



Newsletter

January 2025

Website- aikendrivingclub.org

President's Message

Happy New Year!!! Keep an eye on the website and the calendar. Lots going on for driving and volunteering. Be safe and stay well in the new year

Cheers Peggy



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ADC Member of the Month

Cyndie Crook

I started driving when I was only 8 yrs old on our farm in Quesnel, British Columbia Canada. My oldest brother had a lovely gentle horse so I braided up some rope to make a harness and hooked her to our toboggan, and off I went sitting on a bail of hay. What fun, but why I never got hurt I will never know, as the horse was only trained to ride.

Two Years later with my own home bred part Arab cross, I got an old harness from a neighbor and spent hours taking saddle soap and oil to it. Then I tried to fit it to my pony with no knowledge, just photos in a book. I ground drove all around the farm and local roads then few years later got a cart from the Amish in Ontario. I got some help and started to drive few pleasure shows.

Competing at Jumper shows and eventing took over, and then having kids I started driving again in 1980, just driving the trails. In 2009 I started competing with my home bred Warmblood Connemara cross. He was an awesome horse and we did our first Driving Trial. I even conned my husband Byron into being my navigator! He became involved in improving and maintaining a scoring workbook, and eventually became an EC TD and then later got his ADS CDTD license. We continued with more local DTs and a few CDEs, and before we knew it, we were competing at Shady Oaks CDE in California coming in second in Prelim.

I joined the ADS, reading The Whip and Driving Digest, learning more and dreaming. I began seeing articles on Clay Station CDEs in California, and then Windsor Trace CDEs in South Carolina, and I wanted to go. In 2023 Lisa Singer was giving a clinic in Alberta and I talked to her about wanting to come South for the winter. A few weeks later she called and said there was a place to rent near her. From there we made plans, and I talked my dear friend Elisa into coming down to South Carolina with us. We are now in our second winter here. We love it here with all the great friends we have made, wonderful driving events, amazing endless forest trails and the incredible instructors.

Thank you all for making us feel so welcome, it's an awesome second home.

The Golden Girls Brikka and Bailey
Many Happy memories,

Cyndie Crook

Shelly Temple Educational Clinic

The Aiken Driving Club is pleased to welcome Shelly Temple back to the area for an educational clinic and private lessons. On the morning of Feb 5th 2025, she will share what judges are looking for when judging the different levels of dressage. The clinic will be held at 327 Pine Acres Rd. Windsor, SC (Bevan farm). The afternoon of February 5th, and mornings and afternoons of 6th and 7th, Shelly will give 50 minute lessons to club members. Auditors are welcome. Go to the Club website aikendrivingclub.org for details. Bring your own chair.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(ADC Events are highlighted)

DATE	EVENT	INFORMATION	LOCATION
Dec 28, 2024	Christmas/New Years Drive	ADC Website	Aiken, SC
Jan 18,2025	Landmark Farms CT	ADC Website	Windsor, SC
Jan 26,2025	ADC Driving Derby #1	ADC Website	Windsor, SC
Jan 29,2025	Windsor Trace Cones Day	Windsor Trace website	Windsor, SC
Jan 31,2025	Grand Oaks CT & Derby	ADS Omnibus	Weirsdale,FL
Feb 5,2025	Shelly Temple Clinic	ADC Website	Windsor,SC
Feb. 9, 2025	ADC Driving Derby # 2	ADC Website	Windsor,SC
Feb. 10,2025	General Member Meeting	ADC Website	Aiken,SC
Feb 19, 2025	Windsor Trace Continuous Drive	Windsor Trace Website	Windsor, SC
Feb 23, 2025	ADC Spring Audubon Drive	ADC Website	Silver Bluff Audubon
March 1, 2025	Landmark Farms DT	ADC Website	Windsor, SC
March 9, 2025	ADC Driving Derby # 3	ADC Website	Windsor,SC
April 3, 2025	Southern Pines CDE&CT	ADS Omnibus	Raeford,NC
April 12,2025	Aiken Carriage Classic	ADC Website	Aiken, SC
April 19, 2025	Three Wishes Farm Jungle Drive	ADC Website	Windsor, SC
April 23, 2025	Katydid at Tryon	USEF	Tryon,NC
May 10,2025	Carolina Carriage Club DT& CT	ADS Omnibus	Moorseboro, NC

ADC Board News

Minutes
December 9, 2024



Present: Peggy Dils, Jerry Milano, Mick Burke, Karen Marlin, Dan Rosenthal (via telephone). Absent: Tracey Turner, Tim Zimicki Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m..

After discussion with those Board members in attendance, it was decided to send out an email “blast” seeking someone to assume the role of Treasurer of ADC. Karen will send it to all members of ADC.

Secretary’s report: approved as written.

Treasurer’s report: approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

Gaston Livery Stable: Peggy reported that the mortgage has finally been paid in full.
Christmas at Hopelands will be taking place December 14-23.

The ADC Christmas Drive will take place on December 28, 2024 on the clay streets in Aiken Horse District. Parking will be in the outfield of the track. Participants should plan to arrive around 10 a.m.. There will be a catered lunch at the Clark Barn following the drive. Participants are encouraged to wear Christmas themed attire. Information is on the ADC website.

The current ADC Membership Directory is at the printer’s and will be available for distribution at the Christmas Drive.

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Burke’s was a success with great food and wonderful friends.

A Combined Test will be held at Landmark Farms on December 18. 35 entries have been received thus far.
Derbies 2025: First Driving Derby will be held on January 26 from 12 - 4:00 p.m. at 1060 Curb Chain Lane. Information is on the ADC website.

Aiken Steeplechase saw 10 entries from the ADC in the Carriage Parade. Bretta Crump organized the ADC participation. 10 entries took part. Thank you Bretta.

NEW BUSINESS

Shelly Temple clinic will be held at Deb Bevan’s farm on Pine Acres Road in February. Entries are limited. Information can be found in the ADC Newsletter.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held in February. Location to be announced.
Thank you to Jerry and Joy Milano for hosting tonight’s meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Next Meeting : January 13 at Karen Marlin’s home on Pine Acres Road.

Susan Gregorio, Secretary



Treasurer's Report
December 2024



*The beginning checking account balance for the month of November was \$15,510.92.
The ending checking account balance is \$16, 103.31.*

There were deposits totaling \$934.39, the debits totaled \$340.00.

There are no outstanding checks.

This gives the club an actual checkbook balance of \$16,103.31.

*Monthly expenses were for membership refund and the annual meeting bar bill.
Deposits for the month of November were all membership dues.*

*Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Dougherty for Tim Zimicki*

*** Jack Merritt, winner of the free membership, donated the membership dues back to the club.*



Hoofbeats Christmas Parade in Aiken
December 2024



FINAL THOUGHTS

A 95th Birthday to Remember

BY KELLY PESEK AND JUDY CHAMBERLAIN • PHOTOS BY SANDOR BLACK

“When I walked into the barn and saw that beautiful horse all harnessed up and ready to go, it made me so happy,” Linda Cabot Black said about her 95th birthday celebration at Gateways Farm in Weston, MA.

Linda was born on December 16, 1928. When she turned 95 on December 16, 2023, her family thought the perfect gift for her would be a carriage ride around the grounds of the farm where she spent her childhood. Ollie, a 22-year-old Morgan horse owned by Kelly Pesek, took her on that ride.

Linda grew up in Weston in her family home, five miles from Gateways Farm where her cousins lived. “I was only happy when I was at Gateways Farm”, she told Kelly on their drive.

When Linda was 10 years old, her mother gave her 14-year-old Dyna-Mite, a 12.2 hand black mare with a white blaze and four white socks. The pony was trained to drive and, as Linda says, “turned out to be very good at it”. Linda drove her in a four-wheeled pony cut-under and describes her as “very forward and fast”.

She also rode Dyna and fox hunted. After the Great New England Hurricane of 1938, the woods in Weston were



flattened, and to get anywhere on horseback meant jumping over logs. Dyna wouldn't jump. She would stop in front of the log, gather herself, then hop over it.

Somehow Linda learned to stay on. Later when Linda rode a horse who would jump, she says she couldn't believe how smooth it was!

When Linda was 13 years old, she decided she wanted to buy something at a store in Concord, MA, ten miles from her home. Without telling her mother, she hitched her pony,



drove by herself to Concord, tied the pony, made her purchase and drove home.

During World War II, when gas was rationed, Linda drove Dyna everywhere. She would drive her pony to Gateways Farm every day to work in their Victory Garden. They traveled as much as 50 miles a week! Linda had other driving ponies over the years, but Dyna was always her favorite.

After going to college, marrying and raising a family, Linda and her husband built a house on Swan's Island in Maine. She acquired a 15-hand mare to drive, so she put larger shafts on her pony cutter and drove her for 10 years. She never used a car. She would pick up guests from the ferry and bring them back to the house, five miles each way. The cutter is still in the barn in Maine.

When asked if she ever showed her driving horses, she said she wasn't interested in showing. She did go to one show in Norwalk, CT. She drove her pony there, right through the city of Norwalk, entered the show and drove home.

When she lived in Maine, she wanted to purchase a new, larger, four-wheeled cart with seats for four. The seller told her she couldn't drive it because she only had one horse and one horse couldn't pull four people. She responded, “I used to hitch Dyna with three adults and me in the cart and we'd drive to Gateways, unhitch, go riding for the day and drive back!”



BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS




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Housekeeping Details!!

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 possible, 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. Checks may be mailed to the Aiken Driving Club, PO Box 271 Aiken, SC 29802

Submissions- Send all submissions to: Karen Marlin aikendriving@gmail.com

Past issues of the Newsletter may be found online at www.aikendrivingclub.org

