

By John Manzi

To say that Bruce Aldrich, Jr. is having a banner year at Monticello Raceway would be a gross understatement. Not only is his stable the leading money winning one and his wife April, who works hand-and-hand with Bruce, the track's leading trainer but add to this the fact that Aldrich's 243 driving victories places him atop the local leaderboard, nearly 100 wins ahead of runner-up Zeke Parker.



Yesterday, July 28, Aldrich put another feather in his cap when he guided Mystical Heiress to 1:58:4 trotting victory which established a new track record for 4-year-old trotting mares and erased the former standard set of 1:59:2 set by Ms Striking and Zeke Parker during 2002.

Despite Mystical Heiress' seven wins this year the betting crowd jumped on Windsun Pride (even money) and allowed the Lime A Prayer mare to get away at odds of 6-1. Undaunted by the bettors' choice Aldrich quickly sent his trotter to the lead from post five and he kept the pedal to the metal the entire way. Unchallenged Mystical Heiress trotted through frictions of :28:4, :58:4, 1:28:3 and then finished 1-1/2 lengths ahead of Valcyon Days who had Zeke Parker at the controls.

"She was exceptionally good today and I just let her ramble and I really had no idea about a track record," Aldrich said about Mystical Heiress's victory. "Though she hadn't won a race since early June she has been good to us this year earning over \$38,500 so far."

Aldrich, who was the driver of the decade here at the Mighty M winning the most races from 2000 through 2009 is en route to his second driving title this season.

For Aldrich, who wins races in bunches it was another hat trick. Besides his triumph with Mystical Heiress, Aldrich also scored with Princess Q T Pie in 2:01:1 and also with Night Mystery in 1:58:1.

Photo: [Geri Schwarz](#)