



## GREETINGS FROM THE BITTERROOT

I hope everyone is having a good winter. The weather in our area is more like what I remember growing up with snow and cold but we are getting moisture. I feed with a team so the horses and a mule (this year using 3 abreast) are glad that the snow has finally settled.

The board decided after some discussion about where to hold the spring meeting, Ed Fryer offered to host the meeting at Castle Mountain Ranch.

The morning will have some basic training sessions with the afternoon geared to actually do what you learned in the training. The sessions will be refining techniques on basic driving to help whether you drive for pleasure, work or want to compete. Ed Jordan commented that he and Leslie had learned a lot by being able to spend time with another driver one afternoon. There will be a dinner Saturday night and a pleasure drive on Sunday. My goal is that all of us will learn something this weekend.

The fall meeting will be in Twin Bridges again this fall with an emphasis on introducing young people to driving draft horses and mules.

If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to pass them along. I hope to see you at one of the many functions throughout the year.

Scott Hackett

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## BARN SALE

Don't forget to clean out your barn, attic, and garage for a giant barn sale later this year. By donating things you don't really need (and we all have lots of those) or have too many of, you can help the MDHMA raise money for our projects.

## OFFICERS

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## CASTLE MOUNTAIN RANCH

Those who were at our last Spring meeting at the White Sulphur Springs Castle Mountain Ranch got to travel up the mountain to where the old barn was and the starting point was to harness the teams to sleds for feeding the cattle during the winter. Ed Fryer has invited members that would like that experience to join them as they have just begun to feed there every day.

This is not for the faint-hearted. A team and a four-up are harnessed just before dawn each day and hooked to the big sleds. It is about a mile, as I remember to the hay stacks and they cover that



mile at a run to get some of the energy out of the horses. Then it is load the hay and spread it out for the cows. The whole event is over by 11:00am. This is during major wintertime weather, done each day come blizzard or sunshine, so dress for the worst and hope for the best. Members are welcome to ride along, get some instruction, drive a bit, or just see the sights. It is a scenic area with historic barns, good big tough horses, properly adjusted harness in good repair, and some unique hay loaders, and promises to be an incredible field trip—one of a kind.

Call ahead a few days for planning purposes.  
406-406-547-3448

*I thought the club would appreciate this. Look at how smart those mules are when it comes to pulling most effectively depending on how the torque of the circle is pulling them.  
View at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRGmkYxQXDc>  
– Nicole Smart:*

*How horse competition was in days gone by.  
I hope we have learned a few things since then!!!!  
View at: <https://vimeo.com/31256145>  
– Henry Harrison:*

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## 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Still just \$30 for the year  
Includes your whole family  
\$100 for a business membership

Send your check to:  
MDHMA  
Ed Jordan Sec/Treas  
PO Box 66  
Pryor, Montana 59066

Update your address, phone number,  
and email address.



## 2017 CALENDAR OF MDHMA EVENTS

May 19-21 MDHMA Spring Meeting  
Castle Mountain Ranch, White Sulphur Springs

June 15, 16, 17 Haying with Horses  
Jordan Mini-Ranch, Pryor, Montana

June 2-3 Montana Horse Progress Days & Auction  
Moore, Montana

August 14-18 Bozeman Trail Wagon Train  
Beginning in Pryor, Montana

September 16-17 MDHMA Fall Meeting  
Fair Grounds, Twin Bridges, Montana

## OTHER EVENTS

Feb. 6 Special Workhorse sale  
Kalona, IA

Feb. 21-14 Mid-America Draft Horse Sale  
Gifford, IL

March 14-17 Topeka Draft Horse Carriage and Equipment Auction  
Topeka, IN

March 28-31 Waverly Midwest Horse Sale  
Waverly, IA

March 31-Apr 1 Colorado Draft Horse and Equipment Auction  
Brighton, CO

April 10-11th Klona Spring Draft Horse and Carriage Sale  
Kalona, IA

July 6-10 Calgary Stampede Heavy Horse Show  
Calgary, AB, Canada

July 14-15 Colorado Driving Horse, Mule, and Carriage Auction  
Brighton, CO

I have lots of other dates for auctions and shows around the country so if you are interested in other places and sales, give me a call.  
Ed Jordan 406-254-1267



## SPRING MEETING SET FOR CASTLE MOUNTAIN RANCH

May 20-21, 2017

White Sulphur Springs, Mt.

Last year the meeting at Castle Mountain Ranch had clouds, rain, sleet, wind, snow, and incredible thunder and lightning. So this year the only thing left is sunshine and warm, so this is the time to be there. The ranch covers many acres of meadows and mountains with great places to ride and drive.

The plan at this stage is for:

Saturday morning: several training sessions using resources from our members. These will be short simple sessions. Suggestions so far have been how to use the whip, driving around a corner, how to hook up a team by yourself, controlled backing of a team, etc. If you have a specific need, let us know. The focus is for this to be a help to the less experienced drivers.

Saturday afternoon: Go out and drive and use the information from the morning sessions with a lot of one on one help for those who want it. Everyone has different ways of doing things and when we pool all the knowledge, we can all get better on the lines.

Ed Fryer will give a class on driving four-up on Friday afternoon at 2pm for those that want to come early and learn how to drive four.

Ed and Bev Fryer will be our hosts again. There is plenty of room for trailers if you need to stay there in your trailer. There are some electrical hookups. There are a few motels in White Sulphur Springs, which is nearby, but they fill up fast as it may be the weekend of the local high school graduation.



*Saturday evening: Dinner and the MDHMA meeting*



*Sunday: pleasure driving around the ranch.*



## TEN MILE DRIVERS HARNESS CLUB

Happy New Year from the Ten Mile Drivers. Another year has zipped by and the Club is busy planning 2017. Last January we started the New Year off properly with a drive on New Years Day. We had sleighs and wheeled vehicles ringing in the New Year. This year we hope to have a drive in February to start the year.



Saturday January 28th we will hold our annual meeting at the Helena Community Credit Union at 10:00 am. We will be looking at possible events, change of the executive, review of our financial report, ideas for better use of our Facebook Page and discussing new ideas for the club. We'd love to see you there.

2016 began with the New Years drive and then the early spring months we concentrated on education. February Jerry Nash hosted a day with Todd Brennan to discuss vehicle selection, maintenance, hauling and any other questions regarding equipment. Scott Hackett joined us and had lots of great insight. Continuing the education theme we held a driving clinic with Todd in Whitehall at the Briggs arena. In April Ken and Nancy Bare from Waterloo sponsored our first road drive on a beautiful spring day. Later in April we were fortunate to have Donika Shrauger came to Helena to educate TMD about combined driving and the equipment. Memorial Day weekend we were fortunate to spend with Ray and Brenda Woodside driving in beautiful Potomac. Now things are heating up for Summer 2016. TMD had a practice day in June at President Carrie's place in anticipation of the Big Sky Draft Show. Members were busy at Mule Days, The Horse Progress Days, at fairs and parades throughout Montana. We always have a great time at the Deer Lodge Show and 2016 was lots of fun. August we drove 9 miles one way to the Pony Homecoming Parade and then later in August we were treated to a great drive and overnight stay at Harrison Lake. The Helle's from Dillon gave us a grand weekend driving at their ranch in Dillon in September. October is TMD's Annual Halloween Spooktacular at President Carries. A costume contest and 5 acre obstacle course. November members got together for a drive in Woodland Hills northwest of Helena. November and December we spent lots of hours making and selling horse shoe and horse head Christmas wreaths as a fund raiser. Are you exhausted yet?! We had a great 2016 and have some great drives coming for 2017. We are looking at some different ideas for education and hope to help members learn more from professional clinicians.



*Members on the Helle Ranch in Dillon*

## WRITINGS FROM THE BITTERROOT DRAFT HORSE & MULE CLUB

There's several things the Bitterroot Draft Horse & Mule Club likes to do: get together and visit, eat and ... well: drive horses! The club has around 68 members, and even though not everyone can attend all the events or even has horses, we seem to always have well attended club functions.

Our year long calendar is filled with events ranging from play days to day drives, and from field work to competitions. We even have some trail rides on the schedule, as several members also like to ride. With very reasonable dues of \$15 for a family membership and \$10 for a single, this is a small amount for the support, networking, instruction and education we offer to our members. What a deal!

2016 was filled with a lot of events. You saw pictures of our spring harrowing in the spring news letter. We again hosted Margaret Hebel and the MSU Western Dillon driving students at Dick and Sharon Renfro's: this was by far the wettest event we ever held, with nonstop down pouring rain – however the students never quit and took full advantage of the opportunity to get their hands on the lines of several different teams and singles, provided by our members.

The summer progressed with trail rides, State Meetings, play days, drives and Deer Lodge Expo.

In October, while most people start to “put away” their horses, our fall tune-up work shop focused on driving single. It gave some of our members the chance to hook their horses single for the first time.

And as always: we round out the year with the “Progressive Farm Days” at the Connor ranch – this is just a fancy word for a day of manure spreading at Kent and Mary Lou Connor's! We actually met for two days to tackle the rather wet and heavy manure. We had an excellent turn out with several different configurations: we had singles pulling small back yard spreaders, teams, 3 abreasts and a 4 up. The corrals and alley ways offered a great opportunity to practice your precision driving – you are dealing with gate posts here, not plastic cones! Several members hooked their horses to a spreader for the first time with the help of some of our seasoned teamsters and their teams, others gave their colts another good experience, and still others just enjoyed being out there doing a good day's work.

Never a dull moment with this club and we work hard to continue to pass on the tradition of driving and working horses in harness. Isn't this what we are all about?





*Donika's Combined Driving Chat*



*Drive in the Woodland Hills*



*Carrie Hahn Clowning around at Halloween*

