

Hello NCDC! A letter from your editor, Harriet the other Merritt

It's May, longer days, Babies and the Flowers are here! Sadly, the rain is still here too, and it's already taken a toll; rescheduled events, trails squishy at best, but sunshine is in the forecast!

Some club related buds that bloomed this past month; check out the new web address for the club, easier to find when searching, even for a computer neophyte like myself, www.NorCalDrivingClub.org, and be sure to look for our new banner at the Wine Country Classic. The banner will be found at our Club sponsored viewing tent. Take advantage of the tent while you are there, should be a great place to meet and visit!

Be sure to come to the meeting in June. Take advantage of the Pleasure drive, and invite those friends who have become intrigued with our sport. It's the perfect time to join the club! Let's take advantage of our tent at Wine Country Classic and the Pleasure Drive to meet and greet the folks who are curious about driving.

On a personal note, because it is all about me, has anyone else noticed how everything happens on the same weekend? We are fortunate to have so many different, fun things to do involving our equines but there isn't enough time! I've found my aged brain is not holding up under the pressure! Choices have never been my strong suit; I can always find a reason, a good one! to do just about anything...and "NO" has never been in my vocabulary. Oops. So I'll be at Horse Expo, a really fantastic experience, June 10-12, promoting our sport, having a blast, and wishing I was a clone! And my endurance gelding is getting fat, my baby is wild, and I wish I had the energy of a 20 year old again! Okay, I am so blessed, but I'm still whining! Life Is Great.

Editors Mistake! The Performance Drive in Chiloquin that was announced in last month's newsletter for June 18-20 is not taking place!

Pleasure Drive, Pot Luck and MEETING!!! at Woodland Stallion Station Saturday June 18th

The land dispute has been settled at Woodland Stallion Station, so the trails are open! They are in great shape; a little overgrown in some parts, but the footing is good.

Drive: 11:00am, Pot Luck 1:00pm, NCDC Meeting (all welcome!) 2:00pm .

Bring a dish to share and \$10.00 per turn-out to cover insurance costs.

Contact Shelley Chavoor smchavoor@ucdavis.edu for info and directions.

Meeting agenda items to Pat Scholderer at grannyncart@earthlink.net

June Meeting Agenda:

1. Minutes, standing reports
2. Old Business;
 - Individual club event updates
 - Vote for monetary support of 2005 events
 - Donate/sponsor a driving division at the Wild Horse & Burro expo in Reno in August-(promo DVD).
3. New Business
 - Apply for Hoops-Addiss insurance grant to cover playday clinic possible loss.
4. Read Correspondence
5. Adjournment

Club Logo Contest

Attention all Artists! The new banner has places for a club logo, so we need one! The logo will adorn the new banner, *Carriage Tracks* (the newsletter), and wherever else a logo could be used to identify NCDC.

The logo needs to be available (copyright free), easily recognized as horse and carriage driving, simple design for ease in copying, and one color.

Submit your designs to Harriet Merritt at hl_merritt@yahoo.com or 1993 E Rancho Verde Cr, Danville CA 94526 to be published in the newsletter.

At the January meeting all designs will be displayed and a vote of the membership will be taken to choose the logo!

New Members:

Joey Bruce, Oakdale *joey@pbjalpacaranch.com*
"I have a 23 yr old standard bred gelding with an easy entry cart. I am interested in pleasure driving and learning more about driving."

Diana Gee, Copperopolis *diana_gee@juno.com*
"I have 2 Haflinger horses - 1 trained (14) and 1 3-yr-old ready to be started. I have an Eaglet cart made by the Amish from Driving Essentials. I am pretty new to driving. I would like to attend and participate in clinics and shows sponsored by the club."

Susan Hassett, Buzzard's Roost Ranch in Winters
bzzroost@cwnet.com

A Big Thank You:

The club received a note from Jackie Mills on behalf of CVHA, (Central Valley Harness Association): "Club Members, Thank you so much for sponsoring a hazard at our event. (Ram Tap CDE) It means so much to us that other clubs support us."

Hitch Up and Drive for Team USA

It is the time of the year when we all start planning for good weather and look forward to getting our horses out for a day of driving or riding with friends. USDFD is offering an opportunity to do that while at the same time, helping send our drivers to the World Championships. United States Driving for the Disabled sponsors a competitive driving team known as Team USA every two years. This team represents the United States while competing against teams from all over the world at the International Paralympic Equestrian Committee's World Carriage Driving Championships for Disabled Drivers. Team USA has been very successful bringing home an Individual Gold Medal and Bronze Team Medal at the 1994 World Championships as well as a Silver Individual Medal and Bronze Team Medal at the 2000 and 2002 World Championships. In the first Pairs division, year 2004, we won an Individual Bronze Medal. United States Driving for the Disabled would like to invite clubs or organizations to participate in our fundraising effort by hosting a benefit drive/ride to augment the funds necessary to send Team USA to the World Championships in 2006. Each driver chosen for the Team is responsible for covering their own expenses and those of their support people. This is a daunting task. We are working this year to make that task easier by launching a national Hitch-Up and Drive for Team USA campaign. All money raised going into our Team USA Fund to help team members

NCDC Officers (thank you!)

CHAIRMAN: Pat Scholderer 925-778-2640

grannyncart@earthlink.net

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riverrockcobs@yahoo.com

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odomk@yahoo.com

Kathy Freeman 530-677-5885

kathyf@ponyplace.com

Thomas Smith 707-399-9873

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*

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

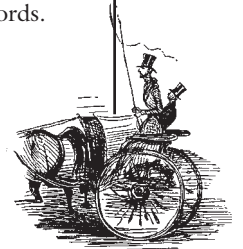
Please send all ads and checks (if applicable) payable to NCDC to:

Harriet Merritt

1993 Rancho Verde Cr E, Danville, CA 94526

hl_merritt@yahoo.com, 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!



with their expenses.

The "Hitch-up and Drive for Team USA" program is an opportunity to support the Team USA Fund and have fun doing it. We suggest a drive or ride of approximately 10 miles or more but leave the specifics up to each organizer. USDFD will provide all materials needed to host a drive/ride including: a check list of things to do, sign up sheets for each participant to collect sponsors, and press release ideas for publicity. Each individual obtains sponsors in the weeks before the drive for each mile. Each sponsor pledges a dollar amount either by mile or a total amount. Only 10 sponsors at \$1 a mile would raise \$100! Together we can have a great day in the company of our horses and friends while helping the Team USA Fund at the same time.

For information on hosting a drive, please contact the USDFD office. Need help? See <http://www.CarriageDriving.net/cdl/cdhelp.html>

Editor's note: Okay here is the gauntlet... Who can get this done? Maybe add it to an existing pleasure drive? Who wants to help? Anyone out there have a few hours to organize this?

For sale

Absolutely beautiful Palomino Welsh Pony (A) he would be a fantastic CDE pony. Broke to ride. Stands 11.2 hands, seven year old gelding. \$3,500...

Matched pair of minis, totally cute and sweet. Brothers, three and four years old, DUN PINTOS, eight hands tall, nice movers, great legs, feet and bites. What a driving pair they will make! see photo. Not registered...so the price is right to NCDC.... \$2,400 for the pair OBO Bunny 831-262-5641

This could be YOUR new Team!



*Doe Run Carriages
Grace, Beauty, Elegance*

CDE Carriage Driving Essentials

of California

(209) 966-4499

Celine & Gary Rickards
Celine@CarriageDrivingEssentials.com
5879 Hwy. 49, South
Mariposa, CA 95358

www.CarriageDrivingEssentials.com

USEF's Week In Review newsletter May 11, 2005

Fritz Grupe Makes Driving History at 2005 USEF National Pairs Championship
Lexington, KY - California's Fritz Grupe made history in the discipline of driving when he won the 2005 USEF National Pairs Championship at the 2005 Garden State CDE at the Horse Park of New Jersey, in Cream Ridge, May 8. Grupe, of Stockton, California, became the first resident West of the Mississippi to claim the Championship title.

Final results following all three phases (cones, dressage and marathon) are as follows:

1. Fritz Grupe, Stockton, CA, 127.68
2. Lisa Singer, Chadds Ford, PA, 130.92
3. Larry Poulin, Petersham, MA, 134.61

For detailed results documents from all phases of the 2005 USEF National Pairs Championship, or for photos, contact Sarah Lane, Public Relations Manager, by phone at (859) 225-6974, or via e-mail at slane@usef.org.

"Don't underestimate the accomplishments of Fritz Grupe this season and, especially, this past weekend. As I have learned all too well, the competition in Advanced

Pairs in a selection year is ferocious, and I want to commend Fritz and Team Grupe for their huge victory at Garden State and especially his great cones performance on a very difficult course.

I have experimented with 6 different pair combinations this spring and have not been able to match-up a pair that is competitive in all three phases of a CDE. I now have much more respect for the pair drivers that are consistently at the top of the leader board, especially at selection trials.” Jim Richards

United States Driving for the Disabled introduces mentorship program:

Our driving world is a very small community. We pride ourselves in lending a hand to other drivers. We love for new people to join our driving clubs and get involved. USDFD in conjunction with the ADS is offering an opportunity to get involved in a special driver's life.

We are beginning a mentorship program. Almost weekly we are contacted by handicapped people from all over the United States, expressing the desire to learn about driving a horse. Maybe they have never seen a horse, maybe they have been a horse-person all their lives. Our mission is to help them fulfill that dream. We are inviting ADS Members to be a part of their aspirations.

Through the mentorship program, each USDFD driver will be set up with an “able-bodied” ADS mentor. Beginning drivers would first visit our National USDFD headquarters where we assess their needs. We will establish what adaptations, if any, are needed along with safety equipment. We will start the driver with an able-bodied driver and discuss any physical restrictions with their caregiver. They will take several lessons with either the Gayla Driving Center's well trained equines or their own carriage and animal. This ensures their safety and well-being. Then the driver returns home with their own equipment, to join up with their able-bodied mentor. If an already active USDFD driver wants to take part in the mentorship program, they will contact their USDFD regional representative or the National USDFD headquarters to be connected with an ADS mentor. The mentor's mission is to assist the driver in a safe, informative, and responsible way. Ideally, the mentor partnership will allow the driver to continue their education locally. It will offer consistent driving opportunities in a dependable, safe environment.

For more information on the Mentorship program, contact the USDFD office.

Need help? See <http://www.CarriageDriving.net/cdl/cdhelp.html>



SEND ME YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES!

I keep hearing about all these baby photos, and the great news of accomplishments...where's the proof? Show me the pictures! And I'll share with everyone! Send stuff snail to Harriet Merritt, 1993 E Rancho Verde Cr., Danville, CA 94526, or e-mail hl_merritt@yahoo.com

Pleasure Days Show By Buck Scholderer

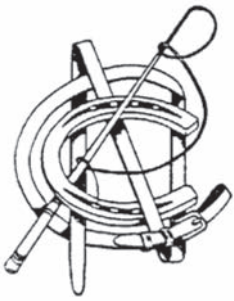
This past weekend I had the pleasure of announcing the Pleasure Days show put on by the Brass Oaks Driving Society under the tutelage of Linda Fairbanks. This was a wonderful laid back weekend with some marvelous horses and people. I had a chance to see one of my favorite ponies, Brigadoon (Connemara stallion) and also one of my new favorites - the handsome Black Tie Affair (Tuxis a gorgeous black Morgan). We had the pleasure of seeing three (3) very good Hackney Horses, Rodger, Harvard and Lucky Gillie. I think they even won one of the team awards!

Any weekend spent in the company of Natasha Grigg is greatly beneficial to all of us and adding John Frieburger to the mix and being put up and pampered at the Carriage Vineyard B & B made for an awesome weekend!^o Many thanks to the Brass Oak folks for including me!

Do NOT miss this event next year! It's not just "roundy-round". The obstacle classes are challenging and there is a cross country hazard course as well as fun and challenging "Utility Driving" classes. Plan ahead for the middle weekend in May in Paso Robles!

CARRIAGE TRACKS
2005 CALENDAR

- May 28-29 Driven Dressage Clinic with J. Ashton Moore, Bella Sera Farm www.bellaserafarm.com Winters, CA Linda Palagi 530.795.1101
calynm@castles.com
- June 3-5 Lisa Singer Clinic, Wilton, Debbi Packard cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net 916-687-7948
- June 3-5 Winnemucca Mule Races, Show and Draft horse Challenge Winnemucca, NV www.mule-draffhorse-show.com
- Jun 9-12 "California Wine Country Carriage Classic" *ADS, Pleasure Driving Show, Pleasure Drive and obstacle classes www.winecountrycarriageclassic.com
Kelseyville, CA, Linda Long 910-692-0943 lalong@pinehurst.net
- June 10-12 HORSE EXPO, Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA
- June 16-19 Happs CDE Ethel, WA www.happs-inc.com
- June 18 NCDC Meeting, Pleasure Drive & Pot Luck Woodland Stallion Station, smchavoor@ucdavis.edu
- June 18 Pleasure Driving Show Eugene OR Carin Woodruff modhaffie@yahoo.com 541-664-2609
- June 24 El Dorado County Fair Driving Classes 530-621-5860
- Jun 25 : Country Drive on the 10,000 acre Chamberlin Ranch followed by a BBQ, Santa Ynez, CA Contact: Mike McCormack 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
- June 30-July 1 Clinic with Sterling Graburn, Wilton, Debbi Packard, cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net 916-687-7948
- July 2-3 NCDC Clinic with Sterling Graburn Shady Oaks, Lodi, Debra Smith, hoofnit@sbcglobal.net
- July 3 NCDC Playday at Shady Oaks (members only) Mike Dowd, 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
- July 8-10 Trinity CDE Training, Prelim. & Interm. Hayfork, CA Frances Bowersock 508-759-3327 beesock@molalla.net
- July 16, Horse Driving Trial, Wilton, Debbi Packard cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net 916-687-7948
- July 27 Amador County Fair Driving Classes 209-245-6921
- Aug 4-7 The Dr. Henry Boyd Memorial CDE, Train., Prelim. & Inter. www.henryboydcde.com Woodside, CA Gerald Fisher 408-464-8916
piscator6717@sbcglobal.net
- Aug 13 Gold County Fair Driving Classes 530-885-3225
- Aug 20 NCDC Traditional Day of Driving Silverbend Farm Clarksburg, CA Jay Hubert 209-748-5607 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
- Sep 9-11 Mission River CDE ADS, Train. Prelim. Int. Paso Robles, CA Celia McCormack 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
- Sep 15-18 Nevada County Draft Horse Classic www.nevadacountyfair.com Grass Valley, CA Sandy Woods 530-273-6217 sandy@nevadacountyfair.com
- Sep17-18 Dressage Extraordinaire, Wilton, Jay Hubert 209-748-5607 or Debbi Packard cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net 916-687-7948
- Oct 7-9 California Classic CDE at Shady Oaks *ADS Prelim, Int. & Adv. www.shadyoaksevents.com Lodi, CA Bonner Murphy 209-462-2209
bnnrmrphy@aol.com
- Oct 22-23 Driven Dressage Clinic with J. Ashton Moore at Bella Sera Farm www.bellaserafarm.com Winters, CA Linda Palagi
530-795-1101 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
- Dec 3 Pleasure Drive and Tea, Woodland Stallion Station, Shelley Chavoor, 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.

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