world, and we want to refocus and rearrange office duties and management so that she can develop and exploit the knowledge and skills of our ADS members by dissemination as broadly as possible through well designed and attended webinars.

Committees will also be able to "go to Meeting" without leaving home. This is important as the committees are where our future starts. ADS Version 2.0 will be written by the committees with the assistance of our Executive Director. This is why we are determined that all committees provide their forward-looking goals by the middle of January so that we can chart an enhanced and expanded future role for our organization in the life of North American drivers as ADS, Version 2.0.

John Freiburger

Training Level: A column and forum for new driving enthusiasts

By Deby Stewart

Well, a new year has started and I know I'm sure happy to say bye-bye to 2010. Hopefully 2011 will take off like a rabbit (it's the Chinese Year of the Rabbit, after all) with lots of fun driving events and get-togethers for all of us.

Last month I asked if you would share some of your carriage maintenance tips. The equipment for our hobby isn't cheap, and for those of us who are mechanically challenged the maintenance probably isn't intuitive. I heard from a couple of people but would love to hear from more of you.

Victoria DaRoza of Castle Rock Farm in California wrote with some great advice: "Here are a few things just off the top. If a carriage has been sitting for a while I would check the brake fluid, if applicable. Every season (or here in California every six months to a year, since we hardly stop driving), pull the wheels and repack the bearings unless you have the sealed kind. Check the wheels, especially the wooden ones, for anything cracked or split. For wooden wheels, check to make sure the band that holds the wheels together is tight. Pick up each wheel and spin it to see if it is balanced and check the frame for chips of paint that may disclose a previously unseen crack in the frame or seats. Check the wheels for a 5 percent cant and that they are rolling true; even one big bump

can affect the angles. Check the shafts or pole to make sure they have not cracked or bent in storage. Never store a pole or shafts resting on the ground as malformation will be the result."

Michael Bolde of About Time Farm in New York also shared his need for more information. "I call myself a 're'newbie (after years of not driving) and have had a cart built for my Paint / Pinto gelding, and am wondering the same thing. I have had a few vehicles in the past but usually had them for a year and sold them to someone else in a driving group where I had come from. Now I am in an area that is mostly draft folks who drive working and some pleasure. I was told to clean it [my cart] with warm water and a very mild soap and dust it down with Pledge. Regarding the wheels—not sure if and when and how to remove to grease? Might I ask when you get these answers—when we might see them?"

Do the carriage companies give a maintenance sheet with new carriages? Do the maintenance needs change depending on what part of the country you live in?

And finally I know my New Year's Resolution is to Drive More!! What is yours?

Deby

deby@justusdriving.com

Nadine Tilley Is USEF Equestrian of the Year Nominee

Nadine Tilley of Los Angeles, California, 2010 winner of the USEF's Bill Robinson Trophy (presented to an equestrian competing with horses or ponies across all the breeds in harness or for driving performance in non-international competitions) has been nominated for the 2010 USEF Equestrian of the Year Award.

For four decades, Nadine has been competing in open driving shows, Combined Driving Events and traditional carriage driving, including International Andalusian/Lusitano Horse Association driving classes. Her honors in 2010 include four National Champion titles earned at the 2010 IALHA Nationals—Pleasure Driving Open, Pleasure Carriage Driving Amateur, Show Pleasure Driving Junior Horse and Half-Andalusian Driving Amateur. She also took the blue ribbon in the Pairs Working Open class at the Los Angeles County Fair, in addition to the Working Pairs Championship Stake title.

USEF members can vote for this outstanding driver as Equestrian of the Year at the USEF Web site (www.usef.org); click the "Vote for Equestrian of the Year" button on the right-hand navigation menu. Voting closes January 11.



Nadine Tilley at a Whip 'r Snappers Driving Club Christmas party in 2006. Photo by Veronica Campbell

Driving Is Fun in Black and White

By Sammi Jo Sheedy



These are photos of Charlie Brown, my four-year-old Grants Zebra stallion, driving through an obstacle course at the training facility I operate with my partner, Jason Mayfield, in Willis, Texas. We drove this day as a demonstration for the Zebra Guru training clinic. Charlie had never seen these obstacles before, so I was curious to see how he would react to them. He didn't let me down--not even a hesitation What a great boy!

Driving is a passion of mine. I have several riding zebras and when I realized that Charlie Brown, the four-year-old Grant's Zebra stallion in these photos, wouldn't grow big enough to ride, I started training him to harness. I have a video diary of his training on YouTube, starting when he was about a year old with groundwork, then ground-driving and finally hitching up. For his fourth drive, I took a driving lesson with Tom O'Carroll of the Good Hands Training Center and had a wonderful time.



Charlie loves to drive and runs out to walk in front of the cart when I am bringing it out; he will actually put himself between the shafts and walk in front of me. I have a driving horse as well that I have competed in Combined Driving.

Charlie has been easier to train to harness than most horses that I have started, and I believe it is mainly due to the foundation training that I have done with him since he was little. Driving zebras certainly isn't for everyone, but

with the right kind of preparation, it can be done and is a very rewarding experience.

Zebras can be seen throughout history in harness, from the Transvaal Stage in Africa in 1892 (where eight wild zebras were caught, trained and then used to pull the stage), to Lord Rothschild driving his four-in-hand around London in 1895, to the Pevely Dairy company using three zebras to pull milk carts in St. Louis in 1928 and the Mazawatte Tea company with their four-in-hand pulling the tea wagons around London in 1914. Notable Virginia horsewoman Viola Winnill had a zebra mare, Nderu, who was driven down the streets of Virginia in 1930.





by Hardy Zantke

2010 ADS Youth Championship

As every year, I am happy to announce the winners of our annual ADS Youth Championship :

PLEASURE DRIVING (high points to win)

Our Champion this year is a first-time entry: 15-year-old Olivia Fowler from Freeport, Maine with 32 points, 20 of those for her first-place Training Level Dressage test in a class of 18 drivers at the Rhode Island Carriage Days, plus 12 points for her first place of 10 drivers in Ladies to Drive at the Maine Carriage Days.

By points we would have a tie for second and third place between last year's Champion, Taylor Nedurian (now 17) from Muncy, Pennsylvania with 31 points—which she earned at Walnut Hill with 17 points for a first in a class of 15 drivers in Junior Reinsmanship and 14 points for a third in Ladies Single Horse Reinsmanship out of 16 drivers—and a new entry, 18-year-old Nicole Kane from Holley, New York, also with 31 points. Nicole earned 16 points for her first in a class of 14 drivers in Single American Miniature Fault & Out Obstacles and 15 points for a second place of 15 drivers in Junior Single Horse and Pony Reinsmanship, both at Walnut Hill. According to our criteria, ties are broken by next best scores; Taylor sent in additional scores, whereas Nicole did not, which puts Taylor in second and Nicole in third place.

In fourth place we have 15-year-old Starlyt Knight, another new entry, also from Holley, New York, with 28 points. She earned 16 points for a first in a class of 14 drivers in Division A Small Pony Single Progressive Obstacles at Walnut Hill, and 12 points for a first of 10 drivers in VSE Working at the 34th Lorenzo Driving Competition.

COMBINED DRIVING (lowest points wins)

Our 2010 Champion is the same as 2009: Maggie Sullivan, now 18, from Guilford, Connecticut with 83.41 points from achieving a total of 98.13 penalty points (minus 15 percent credit for Intermediate) at the Intermediate Level at the Pine Tree CDE in Southern Pines.

In second place, also the same as in 2009, is Jan Jan Hamilton, now 16, from Alva, Florida with 87.83 points adjusted from a total of 103.33 penalty points (minus 15 percent) at the Intermediate Level at the Hickory Knoll

CDE.

Third place goes to Kaylee Angstadt, now 15 (sorry, I had her age wrong last year), from Bradford, Massachusetts with 92.79 points—adjusted (plus 15 percent for HDT) from the Connecticut Valley HDT at Preliminary Level with a score of 80.69.

In fourth place is Jacob Arnold, now 17, from Snow Camp, North Carolina with 97.92 points—adjusted (minus 30 percent for Advanced) from achieving 139.89 penalty points at the Advanced Level of the Southern Pines CDE.

I notice with great pleasure that all youth CDE drivers have improved their scores from last year, respectively have moved up a level, and for three of them this is already the third year that they have sent in their entries, and also there, they have improved their score every year

Congratulations to all! The Champions will again be eligible for an ADS Fund grant of up to \$750 to participate in an ADS Youth Clinic or similar event, and will receive a sports jacket. Their profiles will be featured in the May Whip.

No entries were received from Recreational drivers. They probably were too busy driving. Perhaps some of them will start the new year by keeping a logbook of their driving hours, in order to participate in the 2011 Championships.

The easy-to-follow details of how to participate in the ADS Annual Youth Championship for all three disciplines—Recreational, Pleasure and Combined Driving—are on the ADS Web site at www.americandrivingsociety.org under Awards Programs - Youth Championships. I look forward to continuing the ADS Annual Youth Championship this year, with entries due by the end of November 2011. Please help spread the word to all young drivers, especially young Recreational drivers who might not be ADS members yet and thus not aware of the program and their easy chances to win.

Happy driving to all!

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)

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

2011 Calendar of Events 2011

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.

January 2011

- 2 Gilcrest Farm HDT, Gilcrest Farm, Windsor, SC, www.gilcrestfarm.com. See website for details. Renie Gillis, 803-648-4500.
- 9 Little Everglades Ranch Country Fun Drive, Little Everglades Ranch, Dade City, FL Take a Sunday drive through 2000 acres of scenic ranchland rich with wildlife. Ten scored driving challenges along the way. See www.cypresskeep.com for more information or contact Katie Carris, (813) 244-0724.
- 29 Gilcrest Farm HDT, Gilcrest Farm, Windsor, SC, www.gilcrestfarm.com. See website for details. Renie Gillis, 803-648-4500.

February

- 12 MY LADY'S MANOR DRIVING CLUB INTRO TO DRIVING PART I, Goucher College, Towson, MD (Snow date Feb. 13). Open to all. 9-12 classroom lecture in Kelley Lecture Hall, 1-3 demonstration & harnessing practice in covered riding arena, with Anne Councill and Dana Bright. This is great for anyone who is interested in learning how to get started with driving or fill in gaps in your learning, \$40, contact Kathy Schmitt, 717-235-7061, kawschmitt@att.net or Marjorie Richmond 410-323-3837 margiebr@earthlink.net. Bring your own lunch.

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.
- 23 **ROCKIN TP ADT:** Sanger, TX. www.northtexaswhip.com. Training, Preliminary. Mike Finney, P: 972-740-4967, finneybackhoe@yahoo.com.

June

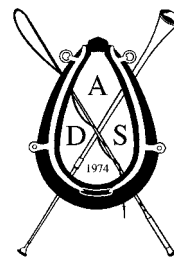
- 4-5 Cypress Keep Schooling HDT, Plant City, FL. All levels, all equine sizes. 4-5 Km, 4-5 hazards. Dressage/cones Saturday, Marathon Sunday. See www.cypresskeep.com or contact Erika Matulich at (813) 982-2200.

August

- 6 Southern Maryland Plantation Carriage Show, Prince Georges Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD. www.showplacearena.com and www.smhahorseshow.com. Mari Douglas Kehrig, P: 410-533-1406, smhahorseshow@aol.com.

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.

COLUMBUS CARRIAGE CLASSIC: Columbus, WI. 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.

ADS Annual Board of Directors Meeting

January 30, 2011, St Paul, Minnesota ; 8:00-11:30 am at the Hilton Garden Inn St. Paul/Oakdale (held in conjunction with the CAA Winter Sleigh Festival) Please Register on the CAA form http://americandrivingsociety.org/meeting_Docs/caa_brochure.pdf if you would like to participate in some of the CAA events including brunch on Sunday. If you are only coming for the meeting, please just let the ADS office know to expect you; there will be no charge. All members are welcome to attend the ADS BOD meeting.

This January, the city of St. Paul celebrates the 125th anniversary of its Winter Carnival, "The Coolest Celebration on Earth." There are parties, a parade, snow-sculpture and ice-carving competitions, a sleigh & cutter festival, and more.

Conference Highlights

The CAA Winter Conference will feature something for everyone. Fourteen speakers will give talks on a variety of sleigh-, carriage-, and driving-related topics. Those who bring horses and sleighs will be able to participate in two sleigh rallies, and everyone else will be able to watch. There will be the traditional Carriage/Sleigh Showcase competition, along with contests for sleigh bells, lap robes and photography. We will also have a trade fair and a number of social gatherings. Come join the fun!

Our host hotel: Hilton Garden Inn St. Paul/Oakdale. Connected to the Prom Center by a 41-foot walkway, the hotel is nine miles southeast of downtown St. Paul, and many restaurants and shops are within walking distance. The hotel rooms have free high-speed and wireless Internet access, microwaves, refrigerators, coffee makers, ironing boards, and hair dryers. The hotel offers an indoor heated swimming pool and a well-equipped fitness center. Our group's room rates: \$109 per night for rooms with one king-size bed or two queen-size beds; or \$149 per night for a king suite. To reserve a room, please call the hotel at 651-735-4100 and mention CAA.

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