



Brass Oak Driving Society

December 2024

Winter-Wonderland In-Hand Obstacles



Saturday, December 7th, 2024

12:00pm – 4:00pm

6190 Burgandy Lane

Paso Robles

Bring one or bring them all for a fun filled afternoon of obstacles with your favorite equine or equines of all sizes and shapes. 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, side passing, jumps, of course the dreaded tarps, and more. What better way to improve your driving skills and your equine's than with a little team building skills. This is an in-hand (on a lead) not a driving event.



Costs: \$5 / Participating Member

\$10 / Participating Non-Member

RSVP and/or More Info Contact

Nikki Ryan

snryan3@yahoo.com

Fundraising Auction for US Driving for the Disabled

<https://www.32auctions.com/USDFDParaTeam>

United States Driving for the Disabled is raising money for the 2025 Para Driving Team USA. Last year they were able to give grants to all drivers to help with expenses.

The 2025 world championships will be held September 2025 in Lahden, Germany.

Check out the link above. There are riding and driving clothes, tack, carriages, etc. on the auction.

Our club event on October 16th, **Staying Prepared for Equine Emergencies**, was organized by President Jenifer Rhynes. It was held at Farm Supply in Arroyo Grande and featured two new mobile vets in South County (Coast to Coast Equine). Natalie Juris, DVM, and Juan Valdez, DVM, gave a talk and power point presentation, reviewing horse first aid and when to call your vet. They recommended what emergency supplies to have on hand in case of distress in your equine. For your information, the phone number for Coast to Coast is: 805.586.8185.

The event was well attended with current club members as well as new faces. Diane Kastama had posted the flier on Facebook, outlining details on what was scheduled. We really appreciate the time and expertise presented by both veterinarians.

Submitted by Disa

2024 Board

President

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Jrhynes5631@gmail.com

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David Ventura Clinic January 11 & 12, 2025

Sponsored by: Brass Oak Driving Society

Driving or Riding

ADS "R" judge card in Dressage

All Equines welcome, horses, ponies, minis and mules!!

David Ventura has been a dressage enthusiast since childhood when he groomed and trained at Tempel Farms Lipizzans. As an adult, Mr. Ventura has been breeding warmbloods for twenty years and has received his USDF bronze and silver medals. For five years in a row, he has ranked for USDF Horse of the Year and twice Oldenburg Horse of the Year on horses he has bred and trained. Mr. Ventura also is a driving enthusiast and holds an "R" judge's card in carriage dressage. He has judged CDI's to choose the U.S. Driving Team. Mr. Ventura has competed his Oldenburg stallion, Pointmaker, at Prix St. George. He and Pointmaker were 2006 Vintage Cup Champions at Prix St. George. Mr. Ventura also competes at 3rd Level on the Lipizzan stallion, Neapolitano Savona, and on an Oldenburg gelding he bred at his farm. Currently he is competing 4th level on a point maker granddaughter Mare . Mr. Ventura's teaching style truly embodies classical dressage. He trains drivers in the use of good equitation as a means of sympathetic communication between driver and horse. Although dressage is a sport that requires balance, self-discipline and physical ability, Mr. Ventura believes it should also be an enjoyable experience for both partners. Mr. Ventura's clinics have helped many drivers and riders realize more gratification as well as improvement in their own dressage work.

Location: 235 Cimarron Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Time: Starts: 9:00am
Registration: Opens: Now Closes: January 8, 2025
Cost: \$100 a lesson
Food: Bring own lunch.
Stabling: Corrals available first come first served. Specify on entry
Auditors: Members free, \$10 non-members
Secretary: Diane Kastama - dkastama@verizon.net 805-458-2428
620 Matilija Lane
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (D) _____ (E) _____

E-Mail: _____ Brass Oak member [] Yes [] No

Special Requirements or Needs: _____

Lesson # _____ x \$100 _____
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 intersection 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

Nov 13, 2024

Products Review and Tack Cleaning at Atascadero Hay and Feed

Nathaniel, the store manager, did a great presentation on different horse feeds and supplements. He also showed us a number of topical products for wounds and eyes. Nathaniel breeds and raises horses for reining competitions. He uses all the different products he was recommending on his own horses and shared a number of anecdotal experiences. He gave us examples of successful use of these products.

Nathaniel is very knowledgeable about the products and their manufacturers. He definitely appreciates working with smaller and local companies.

I think a number of us were especially interested in NW Horse Supplement products. The Biogel items have a lot of advantages too. He also let us demonstrate a number of leather cleaning products. Diane Kastama brought her driving reins and a driving collar for cleaning; Ann McClure brought a saddle with a suede seat for cleaning as well.

We had a good turnout of people. Tasha Wilke gave thanks to everyone for our club support of her trip to France for the world combined driving single championships. She made cute magnets with Danny's photo and gave them to everyone. In addition, all attendees were treated to some delicious pizza!



Diane Kastama and Lori Weiss provided an additional distraction. Thirty minutes before our meeting they picked up a nine-week-old labrador puppy from her breeder. Lori is going to raise the puppy for about a year and then she'll go off for service dog training. Hopefully this little puppy will become Diane's next service dog. Little "Adar" took it all in stride and fell asleep.

Submitted by Lori Weiss



Harnessing & Ground Driving Clinic July 2024

By Lil Clary

Ann McClure and Diane Kastama co-presented a clinic focused on harness fit and ground driving. Nineteen members and guests attended.

I don't think I've ever attended a BODS event that had attendees so engaged, intent, and focused. Participants and auditors were so involved that when someone mentioned that it was lunchtime and that there would be a break, no one stopped. Instead,



people either brought harnessed horses over to Ann and Diane for advice on fitting or went straight into ground driving practice.

At the outset, Diane and Ann demonstrated issues with harness fitting using horses ranging in size from an Irish Draft to a mini. They discussed fitting overall and brought their expertise to bear on problems with back straps, breast collars and safety shackles. They answered questions about options for handling biting problems. Ann stated that for starting driving she likes using either a half cheek or an eggbutt Mullen and then observing how the horse accepts the bit. She definitely does NOT recommend starting with a broken

snaffle. Diane agrees with her.

Next, they worked with horse/owner pairs on how to handle bridle and reins for safety and effectiveness in ground driving. For example, instead of running the reins through the neck terrets to the bridle, reins should go through the shaft loops. This prevents the reins from getting caught in the shafts during ground driving.

Ann demonstrated how she ground drives by 'harnessing' Jenifer and having her walk. (Thankfully Jenifer didn't have to trot!) Ann emphasized keeping the horse at a good walking pace, urging Jenifer on; she then showed how she pivots in place to keep the animal in a circle. We all gave Jenifer a round of applause for her part in the demo.



Continued next page

I asked several attendees to let me know ‘the most important/useful/helpful’ thing they learned.

First, from Anita who says she is new to driving. “It was very informative. I learned so much. Namely the importance of saddle fit for driving, the ‘why’ behind the use of blinders, basic harness fitting as well as the need to balance a cart. It was a very worthwhile experience.”

Second, from Lisa who felt that the overall experience was great. She liked the friendly, helpful atmosphere. She was looking for a driving club to improve her skills and was very “blessed to have found your club! You all rock!”

Lisa highlighted several things she learned: “What I appreciated was Diane taking our equines and demonstrating and explaining the harness and the fit. She didn’t just tell you this is how it is and that’s that—she explained the whys. What really helped me was why we use blinkers/blinders. My filly goes without so far and does fine without them. However, Diane explained why we should use them. 1) was to be able to turn a horse away from a spooky object without them seeing it; and 2) was the element of surprise with the whip, especially if you are driving multiples. I received an education that I so wanted.”



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

Natural Wood Meadowbrook

**Very comfortable with Flex shafts, 48-inch wheels
Has been driven with equines from 14 hands to
16 ½ hands \$500**



Ann McClure 805-458-0151

annmcclure366@gmail.com

Home of National Champion Foxtail Farm's "Elvis"



Luv Me Tender Farm
Registered Miniature Donkeys

Office (805) 467-9204
Cell (805) 610-4966

Gloria & Lynn Walter

www.luvmetenderfarm.com

6268 Hog Canyon Road • San Miguel, CA 93451

Members' Marketplace

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

SLOHORSENEWS

CHECK OUT OUR
ONLINE CALENDAR,
DIRECTORY,
ADVERTISING AND
NETWORKING
SERVICES

SLOHORSENEWS.NET

MADE IN USA

Multi-Use Freedom Frame

REDUCE Colic, Ulcers, Boredom, Vices, Wasted Feed, Digestive Upset	ENHANCE Digestion, Absorption	SATISFY Natural Grazing Needs	IMPROVE Attitude, Peak Performance
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Melissa Auman, Founder

www.FreedomFeeder.com FreedomFeeder.com
(909)260-7555

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

- Memberships are for one year beginning January 1st and ending December 31st and include newsletter by email.
- New subscriptions or renewals paid after November 1st will apply to the following year.
- No refunds on membership.
- \$35 one-year individual or \$50 one-year family membership.
- Make check payable to BRASS OAK DRIVING SOCIETY and mail to: Gloria Walter, 6268 Hog Canyon Rd., San Miguel, CA 93451 -OR- PayPal by email to bodstreasurer@gmail.com

Yes! I/we want to join the Brass Oak Driving Society!

- \$35 one-year individual membership, or
- \$50 one-year family membership.

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Please (**DO / DO NOT**) include my information on the club roster distributed to club members (for personal use only). **CIRCLE ONE**

Newsletter Advertising

- Classified ads (3 issues): no charge for members and non-members
- Business ads: no charge for members; no charge for 3 mos. for non-members

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

Feb. 15 & 16, 2025 Sweetheart HDT, Galway Downs,
contact Marc DiLeo friesianfire@gmail.com



Have an Idea?

Anyone can organize an event or activity!
Simply write out your idea and send it to a board member for board approval. Include what is requested of the club (insurance, seed money, etc.). We can help hash out the details
Questions? Please reach out!

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

**Next Board Meeting:
TBD**

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.