



THE WORLD PONY DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

GREVEN, GERMANY • AUGUST 13-16



ALL THINGS EQUESTRIAN
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Photo Credit: Louisa Emerick

SARA SCHMITT

Born: March 2, 1966

Hometown: Glenn Gardner, NJ

BATMAN

— **11-year-old Morgan-Welsh gelding; owned by Julia Greifeld**

A dressage trainer by profession, Sara Schmitt describes driving as a hobby. This will be Schmitt's third World Championship; she competed for the United States in 2003 and 2005. In 2005 she was National Singles Pony Champion with "High Country Doc" and in 2007 with "Batman". In 2008 with Batman she was sixth at the Live Oak CAI and third at the Laurels at Landhope CAI. Batman has continued to excel in 2009, taking home a second at Live Oak and top honors at Southern Pines.

Schmitt has been involved in competing horses since she was nine-years-old and is a certified United States Equestrian Federation "S" judge. As a dressage rider, she earned many Regional and National Championships. She has received Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals from the United States Dressage Federation.

Schmitt's navigator is Keith Haskell; the two are currently in the process of building their own farm in Pittstown, NJ.



SUZANNE STAFFORD

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Born: January 22, 1977

Hometown: Glenn Gardner, NJ

COURAGE TO LEAD

— **12-year-old Morgan mare;
owned by Beverly Leshner**

An assistant trainer and instructor by profession, Suzy Stafford began her equestrian career in 1991 at age 14. In 1992 she was the Pony Club Show Jumping National Winner, and competed in the 1993 USPC Nationals in Eventing.

During the 2004 competition year, Stafford and her long-time partner Courage to Lead (Katy), went undefeated and were named the 2004 National Single Pony Champions. In 2005 Stafford became the youngest and the first American driver to win an individual Gold Medal in international competition, driving Sybil Humphry's Welsh Cob Cefnoakpark Bouncer to first place at the World Pony Driving Championship in England.

In 2007 Stafford was again chosen to represent the U.S. in the World Single Pony Championships held in Dorthelyst, Denmark. Stafford helped the U.S. team bring home a Bronze medal with Bouncer. Also in 2007, Stafford was awarded the coveted North American FEI Challenge Award with the help of a Morgan pony named "Ripley".

Yet again in 2008 Stafford won the National Single Pony Championship with Katy; the pair took home a blue ribbon at the Laurels at Landhope as well. In 2009, Stafford and Katy have been undefeated.

Before competing, Stafford can usually be found braiding the pony herself, an activity that she says calms her.

She says the most influential people in her equestrian career are her mother and her mentor, Lisa Singer.



Photo Credit: Darlene Wohlfart

MIRANDA CADWELL

Born: December 17, 1968

Hometown: Southern Pines, NC

KABAM

— **6-year-old German Pony gelding; owned by Miranda Cadwell**

TOBY

— **19-year-old Welsh B gelding; owned by; owned by Miranda Cadwell**

RAMBO

— **12-year-old German Pony gelding; owned by; owned by Miranda Cadwell**

DUSTY

— **14-year-old German Pony gelding; owned by Boots Wright**

Miranda Cadwell will be looking to add another Gold Medal to her collection at this Pony World Driving Championships; having earned her first Gold at the 2007 World Pony Pairs Driving Championships. That same year she led the U.S. pony drivers to their first team medal, a Bronze. Leading up to her Gold medal victory she and her team of ponies won every national and international outing they competed in including: Black Prong, Sunshine State CAI, Live Oak CAI, Sandringham, UK, and Saumur CAI, France.

In 2008 with her 6-year-old German Pony, Kabam, Cadwell won the single pony division at Live Oak, and was second at the Laurels at Landhope. With her pairs she took home third at Southern Pines and top honors at Katydid. 2009 has had her and her pairs seeing red; they have placed second in all their outing including the Sunshine State CAI, Live Oak CAI and at Southern Pines.

Cadwell was honored in 2008 with the United States Equestrian Team Foundation's Whitney Stone Cup, annually awarded to an active competitor who exhibits consistent excellence in international competition and high standards of sportsmanlike conduct while serving as an ambassador for the U.S. and equestrian sport.

Having coached the USA Disabled Drivers team since 1998, Cadwell is an active contributor to the driving community. In addition to competing she is a sought after coach and clinician.



TRACEY MORGAN

TRACEY MORGAN

Born: July 15, 1956

Hometown: Bethesda, MD

SINGLETREE TABITHA TWITCHIT

— 12-year-old Dartmoor mare; owned
by Tracey Morgan

FARNLEY COQUETTE

— 11-year-old Dartmoor mare; owned
by Tracey Morgan

LIZWELL GAMBLING QUEEN

— 13-year-old Dartmoor mare; owned
by Tracey Morgan

GAYLEN ROMEO

— 15-year-old Dartmoor gelding;
owned by Tracey Morgan

Although she has been riding since the age of 14, Tracey Morgan's driving career took off just more than 15 years ago. In the last five years Morgan has placed in the top three in every major national competition she's entered. In 2002 and 2003 she took a pair of firsts at the USEF Festival of Champions, she also earned the USEF National Pony Pair Champion award at the Laurels at Landhope in West Grove, PA, in 2002.

In 2006 alone, Morgan and her ponies were champions at the Laurels at Landhope, the Gladstone CAI-B, and Fair Hill International. 2007 saw a repeat win at the Gladstone CAI-B, and a second place finish at Live Oak.

Morgan has been nothing short of spectacular in 2008 and 2009; her accomplishments include wins at the 2008 Laurels at Landhope, and the CAI-B Gladstone. This spring she was champion at the Sunshine State and Live Oak combined driving events.

Morgan is also a dressage competitor and has received Silver and Bronze Medals from the United States Dressage Federation.

Morgan says she's involved in the sport because she loves horses and she loves being outdoors. She looks up to Reiner Klimke for his "ability to bring out the best in his horses" and for sharing his knowledge.

(PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE)



LAURIE ASTEGIANO

LAURIE ASTEGIANO

Born: August 1, 1958

Hometown: Roussac, France

PRIMODU PONT BLANC

— 6-year-old Pony gelding; owned by
Laurie Astegiano

LIEZELHOF DAVE

— 16-year-old Welsh C gelding; owned
by Laurie Astegiano

TEMPLEDRUID KRONOS

— 17-year-old Welsh C stallion; owned
by Laurie Astegiano

TEMPLEDRUID ST. JERNEBORG

— 12-year-old Welsh C gelding; owned
by Laurie Astegiano

TEMPLEROOD MONSOON

— 16-year-old Welsh C gelding; owned
by Laurie Astegiano

Laurie Astegiano is originally from California, lives in Roussac, France and competes primarily in Europe. Though she holds dual citizenship, she represents the U.S. in international competition. She was part of the Bronze medal winning U.S. team at her first World Pony Driving Championships in 2007.

Astegiano has had a very busy 2009 season competing all over Europe. With her team of Welsh ponies she was took home wins at the Conty CAI-A (France), the Companhia das Lezirias CAIP-B (Portugal), and at the Vejer da la Frontera CAIP-B (Spain). Astegiano was also second in the Le Pin au Haras CAIP-B (France), and fifth in the Saumur CAIP-B (France).



ALLISON (LISA) STROUD

Photo Credit: Robert Kurland

ALLISON (LISA) STROUD

Born: June 7, 1953

Hometown: West Grove, PA

BENJAMIN

— 16-year-old Connemara Pony gelding; owned by Lisa Stroud

KILKEKERIN EDWARD

— 12-year-old Connemara Pony gelding; owned by Lisa Stroud

CONG DONAL

— 13-year-old Connemara Pony gelding; owned by Lisa Stroud

MOSBY

— 12-year-old Cross Bred gelding; owned by Lisa Stroud

SIR PATRICK

— 10-year-old Connemara Pony gelding; owned by Lisa Stroud

WITH FLAIR

— 10-year-old Welsh gelding; owned by Lisa Stroud

Four years ago Allison Stroud and her grey Connemara Ponies stormed onto the Four-in-Hand scene and have been racking up wins ever since. This will be Stroud's fourth time represented the U.S. at the World Championships; she was part of the 2003 team that finished sixth in Austria, the 2005 team that placed fifth in Great Britain, and the 2007 Bronze Medal winning team in Poland.

Stroud, who has won multiple National Pony Driving Championships, defended that title in 2008 when she led through all three phases at the National Championships held at the Laurels at Landhope. Earlier that year Stroud won at the Live Oak CAI and was second at the Garden State CAI. This spring Stroud and her ponies once again won at Live Oak and put in another impressive winning effort at Southern Pines.

Stroud and husband Dixon host the Laurels at Landhope every year; it is the largest combined driving event in the Mid-Atlantic.

Chester Weber has consistently ranked as a top U. S. driver and listed among the Top 10 internationally. His success in combined driving started early. At 18 years old, he was the youngest driver to be named to the United States Equestrian Team (USET) and to qualify for the World Pairs Driving Championship.

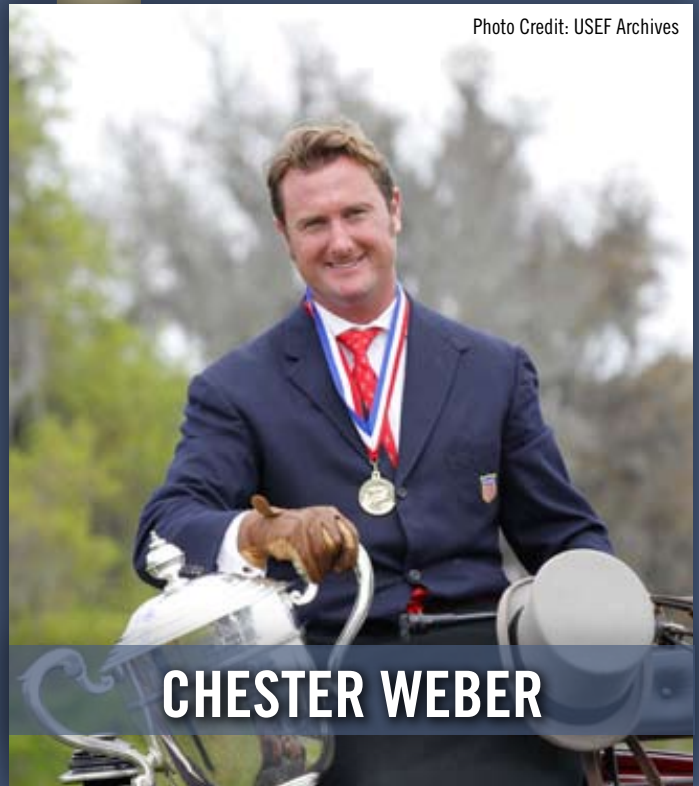
By 1999 Weber had won 12 consecutive Advanced combined driving events and then transitioned to Four-in-Hand driving, where he has not only made a name for himself internationally, but he has also amassed an unprecedented streak of six national championships in a row.

Weber was the U.S. Four-In-Hand National Champion in March 2008 at the Live Oak CAI in Ocala, FL. With this sixth national title under his belt, Weber headed to Europe where he enjoyed a very successful summer. In July, Weber won the Time Shuttle prize at the prestigious CHIO Aachen posting a score of 36.48. They finished Aachen winning third place overall in the Four-In-Hand Combined Driving competition, less than a point behind the second place finisher. The culmination of his 2008 European tour was at the Four-in-Hand World Driving Championships held in Beesd, The Netherlands, where he took the Silver Medal.

Weber has amassed many impressive honors on the international circuit. In 2002, he helped the U.S. Driving Team earn a Silver Medal at the FEI World Equestrian Games and placed fifth individually in the renowned competition held in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. The next year he claimed his first, of now six consecutive, USEF Four-In-Hand National Championship titles.

In July 2004, Weber became the first American to win the prestigious German Fahrderby held at CAI-A Riesenbeck. In 2005, Weber decided not to compete overseas. In the United States, he recorded several wins including his third consecutive national title. He won each of the competitions he entered, which included 3 CAI and 2 CDE competitions. Weber was again selected to represent the United States at the FEI World Equestrian Games in 2006 where the team took eighth place. Again in 2007, Weber made the choice to only compete his horses in the United States. Again, he won every competition he entered that year, including another national combined driving championship.

In addition to his rigorous competition schedule, Weber actively promotes the sport of combined driving. He serves at the highest levels of the sport in the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). He is currently on the Board of Directors, the High Performance Driving Committee, the National Driving Committee, the Safety Committee and he is also Chairman of the Active Athletes Committee



CHESTER WEBER

CHESTER WEBER

Born: June 3, 1975

Hometown: Ocala, FL

Chef d'Equipe



ELIZABETH STALLER

ELIZABETH STALLER

Born: November 7, 1966

Hometown: Bedminster, NJ

Team Leader

Elizabeth “Lizzy” Staller has been involved in equestrian sports since the age of 10 when she began riding with Sally Graburn. Although her chosen sport was eventing all of Sally’s students were taught to drive a pony. After completing school, Lizzy rode and trained with noted Canadian eventer, Lorraine Laframboise.

An equine radiology and endoscopy technician, Lizzy worked at the University of Pennsylvania’s Large Animal School of Veterinary Medicine New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, PA. After moving to New Jersey in 1992, Lizzy spent several years with well known Four-in-Hand driver James Fairclough and had a formal introduction to driving. She was taken with the sport and helped Jim with his team, grooming horses, assisting at vet checks, and riding on the carriage. She went to many combined driving events in the U.S. with the Fairclough team, and in 1996 assisted him at the world championships in Waregem, Belgium.

Lizzy worked at the USET Foundation in 2004, fundraising for the Olympics in Greece. In the spring of 2009 she joined the USEF as the Director of High Performance Driving Disciplines.

With her husband, Bill Denney, Lizzy keeps a home in Philadelphia as well as in Bedminster, NJ. Lizzy and Bill have three children between them, Andrew (16), Will (13) and Sophia (11).