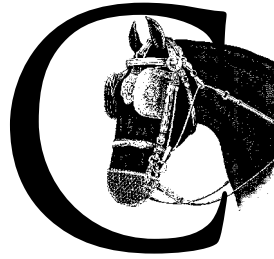


# NCDC



Northern  
California  
Driving  
Club

NOVEMBER • 2006

CARRIAGE TRACKS

**Hello NCDC,  
a letter from your editor, Harriet Merritt**

The holidays are upon us, with all the fun and food. Great excuses to come out to visit and drive! It is winter, we need extra calories to stay warm...we're all feeding our horses more right? The Best kick off to the season and a fantastic way to add to our Thanksgiving calories is the High Tea. Our official invitation follows this, and our President has called a brief meeting which will help set the agenda for the January planning meeting.

As you all know I have taken on the organization of the Ram Tap CDE. It will be my swan song for driving for the next few years as I'm getting back into endurance with a colt I bred a few years ago. I have committed to do the newsletter through the June/July issue, and then we need a new editor. This doesn't mean you are rid of me! I will turn out to volunteer whenever my schedule allows, and maintain my membership, as I hope to be back on a box seat competing again. The old adage "Hunt til you're sixty, drive through your nineties" will definitely be one I take to heart, except I may push the hunting part a bit....

Please check all the upcoming dates and be sure to participate. This club exists to provide opportunities to play and learn and compete. It can't provide these opportunities if none of the members step up and get involved with the running of the various events. It's not all that time consuming to be involved, and if someone as ADD as I am can accomplish anything, anyone can!

See you at the Tea! Harriet

## **CLUB MEETING SAT DEC 2**

There will be a BREIF club meeting after the Tea Drive at Woodland Stallion Station. The drive takes place from 11am to 1pm with tea following. Meeting will start at 2pm which gives us all a chance to enjoy the great tea and food first.

This will be a preliminary planning meeting for clinics and events for the coming season.

*HERE IS YOUR OFFICIAL INVITATION TO TEA. PLEASE COME AND BRING FRIENDS, FAMILY ....*

**11th ANNUAL PLEASURE DRIVE AND TEA**

Come drive over 1200 acres of farm land and vineyards at Beau Cheval Vineyards at Woodland Station Station. Tea to follow.

Date: Saturday December 2nd

Time: Drive starts at 11:00 a.m.; Tea at 1:00 p.m.

Place: Woodland Stallion Station, Woodland, CA.

Cost: \$10.00 per turnout to cover the cost of insurance

Attire is informal. Please bring a tea savory or sweet to share. I will provide tea.

If you have videos of driving events bring them and we will watch them after tea.

For overnight stabling contact Woodland Stallion Station directly.

For more information contact: Shelley Chavoor  
(530)753-6761 smchavoor@sbcglobal.net

Directions to WSS: [www.woodlandstallion.com/map.htm](http://www.woodlandstallion.com/map.htm)  
No need to RSVP

Hope to see you there. I will post information about weather and farm road conditions closer to the date. There is no rain date so come and drink tea even if the equines are left at home; or come and drive in the indoor arena. We can set up a cones course.

The tea drive this year is in honor of the memory of Judson Wright. We will drink a toast to Jud and people are welcome to say a few words about him.

Jud attended several of these teas over the years and we will miss him.

Cheers,

Shelley Chavoor

## **Clay Station Horse Park Final HDT by Moire Creek**

In August, I heard Debbie Packard say with regard to the final mandatory HDT at Clay Station Horse Park "anything can happen and usually does". For some reason this resonated with me although I wish it hadn't. You see, by the time the final October show came around, I was in the lead for the Training Division and the greatly coveted Driving Essentials harness!

In my first year back to formal competition after a very, very, very long dry spell (another story unto itself!), Sun-Man exceeded all of my expectations. He has proven to be all the horse that Jil Wickander promised him to be! He helped reinstall my confidence, which had been so shattered that I often had a difficult time even holding on to the reins because I was shaking so badly. But, slowly as the year progressed, I was able to get beyond the thoughts of imminent death to where I could actually breathe and take in the sights. I was also finally able to appreciate what a wonderful venue Debbie and Stan have built at Clay Station. I give her a lot of credit for my success

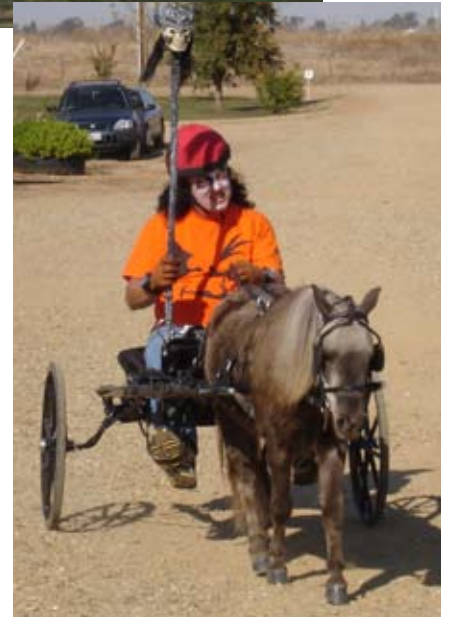
this year because she provides us all with the opportunity to drive in a calm, safe, low-key, no drama type of place! Don't get me wrong...Clay Station has everything one needs to prepare for the big time...a great indoor arena, a first class outdoor dressage court, creative and ever-changing obstacles and a beautifully groomed, non-scary (except for the llama) marathon course track.

For all the shows, events and clinics leading up to the final October show, I was just so happy to be at Clay Station driving my horse at this perfect facility. I felt no pressure and had few expectations, which probably explains why I did so well. But, then came the final show -- pressure, lack of preparation, high expectations, John Walker's playful voice -- "I'm watching you" ...and adrenaline! While I didn't drop the reins this time, I sure did drop the ball. Here's how it went. We arrived early (thanks to the time change) at Clay station with plenty of time to get ready. The horse, harness and carriage were all sparkling. We were READY. Dressage went flawlessly with SunMan happy and relaxed. Cones were a bit more challenging as some tight turns were necessary and in our relaxed frame of mind, we had some trouble turning and had to make a second attempt or two to get through the gates. But, overall we went clean and made it through the course successfully.

Then it was time to prepare for the Marathon. By this time, the adrenaline was leaving my system. All I had to do was finish without eliminating! I was so relaxed that once we started on the marathon, my navigator, Kelly Albrecht and I realized that neither of us bothered to start the timers (moment of panic #1). We also realized that I had written the directions so small that neither one of us could actually read them (moment of panic #2). Consequently, at each K marker and gate, we were mentally



scrambling to figure out what our actual time was...which meant that we weren't looking ahead and preparing for what was to come. So, by the time we were in the vicinity of the first hazard, we had no idea what the heck we were doing and I took the closest route to the "spool hazard"! We happily buzzed through ... SunMan was so responsive, light and forward (joy, joy)...that we never even realized it was the WRONG hazard!



**NCDC Officers (thank you!)**

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ehultgren@aol.com

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**Sharon Waite 209-848-2507**

rollingpony@aol.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

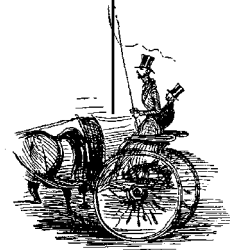
Please send all ads and checks (if applicable) payable to NCDC to:

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.





This was the way of things for pretty much the rest of the course. After it was over, we figured out that we went off course no less than 3 times! Hey, if your going to do something, you might as well do it well, right?!

So in the end, with Deb's voice resonating in my brain (...anything can happen...), we ended up loosing the year-end award. The moral to this story? While we lost the award, we won in the end because I had a great show season that more than exceeded any of my expectations, I regained my confidence, overcame challenges, met tons of new friends, saw miles of beautiful scenery, and had a blast doing what I love to do! The other good part of the story? I can't think of a more deserving, hard working and generous team for the year-end trophy than John Walker and Moka Davis! Congratulations – you earned it! In closing, thank you Debbie for giving Sun and I the opportunity to be part of your great driving community! We hope to see you throughout the winter and beyond!

### ADS Pacific Regional Gathering and the Meeting of the Minds by Jane Ann Merritt

Once again the Meeting of the Minds proved to be a helpful tool for organizers of driving events from CDEs to non competitive carriage driving activities. MOM is the brain child of Linda Fairbanks and Celine Rickards and has proven to be most valuable to the driving community from competitors to organizers and anyone involved in carriage driving here in the West.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Earl Smittcamp who's donation makes the use of Clovis Rodeo Grounds possible for the Meeting Of The Minds and the ADS Regional meeting. Mr. Smittcamp took up the sport



of carriage driving at the age of eighty three and was seen honing his cones driving skill under the guidance of Cathy Grimes. The meeting

was once again held at the Clovis Rodeo Grounds, in the central part of California making it most convenient for organizers of the West to get their activities on the calendar and avoiding date conflicts. The meeting was well attended and the 2007 calendar looks great for a fun filled year with a variety of driving and driving related activities.

The MOM was combined with a number of other activities making it educational as well as informational. The rodeo grounds makes the perfect site for an event of this type as the multiple arenas allow organizers to plan activities outside of the main meeting hall. The ADS Regional meeting along with a number of informational seminars, were held inside while clinics lessons, demonstrations, and hands on driving related activities outside made the weekend fun as well as educational.

Some of the highlights were of course the actual Meeting of the Minds in the morning on Saturday followed by the California Region ADS meeting in the afternoon. Our California Representative, Phyllis Rumley led the ADS meeting with a number of topics old and new. We were honored to welcome Tom Knicker, who is on the ADS Board of Directors as well as ADS committee for Combined driving who sat for a question and answer session about combined driving and the roll of the ADS.



Linda Fairbanks, well respected ADS Judge, TD as well as trainer put together a human sized CDE course complete with obstacles and three sections. Each team of competitors were given cards that gave them a variety of incidences that tested their knowledge of rules, penalties as well as figuring ending times.

The weather was comfortable, cool and slightly overcast making being outside watching or participating in the activities pleasant. David Ventura demonstrated long-lining with his Oldenburg gelding, Marky followed by a beautiful demonstration of ridden dressage. David also offered lessons throughout the weekend. See Pictures.

It was a privilege to watch Mickie Bowen work with a number of pair drivers including a pair of ponies, one of which was a Spanish Gaited Pony. Ms Bowen also worked with Judy Levelle-King with her pair of very pretty Haflingers and Marie McKee and her minis. Mickey was also one of our guest speakers and is well known not only for combined driving but for her long time experience in coaching and was one of the founding members of the ADS.

The Saturday night Gala Dinner was excellent.. Dinner was wonderful and we were treated to a spectacular presentation by Gold Medal winner, Diane Kastama who traveled to Scotland with the determination and confidence to bring home the gold. A wonderful video taken by her dad, Frank, and narrated by Diane, revealed her pride as she described the adventure from before leaving the USA to coming home. A trip of this type takes a huge team effort from monetary support to those that traveled with Diane and Jasper including those that helped with so much while there. Diane we are proud of you!

Below are writing taken from the NCDC list.....  
Jane Merritt

*I too enjoyed the Meeting of the Minds. Linda Fairbanks also did some excellent presentations both relating to the beginning driver on dressage, marathon and cones. A people size course was set out on a grassy area for one to navigate. I also attended the Open House at Fresno University featuring their Hackney breeding program. The students went out of their way to present the horses for us to view under hand or under saddle and two darling weanlings. There are several nice prospects ranging in size from 15 hands to 17+. They have some interesting cross-breds with Friesians and Warmbloods.*

*Ann, Central Coast California*

*I just got back from a WONDERFUL weekend at the Regional Meeting Clovis, CA. Thank you Celine Rickards (Carriage Driving Essentials) and Phyllis Rumley for setting this up! There were so many great speakers and clinics, that I needed two of me to see and absorb the information. Mickie Bowen was wonderful. David Ventura was super. Wish I could have been a bird on the shoulder of both of them for the whole weekend. Also great clinics by Jay Hubert on Safety, Hardy Zane on Dressage, Walt Ashford on Wheel Maintenance and Chris Downing/Gary Rickards on Navigating. And, many other great presentations!! For anyone who missed it, be sure to go next year. Teri Merry*

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**For Sale:**

**Bennington 4-wheeled marathon vehicle**

Very good condition, Given a once-over this season after weld broke at Woodside

Adjustable - Fits 14 -16.3 equine, single or pair

Independent shafts, removable dickie seat, wedge seat, disc brakes

Includes new set of brakes (Lockheed); Pole optional

Great vehicle for recreational, new drivers, Training through Prelim levels of competitions

\$2500. My name and phone number 530-220-4084

**Pair of Solid Black Morgan geldings; Full brothers (4 and 3 y.o)**

Triton Osage x Black Ayer's Susie - beautiful movers!

Excellent dispositions, willing learners; Extensive handling Started under saddle, line-driven, harnessed, etc but not hooked to vehicle - yet!

Both have been shown, 1st and 3rd - In-Hand Sport Horse Morgan class 2004-2005

Sire a major competitor in Training and Preliminary Level CDEs, many awards

\$4,000 each; Make offer for the pair!

Age and injuries force continued major herd reduction. I have 2 beautiful Sec B. geldings by Telynau Royal Charter, 3yrs old in Jan. A nice almost perfectly matched pair for driving or riding. Nice manners and ready to start. Excalibur is out of Hillcrests Snow Shower and Rocket is out of Cloe Val du Sar mare. Breeding doesnt get much better than this for Section B's.

\$1800 each or \$3400 for the pair. Also have a 4yr gelding by Charter and 2 yr gelding by Copper Hills Galahad, both priced below cost to breed and raise.

Roger Helm, Clovis, Ca. 559-298-3995  
rhelmsprint@earthlink.net

**THERE WILL BE A TRINITY CDE ON JUNE 1,2,3, 2007 DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE NEW OMNIBUS.**

I talked with Susan Koos Acker this morning and she apologized profusely for the fact that Trinity and one other event (in the South East Region) disappeared between her computer and the printer. The ADS will be sending out a direct mailing about the Trinity CDE to all ADS members in CA, OR, WA, ID, NV, AZ, MT, AND Southern B.C. in the near future. It will also be in *The Whip* and on the ADS web site.

Frances Bowersock  
Sec., Trinity CDE

# Come to Hayfork. It is a blast!

## CARRIAGE TRACKS

# 2007 CALENDAR

Dec 2	Pleasure Drive & Tea at Woodland Stallion Station (drive at 11am, tea at 1pm) Woodland, CA Shelley Chavoor 530.753.6761 wsstea@scrubjay.nu
Dec 2	Raymond Christmas Drive Raymond, CA Debra Manning 559.325.9488 admanning@juno.com
Dec 8-9	Marsoe Larose Clinic, Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA Debbi Packard 916-687-7948 cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net \$90 prepaid only
Dec TBA	Old Pueblo CDE Training, Preliminary & Intermediate Tucson, AZ Sally Henry 520.883.1818 Azoldpueblodge@aol.com
Jan 13	NCDC Planning Lunch Meeting, noon, Shady Oaks Clubhouse, Lodi CA
Feb TBA	Marsoe Larose Clinic, Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA Debbi Packard 916-687-7948 cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net \$90 prepaid only
Mar TBA	Marsoe Larose Clinic, Clay Station Horse Park, Wilton, CA Debbi Packard 916-687-7948 cla-sta-horsepark@softcom.net \$90 prepaid only
April 7	ADT Ione, CA



NCDC  
1993 Rancho Verde Circle, East  
Danville, CA 94526

## NCDC Membership Application

Complete this page and mail with your check, made payable to NCDC, to:

Thomas Smith  
4305 Peaceful Glen Road  
Vacaville, CA 95688

Dues are \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families. The membership year runs from June to June, not the calendar year.

New membership  Renewal

How did you learn about us?  Friend  Website  Event  Banner  ADS  Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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