



THE Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

NL 228

Representing Carriage Driving in the United States and Canada

September 2015

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In His Own Words: Steadfast equine shares opinions, visions for the future

By: Jumpin' Jack Flash, Aiken, South Carolina



Jack and Peggy Keeler at the Pinehurst parade as part of the Carriage Classic in the Pines. Photo by Kelly Butler, Eagle Eye Photo.

Articles that appear in the Wheelhorse do not necessarily reflect the opinions or position of The American Driving Society, its Board of Directors or staff, nor does publication of said articles constitute an endorsement of the view they may express. Accuracy of all material is the sole responsibility of the authors. Appearance of an advertisement in the Wheelhorse does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the American Driving Society of the goods and services therein.

Upper left: Jack and Peggy at a Driving Derby event.

The following short article appeared in the July issue of The Aiken Driving Club Newsletter. "Jack" as he is affectionately known, is owned by Peggy Keeler of Aiken, S.C. Here he discusses his experience at The Carriage Classic in the Pines, an ADS-recognized Pleasure Driving Show held this past May in Aberdeen, N.C. Peggy provides commentary in parenthesis. Enjoy!

Since I was the only equine from Aiken at The Carriage Classic in the Pines, I have proved, once again, that I am the smartest pony in the county. (Humility, Jack, please). We left on Thursday after she went thru her normal routine – clipping, mane pulling and multiple baths – but what's a pony to do? At least SHE seems to enjoy all the fussing. (It's called grooming, Jack). Friday, just to demonstrate her sub-equine intellect, she actually spent more

Continued on page 3

A Message from the ADS Office



At the end of the month, Stacy and I will make our way to Lodi, California for the 41st ADS annual meeting. Although

we have been preparing for months, this time of year never seems to have enough days, hours or minutes to get everything ready and on point. We are a good team – Stacy and I, but our efforts only go so far. There has been an awesome group of volunteers with a passion for carriage driving and ‘can do’ attitudes that amaze us. We simply could not do it without volunteers! Thank you!

I’ve been a member of various equine organizations for nearly 25 years, and it’s easy to assume that one person can’t make a difference. I’ve personally passed up the chance to attend conventions with the attitude of “I’m just a small player – no one cares what I think.” But here’s what we know about associations (of any kind, not just equine-related): general members believe that there are ‘lines of people’ waiting to get involved, voice their opinions, put in the time and facilitate change, when in fact – there are not.

Some of the most prestigious non-profit organizations in the world struggle to recruit and retain board members, committee chairs and engaged members. It’s the world we live in – people now often build camaraderie with social media and other forms of online communication. People rely less and less on associations for a sense of community, where in year’s past – they were the only way to stay connected.

What does this mean for you? In the ADS you have a unique opportunity to be a change agent because the driving community is rather small and certainly a niche. Consider volunteering - start with your local driving club and see where it takes you. If you can’t join us in Lodi, please – take a moment to complete the proxy form on page 4. Your opinion matters and can make a difference. If you are planning to attend that annual meeting, Stacy and I as well as the rest of the ADS Board of Directors look forward to meeting you and hearing your thoughts on the future of the ADS.

Until next time, Maria & Stacy, ADS Staff

Are you planning to attend The National Drive? Visit the ADS!

The National Drive will take place October 6-11 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. The event promises to be a week of driving, learning and camaraderie with drivers from all over the US and Canada.

It’s a recreational driving event that’s loaded with clinics, private lessons with some of the best instructors in the driving world today, education seminars, tons of free driving time and VENDORS!

Brand new this year, the ADS is partnering with the Carriage Association of America and the National Drive to host a reception on Saturday, October 10. Plus, we will have a booth at the event all week with loads of ADS-wear and other goodies. Please come and see us!

To learn more about The National Drive and to make your travel arrangements, visit www.nationaldrive.net

At a Glance:

What: The National Drive

When: October 6-11, 2015

Where: Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

Registration Information: www.nationaldrive.net

ADS Awards Programs: Enrollment Due November 1!

Hours to Drive:

ADS members who enjoy recreational driving earn recognition for time spent in its pursuit. The program, which operates on the honor system, is based on the number of hours you drive your equine. A log form for recording hours driven is available on the ADS website and is required to enroll in the program. Drivers can earn an “Awards Pin” for 100, 250, 500, 750 and 1000 hours of cumulative driving, by completing a log form. Logs must be returned before November 1st, and milestones will be profiled in The Whip magazine.

Youth Championships:

Awarded each year at the end of December and winners are announced in The Wheelhorse. Open to any ADS member under 21 years of age (at the time of the events where points are collected), and based on his/her best verifiable scores sent in by the applicant and achieved during the 12 months preceding the closing date of November 1st each year. There are three categories: CDE, Pleasure and Recreation. Applicants can enter multiple categories, but can win only one per year. Winners receive a \$750 ADS Grant for use on future driving endeavors and a fashionable embroidered coat.

Jack (Continued from page 1)

time braiding and preparing to drive than she did driving. (Jack, we only had one class on Friday). By Saturday, I was used to the roar of the occasional train going by but she still picked her head up and snorted every time. All she and that little munchkin, Aunt Dottie, could talk about was the free dinner Friday night and drinking wine on the deck of the condo across the street. Just get these classes over with and keep the hay coming, ladies! (It was a lovely, large ring, Jack, and you seemed to enjoy yourself). By Saturday night, the show organizers decided I deserved my own private barn. (Jack, the other pony just wasn't doing the Sunday marathon and went home). Once again, she and Shorty chattered on about sampling appetizers and wine on the walk through town Saturday night.

And she says I think the best part of showing is the increase in my hay ration. Well you humans are plenty food and drink oriented yourselves. HUMPH! (Jack, they give us dinner on Friday, a reasonably priced Wine Walk thru Pinehurst on Saturday and a complimentary award luncheon on Sunday). So I strutted my stuff on Sunday through the little town of Pinehurst while she and Aunt Dottie waved and smiled as if they were royalty. They acted surprised that I went right over the brick walkways and the train tracks. It takes more than that to scare me! (Humility, Jack, Humility). At the finish, she stupidly drove right past the barn and back to

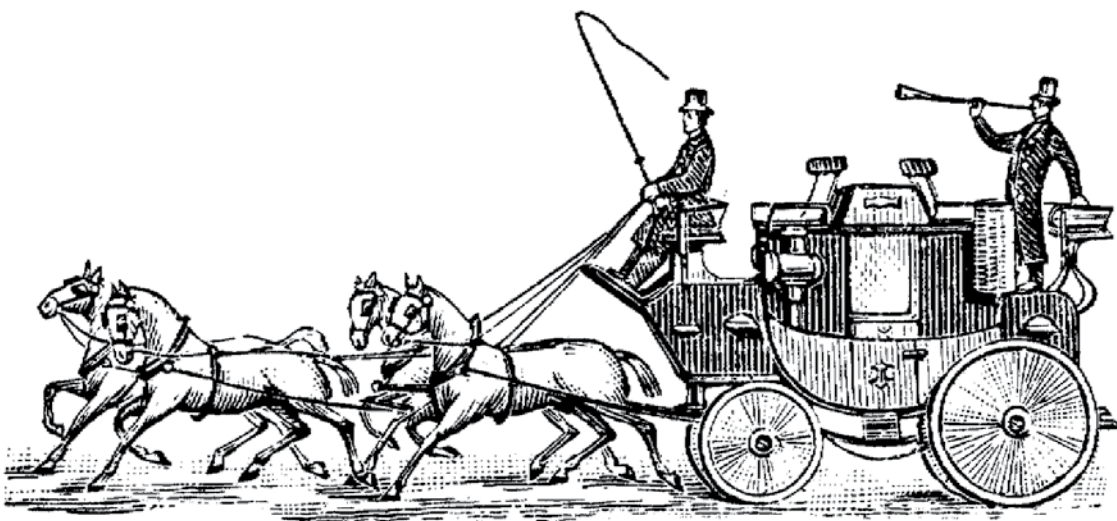


Jack looking quite handsome. His 'personal assistants' look very nice also. Photo by Kelly Butler, Eagle Eye Photo.

the ring. (Mimosas and cookies, Jack). Finally, I was unhooked, bandaged and left in peace to eat my hay. Another year at Pinehurst is over. Maybe next year you Aikenites will smarten up and come with me. I hear there may be a Combined Test or Driving Derby. Until then -

Your Friend,

Jumpin' Jack Flash





The American Driving Society, Inc.

Return by September 19, 2015 to:

The American Driving Society, Inc.

PO Box 278

Cross Plains, WI 53528

Phone: (608) 237-7382 • Fax: (608) 237-6468 • e-mail: info@americandrivingsociety.org

The AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY, Inc. LIMITED PROXY

I am a member of The American Driving Society, Inc. (the “ADS”). I hereby appoint

_____, as my proxy to vote on my behalf at any meeting of the membership at which I am not physically in attendance, provided that this proxy may be used to establish a quorum for the upcoming Annual Membership Meeting to be held at the The Viaggio Estate & Winery, Acampo, CA on Friday, September 25, 2015, including any adjournment and continuation of said meeting, to vote on my behalf at said meeting, and that this proxy shall be used for no other purpose.

Member Name: _____ **Member Number** _____

Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This Proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors with the following explanation:

In accordance with the law of the state of New York, the state in which The American Driving Society, Inc. is incorporated, our annual membership meeting must have at least 100 voting members present, in person or by proxy, in order to be considered a legal meeting. In the event that we do not have a quorum at a meeting, no legally binding actions can be taken.

Your prompt return of a signed proxy to the ADS office, at the address above, will allow the ADS to conduct legal business at the Annual Members Meeting, Friday, September 25, 2015. Please note that if you wish to send this proxy to the ADS office, it must be RECEIVED in the ADS Office by September 19, 2015. Proxies carried in person to the meeting must be submitted to the Secretary. If you have any questions please feel free to direct them to the ADS office at (608) 237-7382 or email them to info@americandrivingsociety.org

While we all prefer seeing as many members as possible attend in person, sometimes that’s not always possible. Many members have expressed a wish to be able to participate despite the limitations of time and distance.

ONE PROXY PER MEMBER PLEASE

United States Equestrian Federation and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Assistance Program for Para-Equestrian Driving Athletes

Laureen Johnson, USEF Director of Para Equestrian and Vaulting

The U.S. Equestrian Federation supports Para-Equestrian-eligible military Veterans in their efforts to represent the USA at upcoming Para-Equestrian World Championships and other International competitions. Veterans who demonstrate exceptional sport skills and the commitment necessary to pursue elite-level competition are given guidance on securing the training, support, and coaching needed to qualify for Team USA and achieve their Para-Equestrian dreams.

Through a partnership with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA Paralympic Program Office helps to provide a monthly assistance allowance for disabled Veterans of the Armed Forces, as authorized by section 703 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008.

Through the program, the VA will pay a monthly allowance to a Veteran with a service-connected or non-service-connected disability if the Veteran meets the minimum military standard or higher (i.e. Emerging, Talent Pool, National Team) in his/her respective sport at a recognized competition.

GENERAL PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRIVING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to meeting the military standard, athletes must:

- Be 17 years or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Must be a U.S. Veteran with a permanent, physical disability
- Must be a current member in good standing of USEF at the time that the Required Scores are achieved.
- Be medically eligible in accordance with the FEI Classification Manual for Para-Equestrian Competitions, 4th Edition, 2015 Rules for FEI Para-Equestrian Driving Events to compete in Para-Equestrian Driving competitions. To do so, Drivers shall have either a National or International Para-Equestrian Classification and be assigned a Grade. For more information regarding Classification, visit the FEI website at <http://www.fei.org/fei/regulations/driving>
- To schedule a National or International Classification, contact Laureen Johnson at the USEF at 908-326-1155.
- Drive independently (without second reins).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Must comply with all USEF and ADS (American Driving Society) requirements.

REQUIRED SCORES:

- A total of two scores for each must be submitted as follows for the current competition year:
- The minimum score of two driven FEI or ADS Dressage

Tests at or above the ADS Preliminary Level at two USEF or ADS sanctioned Combined Driving Event must be below 65 penalty points and the entire event must have been completed successfully without Elimination, Retirement nor Disqualification.

- Scores for the entire event may be submitted from any horse/driver combination;
- All test scores (both driver and/or horse) must be achieved at ADS, USEF or FEI Para-Equestrian licensed competitions. FEI PE tests must be scored by a USEF "R" rated judge or above, or an FEI PE recognized judge. ADS tests must be scored by ADS "R" rated judges or above.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Athletes are required to submit legible copies of all qualifying tests, clearly indicating the name of the judge and competition at which the scores were achieved to Laureen Johnson, USEF High Performance Director of Para-Equestrian Programs at the address below.

USEF

P.O. Box 83

Gladstone, NJ 07934

lkjohnson@usef.org

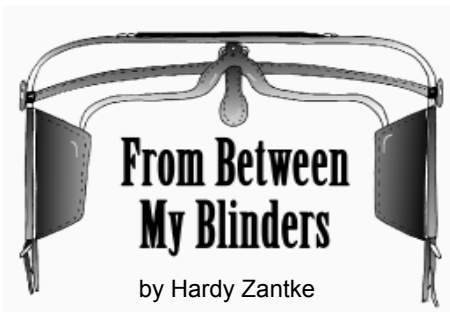
Attention: Laureen Johnson, High Performance Director of Para Equestrian & Vaulting Programs

USEF Fax: 908-719-7588

Once received by the USEF, the scores will be recorded and added to the USEF Para-Equestrian List. Scores will then be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for consideration to the Veterans Assistance Program.

To learn more about the Para-Equestrian monthly assistance allowance, contact Laureen Johnson, USEF Director of Para Equestrian and Vaulting, 908-326-1155, or via email lkjohnson@usef.org.

To view the entire 28-page selection document for Veteran Monthly Assistance Program, go to <http://1.usa.gov/1NqzSch>



VSE's: Holding Their Own

While some are looking down a bit at our newest members in our sport - the VSE's, I have always tried to defend them. Maybe I have a soft spot in my heart for them, or maybe it's a sense of fairness towards them? But quite a few of them have also shown us how well they can perform, and I have stated so often. Some of us who originally thought it even cruel for the little guys having to pull a full size adult perhaps are not willing to change their mind, but those who are open minded cannot neglect the facts, and the VSE's have proven that they can do it - as long as their drivers pay as much attention to proper breeding as well as to also proper training - just as drivers who want to advance in the sport do when they drive ponies or horses. On the recent "Drive Across America" from California to Florida there was one single VSE from Oregon who pulled his driver all the way - and then competed successfully a couple of weeks later at the ADS National VSE Championship in Aiken! I have also seen VSE's getting dressage results from a reputable panel of judges in the high 30's on Intermediate Level - and they had earned it! We also now see young drivers enter the sport with a VSE and some of them will be tomorrows top competitors! So I think it is important to keep that pipeline open for the development of the sport - and I was happy to see at a recent CDE three VSE four-in-hands, one of which even won the overall best dressage on her level!

But as with our regular ponies and horses of course we also see quite a number of competitors who are not all that serious in trying to reach excellence. And that is quite ok with me too. Why not just have a little fun and a good time - especially too as we are getting older. I really have no problem with that - as long as we all do so safely and in a horse-friendly way. Along those lines I do see an increasing number of VSE drivers who have gotten a little longer in the tooth and also some a little more on the fluffy side. Even though some of the folks who are not that thoroughly familiar with the stamina of the VSE's think the fluffy driver might be overtaxing the VSE, quite often it's amazing to see how well the little animals can handle the loads. But here now comes my sermon of the day and important reminder to these drivers.

PLEASE - since most of you drive two wheel carts - many of which are easy entry carts where you step in from the front - even though it might be hard for you with age-related limited mobility, PLEASE do whatever you can to put your first step into the cart OVER THE AXLE, and not just on the step way

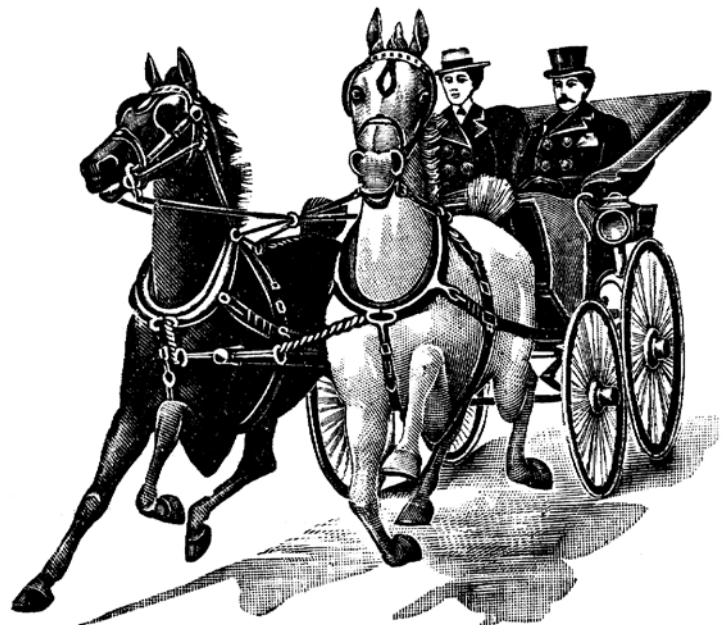
in front of it! Or if the construction of your cart allows it, try to slide your rear onto the seat and lean back and then place your feet into the boot.

Putting your full weight on that front step or the floor in front of the axle puts your weight onto the saddle through the shafts. While I am still amazed at the pulling power and stamina of the VSE's my heart cringes and I feel for him when I see your weight landing on his back as you step into or out of the cart. Similarly, as you step out, try to avoid that front step or the floor between the axle and the ground and try to step from your seat to the ground, or if your cart allows it, keep your seat, turn your legs and put your feet on the ground and then stand up. Or if need be, have a header and use a step-up on the ground next to the cart, or have a friend hold the shafts.

So all my VSE friends, and especially those of you who are a little older and / or a little fluffier, please think of your little horse also as you step in and out of your cart! Make it as easy on him as you can, but also do stay SAFE!

Happy and safe driving
- Hardy

P.S. This sermon was initiated by an e-mail tip from my long time friend and driver Major Harold Coonradt from Colorado. If you have similar tips or concerns, feel free to send them to me by e-mail (hzlax@aol.com).



Happenings in the Driving Community

Driving News - As Submitted by Partner Groups

USEF High Performance Para-Driving Clinic held August 31, 2015

The United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) recently presented a one day Para Equestrian Driving Clinic featuring clinician Olof Larsson at Leslie Berndl's Whispering Oaks Performance Horses in Newcastle, Calif.

The high performance clinic was geared to currently competing para-drivers who are members of U. S. Driving for the Disabled (USDFD) and USEF.

Olof and his wife Stacy own and operate Hidden Acres Dressage in Ocala where they develop and show all levels of dressage show horses. Photos courtesy of Tom Muehleisen and Leslie Berndl.

Participants from USDFD were: Sherry Davis, Diane Kastama, Ginny Leal, Stefanie Putnam, and Caroline Strongman



Driver Diane Kastama and her faithful carriage dogs. Kastama participated in the event and is shown here addressing crowd.



Clinician Olof Larsson instructs a student at Whispering Oaks Performance Horses



Stefanie Putnam and other attendees sit ring-side at the clinic.

Send us your news!

Do you have club news or events? Submit your information to the Wheelhorse editor at maria.mcginnis@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_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp

September 19-20: Longview by the Lake, Judge changes
Oct 1-4: Kentucky Classic, Dressage test changes
Oct 10-11, Let's Have Fun, TX, Division added
Oct 14-18, Hermitage Farm CDE, Dressage test changes
Oct 31-Nov 1: Fall Fling @ FL Horse Park, Date change
NEW Oct 31-Nov 1: Halloween Spooktacular, New show
November 5-8: Kaydid CDE, Dressage test changes

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
www.americandrivingsociety.org
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Cross Plains, WI 53528
P.O. Box 278

THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY, INC.

