



Jada Neubauer won both the Pony and Horse divisions at the new Indian Hills CDE. Story and more photos on p. 3. Photo by DreamVisionPhoto

# Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

## In This Issue:

- Scenes from Lezirias.....1
- Exec. Director’s Message.....2
- In Praise of Organizers.....2
- First-Ever Indian Hill CDE.....3
- ADS Members Meeting.....4-5
- From Between My Blinders.....6
- Calendar, Omnibus Changes.....7
- Classifieds.....7
- MLMDC Pleasure Show.....8



Scenes from the World Singles Championship, Lezirias, Portugal: Donna Crookston and RG Cowboy’s Black Cadillac in Cones (above); the U.S. Team marches in opening ceremonies (below). See Joyce Brinsfield’s complete story and photos in the November *Whip*.

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## A Message from the Executive Director



The ADS Annual Meeting has come and gone and we are always a bit sad— completely exhausted, yet still sad—that we will have to wait one more year to see our membership

face to face again. The Annual Meetings are invaluable for the staff to meet the members we work with on the phone, to listen to new ideas and to get feedback about what they like and don't like about their Society. Among the members from 23 states at this meeting were organizers, club presidents, competitors, recreational drivers, trainers, breeders, carriage makers and future carriage drivers. It's great to get a chance to listen to their perspectives of carriage driving in their community.

Planning for these meetings starts more than a year in advance and involves many players, including state and local governments. This year's meeting in Wisconsin received more than \$2,000 from the State of Wisconsin and from the local Fitchburg Chamber of Commerce. Grants like these, along with support from private businesses and local clubs, are key to holding the cost down for participants without compromising the quality of the event. Another key factor to success is holding the event in a location with a concentration of drivers and a very active local club that is willing to work on the meeting committee.

Next year's meeting location— Aiken, South Carolina—has all these attributes and then some. So mark your calendar for the same weekend, September 27-29, 2013, and join us for another weekend of carriage driving fun at the ADS Annual Meeting.

— Susie



## In Praise of Organizers

By Melinda Takeuchi

Having scratched from competition in the Shady Oaks CDE (Lodi, California) in September and learning they were desperate for volunteers, we Takeuchis returned Saturday to work the marathon. Experiencing the complexities of a first-rate competition from the logistical side deepened our awe for the enormous labor the Grupes have been perfecting over the past 12 years. Although their gracious cordiality makes it look effortless, the actual running of the event is akin to conducting five symphony orchestras simultaneously. Event organizer Ellen Ettenger has to be in the top 1 percent of the world's multi-taskers.

Volunteering gives one a perspective on logistics: how many tables, chairs, umbrellas, walkie-talkies, whistles, clipboards, red dots, reams of paper, pens, ice chests, drinks, lunches, and personnel does an eight-obstacle, three-section Marathon course require? (Each of the eight obstacles ideally uses five volunteers.) What happens when people who have committed to be there and help don't show up? How do officials communicate when something goes wrong? (They have a private, walkie-talkie wavelength.) We were first assigned an obstacle out in the boonies, but due to lack of personnel we happily transferred to the fourth—and most unforgiving (read: my personal scariest) hazard—the narrow-gated, stout-pillared Fort of No Appeals. Our vantage point afforded a prime view of espaliered orchards with competitors wending their way, sparkling green grass, five other hazards, and what turned out to be many people's Waterloo: course gate 4 at the exit of Obstacle 3.

The joys and sorrows of volunteering: from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. we got to watch 54 competitors from Training through Advanced tackle the same challenge in diverse ways. It was a lesson reinforcing the benefits of long flowing routes versus fast choppy ones! Ground Jury members, admonished in the ADS Rulebook against being chummy with competitors, show a marvelous tenderness towards volunteers; we were treated like royalty. Who would have thought that the venerable Peter Bonhoff, Marsoe La-Rose, Francois Bergeron and Boots Wright were such hilarious, fun-loving folks under their dignified veneers? They were really having enjoying themselves! Also high on the list of our satisfactions must be watching Fritz's in-the-zone performance with Ravel and Sylvester, and Stefanie Putnam's flowing, textbook-perfect run with Shadow. On the sad side, we were perfectly positioned to watch several competitor-colleagues eliminate themselves (so excruciating to keep from screaming "NOOOOOO!") and look on while Boots applied the dreaded red dot to their score sheets.

The event's Honored Whip of the Year award went to Arnold "Rif" Riffel. Never has recognition been more richly deserved. A former Pairs competitor, 75-year old Rif operates the Carriage Barn in Camarillo, about 250 miles south of Lodi. He has been quietly fixing our carriages, serving as a vendor, conducting our safety checks, offering advice and support, donating labor to modify vehicles for handicapped drivers, and lending his gentlemanly, unassuming presence at our events as a volunteer for decades.

The two crates of homegrown Fuji apples outside the office—one for people, one for horses—encapsulate the spirit of this premier California event, which brought our driving community together from areas as far-flung as Texas and Canada. Thank you again, Grupes, for all you do for our sport.

# First-Ever Indian Hills HDT Enjoys Perfect Conditions

By Mary Ann Carter, photos by Dream Vision Photo (DreamVisionPhoto.com)

After months of extreme heat and drought conditions, August brought moderate temperatures and enough rain to green the grass just in time for our first recognized driving show at Indian Hills Training Center, near Elgin, Illinois. We ordered up ideal weather for the 24 entries and full day of showing: temperatures in the 70s and not a cloud in the sky. Judges Craig Kellogg and Debbie Bevan were kept busy answering questions from the many first-time competitors who were there in addition to experienced whips such as Jada Neubauer of Ames, Iowa.

At Training level, Kim Cameron of Wisconsin with Lady's Willy took home the Single Horse blue ribbon and Training level Division Champion awards. Donna Thomas, also of Wisconsin, drove her small pony, Lexy, to a win in the Pony division for Reserve Champion and Zenon Gal of Illinois drove his Warmblood pair Bravo and Blackie to finish with his dressage score (67.43).

At Preliminary level, Jada Neubauer won both Pony and Horse divisions. She drove Eleanor Eagly's Azure Wind Sonata (Winnie) in the Horse division, and her own Century Hills Kieron in Pony. Kieron won the Prelim division champion, and Winnie took the Reserve.

Donna Crossman of Wisconsin represented the VSE division brilliantly, driving a Prelim dressage test with an amazing score of 37.27, the second-lowest dressage score



Zenon Gal (above) and his Warmblood pair Bravo and Blackie finished on his 67.43 dressage score in Training Pairs. Jada Neubauer (left) took Prelim Reserve with Azure Wind Sonata.

of the day. (Jada had the best dressage score with a 34.6 driving Century Hills Kieron.)

The show brought competitors from five states: Illinois, Iowa,

Wisconsin, Indiana and Minnesota.

Feedback from the competitors was overwhelmingly positive. "We were glad to have this venue to drive at. It was a fun show on lovely grounds that ran well and attracted a great group of drivers! Thanks for all the hard work and for volunteering your time so drivers could play! We appreciate it!" said Kim Cameron.



Kim Cameron (above) and Lady's Willy took home the Training Championship; Donna Crossman and her VSE (right) achieved the event's second-lowest dressage score.



# Annual Meeting Enjoys Great Clinics, Good Food, Perfect Weather

Story by Susie Koos-Acker, ADS Executive Director, Photo by Peggy Spear



International Pairs driver Lisa Singer was one of the weekend's popular clinicians. In this demonstration of pair-driving technique she used Moscow and Mischka, a pair of Sport Ponies owned by Mary Ruth Marks.

**Fitchburg, Wisconsin, September 28-30, 2012:** The ADS Annual meeting drew 135 carriage driving enthusiasts from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington and (of course) Wisconsin.

ADS Board Members and a few spectators gathered at 8:30 a.m. Friday for the Board of Directors meeting. Complete minutes will be posted to the ADS Web site soon. There was much discussion on the decline of ADS membership and various strategies to improve renewals. The other main topic of debate centered on the transparency of the Society and ways to improve its efforts in obtaining member input on issues related to fees. A motion was passed that the Board of Directors will publish those measures that change the cost of membership dues or fees for comment on the Web site at least 30 days prior to a Board vote.

After a lunch sponsored by the BITS Driving Club of Iowa and the Minnesota Whips and Wheels, everyone made their way to Hickory Knoll and Frostwood Farms for three different educational sessions. In the first, Jeff Rufenacht from Double D Trailers had a lot of great information on how to safely trailer your horses. (For more information

from Jeff, [click here](#).) Becky Tenges, a Masterson Method practitioner of Horse Massage, talked to a huge group of people who witnessed the effects of purposeful contact on a horse. Jeff Morse culminated Friday's educational sessions with his presentation, "Second Careers for Horses." Jeff worked with Cosmos Vigilante, a primarily riding-lesson horse owned by member Susie Weiss. He analyzed what Vigilante knows and how that knowledge might influence how he reacts to the different requirements of driving.

After the presentations, while some attendees tried their hand at driving the wild four-in-hand of bicycles attached to a golf cart brought by members Dan and Sue Peterson, others enjoyed the delectable Wisconsin-made breads, cheeses, honey, pheasant, wine, apples and beer that filled the Red Barn. Promptly at 7 p.m. Theresa Burns sounded the coach horn announcing that dinner was being served in the pavilion.

Everyone took their seats in anticipation of the bounty that they hoped would match the delectable smells wafting from the kitchen, and they were not disappointed. Natasha Grigg commented that this was probably one of the finest dinners she had ever enjoyed at an ADS Annual Meeting. While diners enjoyed the wonderful food, Susan Blunck, a third-year veterinary student at the University of Wisconsin-

## Annual Meeting: Great Clinics, Good Food, Perfect Weather (cont'd)

sin, provided dinner music as she fiddled her way around the dining room. After a sweet treat from Clasens Bakery (owned by member Michelle Werry), folks gathered on the lawns surrounding the pavilion to marvel at the full moon and enjoy a last glass of wine before returning to their hotels.

On Saturday Jeff Morse's presentation on Bits and Biting kicked off the day with an enthusiastic overflow crowd that required every spare chair in the hotel. The enthusiasm continued throughout the day as attendees enjoyed presentations by Dr. Howard Ketover, Debbie Bevan, Cathy Thomas, Myrna Rhinehart, Mary Ruth Marks and Lisa Singer. Mallory Gorman and Audrey Bostwick also gave an entertaining hands-on session on proper turnout for women. Many people commented on Audrey's lovely green suit, which she purchased at a thrift store for \$8—proving you don't have to spend a million bucks for an outfit.

After all the educational sessions came the ADS Annual Members Meeting. (Full minutes for this meeting will also be posted to the Web site soon.) Every two years the membership must elect new members to the Board of Directors and this was an election year. Nominating Committee Chair Natasha Grigg presented the slate to the membership and it was accepted and voted in by unanimous consent.

Members discussed the American Horse Council's Welfare Code of Practice, debating whether the ADS should sign on to the agreement as many other horse organizations have done. After much discussion, members tabled the motion for more discussion. ADS Committee Chairs who were present gave short presentations on their committees' accomplishments this past year. Representing the Dressage Committee, Linda Yutzy talked about the new full-color dressage tests that she has created; they have the diagrams of the tests with a view from A, not C. Available for purchase in the near future will be a book that compiles all the tests; meanwhile, members discussed whether to put these new tests on the "Members Only" side of the Web site, or on the public side. The majority of the membership agreed that these tests should be viewed as a member benefit and therefore reside on the members-only side of the site. The original dressage tests will remain on the public side.

Michael Rider from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, offered the following motion: "I move that the American Driving Society (ADS) cease to collect a 'competitor fee' for current members at ADS-recognized competitions beginning January 1, 2013." There was much discussion and debate on this issue, with many members voicing their disapproval of the fee's implementation and the imposition it will cause to organizers. Others said they felt that, as competitors, they should be contributing more to the costs that are incurred by competition-related expenses. The motion did not pass; however, the vote was very close.

<b>Breakdown of vote:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>abstain</b>
Members Present	26	44	11
Proxies Submitted	90	92	1
Total	116	136	12

After another scrumptious meal, awards were presented. Executive Director Susie Koos Acker gave a special recognition to member Gary Grisham, who has come to almost every ADS Annual Meeting from his home in Hawaii. Gary is trying to start a new ADS driving club in Hawaii; if he is successful, it will be the first!

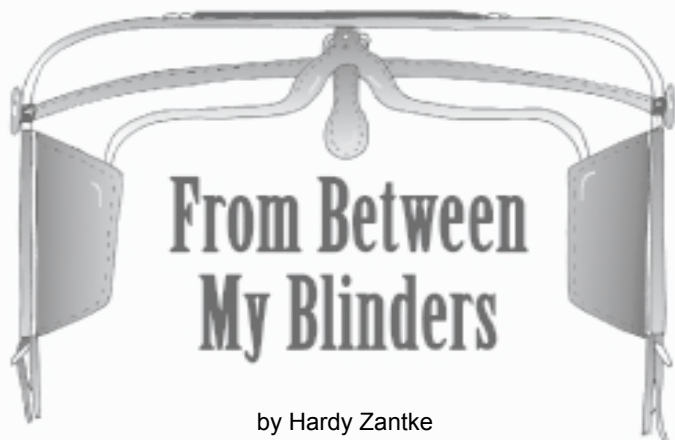
The evening concluded with presentation of the prestigious Presidents Award. The beautiful bronze relief of a tandem attached to an oak plaque was awarded to Ann Davis, an ADS Board Member for eight years, whose most recent role is that of Secretary. Ann was instrumental in the implementation of an ADS marketing plan that included the Breed Partner Program, which now includes 15 different organizations. Ann's tireless commitment to the goals of the Society is immense, extending from articles in the *Whip* to organizing Annual Meetings to promoting the sport of driving to her breed association, the Friesian Horse Association of North America. The society owes Ann Davis a debt of gratitude and many heartfelt thanks for her tireless effort.

The perfect Indian Summer weather continued through our last day of the meeting, back out at Hickory Knoll and Frostwood Farms. Clinician Lisa Singer began the day with a dressage test walk using the new Preliminary "view from A" Test 2. Next she catapulted into a detailed talk about what it takes to drive a pair. After that, attendees who signed up to take a lesson with a pair moved off to the polo field to await their turn to drive while Lisa took the others over to the cones course for her tips on how to properly drive a course.

Next up on the clinic schedule was Mary Ruth Marks, bringing her infectious enthusiasm for the sport of tandem driving to the crowd. Mary Ruth shared her hilarious stories and her vast knowledge of what to do and what not to do when driving a tandem. After her talk a handful of people actually got to try to drive one of the four seasoned tandems available.

The day ended with many hugs and exchanges of e-mail addresses between new friends as well as special thanks to all the horse and pony owners, clinicians, volunteers and ADS staff who pulled together to make this year's ADS Annual Meeting a rousing success.





## From Between My Blinders

by Hardy Zantke

### Hardy Wonders: A Different Marathon Next Year?

Originally, long distance drives were utility tests. In order to be useful a horse needed to be able to cover a certain distance, pulling a certain weight in a certain time. A good trot as well as a ground-covering walk were essential; horses were bred and trained to produce both. When the sport of Combined Driving started, those ideas went into the marathon and thus we had distances of close to 40 km divided into five sections. Two of these were walk sections and the other three trot sections, with one requiring a fast trot. The minimum carriage weight of 600 kg was required for four-in-hands of horses.

Over the years the standards were decreased; marathons became shorter, there was no more speed section and the other two sections became “any pace.” Only on the lower levels do we still find canter restrictions on E. The only test remaining, other than obstacle driving skills, was the walk section. But even on that there were very different opinions. While one side maintained that it was a test of proper breeding and training the other side thought of it more as a cooling-down period before the rest halt and wanted lower walk speeds so the horses could recover better. It seems that side is about to win. We don’t have an official word yet, but the proposed FEI rule changes for next year do away with the walk section as a separate unit.

The proposal is to re-structure the marathon into just two sections. The E Section will become Section 2 but otherwise remain the same. Sections A and D will be combined and called Section 1, with no end of A and start of E timers in between, and no separate time slots for each of those two sections. Instead the overall speed was recalculated for such a combination, and lowered by 2 kph for horses and 3 kph for ponies compared to what it used to be in Section A. All of it will still be any pace, so it will be up to the driver to decide when, where, how long and how fast to trot or even canter, and when and where to rest his horses at an easy walk.

As an example: If you had an A section of 6 km (at Advanced level horse speed of 15 kph = 24 minutes) plus a Section D of 1 km (at Advanced level horse speed of 7 kph

= 8:35 minutes) for a total of 32.35 min, you will now get a 7 km Section 1 at 13 kph = 32:19 min. Depending on the actual length of each, the numbers come out a bit differently, but I hope you get the idea. So the goal would not be to just try to trot the entire Section 1 now at a slow speed of 13 kph— although if that’s what you want to do, that’s certainly okay too. Nobody will tell you how to do this best. But I’m afraid you and your horse will be frustrated trying to trot at such a slow speed, and you won’t have any cool-down period before you come into the rest halt. Accordingly, it will require some new skills on your part to figure out for how long and where to trot and when to start walking, to still come in within your two-minute window. Get your calculators ready, or let’s see how long it will take Mike Arnold to figure out a computer app for you on his Web site at [www.drivingnews.us](http://www.drivingnews.us).

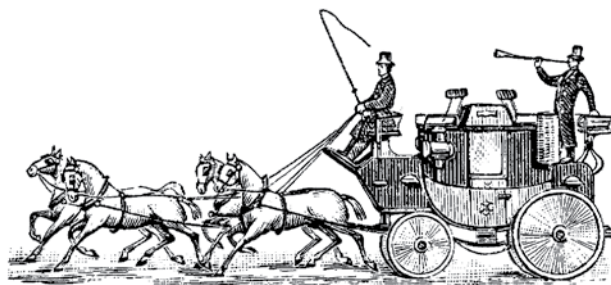
This will be welcome news to all drivers who had a hard time in the past making the walk section times. It is also welcome news for organizers and officials: It saves some volunteers, and there are no arguments anymore over walk section “break of pace” penalties. So while some of us will be sad to see our old format gone, many people will welcome this change, and I’m sure we’ll all get used to it. Even though I’d rather have our old format, I am happy to see that once the FEI implements it, the ADS Combined Driving Committee plans to stay in sync with the FEI. Good decision! After all, the walk speeds on the lower levels mostly were not the challenge as on Advanced, nor did we have enough volunteers for spotters at most lower-level events anyhow.

I think we’ll get this change as of January 1, 2013. So start practicing!

Happy driving—

Hardy

P.S. My annual reminder to our Young Drivers: Get your entries ready for the Annual Youth Championship. As every year, they are due by end of November—details are on the ADS website.



# 2012 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](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/calendar.asp).

### October

- 4-7 DRAWarama Competitive Distance Driving, Palmyra, WI. [www.umecra.com](http://www.umecra.com). Four days of competition in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Thurs. - 20 & 10 miles; Fri., 20 & 10 miles; Sat., 20 & 10 miles; Sun., 10 miles. Barb Gardner, 920-291-5641, [barb@doublebarallc.com](mailto:barb@doublebarallc.com).
- 7 Harvest Festival Driving Show, Willow Springs Garden, 5480 Hillcrest Dr. Wausau WI 54401. [www.willowsspringsgarden.com](http://www.willowsspringsgarden.com). Peggy, 715-675-1171, [pkdk@dwave.net](mailto:pkdk@dwave.net).
- 13-14 Iron Oak Competitive Distance Drive, Arkdale, WI. [www.umecra.com](http://www.umecra.com). Sat., 25 & 12 miles; Sun, 25 & 12 miles. Good event for beginners with near-level trails and good camping (private) facilities. Jack Shea, 262-313-7340, [jjsheacpa@yahoo.com](mailto:jjsheacpa@yahoo.com).
- 19-21 Point Chaser Competitive Distance Drive, Wabasha, MN [www.umecra.com](http://www.umecra.com). Fri., 20 & 10 miles; Sat., 20 & 10 miles. No drive on Sun. In a Minnesota State Forest. Bob Egerer, 320-558-6820, [regerer287@aol.com](mailto:regerer287@aol.com).
- 27-28 Big River (AHDRA III) Competitive Distance Drive, Keithsburg, IL. [www.umecra.com](http://www.umecra.com). Winds through trees; some deep sand, some riding along side of a road. Sat., 12.5 miles; Sun., 12.5 miles. Tony Troyer, 815-539-7375, [il4aerc@aol.com](mailto:il4aerc@aol.com).

## OMNIBUS CHANGES

View Omnibus Web pages for complete updated information. [http://americandrivingsociety.org/06\\_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp](http://americandrivingsociety.org/06_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp)

**October 4-7: Kentucky Classic CDE**, Lexington, KY. Dressage test info updated.

**October 13: Chapter One Fall HDT**, Pedricktown, NJ. officials updated.

**October 19-22: Grass Ridge CDE**, Sonoita, AZ. CANCELED

**October 28: Halloween Hustle**, Thousand Oaks, CA. Judge added.

## 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 FEI YELLOW CONES: \$27 each. Orange Marker Balls \$2.70 each. Number Boxes 1-20 Red and White; \$30 each. Letter Boxes A-D Red and White; \$30 each. Complete Dressage Arena with Letters now available. Accept MC/Visa. Phone Gayla Driving Center 1-800-360-5774. (KY)



Gene Rhinehart, with Dave Sadler as groom, drives Buck Naked on Marathon at the 2012 Longview Lake CDE in Kansas City. Gene was driving in Prelim single pony and placed second. Classic. Photo by Randy Farwell.

# 30th Annual My Lady's Manor Driving Show

By Dana Bright and Anne Council

Changes were afoot for this year's edition of the My Lady's Manor Pleasure Driving Show, most notably our date change from May to September. In this case the day was as perfect as you could get: a dry, sunny fall day. We had hoped for a larger number of entries, as we are now the only ADS-recognized Pleasure Show held in the fall in the Mid Atlantic Region. We did draw entries from Virginia and New York State as well as people from the Pennsylvania-Maryland-New Jersey area. Organizer Dana Bright was able to procure extra stabling at a local Thoroughbred breeding farm for the 13 entries who came from far enough away to need overnight stalls.

Every show seems to have a hallmark, something that characterizes the day. This year's MLM theme was Novices: A significant number of our entries were new to the sport. We found this encouraging; maybe a groundswell of new people will add to the ranks of Pleasure drivers. We know the new whips all learned a lot at this year's show and will come to their next show as even better competitors. While we kept the morning format the same (entries competed in the Pleasure Turnout Drive first, then went to Super Reinsmanship, then to their Working class), we

tried a new "traffic flow" that seemed to work well for the three obstacle classes. Entries drove their Scurry first, then waited in the ring as six of the scurry cones then had numbers placed by them and clearances adjusted for Progressive cones. After Entry A finished Progressive, numbers were taken down, all pairs of cones changed back to Scurry width, and the next entry came in. Entry A went to our other ring to Timed Obstacles. As so many of our competitors had no prior experience, they managed quite nicely with no comments of, "We've never done it this way before!" Our cones volunteers did a great job keeping entries and measurements correct. (All of our volunteers were identified by apple green bandanas, and they were all super!)

As we wrap up this 2012 My Lady's Manor Pleasure Driving Show, plans are already under way for the 2013 edition. See you there!

*Editor's note: Watch for a story on the 30-year history of the MLM Pleasure Driving Show, with photos of past and present winners, in the February 2013 issue of the Whip.*

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