



March 2017

# BRASS OAK DRIVING SOCIETY

## The Equine Expo

BODS members set up an informational booth at the Horse Expo event in



San Luis Obispo on February 21st. I counted 17 of our club's members in attendance, helping out at the booth and enjoying all the other displays and listening to several speakers. Setting up early was Jill Beebe, Diane Kastama and myself.

Our tables showed a variety of

information on the art of carriage driving. Magazines were free to visitors, club newsletters were available, membership applications, and club post cards. We had a number of inquiries about this sport and we chatted with a number of visitors. Jill modeled an elegant carriage driving outfit, complete with a lap robe and a beautiful hat. Diane talked to several people about driving clinics for people with spinal cord and other injuries. Stephanie Szabo brought her beautiful wood Meadowbrook cart for display and also displayed brochures and information about her Chiropractic Care Center.

*Submitted by Gloria*



[www.brassoakdriving.com](http://www.brassoakdriving.com)

## Club dues are due!

Please see the membership page for info

### *Continuous Drive at Fresno Horse Park*

Last weekend the skies cleared and the sun shown down on 27 die hard drivers and their equines who braved the recent record breaking rains to come to play at the old RamTap, now Fresno Horse Park.

So what is a continuous drive? It takes the basic elements of a CDE (Dressage, cones and marathon) and rearranges them into a continuously driven course of about 45 minutes total. The course this weekend began with a safety check followed by section A: a 2 kilometer loop that included 2 untimed hazards. This loop was timed with drivers accumulating 1 point per second over or under the optimum time given (VSEs, horses and ponies all have different times). Next comes section B: dressage, which is scored the same way as for a CDE. The dressage penalty points are added to the points from section A. After a quick breather, drivers returned to the marathon field to complete section C: another 2 kilometer loop with two more gated, untimed hazards, again trying to avoid earning points for above or below optimum time (which are added to the total so far.) Lastly, drivers headed to section D: cones, where they drove a course of 18 numbered cones, accumulating points for cones hit or being over the allotted time. Any points assessed in cones are added to complete the total score. Lowest score wins, but all had a great time!

The show saw 14 VSE turn outs and 13 horse/pony turnouts, with the VSEs driving in the morning while the other drivers “ran the show” timing, setting cones, gate stewarding and watching hazards. In the afternoon, the VSE drivers ran the show for the horses and ponies. It is a great experience as drivers get to not only drive a really fun course, but also learn how to do various volunteer positions. Hopefully this will allow everyone to feel confident volunteering at larger events.

*Continued on next page*

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## *Continuous Drive at Fresno Horse Park ...continued*

The format of the continuous drive is a good one as it is infinitely adjustable to meet existing conditions. For instance, at this event the marathon sections were kept very short as the weather has been poor and most equines are not in working condition yet. If a dressage arena were not available, one could substitute a second cones course, or just skip it completely. The options are really only limited by the imagination of the organizer. Keeping the sections as close as possible to CDE sections allows it to be a practice run for the bigger events, but that is not a universal requirement. If organized well, it is also a great opportunity for getting to know other drivers as the atmosphere is very relaxed and there is ample time to chat and compare experiences while you volunteer and between driving sessions.

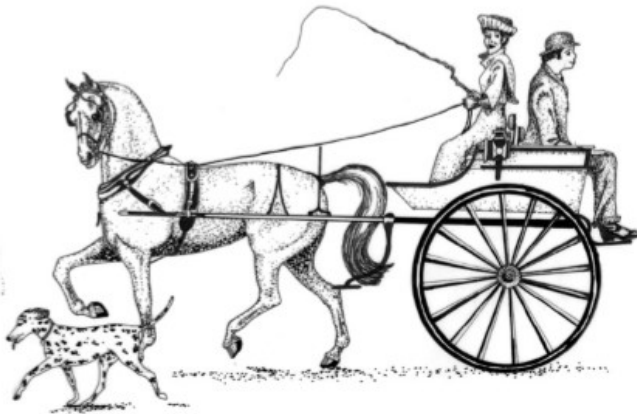
*Submitted by Kathy L.*

***\*For a competitor report see p.4***

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Pleasure Days Carriage Driving Show Prize List

June 3 & 4, 2017

Entries Open May 1, 2017  
Pre-entries Close May 27, 2015 postmark



## Pleasure Days

[www.pleasuredays.org](http://www.pleasuredays.org)

Hansen Dam Equestrian Center  
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## Fresno Continuous Drive :

### Competitor's report from Lilla ...

Despite all the rain that we have had in February, the Continuous Drive at the Fresno Horse Park stayed cold and dry (except for the very wet water obstacles). Saturday morning was the VSE division and I was volunteered as Ring Steward for the dressage arena. The event organizers did a nice job of setting up two dressage arenas, one horse size and one VSE size, so that the little ones weren't "lost" out there in all the space of a large arena. It also made the tests go quicker because the VSEs had an appropriate size to work in.

After lunch was the pony and horse size divisions and so I got Jacopo ready. I still need to work on my time management but I did manage to be on time for my start time at Marathon 1 (Section A). Marathon 1 was just over 2 kilometers and had two obstacles, which included one with water. All water obstacles have to be designed to allow Training Level the choice of taking a wet route or an alternate dry route to make the gates as not all Training level horses (or drivers) are comfortable with water. We took the water route. Slowly, but we did it!

From Section A we went to Section B, which was Dressage. Dressage went fairly well for us and was one of our best scores to date for Dressage.

Aleks hopped back on the carriage and we did Section C, a second 2K marathon with 2 obstacles, in which I was well over a minute over optimal time, and then he hopped back off for me to complete the completion with the cones course.

I was also way over time in cones but part of that was due to stopping at cones number 4, as someone had dropped their cell phone right in the center of the approach and I didn't want to run it over. The cones judges weren't sure what to do for my time so they just made a note of it but hadn't timed the time that I was stopped, so nothing was adjusted but I am okay with that as I was far from being truly in the competition because of all my time faults of the day.

At awards, I received my usual last place which was 3rd as there were 3 in Training Horse. I did place 2nd in Dressage but there was no catching the first place lady who had some of the best Dressage scores for both days and very few faults.

On Sunday we did it all over again. Section A was still very slow for me and my Dressage wasn't quite as good as Saturday. But in Section C we cut my "overtime" by half. Aleks kept after me to "go faster" and I kept asking Jacopo to go faster, and low and behold, he would find a faster trot from time to time! Cones were also smoother (no cell phone in the way) but I still came in slow but improved.

We had a great time and over all I feel good about some of the discoveries made and look forward to trying them out at Clay Stations Horse Driving Trials this April.

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Members: Liz Miller, Gloria Walter, Ann McClure, Disa Thorensen, Else Wolff, Lilla & Aleks Hewitt, Debra Hilberg, Diane Kastama, Jackie Pamplona, Judith Baron, Chris Kimble, and Stephanie Szabo

President Lilla Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes** – The minutes from the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report** – Gloria presented the Treasurer's Report prepared by Linda Fairbanks, on file.

**Old Business** –

February 21 – Horse Expo – We have reserved a booth for this event. Different members will bring club post cards, newsletters, driving magazines, and other information to share with attendees. Stephanie plans to bring her mini Meadowbrook cart for display and we will ask Jill Beebe to model a formal driving outfit. Several members will be arriving around 4:00 p.m. to help set up.

**New Business** –

March 11-12 – Festival of Driving, Arizona Driving & Carriage Society – Lilla suggested we sponsor classes at this event to show our support. M/S/C that BODS donate \$120 towards the sponsorship of Championship classes or High Point classes.

**Calendar of Club Events** –

Clinics and Seminars – Despooking Clinic – discuss at a later date.

March - David Ventura Clinic – Ann stated that this has been cancelled since only one person inquired about lessons. Also the arena grounds at Ann's are not usable when wet.

March 17, 18, or 19 – Twin Rivers Memorial Drive for Pat Johnson - Stephanie reported that Twin Rivers would be available only on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Members inquired if we could use the coupons we've acquired to pay the fee for each attendee. It is usually \$40/person. Stephanie will check on this and report back. This will be finalized shortly, weather permitting.

April - Parkfield Drive – Dates will be chosen later.

May 27-29 – Memorial Day Weekend – This was discussed briefly, to be finalized later.

November – Turkey Trot Drive in Parkfield – To be finalized later.

**Other Driving Events** –

February 24 – David Ventura lessons at Ram Tap

February 25-26 – Continuous Drive at FCHP – Phyllis Rumley CVHA

February 25-26 – Driving Clinic, Santa Ynez – Etcetera Farm

April 1 – Clair Phillips Memorial Driving Clinic, Whiffletree Ranch, w/Trish Demers

April 7-9 – Red Top Draft Horse Days, Chowchilla

May 4-7 – Super Clinic, Clay Station

June 3-4 – Whip R Snappers Pleasure Days, Lakeview Terrace, CA. Dressage classes will also be held at this event. BODS plans to sponsor classes for this event.

July – Dressage Festival – Whip R Snappers has not set a specific date in July. It will be held either at Jody Cutler's or in Santa Paula. BODS will sponsor classes.

**Announcements/Reports**

February 4-5 – Driving Clinic, Moorpark – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Clinic for people with spinal cord injuries. Diane Kastama reported that this clinic was very successful attended by 17 people with spinal cord injuries, plus family members and other attendees, totaling 22. Not only did students get to drive, but also other attendees as well. Grant money had been received to cover expenses. Diane stated they are hoping to hold several more clinics here and in other locations this year. One is scheduled for April 1 & 2 at Clay Station.

**Next Meeting** – Wednesday, March 15 at IHOP Restaurant in SLO.

**Adjournment** –

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Gloria Walter, Secretary

BODS Website - Check out our new look!

[www.brassoakdriving.com](http://www.brassoakdriving.com)

Lilla and Aleks are working on updates and would love to use your photos and suggestions.

## Internet Pick of the month:

### The Story of Portland's Sidewalk Horse Rings

If you've ever spent time looking for homes for sale in Portland, Oregon you've no doubt noticed the small metal rings attached to the sidewalks. The metal rings are a relic of Portland's early history, when horses were the main method of transportation around the rose city. In the 1800's, horse rings were embedded into the sidewalk concrete to help tie town your horse outside of houses and stores.

In a fun spin on Portland history, local artists have begun to reclaim the horse rings by tying miniature plastic horses to the rings. The "horse project" was started by Portland resident Scott Wayne Indiana to get people to notice the history under their feet.



*Editor's note: I believe there are a few of these left in SLO near Pepper and Palm St. Can you imagine tying your hitched horse to a ring on the ground?*



### MINIATURE DONKEYS FOR SALE

A cute 6-month old gray jack donkey, gray, small. He will need to be gelded in the Spring (so he'll be a better pet as he matures) and his price is \$500. Also a 5-year old gray mini jennet is available for \$650.

Others sometimes available. Call Gloria at 805-467-9204.

**Pamela Miller-Mitchell has replaced Veronica Campbell as our Pacific Region ADS rep. We thank Veronica for her many years of service and thank Pamela for taking on the position.**

**Pamela can be reached at 818-899-0211 or [pam.hei@verizon.net](mailto:pam.hei@verizon.net)**

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# MAKING LIFE BETTER



Diane Kastama  
FEI Para-Equestrian World Driving Championships Gold Medalist

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – BODS – 2017



(Needed: organizers and co-organizers at events).

\*March 16 (tentative) Pat Johnson Memorial Drive at Twin Rivers

\*April TBD Parkfield Drive

# 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:**

**CITY, STATE, ZIP:**

**Email:**

**TELEPHONE(S):**

*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:

March 11-12 Festival of Driving—Arizona Driving & Carriage Society

contact Marcia Fetherston <marciafetherston@gmail.com>

www.arizonacarriage.org

May 4-7 Super Clinic, Clay Station

June 3-4 – Pleasure Days, Hansen Dam Eq. Ctr. www.pleasuredays.org

PD will include dressage classes this year.

July TBD Dressage Festival www.whiprsnappers.com

Sept 28-Oct 1 Shady Oaks CDE www.shadyoaksevents.com

Oct 28 Halloween Hustle www.whiprsnappers.com

Pacific Region ADS calendar: [http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/regn\\_pacific.asp](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/regn_pacific.asp)

*Next meeting:*

*Wednesday, Feb 15th*

1903 Goat Carriages in Central Park

*At IHOP in SLO*

*6pm no host dinner, 7pm meeting*

