



# Brass Oak Driving Society

August 2024

## “Play Day” June 1, 2024

By Lil Clary

Ann offered her place for a ‘play day’ on June 1. Although only a small number were able to participate, those of us attending enjoyed catching up with friends and watching as Diane gave a lesson to Jenifer and her new pony Archie.

Jenifer had only had Archie for a few months, so this was a learning experience for both. Before Jenifer bought Archie, he’d only been driving for a year and, as she says, “He really didn’t have a stop...He now stops long enough to change out passengers.”



Diane had already spent time with Jenifer and Archie, so she was aware of his attitude and concerns, particularly that he doesn’t want to stop and wait until directed to move on. At several times during the lesson Diane had Jenifer drive to her location and halt. She called this the ‘stop and chat’ because she’s working to get Archie to understand that a rest next to the instructor can be extended to a halt and rest anywhere.

At one point, this became a critical maneuver because Archie managed to get his tongue over the bit. Diane and Jenifer both realized that he wasn’t going right and diagnosed the issue rapidly. Unfortunately, Archie decided that stop and chat accompanied by folk messing with his mouth was not rewarding.

Fortunately, Diane’s work to get his tongue back under the bit was successful, and Jenifer was able to continue with the lesson.

I wasn’t able to observe Ann’s work with Cal as I had to hit the road.

It was great to see Liz, Tasha, Ann, Jenifer, and Diane, and I’m looking forward to our next event!

**Welcome New Members** - We were pleased to have several guests join us at the Intro to Harness, Hitching, and Ground Driving clinic on July 20th at Ann's and we're also very pleased to welcome the following new members who attended that day:

**Heather and Brian Newsom from Atascadero**

**Lisa and Scott McDuffee from Sanger**

**Kirstin Wright from Paso Robles**

**Anita Parra from Arroyo Grande**

## DAVID VENTURA CLINIC

See Page 4 for the sign-up sheet for the David Ventura Clinic on September 21 and 22 at Ann's in Arroyo Grande. There will also be limited spots in Paso Robles at Linda Fairbanks Overlook Driving Center on Friday, September 20th in late afternoon/evening.

All equines are welcome for either driving or riding lessons. David Ventura is an ADS Judge in Dressage and is an excellent trainer and teacher.

Some follow-up information from the Ground Driving and Harness Fitting Clinic from Diane:

Harness fit and adjusting videos:

[https://www.americandrivingsociety.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=548049&module\\_id=407856](https://www.americandrivingsociety.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=548049&module_id=407856)

Saddle pads I talked about. Waffle type, not fleece or neoprene; they hold too much heat:

<https://www.chrysalisacres.com/AirFlo-Saddle-Pad-p491782227>

I like the gel one; it has a saddle gullet place:

<https://www.ivccarriage.com/collections/zilco-harness-pads>

I like Mullen mouth bits for ground driving.

Many thanks to member Janine Newby for making this wonderful video of the Harness and Ground Driving Clinic. Here it is for all to enjoy.



[https://youtu.be/ro\\_YBKfoeLY?si=YMSUwkg5WzOC-A99](https://youtu.be/ro_YBKfoeLY?si=YMSUwkg5WzOC-A99)

## 2024 Board

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David Ventura Clinic
September 20 (Paso Robles PM)
September 21,22 2024 (Arroyo Grande)

Sponsored by: Brass Oak Driving Society

Driving or Riding

ADS "R" judge card in Dressage

All Equines welcome, horses, ponys, 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.

Friday September 20. 3 PM (no stabling)

Location: 7755 Feenstra Paso Robles, CA

Saturday, Sunday September 21,22

Location: 235 Cimmaron Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Time: Starts: 9:00am

Registration: Opens: Now Closes: Sept. 15,2024

Cost: \$100 a lesson Auditors: Members free, \$10 non members

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

Check payable to: Brass Oak Driving Society. Mail form and payment to Secretary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Brass Oak member [ ] Yes [ ] No

Special Requirements or Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson(s) [ ] Friday [ ] Sat [ ] Sun # \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Nipomo Feed/Windmill Farms, stay to left at intersection and follow 235 signs, at bottom of hill go right.

## BRASS OAK DRIVING SOCIETY

Board Meeting, Atascadero

Saturday, July 20, 2024

Attendees: Board Members: Jenifer Rhynes, Gloria Walter, Diane Kastama, Lori Weiss and members Ann McClure and Liz Miller

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Jenifer Rhynes following the Introduction to Harness, Hitching and Ground Driving Clinic.

**Minutes, Membership Report** – The minutes from the April 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting were approved. Club Secretary Gloria reported that we had a total of 42 members, plus 4 new members who joined today. This includes paid, lifetime, and guest members. Gloria distributed copies of the current Membership Roster to those in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report** – Diane reported current balances in our checking and savings accounts, on file. Our only expenditure was the insurance for upcoming events.

Tasha Wilkie has qualified for the FEI World Championships in France in September and is asking for donations to help with expenses. M/S/C to approve a donation of \$500.

**Events – Recent:** Today's clinic was well attended and informative. Many thanks to Diane and Ann for their expertise.

**Future:** A clinic with Robert Gonzales is scheduled on August 10<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made to approve his \$252 fee plus \$28 for insurance. Motion passed with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote. Another activity suggested by Jenifer is a demonstration of disassembling and reassembling our carts, to be presented by new member Brian Newsom. Diane stated that she would like to schedule a clinic with David Ventura for driving and riding dressage lessons in September. A flyer with all the details will be distributed when it's done.

**Old Business** – Jenifer asked Linda Fairbanks about using her facility for club activities and Linda gave her approval. Linda also requested we retrieve the club's dressage rails.

**Inventory:** We need to prepare an updated inventory list and where items are stored. Once completed, it can be sent to the Board for their information. Gloria will coordinate this.

**New Business** – The club has held driving events in the past at Twin Rivers and it was suggested we check into the availability of the facility, fees, etc. to schedule a driving show/driving day. Diane will contact them for information.

**Next Meeting** – Next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon at a restaurant to be named. **Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Gloria Walter, Secretary

# Help Us Go!

## FEI Driving World Championship for Single Horses • Le Pin au Haras, France September 19 - 22, 2024

July 15, 2024, Paso Robles, California

Van Dyk 4, aka Danny, and I have been named as an Alternate on the US Driving Team going to France in September. What an experience of a lifetime and a goal I've had for the past 25 years! We qualified to compete through hard work and perseverance, holding our own against the top US drivers in a highly competitive division. I am very proud of Danny and what we accomplished together. I'm writing to ask for your support as we are about to embark on this incredible journey.

Danny and I have traveled back and forth from California for the past six years to reach this moment; from the demanding treks across the country to the exciting challenge of training and competing from home in the combined driving meccas of Florida and the Carolinas. The progressively more rigorous competition and training schedule has helped to hone our skills. I've had the privilege to train with top national and international coaches in the sport, who have all encouraged and supported my goals for international competition. In addition, as a member of USEF's Developing Athlete Program, I have benefited greatly from its resources in training and guidance.

As you know, the expense of this journey is substantial, and costs add up quickly: travel, accommodations, training, show fees, veterinary care, crew stipends, and more. My goal is to raise \$20,000 to help defray these costs.



Your support and generosity is a vital part of our journey and mean the world to me. Danny and I are prepared and ready to show on the international stage.



## Ways to donate

- Southern California Equestrian Sports**  
 As an Approved Athlete in the SCES grant program, my supporters can donate to me through SCES and receive a tax deduction. SCES is a 501c3 tax-exempt nonprofit public foundation. The following link will take you to my dedicated donation page.

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=Y5HFZWGTFTRXJ](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=Y5HFZWGTFTRXJ)

- Online donations can also be accepted at:**

[\\*spotfund\\*HelpUsGo](https://www.spotfund.com/HelpUsGo)

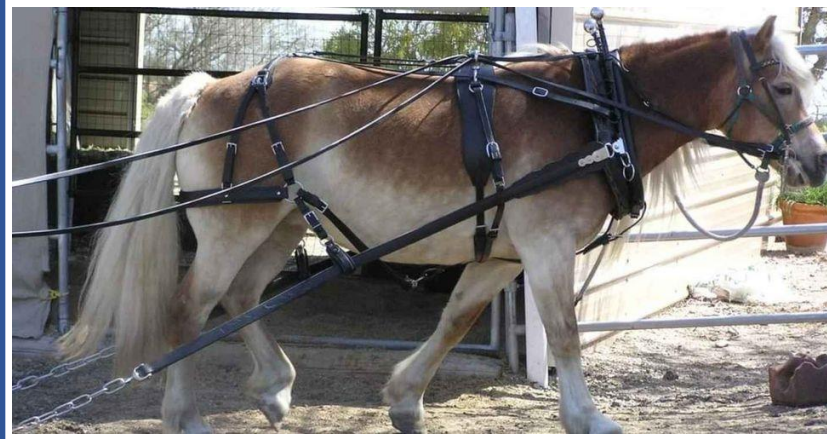
- Personal checks are welcome too**  
 By mailing to my home address below.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would love to hear from you!

With many thanks for your support,

*Tasha Wilkie*

## Members' Marketplace



**Amish-made black leather draft harness.**

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

**Like new \$500 or best offer**

**Laura Afana 805-464-2129**

### For Sale:

**4-Wheel Marathon Cart – The 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1/2 hands **\$500**



**Ann McClure 805-458-0151**

[annmcclure366@gmail.com](mailto:annmcclure366@gmail.com)

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## 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](mailto:mzlil2988@gmail.com) or phone 805 937 3811 Lil Clary

### Cart for Sale \$450

Amish made,  
purchased from Morgan Carriage Works.

Call Julie  
805-929-2134



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Melissa Auman, Founder

[www.FreedomFeeder.com](http://www.FreedomFeeder.com) FreedomFeeder.com  
(909)260-7555



For Sale: Cart Rack with ramps for back of trailer.

See it at:

[https://dyerbuggyworks.com/equipment/buggy\\_racks\\_accessories](https://dyerbuggyworks.com/equipment/buggy_racks_accessories)

It's a 6" version with ramps and upgraded larger diameter SS locking t-bar. Added chain cover, and padded wheel covers.

Current new price \$625 plus tax and shipping.

Make reasonable offer.

Located near Prunedale.

Contact Beth at  
831-840-4953

[rouns@aol.com](mailto:rouns@aol.com)



For sale – BODS Founding member Lois Lane has several beautiful carriages for sale.

For specifics, please call her at: 805-610-9471.

NOTE: She has sold her home and needs to have her carriages and harnesses relocated by the end of August.

She would appreciate any help from members in placing her driving equipment. She does not have internet.



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 1<sup>st</sup> and ending December 31<sup>st</sup> and include newsletter by email.
- New subscriptions or renewals paid after November 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.***

Sept. 20 David Ventura clinic; Paso Robles, See flyer on Page 4 (space is limited)

Sept. 21-22 David Ventura clinic; Arroyo Grande, See Flyer on Page 4

Oct. 4-6 California Fall Classic CDE; Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA

Oct 26-27 Halloween HDT; Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA



Gina Miner is our Pacific Region ADS representative.  
Gina can be reached at [vwminer@me.com](mailto:vwminer@me.com)

**Next Board Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, October 8, noon, location TBD**  
**All are welcome! RSVP [brass2drive@gmail.com](mailto: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/](http://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.