



Brass Oak Driving Society

August 2025

CLUB MEMBER DIANE KASTAMA IS HEADING TO EUROPE TO COMPETE AT THE 2025 FEI PARA DRIVING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD SEPT 3-7 IN LAHDEN, GERMANY.

Links to event will be shared with club members when available.

Here is a bio on Diane:

Diane has been paralyzed for 34 years and is a para Equestrian Driver. Diane plans on competing at the FEI Para Driving World Championships in Lahden, Germany, September 4-7, 2025. She will be leasing a horse from Koos de Ronde and practicing with him for 3 weeks. Diane is shipping her specially modified carriage which makes the process of driving a leased horse more comfortable.



Diane is heading to Europe on August 10, and her carriage has just arrived. She is so excited to further her driving skills and to bring back what she learns and to share with others.

Diane has been competing in the sport of carriage driving for 30 years. She discovered the sport after a car accident left her paralyzed. Horses allow her to compete on an equal basis with everyone else. She shares her skill and enjoyment of the sport with everyone who asks. As President of United States Driving for the Disabled, she supports all people, no matter their challenges, in learning and trying the sport of carriage driving.

Diane currently competes at the Intermediate and Advanced level on an equal basis with all drivers.

Past International competition at Para-Equestrian World Championships:

- 2002: Individual Silver, Team Bronze, Greven, Germany - borrowed horse
- 2004: 4th place finish - borrowed horse
- 2006: Individual Gold - my own horse
- 2008: Individual Bronze, Team Silver - my own horse
- 2012: 14th place - borrowed horse
- 2014: Team Bronze - my own horse
- 2018: Leased horse, top USA finisher
- 2023: Team Silver - leased horse

If you would like to support her trip, here is the link to support Diane: <https://gofund.me/66310504>

Diane has been a very active board member for many years as well as an event coordinator and speaker for our club. Our club is better for Diane's many hours devoted to promoting local driving.

A note from Gloria:

Well, the club has been very busy this year. Here's a list of what we've been up to....

- March - Robert Gonzales Clinic in Arroyo Grande
- April - Obstacle Course, In-Hand, Paso Robles
- April - Ram Tap Playday, Fresno
- May - Ram Tap Driving Trials, Fresno
- June - Practice Cones Course, Arroyo Grande
- June - Membership Meet & Greet, Atascadero

"Lost" equipment –

Ann is looking for a small, black wedge seat that she lent to someone to try out, but needs it back.

Also, a brown pony bridle that someone took to see if they could fix it.

If you know the whereabouts of these items, please contact Ann McClure at annmcclure366@gmail.com

Here is some bit info for our upcoming bit discussion:

<https://www.ivccarriage.com/pages/educational-articles-driving-bits>

RamTap Driving Trials

I had a great time competing Keegan at Ramtap driving Trials. I did both the ADS event and the USEF event. It was great to see club members competing and volunteering at this show. As it is the closest show to us, I hope we can support it in the future. Ann McClure showed her pony, and Leslie Kennard showed her pair. Lilla Hewitt navigated for me. ~Diane Kastama



2025 Board

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Jenifer Rhynes
805-801-4216
Jrhynes5631@gmail.com

Vice President

Janine Newby
805-234-2283
slonewby@aol.com

Treasurer

Diane Kastama
805-458-2428
dkastama@verizon.net

Secretary/Membership

Gloria Walter
805-467-9204
brass2drive@gmail.com

Newsletter

Kathy LaChaine
805-703-0743
klachaine@charter.net

Directors at Large

Nikki Ryan
805-239-4488
snryan3@yahoo.com

Lori Weiss
805-252-0297
lswengineer@yahoo.com

Liz Miller
805-441-2499
slohenryae@gmail.com

**WALK**

45 - 55 (one foreleg)
90 - 110 (both legs)

TROT or JOG

70 - 85 (one foreleg)
140 - 170 (both legs)

CANTER or LOPE

92 - 105 (one foreleg)

August 2, 2025. We had a fun day at Ann McClure's in the very pleasant AG temperature. A few of us gathered (Jackie Pamplona, Disa Thorenson, and Liz Miller) to play around with figuring out the beats per minute (BPM) of our horses' strides at different gaits. Picking a foreleg to watch as it landed, Jackie and Disa counted and tapped the BPM app on the phone for a minute. The app determined the bpm. For example, at the working walk,

Cal (Ann's 11h pony) had a recording of 58 bmp, while Danny, my 15h horse, had a recording of 51 bmp. Interesting! We played around with the different gaits and altering the bpm's. Something different to do on a summer day! We're going to play with this again soon if anyone wants to join us! ~ Tasha Wilkie

A note from our Prez:

I bought my first ever driving equine, a pony, and joined the club within one week. Soon, I took on a leadership role with the club. Best thing ever!!

I was a novice surrounded by seasoned drivers and even international competitors. I knew very little about driving by comparison (there is so much to know between equipment, training and horse handling) at each Board meeting I got the benefit of the discussion around our thinking about various presenters and events: invaluable information. I learned of the array of competitions, the Florida hub of activity, shipping animals and carriage cross-country and internationally as well as hands and core use. They were all very patient with me.

Everyone has been so generous with their knowledge, resources and time.

Many of my naïve questions or initiatives brought variety to our club activities. I think the club has benefitted from my freshness, just as I have benefited from their seasoned perspective. Any organization/club benefits from the breadth of experiences that come from the collective experience of a wide array of individuals.

I bet you too joined for similar reasons: ·

Improve your skills and knowledge ·

Meet folks with like interests ·

Ensure you were approaching your interest with the utmost safety ·

Connect with others who have skills and tips

Consider serving on the board or in a leadership role, you will gain some great insights!

~Jenifer R

Cones Day

The 2-day cones event was attended by a broad spectrum of folks; those who compete, as well as those who only occasionally leave their property (like me). My horse is growing more accustomed to meeting new friends and sharing space both hitched & unhitched. I had a go at the course in sequences of 4 or 5 sets. The short exercises seemed to suit my pony well. Breaking the course into sections also allowed me to learn from my successes & miscalculations. Practicing precision also helped me to fine tune my use of reins, as well as checking my speed. With each event I attend, Archie & I grow more confident & capable. ~Jenifer Rhynes



In-hand Beach Day



Hi there! My granddaughter Evelyn Thornburgh and I attended the beach drive in July, and we had an absolutely wonderful time. It was my mare's first time at the beach and seeing the ocean. All three of us had a fun day! Can't wait to do it again. Thank you. Debbie Hay

We had a great drive on the beach we had members come and hand walk their animals. Jeff Durling came with mini donkeys and Deb Snider brought 2 minis. Nikki Scott Ryan and Janine Newby drove their minis. Diane Kastama drove her horse, and Suzy Hettich rode Diane's young horse. Deb came all the way from Bakersfield to drive her pony.



Some pics from Calico Ghost Town

On a recent trip through the desert, I stopped at Calico, which is a San Bernardino County Park with a little "Ghost" town with historical buildings, displays, shops, mine train, etc.

There were many horse-drawn vehicles sprinkled around the grounds.

Definitely worth a stop! ~Kathy



Members' Marketplace

Cart for Sale:

2-wheeled wooden cart made by Heartwood Buggy & Wheel Shop, Sparks, NV.

Would fit a good sized horse (was used on a Friesian).

Well made, comfortable ride, stored inside, but will need some refinishing and a new seat.

Asking \$475.

Contact Laurie Rossi at laurie_rossi@yahoo.com



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 mzlll2988@gmail.com or phone 805 937 3811 Lil Clary



Members' Marketplace

FOR SALE

FREY VSE MINI REBEL CART

\$3000

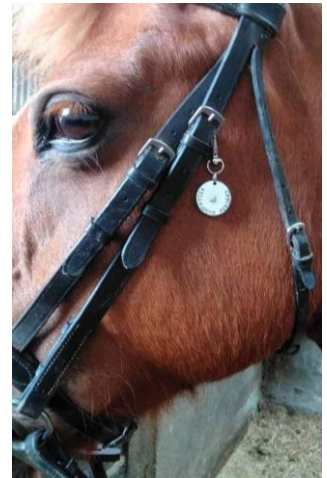
26" Marathon Wheels
Standard Shafts
Nerf Dash
Larger Seat



Location:
Madera,
CA

Text/Call

Contact:
Heidi
559-284-
5851



At an upcoming event to be named, Janine will be helping folks customize tags for their equipment, as featured in the picture.

Jenifer Rhynes

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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.*

October 11-12 – Clay Station Fall CDE, Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA

October 25-26 – Clay Station Halloween HDTs, Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA



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

**Next Meeting:
TBA**

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.