



PARAGRAPHS

Newsletter of United States Driving for the Disabled

Spring 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring is technically almost over although the weather for some of us certainly doesn't indicate that it is. On the west coast it is show season with Vineyard Classic in May, Summer Festival in June, the CDE at Inavale in July, Equestrian Institute in August, and ending with Shady Oaks in October.

While we are fitting our horses, learning our patterns, polishing our gear and hauling up and down the coast, we are planning clinics for drivers with disabilities. And we are enjoying the participation of our drivers in these events. There were five of us at Vineyard; entries are still coming in at Inavale and there are already three drivers entered. The judges there will critique the drivers with disabilities and help them plan their training with special emphasis on those aspects which would enhance their chances of being selected to represent USDFD at next year's international competition.

In the past few years we have not been able to afford to send our own horses and equipment to European venues which has severely limited our ability to compete successfully. We need to remedy that situation in 2014. We need to train and choose a winning team, and then sponsor that team so that they can disembark looking like winners and then prove that they are.

While our Board members will work to find grants and other funding sources, our members and their clubs and regions will have to actively sponsor our team. Maybe that is our slogan for 2014: sponsor our team.

While we need to find every possible funding source, it is our team and we need to sponsor it. Got any ideas for fund raising in your area? Challenge the rest of us to meet and beat your goals. We can unload our horses out of that plane on the other side of the Atlantic, looking like winners. We just have to sponsor our team.

—Bev White ¶

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USDFD.ORG

MISSION AND PURPOSE

United States Driving for the Disabled, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, seeks to improve the lives of physically challenged individuals throughout the United States and Canada by providing the experience of driving horses in a safe and challenging environment.

Our mission is to provide the extraordinary benefit of therapeutic driving to as many people as possible through sharing knowledge, experience, and serving as a resource for innovations in adaptive equipment for drivers, trainers, and programs offering carriage driving.

The Sybil Dukehart Memorial Fund seeks to provide financial assistance to equip and train disabled drivers through providing scholarship funds to applicants.

USDFD fosters opportunities for drivers to compete in national and international amateur competitions by training and providing financial support for Team USA.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

	In Kind Donations	Monetary Donations
Jasey Cortez, Oakview, California	Greg and Jody Cutler Hardy Zantke	Whip R Snappers Driving Society
Adria Dimaria Fallbrook, California	Frank and Pat Kastama Diane Kastama	Brass Oak Driving Society Frances and Carol Bowersock
Karen Apicard Quartz Hill, California	Patti De Vault Sharon and Geoff Gee Karen Picard	Gayla
Sally Woolridge Sylmar, California	Ann McClure Joann Benjamin Walt Ashford	

Articles and photos are welcome. Please include name and email address of author. Label photos with identification of subject and photo credit. High resolution digital files are preferred. Contact Office for additional instructions. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length.

EQUINE JOURNEYS

BRIDGTON, MAINE



Equine Journeys in Bridgton, Maine is a PATH certified therapeutic riding and driving center in its seventh year of serving clients. In addition to therapeutic riding/driving, we offer gardening, tractor club, wood scooting, and sleighing. We serve children and adults with a variety of needs on a working hay farm overlooking Long Lake in the western mountains of Maine. Most of our adult participants come from Momentum, a day activity program for developmentally delayed adults. Our driving clients learn to groom, harness, and drive in a ring and large field. They drive a metal cart, wooden cart, sleigh, and wood scoot. Lessons are structured to meet the needs and goals of each individual. Our program runs year round with sleighing our newest offering.

The first photo is from 2012 Maine Equine Special Olympics where we introduced carriage driving for the first time in the country. We are preparing to double our participation this year as we reach out to more athletes who want to experience driving.

The second photo is of driving in a pung (low sleigh) on loan from our farrier, Colleen O'Connor. The Bridgton Easy Riders Snowmobile Club groomed the field with their track machine.

We are a nonprofit 501(C)3 and raise funds throughout the year to support our work. Our Program Director and farm owner, Marian Rabe, generously supports all our work. Jean Loubler, Nancy Holman, and Mario Pascarelli, all PATH certified instructors, provide direction.

Mario 



PARA-EQUESTRIAN DEVELOPING DRIVERS CLINICS

OREGON

July 12,13,14: The CDE at Inavale in Oregon is hosting a judge's critique of Dressage for the para-equestrian drivers that will be competing there. Judges Debbie Banfield--past president of USDFD and current board member, Boots Wright--last year's chef d'equipe at the para-equestrian world championships in Breda, and Mike McLennan will discuss with each competitor how they did and ways they can improve their driving.

NEW JERSEY

August 10,11: USDFD and Celtic Charms Therapeutic Horsemanship center in Howell, NJ, and Ann Miles of the Carriage Barn in New Hampshire are hosting a developing drivers clinic. This clinic will be modeled after the successful March clinic held in Moorpark, CA.

Sara Schmitt will be the clinician. Sara is a USEF 'S' dressage judge and ADS 'r' judge based in Beminster, NJ. Sara is a Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist and has won numerous regional and national awards. She has represented the United States at three World Pony Driving Championships and is a two-time National Singles Pony Champion; she has trained horses, riders and drivers from the lower levels through FEI levels.

Ann Miles is Executive Director of The Carriage Barn Equine Assisted Therapy Programs. The Carriage Barn seeks to promote the health and well-being of disabled individuals through equine activities.

Celtic Charms Therapeutic Horsemanship is a Therapeutic Horsemanship program that is in the process of becoming PATH certified in driving. They are very excited about hosting the USDFD clinic, thereby furthering their own knowledge of carriage driving for those with challenges.

USDFD is working on having a USEF classifier available to classify those para-equestrians who wish to compete. These clinics are free to participants and we want to thank everyone who is donating their time and services to make these clinics happen.

For more information on the clinics or to make a donation to support the clinics call or email Diane Kastama, dkastama@verizon.net 805-343-6026 📞

Para-Equestrian Developing Driver Clinics presented by United States Driving for the Disabled, Inc.



August 10,11 2013

**Celtic Charms
671 Fort Plains Road
Howell, NJ 07731**

Clinicians: Sara Schmitt, USEF 'S' dressage judge and ADS 'r' judge. Represented USA at 3 World Pony Driving Championships. Trains riders and drivers from lower levels through FEI level.
Ann Miles - Carriage Barn Equestrian Center, expert on adaptations for drivers with disabilities.

Come improve your driving skills, learn about local, regional and international competition opportunities for the Para-Equestrian. Driving is a great equalizing sport. Come see and feel the freedom of being behind the reins in a carriage. Everyone is welcome to attend and audit. Clinics will provide instruction in driven dressage, hazards and cones. Lessons will be adapted to the skill level of each driver. Bring your own horse and carriage or let us know if you need to borrow a horse and equipment.

There will be a try-it-and-see-if-you-like-it for the future para-equestrian driver which provides a chance to get behind the lines and in a carriage to feel the thrill of driving.

Celtic Charms is a therapeutic horsemanship facility that is working towards becoming PATH certified in driving.



Contact Diane Kastama
dkastama@verizon.net
805-343-6026
www.usdfd.org

PARA-EQUESTRIANS IN COMPETITION

This has been a busy start of the year for Para-Equestrian drivers. It is great to see so many out showing. If you showed and are not mentioned, please let USDFD know so we can recognize you. Starting the year in Florida, Meghan Benge finished 1st in Prelim Pony Pair at Little Everglades. Boo Fitch finished 1st in Intermediate Single Pony at the Frostbite HDT, NC in February and in January, 1st in Intermediate Single Pony at the Frostbite Combined Test. Also in February Meghan Benge finished 2nd in Prelim Pair Pony at Sunshine State CDE in Florida.

March brought Karen Gorham to a 4th place finish in Preliminary Pony at Arizona CDE and Diane Kastama to a 1st in Advanced Pair Horse. Meghan Benge finished 3rd in Intermediate Pair Pony at Live Oak in Florida. Karen Gorham also competed in April at Sunrise Ridge Driving Trial in Texas in Prelim Pony. Meghan Benge competed at the Pony National Championships in Southern Pines and finished 4th in Pair Pony. Boo Fitch competed in Intermediate Single Horse at Southern Pines. April also found Ginny Leal in Training Single Pony at Clay Station's 1st HDT and Diane Kastama in Advanced Pair Horse.

May found five Para-Equestrian drivers at Vineyard Classic in Woodland, CA with Ginny Leal finishing 3rd in Training Single Pony, Tracy Bowman finishing 8th in Preliminary Single Pony, Stefanie Putnam finishing 2nd in Preliminary Horse, Bev White finishing 3rd in Intermediate Pony and Diane Kastama finishing 1st in Advanced Pair Horse. Paul Roberti finished 4th in Training at GMHA Driving Event and Sara St. Peter finished 4th in the Preliminary class. Also at the Gayla CDE in KY, Ellen Kat Rees from MI drove in the Preliminary Single Pony division and Kristin Whittington from IN competed in Preliminary Single Horse. Para-Equestrians are reminded to inform the organizers of any special accommodations you might need for parking, camping and stabling. All organizers really want to help out but they need a heads up with your entry so they have time to talk with you their facility and what they can do for you. 📞

AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY SETS STANDARDS FOR ACCOMMODATING DRIVERS WITH DISABILITIES AT DRIVING EVENTS

The Board of Trustees of United States Driving for the Disabled, Inc. was asked by John Freiburger, President of the Board of American Driving Society, to create a document formulating standards for accommodating drivers with disabilities at driving events. Over a two month period, using email and conference calls, Board member crafted a document which has been sent to ADS for consideration.

As we approached the subject we discovered that ADS and event organizers have evolved practices and rules that allow adaptive equipment and make events accessible for drivers with disabilities and provide opportunities for drivers to compete equally with able-bodied people.

The document we devised is attached here and can be found on our web site (usdfd.org), as well as a list of the ADS rules applying to drivers with disabilities.

American Driving Society Standards for Accommodating Drivers with Disabilities at Driving Events

Definition of Driver with Disabilities: those drivers who require adaptive equipment and/or require assistance in entering and leaving the carriage and/or must be accompanied or assisted in the carriage.

Certification standard for insurance: ADS provides skill level classification in Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. By choosing to compete at a certain level, the driver with disabilities has self-categorized their driving ability. By choosing to use adaptive equipment appropriate to their disability, the driver has defined the enhancement necessary to allow them to compete safely and well at that level.

In Pleasure competition, the driver with disabilities has self-characterized their driving ability and the ability of the horse to be safely driven in a pleasurable manner in the classes entered by the driver.

Event Accommodation of Drivers with Disabilities: The beauty of carriage driving is the opportunity provided to persons with disabilities to compete on a level playing field with able-bodied persons. Any event is required by the Americans with Disability Act to provide a handicapped accessible facility for spectators and competitors. Any other accommodations for drivers with disabilities are at the discretion of the event organizers.

The ADS Combined Driving Event Entry Form and Disclaimer clearly states: "If you require special dispensation at the above competition please state your needs below." A driver with disabilities can list their desired amenities and include a list of their adaptive equipment, requesting that the Technical Delegate be made aware of this equipment and respond if he/she finds the equipment problematic.

The responsibility for the safety and ability of the equipment to accommodate a disability is the sole responsibility of the driver. The reasonableness of the accommodation is governed by the TD and the event organizers.

The ADS and USEF rules pertaining to driving with disabilities can be found on the USDFD web site (usdfd.org)

Revised and approved 5-15-2013

Do you have one of these?



If not you're missing out on one of these



PARAGRAPHS is published quarterly by United States Driving for the Disabled, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

USDFD

32450 S. Wright Rd., Molalla, OR 97038
usdfd.org@gmail.com
grovenhurst@molalla.net
 503-829-7828

President

Beverly White
usdfdpresident@gmail.com

Vice President

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