



Brass Oak Driving Society

March 2024

BODS Fun Day – March 9

By Lil Clary

What a perfect day! Sunny and bright and just right for doing an obstacle course, cones, and a bean bag toss.

Twenty-one members and guests attended the Fun Day at Ann McClure’s place. Kelly Moore designed the events to provide a challenge and lot of laughs. According to Ann, Kelly was responsible, start to finish. She thought up the concept and volunteered to set up and coordinate.



As always, a great crew of volunteers turned out on Friday to do set up and Saturday to do the finishing touches and ‘judging.’ Thank you to Ann, Jackie, Kelly, Liz, Disa, Lucia, Diane, James, and Jennifer. Also, much appreciation to Liz and Lil who brought munchies.

This was my first experience with assisting at an obstacle course. Kelly went over the process and explained the obstacles to Jackie and to me. Jackie was good to go after the first explanation. I wasn’t so quick to catch on as I couldn’t visualize the route. Turns out that,

other than the entry serpentine and exit, there was NO route. Gambler’s choice was the order of the day. Participants had to do the serpentine, a figure 8, and a ‘bridge’ and then maneuver to pick up a stuffed toy and knock a tennis ball off a cone.



Kelly was trying out a course she intends to repeat at Bishop Mule Days. There were some pretty sneaky aspects in terms of what a competitor would expect to do; Kelly turned the logical maneuver into something unexpected. (Good luck to Mule Days contestants on Kelly’s course!)



Since I was focusing on the obstacles, I didn’t see much of the bean bag toss, but there were sure a lot of laughs coming from that section of the arena. I’m guessing that driving and throwing a bean bag into a bucket required coordination that most of us don’t have.

Speaking of skills, one of the great aspects of an event like this is that it exhibits the incredible experience of BODS members and their willingness to help everyone. I enjoyed hearing advice to those doing the cones.



Photos CW from upper right: Scott; Diane and Lucia; Ann; Kelly and Diane K.; Nikki

I'm forwarding photos of the recent event at Ann's on January 20th when the Edna Valley 4-H Club attended to see what carriage driving is all about. Diane demonstrated driving and Disa had several 4-H members ground drive her pony. Details are shown on the BODS Facebook page also.

Gloria



See the video:

https://youtu.be/7aViTZrGqbY?si=4QsB_dUBDcR1uVIO

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Easter Egg-Spectacular In-Hand Obstacles



Saturday, April 13th, 2024

12:00pm – 4:00pm

6190 Burgandy Lane, Paso Robles

Bring one or bring them all for a fun filled afternoon of In-Hand Obstacles with your favorite equine or equines of all sizes and shapes.

What is "In-Hand" you ask: Leading your equine by lead rope or long lines through obstacles and jumps.

No carts this time.

Members and non-members are welcome so bring a friend and bring your lunch. There will be trot-overs, back-throughs, cones, water hazard, bridges, teeter-totter, side passing, jumps, gates, the dreaded tarp, and lots more. What better way to improve your driving skills and your equine's, than with a little team building In-Hand skills.

Costs for participating person no matter the # of equine or times through

\$5 / Member

\$10 / Non-Member

RSVP and/or More Info Contact

Nikki Ryan

Snryan3@sbcglobal.net

Choose Your FUN Test

May 11, 2024, Saturday

Brass Oak Driving Society

Judge: Diane Kastama

Location: Ann McClure Ranch, Arroyo Grande, CA

A fun opportunity to drive one or more judged tests, including driven dressage and pleasure driving tests. All sizes of equines and levels of drivers are encouraged to participate. Our judge will offer helpful suggestions for improvement.

Tests will be announced at least 2 weeks before the event. Participants may drive their chosen test a second time. A fun prize will be awarded to the most improved participant.

Lunch will be provided (vegetarian chili/stew, bread, salad). A Carriage Driving Trivia competition, with prizes, will follow lunch.

Club members and guests are invited to participate in additional Open Driving after lunch and trivia. Helmets are required for drivers and passengers.

Fee: Free for club members. \$20 for non-members (includes lunch).

Contact Lori Weiss for more info

805-252-0297

LSWengineer@yahoo.com

Dublin Mule Goes to Cal Poly

By Lil Clary

What do you do when you need to find a home for your 24-year-old mule?

All of us have had to make difficult decisions about our critters. My husband and I are no longer able to ride and drive. We've had mules for 38 years and have considered them a huge part of our lives. Yes, we've had to put some down. Every equine owner has to decide what is best when age and infirmity affect our critters.

In our case, our small herd of 5 dwindled to 3 and then, this past year, to just one, Dublin. He's very gregarious and, left on his own in our pasture, he was lonely.

As long-time mule owners, we know that a mule's useful life span can hit the late 30s. Our Dublin is in the prime of his life at 24. Unfortunately, the minute you tell someone the animal is 24, the critter is 'too old.' Complicating our search: reluctance to send Dublin off to a home/family/situation where he wouldn't get good care and an ample supply of carrots.

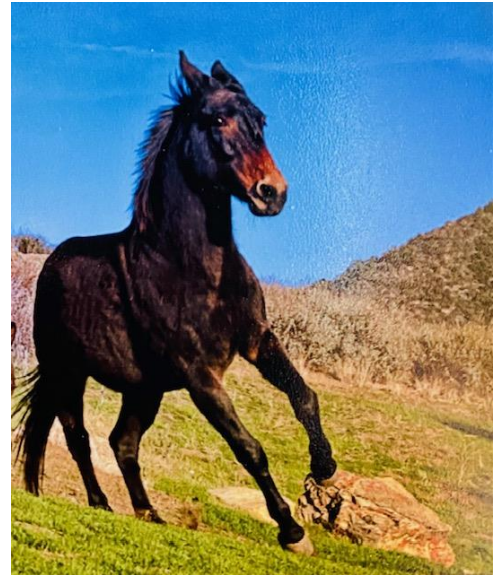
I consulted a number of BODS friends about finding a place for Dublin. I also contacted Lou Moore Jacobsen in Atascadero. Lou sold Dublin to us 20 years ago, having bred her quarter horse mare to the jack Jimmy Joe. We packed Dublin for several years and then returned him to Lou for training as a trail mule. Lou's husband Rick helped us get Dublin ready to use for driving. (That was an exciting period with lots of galloping and dust in the arena!)

Lou has been working in the equine program at Cal Poly since 2016. She has variously coached dressage and the rodeo team. She also teaches in the beginning equestrian program where she introduces novices to riding.

She recommended that we consider donating Dublin to that program. We hauled him up to Cal Poly where he had a vet check and was evaluated for the beginner program. He passed both reviews and has officially been accepted.

What a life he'll have! A couple of hours of work as he shows novices how to groom, saddle and bridle and then walk and trot. He's an attention hound as Liz and Jackie and Ann know. He will get lots of love and all the carrots he can beg. (He's good at that.)

My joke is that Dublin is now ASSociate faculty at one of the finest universities in California.



Members' Marketplace

For Sale:

4-Wheel Marathon Cart –
The 5th Wheel has new
Teflon inserts.

Two horse-sized harnesses:
one Zilco, black with stainless
and
one Smuckers russet.

Open to offers.

Call to discuss price.

Contact Barbara Meek at 805-369-9601



Cart for Sale \$450

Amish made,
purchased from Morgan Carriage Works.

Call Julie
805-929-2134



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For Sale

Pacific Carriage Company "Dartmoor" marathon carriage. Well used but well maintained and ready to roll. Carriage has a second set of shafts to fit a pony, but the wheels for that size are missing. Price includes 3 forty-pound weights and a side-facing navigator's seat. \$2800



Also available 2 sets of leather harness (they fit my 14-hand mule).

One will easily adjust for a larger critter; it is very worn but still useable. \$200.

The other is in very good condition with some scuffs that could be minimized with leather dye. \$450

Located near Santa Maria in northern Santa Barbara County.

Email to mzlil2988@gmail.com or phone 805 937 3811 Lil Clary, member Brass Oak Driving Society

Horse and Pony Carriages for Sale

Ann McClure 805-458-0151

annmcclure366@gmail.com



Easy Entry Kingston C Spring Pony/Cob size cart w/ 27" Solid Runner tires

Built in 2023

Excellent for drivers with leg length greater than a 28-inch inseam

\$1000

Natural Wood Meadowbrook

Very comfortable with **Flex shafts**

48-inch wheels

Has been driven with equines from 14 hands to 16 ½ hands

\$600



Newsletter Advertising –

Advertising of horse/driving related items/services is free for BODS members.

Non-members may advertise in one month's issue for free.

Contact Kathy or Gloria for more information or to run an ad.

About Brass Oak Driving Society

The Brass Oak Driving Society exists to encourage, educate and inspire its members in the world of carriage driving. We recognize that every member has different goals, and we are committed to providing opportunities for every member to participate, learn and grow in a safe, friendly and fun way.



Brass Oak Driving Society Membership Form

Yes, I/we want to join the Brass Oak Driving Society. Memberships are for one year beginning January 1st and ending December 31st. New subscriptions or renewals paid after November 1st will apply to the following year. No refunds on membership. Make check payable to BRASS OAK DRIVING SOCIETY.

Please mail to:

Gloria Walter

6268 Hog Canyon Rd.

San Miguel, CA 93451

\$35 membership with newsletter via email

\$50 membership with newsletter via USPS

NAME(S):

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

Email:

TELEPHONE(S):

Check here if you do NOT wish to be included on the club roster. This roster is distributed to club members only.

BODS Newsletter Advertising Rates

CLASSIFIEDS (3 ISSUES): *No charge for members. \$5 for non-members with a 25 word maximum.*

BUSINESS ADS (6 ISSUES): *No charge for members. Non-members: \$25 business card ad
\$50 quarter page ad
\$75 half page ad*

Driving events around the region: *Contact venues for current information.*

April 13 BODS Easter In-Hand Obstacles See flyer on Page 3
Paso Robles. Contact Nikki Ryan snryan3@sbcglobal.net

April 27 & 28 Clay Station Horse Park HDTs
claystationhorsepark.com

May 11 BODS Choose your Test
Arroyo Grande. See flyer on Page 4

June 29-30 Sweetheart ADT
Galway Downs Equestrian Center, Temecula.
www.whipsnappers.com



Gina Miner is our Pacific Region ADS representative.
Gina can be reached at vwminer@me.com

**Next Board Meeting:
Tuesday, April 16th
10-11am at Vineyard Team
5915 El Camino Real, Atascadero
All are welcome! RSVP brass2drive@gmail.com**



Brass Oak Driving Society has a Facebook Page! Please like our Page if you are a Facebook person. If you aren't a Facebook person, you can still view the page by going to www.facebook.com/brassoakdriving/. It is a work in progress but the idea of it is to be one more place to reach current and prospective members. Content will include club event announcements, other driving events in the state, and a place for club members to post photos of their latest horse escapades. There is also a link to the clubs website so that prospective members can find out more information about the club.