



Brass Oak Driving Society

June 2024

Choose your fun test, May 11

Our “Take a Test” activity on May 11 was very instructive. Members had a chance to take a Reinsmanship and/or a CDE test to gain experience in a supportive environment with an experienced judge.



Melissa, Lori, and Ann did the tests and Diane scored, providing valuable critiques as the day’s judge. Melissa drove two ponies, Al and Dan; Lori rode her Fjord horse My Buddy Arnie in the Reinsmanship test then drove her new German Riding Pony Cassano W. Ann used the opportunity to tune up Cal for an event later in the month.



It isn’t easy to perform in public when an audience is watching your every move. You are trying to remember the test, make sure your circles are nicely rounded, and guide your horse around what was (for 3 horses) a totally unfamiliar location.

I can attest, as an observer, that our participants’ performances and Diane’s descriptions of her scoring along with recommendations for improvement were incredibly valuable. Diane’s comments about how to target markers for perfect circles made sense of a difficult activity. She noted that some drivers were spiraling in and making circles too small. With the target method you are looking at the next critical turn and don’t get lost. Given that each driver could do multiple runs of a test, we all saw immediate improvement in subsequent tries.

As always, thanks go to those who came early to set up, provide munchies, register participants, or step in to perform those last-minute tasks that can only be done on the day of an event. Kudos to Lori who designed and coordinated the event and provided a tasty meal and to Jackie for those incredible oatmeal/chocolate chip cookies. Liz handled registration, ensuring that everyone signed in so our insurance requirements were satisfied. Ann, you arranged perfect weather and an arena bounded by incredible displays of flowers. Your hospitality is appreciated.



One final note: most drivers never get a chance to hear directly from a judge or to learn approaches to improvement from someone who has awesome experience and a supportive approach. Diane, thank you so much for making the day valuable and fun for everyone.

By Lil Clary

Photos from upper left:

Ann and Cal;

Melissa and Al;

Janine, Jackie, and Jill;

Steve is ready to drive a different kind of test

Show report from Ann and Cal

The show was the Sargents Spring CDE in Lodi. I was in the Training Division, and we did the Combined Test. It was Cal's second event.



Diane Kastama competed in the Hybrid Intermediate Division. Lilla was there helping Diane, and Jenifer came and volunteered. Friday after the Marathon, I was given permission to introduce Cal to water.



2024 Board

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Attendee Guidelines for BODS Events - 2024

1. Review these guidelines before attending a Brass Oak Driving Society (BODS) event. If you have questions regarding the information, feel free to ask the organizer, clinician, or a BODS member.
2. Arrive with the complete equipment needed for the event, i.e. harness, halter, water buckets, etc. Be sure to bring drinking water for you and your horse.
3. RSVP as soon as possible to let the organizer know who is attending.
4. When approaching a BODS event on a dirt road, **SLOW DOWN!** Think about the dust you are creating. Horse trailers are hard on dirt road surfaces and trailers get blamed for every pothole. Please help us keep our neighbors willing for us to have these events.
5. It is the responsibility of the driver to keep the area around their trailer and stabling area clean. You must dispose of all manure, hay, bedding and trash. You must fill any holes dug by your horses and you are responsible for any damage that your turnout may cause.
6. At all times while an equine is hitched to a vehicle, the bridle must be on the horse with the reins through the saddle turrets and attached to the bit. The reins must be in the driver's hands and short enough to make an effective correction.
7. Equines must never be left unattended while hitched to a vehicle. Attended means you are standing very near with reins in hand and your attention is on your equine.
8. There are two approved methods of hitching a horse:
 - a. Standing in the open, preferably with a knowledgeable person standing at the head of the horse.
 - b. The horse tied to the trailer, if he is accustomed to this procedure and you understand that the halter cannot be removed before the horse is completely hitched.

In both cases, the reins must be attached and held in the driver's hands at all times. It is not good to try a new procedure at a venue new to your horse. If you need help, ask for it. People are willing to help.

9. Anyone aboard a carriage, driver or passenger, must wear an approved helmet.
10. In the warm-up area, remember to communicate with people in other carriages. Let them know you are coming up behind them or wish to pass. Stay sensitive to the needs of drivers around you and talk to them. In particular, pay attention to the behavior of the horses and drivers around you, not only in the warm-up area but throughout the grounds. Pay attention to traffic, spectators, etc.
11. In the parking and stabling areas, the only acceptable gait is the WALK.
12. The driver is always the first person to board a vehicle and the last one to step down.
13. Anyone who attends must sign a Brass Oak Driving Society release form. You should not tack up until your fees are paid and your release form is signed. Participants under the age of 18 must have a release signed by their parents. Please show an emergency contact name and number.
14. Cooperate by parking trailers in an orderly fashion as our venues have tight parking spaces. Be polite to your trailer neighbors.

BRASS OAK DRIVING SOCIETY

Board Meeting, Atascadero, Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Attendees: Board Members: Jenifer Rhynes, Gloria Walter, Diane Kastama, Disa Thorensen, Nikki Ryan, Lori Weiss (via Zoom) and members Ann McClure and Liz Miller

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President Jenifer Rhynes.

Minutes, Membership Report – Club Secretary Gloria reported that we have a total of 42 members which includes both paid, lifetime, and guest members.

Membership Application – Suggested changes were discussed and approved as follows:

*Add a choice of using PayPal to pay for club dues. *Delete Family Membership choice; show \$35 membership only. *Newsletter advertising rates continue to show no charge for Classified or Business ads for members; Non-members may run Classified or Business ads in no more than three consecutive newsletters at no charge. (Delete reference to any charges to run ads.)

Treasurer's Report – Diane reported balances in checking and savings. ADS Membership has been paid, as well as our insurance premium for the year.

Updated Forms: Attendee Guidelines – Disa and Gloria reviewed the guidelines and presented the changes proposed. After input from the Board, M/S/C approved the changes. These will be published in our next newsletter. **Guidelines for BODS Event Organizers** – Nikki (Event Coordinator) updated the guidelines which were reviewed. After discussion, M/S/C approved the revisions proposed.

Events – Even though earlier events scheduled this year were rained out or postponed, our current schedule shows a Fun Test Day on May 11th organized by Lori, and the postponed Easter In-Hand Obstacles on June 1st hosted by Nikki. Diane offered a ground driving clinic some time in July and Disa recommended a bodywork clinic by Robert Gonzales some time in August.

Nikki suggested we sponsor a used tack sale event on a Sunday at Farm Supply in SLO. She will check with them. Ann recommended we ask members to write articles on various subjects like vehicle maintenance, etc. to publish in our newsletters. A tack cleaning and reassembly clinic would be informative and Lori offered to organize that in September. Nikki will check with Dr. Christensen about presenting a first aid clinic in November.

Old Business – Website – Kathy LaChaine is willing to work on updating our website and is requesting clarification on several things. It was agreed that current newsletters should be published starting with 2023 and continue with 2024. Delete all previous newsletters. Photos – okay to publish any from newsletters; the current photos can be left on the site. Contact Diane for inclusion of ADS information. Also delete any event flyer after the event has passed.

Diane stated she tries to keep club information updated on Facebook.

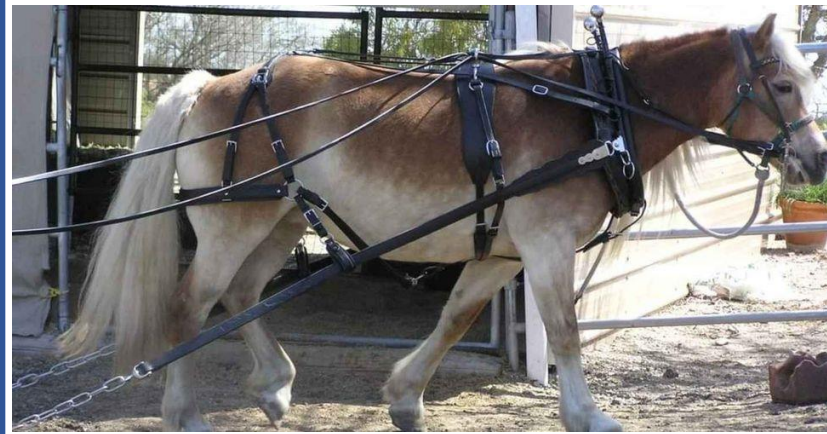
Another suggestion is that we need a Photographer Coordinator for club events. We can ask for a volunteer in the next newsletter.

Next Meeting – Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. – Location to be determined.

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Gloria Walter
Secretary

Members' Marketplace



Amish-made black leather draft harness.

Sizes: 21" collar, 22" hames, 3/4" x 20' beveled lines.

Like new \$600 or best offer

Laura Afana 805-464-2129

Horse and Pony Carriages for Sale:

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 1/2 hands **\$600**



Ann McClure 805-458-0151 annmclure366@gmail.com

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Office (805) 467-9204
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Gloria & Lynn Walter www.luvmetenderfarm.com

6268 Hog Canyon Road • San Miguel, CA 93451

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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Freedom Feeder®
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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

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

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.*

June 21 Dressage in the Park

& June 22-23 Summer Festival CDE Clay Station Horse Park

June 29-30 Sweetheart ADT

Galway Downs Equestrian Center, Temecula. www.whipsnappers.com

August 2-4 Ventura Co Fair Carriage and Draft show venturacountyfair.org



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

Next Board Meeting:

Saturday, July 20, 2024 Location 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.