



THE Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

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Representing Carriage Driving in the United States and Canada

December 2015

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Upper left: A pumpkin carving contest was held at MARD.
Photo courtesy Sue Sipes

MARD "lite" Costume Contest: New Entries, Old Favorites

By: Heidi Ferguson, ADS MidAtlantic Regional Director



Best Individual: Pirates Heidi & Steve Ferguson. Heidi drives her father/son pair.
Photo by Anne Rovinski Adams

This year's 2015 MARD "lite" Costume Contest was once again a well-received event. There were, as best I could count, around 26 entries in the Individual & Group divisions as well as several enthusiastically decorated stalls and carved pumpkins.

This year's winners were new to MARD, and they gave some of the "regulars" a good run for their money. Ironically, the theme was a repeat of an earlier group's MARD theme but, in the hands of determined competitors and cute little VSEs, it's a hard theme to beat.

Centerville Equestrian Center's Wizard of Oz clicked its ruby heels and

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A Message from the ADS Office



Greetings from Wisconsin! Stacy and I would like to wish everyone a happy holidays. Thank you for everything you have done to keep the ADS going in 2015. Just the simple act of renewing your membership is so appreciated. For many of us, by the time you renew memberships for the year - between equine and professional organizations, the costs are over \$500. Although the ADS does not have a calendar year cycle, many members renew in December. Please know that membership with the ADS makes a difference and has an impact on the past, present and future of driving.

As you read in the November issue of *The Whip*, Sandra Cooke, our editor for nearly eight years made the tough decision to move on to other endeavors. We sincerely wish her well and thank her for her years of excellent content and contributions to the team.

Stacy and I are already working hard on the February issue of *The Whip* while ADS leaders think strategically about the next steps for the publication and other communication tools.

Nearly all of the articles you see in ADS publications are donated by writers. This is unusual for a publication like *The Whip*, and is a true testament to the members and friends we are lucky enough to have in the ADS.

A few parting thoughts: First, make sure the check out the January-June Omnibus listings on our website. Events are listed individually and as a fully downloadable pdf ebook. Next, If you are looking to plan your driving year during some down time around the holidays, make sure to check out our full event calendar on our website. Finally, if you are struggling with what to get the driver that has everything, consider the gift of membership. We have a special for new members - \$20 off.

Until next time, Maria & Stacy, ADS Staff

Official Business: New and Updated ADS Officials

Below is a list of ADS Officials who have received a new license in 2014 and 2015. Please consider these individuals for competitions in 2016. For a complete listing of all ADS Officials, visit www.americandrivingsociety.org/judges.asp

Gina Handy - PDTD - L
Chris Bickford - PDTD - L
Scott Monroe - CDTD - r, CDJ L
Katy Rhinehart - PDTD - L
Keith Angstadt - Dressage - r
Jessica Axelsson - PDJ - R
Diana Brownlie - CDJ - S - A
Al Bulgawicz - CDTD - r
Kali Knickerbocker-Maher - PDTD - r
Terry Pickett - PDJ - R
Francois Bergeron - PDJ - L
MaryAnne Boyden - PDTD - L
Rebecca Jones Gutierrez - CDTD - L
Debra McCarthy - PDTD - r
Lauren Reece - CDTD - r
Kacy Tipton-Fashnik - PDJ - r
Bill Venditta - Coaching - r
Sue Rogers - CDJ - r

Gift Membership

**Give an ADS Membership
for just \$55.00.**

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(608) 237-7382 | new members only please**

The American Driving Society, Inc.

MARD (Continued from page 1)

wound up winners. This Virginia group took both Best Stall Decor and Best Group divisions. Pirates Heidi & Steve Ferguson took Best Individual though, being the Organizer, I may have had a bit of an advantage over the other Individuals. Note to self: don't enter the Costume Contest next year!

The \$50 cash prize for best carved pumpkin did, indeed, result in more gaily carved submissions than last year... when we had none (2013 being so spectacular I believe it scared people away from carving!) Tori Levering bested this division with her artistically carved Cinderella pumpkin, though many loved the poor sick gourd that was also submitted.

The weather was great, camaraderie fantastic and, as far as I could tell, MARD "lite" was a resounding success! This was a test format.... but it will, in all likelihood, become *the* format for future MARDS.



Best Group - (above/below - and stalls above): Centerville Equestrian Anne Hile as Tinman, Ellen Maucher as Glenda, Bill Hertzfeld as Scarecrow, Tonia Kolantis as Wicked Witch, Stephanie Wheeler as Dorothy. Photo by Anne Rovinski Adams.



Happenings in the Driving Community

Driving News - As Submitted by Partner Groups

United States Driving for the Disabled

Five of our USDFD members and drivers competed in the prestigious Shady Oaks CDE in September. It was absolutely thrilling to see them roaring through the marathon and cones courses with incredible skill and love for the sport! The classes were huge and the competition fierce. What a thrilling summer it has been!! And what a testimony to the talents and capabilities of our drivers.

Sherry Davis and Miata completed their first season competing in CDE's in Training Level and have done incredibly well placing first in most of their events this summer! As usual the pair were in the lead following dressage, but unfortunately missed a compulsory flag at the very last obstacle!

Ginny Leal and Dancer competed against a huge class of twelve Preliminary Single Ponies and placed third against a top professional and a Canadian driver. They achieved a personal best in dressage and were the only ones to go clear in the daunting cones round (albeit with just 3.88 time penalties).

Stefanie Putnam and Shadow had a magnificent show in Single Horse Preliminary against eleven entries. They took the Preliminary Single Horse Championship as well as the Charles Kellogg ADS National Preliminary Horse Honors and tied for the West Coast Triple Crown.

Tracy Bowman and Laurabelle and Diane Kastama with Spencer competed in Intermediate Single Pony and Single Horse respectively. Tracy has tackled Intermediate this year with incredible style and zest. Diane is breaking in a new horse and having a ball.

Congratulations to our awesome athletes and their amazing partners! Thank You to Carol Mingst for her beautiful photographs.



Drivers right Stefanie Putnam, Diane Kastama, Ginny Leal.
Above, Tracy Bowman, Sherry Davis. Photos Courtesy of Carol Mingst.

A Successful Strategy: USEF Developing Driver Program Participants Are Excelling in the Competition Arena

By USEF Communications

Three years ago, the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) launched an innovative Developing Driver Program to provide supplemental training opportunities for American combined drivers who demonstrated a commitment to the goal of competing at the USEF/FEI level and who were in pursuit of competitive excellence. The eventual goal was to increase the number of drivers and their horses/ponies competing at high performance levels, therefore developing the drivers that could become future international competitors for Team USA.

Jennifer Keeler of Paris, Ky. was one of five USEF Developing Driver Program participants who dominated the Hermitage Classic CDE. Photo by Pics of You.

Jennifer Keeler of Paris, Ky. was one of five USEF Developing Driver Program participants who dominated the Hermitage Classic CDE. Photo by Pics of You.

So far, the strategy seems to be working: if the results from the recent competitions are any indication, including the CAI2* Hermitage Classic CDE held October 14-18, 2015 in Goshen, Ky., the program has proven to be wildly successful. Five drivers who competed in this year's program, including the most recent clinic held October 9-11 at Hillcroft Farm in Paris, Ky., dominated their divisions at Hermitage, including:

- *Jennifer Keeler of Paris, Ky. won Preliminary Single Pony with Amazing Grace;*
- *Jason Stronks of Paris, Ky. topped the Preliminary Single Horse division with Gus;*
- *Denise Hinder of Mount Vernon, Texas won Intermediate Single Pony with Alamo's Ruby Red;*
- *Carrie Ostrowski of Georgetown, Ky. claimed the Intermediate Single Horse title with Canada King;*
- *Sarah Bates of Honeoye Falls, N.Y., bested the FEI 1* Single Horse division with Awesome George.*

"There is no doubt in my mind that the USEF Developing Driver Program has literally changed our lives," said Jennifer Keeler. "Before we started, my husband and I had no real idea of where we might go with competing in driving. But now, we see the possibilities, we're passionate about the sport, and dare to dream big dreams. We are so grateful for this opportunity and hope that the program can continue so that others can share in this tremendous experience."

"I couldn't be more pleased to see how this program has grown," said Misdee Wrigley Miller, whose generous support underwrites the majority of the USEF Developing Driver Program. "To watch how the progress made by each driver and horse during the training sessions translates into these kinds of results in the show ring is so exciting, and I think it bodes well for the future of high performance driving sport in this country."



Jennifer Keeler of Paris, Ky. was one of five USEF Developing Driver Program participants who dominated the Hermitage Classic CDE. Photo by Pics of You.

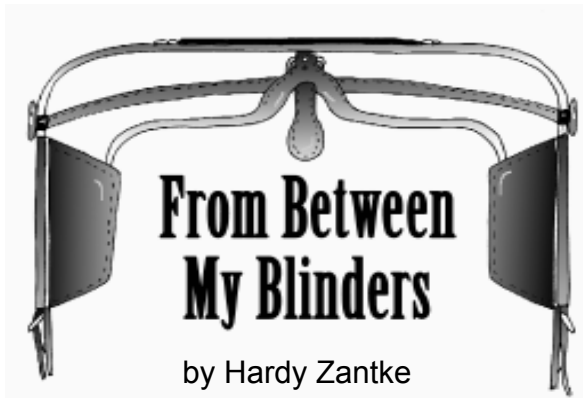


Carrie Ostrowski and Canada King won Intermediate Single Horse at the Hermitage Classic CDE. Photo by Pics of You.

Miller hosted two of the five clinics which were held across the country in 2015 at locations in Kentucky, Florida, California, and New Jersey, all conducted by renowned experts including World Champion driver Thorsten Zarembowicz, World Equestrian Games medalist James Fairclough, and international driver Olof Larsson. "Having a program like this where we can actively identify and develop up-and-coming drivers and horses is critical to the U.S. performing well on the international stage. I can't stress enough how vital this pipeline is in order to remain competitive with the rest of the world," said Zarembowicz. "While we always welcome new drivers into program, it's also important to see some of the most promising combinations come back to the clinics over and over in order to monitor their development and encourage continued growth."

"I can honestly say I wouldn't be where I am today without the Developing Driver Program, and I'm living proof that it's successful," said Denise Hinder, who drove 1100 miles from her home in Mount Vernon, Texas to participate in the latest Kentucky clinic and then the Hermitage Classic CDE with her

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The Power of the Internet

Sometimes it's hard for us from the older generation to fully get with the new technology - but then, many of us try - me included. At times I am quite astonished by some of the things I see - and granted - sometimes what I think I see isn't always correct - or I'm not always reading the data correctly. So, for those of you who are more knowledgeable, forgive me, if I read this wrong:

But, I was floored when I saw my friend Kelly Valdes share on Facebook a USEF video showing Suzy Stafford's marathon at the recent Hermitage CDE - on her way to win that Single Horse National Championship. Congratulations, Suzy! But

that's not what surprised me - quite the contrary, I had expected Suzy to win it. What got me was that when I saw the video on Sunday, that was just 24 hours after the marathon - and it had over 13,500 views already !!!! Can you guys imagine? 13,500 people had watched a driving video within 24 hours after it came out!

I am not very high tech, so as I am writing this a couple of weeks later, I tried to see how many clicks the video had by now - but was too stupid to find that information. I did find though, a similar USEF video from the same event showing Sterling Graburn and that video now had 33,887 views!

What an audience we have all of a sudden! Who could have imagined? With so many people interested - our sport MUST grow - despite all the people who think they see it stagnant.

But it also means - friends - as our police officers are finding out every day now - watch out what you are doing! There is always somebody around with a smart phone to video tape you - and before you know it - you'll be on Facebook. It's almost as the old T.V. series - Candid Camera! So let's always all be on our best behavior - not that we wouldn't be that anyhow - but let's try even harder - to be nice to our animals and our fellow human beings - and to keep smiling and showing how we enjoy our sport.

Happy driving
Hardy

USEF (Continued from page 5)

pony Alamo's Ruby Red. "This is a life-long dream of mine to get to this level, and thanks to this program I'm achieving my goals. In just six months of being a part of this program, I've gone from the Preliminary level to now planning the start of my FEI career. It's been an eye-opening experience. And it's not just the support of the coaches, it's also from the other drivers - to work with such phenomenal people is incredible. I'm so thankful for the coaching and support so that I don't feel like I'm making the struggle to climb the competitive ladder all by myself."

Fellow competitor Carrie Ostrowski agreed. "Being part of this program has been a priceless opportunity for me," she explained. "To have access to this quality of instruction as well as the encouragement and support to progress through the levels is invaluable. Our dramatic progress over the last year with King has been due largely in part to the coaching I've received as part of this program. Thorsten is not only so good at his trade as a driver himself, but he is also able to verbalize what he's doing and teach students effectively. So he can drive my horse and improve him, but even more importantly he can effectively teach me how to go home and do the same thing. That makes all the difference. I'm so grateful for this

opportunity and so thankful to Misdee, USEF, and the USET Foundation for making this program a reality, because many drivers like me would not otherwise be able to afford this level of instruction."

USEF Director of Driving Lizzy Staller reports that dates and locations for the 2016 Developing Driver Program are expected to be announced by the end of the year. This program depends upon the continued support of drivers and sponsors, and tax-deductible donations are welcomed through the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation (www.uset.org). For more information regarding the USEF Developing Driver Program, visit the USEF website or contact Lizzy Staller at estaller@usef.org.

USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Chase Gillispie, ADS Nomination



Each year USEF accepts nominations from breed and discipline affiliates for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award. This award is designed to identify potential future leaders in the equine industry and provides an opportunity for the USEF to recognize outstanding youth members for their achievements. The 2015 ADS nomination is Chase Gillispie, from Ona, W.Va. Long-time ADS member Deborah Gillispie (also Chase's grandmother) assisted with Chase's application. As part of the nomination, the following letter of recommendation was submitted by Larry Poulin.

I am writing to give a recommendation for Chase Gillispie for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award. I have worked with Chase for six years as a trainer and instructor in the field of combined driving as well as ridden dressage. Chase spent last winter in Ocala, FL at my winter facility working with me with his own horse while he did his school work online, maintaining an excellent grade average. He competed at all the major competitions for the season in Florida with success. He is in the developing driver program through the USET. Through the years I have watched him grow in the sport; I find him to be a good horseman, a talented competitor and a team player. Of all the juniors in combined driving Chase shows the most potential. I'm looking forward to working with him this winter as well. I hope the USEF will consider Chase for this award as he is very deserving and has a promising future in the sport.

- Lawrence Poulin

*Eight Time USEF National Pair Champion
USDF Gold Medalist in ridden dressage*



Top: Chase receiving the Helen H Norton memorial challenge trophy for the most deserving junior driver at the 2015 KY Classic. Photo by Pics of You. Bottom: Chase and Wonder Woman at Live Oak 2015. Photo by Meghan Bengé. Top left: Chase Gillispie is the 2015 ADS Nomination for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award.

In mid-November, USEF announced Courtney Ball of Scottsdale, Arizona as the winner of the 2015 USEF Youth Sportsman's Award. Ball was nominated by the American Saddlebred Horse Association (ASHA).

Send us your news!

Do you have club news or events? Submit your information to the Wheelhorse editor at maria.mcginis@americandrivingsociety.org

Omnibus Changes

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

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_omn listings/adsomnibusindex.asp

January-June 2016 driving events are posted!

There are no additional changes to remaining 2015 events.

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