

Hello NCDC a letter from your editor, Harriet Merritt

Yes, it's coming to a close, 2005 is in the final hours, the time when we all celebrate the hope of the New Year, continue to give thanks for the passing year's blessings, and exalt in the promise and joy of Christmas!

This letter will be the last before February, so it has lots of info. Be sure to check out the January meeting agenda. The January Potluck and Meeting is always Great Fun! It's the perfect time to actually put names to faces without the identity hints of who we're hitched too, help plan all the things we can do next year and the food!!! Just a reminder, don't look for me, I'll be defrosting in Hawaii.

Hopefully by now you have sent in your ballots. The way the club is structured, we can not make any real decisions without a quorum, and we've grown so large, it has been quite a long time since we have had a quorum at the meetings. The way we have suggested on the ballot to "gather a quorum" is to allow participation through electronic links. Bylaw changes need 2/3rds approval. This means EVERYONE needs to vote, and 2/3rds will swing the election. We have postponed the final count and are still collecting ballots. I am attaching again the issue on the ballot. The questionnaire was just thrown in to save postage. It is not the issue we are voting on, and is entirely optional. The issue we need your response on follows:

"Proposed Bylaw change to allow electronic voting. New language is indicated by **BOLD ITALICS** There are no deletions.

Section 4 Voting: All adult members (18 years of age and older) in good standing have the right to vote.

Part A Subjects: Items to be put to a vote by the membership include but are not limited to: Club expenditures, amendments to the bylaws, position elections and general Club business.

Part B Process:

- 1) Voting at a meeting may be by ballot, show of hands or voice as determined by the Chair.
- 2) Mail-in Ballots: May be used for the election of officers and bylaws' amendments. They will be available by request and must be returned to the Secretary by the date specified on the ballot. All mail-in ballots must be signed and are not transferable.
- 3) Proxy Votes: There will be none
- 4) **Balloting by electronic means will be allowed on**

all matters other than Bylaw changes. Electronic means includes e-mail, conference call, web site voting or other verifiable methods that may be developed in the future. If a member does not have access to electronic media, a mail-in ballot must be provided."

If you need a replacement ballot because you either did not receive one, or have lost yours in the holiday shuffle, please contact our secretary, Laura Keister, at searoseranch@aol.com, 209-748-5570, 12667 Nelda Lane, Herald CA. 95638

Complete copies of the bylaws are on the NCDC website. If you need a hard copy, our secretary can mail one to you at your request.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season, see you in February! Harriet Merritt

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It is a time for family, friends and reflections of the past year. With that in mind, I have been thinking of all the wonderful friends and equines I have met since becoming chairman of our club in 2002. My, how our club has grown! We have more members than ever, our coffers are filled and our enthusiasm to do more is high. The participation in all of our events has been outstanding and our willingness to volunteer time, experience, talent and treasure is greatly appreciated by the entire driving community in Northern California.

Thank you for your support during my term. It has been worthwhile experience. I am pleased to announce that Liz Hendrick of Novato will take the interim reins as chairman of our club at the end of our January meeting, and I nominate her now as chairman in our bi-annual election this July.

Liz will be a wonderful addition to the podium. Her interests in driving span it all. She participates in both pleasure and competitive driving activities. You may already know her, she has participated in many NCDC activities over the past several years with either her mini "Shorty" or her horse "Dusty". If not, she's the one with the good ideas and "English" accent at our meetings. Stop and say hello, you'll be glad you did!

Happy Trails,
Pat Scholderer



JANUARY POTLUCK & PLANNING MEETING AT SHADY OAKS

Saturday January 14 Potluck 11:30 Meeting 1pm

Directions:

I-5 to Rt 12 exit in Lodi. Go East on 12 to the stop-light. Turn Left onto North Thornton Rd. Turn right into Shady Oaks (there will be a sign) The meeting is in the clubhouse near the hazards.

Agenda:

- Call to order
- Read Meeting Protocol
- Reading of the Minutes.
- Financial Report and Membership Report – Treasurer
- Introduction of New Members
- Introduction of Guests
- Reading of Correspondence
- Reports of Committee Chairpersons
 - Quickie
 - Bylaw
 - Education
 - Additional standing committees

Old Business:

- 1) Calendar:
 - A) NCDC Events
 - ADT March 18 (T) Freemans, Smiths
 - TDD, August 1, 2006, Jay Hubert, Chair
 - Shady Oaks Playday, (Date?) (who?)
 - CDE Camp, location: Hiskens? Date? Gina Miner
 - Proposed new venues,

FOR SALE - BIRD IN HAND EAGLET

- Pony Sized 2-Wheel Show Cart
- Size: fits pony 11.3 - 13 hands
- Shafts: 22” wide at narrowest; 66” long
- Wheels: 32” diameter wood with solid rubber tires
- Bird’s eye maple panels & dashboard
- Brass : hubs/rein rail/shaft tips/singletree ends/ whip socket/footman’s loops
- Axle is adjustable fore and aft
- Tufted black vinyl upholstery
- Lightly used for pleasure shows, dressage and cones
- Price: \$2700 firm; cost new @ \$3200 + \$900 shipping
- Buyer pays shipping
- Contact: Kathy Freeman (209)245-6184 email: kathyf@ponyplace.com

NCDC Officers (thank you!)

CHAIRMAN: Pat Scholderer 925-778-2640

grannyncart@earthlink.net

VICE-CHAIR: Jean Terry 530-743-3605

riverrockcobs@yahoo.com

SECRETARY: Laura Kester 12667 Nelda Ln.

Herald, CA 95638 searoseranch@aol.com,
209-748-5570

TREASURER: Thomas Smith 707-451-2502

hoofnit@bigfoot.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Harriet-the-other-Merritt

hl_merritt@yahoo.com 925-968-9805

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

Ken Odom 530-743-3605

odomk@yahoo.com

Kathy Freeman 209-245-6184

kathyf@ponyplace.com

Advertising Fees

Members: Classified ads are free. Please limit to 35 words or may be reduced at editor's discretion.

All classified ads to be renewed monthly. You can e-mail an ad to me at hl_merritt@yahoo.com

Business Card ads: \$20.00 per year (Minimum 10 issues)

Business ads (per issue):

1/4 page: \$5.00

1/2 page: \$10.00

Inserts: \$20.00 per page, per issue, you provide the insert, and disc to accompany PDF file.

Non Members: Classified ads: \$5.00 per issue with a max of 35 words.

Business Card ads: \$45.00 per year (minimum 10 issues)

Business Ads (per issue)

1/4 page: \$10.00

1/2 page: \$20.00

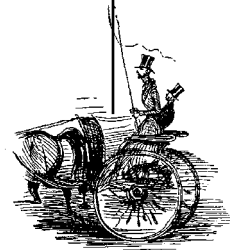
Please send all ads and checks (if applicable) payable to NCDC to:

Harriet Merritt

4305 Peaceful Glen Road, Vacaville, CA 95688

hl_merritt@yahoo.com, 925-968-9805

Carriage Tracks, the NCDC Newsletter is published 10 times a year monthly with Dec/Jan and June/July combined. Deadline for articles and ads is the 15th of the month.



- a) Additional events at Shady Oaks, Jay?
 - b) Activity in Livermore, (Date?) Gina Miner
 - c) Horse Expo CDE? TDD? HDT? June 8-10, 2007
- B) Meeting Dates, Times, Places;
 Spring at Project Ride with a tack swap
 Summer with the TDD,
 Fall establish event and meeting place prior to MoM.

2) Discuss Rush Ranch, Smiths

New Business

Donations

Special Business

Logo: The logo for stationery (brochures, newsletter, etc) and the Banner. All logo submissions will be on display. Ballots handed out with the sign in sheet. Collect and count ballots.

Open Forum

Confirm next Meeting Date

Adjournment

NEW MEMBER:

Lynn Mangel, Penn Valley
 “Been riding for years, new to driving. Have been taking lessons from Valerie Greenwell for about a year. Just purchased a Haflinger mare to drive. Will be purchasing driving equipment (harness, cart, etc)”

2006 EVENTS AT CLAY STATION HORSE PARK

A Series of 5 HDTs will be offered at Clay Station Horse Park by Debbi and Stan Packard. This will be a progressive competition where top training and top preliminary horses will win a harness. Rules to follow.

HDT Dates

May 20

June 24

July 22

August 12

October 28

The very successful Dressage Extraordinaire will return September 2-3 with Marsoe LaRose as head judge with a clinic on Monday, September 4.

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MONTEREY HORSE PARK AGREEMENT SIGNED

Plans for Multi Discipline Equestrian Park Moving Forward

Salinas, CA--The Directors of the Monterey Horse Park (MHP) are very pleased to announce that the County of Monterey and MHP have today signed an agreement which will allow the Monterey Horse Park to move forward on its planned 40 Million dollar Equestrian Park on the former Ft. Ord. The agreement requires the Monterey Horse Park to meet certain milestones over a period of three years with the intention of the parties that, so long as the milestones are met, MHP will become the lessee of the designated land in the Parker Flats portion of the former Ft. Ord.

Monterey Horse Park President Myron “Doc” Etienne, Jr. explains, “Our mission is to preserve land for equestrian activities and public recreation; to provide a venue to host local, national and international competitions, training and education; to ensure that this extraordinary land in this unique setting will be enjoyed by future generations. This agreement signed today with the County of Monterey is a giant step forward in realizing this goal.”

The Monterey Horse Park Board of Directors includes Chairman Rod Hisken, President Myron “Doc” Etienne, Jr., Vice President Bob Enea, James T. Hendrick, Secretary, ►

Executive Director Anne Warner Cribbs, Chief Financial Officer Barbra L Higgins, Linda L. Allen, Steve Chidester, Derek di Grazia, Philip Marshall Durbrow, Tim G. Eastman DVM, Loris A. Henry, Jay Hubert, Rose-Eve K. Lewis, Charles L. Lloyd. III and Camille Stahl Penhoet.

In addition, MHP Advisory Council members, representing various equestrian disciplines are Jody Cutler, President of the American Driving Society; Hilda Gurney, 1976 Olympic Bronze medalist in Dressage; Bobby Ingersoll, National Reined Cow Horse Association Hall of Fame inductee – 1996; Bob Massaro, Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau official; J. Ashton Moore, co-founder of the American Vaulting Association; David O'Connor, 2000 Olympic Gold medalist in Eventing; Karen O'Connor, 1996 and 2000 Olympic medalist in Eventing; C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM, President of the American Endurance Ride Conference; Sheila Varian, Arabian breeder and member of the Cowgirl Hall of Fame; and Jim Wofford, international Eventing competitor and trainer. Loris A. Henry serves as chair of the Advisory Council.

With interest in equestrian activities increasing yearly, David O'Connor, President United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), three -time Olympian and Gold Medalist adds, "The United States Equestrian Federation is committed to supporting and backing equestrian centers built with the leadership of community partnerships on public land. The future of equestrian sports revolves around these kinds of public facilities. The Monterey Horse Park is a huge step in this direction and the USEF looks forward to helping to host international, national and regional equestrian events in the future at the Monterey Horse Park."

The Ft. Ord reuse plan included a "high-quality equestrian center" and Michael Houlemard, Executive Director of FORA commented, "It is a true pleasure to work with Monterey County in moving ahead with the Monterey Horse Park, which promises to be a world-class equestrian center right here on the Monterey Bay. I have appreciated the community's interest, the County's diligence, and Monterey Horse Park's persistence in making this facility a reality."

The Monterey Horse Park will be built on a portion of the former Fort Ord between Monterey and Salinas. When completed, the Horse Park will serve as a venue for competition in all seven FEI disciplines (dressage, driving, endurance, eventing, reining, show jumping and vaulting) as well as cutting, pony club, breed shows and other equestrian events. It will also provide a home for the equestrian program of the California State University Monterey Bay and for the horse rescue/adoption center of the SPCA of Monterey County.

A recent analysis has determined that the positive economic impact on the County of Monterey generated by the operation of the Monterey Horse Park, when completed, will approximate \$65 Million per year. Management anticipates that major equestrian events will come to Monterey Horse Park due to the quality of its facilities, the location, and the tourist destination of Monterey. More information is available at www.montereyhorsepark.org <<http://www.montereyhorsepark.org>>

2005 LAURALS DVD AVAILABLE!

The summary -The overwhelming feedback from folks was that a raw educational version was preferred. So, that's pretty much what we did....no flash for TV, etc.

What we have wound up with is a 2 DVD set that contains the following:

Disc 1 is 100% percent narrated dressage which gives us the 6 best tests of the day in their entirety, including Bouncer in prelim test 2.

Disc 2 features the marathon and cones. Being this was the national pony championships, we focused mainly on the pony drivers, with several looks at competitors in the same hazards taking different routes...allowing you at home to see how long/short/middlin effects your times.

The 2 DVD set is \$30, including shipping.

There isn't a weblink up yet, so send your check to:

David Cristina
120 North Church Street
suite 202
West Chester, PA 19380

Include your name, mailing address, telephone #, and email.

HORSE LOVERS CHRISTMAS STORY

A brother and sister had made their usual hurried, obligatory pre-Christmas visit to the little farm where dwelt their elderly parents with their small herd of horses. The farm was where they had grown up and had been named Lone Pine Farm because of the huge pine, which topped the hill behind the farm. Through the years the tree had become a talisman to the old man and his wife, and a landmark in the countryside. The young siblings had fond memories of their childhood here but the city hustle and bustle added more excitement to their lives, and called them away to a different life.

The old folks no longer showed their horses, for the years had taken their toll, and getting out to the barn on those frosty mornings was getting harder but it gave them a reason to get up in the mornings and a reason to live. They sold a few foals each year, and the horses were their reason for joy in the morning and contentment at day's end.

Angry, as they prepared to leave, the young couple confronted the old folks. "Why do you not at least dispose of 'The Old One.'" She is no longer of use to you. It's been years since you've had foals from her. You should cut corners and save so you can have more for yourselves.

How can this old worn out horse bring you anything but expense and work?

Why do you keep her anyway?"

The old man looked down at his worn boots, holes in the toes, scuffed at the barn floor and replied, "Yes I could use a pair of new boots. His arm slid defensively about the Old One's neck as he drew her near with gentle caressing he rubbed her softly behind her ears. He replied softly, "We keep her because of love. Nothing else, just love."

Baffled and irritated, the young folks wished the old man and his wife a Merry Christmas and headed back to-

ward the city as darkness stole through the valley. The old couple shook their heads in sorrow that it had not been a happy visit. A tear fell upon their cheeks. How is it that these young folks do not understand the peace of the love that filled their hearts?

So it was, that because of the unhappy leaving, no one noticed the insulation smoldering on the frayed wires in the old barn. None saw the first spark fall. None but the "Old One".

In a matter of minutes, the whole barn was ablaze and the hungry flames were licking at the loft full of hay. With a cry of horror and despair, the old man shouted to his wife to call for help as he raced to the barn to save their beloved horses. But the flames were roaring now, and the blazing heat drove him back. He sank sobbing to the ground, helpless before the fire's fury. His wife back from calling for help cradled him in her arms, clinging to each other, they wept at their loss.

By the time the fire department arrived, only smoking, glowing ruins were left, and the old man and his wife exhausted from their grief huddled together before the barn. They were speechless as they rose from the cold snow covered ground. They nodded thanks to the firemen as there was nothing anyone could do now. The old man turned to his wife, resting her white head upon his shoulders as his shaking old hands clumsily dried her tears with a frayed red bandana. Brokenly he whispered, "We have lost much, but God has spared our home on this eve of Christmas. Let us gather strength and climb the hill to the old pine where we have sought comfort in times of despair. We will look down upon our home and give thanks to God that it has been spared and pray for our beloved most precious gifts that have been taken from us.

And so, he took her by the hand and slowly helped her up the snowy hill as he brushed aside his own tears with the back of his old and withered hand. The journey up the hill was hard for their old bodies in the deep snow. As they stepped over the little knoll at the crest of the hill, they paused to rest, looking up to the top of the hill the old couple gasped and fell to their knees in amazement at the incredible beauty before them.

Seemingly, every glorious, brilliant star in the heavens was caught up in the glittering, snow-frosted branches of their beloved pine, and it was aglow with heavenly candles. And poised on its top most bough, a crystal crescent moon glistened like spun glass. Never had a mere mortal created a Christmas tree such as this. They were breathless as the old man held his wife tighter in his arms.

Suddenly, the old man gave a cry of wonder and incredible joy. Amazed and mystified, he took his wife by the hand and pulled her forward. There, beneath the tree, in resplendent glory, a mist hovering over and glowing in the darkness was their Christmas gift. Shadows glistening in the night light. Bedded down about the "Old One"

close to the trunk of the tree, was the entire herd, safe.

At the first hint of smoke, she had pushed the door ajar with her muzzle and had led the horses through it. Slowly and with great dignity, never looking back, she had led them up the hill, stepping cautiously through the snow. The foals were frightened and dashed about. The skittish yearlings looked back at the crackling, hungry flames, and tucked their tails under them as they licked their lips and hopped like rabbits. The mares that were in foal with a new years crop of babies, pressed uneasily against the "Old One" as she moved calmly up the hill and to safety beneath the pine. And now, she lay among them and gazed at the faces of the old man and his wife.

Those she loved she had not disappointed. Her body was brittle with years, tired from the climb, but the golden eyes were filled with devotion as she offered her gift-

Because of love. Only because of love.

Tears flowed as the old couple shouted their praise and joy, And again the peace of love filled their hearts.

This is a true story. *Willy Eagle*



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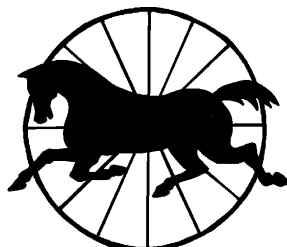
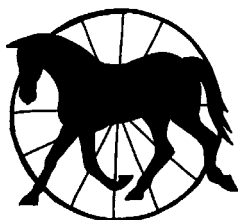
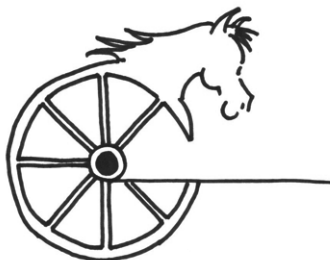
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LOGO DESIGNS:

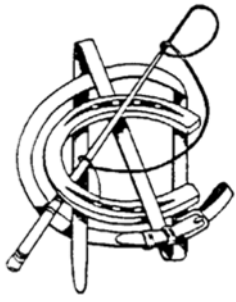
Attached are the LOGO Designs that have been submitted for your consideration at the January Meeting. The chosen design will be used on our banner, our stationery, our newsletter, and possibly on clothing, pins, or other items we decide to have to promote our club. All these logos will be enlarged to approximately 8 x 10, and also reduced to approximately 1 x 1 and printed in black and white on a single white 11 x 17 paper to be displayed at the meeting. If you would like to bring a logo to the January meeting to be considered, bring it in the format like the others. Thank you all for your submissions! Good luck!



CARRIAGE TRACKS

2006 CALENDAR

I know this is where the Calendar should be, but I haven't completed it as yet. I am having problems with my computer, both system and operator! The Calendar I am using is on the www.CarriageDrivingEssentials.com web site. I am sorry for this inconvenience...Harriet Merritt



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.

Mail this form along with your check, made payable to NCDC, to: Virginia Miner, 4008 Dyer Road, Livermore, CA 94551