

President's Message



When I think of February, I think of hearts, flowers, chocolate and all the ways we can enjoy our horses.

2026 is underway with a packed schedule of local and regional events and education opportunities to

support and participate in – whether you're a competitor, volunteer or spectator.

Congratulations to our USEF award winners and to those who competed at the Florida Horse Park. Excellent job!

Be safe, stay well and Happy Valentines Day!

Peggy

Member News

New Members



Please welcome the following new members:

Carol Ann Burns of Laurens, SC

- Rebecca Cowher of Aiken, SC
- Patti and Andy Gallant of Windsor, SC
- Mary Sawyer of Smithville, MO
- Lisa Krick-Summerfield of Dunnville, Ontario

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Board of Directors

President, Peggy Dils
dilsaiken@gmail.com

Vice President, Tracey Turner
tnt@farsidefarm.com

Secretary, Susan Gregorio
susan.g2626@gmail.com

Treasurer, Michele Huguet
huguetaken@iCloud.com

Members at Large, Mick Burke, Jerry Milano, Dan Rosenthal

Education Chairs, Janelle Marshall, Michele Huguet

Membership Chair, Ray Mansur

Newsletter, Diane Wattson

Website, Karen Marlin

ADC Website: www.aikendrivingclub.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AikenDrivingClub>



Member News (continued)

Centennial Drive



Congratulations to Jan Pacific and her VSE Bucky for completing their Centennial Drive at the Jan 10th Landmark Farms CT. Jan drove a beautiful dressage test and was awarded her Centennial Drive ribbon by American Driving Society President, Teresa Bron.

Jan and Bucky topped off their dressage performance with a flawless cones course. Jan's husband Peter headed up the support crew. Congratulations to Jan, Bucky, and Peter on this lifetime accomplishment!



Upcoming Events

Here's a quick view of the events planned for this Spring as of press time. Times and dates can change, so check the event's website for the latest updated dates and times (www.aikendrivingclub.org) or the American Driving Society calendar for dates and omnibus information (<https://www.americandrivingsociety.org>). Also check your Inbox for email 'blasts' with up-to-the-minute updates and information.

Date	Event	About the event
Feb 1 (Closing Date: Jan 23)	ADC Winter Driving Derby #1 Greenfields Farm 1060 Curb Chain Lane Windsor SC	ADC website: https://www.aikendrivingclub.org/event-details/adc-driving-derby-1
Feb 6-8 (Closing Date: Jan 31)	ADC Dressage Derby* Landmark Farms 480 Thrasher Ln. Windsor, SC	ADC website: https://www.aikendrivingclub.org/event-details/aiken-driving-club-dressage-derby
Feb 18 (Closing Date: Feb 2)	Windsor Trace Cones Challenge Chateau Log Farm 1070 Curb Chain Ln. Windsor, SC	Windsor Trace CDE website: https://www.windsortracecde.org/2026-cones-challenge
Feb 22 (Closing Date: Feb 18)	Spring Audubon Drive Silver Bluff Audubon 4542 Silver Bluff Rd. Jackson, SC	RSVP on ADC website: https://www.aikendrivingclub.org/event-details/spring-audubon-drive-5
Feb 28 - Mar 1	Landmark Farms CT & DT* Landmark Farms 480 Thrasher Ln. Windsor, SC	Omnibus on ADS website: https://www.americandrivingsociety.org/content.aspx?page_id=4091&club_id=548049&item_id=2700086
Mar 8	ADC Winter Driving Derby #2 Briarwood Farm 551 Spring Branch Rd. Windsor, SC	ADC website: https://www.aikendrivingclub.org/event-details/driving-derby-2-2
Mar 18 (Closing Date: Mar 2)	Windsor Trace Continuous Drive Chateau Log Farm/Greenfields Farm 1060/1070 Curb Chain Ln. Windsor, SC	Windsor Trace website: windsortracecde.org
Apr 5	ADC Winter Driving Derby #3 The Vista Schooling & Event Center 859 Old Tory Trail, Aiken, SC 29801	ADC website: https://www.aikendrivingclub.org/event-details/driving-derby-3-3
May 8 – 10	Carolina Carriage Club DT & CT Windridge Farms 882 Goodes Creek Church Rd. Mooresboro, NC 28114	Omnibus - American Driving Society website: https://www.americandrivingsociety.org/docs.ashx?id=1624594

* **Volunteers Needed** for Landmark Farms events. Please contact Barb Mettle via **text message** at (410) 693-0776.

Updated ADS Competition Entry Forms

If you recently downloaded the new ADS Competition Entry Form, you may notice a few changes. If you are still using the old form, it's time to update. Competition entry forms can be found on the ADS website. Go to the "Competition" page on the website where there is a link to "Competition Entry Forms". There you will find the Combined Driving and Pleasure Driving entry forms and the all-important "Disclaimer and Hold Harmless Agreement" (waiver).

For driving derbies, the Aiken Driving Club uses the **Combined Driving Entry Form**. There is no specific box to check for derby competitions, but you can write it in.

There is a line that instructs you to "List competitions that qualify you for the division you are entering." This is not required for driving derbies so you can leave it blank. For CDEs and DTs, qualifications for each level are in the ADS Rulebook, section 913.

Note that the necessary paperwork to enter a competition includes: your ADS membership card, Coggins certificate, proof of Flu/Rhino vaccine (veterinarian invoice) Pony Measurement Card, ADS/USEF dispensation if you have one, and the signed ADS disclaimer form (which is the second page of the entry form).

GOOD NEWS! -- If your Coggins, Flu/Rhino, Pony Card and ADS/USEF dispensation are up to date for all 3 derbies, you only need to send them with your first entry; however, you do need to send the entry form and ALL applicable waivers.

Club News

Landmark Farms CT Opens 2026 ADS Season

On Saturday January 10th, Kristin Whittington's Landmark Farms was the scene of the first ADS Competition of 2026 – Landmark Combined Test (CT) – also the first 2026 season event for the Aiken Driving Club. Teresa Bron, ADS President, officiated and Rebecca Gutierrez was the Technical Delegate.



Results are available at the Carriage Driving Today Facebook page: <https://www.carriagedrivingtoday.com/landmark-farms-aiken-driving-club-ct> .

Club News: Shelly Temple Clinic



It was a close call, but the weather cooperated for three days of education with FEI/USEF/ADS Judge and Clinician, Shelly Temple. The clinic was held at Debbie Bevan's Fair Oaks Farm in Windsor, SC on January 15th through the 17th and was well-attended by drivers and auditors.



Shelly is an expert at articulating the steps needed to improve each horse and driver. Lessons included exercises drivers can use during show warm-up, at-home practice, or out on the trails. There was also time for driver/auditor Q&A.

Thank you, Debbie, for organizing and hosting the clinic! Also, thanks to Shelly for another great clinic. We look forward to welcoming her back next year.

Photos: Top: Tracey Turner & Cooper, Center Right: Mary Baillie & Stylemaster, Bottom Left: Gretchen Schmidt & Maserati, Bottom Right: Sherri Dolan & Prince with Kristen Gallagher heading, Bottom Center: Auditor Gallery



2026 Education Series

Session 4: Fitness for Driving

We're kicking off the New Year with a focus on fitness for carriage driving. Our member, Carole Hunter, will open her CrossFit Aiken facility for a fun and upbeat group workout led by a CrossFit coach.

Bring your energy and enthusiasm!

What: "Fitness for Driving"

Where: CrossFit Aiken 14 Enterprise Ave. Aiken, SC 29803

When: 6 PM on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Letter from the Board of Directors

Dear Members,

Our driving community is fortunate to have many skilled, experienced and enthusiastic members who are dedicated to promoting the sport of driving equine-drawn vehicles.

The Aiken Driving Club recently considered a proposed partnership between the Aiken Driving Club and StableView Inc. to host the 2026 Aiken Driving Club Carriage Classic (aka Aiken Carriage Classic Pleasure Show). The Aiken Driving Club Board of Directors voted against entering a partnership with StableView, Inc. for the event.

The Aiken Driving Club is committed to encouraging and promoting the art and sport of equine-drawn vehicles, through education and participation in the greater Aiken area – as such, the Aiken Driving Club appreciates StableView's commitment to the equine community.

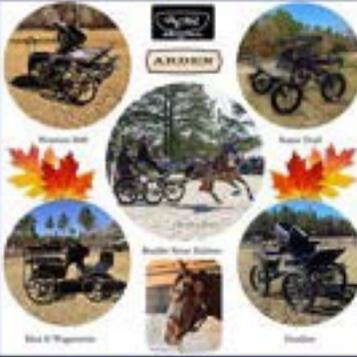
Signed:

The Aiken Driving Club Board of Directors

Susan Gregorio, Secretary, Aiken Driving Club

Advertisements

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Have something to sell? Include your ad here.

Newsletter Deadlines: The deadline for articles, photos and classifieds is the 20th of each month. Photos must be sent by email in "JPG" format with name(s) of person in photo and if available, the names of the horse(s). Please include photo release if required.

Classified Ads: Classified ads for ADC members are free and will run for 3 months unless otherwise noted. Non-members may place ads for \$25 which will run for 3 months. Business card ads are \$100/yr.

Payment: Checks may be mailed to the **Aiken Driving Club, PO Box 271 Aiken, SC 29802**

Submissions: Send all new newsletter submissions to: Diane Wattson @ dmwattson@gmail.com. Past issues of the Newsletter are available online at www.aikendrivingclub.org.

Aiken Driving Club est. 1985