



# 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*

December 2004

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## **Hello NCDC!**

A letter from the editor, Harriet (the other) Merritt

It's pay back time! I have so enjoyed the last two plus years of play and learning, and feel it's time for me to get involved with the club, supporting it so we will continue to have a club to support. No one can identify with feeling "out of the loop" more than I can...but to get into the loop you need to participate...Cowboy up.

Anyone who has been a member of any volunteer board, or a "mover and shaker" will tell you only about 10% of the membership run the organization. This has pros and cons. A couple of the pros are, things get decided and accomplished! A couple of the cons are, people burn out and tend to repeat things that are "known to work". Addressing each is really the same; all groups need new people for fresh ideas, and to increase the energy.

At the meeting of the Minds, a poll was taken to see how many years each of the people involved have been doing something to support the sport of Driving. These are the people who do the grunt work and fundraising to give the rest of us some place to play. It was a normal curve, but the largest group seemed to have gotten involved within the last five years. Obviously the rest of us support them, with contributions, entries and volunteering. This month, I want to address volunteering.

When I was first seriously looking at participating in the sport of Driving, I knew the best way to "figure it out" was to volunteer at some kind of event. I looked in a magazine Gary Rickards had given me at a breed event in Reno, found NCDC, and got Gina's name as the contact. I called her and she suggested I attend the ADT in Ione.

I went to the ADT (Arena Driving Trial, the acronyms don't take nearly as long to learn as you think they will...VSE?) in Ione (somewhere out there, Thank you AAA), all by myself (I may not seem it, but I'm actually shy and insecure). When I arrived, I was confused, but curious and excited. I asked someone to point out Gina Miner, and descended on her. I'm not sure what she was doing, but she was BUSY! I asked for a job and was sent to Jane and Terry Merritt to time hazards.

Time Hazards! Lordy, I didn't know what a Hazard was, and timing it, a job that was REALLY important to the competitors, I had to "cowboy up" and not flee to my car. Jane and Terry were VERY BUSY too, but handed me a stop watch, and quickly explained how to push the buttons. Then it was happening and I was hooked. Terry backed up my timing, and we actually had quite a few exactly the same to the hundredth, which figuring two different clocks started by two different people, what are the odds? It was fun! I helped take down the courses, ate a great lunch (I think Sally Baker brought the food) and left ON FIRE to drive. I was still clueless, but a little less so.

The point to this ramble is two fold. First, and because it really is all about me, I learned a lot. And met people, and saw what it was to do "it". Second, MOST importantly, I helped. I'm sure they could have timed and taken down the courses, but Gina, Jane, Terry and Sally would have been just a bit more tired at the end of the day. Being tired eventually can translate into voting NO on doing things as a club, because they want to play too! We can quickly figure out the "lifers", the people that have been giving to this sport for five, ten, twenty or more years. We need them. They have so much to teach us, and love nothing more. But they need our help to keep the energy. This is our club. Your first mission, should you chose to accept it, is to complete the questionnaire on page 7.

Then, Cowboy up.



## 2005 Calendar of Events

**Jan 8 NCDC Annual Planning Meeting**  
**Shady Oaks clubhouse Lodi, CA**

Pat Scholderer [grannyncart@earthlink.net](mailto:grannyncart@earthlink.net)

Feb 5 The Ground Hog Day **Drive & Ride** 20-30 miles Silver Springs, NV Cliff or Cathy Lewis 775-577-9693  
[kklfarms@aol.com](mailto:kklfarms@aol.com)

Feb 12-13 Playday at RamTap Fresno, CA Janet McAfee 559.591.6541 [kmcafee@webtv.net](mailto:kmcafee@webtv.net)

Feb 12 The Sweetheart **Drive & Ride** 30 miles Stagecoach, NV Jerry Myers 775.720.0658

March 5 & 6 Mini Spring Fling at Whiffletree Ranch (McKees) <http://www.centralvalleyharnessassociation.com>

March 12 & 13 Maxi Spring Fling at Whiffletree Ranch (McKees) <http://www.centralvalleyharnessassociation.com>

Mar 12 The Shamrock **Drive & Ride** Silver Springs, NV Cliff or Cathy Lewis 775-577-9693 [kklfarms@aol.com](mailto:kklfarms@aol.com)

**Mar 19 NCDC ADT, Howard Arena Lodi, CA** Gina Miner [gina@acornmr.com](mailto:gina@acornmr.com)

April 1-3 Ram Tap CDE

May 7 Central Coast Draft Horse & Driving Show San Benito County Fairgrounds Tres Pinos, CA Suzy Caston  
[drafts4us@aol.com](mailto:drafts4us@aol.com)

May 20-22 Trinity CDE Training, Prelim. & Interm. Hayfork, CA Frances Bowersock 508-759-3327  
[beesock@molalla.net](mailto:beesock@molalla.net)

May 28-29 Driven Dressage Clinic with J. Ashton Moore, Bella Sera Farm [www.bellaserafarm.com](http://www.bellaserafarm.com) Winters, CA  
Linda Palagi 530.795.1101 [calynm@castles.com](mailto:calynm@castles.com)

June 3-5 Winnemucca Mule Races, Show and Draft horse Challenge Winnemucca, NV [www.mule-draffhorse-show.com](http://www.mule-draffhorse-show.com)

Jun 9-12 *tentative* "California Wine Country Carriage Classic" \*ADS, Pleasure Driving Show, Pleasure Drive and  
obstacle classes [www.winecountrycarriageclassic.com](http://www.winecountrycarriageclassic.com) Kelseyville, CA  
Linda Long 910.692.0943 [lalong@pinehurst.net](mailto:lalong@pinehurst.net)

Jun 25-26 A Traditional Sporting Day of Driving on Saturday and a Traditional Picnic Drive on Sunday Santa Ynez,  
CA Mike McCormack [aloha2mike@aol.com](mailto:aloha2mike@aol.com)

Jun 25-26 Driving Clinic with Bob Elliot (England) Antique Carriage Club Oakdale, CA Larry or Toni Newcomb  
209.847.5227 [abuggynut@yahoo.com](mailto:abuggynut@yahoo.com)

Jul 3-4 The NEDA Anniversary Ride & Drive  
20-30 miles Both Days Silver Springs, NV Cliff or Cathy Lewis 775-577-9693 [kklfarms@aol.com](mailto:kklfarms@aol.com)

Aug 4-7 The Dr. Henry Boyd Memorial CDE, Train., Prelim. & Inter. [www.henryboydcde.com](http://www.henryboydcde.com) Woodside, CA Gerald  
Fisher 408.464.8916 [piscator6717@sbcglobal.net](mailto:piscator6717@sbcglobal.net)

**Aug 20 NCDC Traditional Day of Driving Silverbend Farm Clarksburg, CA**  
Jay Hubert 209-748-5607 [jhubert@softcom.net](mailto:jhubert@softcom.net)

Sep 2-4 "Mother lode" Show with Open Driving Classes Sacramento Valley Morgan Horse Club, Sonoma Co. Fair-  
grounds Santa Rosa, CA Kelly Denison [kelly@invisibleexecutives.com](mailto:kelly@invisibleexecutives.com)

Sep 10-11 *Tentative* Garlic Classic CDE \*ADS, Train. Prelim. Gilroy, CA Celia McCormack [Celia56@starnetdial.net](mailto:Celia56@starnetdial.net)

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Sep 10 Casper Hot Dog Drive at Woodward Reservoir sponsored by the Antique Carriage Club Oakdale, CA Larry or Toni Newcomb 209.847.5227 [abuggynut@yahoo.com](mailto:abuggynut@yahoo.com)

Sep 15-18 Nevada County Draft Horse Classic [www.nevadacountyfair.com](http://www.nevadacountyfair.com) Grass Valley, CA Sandy Woods 530.273.6217 [sandy@nevadacountyfair.com](mailto:sandy@nevadacountyfair.com)

Oct 7-9 California Classic CDE at Shady Oaks \*ADS Prelim, Int. & Adv. [www.shadyoaksevents.com](http://www.shadyoaksevents.com) Lodi, CA Bonner Murphy 209.462.2209 [bnnrmrphy@aol.com](mailto:bnnrmrphy@aol.com)

Oct 22-23 Driven Dressage Clinic with J. Ashton Moore at Bella Sera Farm [www.bellaserafarm.com](http://www.bellaserafarm.com) Winters, CA Linda Palagi 530.795.1101 [calynm@castles.com](mailto:calynm@castles.com)

Nov 5-6 Tentative "Tap Dance" Dressage Freestyle ADS Central Valley Harness Association Fresno, CA

Nov 26 The Turkey Trot **Drive & Ride** 20 miles Silver Springs, NV Cliff or Cathy Lewis 775-577-9693 [klllfarms@aol.com](mailto:klllfarms@aol.com)

## Treasurer's Report

Recent Activity:

\$100 deposit paid to City of Ione, arena rental for ADT  
\$195 received in dues

Current Balance: \$7,887.58

### Officers

**Chairman:** Pat Scholderer 925-778-2640  
[grannyncart@earthlink.net](mailto:grannyncart@earthlink.net)

**Vice-Chair:** Jean Terry 530-743-3605  
[riverrockcobs@yahoo.com](mailto:riverrockcobs@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Sally Baker  
[sallybaker@infostations.com](mailto:sallybaker@infostations.com)

**Treasurer:** Gina Miner 925-371-5325  
[gina@acornnmr.com](mailto:gina@acornnmr.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** *Harriet-the-other-Merritt*

### **Activities Committee:**

Ken Odom 530-743-3605  
[odomk@yahoo.com](mailto:odomk@yahoo.com)  
Kathy Freeman 530-677-5885  
[kathyf@ponyplace.com](mailto:kathyf@ponyplace.com)  
Thomas Smith 707-399-9873  
[hoofnit@bigfoot.com](mailto:hoofnit@bigfoot.com)

The advertisement is a black and white image of a horse's head and neck, wearing a dark leather collar. The collar has a circular logo on the front. The text is arranged as follows:

- Top left: A logo with the letters 'CDE' stacked vertically, with a horse silhouette to the right. Below it, the text reads 'Carriage Driving Essentials' and 'california' in a smaller font.
- Top right: The text 'Zilco Empathy Collar' in a large, elegant serif font.
- Bottom right: The phone number '(209) 966-4499'.
- Bottom center: The website address 'www.CarriageDrivingEssentials.com'.

# **BIG HATS...HOT TEA...COOL DAY**

## **by Sue Grant Duffield**

High Tea and Drive at Woodland Stallion Station, Sat Dec. 4

What a wonderful time we had, yesterday! LOVELY driving in the crisp (brrrr) air. Lots of wonderful NCDC folk, some of which I met yesterday for the first time. We had a great turnout, with carriages visible for miles around, on any of several paths. Felt like it was 1900! The Hackney Horse was easily recognizable, even in the distance. What lovely movement! I seem to recall his nice owner was called "Alice," but you know these MOLDY minds.... Jane Moody was wearing a lovely hat, raising the bar for Tea party fashion. The Freeman's new pony, Fred Astaire, made his debut in society. As usual, I drove one of Nancy Turner's great driving horses, Lady, and she drove Raisin. My gallant husband, Larry, walked beside the Minis the whole route. The Minis were quite an item of interest to horses in pastures next to the road. Some horses came up for a closer look, but many held a healthy distance from these weird things! It was fun to meet another turnout going the opposite way, with many a jest or good wishes.

----And the food! I really thought I would founder on the way home. There were things specific to teas, like dainty sandwiches and scones, but that was just the beginning. Plate after plate of really marvelous food! We had to leave somewhat early, but I really did think that a later visit to the table would have resulted in colic.

And KUDOS to Shelley! What a marvelous day of driving, talking with friends, and seeing videos of driving horses. (One suspects that if one had the choice between an Oscar-winning Best Picture and horse videos, the former would play to an empty room.

My first Tea, but I will make every effort to make it to Teas in the future! Buck Scholderer has more photos on the web at [www.picturetrail.com/horsevoice](http://www.picturetrail.com/horsevoice) for our enjoyment.

### **New Members**

Julie Rivard, Elk Grove

Julie is a therapeutic driving and riding instructor (her membership application arrived in a Project Ride envelope) who is also interested in CDEs. She has a variety of horses (including Shetland ponies, Morgans and Appys) and carriages (puddle jumpers, easy entry and a Pacific cart).

Phyllis Rumley, Clovis

Interested in CDEs and pleasure shows, has a Morgan and a Dartmoor/Pacific carriage.

Jan Jeffers, Morgan Hill

I currently own 2 Arabians which I compete in NATRC and AERC. I recently purchased a Halflinger filly and will use her for my CDE driving endeavors. I have over 50 years of experience with horses. I am new to the sport of CDE and look forward to meeting new people and learning about carriage driving. Club activities that I would like to see are clinics, gator training clinics, safety clinics, play days for practice.

### Minutes of the NCDC Meeting November 13, 2004

Meeting called to order at 2:15 by President Pat Scholderer

Move to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter was made by Jay Hubert, seconded by Thomas Smith.

Activities committee was the only committee represented and had nothing to report.

Treasurer's report - CDE Camp finances were in the last newsletter. Other recent expenditures were \$51.60 for "Additional Named Insured" certificate for the 1-day clinic at Debra and Thomas Smith's in Sept, \$84.55 in postage and copying costs for newsletters, \$690 in dues deposited since Sept 1.

Current balance \$8,230.23

Membership is 95, with 38 families, approximately 138 members.

#### Old Business:

Spring ADT, Buck Scholderer proposed we accept the Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> date Kathy Freeman had reserved, seconded by Jean Terry. Discussion followed. Jane Merrit volunteered both Terry Merrit and her services as TD and Judge for the event, and said she had awards and ribbons. Jay Hubert said he could stable some horses at his place for the event. Motion Carried.

Traditional Day of Driving, the date of August 20<sup>th</sup> at Silverbend was proposed by Buck Scholderer and seconded by Kathy Freeman. A committee of people to run it was set up by Jay of people not present to decline. Harriet Merritt promises not to go to Yosemite this year so she will be there to help. An additional day of driving on Sunday will be suggested in January. Motion Carried. It is expected that Hiskens will only be available to us in October next year. If something opens for May we want it.

#### New Business:

Clinics were discussed:

Jay Hubert brought up Clay Station Park's schedule

Jean Terry spoke of bringing people from Back East.

Pat Scholderer spoke of having beginner clinics at multiple locations.

A committee of Jane Merrit, Buck Scholderer, Jay Hubert, Debra Thomas and Sharon Waite was formed to explore Safety Clinics twice a year.

It was suggested a request to the membership through the newsletter for Videos to be loaned to be shown at clinics, Thomas Smith will check into publications to be used for a proposed "new Member" packet.

Advertisement in Freebie Magazines was suggested to promote club activities and increase membership. Joyce Williams and Jane Merrit will look into it.

Activities were explored;

A questionnaire will be included with the December Newsletter to poll the membership about their interests.

The Schedule including the ADT, TDD, CDE Clinic at Hiskens, and the Play day at Shady Oaks for 2005, 2006 was proposed to submit at MoM. Motion made and carried.

Thomas Smith made a motion we pay \$100 per person for up to 4 people to attend the Meeting of the Minds as the representatives of NCDC. Kathy Freeman seconded it. Discussion followed. Motion was tied and defeated by the chairman. The idea of Delegates and assistance for them will be brought up at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 by Thomas Smith with Jean Terry seconding.

Respectfully submitted by Harriet Merritt

## **SHARE YOUR PICTURES!**

Do you have photographs, videos or DVD's of anything relating to Driving? The clinic committee would love to borrow them! They are hoping to have some really fun and interesting things to show at an inside horseless clinic. If you have anything to share, please contact Jane Merrit at [painted.sportpony@sbcglobal.net](mailto:painted.sportpony@sbcglobal.net) or 925-754-4912



Do you want these people planning your life? Time to join the Fun!

## **JANUARY PLANNING MEETING AT SHADY OAKS!**

**Sat. Jan 8 Potluck lunch at noon, meeting to start at 1pm.**

This is our annual planning meeting, and is the biggest meeting of the year. We will discuss plans for 2005 events and other issues concerning what the members want from the club.

Directions to Shady Oaks:

I-5 to the Rte 12 exit in Lodi. Go east on Rte 12 to the stoplight. Turn left onto North Thornton Rd, right next to the freeway. Turn right into Shady Oaks (there will be a sign). The meeting is in the clubhouse near the fort hazard.

R.S.V.P. to Pat Scholderer, [grannyncart@earthlink.net](mailto:grannyncart@earthlink.net) 925-778-2640

# INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW!

NCDC Interest Questionnaire:

Please check all activities that appeal to you, and indicate all levels that apply: (Feel free to check EVERYTHING!)  
Interest: Level of involvement: Participant (P) Volunteer (V) Organize (O) Spectator (S)

- Combined Driving Events P V O S  
 Horse Trials P V O S  
 Arena Driving Events P V O S  
 Dressage Festivals P V O S  
 Traditional Day of Driving P V O S  
 Pleasure Driving, Shows P V O S  
 Clinics:  Basic Skills P V O S  
 Specific Skills, (Please List) P V O S  
 Safety P V O S  
 Playdays P V O S  
 Picnic Drives P V O S  
 Poker Drives P V O S

How far are you willing to travel? \_\_\_\_\_ Miles or \_\_\_\_\_ Hours

Will you stay overnight? Yes No  Camp  Hotel  Houseguest

Would you share accommodations with a stranger? Yes No

How much are you willing to spend for an **Entry**? (Not total expense of event) How many of each price range per year?

- up to \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ per year  
 \$50 to \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ per year  
 \$100 to \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ per year  
 Over \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ per year

Total yearly budget (Ha Ha, like any of us have a real budget!) \_\_\_\_\_

When do you plan your Schedule?

- Yearly, with  "add ons"  
 semi annually (Omnibus)  "add ons"  
 Quarterly  "add ons"  
 Monthly  "add ons"  
 I'm ALWAYS ready! Let's go!

Thanks for doing this survey! VSE is Very Small Equine, as in Miniature Horses...and Omnibus is ADS (American Driving Society) award winning Magazine.

Bring your completed questionnaire to the January Planning Meeting, or mail it to

Harriet Merritt  
 1993 Rancho Verde Cr E  
 Danville, CA 94526

**NCDC**  
4008 Dyer Rd.  
Livermore, CA 94551

### **NCDC Membership Application/Renewal Form**

New Member    Renewal

Dues are \$25 for Individuals and \$35 for Families. The Membership year runs from June to May 31, not the Calendar Year.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email Address

Is it OK for NCDC to use your email address for club information?    **Yes**    **No**

The newsletter is normally distributed via email, as an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file.

Do you need to receive the newsletter via regular mail?    **Yes**    **No**

NCDC maintains an email discussion list for members only.

Do you want to be added to this email list?    **Yes**    **No**

Use this space for an optional brief description of your interests, type of horse and carriage, and what you would like to see in the way of club activities.