

THE Wheelhorse

March 20, 2020 (The Second March Wheelhorse)

Dear ADS Members,

I know many of you are sheltering in place in your homes during this COVID-19 pandemic. I am thankful that so many of you keep your horses and ponies on your property, so that you are able to spend your time at home driving and with your animals.

I work from my home office in Pennsylvania, but I wanted to inform you that we've temporarily closed the office in Wisconsin and Stacy Carlson is working from her home. When you call the office number, it will be forwarded to either me or Stacy. There may be a delay in accessing materials housed in the office, but I assure you that the ADS is open for business.

We're working on creating fun activities for you, such as scavenger hunts, interactive posts, and Friday Facts on Facebook. The ADS Education Committee has kicked it into overdrive and is creating interesting and informative material that I've included here. Their article, [How to Build a Dressage Ring on a Budget](#) will be published in the May issue of *The Whip*.

Read all the way to the end of this for a special From Between My Blinders by Hardy Zantke.

Please be safe out there.

Abbie

Abbie Trexler, ADS Executive Director

ADS YouTube Channel

The ADS has a YouTube Channel, and you can be on it! Navigate to our channel [HERE](#) and view our Member Videos-then send us your videos to include on the site by emailing a video file (NOT a link) to media@americandrivingsociety.org.

housed on the ADS Youtube Channel under Playlists.

ADS Facebook Page

The ADS Facebook page, accessible [HERE](#), is used to send out press releases, for ADS trivia, lighthearted scavenger hunts, and other interactive posting about driving. Make sure to give us a LIKE (thumbs up) and follow us for regular postings.

Each Region has its own Facebook page, as well, which can be accessed by logging into facebook and typing in ADS <your region> in the search bar, or by navigating to the Regional Page on the ADS website, [HERE](#), and clicking on the link in your region. Regional pages are maintained by the ADS Regional Directors.

ADS Driven Dressage Awards

Have you been keeping track of your Dressage Scoresheets? You'll need them to apply for the ADS Driven Dressage Awards, a FREE program that's available to all ADS members.

Click [HERE](#) to access the program page and read the requirements. Email in your application today!



ADS Driven Dressage Awards Program Sponsor Gail Aumiller is awarded her Silver Medal by ADS President Dan Rosenthal.

Hours to Drive

ADS Members are eligible to participate in the Hours to Drive program, click [HERE](#), also free of charge. Members simply record the hours they spend driving and send them in to the office by October 15.

In 2020 ADS continues the Regional Challenge for the ADS Regions across the US and Canada to compete for the most logged hours driving. The winning region, that with the most Hours to Drive hours logged by ADS members, will be announced at the 2020 ADS Annual Meeting.



Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Heidi Ferguson accepts the 2019 Hours to Drive Challenge Award, pictured with CDC Chair Marc Johnson and Southeast Regional Director Maureen Grippa.

Canceled Events

ADS is tracking a list of canceled events as a resource for the driving community. Clubs and organizers can add their event to the list by emailing info@americandrivingsociety.org.

A great reminder from ADS Regional Director Heidi Ferguson: Drivers would be wise to call and confirm ANY EVENT they had planned to attend prior to departure.

List of Canceled/Postponed Driving Events

Carriage Classic in the Pines is Canceled

A note from the organizer: It is with regret that we announce the cancellation of the Carriage Classic in the Pines, May 2-4, 2020 held at Big Sky Farm in Southern Pines, NC. In compliance with the current North Carolina State Of Emergency regulations as the corona virus continues to spread we feel it is in the best interest of all

advertising fees will be refunded in full. We wish good health & safety to everyone and expect to be back May 1-2, 2021.

Sunrise Ridge DT & CT is Rescheduled!

A note from the organizer: The Organizers of Sunrise Ridge and the North Texas Whip Board of Directors have recognized that we are not going to have Sunrise Ridge as scheduled this year.

But, barring a continued COVID-19 crisis, the 24th Annual Sunrise Ridge DT/CT will be held September 5 and 6, 2020 over Labor Day weekend!

We will adhere to the existing plans (Officials, Caterer, etc) as much as possible, but the Dressage Tests will be updated from the current numbered tests, which become obsolete after June 30, to the new lettered tests which will go into use beginning in July. The American Driving Society Omnibus will be updated to reflect the new tests as soon as possible...

We would especially like to thank the Organizer of the Houston Area Carriage Association's Pot O Gold Pleasure Show, Elizabeth Pannill and our Technical Delegate Keith Yutzy for working with us to reschedule their postponed show so we could still have Sunrise Ridge 2020!

Quick Reference Guide for Junior Competitor Rules

By the ADS Education Committee

This may not include every rule specific to Junior Drivers, but it does highlight some key details to help Juniors as well as their parent(s) and/or trainer.

Age requirements

GR 2.7 Junior and adult competition participants, e.g., anyone who rides on a vehicle at any time at an

event, are defined as follows:

- a. The "competition age" of an individual will be the age reached during the current calendar year.
- b. "Junior A" – competition age: 10 and below. Junior A drivers must be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman at all times.
- c. "Junior B" – competition age 11, 12, 13. Junior B drivers must be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman at all times.

EXCEPTION: Junior "B" drivers competing with a single Very Small Equine (VSE)

knowledgeable adult

horseman unless required by the organizer.

d. "Junior C" – competition age 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Junior C drivers competing with a singlehorse/pony turnout at their discretion need not carry a groom/passenger unless required by the competition.

e. "Junior" – Unless otherwise defined: Competition age under 19.

f. "Adult" – Competition age 19 and over.

Junior C exception- **Recreational driving** requires all juniors to have a knowledgeable adult horseman on the vehicle. (RD 403.6.C)

In **Combined Driving** Juniors may navigate for an adult competitor as per Art. 912: "The minimum age for grooms is 14. Exception: Driving Trial (Training and Preliminary divisions), the minimum competition age for grooms is 12.

Safety Equipment Required:

All driving-GR 5.11 At all times while on a carriage, all Juniors must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI

(Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carry the SEI tag. Headgear must be properly fitted with harness secured. *Failure to comply while competing may result in elimination. Failure to comply after being notified to do so by an Official may result in a Warning Card and/or Disqualification.*

Combined Driving-CD 928.3 *Dress for Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18*

3.1 At all times, while on a carriage, Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18 must wear a body

/back protector and a securely fastened Protective Headgear. Infringement will result in Elimination.

3.2 In addition, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and back protector (in compliance with

the applicable international testing standards) where and when required after being notified to

do so by an Official, shall result in a Yellow Warning Card being issued to the Athlete.

3.3 During Horse inspections, it is strongly recommended for Athletes and Grooms under the age

Allowed Equine Rules

GR 13.3 Junior, maiden, novice and limit drivers are prohibited from driving stallions.

From Between My Blinders

By Hardy Zantke

It is March 15th, the deadline for turning in my column. Usually I don't wait till the last minute. But right now things are so much up in the air on what's happening for all of us. So I had held off to see where we stand by now. No need to report on that. You all have seen it yourself. By the time you read this a lot will have changed again. Let's hope for the best! Let's hope we have been able to "flatten the curve" and things have not progressed downward.

By nature I'm an optimist. One of my favorite movies is "The Life of Brian" by Monty Python. "Always look at the bright side of life!"

And a bright side we have: For those of us who are able to do that - hopefully - with our hobby! We can go out and enjoy our horses. Unfortunately not at competitions and club events for the time being. As we know, most of those have been cancelled, very sad but the prudent decisions by the organizers. I too had looked forward to coming East and judging at the Southern Pines CDE again - one of my favorite events.

But while great fun and the pinnacle of driving for many of us, competitions, club events and social gatherings are really only a small portion of the time we spend with our horses. So what better occasion than now to practice some social distancing and to just go to the barn, to groom the horses, spend some quality time with them, do some bonding, some work on the ground, some training on standing, and then hitch up and drive if you can! And time for harness & carriage cleaning and safety checks. Or just muck stalls! Our horses are retired, but in times like this, boy, mucking stalls was always a favorite time to reflect. Now we do that with a long walk at the beach - on waters edge, so whatever there might be in the air from others doesn't get to us in the on-shore breeze. It works real well too. So make the best of it, my friends.

Stay safe. All my best wishes to all of you and your families.

Hardy

P.S. Abbie just told me about this special edition and asked if she should run my column already. So yes, sure, here it is - however, as of last evening's news, California is in lock-down, so no more walks on the

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