

The Dales Pony *THE GREAT ALL-ROUNDER*

By Kelly Davidson Chou

As any real pony enthusiast will tell you, a small horse does not a pony make. True ponies have very distinct physical characteristics, including shorter legs in relationship to the depth of body and length of back, a neat head with small ears, and unusually sound feet and legs. Though there are numerous breeds of ponies worldwide, many of the best developed in the mountains and moors of Britain and Ireland. The nine British Native Pony breeds, romantically known as “Mountain and Moorland” ponies, are possessed of extraordinary strength in relationship to their size. Fashioned by harsh and unforgiving environments, they are tough, sure-footed, and thrifty, with many maintaining an inherent level-headedness often lacking in horses. While all of the Mountain & Moorland breeds, including the Connemara, Dartmoor, Fell, Highland, and Welsh, are extraordinary animals, none are more commendable than the beautiful, agile, and talented Dales Pony.

Separated by the Pennine Range in Northern England, the Dales and Fell breeds share a common genetic heritage and similar, though distinct, histories. Once believed to be two types of the same breed, today the Dales and Fell are divided into separate studbooks and societies. Dales ponies were bred specifically in the 19th and early 20th centuries for the Pennine lead industry as pack ponies and won renown



for their ability to quickly cover rough country under daunting loads. As railways emerged and road systems improved, the Dales found a niche on the small farms in and around Yorkshire. With their unusual strength, sensible natures, and remarkable agility, they offered great advantages to the small farmer.

In the early 1900's, a Welsh Cob stallion named “Comet” was crossed to many high quality Dales mares, passing on a more free-moving shoulder and increased athleticism. The resulting stylish ponies, with their famous eye-catching trot, were unmatched in trotting races and provided a fashionable carriage drive into town for the family.

These same family farmers recognized in the hardworking Dales an innate jumping talent and many became the preferred mount
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Bylaw Changes

By Liz Hendricks

The bylaws committee is recommending that the bylaws be modified as described below. The only substantive change is to remove the specification of amount of annual dues. This will allow the membership to change dues, should that be desirable in the future. As long as the change is being made, it seemed appropriate to clean up the language, correct some typos and make a few other shall changes.

This matter will be up for discussion at the January meeting. A copy of the existing bylaws is available on the club's web site, norcaldrivingclub.com, as is a copy of the proposed changes. For those without access to the web I will have copies of the existing bylaws available at that meeting. Approval by two thirds of the membership, through a mail in ballot, is necessary in order to make changes to the bylaws.

If anyone has any questions or comments contact me at 415-898-8404 or ehultgren@aol.com

Thanks, Liz

Welcome New Members:

Please welcome Rhonda Gowa of Sonoma! Rhonda is interested in CDEs presently in Training Single horse with her American Saddlebred Violet to a KG Enterprises cart.

Please welcome Susanna Thompson from Clayton! She is new to driving and has 3 Shires, two of which drive. Her background is in Hunter/Jumper and eventing. She wants to participate in pleasure drives and ADT's

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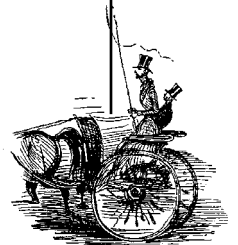
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Carriage Tracks, the NCDC Newsletter is published 10 times a year monthly with Dec/Jan and June/July combined. Deadline for articles and ads is the 15th of the month.



ADS Weekend

By Celine Rickards

The ADS weekend went very well and there were quite a few people from out of state there. The demonstrations were well attended, the weather was excellent, the non “Poker” drive was very nice and plenty long enough for a lovely drive on the field roads. Duke was a very good boy all weekend. We did a harnessing for safety demonstration, we drove a hazard for Leslie Berndt and Diane drove her pair for a super demonstration. Boy, can Diane and her boys create some excitement!

The best part for me was being able to stay at the hotel. No sleeping in the horse trailer this time! I loved the beds at the Hilton! We had a guest one night, Leslie stayed with us Friday night after visiting Nadine Tilley’s incredible carriage museum. We had a fun dinner there followed by Fritz’s presentation. The whole evening was really nice and I felt like a kid riding in the bus with all our friends!

Linda and I did the Meeting of the Minds from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and we certainly have a packed full calendar for 2008. I want to thank Mike Fairbanks for his help at the meeting hauling the big metal calendars in and with the labels for all the dates at the meeting. I also want to thank Ann McClure who now knows how to enter data in the new web calendar! By next weekend, between the two of us, it should all be up to date with all the events posted for 2008 that we have so far. Please visit it often as information will change from time to time. www.carriagedrivingessentials.com click on the “Events Calendar” tab at the top of the page. You can view the calendar by month or you can view it in a list form. Play with the different links offered. If you click on an event in the day box, it will pop up with more information as long as it has some sort of web link or e-mail address.

Gary and I were so later leaving the grounds after the meeting Saturday evening after the meeting and closing up the booth that we barely had enough time to get back to the Hotel to get showered and changed for dinner. We missed the silent auction and cocktail hour and just made it in time for dinner. We sat at a table filled with NCDC members and had a blast. Diane Kastama announced the winner of the newsletter contest and Brass Oak Driving Society’s Tasha Wilke won the contest with Whip R Snapper’s

Veronica Campbell winning second place and CVHA’s Kristi Knight winning third place. Congratulations to all for your great newsletters!!! Then the winners of the ADT California Challenge, sponsored by us (Carriage Driving Essentials) were announced. The winners were Vern of Santa Ynez and Denise Hinder of Santa Margarita! Congrats to Veronica Campbell on a job well done!

When we left on Sunday, Linda followed us in her motor home, Trish went with her pair of ponies, Heidi and Breanna Sheehan took their horse and two minis and we all caravanned to the Tejon Ranch in Lebec. This is the site of the new venue for Pleasure Days Carriage Driving Show next May 31 & June 1. We all unloaded and hitched up and test drove the Pleasure Marathon Turnout. It was beautiful to say the least. More to come on that later.

A new event that has been in the works but we were short of dates: The Carriage Association of America is putting on another West Coast Series Educational Weekend in Tres Pinos at Nancy Bletzer’s ranch. Here is a note I received: For those of you who haven’t been to a CAA event, or to Nancy Bletzer’s ranch, this is an event NOT TO BE MISSED. Barry Dickinson is an expert on turnout and is hysterically funny. Keep watching the CAA website for the event application. <http://caonline.com/>



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for a good day's hunt, easily carrying an adult of 250 lbs or more. In short, the Dales Pony literally did it all.

Sadly, because of their compact size, relaxed temperament, bravery, and legendary strength, Dales Ponies were used extensively by the British Army in both World Wars; by 1955 very few registered ponies remained. Fortunately, through the support of dedicated breeders, their numbers have gradually increased to just over 800 worldwide, with approximately 100 living in the US today. They are listed as "Critical", the most at-risk category with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, though both their numbers and overall quality continue to improve.

Ideally, the Dales stand between 14 and 14.2hh. The vast majority are black or dark brown, but both bay and grey are found, with a few roan mixed in to keep things interesting. White markings are discouraged, and only a star, snip, and white fetlocks on the hind legs are allowed for the pony to be registerable as a Section A in the main studbook. The Dales profile should be straight or slightly convex; any dishing is viewed as a fault. The neck is strong and muscular, and a good pony possesses a deep, short-coupled trunk with well-sprung ribs. The cannons should display 8 to 9 inches of bone, and pasterns should be of good length and covered with silky feather to match the ample, flowing mane and tail. The famous Dales trot is high at knee and hock, active, and full of propulsion.

Today the Dales Pony is a highly versatile breed well deserving of the moniker "The Great All-rounder". They are extremely suitable for both riding and driving and make fantastic trekking ponies. Across the nation, Dales Ponies compete successfully in dressage, three-day eventing, and all forms of carriage driving competitions, most notably Combined Driving Events (CDEs). Dales even find work hauling maple sap with harness and sleigh over silent, snow-bound landscapes. With all the Dales Pony has to offer both children and adults, as well as backyard pony owners and serious competitors alike, it won't be long before this "Great All-rounder" converts legions of devoted fans throughout its adopted homeland.

Kelly Davidson Chou is an avid Dales Pony promoter, breeder, and Vice President of the Dales Pony Society of America, a sanctioned daughter registry of the Dales Pony Society in the UK. You can reach her at DavidsonDales@Mindspring.com.

NCDC Meeting and Pot Luck Lunch Saturday January 12, 2008

At the Clubhouse at Shady Oaks, Lodi, CA
Lunch at 11:30, meeting at 1 pm

This is our big meeting when we make
plans for the coming year

Directions to Shady Oaks: I-5 to Lodi,
exit Hwy 12 heading east. Turn left (north)
on Thornton Road (first light) go approximately
1/2 mile, turn right at NCDC banner onto the
Shady Oaks ranch. The clubhouse is on the left
where the hazards are located. Plenty of parking
near the clubhouse.

This is a lunch and meeting only. No horses.

Please contact Liz Hendrick if you have
any items you wish to place on the agenda.
chultgren@aol.com or 415-898-8404

NCDC Meeting Minutes

DATE: December 1, 2007

LOCATION: Woodland Stallion Station, Woodland,
California

1. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at
2:10 PM by Chair, Liz Hendrick.

2. Reading of Minutes. Motion was made by Gina
Miner to waive reading of the minutes of the August
meeting since they were posted in a previous NCDC
Newsletter, second by Jay Hubert. All in favor.
Motion passed.

3. Treasurer's & Membership Report. No current
report submitted. However, Liz Hendrick believes the
current balance is around \$7,000. Liz also reported
that the Lisa Singer Clinic made a profit of \$44.05.

4. Committee Reports.

a. Activity Committee, Quickie, Education
Committee, Equipment Committee, Rush Ranch
Committee. No reports.

b. Bylaws Committee. See below under Monterrey
Horse Park and Bylaw Changes. (Members: Jay
Hubert, Liz Hendrick, Mike Dowd, Gina Miner).

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Monterrey Horse Park CDE - July 11-13, 2008. Harriet Merritt made a presentation about her vision for the first driving event at MHP and the need to grandfather in Training and Preliminary level driving categories. The MHP CDE will be open to 40-50 pre-qualified competitors, meaningexperienced whips and experienced horses capable of the terrain and challenges of the “no perimeter fencing” at MHP. Due to the terrain and footing, this is not an event for VSEs. Harriet is planning this as a “media event” to aid in fundraising for MHP. She also talked about NCDC being the sponsoring club for this event and discussed work weekends to clear brush, tractor work, etc., part of the day, and rest of the day driving.

Discussion about the “pre-qualified” whips and horses ensued. Jay Hubert stated that the organizer of the event has the right to select competitors. This stipulation was made because of the lack of fencing at Fort Ord, and if a horse gets loose, could be lost for days. And, since the media will be very much involved, Harriet would like to eliminate any “bad press” possibilities. Harriet will also assume financial responsibility for the event.

The issues for the club to agree to sanction this event (MHP CDE) are as follows, as clarified by the Chair, Liz Hendrick.

a. First Issue: Does the NCDC sanction and support the MHP CDE?

b. Second Issue: Current NCDC insurance does not cover work crews. Does the NCDC approve of an add-on insurance rider?

c. Third Issue: For the MHP CDE to be an ADS approved event, we need to submit the \$200 fee to secure the dates. Does the NCDC approve of this issue?

Jay Hubert called for a point of order and discussion. He made a motion to approve all three issues listed above. Lisa Gillette, second. All in favor. Motion passed.

2. Bylaw Changes: Liz passed out 3 pages of proposed changes which will be printed in the next newsletter and will be discussed/voted on at the January 12 meeting.

3. ADT Venue. Committee: Buck Scholderer, Jay Hubert, Gina Miner, Liz Hendrick, Barrie and Kathy Freeman. The Freeman’s visited the historic Nelson Ranch in Woodland to check out suitability for an ADT there in March (Sundays only). They

have a covered arena and a warm up arena outside. Overnight camping is available. NO DOGS. The cost is slightly more than the Ione arena but since that is no longer viable, Freeman’s were asked to pursue securing the Nelson Ranch location.

4. Elections: Motion was made by Patty Scholderer to re-elect, Vice Chair, Jean Terry and Secretary, Laura Keister. Second by Linda Christianson. Motion was made by Gina Miner to confirm Newsletter Editor, Linda Jeffery, second by Jay Hubert. All in favor of both motions. Motions passed.

OPEN FORUM

1. Shelley Chavoor discussed organizing an EDC (Section E, Section D, Combined Driving event without the Dressage) at WSS sometime in late May to be called “Through the Looking Glass” and to be held in conjunction with the May Tea & Drive. Jay agreed to design the course and Buck agreed to be the announcer. Shelley said WSS needs to hold a fund raiser in order to build a full size dressage driving arena (cost estimated to be \$8,000). Ann Taylor would like to see more driving events at WSS. The WSS Sport Horse Morgan Show in early May has pleasure driving classes.

2. NCDC members thanked Shelley (and her staff of WSS friends) for organizing the December Drive & Tea and also extended their thanks to Ann Taylor for the use of the property.

NEXT MEETING: Shady Oaks Potluck & Annual Membership Meeting,

January 12, 2008. Potluck: 11 AM, Meeting 1 PM

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 3:30 PM by Gina Miner, Second by Buck Scholderer. All in favor. Motion passed.

Submitted by Laura Keister, Secretary

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Driving Classes at the Amador County Mother Lode Circuit Horse Show

By Kathy Freeman:

This week, a chance to perhaps 'influence' the Amador County Mother Lode Circuit Horse Show (ACMLC) fell into my lap. I had talked with the Amador horse show manager in early Spring and explained to her that the problems we drivers had with the ACMLC Horse Show as it was being run were primarily safety related. She as much told me... "Don't confuse me with facts, their (her bosses) minds are already made up."

The ACMLC Horse Show (ridden and driven) was run as the bosses saw fit this year, and the response was poor to dismal. It was essentially boycotted by the driving community. Subsequently, Amador County Fairgrounds brought in a new CEO with an attitude of wanting to make things work better (and that may include the ACMLC horse show.)

Evidently my comments made in Spring to the horse show manager were relayed to the new CEO and he wants me to make a presentation some time in January, 2008 outlining our concerns, complaints and recommendations.

I feel strongly there is no way the driving classes can be held safely once the fair crowds have arrived and we have to drive through these crowds to arrive/ leave the arena and in between classes, suitable parking is not available for us, etc. I, personally, would like to see the driving classes held first thing in the morning right before the start of the fair (this is when they used to be held). Then we would know exactly when the driving classes would begin, the arena would not be "churned up" yet and we wouldn't have to deal with the fair crowds and ensuing safety issues. Also the riding show would have the whole rest of the day to take place (It is important to them to give the kids lots of time for their riding show).

There is one more point I want to make in this presentation to ACMLC. The driving show judge HAS to be experienced in judging driving. The judge should know the differences between turnout, pleasure driving, performance driving and reinsmanship.... NOT be a "ridden judge dejour"!

What the Amador County Fair folks are going to want to hear is that drivers will return if they make our

recommended improvements in the ACMLC show.

Remember, we have the opportunity to win money for certain classes. It's a great chance to widen you/ your horse's experience. (If nothing else, driving horses need a range of abilities and the ML shows are a great opportunity to expand that range.) And the classes are fun!!

I really need your input. What would it take to get you back to the show? Or go for the first time?
kathyf@zetabb.com



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This article appeared in the Valley Sierra Miniature Horse Club Newsletter.

ABCs of CDEs

A word about the author and contributors – Kathy Freeman has driven her small pony (11.2 3/4 hh) fairly successfully in CDEs for 6-7 years. Nancy Turner, Cris Anderson and Breanna Sheahan are all very experienced and winning CDE competitors who drive minis. They hope to de-mystify Combined Driving Events, Arena Driving Trials and Horse Driving Trials.

CDE – Combined Driving Event. This is generally a 3 day event (Friday is dressage, Saturday is the marathon, and Sunday is cones). There are 4 levels of competition – The Levels of Competition:

Training (TR) – this is where you get your CDE feet wet, Preliminary (PR) – now you know what you are supposed to be doing,

Intermediate (IN) – you have developed beyond Preliminary, but are not ready for the top

Advanced (AD) – the highest level of competition where FEI rules apply.

The majority of competitions in the Western United States offer only TR, PR and sometimes IN. Most AD level competition is back East.

In the 3 lower levels (TR, PR, & IN) there are VSEs (Very Small Equines (under 99 cm or just under 39”), small ponies (99cm to under 120 cm {30” to 47.24”}), ponies (up to 58.25” or 14.2hh), and horses. Mules and draft horses are also welcome. Their size determines which category they compete in.



At the 2007 Happ's CDE, California minis ruled!! Nancy Turner won TR, Cris Anderson won PR and Breanna Sheahan won IN.

The Three Phases of a CDE:

Dressage – Driven dressage can best be compared to doing compulsory figures in figure skating. Just as compulsory figures are the basis for most ice skating moves, dressage movements are the basis for most driving moves. The test you drive is stated beforehand and is scored by the judge(s). A dressage test demonstrates the obedience, freedom, and regularity of movement, impulsion, and correct position and training of the animals.

Marathon – This phase tests the fitness, stamina and obedience of the horses and the judgment and capability of the driver. In all 4 levels, there are 3 sections and they all are well-marked. Section A is any speed(walk/trot/canter). Section D is a walk. Section E is the hazards that we all enjoy so much. For each section you have a time limit (Max). In Sections A and E you are given a window (Min and Max) you must end in. In Section D you can come in any amount under the time limit. All levels are allowed a maximum of 5 minutes in each hazard; the average time in each hazard is approximately 1+/- minute. In TR, your time in each obstacle is not counted. But in all 3 other levels (PR, IN, ADV), your time in the hazards counts as penalty points. Your score is a total of time plus penalties.

The different sized-animals have different time windows. Obviously, the longer the animal's legs, the faster he can cover the course. Miniature horses are allotted the longest times in the marathon phase. In tight hazards they have a real advantage because they can 'scoot' around the tight turns. However, in wide-open hazards that require a lot of running, the large horses have the advantage because they can cover ground faster. There is always a good mix of tight and wide-open hazards to even out the advantages to all.

Cones – Cones can be likened to the stadium jumping phase of eventing. A cones course tests the precise accuracy of drivers who must negotiate a complicated course without disturbing the cones or going off course within the time allowed. Penalties are incurred if balls are knocked off the cones or if the time limit is exceeded. Driving cones tests the fitness, agility and obedience of the horse and the accuracy and skill of the driver. You are eliminated if you go through a gate backwards or out of order, skip a gate, etc.

In each of the 3 phases (dressage, marathon, cones) of a CDE, the lower the score the better. ►

Carriages and Harnesses

Vehicles used in Combined Driving must be safe and well maintained. Each competitor is checked at presentation before the dressage test and again for safety before the rigors of the marathon. The same vehicle must be used in both dressage and cones; a second vehicle may be used in the marathon.

Grooms and Navigators

A groom may accompany the driver in the dressage and cones competitions in the case of a single horse/pony; no verbal communication is allowed between the driver and the groom. A groom is mandatory for two or more horses. On the marathon, the groom is known as a navigator (aka a gator) who is a vital part of the team to help the driver stay on the correct course, to keep track of time, and to help direct the route through obstacles. In addition the gator is called on to balance the vehicle by shifting his/her weight around tight turns or on uneven ground. Gators may not handle the reins, or the whip, and may give verbal assistance only in the marathon. VSEs 39” and less do not have to carry a gator. That means the driver is responsible for everything and that the animal does not have the disadvantage of pulling the extra weight of a gator.

ADS – American Driving Society – this group sets the rules for the lower levels at HDTs/ADTs/CDEs. However, the ADS rules only apply if it is an ADS-sanctioned event (which they state) or if the organizers choose to follow ADS rules (which they also state)

Other Important Nomenclature:

E or ‘The Big E’ = eliminated – one is eliminated by the officials because of not executing the pattern correctly/going through gates backward, etc. By eliminating, you cannot receive a final score, but you may compete in other sections of the CDE.

W = withdraw – the competitor withdraws himself; and cannot receive a final score. Competitors may take no further part in the Event. The most common reason for withdrawing would be that your animal is lame or sore.

R = Retire – the individual chooses to retire; and cannot be considered in the final scoring; however, you are permitted to compete in other sections of CDE. I retired from a dressage test because I had learned the wrong test.

D = Disqualified –The competitor is disqualified by the Ground Jury because of breaking published rules such as removing the bridle while still hooked to the cart and is prohibited from taking further part in the Event.

Miscellaneous Subjects:

Presentation – at a CDE/ADT/HDT, the driver, horse, and vehicle are reviewed by a judge for fit of harness and vehicle to horse, appropriateness of the harness to vehicle, your total appearance, and the cleanliness of the horse and vehicle. This is either a standing Presentation, in which case you stand before a Presentation judge, or is on-the-fly and you are given a Presentation score by the dressage judge as you move around the inside/outside of the dressage arena.

FEI – Federation Equestre Internationale – this group sets the rules for the Advanced level of competition at CDEs. Most of us will never interact with this group.

Great Intros to CDEs:

HDT – Horse Driving Trial – a 1-day abbreviated version of a CDE. It must be held in a good-sized area (10-20 acres). There is dressage, cones, and a full Section E of the marathon Sections A and D are not held.

ADT – Arena Driving Trial - a 1-day abbreviated version of a CDE that is held in a large arena (such as Howard Arena in Ione) or other confined space. There is dressage, cones, and 2 hazards. You run each obstacle twice; these runs are timed. This year, there is a series of ADTs throughout California culminating in the ADT/HDT challenge awards.

HDTs and ADTs are a terrific introduction to CDEs. They are less overwhelming than a CDE, are considerably less expensive and don’t require taking any time off work to participate. Anyone who is considering entering a CDE for the first time should initially do an HDT/ADT or at least volunteer at one.



Barrie, Kathy, Spats at Shady Oaks 2007

CARRIAGE TRACKS
2008 CALENDAR

Jan 12	NCDC Planning Meeting potluck lunch at 11:30am	Lodi, CA
Jan 20	Navigator Clinic	La Grange, CA
Feb 23-24	Ram Tap Playday	Fresno, CA
Mar 1-2 (tentative)	Carriage Assn of America Learning Weekend	Tres Pinos, CA
Mar 29	NCDC Arena Driving Trial at Nelson Ranch	Woodland, CA
Apr 12 & 13	Clay Station Horse Park HDT	Wilton, CA
Apr 20	Horse Show with driving classes	Santa Rosa, CA
Apr 25-27	Ram Tap CDE	Fresno, CA
May 18	Horse Show with driving classes	Santa Rosa, CA
May 17-18	Clay Station Horse Park HDT	Wilton, CA
May 31-June 1	Pleasure Days Show (ADS)	Lebec, CA
June 14-15	Clay Station Horse Park CDE (ADS approved)	Wilton, CA
June 20-22	Happs CDE	Ethel, WA
June 28-29	Driving Summer Camp	Arroyo Grande, CA
July 4-6	Invale CDE	Philomath, OR
July 5-6	Playday (just Saturday) (or rain date for April HDT)	Wilton, CA
July 11-13	MHP CDE	Monterey, CA
July 20	Horse Show with driving classes	Santa Rosa, CA
July 26-27	Driven Dressage Festival	Arroyo Grande, CA

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Phone _____ email _____

(*optional info) Cell Phone* _____ County* _____

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

Would you like us to include your information on the Membership Roster, (for private club use, not to be commercially distributed)? Yes No

If limited info only, write specifics in space below (example, "name only").

Please include an optional brief description of your interests, experience, type of horse and carriage, and what you would like to see in the way of club activities.
