



THE Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

NL 232

Representing Carriage Driving in the United States and Canada

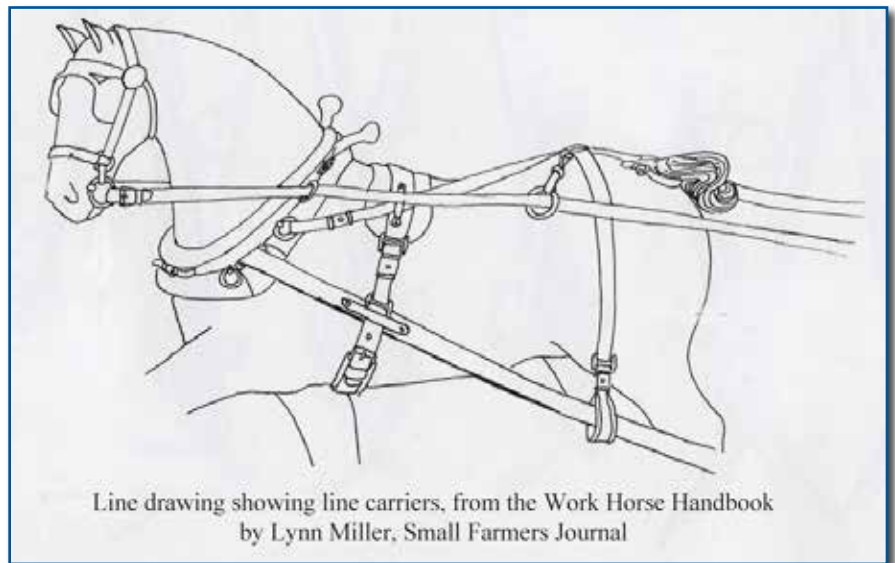
March/April 2016

In This Issue:

Wry Tail.....	1
ADS Office Message.....	2
ADS Official Business.....	2
Driving News.....	4
Therapy Minis.....	5
From Between My Blinders.....	6
Book Review.....	7
Annual Meeting Travel.....	7
Classified Ads.....	8
Omnibus Changes.....	8

A Trapped Line: One Driver's Quest to Safely Overcome 'Wry Tail'

By: Gale Emmons, Originally appeared in the SOHACC Newsletter



Wry tail, carrying the tail off to one side, generally comes as an equine genetic gift. Occasionally it may result from a tail accident. It's not normally an issue. Hopefully the horse can still swish his beautiful tail to defend himself from flies. But a horse with a prehensile tail? Really? My Standardbred, U Go Too, AKA "Buddy", has what I call a prehensile tail. He not only has a wry tail but he can curl it right up over his back. The first time I really noticed him doing it was in a show. We were doing wonderfully. I pretty much thought we had the class won. Then—he flipped that tail over his back and trapped a line! Oh my word! Of course trapping the line scared him so much that he clamped his tail down tight. We're going around the ring at the extended trot, his giant 35 mph strides passing everyone, and me frantically trying to un-trap the line. This requires standing in the box and reaching down past the singletree to lift the tail with one hand and extricating the line with the other hand, not the safest driving. I got off to an end of the big arena, said "Whoa" and Buddy stopped perfectly. Whew! I pulled the line from under his stiff, tight tail and finished the class. Didn't win unfortunately.

It is against the rules to tie a horse's tail and believe me an alert judge would notice that. So I had to figure a way to keep Buddy from flipping his tail

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Upper left: Volunteers from Mane in Heaven use miniature horses for therapy. Photo from maneinheaven.com

Continued on page 3

A Message from the ADS Office



By now you should have received your February issue of *The Whip* magazine. This issue was dedicated to the growing sport of

recreational driving – or driving simply for the fun of it. I have to laugh even making that statement, because in theory, all driving is supposed to be for fun – right? Let's face it, our horse activities have to be fun or we wouldn't stick with them, but it's important to note that the majority of ADS members (and horse people in general) enjoy driving their equine solely for fun – not for competition. And yet, there is a need for both competition and pure recreation. Many people do both at different points in their lives. Some of the things we enjoy as recreational drivers were born from competition – harness and vehicle design, training methods etc... All are part of the sport and important for the future.

In just a few short weeks, the weather will be warmer in the Northern half of the US and shaggy, relaxed equines will start to get more activity. Events are popping up all over and present some unique opportunities to engage with your fellow carriage drivers. Make sure to check out the driving news section of this newsletter as well as the calendar found at americandrivingsociety.org. If you have questions about events in your area, make sure to contact your regional director. They are here to help!

Finally, we would like to call your attention to the Annual Members Meeting scheduled for September 22-25 in Southern Pines, North Carolina. This area is rich with drivers and hosts many driving events throughout the year. Horses are welcome at this event! Make plans to attend the meeting this year and for another driving weekend to remember. A committee of volunteers is working hard to secure speakers, education sessions and of course FOOD that will not disappoint. Please watch the May issue of the *Whip* as well as forthcoming issues of the *Wheelhorse* for more information about the annual meeting. Hotel information is online at the ADS website now.

Thank you for your continued support of the ADS

Until next time,

- Maria & Stacy, ADS Staff

ADS Announces Host Venues for North American Championships

The American Driving Society (ADS) is pleased to announce the host venues for the head-to-head driven North American Preliminary and the North American Intermediate Championships.

The Preliminary Championships will be held at the Longview by the Lake CDE, September 17-19 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Intermediate Championships will be held at the Katydid CDE, November 4-7 in Aiken, South Carolina. New this year, VSE Championships will be held along with each championship.

Each event will be a driven championship, taking place over a single competition weekend. Now in its third year, the North American Championships change location every year to allow drivers in various areas the opportunity to compete.

All program updates and results can be found on the "Awards Programs" section of www.americandrivingsociety.org. As the program has evolved, so have the requirements. All interested competitors should read the 2016 competitor requirements found at www.americandrivingsociety.org/na_championships.asp

Please direct all competitor and sponsorship questions to the ADS office at info@americandrivingsociety.org or (608) 237-7382.



Gary Gang of AZ driving a pair of Morgans owned by Leslie Kennard of CA. Gang was named North American Champion in the Preliminary Pair Horse division at the Shady Oaks CDE held last September in Lodi, California. Photo by Carol Mingst.

Wry Tail (Continued from page 1)



Gale is pictured and her Standardbred U Go Too, aka "Buddy".

and trapping a line. I came up with two solutions; Ring line keepers sometimes used on work horses and brass line holders used for lighter turnouts. Both work very well. The brass line holders fit over one side of the fork of the hip straps on each side of the horse. The line then drops into the curve. I prefer the brass open ones as one can take the lines down quickly if needed. The ring style attach to the back band at the hip strap. The ring style are a little unforgiving but with the invention of Velcro I made some that can be pulled off the backband easily, so things are a bit safer should I have to get down and have the lines free. Under normal circumstances we never take the lines down, however. As the old timers used to caution; one cannot safely control a panicked hooked horse from the side on the

ground. The driver has more control from the seat.

Line keepers/carriers are also useful for narrow horses or any horse on which the lines tend to fall to the sides. I was using the brass line holders in the photo, barely noticeable even in person and acceptable to the judges. Unfortunately I have not seen the brass line holders for sale in many years. If anyone has seen them advertised, please do share that information.

Drive safely.



About the author: Gale Emmons has been driving for more than six decades and writing about carriages for three decades. In 1992, needing perfectly sized carriages for her horses and not finding any, she began building and restoring, with her husband, carts and carriages which resulted in Round Lake Buggy Works.



Gale Emmons and Lila-Jane DHM and a country cart she built with her husband Joe.

Happenings in the Driving Community

Driving News - As Submitted by Partner Groups

Windsor Trace Combined Driving Event

March 24-26, 2016

1060 Curb Chain Lane, Windsor, SC

Last year Windsor Trace CDE was a huge success and we all enjoyed the Very Small Equines to 4-in-hand horses compete seriously, safely and with much fun! This year marks our third year for Windsor Trace CDE, a relaxed driving competition in the Windsor Trace community, located 15 miles from downtown Aiken. Our competition is based on the fundamentals of driving, and we strive to provide a safe and encouraging environment for both beginner and experienced drivers and their horses. This year we had to make the dates for the event on Thursday (CDE dressage/cones), Friday (CDE marathon) and Saturday (the Combined Test with dressage/cones only) due to the fact that it is Easter weekend and we want people to be able to enjoy it with their families and go Easter egg hunting.

Grass root organizations such as ours are the backbone

of the equestrian world. The Windsor Trace community of landowners and the Aiken Driving Club have come together to host this event and invite you to be part of it. Events such as ours cannot survive without the support of others. We have a commitment from over 60 volunteers, and we are also in need financial support.

If you have any questions, suggestions or special requests, please feel free to contact Lisa Singer at chateaulog@aol.com or 610-960-8695. Additional information about the event can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Windsor-Trace-Combined-Driving-Event/1601926020030419>

Sincerely,

Lisa Singer

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Please make your sponsorship checks to "Aiken Driving Club." Please mail checks to Teri Merry, P.O. Box 240, Windsor, SC 29856. We thank you for your support!

"The Driven Image" Carriage Driving Conference and Trade Show March 19-20, 2016

Location: Hampshire College, Amherst, Mass.

Schedule:

Saturday March 19, 2016

- 9:30 Assessing carriages and harness that are used. Safety and fit **Jerry Trapani**
- 11:00 Carriage Whips, their history and how to use this aid. **Meredith Russo**
- Lunch break 12-1pm
- 1:30 Carriage and cart maintenance. What every driver should know. **Jeff Morse**
- 2:30 CAA Driver Proficiency **Jerry Trapani**

Sunday March 20, 2016

- 9:30 Minis-they are everywhere! **Mary Adams and Linda Petersen**
- 11:00 Drafts with **Bonnie Jean**
- Lunch break 12-1pm
- 1:30 -Presenting a winning picture. **John Greenall**
- 2:30 Getting into driving. **Linda Wilking**

For more information, go to www.shootthathorse.com, call 413-536-8917 or email thedrivenimage@comcast.com

Attention Event Organizers:

New Deadlines for Omnibus Submissions

At the January ADS board meeting, the Omnibus submission deadlines were changed to be more organizer-friendly. Please make note of the new deadlines. Organizers can learn more about the necessary forms to seek ADS recognition for events on the Organizers section of www.americandrivingsociety.org

New submission deadlines:

Events held July to December 2016,
Applications DUE APRIL 1

Events held January to June 2017,
Applications DUE OCTOBER 1

Send us your news!

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

Therapy Using Miniature Horses

By Mane in Heaven



The crew at Mane in Heaven. Photo by Kerri Weiss.

Using Miniature Horses in therapy situations has become quite popular in the last few years. A Mini's gentle disposition makes it a natural, calming force. You may have seen the Mane in Heaven Minis on television as this therapy group has been featured on the Steve Harvey Show and multiple times on local stations. Founded in 2013, volunteers and miniature horses began bringing "a little heaven" to people with various physical, mental and emotional challenges. Mane in Heaven specializes in animal-assisted activity and therapy visits to persons with severe disabilities to Alzheimer's and dementia patients and those who are undergoing cancer treatment. Founder and board president, Jodie Diegel is by trade, a legal nurse consultant who began her vision for Mane in Heaven when surfing the internet brought up "miniature therapy horses". An established therapy dog handler, she was also already a large horse owner so pairing up these two passions seemed a good fit. Mane in Heaven began site visits in 2013 with several other horse loving volunteers and three miniature horses, Lunar, Turnabout and Mystery. Later the smallest horse, Jenella was added.

Diegel explains, "Our visits usually last up to two hours and involve an exchange of unconditional love between the horses and the visitors. Patients watch, pet, brush, hug and take pictures with the minis, shifting their focus on the horses produces more interaction and mental stimulation all within an atmosphere of emotional safety". When Corin Garcia, age 19, from Palos Hills, Ill., met with mini horse Lunar at a Mane in Heaven visit at Rush University Medical Centers, it changed her whole perspective on her pending treatment.

Garcia shared, "It was a day I dreaded more than anything—four tedious days of chemotherapy" she said. But Garcia's attitude changed when her doctor brought her a surprise. "I was in an awful mood, yet once the Miniature horses walked through the door my mind cleared all its negative thoughts

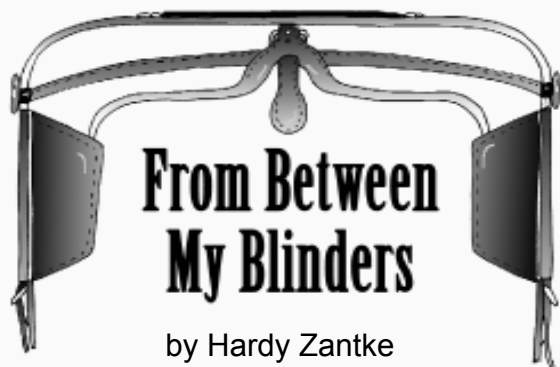
and my heart instantly melted. Being around these beautiful creatures made the worse day turn into the best I have ever had in the hospital."

It has been well documented when horses visit a care facility the physical, mental and emotional benefits are far reaching. Miniature horses teach empathy, nurturing, rapport and acceptance. Residents laugh and interact more, they are mentally stimulated by the sound, feel and smell of the horses and are able to recall personal memories more readily. Another "natural" fit for a Miniature horse as their size, quiet dispositions and soft touch instinctively allows them to calm and comfort humans.

About Mane in Heaven: Mane in Heaven horses are registered therapy animals through Pet Partners, a national animal-assisted activity and therapy organization. Becoming a registered Pet Partners "team" (horse and handler/volunteer) is not an easy feat. Volunteers are required to work with the horses for six months -a minimum of twice per month- and must perform required commands before they can be tested. All the handlers at Mane in Heaven are registered which not only ensures they have passed the highest qualifications of therapy training but it also provides additional liability insurance which is critical to an animal therapy organization. Mane in Heaven is a non-profit business and does not charge for visits, relying solely on donations, small grants, and fundraising. Find Mane In Heaven on Facebook or at www.maneinheaven.org



Several volunteers pose with mini Mystery after a hospital visit. Photo from maininheaven.com



House Rules

In the February Whip I wrote about unrecognized and recognized events and how I see room for both. Let me add a thought to that, which actually also apply to both, but more so the the unrecognized events:

Own House Rules!

I fully understand that sometimes it is necessary for an organizer to come up with some House Rules: For example due to special circumstances of the grounds being used like complying with requirements of a local landowner who may require everybody on a carriage to always wear a helmet, or, in the case of an unrecognized event to make it still run smoothly despite perhaps not having all the usually required officials, so perhaps the organizer also fills the role of the course designer and technical delegate. I have no problems with such requirements and making house rules for them – which then should be clearly published and mentioned during the briefings so that they are and made known to everybody - including that these are EXCEPTIONS from the norm!

But I would very much like to caution our organizers against coming up with house rules which change some of our regular rules just because the organizer has different feelings about some of our regular rules. Sure, we can all always have different

opinions about some of our rules - but they are in place for some good reasons and usually are discussed and thought through by our Technical as well as Rule committees. So changing them at the very least will usually cause some confusion, and if not only at the event where they are implemented in a changed fashion, then often further down the line - when competitors - as well as volunteers and even spectators go to the next event and there find things differently than they were used to from the previous one.

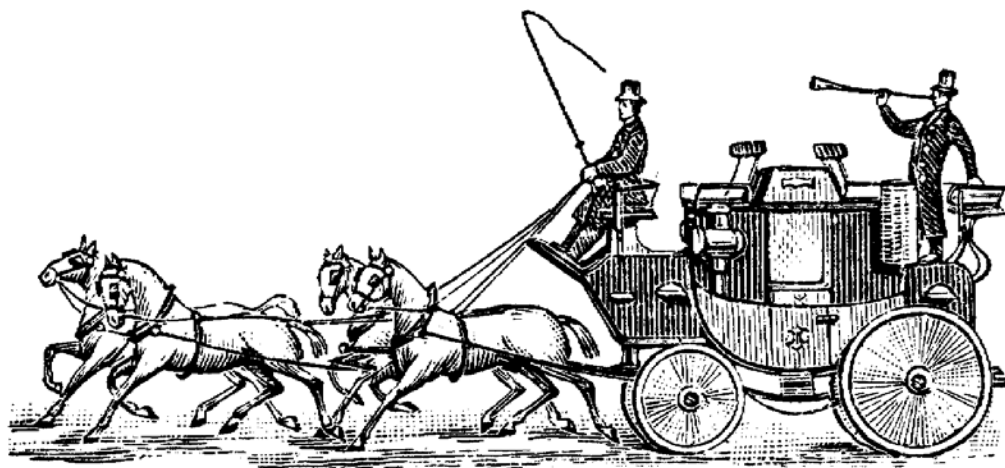
Let me give you an example: I know some HDT's which allow leg bandages on the horses in dressage - since they feel, the competitors go into the obstacles and cones right after dressage - and the organizer wants to spare them the extra time it would take to put on bandages after dressage. I think that's a bad precedence - because the competitors who are used only to those events are quite frustrated when they come to another event where all of a sudden they are receiving 10 penalties for having put on their bandages for dressage.

So, please, don't make such house rules, which confuse folks down the line. Our rules are complicated enough - unfortunately - there is no need to make them even more confusing by switching items back and forth between events.

Happy driving
Hardy

UPDATE: Youth Championships

Since our last issue where we unveiled the 2015 Youth Champion, we have discovered another champion! Due to some technology errors, we reported the Recreational champions only partially correctly. We have a new Third Place winner - Jennifer Hinkel from Wisconsin with a total of 50.18 hours. Riley Schoenecke also from Wisconsin with his 49.2 hours moves to 4th place. We sincerely apologize for the error and thank all who participated. Keep up the great work, and continue logging those hours!



Book Review: *Riding Home: The Power of Horses to Heal*

By John Killacky

Riding Home: The Power of Horses to Heal

By Tim Hayes

St. Martin's Press, 292 pages, \$25.99

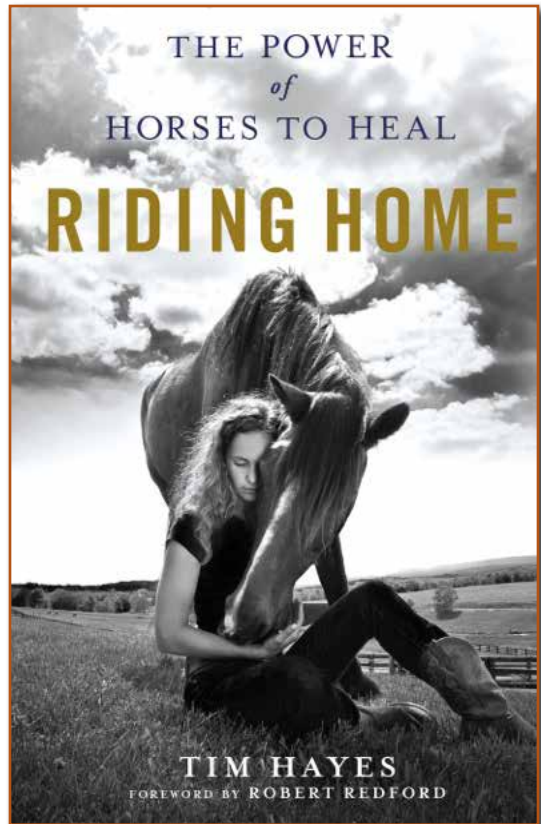
Tim Hayes' compelling new book, *Riding Home: The Power of Horses to Heal*, profiles several equine therapeutic practices where-in troubled teenagers, war veterans with PTSD, those struggling with addiction and eating disorders, survivors of sexual trauma, and people on the autism spectrum make dramatic progress through establishing relationships to horses.

Hayes's psychoanalytic framework provides insight into the fragile psyches of the patients portrayed in the book, as they learn self-acceptance, disrupt destructive behavior, and accept "love, trust, respect, and compassion" inherent in herd dynamics. Understanding the world through a horse's perspective often led to profound emotional healing and substantial progress in cohering themselves.

Drawing upon the wisdom of horse whisperers, as well as the author's own natural horsemanship practices, we are reminded that horses, "care about each other, look out for each other," as well as, "manifest unparalleled compassion." No anthropomorphizing here, only astute experiential writing.

Much resonated for me in this affirming and poignant book. I related to the transformative journeys portrayed, and got a deeper understanding of my own equine's worldview. A highly recommended read for horse lovers everywhere.

John R. Killacky is executive director of Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington, VT. This review first appeared in HorseCollaborative.com.



2016 ADS Annual Meeting *Travel Information Update:*

The host hotel for the ADS Annual Meeting is the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen, North Carolina.

Reserve your rooms:

Call: (910) 693-4330

Online: hamptoninn.com, search Aberdeen, NC, group code ADG (yes G!)

Standard: \$99 per night or **Deluxe:** \$149 per night

The 42nd Annual
ADS Members Meeting
Southern Pines, North Carolina

Save the Date!

September 22-25, 2016
More information coming soon

Registration opens in May
www.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 \$3.00 each. Number Boxes 1-20 Red and White; \$30 and \$32 each. Letter Boxes A-D Red and White; \$30 and \$32 each. Complete Dressage Arena with Letters now available. Accept MC/Visa. Phone Gayla Driving Center 1-800-360-5774. 502-863-5113 (KY)

PONY HARNESS: For small pony. Leather, brass. Used only 3 times. Excellent condition. \$2,500.00. 678-428-1513.

KUHNLE PRESENTATION VEHICLE: Black, red striping. Leather seat. Leader bars. Horses up to 16.3. \$10,000.00. 678-428-1513.

LEATHER AND BRASS PAIR HORSE HARNESS: Horse 16.2 Very good condition. \$4,500.00. 678-428-1513.

OMNIBUS CHANGES

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

January-June 2016 driving events are posted!

March 4-6, Black Prong - Fee Change and NEW Entry form

March 24-26, Windsor Trace - Division added

April 2-3, Sunrise Ridge DT - Added Intermediate

May 21, Carolina Carriage Club HDT - Secretary change

June 11-12, Columbus Carriage Festival - Date change

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY, INC.

