

Carriage Tracks

Official Publication of the Northern California Driving Club
Established in 1992

*To Perpetuate and Promote the Safe Use of the Equine in
Harness for Pleasure, Recreation and Sport*

August 2004

A Day of Traditional Driving August 21, 2004

**Note that a special class for non-traditional
(marathon) vehicles has been added**

See

<http://www.acornnmr.com/ncdc/>

or the last newsletter for details

[NCDC Meeting Aug 21](#)

following the Traditional Day of Driving

Topics to be discussed include activities for the fall and early next year, including proposed weekends at Hiskens. If you can't make the meeting, send your comments to Chairman Pat.

It is membership renewal time, folks!

The renewal form is on the last page. Print and mail with your check. If your address, etc, has not changed, you need not fill it all out. But if there's any question, please be sure to supply the current information!

The club currently has 123 members, some of which are family memberships.

[New!!](#) Picnic Drive on Aug 15 - see page 3

The Central Valley Harness Assn has a new web site, and they post their newsletters.

<http://www.centralvalleyharnessassociation.com>

Note that according to their July newsletter, the Ram Tap CDE lost \$6,000 this year, the first time it has lost money, and they are questioning whether to continue. They need help with fund raising and volunteers. Comments should be directed to Denise Cuendett at dchorses@yahoo.com

Hiskens weekend?

Some time back, we tentatively reserved the weekend of Oct 16-17 at Hiskens. There are no specific plans (yet), but my thought was to do a "CDE Camp" as we've done in previous years.

The major cost for an activity there is the use fee, which is \$30 per horse per day and \$10 per day for each person other than the rider/driver. (In the past, it was phrased as \$30 per turnout, it is now \$30 per horse, which increases the fee for those driving a pair.)

They have just told me they will require a minimum fee corresponding to 25 horses (which comes to \$750 per day). The problem for us is that our usual attendance falls short of 25.

In 2001, we had 18. In 2002, we had 19. Last fall, we had 18. In May, for the Muffy clinic, we had 25 total over 3 days, but not all were there each day.

That was a clinic, so a slightly different activity.

Based on this history, the club would end up paying around \$200 per day to make up the difference, or we'd need increase the fee by \$10 per horse. While I consider that we have made a commitment to them for Oct, their increasing the cost entitles us to cancel with a clear conscience, should we decide we can't afford it. I have not attempted to negotiate with them.

We will need to address the following questions at the Aug 21 meeting:

Do we want to have an activity at Hiskens in Oct?
If so, what activity?

They are working on their 2005 calendar, and want to know if we want a spring and/or fall date, so we need to decide that as well.

If you will not be at the Aug meeting, please let me know what you think before that meeting.

Gina Miner

Calendar of Events

- Aug 6-8 Dr. Henry Boyd Memorial CDE (ADS Pending) Train. & Prelim. Woodside, CA
Gerald Fisher 408.629.2767 Piscator6717@sbcglobal.net
- Aug 14-15 Lincoln Creek CDE (ADS Pending) Centralia, WA
Mickey Lofgren 360.266.9415 mickey@grassmountainfarm.com
- Aug 15 Miniature Horse Show with Driving Classes Wilton, CA
Debbie Packard 916.687.7948 Cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net
- Aug 15 Picnic Drive, Wilton. Contact Jenni Haas, (916) 687-8898
- Aug 21** **[NCDC Traditional Day of Driving Clarksburg, CA](#)** **Jay Hubert, jhubert@softcom.net**
Gina Miner gina@acornnmr.com NCDC meeting to follow
- Aug 27-29 High Prairie Farms CDE at the Colorado Horse Park Parker, CO
Deborah Terry 303-688-3266 mthfarm@earthlink.net
- Sep 3-5 Mother Lode All Morgan Horse Show with Open Carriage Pleasure Driving Classes Sonoma
County Fairground, Santa Rosa
Kelly Denison 916-284-4903 Nancy Myers 530-477-0409
- Sept 11 "KISS" Drive! (keep it simple silly) A fun day of driving! Gilroy, CA
Celia McCormack 408.847.7921 Celia56@starnetdial.net
- Sep 11 "Caspar Hot Dog Drive" at the Woodward Reservoir by the Antique Carriage Club Oakdale, CA
Larry & Toni Newcomb 209.847.5227 abuggynut@yahoo.com
- Oct 1-3 California Classic CDE at Shady Oaks Lodi, CA www.shadyoaksevents.com
- Oct 10 Joe Daehling Ranch Annual Picnic Drive with the "Antique Carriage Club" Elk Grove, CA
Joe Daehling 916.685.4965 Daehling@jps.net
- Oct 16-17 Driving Weekend at Hiskens Oregon House, CA Gina Miner, gina@acornnmr.com
- Oct 16 "High Tea & Pleasure Driving in the Park" Golden Gate Park Sponsored by "Horses in California"
managed by "Broken Spoke" San Francisco, CA Carol Miglis 559.251.8695 eve 559.241.7752 day
cemiglis@jgparker.com **This event is "on hold" as of Aug 3.**
- OCT 23-24 Carriage Association of America's West Coast Educational Series # 5 Hollister, CA
George Bowman and Tom Faucette Jill Ryder 856.935.1616 carrassc@mindspring.com
- Oct 23-24 Mighty Mini's (Miniature Horses) CDE (pending ADS) Bakersfield, CA
Doug & Renee True 559.582.3694 Dtrue@kings.k12.ca.us
- Oct 30-31 "Halloween Hustle" (Pending ADS) Pleasure Driving Show & "A Traditional Sporting Day of Driving"
Moorpark, CA Jody Cutler 805.529.2753 gjcutler@earthlink.net
- Nov 5-6 California Draft Horse & Equipment Sale at the International Agri Center Inc. Tulare, CA
Carlson Sales 209.668.1011 Sales office 209.581.2687
- Nov 6-7 Dressage Festival Sponsored by the Central Valley Harness Association Fresno, CA
Gene Hagberg 559.689.3289 Ghagberg_93653@yahoo.com
- Nov 19-21 Old Pueblo CDE (pending ADS) At the Pima County Fairgrounds Tucson, AZ
Sally Henry 520.883.1818 azoldpueblocde@aol.com
- Nov 20 5th Annual Meeting of the Minds for event organizers, club officials and others TBA In CA
Celine Rickards and Linda Fairbanks (209) 966-4499 celine@carriagedriving.com
- Dec 4 9th Annual High Tea & Drive at WSS Woodland, CA
Shelly Chavoor 530.753.6761 wsstea@scrubjay.nu

August 15th Picnic Drive

Jennie Haas invites the Antique Carriage Club and anyone else with a horse and carriage on Sunday August 15 to her hometown Wilton for a Sunday morning outing along the Cosumnes River.

Directions: From Highway 99 turn east on Dillard Rd. for 2.5 miles. Opposite of Riley Rd. (first street to the right) turn left through a big iron gate and follow a gravel road to the flood plain of the Cosumnes River to our meeting site. We plan on leaving at 10:30 sharp. If you are late, just follow the tracks.

Dillard Rd. is between Galt and Elk Grove and Wilton is just southeast of Elk Grove.

After an 6 mile drive, we will meet on top of an old Indian mound under a big oak tree for a potluck lunch. The big hill was the site of a Native American village for about 4,000 years. We will drive past fields, over a levy road, along the river through a lot of protected, native brush and trees. There is some Poison Oak around. So watch what plant you touch. For the most part, the road is flat except for one steep hill when we cross the dry river bed. There is no traffic and only dirt road. Just in case, bring some Mosquito spray for yourself and your horse. Please keep some distance between carriages when you cross the river!

We will have tables for the food, but bring your own chairs and water for your horse. The Club will furnish cold drinks, plates and utensils. To cover the cost for the property owner's insurance, drinks and a toilette, please send \$10 per person with your reservation to:

Jennie Haas P.O. Box 267 Wilton, CA 95693.

Jennie's phone number is (916) 687-8898 or call Joe Daehling at (916) 685-4965.

AHHS Establishes New Program

The American Hackney Horse Society is pleased to announce a new program which started in 2003. The Hackney Open Competition Program is designed to honor and acknowledge the achievements of Hackney horses and ponies across the USA and who compete in events against other breeds. History has shown many fine Hackneys have competed in various events through the years. It's time to support those Hackneys out in the open show circuits showing that Hackneys Can Do It and do it well.

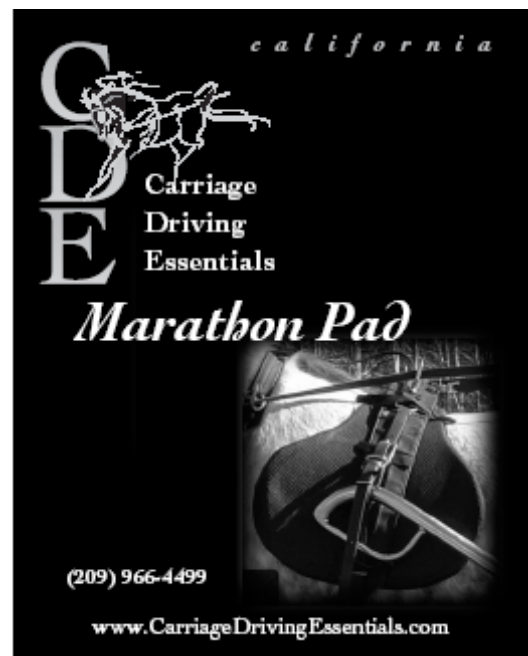
The divisions include: In Hand, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat and Hunt Seat), Hunter / Jumper (classes over fences), Dressage, Carriage Driving, Combined Driving Events, Competitive Trail Riding / Driving and Junior Exhibitors. The AHHS will publish an Open Competition section annually in the American Hackney Horse Society Newsletter where award winners will be appropriately honored. Plaques will be awarded to the champion and reserve champion of each division. Certificates will be awarded for third through sixth place.

To be eligible a horse or pony must be a registered with the AHHS during the competition year. Both the owner and all riders/drivers must be current AHHS members. Both the event (show) and the class entered must be open to other breeds. An application fee of \$25 is required.

For more information contact:

Karen Nowak phone 845-223-5448, e-mail: Knowak5170@aol.com

Denise Ruffing phone 734-453-2647, e-mail: FoxThorne-Farm@prodigy.net



Trinity CDE

I feel very fortunate to live in a state that offers 3 CDEs (Ram Tap, Trinity & Henry Boyd) every year and a fourth one (Garlic) every other year. To me, the Trinity CDE is the special one. This was the third formal Trinity CDE ; there was a trial one four years ago. This year, it was held in early June when everything was still very green. Every morning when I got up, the deer were grazing in the fields around us with spectacular mountains rising in the distance (The Trinity Mountains).

The Trinity CDE is held on Pat and Dave Schumaker's land in Hayfork, which is a small town sitting in a valley between Redding and the Coast. Pat and Dave's place is 95 acres. Some of the Schumaker's adjacent neighbors yearly offer some of their land for use in the CDE and camp area. It has long been Dave's dream to have a CDE on his own land. We call the encampment the participants create his "Field of Dreams".

Hayfork is the best example of the term 'community' I have ever seen. The people of Hayfork call the Trinity CDE 'the buggy races'. Half the town volunteers to work the CDE. Locals call yearly to reserve their volunteer spot at a specific hazard. And, then, there is the wine and cheese party at the Schumaker's catered by some locals and dinners prepared/hosted by other Hayforkians at the fair grounds or some other venue.

Those not volunteering in some capacity either spectate or support the participants when they go to town, especially to Irene's - the town's cafe. It is not uncommon to see a competition vehicle driving along the main street of town on a trip to get ice/food/an ice cream cone at the Hayfork Dairy. Since it's only about 1-2 miles away, it's a simple jaunt.

The Trinity CDE is not just a CDE, it is a 3 day happening, included in which is a CDE. I can't say enough about Hayfork's wonderful sense of community, but I do want to talk about the CDE. It is a very physically demanding CDE; translation: it's quite hilly. Attached are a couple of pictures taken Marathon Day. I drove in Training and there were no water hazards for that level this year. But, THE DITCH was a challenge for everyone. There was no way to get around it. As we drove down into THE DITCH, I was realized that it was the same pitch as THE PIT at Shady Oaks. There was water at the bottom, too; it just wasn't as deep as Shady Oaks.

Afterwards,it was a lot of fun looking at Christie (Crawford) Bellinghoven's (sp?) pictures of others in THE DITCH. Some horses tried hard to avoid the water - Christie remarked later that she now understands why some vehicles are named Puddle Jumper. Evidently, several horses actually jumped the water, which launched their vehicles.

Spats, Barrie and I did very well at Trinity. We ended up with Best Training Level Pony, Best Training Level scores and Fastest Clean Cones run of the entire CDE. (For the first time ever, Spats and I got the best pony dressage score , which I mention because dressage has always been our real nemesis!)

Getting there is bit of a challenge as you wend your way, trailer attached, over Hwy 299 out of Redding or Hwy 36 out of Red Bluff. It is a difficult trip, but WELL WORTH IT.

Kathy Freeman

Treasurer's Report

Dues received	\$875.00	Current balance	\$6,498.52
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News from Members

New member Pat Bowles, Sacramento

I have a team of gypsy driving horses. I drive for the pleasure. I have never shown a team - but I might! I've had the team for a year so I'm still very, very novice and will probably take some lessons - I need to!!

New member Karen Martin, Elk Grove

I grew up in Sunnyvale. When I was 10 years old I used to drive my uncle's roadster ponies in Santa Rosa when we went to visit him. This same uncle showed his ponies at the Cow Palace so he also introduced me to rodeo. In 1987 I became a professional rodeo photographer for the PRCA for over 12 years. In 1999 I broke my ankle and was eventually forced to retire from shooting in the arena due to safety concerns (the bulls move faster than I do these days).

In 1996 I bought a 5 acre ranchette in Elk Grove because I had 4 pygmy goats (I have a few more now). In 2002 I rescued Missy, a 28 year old driving pony whose first parade was in 1976 and who used to be with Project Ride. Since Missy came with a cart and harness, I had fun driving her around on my property, not something I had done in 30+ years. But Missy foundered in February and the vet recommended she be retired from driving. I figured it would be in Missy's best interest to get her a posture buddy so at the same time I looked for a driving pony for me to "dink around on". I found Dusty at Project Ride. The day I purchased Dusty, a modern Shetland, I also purchased a pregnant Section A Welsh mare named Lilly who delivered a filly in May. So whereas I only wanted two ponies, I now have four mares! Lilly will be trained to drive this year; since Dusty and Lilly are the same size, the cart and harness will work for both ponies. Regarding club activities, I'm not sure how involved I will get driving wise since I'm a beginner with lots to learn. I am interested in pleasure drives, perhaps eventually show, but overall just have some fun! [Karen also offered to help with the newsletter - thanks!]

New member Jan Borgman, Chicago Park

I am a novice driver with a Haflinger gelding. We have a 2 wheeled Pacific cart.

Renewing member Arlea Cone is adding (not new!) hubby to her membership

We have 2 driving minis and a soon-to-be-driving Nifty son. I have been driving for about 15 years - everything from minis to Morgans - love 'em all. Would love to see more casual drives and clinics near Auburn. Love the NCDC internet network!

Jane Merritt has posted Part I of her East Coast Adventure from last year.

See <http://www.extendinc.com/paintedponies/adventure.htm>

Jane, when do we get to hear the rest?!

Officers

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grannyncart@hotmail.com

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Von Faust tells his story, with a little help from Cheryl Skigin

It is close to midnight and even though this is California, I can still see my breath in the December air. I am drawn to the open window and the scents of the night. I hear movement and see long strands of hair floating by the window lifted by a light wind. There is another awake with me. It is not an unusual occurrence as we are often drawn together in these quiet hours of peace. For the bond between is as ethereal as breath in cold air and as tangible as the physical structures which surround us, house, fence and barn. Horse and human exchange our greetings, a nickering chortle, a flared nostril of breath, a touch, and a hushed voice. We will mark our tenth year together soon and our world has expanded, but in these hours it is simply the two of us. So, as I reach out the open window the wind pulls at strands of my hair and intertwines them with those of my visitor, a cascade of black and white.

Night is the best time for reflection and since my companion is content to be silent, I let my thoughts wonder to our first meeting. It was of course at a barn. The fanfare was expected. Even a very young Friesian colt is apt to cause a stir. I, however, expected the visit to be brief as I had no expectation that I was going to find what I wanted. There was a moment when this young boy with the proverbial mop of blond hair went galloping by that I felt something stir, but he and the horse flashed by too quickly. The only certainty was that what had brought me here was not at all what I had in mind. These people knew nothing about horses and less about me.

I am after all a Friesian, a Friesian stallion at that, technically perhaps part of the equine species, but not, not ever just a "horse". At that moment, to some, I might have looked like a colt, even, (I shudder to say), a potential gelding, I was and have always been, (at least in my own mind), a stallion, a descendent of powerful and regal horses fit for kings and knights. (Although personally, I like the modern period, all that armor must have been rather tiresome, not to mention heavy). So, if you thought my story was going to begin with some flighty or naive young colt with no idea of his worth or value, you clearly are not talking about a Friesian and certainly not about me.

The boy knew. Small, wiry, with a smirk and green eyes, he knew. He was just passing through from a lesson. Although he had no reason to know or even a hope at the time that we would meet, I could tell that he was drawn to me. The woman who had come for him was talking to the "people". How had I gotten into this? They had never owned a Friesian, not even a "horse". This was an experiment, a fun learning project. To grow with the "horse". The more I heard that "H" word the worse it got. I was hoping the woman and boy might catch my eye and discourage the "people". When the woman came by, she whispered into the curve of one of my perfectly sculpted Friesian ears. Then, she and the boy were gone.

No need to go into the details. Suffice it to say, that I worked my charms on the woman and boy when they came for his lessons and hid them when the others were around. It certainly came as no surprise to me that I achieved my goal in record time. I was soon the proprietor of a lovely private stable with a family of Irish Draught and Irish Sport horses. A great crowd to grow up with if you don't mind the fact that they have an unsettling habit of jumping in and out of the fences. Oh yes, and the boy and the woman then belonged to me.

Now there was a little bit of rivalry. Not with the Irish stallions, although there were several. An easy going crowd, more interested in going up and over than anything else. No it was a stallion of the human species that had this absurd notion that the woman and I think the boy were under his dominion. I did my best to set him straight without breaking his spirit. Whenever the woman and I would go for a little work-out, he seemed to feel the need to bark directions in the center of the arena. I found that just a few romps into the center while bringing myself to my full two legged height (done with great dignity of course) expressed my feelings on the subject. I thought it worked, but I was always a little suspicious of that radio she carried on our later workouts that seemed to echo his voice. Once I was certain we had the relationships established I even allowed him some time in the saddle, just to keep his spirits up.

Then there was the boy. We have, I suppose, grown up together. When he could not reach the top of my head, I would bend down to him for the bridle which I used with long lines to guide him around. I was gentle- but firm. I knew he could not run beside me then, so allowing him to hold onto the lines and pretend to be driving me was a great treat for him. As he has grown, I have permitted him to run beside me and attempt to match my gait. Alas, he is limited by his confirmation and can never reach as high or extend his long legs as I can mine, but he has done well, considering.

The Irish horses (who are obviously more appropriately conformed) have been a source of endless amusement. While I can not see the sense of jumping the fence just to test the grass on the other side, they do have a knack for getting over things. When I first began taking my humans out, we enjoyed rides out in the hills together. I love the freedom of the hills and trails (I could easily pass up getting the burrs in my tail though). I showed those Irish chaps they aren't the only ones who can handle fences and ditches. I suppose some would think my education was a bit barbarian. I had never even tried a ridden dressage test until I went to the Stallion Performance Test.

Perhaps I ought to first mention that I was quite the star at my Keuring. Of course, I took Champion Stallion in 2001 when I met the judges. I have always thought that my tail- which trailed a least 18 inches on the ground- must have stunned them. Although I must admit that my greatest strength lies in my perfectly balanced conformation. (Even the Irish judges who came to inspect my Irish stablemates were rather impressed by it). My balance is the source of the impulsion that allows me to extend my gaits so as to challenge the movement of any dressage horse and also to raise my leg above shoulder height. It is from this that my Friesian movement comes, a movement that is so light that I appear to merely float above the ground. It is this I know that leaves my human companion breathless.

I admit that her belief in me led me to the Stallion Performance Test and two months away from home. I rather enjoyed the dressage training (even learned a bit of German). The driving came along more slowly (I still preferred directing my boy around on long lines to pulling a carriage. Let's be honest, with one, you can assert superiority by a quick pull- the other you are doing all the work). My favorite part was the jumping. After all, I was taught by the best... my Irish mates from home.

The final testing was both a thrill and rather stressful. The thrill, she and the boy came to watch me. I was so determined to show them all I had learned that I rather over did the heavy pull and strained a muscle. Almost could not get the kink out to drive the next day. A good massage before the jumping, however, and I was back. Besides there was a crowd and they were applauding.

Applause, one of the human activities I have learned to enjoy. I can be amusing and entertaining. However, I have had to work on some behavior modification for those time when I really put myself out. I notice, for example, that humans love to applaud wildly when I simply extend my magnificent trot. I do enjoy it. However, it is important to save performances for...well performances. I don't do this on any cue for my own amusement, so unless they are going to applaud, I am going to stop. We now have a clear understanding on this issue.

Also, like everyone else, I love a parade, I find the waiting time annoying, but when the drums roll and the crowds applaud then I am in my element. My first big parade, I went with a number of my fellow Friesian stallions. They were a nice group, rather on the quiet side. (Some people might say simply well behaved) I admit I was a little testy during the two hour wait for our entrance. Then this terrifically loud band with rows and rows of drums moved out just before us. We turned the corner and everyone was going wild. I was in my element. Forget the antsy waiting time, I strutted down that street like I owned it. Well in a sense I did. My fellow Friesians found the noise and the drums disconcerting and went for the exit. No matter, I could handle the crowd.

Vain you are thinking, no, just self confident. A stallion has to know his worth. So what if I enjoy a dressage arena with mirrors. It isn't like I have one in my stall. (I asked, but...) The fact that I enjoy performance days is simply because I am a sociable creature. I have exquisite manners (come in my stall- you best remove your hat- or I will) and enjoy seeing new faces, and of course being seen. Besides the boy can come with me now. Together we can be quite a team.

The thought brings me back to my companion.

I can tell that the night air has become too cold for her to stay. She buries her face in my neck, her hair like streams of light in my mane. She will be leaving now and heading back past my open window to her sleeping house. As her farewell she reaches up to my sculpted Friesian ears just as she did that first night. This time, however, I must bow my head for I am no longer that young colt and she can not reach them anymore. Although she rides with me less these days than either of us would wish, she is still first and foremost mine. For she named me Faust, it was the name she whispered in my ear when we first met.

Von Faust resides at Fox N Firkin Farms in Orange California with his humans, Cheryl Skigin and Brian Gwartz, their children, Alexander, Gillian and Pendragon. Faust permits Cheryl and Brian to ride him. Alexander both rides and drives Faust.

