



Brass Oak Driving Society

December 2025

Let's Party!!

Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 6, 11am

Lunch at 12... drive after if you like

Cost per person \$15

RSVP to brass2drive@gmail.com

At: Ann McClure
235 Cimarron Way
Arroyo Grande CA

Bring a snowflake or two if you like:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=snow+flakes+snow+flakes+paper+bag

(just one set of examples above)

We will also have our vote for Board and Officers along with a discussion about future planning

Enormous THANKS to our outgoing board for their time and talent over the last year(s)! As they say, *many hands make light work*, and we appreciate those on and off the board who give of themselves to support the many excellent activities of the club!

As we move into the new year, we introduce our new team to carry us into 2026. This slate will be officially voted into positions at the next meeting. In addition, any member who wishes to join the board in helping to plan and carry out club activities is always welcome!

Proposed Slate of Officers and Board

- President: Janine Newby
- VP: Jenifer Rhynes
- Secretary: Tasha Wilke
- Treasurer: Diane Kastama
- Members at Large: Nikki Scott, Gloria Walter, Kelly Moore

Welcome new members!

Randi Boardman

Franklin Camuso

Julie Forestiere

Jeanne Hall

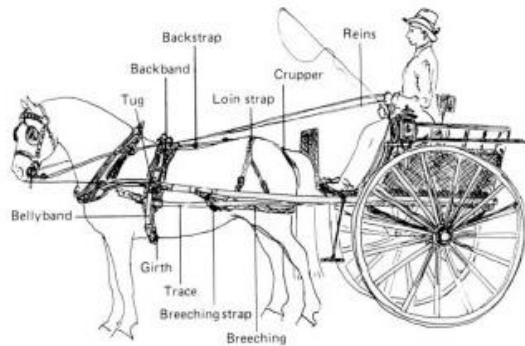
Karen Dixon

D'Arcy Weinberger

Heidi Caetano

Harness Fit and Ground Driving AND TACK SWAP

Saturday, January 10
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM



Location: Linda Fairbanks
7755 Feenstra Rd.,
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Instructor: Diane Kastama

Fees: Free for members of Brass Oak Driving Society <http://www.brassoakdriving.com/>
\$10 for non-members and observers to be paid on site

Hands on demo 10:30-12.

Driving available in afternoon until 3 PM *Bring your helmet whether you are the driver or passenger*

Limited spots available for people to get their own harness fitted to their animals or their own horse worked with on ground driving. Everyone can learn whether it is their own animal or not. Harness and Hitching includes the function of each part of the harness. Ground driving includes a full "how to" and introduce you and your horse to what is needed for driving.

RSVP: Diane Kastama dkastama@verizon.net 805-458-2428. As we need to manage parking

Tack Swap: Linda will set out table for you to display your tack. Transactions are managed by buyer and seller. The club is not responsible.

2025 Board

President

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

As a follow up on the bit discussion, here is a link with very informative articles on biting the driving horse:

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

New Members Spotlight

Howdy! I am **D'Arcy Weinberger**, currently a horse Mom to Tristan, a tri-colored 34" pinto gelding, and Moon, a 37" mare. Both horses are 18 years old. I got into my horses in Massachusetts at about 10 years old by trading stall cleaning for pony rides. Later, I was a helper to my trainer friend, and then helping with my step Dad's horse.



Finally, I got my chance to own my own horse! I got back into horses at retirement as a prior student was rehoming Shalimar, a mini horse with a goat friend. Shalimar was elderly, but had previously driven. I started taking driving lessons with Marie McKee. Later, Dr. Pepper (a green rehab mini) came to our pasture. Our next horse is Tristan who came from my dog trainer. Finally, Moon came from a club friend who was retiring. I've taken clinic/lesson(s) with Larry Brinker, Trish Demers, Linda Fairbanks, Merrie Morgan, Rodger Cleverly, and of course Marie McKee. I live in Clovis/Prather area and both driving clubs have dissolved so I joined BODS. My husband Bruce is a great helper. We are both retired music teachers still active in music. Our son and daughter in love live in SLO.

Candice Itzkovics

I started driving horses after I met D'Arcy Weinberger. She invited me and my neighbor to come to one of her lessons. It was great! I had a mini donkey who I thought would be fun to drive, and so I sent him to a young girl with driving experience to train him. He was good at driving, but couldn't carry a bit. So I bought an expensive English bitless bridle. Alas, his heart just wasn't into driving.

So I hunted around and D'Arcy told me about Smokey, a tiny little mini horse with a big heart. We have had a lot of fun together, but I am constantly worrying about him. So, I went looking again, and Roger Cleverly found my pony Azure for me. I have been driving her ever since, and really like her.

One day my old friend Jenifer Rhynes called me to ask if she could stay with us due to having a CASA Kid who needed care in the area, we chatted, and she told me she was driving horses on the coast under Diane Kastama, who I had heard of. I have had fun with driving, but haven't had much in the way of formal driving lessons, I really just want to have good experiences with my two little equines. Around our area all the more experienced drivers have moved or retired, and so our little group has been casting around for a place to have fun with our equines in a safe learning environment. Brass Oak is the closest club with experienced drivers doing fun things. So, here we all come from the Fresno area.



Driving Derby and Lessons with Maddie

About Madeleine Augustsson

I was born and raised in Sweden, and have worked with combined driving since 2008. My experience includes managing World Championship combined driving stables in Sweden, United States and Germany as well as competing successfully locally in Germany and California.

Since 2017 I also train driving horses from start up to advanced level, give lessons/clinics and organize ADS/USEF recognized combined driving competitions.

I am also a combined driving course designer, scorer and stay involved in the discipline as a board member of the American Driving Society.

While always being professional and respectful I am also caring and empathetic and I think one of my notable strengths is my ability to connect with horses and their owners to make sure they both have a fun, safe and positive experience.



I recently had a fun visit to Windsor, South Carolina, inspired by Pam Miller. We stayed with John and Ronda McPherson, gracious hosts with a lovely home. Rhonda took me out for a fun drive in the woods near their farm. Pam participated in Keith Yutzy's course design program.

My plan was to be a spectator at the Windsor Trace CDE, but I ended up enlisted to be the marathon navigator for Marjean McIntyre. It was a lot of fun. The marathon went through the local woods with some very narrow trails and tight turns. Marjean did a great job of driving her young and green horse, Reggie. I had spent enough time on the course and in the obstacles to be helpful.

I also met several local trainers who had availability for me and Casso to board and train with them this winter season. Teresa Bron introduced me to a fellow with a furnished apartment for rent over his garage. It even has a queen size Murphy bed for guests. I hope BODS members will feel welcome to invite themselves to visit. I'll set up a bed in the garage for Diane Kastama.



Dan Rosenthal, past president of the American Driving Society, took me for a drive on his beautiful property with two of his Dartmoor ponies. So fun. Lisa Singer, goes out to Dan's about once a week; I'm looking forward to hauling over to his place to also take lessons from Lisa.

I will be boarding and training with Janelle Marshall in Windsor, SC. She's a lovely gal with a really fun group of clients and friends. I'll do two lessons a week with her to start. Janelle and her husband own a property right next to Kristin Whittington and Barbara Sims (from California). These adjacent farm owners are cooperative with each other and provide easements for driving around the various properties - there also will be access to trails in the trees.

I joined the Aiken driving club. I lined up places (horse motels) to stay along the way.

We left on November 20 and arrived in Windsor on November 24. Whew! Fortunately, two of the four overnight locations have housing on site. Since I have a two-horse trailer without a living quarters this will make things a lot easier.

I am looking forward to staying in touch with all of my club driving friends and will occasionally come back to California to visit.

Lori Weiss

Drive		
38 hr	42 d	10 d
610 Glen Annie Rd, Goleta, CA 93117		
A	Goodyear, Arizona	7 hr 37 min
B	Anthony, Texas 79821	6 hr 18 min
C	Ranger, Texas 76470	7 hr 46 min
D	Edwards, Mississippi 39066	7 hr 20 min
E	Windsor, South Carolina 29856	8 hr 46 min



BRASS OAK DRIVING SOCIETY**Board Meeting Agenda**

Saturday, December 6 at 10:30 AM

Held at: Ann McClures during Christmas Party

Call to Order	President:	Jenifer Rhynes
	• Introductions	
Approval of Minutes	Secretary:	Gloria Walter
	• Membership report	
Finance Report	Treasurer:	Diane Kastama
	• Financials	
Events	Review:	All
	• Bits Presentation	
	• Maddie Augustsson	
	• Derby	
	• Driving with Friends	
	Upcoming	
	• Harness fit & Ground driving 1/10 in No Co	
	• Fun with Friends Sat: 1/3 & 3/7 Wednesday 2/18 & 4/15	
	• Ram Tap 1/31& 2/1 OR2/28&29	
	• Twin Rivers 5/23 to25	
Old Business	PA system	Diane
New Business	2026 Board	Jenifer
	President: Janine Newby	
	VP Jenifer Rhynes	
	Secretary: Tasha Wilke	
	Treasurer: Diane Kastama	
	Board Mbrs: Nikki Scott, Gloria Walter & Kelly Moore	
Next Board Meeting	TBD	Janine Newby
Adjourn		Jenifer
Will not be in attendance	Nikki	

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:

Zilco elite extra full size harness:

Two pairs of driving reins; one set never used ; one with tags still attached.

Carrying case. Has been used about 10 times.

All in like new condition; asking \$1500.00 OBO; buyer pays shipping.

TWO WHEEL CART

in good condition; step up and into cart from behind

Cart can be purchased separately for \$800 OBO.

If you want the cart and the harness I will take \$300 off the total package. The cart was used on a 17.1 Irish sport horse as well as 15.2 Morgan.



If interested please contact Anita Parra- DM me or e mail anitaparradvn@gmail.com or text 805-474-8112

Members' Marketplace

FOR SALE

FREY VSE MINI REBEL CART

\$3000

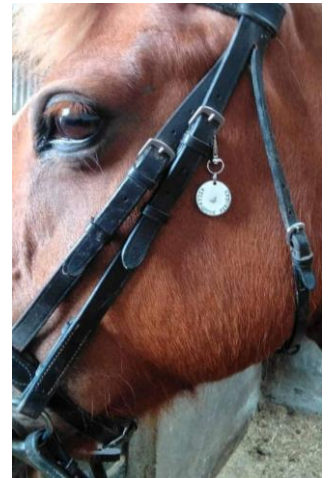
26" Marathon Wheels
Standard Shafts
Nerf Dash
Larger Seat



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.

Driving events around the region: *Contact venues for current information.*

December 6, 2025 – Holiday party lunch and driving, Ann's place, see pg. 1 & 6

January 3, 2026 – 1pm Fun With Friends, 238 Cimarron, Arroyo Grande

January 10 – 12-4pm Harness Fitting/Ground Driving Clinic and Tack Swap, see pg. 2

January 31 – Tentative RamTap outing

February 13-15 – Sweetheart ADT, Temecula www.whipsnappers.com for info

February 18 – 11-3pm Fun With Friends, 238 Cimarron, Arroyo Grande

March 7 – 11-3pm Fun With Friends, 238 Cimarron, Arroyo Grande

April 15 – 11-3pm Fun With Friends, 238 Cimarron, Arroyo Grande



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

Next Meeting: December 6
Holiday Party lunch and driving at Ann's
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.