



Brass Oak Driving Society

October 2023

Fall is upon us!

Our fearless leader Lilla Thomason, fresh back from Europe, is off again to volunteer at Clay Station CDE, but sends her best and says she is hoping to plan a drive soon and is looking forward to sharing the holidays with club members. On that note, think about what type of get together you'd enjoy most. We'll be surveying soon!



Congratulations Tasha!



SCESports

3h · 🌐



SCES is pleased to announce that Natalie (Tasha) Wilkie is a newly approved athlete. Based in California, Tasha competes in Combined Driving and is a member of USEF's Developing Athlete program. She is making plans to compete with her horse Danny at the 2024 USEF Selection Trials in Florida, with an eye towards the US Single Horses Driving Team. You can help support Tasha and Danny with a tax-deductible donation through [SCESports.org](https://www.scesports.org).

Just a snip from the website:

Southern California Equestrian Sports, Inc. (SCES) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping equestrian riders and organizers raise tax deductible funds to compete in or support their National and International competitions throughout the United States.

Team USA – World Championships

WOW,

Great time in the Netherlands. Team USA came home with a Team Silver medal!! Tracy Bowman came home with individual Gold. I drove Tjibbe for 2 months; he is a 19-yr-old Friesan-cross gelding. Lori Weiss came for the whole trip and Lilla Hewitt came for 6 weeks. I did 2 big shows prior to the World Championships and 1 small schooling show of just dressage and cones. It was an adventure. I was based out of Koos de Ronde's barn; he is one of the top 4-in-hand drivers in the world. They are a very down to earth family that participates in all aspects of their stable. They have a big boarding barn and host various jumping and dressage shows also. Every morning we would arrive and drive Tjibbe; we would see Koos either on his carriage or his tractor. We had full use of an indoor arena and outdoor arena, 2 permanent hazards and cones. We drove around the neighborhood a lot! The countryside was absolutely gorgeous. We stayed at Roompot, a holiday park a few kilometers from the barn and a small town, Brielle, where we did all our grocery shopping. Brielle is a historic fort town; it has Bastillions and a moat all around it. Most afternoons, we would go off



and do tourist things. We went to the town of Delft and went to the museum, we walked around the Hague (the capital), visited Gouda for the cheese and a historic church, Lieden to see the rule of the thumb, Kinderdijk windmills, and down to Zeeland to stare at the water over a submerged town. Much of the Netherlands is below sea level. Where we were staying on the water, it was 2 meters below sea level.

We cooked most of our meals to save on expenses. The first weekend after I got there, Lori and I took Tjibbe to a National Dutch show and I had British Team driver Mark Carruthers navigate for me while Lori rode for dressage and cones. I had only driven Tjibbe twice. After the show, I knew I had to work really hard to learn how to drive this horse. I practiced dressage, cones, and obstacles for 2 weeks, and then off to Beekbergen, one of the largest FEI shows!!! over 300 horses, 100 entries!! Wow, it poured down rain. Dressage was a bit of a mess. In marathon, Tjibbe ran faster than I was ready for and I missed a few turns. And cones was a bit of slaughter also! But I learned a ton about the horse! 3 more weeks to prepare for the Worlds! I worked really hard and relied on my experience. Lori and Lilla were great helping me with everything. It is hard to travel when you are in a wheelchair and outside your normal routine. But we figured things out! The day before we left for the worlds, I got to drive one of Koos's teams around the neighborhood. It was a lot of fun. We used a tractor to get me in the carriage!

2023 Board

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

Vice President

Disa Thorensen
805-481-8303
disa8@pacbell.net

Treasurer

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805-458-2428
dkastama@verizon.net

Secretary/Membership

Gloria Walter
805-467-9204
brass2drive@gmail.com

Newsletter

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

Directors at Large

Nikki Ryan
805-239-4488
snryan3@sbcglobal.net

Stephanie Szabo
805-460-0242
chiropetdc@aol.com

Katey Valente
805-674-0306
kateyv33@yahoo.com

The barn was a very busy place, with many International drivers in and out on their way to shows. It was great to meet many new people, Marie hosted a few dinners with all the drivers, and we did a taco night once also!!!

The World's was great, located in Exloo Netherlands, about 3 hours from Koos de Ronde's. We got all setup with truck, trailer and tent, table, chairs, refrigerator, and coffee pot! The USA contingent had a lot of support. Tracy Bowman was there, Chrissy Aitken (competing as an individual), and Bob Giles another team member. There was an FEI vet who checked over our horses every day. We had scheduled driving times as the practice places were limited. Wednesday, we had the jog; Lilla braided Tjibbe and he looked outstanding! Lori and Lilla kept him looking awesome. Dressage was the best test I had done with Tjibbe, no mistakes. I was thrilled with how it went. We had an extra day to walk obstacles as we did dressage on Thursday. Lilla and I walked them over and over and over. We had a great marathon, moving up in our placings and putting the



USA in Silver Medal position!! Cones day was a bit nerve wracking, as I had not had good cones goes at the previous shows. And the Brits were only 7 points and change behind us. Tracy went clean which took the pressure off a bit, but Bob had 12 points, so I needed to have a good round. We went out on the course, and we were doing great, but got a little behind time, so I sped up a bit. We headed into 16, which was a zig-zag, and I hit 16 D. Uh-oh 3 pts... I went through 17, 18, made a sharp turn to 19, and saw the score board – I had hit 17... I was like, 'shit... that's 6 points' and I knew I was slow. Cone 20 was next which was a skinny oxer!!! I cantered through it clean and had 0.5 time penalties !! Total 6.5 pts. We managed to keep Team Silver!! Wow great show. I thank everyone for their support.

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Celebration of Life – Barbara Robinson

A celebration of life was held in Arroyo Grande on September 30, 2023, for Barbara Robinson who passed away July 5th in Tuscon, Arizona. Brass Oak members in attendance were Ann McClure, Jackie Pamplona, Barbara Meek, and Mary Ann McPherson. Barbara joined Brass Oak in the 1990s and actively showed her Arabian mare Arista Missy and her Andalusian gelding A some Brio in driving classes held at Vulcan Mesa in Atascadero. Barbara also participated in the combined driving event held at Dragon Trail Ranch in Arroyo Grande. Barbara was also a member of the Santa Ynez carriage driving group and participated in their events, which mainly were group drives on beautiful ranches. Barbara also participated in their Carriage Classic show. Barbara held Horse talk classes that were very popular and one of the weekly sessions was on carriage driving. Barbara loved to drive her horses in Nipomo, especially when the roads were dirt and you could drive for hours. Barbara hosted a few group drives from her home. Ann and I were talking about the group drives at the service when she came up from Southern California with her pair of Morgans and said this is why she moved up to this area. As Barbara aged and could no longer ride, Liz Miller would come to her home and help her harness and hitch Santana for Barbara to drive. Barbara Meek lived on the property assisting Barbara and taking great care of her, which allowed Barb to remain in her home until it became apparent last year that it was time to move to Arizona. Barb was a very accomplished horse trainer and worked in many states training Arabians and Andalusians; Barbara was in on the ground floor working with the Andalusians when they were first imported into the USA in the 1960s. I have enclosed a few pictures of Barb, the collage of driving pictures were on the large photo board that was at the service.

Barb was a dynamic person in a small body and that never slowed her down! ~ Mary Ann McPherson



Left: Barb riding Caprichoso into capriolle; Middle: Barb and Maestoso; Right: At Montana De Oro

Jackie and I attended the celebration for Barbara. Mary Ann did a beautiful job. I met Barbara in the early nineties when she'd have BODS members up to her place on the Mesa for a day drive. We'd drive up from Norco and thus were introduced to this area. Along with Linda Fairbanks, we put on the Dragon Tail CDE in 1992. ~ Ann McClure

Members' Marketplace

For Sale:

4-Wheel Marathon Cart – \$2,500 obo
The 5th Wheel has new Teflon inserts.

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

Contact Barbara Meek at 805-369-9601



FOR SALE: 20 FEI cones. They are in great shape, hardly used, with minor rubs and a little spray paint along the bottom from course measuring. One cone does have a slight area of damage at the bottom from being drug. They have been stored inside, with no sun damage or brittleness. Located in Paso Robles. See pics below. Asking \$20 per cone. The measuring wheel in the pic is also for sale, \$25. Please contact Tasha Wilkie at 805-471-1209 or tashanatalie2020@gmail.com



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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 3 sets of harness in both synthetic (Smucker's) and leather.

The synthetic was used on both a 16-hand Friesian and on a 14-hand mule, so it is very adjustable. Condition is excellent. \$600

The leather harnesses 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 mzll2988@gmail.com or phone 805 937 3811 Lil Clary, member Brass Oak Driving Society

For Sale:



Meadowbrook Cart by Morgan Carriage Works. Very nice condition. 6-foot shafts and 24 inches wide between the narrowest part.

Kept covered inside – in very good condition.

\$1800

Contact: Jill von Ilten 805-458-2448, jillsquilt@gmail.com
(located east of Arroyo Grande, Huasna)

For Sale:

Two old wooden carts that have never been assembled are available. They are in pretty good shape. One is horse sized, the other draft horse. I think the wheels are 42" and 56". We are located in Tepusquet Canyon, Santa Maria at The Animal Farm horse rescue. We received the carts as a donation several years ago. Open to any offers.

Jennifer Johns

805-938-0174



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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:
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Email:
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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.

October 28 & 29 Halloween HDT, Claystation Horse Park, Wilton, CA.
Contact claystationhorsepark@frontier.net

December TBD BODS Christmas Party



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

Next Meeting:
TBD



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.