



# The Florida Whips

September 2022 Newsletter

[www.flawhips.org](http://www.flawhips.org)

[www.facebook.com/groups/Floridawhips](https://www.facebook.com/groups/Floridawhips)

## President's Message:

So, what do we do when our equine friend and partner, who we dearly love and vice versa, is forced into early retirement through no fault of theirs? It could be a financial problem brought on through circumstances beyond our control (death in the family, divorce, loss of job, etc., etc.) The list of reasons is endless and sad. Maybe, like in my case, it was a medical mistake or heaven forbid it was age.

How heartbreaking to see that beautiful animal so full of pep and vigor wasting away in a pasture pleading with those big brown eyes, "Hitch and drive me today!" But alas, it is not to be. For me, Rose, was a dream come true! Rose, a beautiful palomino Morgan mare owned by Carol and Ken Kenyon of Alachua. Rose, an over achiever since birth and work ethics off the scale. Even though it's been four years since she's been in a

hazard people still talk about her trying to look into the hazards on our approach and her butt cheeks dropping about two feet when I hollered, "Get Out of Here!"

Having the best navigators in the nation in either Alex Oswickie or Barbara Murphy allowed me to stay off the brake and go at warp speed with Rose through the hazards. There in lies the problem now. Who can she go to? With reflexes like a cat and the speed of a cheetah, the slightest wrong move on the reins and you got the fastest ride of your



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life that's probably going to end in a wreck. Rose didn't need or deserve the reputation of a runaway or the pain and misery of being rehabbed. A lot of drivers wanted her as a guarantee to win hazards, but I wasn't going to let that happen to her. Not on my watch!

A friend of mine, as fate would have it, Mary Thacker of Andover, Maine came to visit me with her family – her husband who is a Minister (Justin) and her five-year-old daughter, Hannah, who I believe came right out of the womb and right into a saddle! During their time with us, Mary rode Rose. Hannah was led around on Rose, much to Rose's delight! A completely different horse under their hands.

As I had boarded Rose at Mary's stable when I use to take Rose to Maine, so I knew the level of care and love each horse receives. A deal was reached between Mary and Ken – Rose would be trading her sandals for snowshoes! Mary's aspirations in the world wereto show Rose at her local riding club, taking the pressure off the horse to show at the international level like when she was driven by me.



I went to their first show last weekend. Hannah was in fifteen classes! Equally divided between her little Shetland pony, Minnie, and Rose. Mary also rode in the show – competing in barrels and poles. I've got to

hand it to Miss Rose, she was a real lady! Only her tail told me that she really wanted to open up and go like hell.

I stop and see Rose when the family isn't home. She is still happy to see me and gives me a hug, but I sense resentment from the times she ran the pastures when I made the transition to drive Drake (1/2 paint draft, 1/2 Standardbred). The difference between driving a Jaguar or a pickup truck. Rose's attitude is "lets get it done yesterday" and Drake's attitude is "ho hum, we don't get it done today, we will get it done next year."

When going from no feeling in your hands to driving on sight picture and muscle memory, reading body language, well, speed is nice, but safety is better. Though Rose's feelings may be hurt because I couldn't keep up with her reflexes, she will end her career in international combined driving where all good horses should go... A soft landing into the heart and arms of a little girl.

Keep Your Traces Tight and Stay Safe

Bob



#### **Full Page Event Ads:**

Florida Whips Events- Free

Non-Whips Events - \$20

#### **General:**

Full Page Business Ads -\$40 per issue; \$300 annual rate

½ Page Business Ads - \$25 per issue; \$200 annual rate

¼ Page Business Ads - \$20 per issue; \$100 annual rate

Annual Business Card Ad - \$50 annual rate

#### **Classified Ads:**

Up to 100 words, and one photo to run for 3 months:

Florida Whips Members - free

Non-Whips members - \$15

#### **Ad Rules**

Ads should be sent to the newsletter editor no later than the 20th day of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. If layout assistance is needed, please send the ad with instructions, no later than the 15th day of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Please use the following email address.

**smokincminis@gmail.com**

# Classified Ads

### **Message from your Newsletter Editor**

Hello and a huge **Thank You** to everyone who sent articles and photos! The more you send the better your newsletter will be. Please edit your articles before you send them, as unfortunately I'm not the best at that particular task! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Remember that as interested as you are in what your fellow drivers are up to, they are just as interested in what you are doing!

# Annual Dues Reminder!

Whips Members! It is time to renew your membership! Your current membership expires on August 31, 2022. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining us again. We have almost 20 Whips-sponsored events between September 22 and April 23 and that does not include the ADS and USEF shows!

Please go on to the Whips website ([www.flawhips.org](http://www.flawhips.org)), click on the membership tab and scroll down to the directions. Follow the 3 steps listed there. Don't forget to pay!

Or you can print the application and mail it to Gail Thomas, Membership Director, 11 Nashua Way, Ocala, FL 34482. Thank you! Please include your ADS # if you are a member.

We are going to apply for Blue Ribbon Club status if we have at least 75 members who are also ADS members. *See Page 13 for more information on the Blue Ribbon Club!*



## Mark Your Calendar!



January 18, 2023 and February 15, 2023

for

Steeplechase Farms Continuous Drives

### **General:**

Each event will consist of timed Pace Drive(s), scored Dressage test, and Gamblers Choice cones. Attire will be neat casual. Required will be protective headgear, Whip in hand, and SMV sign affixed to cart / carriage for driving on public roads. Driver's discretion for use of gloves, aprons, protective vest, bell boots, shin boots, protective hoof boots or leg wraps throughout the competition.

### **NEW for 2023:**

- Advanced entry required. Individual start times will be announced at least 24 hours prior to each Continuous Drive.
- Divisions will include Training and Preliminary.
- ADS Dressage Test "A" will be utilized on January 18<sup>th</sup>; Test "B" will be utilized on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Awards will be given for Horse, Pony, Small Pony, and VSE (whether shown as single or multiple) for each Division.

More Information Coming Soon!



## FLORIDA WHIPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

September 2022 – August 2023

[flawhips.org](http://flawhips.org)

All memberships expire each August 31

☐ New Application

☐ Renewal

Member Name:			
Business/Farm/Organization Name:			
Mailing Address:			
	City	State	ZIP
Email Address:			
Primary Phone:			
	Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Alternate Phone:			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Membership Type	Annual Dues	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 45.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	\$ 50.00	Please list names of family members in the space provided
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Farm/Organization	\$100.00	Includes annual business card ad
<input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocal Driving Club	\$ 00.00	Please list names of family members in the space provided

For family memberships, please list family member information (all must be living in same household)

Name	Email	If Junior, Date of Birth

### SAFETY RULES OF THE FLORIDA WHIPS, INC.

- Vehicle and harness must be serviceable and in good repair
- Vehicles must be unhitched prior to removing reins and bridles
- Driver must have a whip and carry it while in motion
- Horses must have bridles on with reins attached prior to hitching to a vehicle
- Horses may not be tied or left unattended when hitched to a vehicle
- Never pass another carriage at a fast trot and never drive too close to another carriage

☐ By checking this box and signing below, I acknowledge that I and all family members listed as part of this membership have read and understand the safety rules listed above, as part of this membership. I further understand that under Florida law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for injury to, or death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risk of equine activities. This document is meant to be a full and complete release from any and all liability that may arise from participating in Florida Whips, Inc. equine activities. This release is given freely and voluntarily by the participating members and remains in existence throughout the duration of membership.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**2022  
CAMP BLACK PRONG**



**October 6-9, 2022  
Black Prong Equestrian Village  
450 SE CR 337  
Bronson, FL 32621**

Your registration includes group lessons with top driving clinicians

Lessons will include opportunities in:  
dressage, cones, hazards, and basic driving skills

Two fun competitions:  
Crazy Cones and a Team Derby

**PLUS**

A fun scavenger hunt

**AND**

Lots of educational and fun classes!

All meals, snacks and drinks during camp

Private lessons can be scheduled with clinicians at your expense.

**Registration is open!**

Call or Email

Linda Evans 352-486-3197

levans0277@aol.com

or

Janet Carswell 912-266-2629

1boy4change@gmail.com

Call Black Prong Equestrian Village to reserve stalls, paddocks and lodging  
352-486-1234



# Equinox Equestrian Center Inaugural HDT

On Saturday, May 7th, Equinox Equestrian Center hosted our inaugural schooling HDT. With 12 competitors, over twice that many volunteers, and the inestimable Bob Giles as our judge, it was a great learning opportunity for everyone!

We began on Friday evening with a competitors' party and course walk. Gary M. Yeager shared a few of the secrets of his mysterious and winding marathon course with everyone. Some of the trails are quite new. I wonder what the deer, armadillos, rabbits and of course, gopher tortoises thought of the ATVs going by on Friday, and the carriages on Saturday.

The weather was mildly warm with a bit of a breeze on Friday and Saturday. Well, ok, a bit more than a bit; the easy up tents which were to have provided shade for obstacle judges almost all blew away. Marianna Yeager almost became a kite tail...

Our resident equine chiropractor, Charles Bailee, has a new side hustle; his Jiffie Dogs and burgers were so popular that he sold out completely by the end of the day! Volunteers were treated to lunch, of course. Bob proclaimed them the best burgers he'd ever eaten.

With classes from Training through Intermediate for VSEs through horses, single and multiple, we also had competitors ranging in age from single digits to 70s. We are especially delighted that four juniors competed. Let's have more of them! Their entries were comped. Let's hear it for the future of the sport! They all had a blast, especially Carolyn Gaedtke's three boys- two competed and one volunteered. That's how it's done, gentlemen! Marianna Yeager kindly treated them to a lesson, later in the week, with her wonderful Advanced horse Bravo. I think they're hooked...



Ethan and Gary Yeager

Most importantly for us, our friendly local farrier and EMT had boring days. Our wonderful vet got to do fitness/condition checks at the end of marathon, and nothing else. That's how we like it!

Now, prizes: Our one Intermediate entry, Lynda Jowers, gets the hero award for forgoing her chance at the marathon in order to help us learn to score it! She also won the most valuable volunteer prize, and with it enough raffle tickets to gain three day passes to Grand Oaks,

*Continued from page 7*

among other things. Thank you, Kacy!

Two entrants completed the Preliminary division, and one of our youth, Ethan Yeager, won it driving his dad's big red Dutch horse Scotch.

And the largest division, Training, was won by another youth driver, Sarah, with her mom Tracy Ferrell, DMV navigating.

And once the dust had begun to settle, we decided it was so much fun that we're going to do it again! Please join us on Saturday, October 15, 2022 for another. great schooling show.



Sarah and Tracy Ferrell

## **CAMP BLACK PRONG UPDATE!!**

**There will be 9 clinicians at CBP this year and eight will be offering private lessons:**

**Heike Bean—offering private lessons**

**Bob Giles—offering private lessons**

**JR Hall—offering private lessons**

**Elizabeth Keathley—offering private lessons**

**Larry Poulin—offering private lessons**

**Muffy Seaton—offering private lessons**

**Charlotte Trentelman—offering private lessons**

**Gary Yeager—offering private lessons**

**Boots Wright**

**Attendees please make sure to get your equine's vaccinations and current negative coggins to the organizers as soon as possible, if you haven't already!**

**Janet Carswell—912-266-2629**

**Linda Evans—352-486-3197**

# PRESERVING OUR RURAL LANDS

by Candy Smith

Over the course of the past year, there has been much angst and speculation over the Florida Department of Transportation's announcement of pursuing four (4) potential corridors to expand the Turnpike northward from Wildwood. Residents in Marion and Levy Counties seemed to be seeing the greatest impact from this pursuit, and those of us living close to Black Prong Equestrian Village have been in the bulls eye of the "preferred" path. Clearly, having a major highway cut through the middle of equestrian developments like Steeplechase Farms or Fox Grove would destroy our way of life and displace many households. From my home alone, I would be severed from any access to the Goethe Forest and Black Prong. Impacts of noise, air pollution and light with a highway less than ¼ mile away would terminate our peaceful life here.

On August 4, 2022, FDOT released a report which initially caused many groups, residents, and others to believe the Northern Turnpike Expansion (NTE) had been stopped and that a celebration was in order. Cautiously optimistic, it was time to deep dive and read the report.

Page 35 summed up the current status:

*"Improvements to I-75 are a critical component to the success of any extension of Florida's Turnpike Mainline. Therefore, this study's evaluation is complete without making a specific recommendation of a corridor . . . this study's recommendation is for FDOT to initiate a regional study of need and include an emphasis on complementing I-75 and other regional transportation improvements within the study area."*

Simply stated, we can take a breather but not let up on our voices being heard. A specific recommendation is not being made today, but further studies remain active. Say **NO** to Toll Road expansion and continue to write to your congressmen.

You can read the full report online at [https://floridasturnpike.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/ACER\\_8.4.22\\_FINAL.pdf](https://floridasturnpike.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/ACER_8.4.22_FINAL.pdf)



# Tickety Boo Tandem Club - Not Just a Name

Last June 2020 I received a call from Dr Wendy Ying DMV regarding a post calling for carriage drivers interested in learning to drive tandem, come to a clinic we were planning at the Tickety Boo Farm. Our trainer, David Saunders, offered to run the clinic as a one-day event, starting with a presentation of basic tandem harness differences, rein handling, demonstration of putting to and then hands on driving our equines tandem. As a seasoned tandem driver, Wendy was pleased to see the initiative and featured the event with an interview on "Horses in the Morning." Despite afternoon rain each of the six brave drivers with minis, ponies & horses successfully drove tandem under David's coaching and supervision. It was a wonderful experience and a great success; each driver having been bitten by the tandem bug. As a result, the Tickety Boo Tandem Club was formed, all agreed to hold regular monthly events to develop our tandem driving skills.

In between our first and second meetings, three drivers entered the Iron Horse HDT at driving tandem, all three successfully completed the event without a single elimination and one, Louise Blankenship, was overall Iron Horse Champion! For the next Club clinic, we struck out together on a 5km trail drive tandem, broke for lunch then David introduced driving cones tandem. We walked the course, then took turns driving the challenging cones course as he offered instruction. The progress was phenomenal with Sandy Hebert shaving 1+20 off her first run. One fledgling member, Louise Blankenship turned out her pony team with a "random" (three in a row) crowd pleaser! Our building block ap-

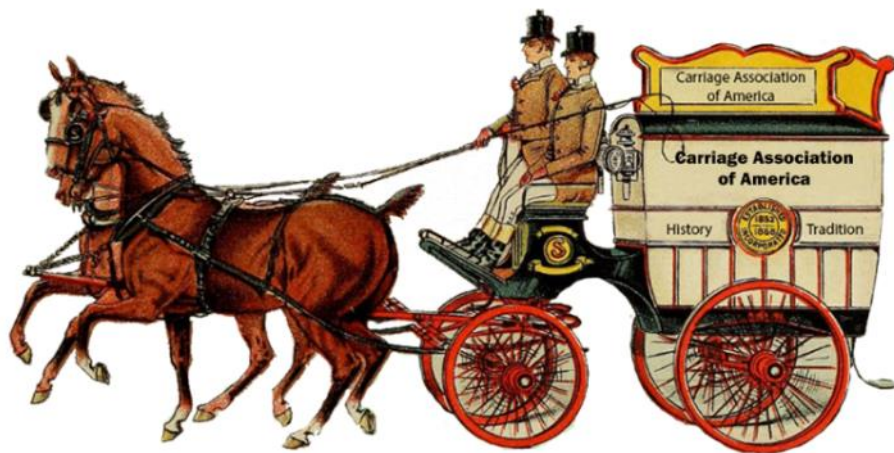


proach was paying off. The December turnout featured a 7 km drive together followed by David giving tandem derby instruction followed by two runs through the Derby course. Again, the improvement, learning curve and faster times was phenomenal. To see each driver building confidence and our turnouts gaining learning their job put huge smiles on the Club's participants.

Driving tandem dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it became popular as well as a practical way to reach hunts during the mid 1800's. The horse in front (leader) arrived at the gathering fresh ready for the hunt and the wheeler, horse hitched to the carriage, carried the hunting party to and from the event. In my opinion, driving equines is by far the hardest and most diverse equestrian discipline out there, however, driving tandem is the most challenging discipline within the sport of driving. If you can successfully drive tandem your singles, pairs and multiples driving skill will improve exponentially. So, if you own two horses or have a friend who drives singles, find an experienced trainer (absolutely required) and give it a go or come join us with the Tickety Boo Tandem Club. Proudly, the Club is both an ADS recognized organization and CAA Chapter Club.

Paul & Glenda Van Sickle,





## The Value of The CAA Driver Proficiency Program

*by Trish Demers*

The Carriage Association of America has a competency-based program to evaluate your knowledge and skills in driving, safety, horse, carriage, and harness care and fit, for many years now. It is based on the British Driving Society's program of levels and units. Although not mandatory it's in your best interest to learn more about our favorite sport. Many drivers in North America have already achieved their Level 1 and Road evaluation certificates and exclusive pins.

It is not a test but an evaluation of the knowledge you have acquired up to this point. The process is a progressive learning curve and the evaluators are supportive and encouraging. *The CAA has a series of Syllabi based on each level. It explains the process and what is required for each level. It is highly encouraged to acquire the syllabi to study and prepare.*

**Level 1** and the road assessment are not for complete beginners, but for whips who are ready to go out on the road in company and challenge their skills. The evaluation consists of the basics of harnessing, choosing and fitting the appropriate cart and harness, basic horse and stable care and feeding and overall horsemanship. You'll be asked to drive a simple test and some cones as well as a simulated road course. You can drive with any style of rein handling and you **do not** have to be a CAA member for Level 1 and Road assessment.

**Level 2** is for people who are ready for the show ring, driving several different horses and carriages with many styles of harness. The units relating to horse and stable care will ask for more comprehensive knowledge of feeding, medication and care. One unit requires you to drive an unknown single, this unit is usually done at an approved center, however accommodations can be made at an appropriate venue. You must be able to drive a dressage type of test from memory using your left hand in the Achenbach or British coachman's style and be a CAA member. There is an optional unit for driving pairs also, which is a prerequisite for Level 3.

**Level 3** evaluates even more of your knowledge of carriage types and harness, training methods and developing a young horse from green to finished. You also must show that you can drive with four reins, either tandem or 4 in hand, in the Achenbach or British coachman's style and you must be a CAA member.

The journey is a long one but you'll find it well worthwhile and the knowledge and comradery you will gain invaluable. Level 2 and 3 are not for everyone but Level 1 and the road assessment should be on every whip's bucket list for safety's sake.

Also, there is a Facebook page dedicated to the Driver Proficiency Program. You must reply to 3 questions (there are NO wrong answers!), to join the group. The evaluators are ready to answer your questions regarding the process and evaluations. Please LIKE us and JOIN us on Facebook.



## FLORIDA WHIPS TO APPLY FOR BLUE RIBBON CLUB STATUS IN JANUARY

Florida Whips members, I am planning to apply for Blue Ribbon Club status for the club in January. If you are an ADS member, send me an email and we will count you in the 75 members needed to meet this goal. [gthomaswork11@gmail.com](mailto:gthomaswork11@gmail.com)

Here is some more information on this designation:

The **Blue Ribbon Club** is a program to honor ADS Member Driving Clubs and to promote membership in the ADS. Clubs must have a minimum of 75% of members\* who are also ADS members to apply for designation as a Blue Ribbon Club. The purpose of this designation is to encourage ADS membership and present Blue Ribbons Clubs to the membership and driving community. Clubs must apply for Blue Ribbon Club designation on an annual basis and are eligible for renewed benefits each year. The benefits of Blue Ribbon Club designation include:

- ⇒ Free **ADS Club Membership** for the following year
- ⇒ Use of the Blue Ribbon Club logo for your club publications and activities
- ⇒ Special coverage featuring your club and activities in The Whip
- ⇒ Blue Ribbon designation in the Region's section of the ADS Website
- ⇒ One copy of the current year ADS Rulebook
- ⇒ Annual Blue Ribbon Club Day, a day of educational seminars on driving, horsemanship, sportsmanship, and animal care. The Blue Ribbon Day will be held via Zoom for all Blue Ribbon Clubs and their members and will also be recorded for Blue Ribbon Clubs to show at club events.

**\*\*At the Membership committee meeting in June, the committee voted on and passed a motion to change the club member qualification to 75 or more qualifying members (joint members of the ADS and the local club) applying for Blue Ribbon club status for large clubs with over 100 members. For small clubs, the 75% still stands.**

# Florida Winter Carriage Driving Festival



Photo by  
Erin Gilmore  
Photography

## 2022 - 2023 Schedule of Events

Stride Dressage Show	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Sept 18, 2022
FW Iron Horse Continuous Drive	Iron Horse Farm,.....Ft. White, FL	Sept 24, 2022
FW Camp Black Prong	Black Prong Eq. Village,.....Bronson, FL	Oct 6-9, 2022
FL Horse Park Training Day	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Oct 10, 2022
FW Equinox Eq. HDT/CT	Equinox Eq. Ctr.,.....LeCrosse, FL	Oct 15, 2022
Stride Dressage Show	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Oct 23, 2022
USEF Ocala Intern. Horse Show	World Eq. Center,.....Ocala, FL	Oct 25-29, 2022
FW Trail Drive, CT & Derby	Jacksonville Eq. Ctr.,.....JAX, FL	Oct 28-30, 2022
FL Horse Park Training Day	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Oct 31, 2022
ADS Tickety Boo CT & Pace	Tickety Boo Farm,.....Melrose, FL	Nov 12, 2022
ADS Black Prong CT & Derby 1	Black Prong Eq. Village,.....Bronson, FL	Nov 16-17, 2022
FW E. Keathley Navigator Clinic	Crane Wood Farm,.....Ocala, FL	Nov 19, 2022
FW Cones Course Practice	Good Earth Farm,.....Loxahatchee, FL	Nov 19, 2022
ADS Tandem Pair & Multi CT	Tickety Boo Farm,.....Melrose, FL	Nov 20, 2022
FW Iron Horse HDT	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Nov 26-27, 2022
FW Elizabeth Keathley Clinic	Caloosa Horse Pk.,.....Palm Beach Co, FL	Dec 3-4, 2022
ADS Grand Oaks HDT	Grand Oaks Resort,.....Weirsdale, FL	Dec 3-4, 2022
ADS BP CT 2 & Derby 2	Black Prong Eq. Village,.....Bronson, FL	Dec 7-8, 2022
FW Holiday Trail Drive	Wellington Envir. Prsve, Wellington, FL	Dec 18, 2022
ADS BP CT 3 & Derby 3	Black Prong Eq. Village,.....Bronson, FL	Dec 28-29, 2022
New Year's Eve Drive	Tickety Boo Farm,.....Melrose, FL	Dec 31, 2022
FW Sara Schmitt Clinic	Good Earth Farm,.....Loxahatchee, FL	Jan 8, 2023
FL Horse Park Training Day	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Jan 9, 2023
ADS Nature Coast CDE & CT 4	Black Prong Eq. Ctr.,.....Bronson, FL	Jan 12-15, 2023
FW Continuous Drive	Steeplechase,.....Morrison, FL	Jan 18, 2023
Stride Dressage Show	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Jan 22, 2023
FL Horse Park Training Day	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Jan 23, 2023
USEF Grand Oaks Classic CDE	Grand Oaks Resort,.....Weirsdale, FL	Jan 26-29, 2023
FW Fun Derby	Caloosa Horse Pk.,.....Palm Beach Co, FL	Jan 28-29, 2023
ADS Derby #4	Black Prong Eq. Ctr.,.....Bronson, FL	Feb 1, 2023
ADS Grand Oaks Classic	Grand Oaks Resort,.....Weirsdale, FL	Feb 3-5, 2023
FW Dressage Clinic	Good Earth Farm,.....Loxahatchee, FL	Feb 6, 2023
ADS Dressage Festival	Black Prong Eq. Village,.....Bronson, FL	Feb 10-12, 2023
FW Continuous Drive	Steeplechase,.....Morrison, FL	Feb 15, 2023
USEF Spring Fling	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Feb 23-26, 2023
FW Lessons w/ Gary Yeager	Caloosa Horse Park,.....Palm Beach Co, FL	Feb 25-26, 2023
Stride Dressage Show	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Feb 26, 2023
USEF Combined Test	Black Prong,.....Bronson, FL	Mar 1, 2023
ADS Driving Derby #5	Black Prong,.....Bronson, FL	Mar 2, 2023
ADS BP Pleasure Show	Black Prong,.....Bronson, FL	Mar 4-5, 2023
USEF Live Oak Intl. CDE	Live Oak Stud,.....Ocala, FL	Mar 15-19, 2023
ADS Black Prong CDE & CT #5	Black Prong,.....Bronson, FL	Mar 23-26, 2023
Stride Dressage Show	Florida Horse Park,.....Ocala, FL	Mar 26, 2023
ADS Driving Derby Finals	Black Prong,.....Bronson, FL	Mar 29, 2023
FW Metta Baxter Clinic	Black Prong,.....Bronson, FL	April 1-2, 2023
FW Scott Monroe Clinic	Iron Horse Farm,.....Ft. White, FL	April 15-16, 2023
The Southern Drive	Grand Oaks Resort,.....Weirsdale, FL	May, 2023



The American Driving Society, Inc.





**IRON HORSE**  
**Continuous Drive**  
**September 24, 2022**

Show starts at 8:30 AM

Training, preliminary and intermediate  
Dressage ADS Test B, marathon then cones  
Marathon will be approximately 2 K with  
2 hazards - grass footing, water hazard

Entry form is on The FL Whips website  
<https://www.flawhips.org/whips-events>

Volunteers will be needed—approximately 16

Contact Lynda Jowers (352)562-6976  
308 SW Spirit Ave.  
Fort White, FL 32038

## Hello Florida Whips members!

We're conducting a research study on the impacts of youth-related horse experiences on adults' leadership skills at the University of Florida in the Agricultural Education and Communication department. We're looking for anyone 18 years old or older who has had significant horse experience in their youth (regular lessons, showing, work, owning a horse, etc.) to participate.

To participate in this study, please complete the following survey which takes approximately 30 minutes:

[https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bkfa5aD0wUnbtrg](https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bkfa5aD0wUnbtrg)

You may also be selected for further participation in an interview discussing your horse experiences and their relationship to leadership competencies which will take approximately two hours. If selected, we will contact you to arrange a time to participate in an interview. As a participant in this stage of the study, you will be audio and possibly video recorded. These recordings will be destroyed upon study completion.

Please let us know if you have any questions.  
Thank you for your participation!

Sincerely,

Caitlin Lunzmann  
Graduate Assistant | Agricultural Education and Communication  
[caitlin.lunzmann@ufl.edu](mailto:caitlin.lunzmann@ufl.edu) | 905-550-6491  
408 Rolfs Hall

Here is the survey link: [https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bkfa5aD0wUnbtrg](https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bkfa5aD0wUnbtrg)

Here's a QR code that will also take participants to the survey:



# POST CLINIC. . . Now What?

*By Candy Smith*

This questioning moment in time happens to a number of drivers that attend clinics to learn something new, improve on a skill set, get more education for their horse, along with a variety of other reasons. However, I want to discuss the hot topic of getting more potential drivers (including Juniors) into our sport and keeping them here.

The recently held Metta Baxter clinic can be chalked up as a resounding success. The attendees I met on the 2nd day were excited, albeit anxious, to gain hands on experience harnessing our many ponies and horses as well as being on a carriage. There was some murmuring “am I safe?”, and from my perspective the answer was always “yes”. I would point out the sound condition of harness, carriage and pony including all of the safety features added to tugs, traces, hold backs and turn back. Training was highlighted as essential and while many attendees may have been qualified as experienced horsemen, the adage “green horse/green driver” was shared so that there was an understanding to approach driving in logical sequences.

There was one attendee that really caught my attention. He, Lou, was respectful and willing to soak up any information that we had. When I asked Lou in the afternoon session to join me in the carriage, I had a chance to learn a little more about him. Lou wanted to drive. He and his wife, a lifelong horsewoman, had purchased a Dales horse that was currently in driving training. Lou was hoping to take his Dales out and pleasure drive when released from initial training.

As we drove Oberon to a quiet area with shade trees, I handed Lou the reins and said “drive”. We talked as we walked (and trotted some) on the Black Prong grounds.

For Lou (and others), this becomes the pivotal point of “NOW WHAT?” The answer is quite simple.

In order for us to be decent stewards of our discipline, we must be willing to give of our own time and resources to help those that are starting out. Turn back the pages of time and reflect on your own experiences. HOW did you get started? Was there a lot of start and stop activity as you wound yourself through the myriad of unique to driving learning curves? Did you start with the best horse or pony, with a proper fitting harness and carriage? Did you KNOW what kind of driving you aspired to do (CDE, Pleasure, Recreation)? *Did you have a mentor?* (If yes, you were lucky!)

After the nominal 15 minutes of driving was up, I offered to Lou to come visit my farm and drive Oberon to gain needed experience while his own horse was getting an education.

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Simply put, I offered my mentorship, pony, facilities and time so that Lou's start in the discipline of driving could be systematic, safe, fun and rewarding. The goal was for Lou to learn in parallel to his Dales horse's education so that on a future date they would be ready for each other.

Lou not only accepted my invitation, he has been consistently coming to the farm to drive Oberon at least 3 times each week. Each drive he gets better at communicating with Oberon, and I happily watch Lou and my pony practice W/T/C transitions, bending with proper use of outside rein, improvements in whip handling and generally having great fun.

It's really a win-win. I've made new friends. My pony is getting some needed exercise. Lou is becoming a confident driver, and has handily taken over the proper harnessing and putting to of carriage. I am giving back to the sport that I've thoroughly loved for the past 25 years.

Pay it forward. Volunteer and reach out to those that are in the beginner's box. Be a MENTOR. Most of all, don't be shy about sharing your resources with our "newbies".

**P.S. From Lou Traiforos:**

*"I certainly agree that what's next was where I was at after the clinic. Super excited, but had no idea how to proceed. Having you reach out and offer your mentorship, your pony and farm to me was more than I could have ever expected. Honestly, if you hadn't, I'm not sure I would still have that enthusiasm right now. There is a brief window of excitement that wanes quickly if there isn't a way to keep it going. Having a mentor who cares and pays it forward makes all the difference. . . and, I hope the veteran drivers follow your lead."*

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2023

**January 18, 2023**  
**February 15, 2023**  
**For more information,**  
**text to: 352-433-9665**

The Steeplechase Farms Continuous Drive(s) return in 2023! There will be advance registration and

announcement for participant time of go. There will be competitor packets. There will be awards.

Volunteers are very welcome. Details coming soon! Questions? Contact Candy Smith.



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Elizabeth Keathly is an FEI driver and trainer of ponies and horses. Having competed with singles and multiples in all levels of driving competitions, Elizabeth brings here experience and knowledge to each lessons she gives. Her style is on the side of compassion and safety for both horse and driver, as well as being able to get the most out of you and your pony for pleasure or competition.



*Elizabeth competing Sigrid Edward's "Wiz" at the Grand Oaks(left) and training young pony mare "Dori" owned by Anne Raisner. (right)*

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