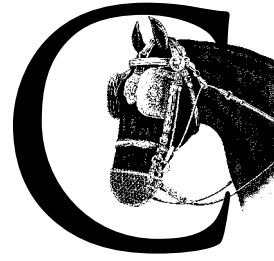


# NCDC



Northern  
California  
Driving  
Club

MAY • 2005

CARRIAGE TRACKS

## NCDC Members only PLAY DAY

Sunday July 3, 2005 Shady Oaks, Lodi

Park at the Sale Barn, check in and sign a release, or volunteer to help!

NO CAMPING! Must be self sufficient. Horse water available.

Pot Luck at 4pm (Lunch may be available to purchase, haven't heard yet),

Pleasure Drive, Multiple lengths, up to 6 miles, ONE WAY marked course.

Cones Course set up on small dressage field

Poker Run, three stations out, all on short pleasure drive,

Prize donated by Rolling Pony Ranch

Four hazards to practice; The Bridge, Water Barrels, with the Fort and the Apple Box flagged

Mike Dowd and Deena Kirby with Jay Hubert's help have pulled this together for us to enjoy, so let's go PLAY!

Sounds like great fun!

Note that the playday on Sun Jul 3 is for NCDC members only. June 1 is membership renewal date, if you plan on participating, Gina Miner needs to see your check BEFORE the weekend!!

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## Hello NCDC! Letter from your editor Harriet the other Merritt

Being a newsletter editor means always having to say you're sorry.

I apologise to the membership for not reminding you it's renewal time! Our renewal date is June first. There is a form attached to the last page of this letter. Please update all your information as it will be used on the Roster as well. If for any reason you do not want your info published to the membership on the roster please let Gina know on the form. The roster list will be given only to fellow members, it will not be made public.

I also Aplogise for how late this is in coming. I've been waiting for the minutes from the meeting June 18<sup>th</sup>, but have yet to receive them from the secretary, so will publish them in August's letter.

Much Thanks to Nancy Rojo and Gina Miner who wrote fun reports on the chat list which I've included for those folks not on the net.

June has been a tough month for me. My asthma morphed into pneumonia which took me out of the Lisa Singer Clinic and the Horse Expo. The asthma is not coming under control as fast as I'd like, so I'll be at The Shady Oaks Play Day and Trinity on Prednisone so I can breathe. Yeah. I'm not real happy. Then it's the battery of allergy tests to discover my big triggers... (Better not be horses or it's curtains!) So hopefully I can get healthy enough to function and give you guys a timely newsletter!

Next Newsletter will be August. Again I apologize, I haven't been any where near 100% these past couple months....

I have results from the Wine Country Classic and Happ's if anyone would like a copy please call me. They turned out to be too extensive to publish entirely, and I sure didn't want to leave anyone out! Harriet Merritt

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## Trinity CDE Info From our host, Dave Schumaker

The Trinity County Fair Ground phone number is 530/628-5223. Yes we always need volunteers. Please call us to talk about what you would like to do.

Directions: Highway 5 North to Redding. Take Hwy 299 West to Douglas City and turn south on Hwy 3 to Hayfork. Follow the signs to the Trinity Driving Center on Hyampom Road. Our phone number is 530/628-4448. Thanks. Dave

---

## New Members:

Lisa Gillett, Moraga CA [lisa@cluk.org](mailto:lisa@cluk.org)

"I drive a white Shetland pony, Caspar, in CDEs".

Matt and Sandi Gaspar, Fresno, [mattandsandi@yahoo.com](mailto:mattandsandi@yahoo.com), Many of us know Matt and Sandi from CDEs, in which they compete with their mare "Mandy".

Connie and Ed Hawkins, Columbia, CA [itsybitsyranch@Mlode.com](mailto:itsybitsyranch@Mlode.com), 4 miniature horses - geldings. Show horses and trail drives. Show carts and work carts are what we have.

## SO YOU WANT TO BE IN PICTURES!

By Susan Grant Duffield

My friend, Michelle Staples, and I are close to finishing our book on Large Animal Rescue. If anyone wants to review the manuscript, let me know. Right now, we need pictures of various types of trailers.

There is a list of trailers we want, and if you have one, we're wondering if you could supply a picture of it. We need pretty high-contrast pictures, as they will end being put in black and white.

Next to each trailer is a description of the view we need. We would like photos that have the trailer almost filling the frame. Hey, if anyone sends some pics, we will include them on our "Thanks Page," at the beginning! Reviewers also get to be named. We would love to send

a copy to any large animal vets. If any of your horses want to model their trailer, feel free, as long as it doesn't get in the way of seeing the trailer.

1. A "BrenderUp" trailer. We would like a view from the side, and one of the interior, looking through the open back door and/or ramp.
2. We would love a tandem trailer, but suspect they are pretty thin on the ground. (No, Jay, a tandem TRAILER!) We would like a side shot, and one that shows the divider on the inside.
3. A trailer with living space at the front of it! Here is how you can not only depict your elegant life style, but you could be in the doorway! Your chance at fame

and fortune! We need a side shot, showing how much trailer is for the horses and how much for the people.

4. A view of a trailer that has a tack box at the side, inside the rear doors. We would like a rear-view picture, with the tack box clear.
5. We would love pictures of the trailers, closed, from the rear, showing how your trailer unloads. Ramp, Doors, or a combo of the two. Side doors are great, too. We need views with door/ramp open and closed.
6. A fifth wheel, from the side. Showing how the truck and trailer are hitched together.
7. Slant loads. Show how the divider works with your trailer. It would be nice to have a horse in the forward stall, and the rear stall open, to see how it works.
8. A strait load. A view through the back door.
9. ANY TWO or MORE HORSE TRAILER, we would love shots of how the horses are divided. [rversend@mcn.org](mailto:rversend@mcn.org) Sue Duffield, River's End Farm, 32160 Hwy 20, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

## LISA SINGER CLINIC by Nancy Rojo

I thought I'd say a few words about the Lisa Singer clinic at the Packard's Clay Station Horsepark this weekend. It was a good experience. First, it is always a real pleasure to work with Lisa. She is very patient, calm and quiet with her students and their equines. I am not a real good student as I get nervous. I don't like to be forced to do things that I am not mentally ready or I feel my horse is not ready for, but that is never the

### NCDC Officers (thank you!)

**CHAIRMAN: Pat Scholderer 925-778-2640**

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**VICE-CHAIR: Jean Terry 530-743-3605**

[riverrockcobs@yahoo.com](mailto:riverrockcobs@yahoo.com)

**SECRETARY: Sally Baker**

[sallybaker@infostations.com](mailto:sallybaker@infostations.com)

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**Kathy Freeman 530-677-5885**

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**Thomas Smith 707-399-9873**

[hoofnit@bigfoot.com](mailto:hoofnit@bigfoot.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](mailto: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

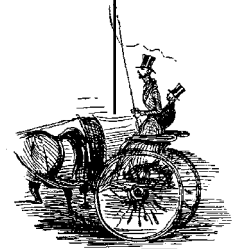
Please send all ads and checks (if applicable) payable to NCDC to:

Harriet Merritt

1993 Rancho Verde Cr E, Danville, CA 94526

[hl\\_merritt@yahoo.com](mailto:hl_merritt@yahoo.com), 925-968-9805

Carriage Tracks, the NCDC Newsletter is published monthly, and mailed out by the 20th of the month. Deadline for articles and ads is the 15th of the month. Do You Like the New Look? Kudos to Jenni Haas for her extraordinary skills!



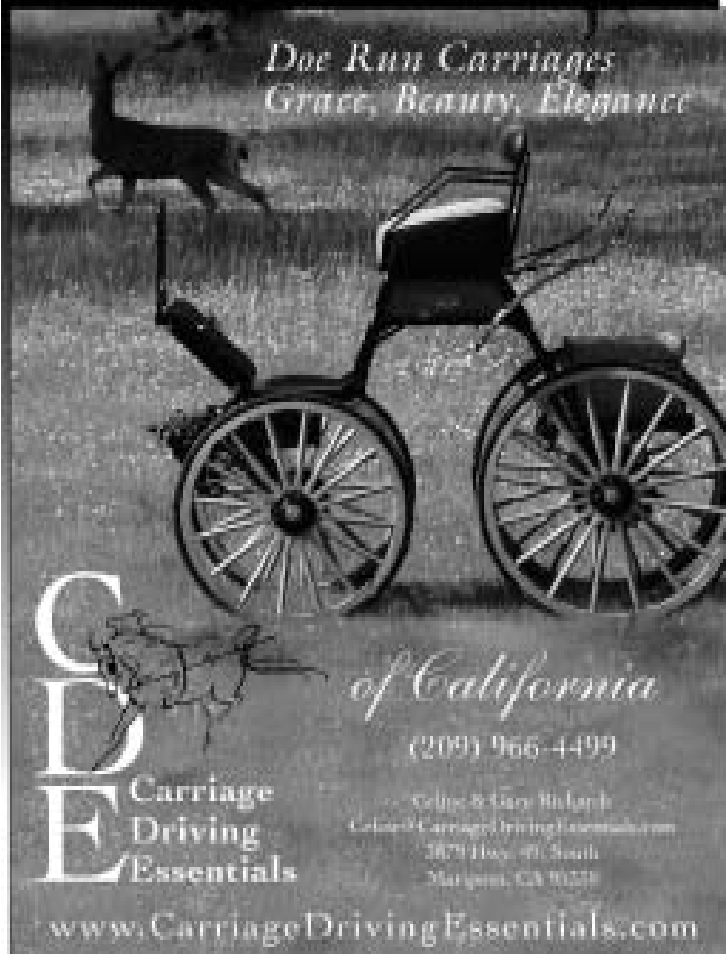
case with Lisa. She watches you work a bit on your own and evaluates where you and your horse are, then she works with you to improve and correct what she sees in a way that you can handle. I like her because she has great common sense, like my personal trainer Tom Simmons. That goes a long ways in a good journey with your animal. Forty-five minutes with a person like Lisa can make you feel what is needed next with your equine. I took my American Saddlebred to his third public outing this weekend and was given good advice on how to maintain rhythm which is what is needed for him at his stage. I can't stress enough how important it is to have a knowledgeable person spot you on the ground and tell you where you need to be working. There is so much to driving, and all too often, I can get waylaid by concentrating on the other varied details that are not as important as the direct communication between horse and driver.

If ever you get the chance next year to work with Lisa, don't be intimidated by her status in sport. She is as good a clinician as you could ever want. She says that she learns so much herself by each horse that is brought to her. That is the key. I have taken clinics where each horse is made to fit a mold whether they fit or not. Not good!

Lisa is a true horseperson who works with the individual animal and assesses how she can make things better for the animal when it is doing what we are trying to ask it to do. It isn't easy but if you realize it is up to you to do the work, your animal will be content in his work. *Thank you Lisa.*

As for the facility at Clay Station horsepark, Stan and Debbie have created a place where you can take your animal and not be under pressure while you work and have fun. It is quiet and low key. It has a grass dressage ring, indoor arena, track around the property leading two hazards, bridges, splash through, flags waving, down the gravel road driving, and a relaxing place for driver and horse to hang out, not to mention Debbie's fabulous food offerings. This couple works hard on their horsepark and I am grateful there is a nice place such as theirs to come work. It was my fellow's first look at hazards and we were able to walk through them, under no pressure, with a non-event reaction.

Fred and I had a great time and wish we could have stayed longer, but needed to get home. Great seeing many of the NorCal group and reacquainting ourselves



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with old friends and meeting new friends.

Happy driving to you all.

## Thank You Woodland Stallion Station,

by Nancy Rojo

Many thanks to Shelley for hosting a wonderful day of driving at the Woodland Stallion Station. Of course thanks to owner Ann Taylor for allowing us to drive at will the miles of roads throughout her property. The day was perfect weather and the roads were great. We have driven there many times and yesterday we discovered new roads and hills to practice forward. I sure do envy those drivers who board there!

Lunch was very "gourmet" and I got to taste the famous Mississippi mud cake that Jay's wife creates for our pleasure. I was baaaad to eat so much desert but life is short and every now and then, why not indulge? Nor Cal Driving club was well represented and the meeting went well.

All in all, we couldn't have asked for a better day of driving and friends. So again, thanks Shelley! You are greatly appreciated.

## Wine Country Classic

by Gina Miner

This is a beautiful place - a huge, flat tree-lined grassy field surrounded by mountains. It's on the edge of the lake, which is at historically high level after the wet winter. And the field is not entirely above the current water level of the lake.

The show ran from Thurs til Sunday noon, but due to work constraints, I didn't go up til Friday afternoon, so missed the first 2 days. That turned out to be a good choice - it rained HEAVILY on Wed night, turning the show grounds into serious mud. Trucks got stuck (and I mean REALLY stuck!) pulling onto the grounds, and had to be pulled out with tractors. Truckloads of gravel, miraculously obtained on very short notice, corrected that problem. But the arena was a disaster. Classes were held but the horses could barely move in the muck. By the time I arrived, they had abandoned all hope of using it, and mowed an adjacent section of the grass, to set up an alternative arena, which worked just fine. From the descriptions I heard, they probably should have made that switch sooner. It was a shame to see the carefully set up arena, surrounded by tented viewing boxes, sitting idle.

Saturday was devoted to cones classes. Because the surface of the makeshift arena wasn't smooth, they decided it wasn't possible to do classes like Progressive Cones that require accurate cones spacing, so a Gambler's Choice was substituted. Actually, I think this was a lot more fun. For those who haven't done this, they set up several obstacles and assign point values based on difficulty. Each competitor has 90 sec to complete as many of the obstacles as possible, in any order, and you choose which obstacles to attempt. They had a "U" (30 pts), a serpentine (10 pts), a bridge (40 pts), a figure 8 (20 pts). The hardest one was 2 4x4 rails on the ground a few inches apart, and you had to drive with your wheel between them. Balanced on the rails were apples - if you knocked 'em off, you didn't get points for the obstacle. Few tried that one and I don't think anyone succeeded. It was worth 60 pts. The last was 3 barrels, atop each of which was a plastic bottle about 1/3 full of water. The task was to drive alongside and knock all 3 bottles off the barrels with the lash of the whip - harder than it sounds! Value was 50 pts. I did succeed in getting 'em all, but had to circle back for the one that got away. I also discovered that Scotty does still have some bridge-phobia! We got it on the second try. (For those who haven't seen the famous "Scotty and the Bridge Over



Troubled Water" picture, see <http://www.acornnmr.com/ncdc/scotty.htm> !!)

Sat afternoon, they arranged a drive into the little town of Kelseyville. It turned out to be mostly on paved roads, but they did a very good job with police escort and traffic spotters. I have a real road-phobia, and I wasn't at all worried. They even had a trailer following the route, to collect any horses that, for whatever reason, had to bail. And it turned out to be needed - 2 horses wiggled out and were chauffeured back to the show grounds. They even sent a pickup truck and crew to collect the carriages. What service! Main Street (all 2 blocks of it) was lined with people waving and cheering at us. The downside was that we got very bunched up on the way back, which had several of the horses (Scotty included) very frustrated because they couldn't go forward at a comfortable pace.

On Sunday was the hotly-contested Very Adult to Drive working pleasure class. There were 12 entries, from minis to Friesians. I was impressed by how good everyone looked, and it must have been a tough class to pin. But I think the choice of winner was unanimous - Alice Simpson's hackney, Lucky, was spectacular. Alice also won the High Point MOLDS award. The next fun event was a Pick-Your-Own-Route variant of Double Jeopardy. There were 10 pairs of cones. Each competitor consisted of 2 drivers. Driver #1 does all 10 sets of cones, in any order. Then you halt, and hand off the reins to driver #2, who does all 10 pairs of cones, again in any order. Fastest time wins. I talked Jane Merritt into partnering with me (I didn't have to twist her arm too hard!) She only had one short bought of vertigo - Scotty's a tad taller than Nifty! I discovered it's really hard to drive from the passenger seat of my Kuhnle - sitting low, chin on knees, elbows constrained.... didn't feel too secure. I even kludged together a sort of booster seat (a couple pieces of 2x6 and a cushion bungeed to the seat) but it wasn't enough. We did well, though - Scotty loves this game - and won the Single Horse class.

The final class was the drive-off among champions of the different divisions. It must be tough to compare horses, ponies, minis, pairs and tandems! In the end, the winner was Celine Rickards. She also won Concors d'Elegance. And some other stuff.

While the single horse and single pony classes were well populated, there was only 1 pair of horses (Steve Olsen), 1 mule (Hale Allen), 1 tandem (guess who) and 2 pony pairs. It would sure be nice to drum up more participation for these divisions for next year.

### The Garlic Classic CDE at Twin Rivers

A spectacular new venue at Twin Rivers Ranch located just north of Paso Robles  
September 9, 10, 11, 2005  
Entries open: June 15, 2005 Entries close: June 30, 2005  
Celia McCormack 408.847.7921 or Kate Kennedy 408.847.3633  
See website for all forms and complete information:  
[www.garlicclassic.com](http://www.garlicclassic.com)

### NEW DRIVING VENUES AVAILABLE! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! By Debra Smith

The long distance carriage driver Michael Muir is back in the area! Now living in Fairfield, CA, he continues to promote horse sport and wilderness access for people with disabilities with a Program opening 12,000 acres to carriage driving. In addition to the new Program serving the community of people with disabilities in Northern California, Mike welcomes all carriage driving enthusiasts to monthly pleasure drives on beautiful open space land in Solano and Contra Costa County.

Working with the Solano Land Trust and the Muir Heritage Land trust we now have an opportunity to access to some truly prime driving venues. Mike is seeking interested volunteers for the program, particularly those who can commit to one day a month with a well trained driving horse. For more information, please contact Michael Muir at [stonewallmike@hotmail.com](mailto:stonewallmike@hotmail.com) or Debra or Thomas Smith at [hoofnit@bigfoot.com](mailto:hoofnit@bigfoot.com).

### For Sale:

Camper, Lance Cab over camper...fits my long bed pickup. It has a shower, toilet, sleeps five...two way refrigerator, lots of storage, awning, hot water heater, kitchen, ladder to the roof for more storage,...Not new, but in very good shape. \$1,600. Bunny 831-262-5641.  
Miniature donkey for sale...he has been driven by a six year old boy...ridden too. He is sweet, cute as can be with loads of personality. He is a little Jack who stands about 36"....nothing bothers him. He would be fine for the beginning driver or just plain fun for a seasoned driver! He is only \$1500. "Bullwinkle." Harness available too. Bunny 831-262-5641

Adorable Pony, chestnut and white, he looks like a little Half Arabian. He rides, drives and really is collected and on the bit in harness. totally gentle for kids to ride and a real nice driving pony. His name is Flicker stands about 42" tall. Five years old. Priced at \$2,500. Bunny 831-262-5641



# Driving Trials

Saturday,  
July 16, 2005

9:00 am drivers meeting 8:15 am

Fees: \$45 (prepaid only) (includes lunch) auditors welcome.

Dressage (training test #2, prelim. test #2), Cones, Section E Marathon.

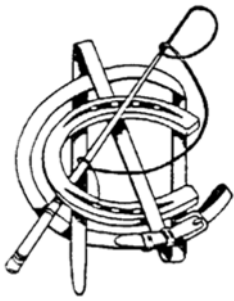
Judge: Nancy Myer

Contact: Debbi Packard, 916/687-7948  
[cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net](mailto:cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net)

Distributor for:



- June 30-July 1 Clinic with Sterling Graburn, Wilton, Debbi Packard, [cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net](mailto:cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net) 916-687-7948
- July 2-3 NCDC Clinic with Sterling Graburn Shady Oaks, Lodi, Debra Smith, [hoofnit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hoofnit@sbcglobal.net)
- July 3 NCDC Playday at Shady Oaks (members only) Mike Dowd, [rollngpony@aol.com](mailto:rollngpony@aol.com)
- Jul 3-4 The NEDA Anniversary Ride & Drive 20-30 miles Both Days Silver Springs, NV Cliff or Cathy Lewis 775-577-9693 [kkllfarms@aol.com](mailto:kkllfarms@aol.com)
- July 8-10 Trinity CDE Training, Prelim. & Interm. Hayfork, CA Frances Bowersock 508-759-3327 [beesock@molalla.net](mailto:beesock@molalla.net)
- July 16, Horse Driving Trial, Wilton, Debbi Packard [cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net](mailto:cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net) 916-687-7948
- Jul 24 Pleasure Driving Show, Cones, short obstacle course Ted Draper Training Stables [www.sonomacountyhorseshow.com](http://www.sonomacountyhorseshow.com) Santa Rosa, CA 707 546 2568  
July 27 Amador County Fair Driving Classes 209-245-6921
- July 30-31 Intro to CDE Clinic w/ TomShives at Happ's Ethel, WA
- 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 13 Gold County Fair Driving Classes 530-885-3225
- August 27-28 Happ's Pleasure Driving Show, Ethel, WA
- 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. Fairgrounds Santa Rosa, CA Kelly Denison [kelly@invisibleexecutives.com](mailto:kelly@invisibleexecutives.com)
- Sep 3-4 "Mighty Mini's CDE" \*ADS Train & Prelim. Whiffle Tree Ranch, Madera, CA Doug or Renee True 559.582.3694 [Dtrue@kings.k12.ca.us](mailto:Dtrue@kings.k12.ca.us)
- Sep 9-11 Mission River CDE ADS, Train. Prelim. Int. Paso Robles, CA Celia McCormack [Celia56@starnetdial.net](mailto:Celia56@starnetdial.net)
- 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)
- Sep17-18 Dressage Extraordinaire, Wilton, Jay Hubert 209-748-5607 or Debbi Packard [cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net](mailto:cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net) 916-687-7948
- Oct 1 Happ's Arena Driving Trials Happs Ethel , WA
- Oct 2 Muffy Seaton Driving Clinic at Happs Ethel , WA
- 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 [bnrmrphy@aol.com](mailto:bnrmrphy@aol.com)
- Oct 16 Hames 'n Tugs Country Frolic at Happ's Ethel , WA
- 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 [kkllfarms@aol.com](mailto:kkllfarms@aol.com)
- Dec 3 Pleasure Drive and Tea, Woodland Stallion Station, Shelley Chavoar, [wsstea@scrubjay.nu](mailto:wsstea@scrubjay.nu) 530-753-676



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.

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