

## President's Message

Happy New Year! As we start the new year, there are many great opportunities to get out and enjoy our equine (and human) partners. Here in Aiken, "Tis the season," so be sure to keep an eye on the Aiken Driving Club website calendar for the latest information about all the fun and educational events in the area. Be safe and stay well!

Peggy

## Member Directory

The printed ADC 2026 Member Directory was published before some members joined or renewed, so their information was not included in the printed version of the Directory.

We welcome the following new and renewed members to the Aiken Driving Club. Complete contact information is in the Member Directory on the ADC website.

Name	City/State
Taylor Bradish/ Tyler Golden	Windsor SC
Cathy Chambers	Wagener, SC
Summer Frost	Aiken, SC
Mary Hofmann	Windsor, SC
Denice Klinger	Aiken, SC
Trudy Mackay	Greenwood, SC
Claire Vile	Aiken SC

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### Board of Directors

**President,** Peggy Dils  
dilsaiken@gmail.com

**Vice President,** Tracey Turner  
ttt@farsidefarm.com

**Secretary,** Susan Gregorio  
susan.g2626@gmail.com

**Treasurer,** Michele Huguet  
huguetaiken@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](http://www.aikendrivingclub.org)

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



### January Events

Here's a quick view of the ADC events planned for January as of press time. Check the ADC website calendar page for updated dates and times ([www.aikendrivingclub.org](http://www.aikendrivingclub.org)).

Date	Event	For more info	Location
Jan 10	Landmark Farms CT	ADC website	Landmark Farms 480 Thrasher Ln. Windsor, SC
Jan 15 - 17	Shelly Temple Clinic	Contact Debbie Bevan (608) 692-6465	Fair Oaks Farm 327 Pine Acres Rd. Windsor SC
Jan 29	ADC Education Series: Fitness for Driving	ADC website	CrossFit Aiken 14 Enterprise Ave. Aiken, SC 29803

### Upcoming Events

Check the ADC website ([www.aikendrivingclub.org](http://www.aikendrivingclub.org)) for more information and to confirm dates and times.

Date	Event	Location
Feb 1	ADC Driving Derby #1	Greenfields Farm 1060 Curb Chain Lane Windsor SC
Feb 6-8 (new event)	ADC Dressage Derby (see article below)	Landmark Farms 480 Thrasher Ln. Windsor, SC
Feb 11	Windsor Trace Cones Day	Chateaulog Farm 1070 Curb Chain Ln. Windsor, SC
Feb 22	Spring Audubon Drive (tentative)	
Feb 28 - Mar 1	Landmark Farms HDT	Landmark Farms 480 Thrasher Ln. Windsor, SC
Mar 8	ADC Driving Derby #2	Sue Dougherty's Farm
Mar 18	Windsor Trace Continuous Drive	Chateaulog Farm/Greenfields Farm 1060/1070 Curb Chain Ln. Windsor, SC
Apr 5 (new date)	ADC Driving Derby #3	The Vista 859 Old Tory Trail, Aiken, SC 29801

## Club News

### Dressage Derby

Save the Dates! On February 6th through the 8th 2026, Kristin Whittington’s Landmark Farms will host the Aiken Driving Club Dressage Derby.

<b>Classes:</b>	VSE, Pony, Horse
<b>Divisions:</b>	Training, Preliminary, Intermediate
<b>Format:</b>	February 6th and 7th are qualifying days. The 3 best scores for each day will be qualified to enter the Championship on Day 3, February 8th.  If you do not qualify on Day 1, you may enter on Day 2 to qualify for the Championship Day.
<b>Dressage Tests:</b>	On Qualifying days, 2/6 & 2/7 – All divisions will drive TEST B.  On Championship Day, all divisions will drive TEST C
All entries must provide proof of negative Coggins within 12 months, and Flu/Rhino vaccine within 6 months.	
<b>Questions/ Contacts:</b>	Susan Gregorio: susan.g2626@gmail.com, or 973-222-9450  or Carolyn Langston: 908-797-8391

### 2026 Education Series

"The European Experience: Competing Abroad in Carriage Driving" panel discussion rounded out Session 3 of the 2026 ADC Education Series.

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, members gathered at Rebecca Gutierrez’s Aiken office to hear first-hand about what it takes to compete in carriage driving in other countries.

The panel included: Lisa Singer, Jennifer Matheson, Kristin Wittington, Taylor Bradish, and Bruno and Michelle Huguet. Tracey Turner moderated the discussion.

Panelists shared the challenges, rewards, and memorable moments as competitors, officials, and as team members in European carriage driving competition.

Session 4 will be “Fitness for Driving” at CrossFit Aiken starting at 6 PM on Thursday, January 29, 2026.



## Club News (continued)

### Windsor Trace Holiday Drive

The Windsor Trace Holiday Drive was a huge success. Twenty-three carriages came to Lisa Singer's Chateaug Farm for a drive through the forest and surrounding easements. With a stirrup cup of sherry, given out by Sue and Paul Dougherty along with Judy Chamberlain and Karen Marlin...off they went in fine spirits!

Along the way, there were four stops to gather treats and perhaps sing a song. Art and Joanne Snow had the first stop – taking photos of the festive turnouts posed in front of their red barn decorated with a big wreath.



Then on to Nancy and Jeff Mullen's for a cup of cocoa and peppermint schnapps. Kitty Hoffman and Jan Robins supplied the travelers at the next stop with homemade cookies and cider. The last, but certainly not least stop was Jennifer Kessler and her daughter Sophie, along with Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, played by Evelyn Grau.

Heading back to Lisa's to put the horses up, each carriage collected a goody-bag from the "finish line elves," Peggy Dils and Susan Gregorio. After the drive, everyone assembled on the Lisa 's terrace to eat their lunch and enjoy some Christmas goodies. At lunch, a raffle was drawn – First Place (a bottle of cheer and four club glasses) was

won by Sue Dougherty.

None of this could happen without Lisa Singer opening her farm and the generosity of the Trace residents willing to open their easements and to Ben Christensen for letting us use his forest.

Thank you everyone for making this drive fun and successful.

*Merry Christmas!*

Submitted by Joy Milano, Photo Credit: Joanne Gelinas-Snow



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Present: Peggy Dils, Jerry Milano, Tracey Turner, Dan Rosenthal, Michele Huget, Susan Gregorio

Excused: Mick Burke

Guest: Lisa Whitcomb

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as written

Secretary's Report: Approved as written

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Aiken Carriage Classic Pleasure Driving Show**

Lisa Whitcomb has agreed to organize the ACC in the Spring of 2026. Lisa's recommendations included changing the venue for the show to Stable View, to be held March 18-22, 2026. Lisa provided the Board of Directors with a written proposal regarding the event, which included the addition of a CT to be held on Thursday, and will include additional classes, such as a Town and Country Drive, Carriage Dog Class and a Picnic Class.

Stable View provided Lisa with a proposal regarding their business model for the event, wherein Stable View would assume the role of the ACC show organizer and Lisa would act as the ACC manager under Stable View's guidance. After much discussion, the BoD requested that Lisa provide an in-depth proposal to the BoD for further discussion and review.

#### **Katy Rhinehart**

The BOD also recognized Katy Rhinehart for her dedication and tireless efforts as organizer of the ACC for the past 5 years.

#### **Gaston Livery**

The Gaston Markets have proven very successful and will continue. There will also be "unplugged" music events held in January, February and March.

#### **Gerde Museum**

The museum is decorated and ready for Christmas.

#### **Thanksgiving Dinner**

A huge thank you to all who made this annual event a success with 86 members in attendance. The food, the volunteers and the fellowship were amazing. THANK YOU.

#### **Christmas Drive**

The club has received 55 RSVPs to date for the drive taking place on December 20th. Per Jerry Milano, the route is complete and includes 4 stops along the way. The drive will begin and end at Lisa's Singer's farm on Curb Chain Lane. First drive off will be at 10:00 AM. The drive will be approximately 5K with an additional 2K that can be driven. Participants are asked to bring their own lunch, and drinks will be provided as well as a special raffle prize to be awarded at the end. Participants are urged to dress for the season!

### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (continued)**

#### **Driving Derbies**

2/1/2026 at Greenfields, 3/8/2026 at Sue Dougherty's and an April date to be determined for the championship to be held at the Vista.

#### **Dressage Derby**

February 6-8 at Landmark Farms. Updated information to follow on the ACC website and in this newsletter. February 6-8 at Landmark Farms. Updated information to follow on the ADC web site.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Membership Directory is at the printer.

#### **Education:**

There will be an educational opportunity held on December 18th entitled the European Experience at Rebecca's Office on Park Avenue in Aiken starting at 4:30 PM. Speakers will share their experiences as competitors and officials at past European driving events. Speakers slated: Taylor Bradish, Jennifer Mattheson, Bruno Huguet, Lisa Singer.

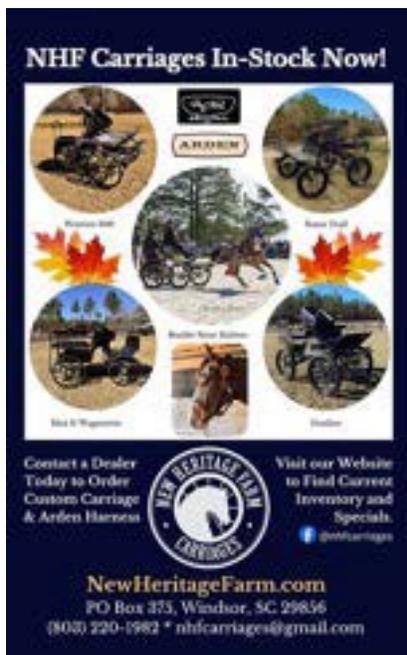
Fitness for Driving event will be held on January 29, 2026 at Aiken Cross Fit starting at 6 PM

The Board of Directors thanked Diane Wattson for assuming the role of Editor of the ACC newsletter, with a very successful first edition. Thank you!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Next meeting: January 12, 2026

Susan Gregorio, Secretary

## 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](mailto:dmwattson@gmail.com). Past issues of the Newsletter are available online at [www.aikendrivingclub.org](http://www.aikendrivingclub.org).

*Aiken Driving Club* est. 1985