



THE Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

NL 214

Representing Carriage Driving in the United States and Canada

December 2013

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Merriment at the Mid-Atlantic Recreational Drive

By Heidi Ferguson, ADS Regional Director



Blue Ridge Carriage Club: Group Winner of the MARD Costume Class

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Once Upon a Time, a hearty group of intrepid VSE drivers went to MARD. These individuals included the owner and trainer of a popular hunter/jumper facility, a retired healthcare executive, a retired teacher of disabled children, a commercial landscape architect, a semi retired anti-terrorism evaluator, a college administrative IT person, and a retired RN.

Without exception each of these drivers commented on how friendly and supportive the other whips were. This was important to them, as they

Continued on page 7

ADS Fund Challenge Grant

By John Feiburger, ADS President

The American Driving Society has received a \$50,000 challenge grant from an anonymous driving family. They have told us that they wish to support long term development of the sport, youth driving and educational programs and they are willing to invest heavily by their generous donation.

The ADS must raise the matching \$50,000.

During these last few weeks of the year and into the new year, members from around the country graciously donate to the ADS Fund. This year, annual gifts have the opportunity to be matched and invested in the ADS Fund Endowment. As we grow the endowment we build a strong foundation from which we can improve our sport for all our members. The dividends and interest from the investments allow us to fund the activities listed in the accompanying brochure, and many more, for decades to come.

Since 2005, the ADS Fund has granted more than \$34,000 to support local clubs and fledgling competitions. The Fund will continue to provide grants for youth and adult education, and the ADS will also be able to initiate new programs. New initiatives will include increased support to help educate our officials, stronger outreach to breed partners, including training for breed judges, as well as assistance for new shows by providing financial support so they can have a full complement of officials.

We would like to expand ADS webinar offerings, the number and quality of the clinics, and start a speakers' bureau to send knowledgeable people to club meetings and equine expos. We want to add value to your ADS membership and attract new members to our sport, growing the number of drivers and friends in our driving universe.

As your president, I join Claire Reid and the Development Committee, and the entire Board of Directors in thanking ADS members for your future and continued support for this perpetual financial resource for important driving programs now and in the future.

Congratulations New and Promoted ADS Officials!

By Stacy Carlson, ADS Licensed Officials Support

R = Registered, r = recorded, L = Learner

Francois Bergeron – USEF Combined Driving Judge - R

Karen Garrett – Combined Driving Judge - R

Marc Johnson – Combined Driving Technical Delegate - R

Chester Weber – Combined Driving Judge – R

Chris Bickford – Pleasure Driving Judge – r

Mary Anne Boyden – USEF Pleasure Driving Judge - r

Larry Brinker – Combined Driving Technical Delegate – r

Merrie Morgan – Combined Driving Judge – r Dressage Judge - r

Newt Brosius – Combined Driving Technical Delegate - L

Sue Hrizuk – Dressage Judge - L

Lynette Partridge-Schneider – Pleasure Driving Technical Delegate – L ,
Pleasure Driving Judge – L

A Message from the Executive Director



2013 is just a few short weeks from coming to a close. We say it every year, but where does the time go? At the end of the year it's only natural to take time to reflect

on the last 12 months and make plans and goals for the future.

I am proud to report that in 2013, the ADS gained members, recognized new events, licensed new officials and distributed ADS Fund grants. We also published four issues of the popular Whip Magazine, eight issues of the Wheelhorse e-newsletter, the printed Omnibus and the annual Carriage Driver's Buyer's Guide. In addition to our publications, we issued countless e-mail news bulletins, and worked to improve our social media resources. It's been a very busy year!

The common thread in everything we do is members. Without you – the members of ADS, none of our successes would be possible. In a time when membership-based organizations are struggling to maintain their numbers, the ADS has actually grown. The loyalty of our members is astounding and incredibly humbling. Thank you for renewing your membership year after year, and for supporting North American carriage driving with your membership dollars.

Do you remember the first time you drove a horse or pony? What about the first time you read The Whip magazine? Of your friends and family – how many of them are drivers? For many of us, being a member of the ADS is not just a card in our wallet. It represents our favorite hobby, our life's passion – maybe even our career. It represents some of our greatest friendships. If you know someone who could benefit from membership – consider introducing them to the ADS. You'll be glad you did

Happy Holidays,

— Susie

Ask the Expert: Where to Splice Reins and Rein Stops

By Jeff Morse

Do you have a question about training, equipment, technique or turnout? Submit your question and picture (1 MB) or video clip (1 min or less) to the new Ask the Expert column. We will help you get your question answered and share the answer with the membership!

Email: askexpert@americandrivingsociety.org

Question: "I want to get a new set of reins made for my small pony. Where are the reins supposed to be spliced together? IE: at the ponies hip? Can I have stops made into my reins [arthritis] and not be penalized in pleasure shows?"

- Myrna Brown, Kinston, AL

Answer: The placement of the rein splice, if there needs to be one, should be such that it does not interfere at all with where the rein passes through any harness fixtures. Personally, I would not want it to be where the rein crosses and catches on any other harness parts, e.g. the hip straps for the breeching. So, place it in front of the breeching hip strap and behind the saddle terret. The splice can also be safely made just behind the rump of the horse.

Rein stops should not cause any penalty if they are unobtrusive and well crafted. One trick to help with rein slippage with compromised hands and fingers is to rub a bit of bee's wax on your gloves. This will make your gloves slightly sticky. The down-side of this is that there are times when you *want* the rein to slip easily through the fingers and you might not like that stickiness. However, this is largely a personal decision and it's likely better to have a good grip on the reins 99% of the time and bit sticky 1% than to have them slipping 99% of the time.

Just another consideration: try several different widths of rein. You may find with compromised hands and fingers that you have a better feel and control with one particular size. Give yourself a few drives with each size before you make a definitive decision because each size may take some getting used to before you find you actually like it.

Jeff hails from Richmond, MA, where he owns and operates Green Meads Farm now in it's 87th year training horses and people for carriage driving and Morgans for all disciplines. Jeff is a founding member of some of the largest Morgan Horse organizations on the East coast and he serves the sport of carriage driving nationally by acting as the ADS Pleasure Driving Chair as well as being a member of USEF Carriage Pleasure Committee and USEF Morgan Committee.



Myrna Brown and her small pony Blaze



Jeff Morse in the ADS Driving Demonstration at the 2010 World Equestrian Games

Social Media *is* for You - Yes You!

By: Maria McGinnis, ADS Staff

“I don’t do Facebook”

This phrase is enough to break my heart, but I hear it from time to time. Social Media (the over arching term for tools like Facebook and Twitter) is my thing. I tweet, blog, pin, like and share like no nobody’s business. It’s hard for me to imagine a world without social media – but evidently, there are people who not only live, but thrive without it.

“Prove it!”

Here at the ADS, we’ve done our social media homework. The ADS has about 2,500 members. We have roughly 2,500 followers on the ADS Facebook page. Coincidence? Well, actually yes. There are people who follow our Facebook page who are not members and members who don’t use social media. However – for an association of our size and nature, 2,500 is a pretty darn good number of followers. ADS uses social media to connect with followers using pictures, updates, breaking news and lighthearted content.

To put it in perspective, USEF has 89,000 Facebook followers and 88,000 members; the American Morgan Horse Association has 6,439 followers and 7,000 members; The United States Hunter Jumper Association has 8,364 followers and 40,000 members.

To say that I pay attention to our social media stats and those of partner associations is an understatement.

“Thanks for the info, but I’m not sold.”

If you don’t really care about the geeky social media data like I do – don’t stop reading just yet. I’m getting back to individual social media use – after one quick tidbit.

The average ADS Facebook fan is female and between the ages of 45-54. The 55-64 age bracket is the next largest group of users. Does this look familiar? It should – this is the exact demographic of the ADS. In short, our Facebook fan base is proof that social media *is* used by all ages, and is a great way to stay connected to news and hobbies in addition to friends and family.

“But Maria, you don’t get it I don’t do Facebook.”

I hear you, really. Just let me explain. The beauty of social media is that you can join the conversation if you want, or you can just observe. I have plenty of Facebook friends who never “like” or post anything, but will bring up something they read on Facebook in conversation.



Do you ever find yourself too busy to sit down and read the paper? How about the news on TV? I’m usually sleeping by 10 p.m.! Do you have driving friends from across the country or a favorite driving event? Chances are you can connect through social media – especially with pictures!

My social media routine is as follows: I log on in the morning or during lunch and POOF – all the local and national news I could ever want - all I need to do is scroll. Facebook tracks what I read and gives me more of it. In my case, horsie stuff and news. Plus, I have the ability to restrict content and who can see my page with privacy settings.

Some people still use social media for gossip or inappropriate content, but I promise you – this is fairly uncommon because social media is evolving. It’s not just purely social. It’s also a great place for news and updates in “real time” without having to wait for the newspaper. Don’t believe the hype that social media is all “bad”. If you are not currently using social media, I encourage you to give it a try. Anyone with an internet connection or smart phone/tablet can create social media accounts.

“How do I follow the ADS on Social Media?”

The ADS has a Facebook page and recently added a Pinterest page. We don’t Tweet, blog, Instagram or YouTube right now, but we are always exploring innovative ways to share the story of North American carriage driving. If you have any ideas or suggestions to make our social media pages better, feel free to email me. In the mean time, make sure to “follow” the ADS on Facebook and Pinterest using the links below.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmericanDrivingSociety
Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/adscarriage/

Maria McGinnis serves as the Marketing Coordinator for the ADS. She creates social media content, designs and writes for ADS publications and works with advertisers. In her free time, she competes with her Arabian gelding Ladd, milks cows on the family farm and throws the tennis ball for her Chihuahua, Pippa. Contact her at maria.mcginis@americandrivingsociety.org

American Miniature Horses at 2013 ADS Competitions in the Midwest Region

By Sheila E. Purdum, ADS Member

The American Miniature horse has been busy participating at ADS recognized shows in the Midwest Region this summer and fall. The Midwest Region has a variety of wonderful shows available to the miniature horse and Shetland pony. The miniature horse usually competes in the VSE division and the Shetland ponies are usually entered in the Small Pony division.

The Midwest's largest ADS event is the Villa Louis Carriage Classic held in Prairie Du Chien, Wis. the weekend after Labor Day. The backdrop for the event is the historic Villa Louis Mansion and grounds along the Mississippi River in Southwest Wisconsin. This year there were over 100 entries making "Villa Louis" the second largest ADS recognized carriage show in the nation. This year, the VSE division was the largest division at Villa Louis with 13 entries. American Miniature Horses were also represented in several other divisions including Pony Pairs, Novice Driver Pony, Small Pony and Youth. Overall, 17 miniature horses and three American Shetlands were shown at this event.

This year for the first time, Villa Louis presented the AMHR VSE high point award to Linda Schutte of Arena, Wis. showing her miniature gelding RCee Dream from Heaven. Linda has been showing her miniature horses at Villa Louis since 2004 when the VSE division was added. Linda was overall Reserve Champion in the VSE division and took home first place in the X-Country Pace and Gamblers Choices

classes. We would like to thank Mike Rider, show organizer, for recognizing the contribution of miniature horses at this prestigious event.

Marge Gettleman of Hartford, Wis. has also been showing registered miniature horses at Villa Louis for a number of years and took second place in the Turnout class with her lovely gelding Rebel Creek Magic Bogie.

record paces, surpassing many of his larger counterparts. Donna and "Shay" were VSE prelim champions at Skunk River HDT, Birdshill International HDT (Winnepeg, Manitoba) and the Longview CDE this year.

Sheila Purdum of Bennet, Neb. showed her mini pair at the Skunk River HDT also to a champion ribbon in the VSE pairs class. The same pair (DM Sunny Jetlag and DM Rajas Bullet) put to a

Glinkowski Wagonette won the Reserve Champion Rosette and the AMHR ADS top registered VSE award at the BITS carriage classic in Webster City, Iowa in the multiples division against all size multiple turnouts. The VSE pairs compete against pony and horse pairs at most of the ADS pleasure shows and do quite well. DM Sunny Jetlag also competed and

placed first at the Longview HDT as a single in the preliminary division.

Donna Crossman of Lake Mills, Wis., showed her beautiful mare Down Under's

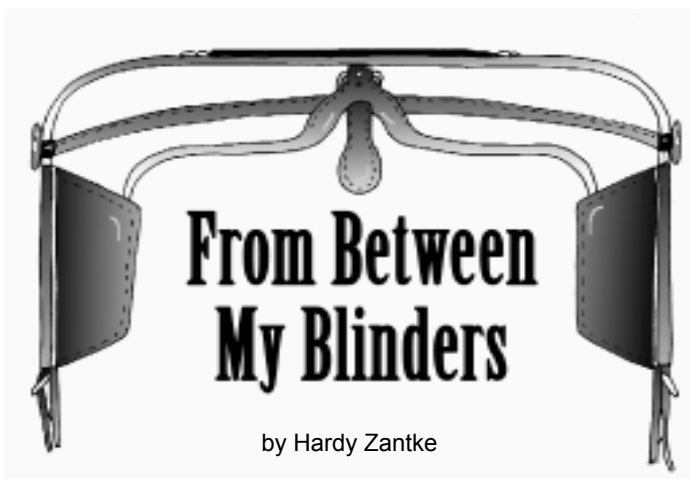
Boozier Bay Watch aka "Miss Bella" at the Hickory Knoll CDE in Fitchburg, Wis. and the Notara Farms HDT of Verona, Wis. at prelim level to first place wins this summer as well.

All of the Miniature Horse and Shetland pony drivers would like to thank the ADS and AMHR and ASPC for their continued partnership.



CLOCKWISE FROM THE LEFT: Linda Schutte and RCee Dream from Heaven, Donna Treiber and Lowsaam Acres Z's Tushay, Donna Crossman and Down Under's Boozier Bay Watch, Sheila Purdum and her pair (DM Sunny Jetlag and DM Rajas Bullet), Marge Gettleman and Rebel Creek Bogie.

The American Miniature Horse was also well represented at ADS combined driving events this summer and fall. Midwest combined driving events with VSE representation included Skunk River HDT (Ames, Iowa); Notara Farms HDT (Verona, Wis), Hickory Knoll CDE (Fitchburg, Wis.), and Longview HDT/CDE (Lees Summit, Mo.). One of our outstanding representatives is Lowsaam Acres Z's Tushay shown by Donna Trieber of Mapleton, Iowa. He and Donna fly through the obstacles at



The High Tech Adventures of a Low Tech Guy!

Can old dogs learn new tricks? Maybe! In my column in the last Wheelhorse I wrote how some brave souls, e.g. my friend Pat Belskie from Southern Pines as well as our Executive Director Susie Koos-Acker talked me into doing a webinar about Pair Driving. The date was set for November 9th. Susie did a practice session with me the week before to make sure I knew the technical aspects as well as doing a complete trial run. It went off without a hitch - except the minor item - I couldn't see the small webinar control panel during the presentation, but no problem, Susie would handle that. She also gave me some tips where I had been a bit too long winded. Ok then, ready to go on November 9th.

I signed on 30 minutes prior with Susie to check for any technical difficulties. Fifteen minutes prior to the start time, she switched us to live so those who had signed on could hear us chatting. All worked GREAT. Three minutes to go, and I just summed up how important it is to me to start ON TIME - those who know me as an official, know that. Boom, all of a sudden Susie was gone, I couldn't hear her anymore. I hadn't changed anything! So what happened, what now?

I called Susie - hoping she was in the office - and was not doing this from home. Thank heavens, she answered! "So sorry, Hardy, you must have lost your connection. Try signing on again." Ok, I scrambled to run through those programs again, which takes a little, especially for a computer klutz like me. Finally at 10 minutes PAST the hour, I was on again. So three blows: Didn't start on time, had audience frustrated, now had to scramble to cut more on the fly as I present.

So I hurried along and left out what I could. About 20 minutes later my phone rang. Nope, no time to answer that, probably a telemarketer anyhow, just hope the ringing doesn't disturb my audience too much. It kept ringing. Maybe my wife will hear it and pick up? Yes, she did, and came running to me upstairs: "It's Susie! They lost you!" Oh my, here we go again. Technology is great when it works, but I HATE it

when it doesn't and I'm on the line. Susie suggested, instead of trying to sign on once again, wasting another 10 - 15 minutes, I should just call in by phone, she'd run the slides and I just do the talking. Ok, fine, we can do that, only of course it took me again a few minutes to close my slide show, find the call-in number and get the connection. Then re-open my slides to pick it up again, and with Susie running the show for the audience, I couldn't use my cursor to point out specific items on the slides, AND we needed to go back quite a number of slides to the point where they lost my sound. Oh well, probably another 10 minutes or so lost - requiring again to cut and scramble. I apologized to the audience for the glitches and promised them to re-tape later the entire webinar with Susie, to be put up on the ADS website.

We made it through the rest without any further incidents, only the hour was gone way too quickly and we are running into overtime. I apologized again and told the audience to feel free to drop off as needed, as hopefully they'll be able to get it later on the website. Amazingly almost everyone of the about 120 to 130 participants stayed on - even through the lengthy question and answer session at the end. Wow, we made it, despite the glitches. Driving folks are amazing, hanging in there and sending very nice thank you e-mails afterwards - even from overseas!

As promised a few days later, Susie and I recorded the presentation - hey, third time now is a charm - this time it ran again like clockwork. It's now up on the ADS website, so anybody who would still like to see and hear it, may get it from there. It took me 15 minutes to download it, and another 15 minutes to download a program which my MacBook said I would need to open it, and then another visit from my tech savvy daughter to install that program, but then, YES, success, I NOW can open it and listen to the third version including seeing my cursor pointing out the details in the pictures.

I hope you can view it too or have as much help as I did to make it work for you. And if you have any questions, not to the tech side - I can't help with those - but to the Pair Driving parts - feel free to e-mail me at hzlax@aol.com.

Thank you to Pat & all her helpers, Susie, my daughter and my patient audience.

- Hardy

Listen to Hardy's Webinar!

Did you miss Hardy's webinar about driving with pairs? Download the presentation at www.americandrivingsociety.org

Mid-Atlantic Recreational Drive

(Continued from page 1)

definitely had some real nervous newbies with them. When transporting Lilliputian horses, you just never know exactly how things will go.

Upon entering the Magical World of MARD, a transformation took place; they had to stop themselves from driving around and around in a parade of costumes, as they were having so much fun! They were hopeful that they would not be one of only a few to participate...and they loved the large and creative numbers of ghost, goblins, and witches....just to name a few!

These costumes took the form of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs ... ok, so there were only five. Who was really counting, besides the Grim Reaper who showed his ugly head wielding a large and scary scythe? On and on they went,

circling Barns 1, 2 and 3. Everyone was laughing, in their costumes full of glee.

But soon, the Evil Queen tried to pass the gentle Snow White an apple. Lucky for Snow, the apple had a huge ugly worm dangling from it - making it instantly distasteful to her delicate palate.

And so it was that this impish bunch of carriage drivers won the Best Group category at MARD!

THE END



Even her equine looks Evil....



Doc, contemplating the cure for bad apples



The Evil Queen tries to pass rotten fruit to Snow White

Calendar and Omnibus Changes

For a complete up-to-date Calendar and Omnibus, visit www.americandrivingsociety.org

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan.- June issue of the Omnibus, the incorrect phone number was listed for ADS Official Rebecca Merritt, Pa. The correct number is (215)348-1741.

In the 2013 Carriage Driver's Buyers Guide, the incorrect phone number was listed for New England Carriages. The correct phone number is (860) 889 6467.

In the 2013 Trainer/Instructor Listing, the incorrect email was listed for Elizabeth Keathley. The correct email is ekeathley1@gmail.com

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)

OMNIBUS CHANGES

View Omnibus Web pages for complete updated information. http://americandrivingsociety.org/06_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp

December 7-8: Central Florida HDT, Dressage Test Change to Intermediate #7

January 30- February 2: Sunshine State CDE, Advanced dressage test announced

February 21-23: Kingdom of the Sun CDE, Advanced dressage test announced

July 11-13: CDE at Inavale, Secretary's address listed

December

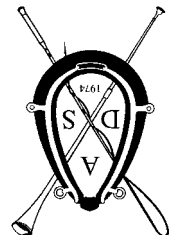
- 11: Articles due for the February Whip
- 15: Ad deadline for February Whip
- 24-25: Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
- 31-1: Office Closed for New Years

January

- 11: ADS Board of Directors Meeting, in conjunction with USEF Annual Meeting, Lexington, Ky.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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