



Brass Oak Driving Society

March 2019

'Form vs. Function and the part Conformation Plays'

Clinic: Saturday, March 16th, presented by Dr. Stephanie Szabo at Linda Fairbanks' Overlook Driving Center from 10:00 - 12:00.

There is no charge; everyone is welcome; bring your own lunch. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day and in memory of Pat Johnson, Stephanie will be brewing some 'good' Irish coffee for us to enjoy.

After the clinic, we will have our regular monthly meeting

2019 Dues are due. Please see info on page 8.

Check out the website for calendar updates and current news at:

www.brassoakdriving.com

A note from Lilla ~

The rain keeps coming, and coming, and coming. It has made getting Jacopo worked difficult but we have had a few beautiful days cruising Parkfield's "Main Street". On one of those days I hooked him to my two seater and took my parents for a ride. Im not sure if it was his lack of getting out, the nice day, or the green grass, but he was feeling pretty good; I really had to pay attention to what he might be looking at down the road. We had a great drive and I enjoyed sharing it with my family. That is part of what makes driving so fun; being able to have one horse but to share with others.

Our "Try it to see if you like it" day has been rained out twice now, but there has been a great response of people interested in giving driving a try. It will be rescheduled for later in the season when it looks like the rain maybe letting up.

There will even be more interest (for a "try it" day) after the SLO Horse Expo (March 12) where BODS will be having a booth. Please come out to experience the Expo and stop and help at the booth for a while.

Diane Kastama (along with the United States Driving for Disabled and the Triumph Foundation) will be introducing people, with spinal cord injuries, to carriage driving on March 23 and 24 down in Moorpark. Contact her if you would like to volunteer for one, or both days. Duties can include heading horses while being hitched and unhitched (horses are unhitched to transfer drivers from their chair to the carriage), hitching the horse, assisting in transfer, riding on the carriage with the driver, etc.

I would like to say a "shout out" to Nikki Hoppe-Ryan for her reaching out to her fellow drivers that are apart of "Piece of Me Miniatures" with a great Facebook post encouraging her friends to join BODS. As Bryce and Shawn prepare for their move to Texas, they will be leaving a large and dedicated mini group without a local "outlet" for getting out and drive those VSEs in a group setting. My hope is that many will join Brass Oak and continue to plan events and try new things.

With spring just around the corner, it seems as though our club will be growing like the wildflowers that are sure to follow all the rain.

2019 Officers

President

Lilla Hewitt
805-463-2342
lillathomason@gmail.com

Vice President

Judith Baron
805-466-7787
Championspirit@aol.com

Treasurer

Linda Fairbanks
805-237-8476
lkfairbanks@gmail.com

Secretary/Membership

Gloria Walter
805-467-9204
elvis1@wildblue.net

Newsletter

Kathy LaChaine
805-703-0743
klachaine@charter.net

Directors at Large

Jackie Pamplona
805-481-8154
jpamplona@earthlink.net

Kay Weeks

408-612-6325
paintedgypsy ranch@msn.com

Stephanie Szabo

805-460-0242
chiroptdc@aol.com

Editor's note: I'm always on the lookout for interesting and unusual traditions, especially where horses and horse keeping are concerned. This month, I came across this example of a "dorsal" hitch, and asked Linda Fairbanks to give some commentary on this unusual turnout. If you have anything to add to the discussion, or if you have another interesting turnout or piece of equipment you've come across, send it to me to share next month!

Enjoy ~ Kathy



SOME THOUGHTS ON THE DORSAL HITCH

Methods of attaching horses to carriages began to be developed with the war chariot. Pretty quickly, the bad ideas proved themselves to be bad and the truly necessary parts became evident. Ropes with knots gave way to leather straps on the horse's body and the basic form of horse harness then was established and has not changed substantially since. The list of necessary parts generally includes a crupper and traces and a collar of some sort as well as a bridle and reins, but in modern times there are people

who have gone into competition without some of those parts. Always there is a reason centered around the comfort or efficiency of the horse. The horse with the injured tail head can do without a crupper. Shafts that are attached to the saddle can negate the use of a collar and traces. Tug stops can make breeching unnecessary. In all of these cases, the issue must be thought out by an experienced and wise driver and the change tried out in a safe(er) place and with what precautions can be taken put into place, such as a helper or two who will react well in case of problems.

I am assuming the dorsal hitch must be another step along the road of unencumbering the horse to use his body freely. But remember that with a traditional harness, we train for and expect the horse to use his body for braking as well as for acceleration. With a dorsal hitch the braking consists of the horse slowing, thus transferring the momentum onto the attachment of cart to harness on the top of his back. Note that the harness saddle is extra wide and well padded in our sample picture. So the horse gets a signal, either verbal or through the reins, to slow or stop. He can accept that signal and obey, taking the sensation (either downward onto his back or upward onto his belly, depending on the terrain and the balance of the vehicle at that moment) or he can ignore it, whereupon most drivers would pull on the reins, adding that sensation to and increasing the pressure there in the first place. Now, again, the horse can choose to obey or to ignore, etc., etc.. This is an argument for good and complete training in the first place, not an argument for any harnessing style.

Because there are no shafts to a dorsal hitch, the horse is also free to turn left or right without the vehicle following him (within the mechanical limit of the dorsal fitting). This is either a jackknife of the turnout or the horse turning completely back to face the driver and possibly continuing on to wind the reins around his neck. In the case of the jackknife, the horse would feel the restriction to his spin and either stop or continue to push. If he stops, say thank you. If he continues to push, something will break or the horse will rear or fall down, but probably both. If something breaks or the horse falls down, the hitch bar would suddenly drop to the ground and the driver would likely be thrown to the ground. Therefore, if planning to use a dorsal hitch, it would be wise to do some extra 'whoa' training and have a helper onboard with you (if you can find a willing, yet competent person).

So, can harness continue to evolve after being relatively 'stagnant' for 3,000 years? Perhaps so if horses' flight response and their training evolves too. If you consider yourself on the cutting edge of this evolution and your horse exceptional among equines and your training obviously superior to the average, you are free to explore any innovation you choose or invent. If you plan to use a dorsal hitch in competition, plan on having the TD and Judge give you a long and careful look, at least the first year. Perhaps your horse's newfound freedom will finally allow his inner star to shine.

Schooling Driving Combined Test

April 13, 2019

Sponsored by: Brass Oak Driving Society

Judge: Deb Hiron

FEI rider and "L" judge with distinction

Come join the fun of a Combined Test Dressage and cones. Pick your level, Intro level allows you to have a reader on your carriage with you. Do more than one test if you want. Dressage Tests available on www.americandrivingsociety.org. School the cones a second time. This is a fun event to start the year and introduce people to the sport. Competitor Briefing at 9:00am. We welcome spectators and volunteers. Any type of safe cart or carriage allowed all divisions.

Location: 235 Cimmaron Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
 Time: Starts: 9:00am
 Divisions: Intro ,Training , Preliminary , Intermediate , Adv.
 Classes: Horses, Ponies & VSE's in Single, Pair and Multiple
 CT: ADS Combined Test rules will apply, exception is Intro Division allows outside assistance. Dressage or Marathon attire is appropriate.
Dressage – Intro Training Test 1, Training Training Test 3, Preliminary Test 2, Intermediate Test 7, FEI 3* B HP1
Cones -- 10 to 15 pairs (clearances per ADS Rules)
 Registration: Opens: Now Closes: April 12,2019
 Food: Bring own lunch.
 Stabling: Corrals available first come first served. Specify on entry
 Secretary: Diane Kastama - dkastama@verizon.net 805-458-2428
 620 Matilija Lane
 Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

NO DOGS.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (D) _____ (E) _____
 E-Mail: _____ Brass Oak member [] Yes [] No

Carriage Width: _____

CT Driving: [] Single [] Pair [] Multiple **Division:** [] Intro [] Training [] Prelim
 [] Intermediate [] Adv. Test _____
Horse / Pony / VSE: [] Mare [] Gelding [] Stallion
(Circle one) (Please note number of animals)

Special Requirements or Needs: _____

CT	Saturday morning	# _____	x	\$20	= _____
Grounds Fee	applies to EACH animal	# _____	x	\$5	= _____
Stabling	pipe panel	# _____	x	\$0	
TOTAL					_____

Directions: 101 to Thompson Rd/ Los Berros rd. Go East, First left between concrete block Pillars, across from Windmill Farms, stay to left at intersections and follow 235 signs, at bottom of hill go right.

Make Check/M.O. payable to: Brass Oak Driving Society. Mail form and payment to Secretary

For Sale:



Breeders of Gypsy Vanner Horses

www.paintedgypsyranh@msn.com

(408) 612-6325 or (408) 612-6324

Joey is a black and white Gypsy Vanner colt born on August 6, 2017. He is expected to reach 14hh. He is by Kaloo Seriba.

Contact Kay or Larry Weeks @ 408-612-6325



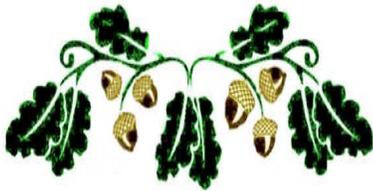
Meadowbrook Cart for sale - Cob or small horse size. Excellent condition.

Asking \$1,000 obo.

Call Martha Wilson at: 805-239-0438.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS – BODS – 2019



(Needed: organizers and co-organizers at events).



Mar. 12 — Horse Expo, Madonna Expo Center, BODS will have a table.

**Help is needed to set up and staff the table during the event.
Contact Gloria for information.**

Mar. 16 — Clinic with Stephanie Szabo at Linda's, 10am—noon.

Apr. 13 — Schooling Show at Ann's

Jun. 21-22 — Summer Camp at Varian Ranch, Parkfield



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Also, Black Dr. Buggy style. Hand built. Top 2 1/2 bow with headliner. Trunk & storage under seat. Ready to go \$ 6700.

Both buggies built with traditional wood. Call: Kelly 760-920-3206



Rombach Horse size harness for sale. Black with stainless, English leather, in very good condition.

\$850.00.

Pictures and measurements on request.

Jpamplona@earthlink.net



It's time to renew! Send dues to Gloria for 2019

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:

May 10-12 NCDC CDE at Murieta Equestrian Center at the Horse Expo

June 1-2 Pleasure Days, Hansen Dam Equestrian Center, www.pleasuredays.org

Pamela Miller-Mitchell is our Pacific Region ADS rep.

Pamela can be reached at 818-899-0211 or pam.hei@verizon.net

**Next Meeting: Saturday, March 16th
Overlook driving, after the clinic.
See page 1**



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.