

CVHA Newsletter

Official Publication of
Central Valley Harness Association

August 2011



Pacific Region Driven Dressage Festival 2011

By Sharon Booth



On the left is Jay Hubert driving his newest Welsh pony, Goldhills Silver Starlet (Rosie).

On the right is author Sharon Booth driving her Connemara cross pony, Potiquimi Just A Minute (Jessie).

Photos courtesy of Mary Ann McPherson.

The Pacific Region Driven Dressage Festival took place on July 16-17 again at the home of Ann and Mike McClure in Arroyo Grande, California. This beautiful location near the Pacific Ocean is always blessed with pleasant temperatures, and their grass dressage arena looked particularly lovely. The members of the Brass Oak Driving Society worked very hard as usual to put together a wonderful show. Returning judges were Holly and Larry Brinker of British Columbia, Canada. Larry gave lessons on Sunday and Monday, which were particularly helpful because he had already seen us driving several times in the previous 2 days.

I wish that more CVHA drivers would attend the Dressage Festival, as the emphasis is always on learning and improving your abilities. Attendees are always very helpful to each other, creating a perfect, low stress learning environment. Most drivers chose to do tests at more than one level, to help themselves move on to the next level of training. You can also do a "Test of Choice" which means you can repeat any test you've already driven that day, to see if you can improve it. The only other driven dressage event in our region is the Dressage Extraordinaire on Sept. 3 and 4, at Clay Station Horse Park near Galt. This is also a wonderful venue, and I hope that several CVHA members will be attending - I know that I will!

*Central Valley
Harness Association*

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Calendar of Events Website:

<http://www.carriagedrivingessentials.com/calendar.php>

Central Valley Harness Association Website:

<http://www.centralvalleyharnessassociation.com>



Happy Claire driving Ace the Mini with his Frontier cart

Ace the Mini at the Stone Fruit Jubilee

by Claire Lemire, 1st year CVHA member

As written about in a previous CVHA newsletter, Ace the Mini had been in training for 2 years and had only been in the Frontier Cart for a month and a half when the 2011 Stone Fruit Jubilee was to happen. Ace's first Jubilee was not good, he was made to give pony rides and was so unfit he threw more off than rode. I was brought in and managed to try rides but again he had little prep time and we had to pull a few riders off just in case. That was when I contacted the McKees, learned about Minis and insisted Ace be trained to pull a cart instead. The second Jubilee he was ground driving and still touchy but much more social overall. We had the cart as of March but he wasn't ready physically or mindfully. This year I was determined and with patience and the CVHA beginners training he took to the cart on May 1st with the Jubilee on June 18th!

I was a bundle of nerves the day of the event. Ace drove through the crowds beautifully and probably because he was over 20 years old wasn't impressed by any of the noise and people. This was his farm so he appeared comfortable as we went up and down the tractor roads. Little kids were eager so I had them wear a helmet and hold onto the railing of the sulky seat but when we were done they looked a little nervous since there was little holding them in place. We spent much of the time with me in the cart seat giving food to kids and parents to feed the pony and take pictures. Ace thought that was the best deal. After being out for almost 2 hours of the 3 hour event, we stopped by Dr. Alyx for an adjustment and I left him in his paddock to rest. I was going to use neighbor Coco the Mini to continue driving but forgot to bring him over earlier and it was too crowded to do so now. Next year.

Again, many thanks to all at CVHA who made Ace's new job possible.

CVHA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 3, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. The program was presented first, before the actual meeting. Brent had arranged for a California Highway Patrol public relations officer, Mr. Clausson, to talk to us about road safety when pulling a trailer. He discussed tips for driving safely under different conditions - in particular obeying speed limits and staying in the right lane all the time. A particularly interesting subject was the need for a different type of license required if your rig's Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (posted with the VIN plate on the vehicle) weight is over 10,000 lbs. He also reviewed safety features on the trailer and how to maintain them in good functioning order. Numerous questions were asked by those present, and all appreciated his expertise. He also left us copies of laws pertaining to hauling a trailer. If it weighs under 10,000 lbs, our Class C license is okay. But if it is over that, it requires a commercial license (class A). He said that some Ford F300 series may be close to that limit when hauling a large trailer, but definitely the F400s are easily over that limit.

The business meeting was started at 7:53. The meeting was called to order by our president, Brent Patten. We welcomed new members Larry and Paula Lang. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written in the June Newsletter. The treasurer's report was given by Susan Castang, vice president, in lieu of the treasurer who was absent. Our account shows our expenses exceeded our income by a small amount, but we still have a healthy balance, and are well under budget for the year. We are expecting to get the annual bill for our liability insurance which should be due in October. This is our largest expense each year.

Our recent ad in the program for the Vineyard Classic CDE in May, was viewed and looked very professional. The club rarely gives sponsorship money to events now, but does pay for ads for the club as a way of helping the event but also giving us some positive exposure in an easy format. Brent discussed recent changes to the club website, which will allow the Newsletter to be accessible to all viewers, and only the roster of membership will be on the "members only" page. A copy of our financial reports can be gotten on request, since we are a non profit group. Our webmaster Allyn Carmen will be in charge of these changes which should be made soon.

Many members attended a memorial service for David Ketscher, our long time friend and fellow driver who died in early July, from a chronic illness which he fought bravely. Brent spoke about David's importance to the sport of driving all over the world, because of his persistent efforts to get mules equal standing in all driving competitions, including Advanced CDEs which he often won. He also had an impressive number of other personal accomplishments to his credit, and numerous friends, co-workers and family members who will sorely miss him. Our condolences were expressed to his wife, Tamara Ketscher, another accomplished driver.

Tamara has invited the club to continue to present our fall playday/HDT at the Ketscher property near here in Reedley. The board of directors will be getting to the planning of that event soon, hopefully for a date of October 22. We are also starting to plan the next series of learning activities for new drivers/green horses for this fall, culminating in a beginners' two day HDT at Ram Tap in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.
The next meeting will be October 5.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Booth, secretary



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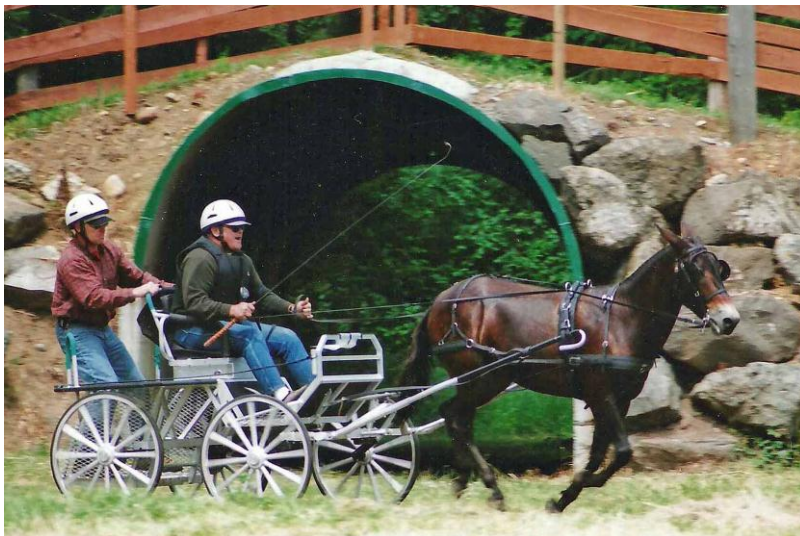
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David Ketscher (1950 – 2011) Celebrating a Mule Man

By Brent Patten

One of our longtime CVHA members and driving enthusiast, David Ketscher, passed away this last month from complications related to a disabling illness (ALS, a type of Lou Gerhig's Disease) he had been battling for several years. He and wife Tamara had been very active in the CVHA club for years and had raised, trained and competed with his mules all over the country. He has also been instrumental in assisting new drivers in developing their skills, planning for events, and providing locations for activities.

In celebrating his remarkable life and the affect that he had on those around him, we have included some comments, thoughts, and farewells from his friends and family who knew him best. Although he was known as the "Adventurous Pilgrim", his story for us in the driving world started with his love of mules. Here is how it was expressed in a passage by his wife, Tamara.

"David was passionate about everything he did, but his love of mules and what they could do was monumental. Some thought it had to do with the contrarian spirit that David shared with them; others that it was the major challenge to think ahead of them. In any event, he started by accident with a mule born to a pregnant horse he had bought for Tam. Mule #1 was named Mariah Carry because she could run like the wind and was expected to carry all the gear. She was the first of several award winning mules. David first started in the AMA (American Mule Association) competitions. By 1999 Mariah was the AMA all round, high point mule; and they were handily winning most of the driving competitions. David became the president of the AMA (always good for shock value around doctors) for a few years. He went on to win the title of World Champion Mule Driver at Bishop Mule Days in 2002 and 2003.

Looking for more challenges for him and his mules, David also did Combined Driving Events where his mules could compete against fine horses. He astounded many in the driving community where some people thought mules could not and should not compete. He successfully spearheaded a two year, national campaign for horse association rule changes to allow mules to compete in advanced level driving competitions. He then took Mariah Carry to Calgary, Alberta in Canada where he and Mariah won the very first advanced CDE that a mule had ever been allowed to enter. He continued competing all over the United States with mules Mariah Carry and Jeremiah until he became ill in 2003.

At the time of his illness he was actively looking For corporate sponsorship to become a full-time, professional mule driver. Since the kings in the Old Testament always rode mules, he figured he might be able to be a mule driver in Heaven for King Jesus someday too."

Since David Ketscher's adventurous life reads like a modern day "Buffalo Bill" (mixed with a little Billy Graham), we will probably be adding a story or two in the next couple of issues just for your entertainment.

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PRINTING "FOR THE JOB YOU NEEDED YESTERDAY"

What's Happening?

Miniature Drill Team – Madera, CA

Second Saturday of the month all year.
Whiffletree Ranch, Jack & Marie McKee
(559) 868-4245 or ultralite@netpc.net

August 20-21, 2011 – Claystation Horse Park HDT- Wilton, CA

Debbi Packard (916) 687-7948 or
<http://claystationhorsepark.com>

August 21, 2011 - River Parkway Publicity Drive- Fresno, CA

Only approved, bombproof turnouts to participate. Contact Sharon Booth
(559) 779-1903 ASAP if interested.

August 27, 2011 – Overlook ADT – Paso Robles, CA

Linda Fairbanks (805) 237-8476

September 10-11, 2011 – Ride & Drive Clinic/Lessons – Wilton, CA

Claystation Horse Park. Debbi Packard
(916) 687-7948 or <http://claystationhorsepark.com>

September 30- October 4, 2011 – International Draft Horse, Mule & Pleasure Driving Show – Pomona, CA

Los Angeles County Fair at Fairplex Park. Sharon Gifford
(909) 865-4091 or www.fairplex.com

October 22, 2011 – Ketscher's Fun Day Drive – Reedley, CA

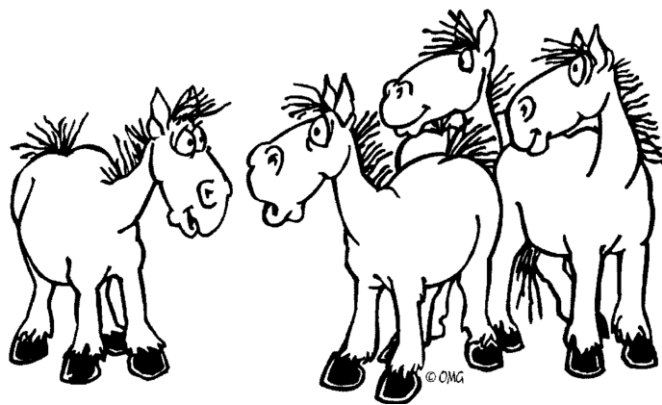
Tentative date, details to follow in upcoming issues. Brent Patten (559) 298-4124

December 3, 2011 – Raymond Christmas Drive- Raymond, CA

Gretchen Lee (559) 683-7516 or
itch2stitch@sti.net

March 17-18, 2012 – RamTap Playday/ HDT/Clinics – Fresno, CA

Lois Patten (559) 298-4124. Details to follow in upcoming issues.



For a more comprehensive calendar of upcoming events,

Please visit the Western Regional Calendar, Courtesy of Celine Rickards and Carriage Driving Essentials at:

<http://www.carriagedrivingessentials.com/calendar.php>

CVHA Newsletter

Advertising Rates:

Classified Ads:

Members: \$3 with a maximum of 25 words.
\$5 with a photo and maximum of 25 words.
Non-Members: \$5 with a maximum of 25 words.
\$8 with a photo and maximum of 25 words.

Per Issue Rates:

Quarter Page \$10
Half Page \$20

Annual Rates:

Business card ad: \$35 per year (12 issues)
Quarter Page: \$60 per year (12 issues)
Half Page: \$75 per year (12 issues)
Full Page: \$150 per year (12 issues)

Articles & Photos:

This is your newsletter, please send any driving event news & photos for publication to

krknight1@aol.com

or snail mail to:

Kristi Knight
114 S. Anderson Rd.
Exeter, CA 93221

The CVHA Newsletter is published monthly and is e-mailed to members and posted on the website on the members' page on the 15th of the month. Deadline for articles, photos & ads is the 12th of the month (or sooner, preferably).

August 20	Frank Luetz Lessons	Arroyo Grande	Ann McClure (805) 481-0530
August 20-21	Claystation Horse Park HDT	Wilton, CA	Debbie Packard (916) 687-7948
August 27	Overlook ADT	Paso Robles, CA	Linda Fairbanks (805) 237-8476
Sept 3-4	Dressage Extraordinaire	Wilton, CA	Debbie Packard (916) 687-7948
September 4	Delightful Day of Driving	Arroyo Grande	Liz Miller (805) 543-9288
September 10	Miniature Drill Team Practice	Madera, CA	Marie McKee (559) 868-4245
September 10	Frank Luetz Lessons	Arroyo Grande	Ann McClure (805) 481-0530
September 11	Sargent Equestrian CA Scurry	Lodi, CA	Jeanne Williams (209) 727-0200
September 17	Overlook Obstacles Clinic	Paso Robles, CA	Linda Fairbanks (805) 237-8476
Sept 15-18	Shady Oaks CDE	Lodi, CA	www.shadyoaksevents.com
Sept 23-25	Draft Horse Classic	Grass Valley, CA	www.nevadacountyfair.com/dhc
Sept 28- Oct 3	International Horse, Mule & Draft Show	Pomona, CA	Sharon Gifford (909) 865-4091 or www.fairplex.com
October 1	Brass Oak Pleasure Drive	Carrizo Plains, CA	Jill Beebe (805) 467-3333
October 2	Shady Oaks Day of Traditional Driving	Lodi, CA	
OCTOBER 5	CVHA MEETING@ DENNY'S	FRESNO, CA	Brent Patten (559) 298-4124
October 8	Miniature Drill Team Practice	Madera, CA	Marie McKee (559) 868-4245
October 8	Frank Luetz Lessons	Arroyo Grande	Ann McClure (805) 481-0530
October 9	Daehling Ranch Drive & Lunch	Elk Grove, CA	Joe Daehling (916) 685-4965
October 9	Brass Oak Buddy Buggy Days	Arroyo Grande	Ann McClure (805) 481-0530
October 15-16	Claystation Fall Classic Pleasure Show	Wilton, CA	Debbie Packard (916) 687-7948
October 15	Overlook ADT	Paso Robles, CA	Linda Fairbanks (805) 237-8476
October 16	ETI Corral 12 Driving Playday	Sylmar, CA	Katie Twohy (818) 768-5560
October 21-23	CAA Learning Weekend	Hollister, CA	Jill Ryder jill@windstream.net
OCTOBER 22	KETSCHER'S FUN DAY –TENTATIVE	REEDLEY, CA	Brent Patten (559) 298-4124
October 29	Halloween Hustle Pleasure Show	Thousand Oaks	www.whiprsnappers.com
October 29-30	Claystation Horse Park HDT	Wilton, CA	Debbie Packard (916) 687-7948
November 3-5	CA Draft Horse & Equipment Sale	Tulare, CA	www.californiadrafthorseauction.com
November 12	Miniature Drill Team Practice	Madera, CA	Marie McKee (559) 868-4245
November 19	Frank Luetz Lessons	Arroyo Grande	Ann McClure (805) 481-0530
DECEMBER 3	RAYMOND CHRISTMAS DRIVE	RAYMOND, CA	Gretchen Lee (559) 683-7516 or itch2stitch@sti.net
DECEMBER 7	CVHA MEETING @ DENNY'S	FRESNO, CA	Brent Patten (559) 298-4124
December 10	Miniature Drill Team Practice	Madera, CA	Marie McKee (559) 868-4245
December 10	Frank Luetz Lessons	Santa Paula, CA	Frank Luetz (805) 525-4929
December 17	Sargent Equest Xmas Fun Drive & Potluck	Lodi, CA	Jeanne Williams (209) 727-0200
FEBRUARY 1	CVHA MEETING @ DENNY'S	FRESNO, CA	Brent Patten (559) 298-4124
MARCH 17-18	RAMTAP PLAYDAY/HDT/CLINICS	FRESNO, CA	Lois Patten (559) 298-4124

Welcome New Members:

(some belated, sorry)

Cheryl Breedlove

Dan & Tara Jackson

Larry & Paula Lang

Claire Lemire

Karen Pursley

Diane Rinehart

Allyson Taylor

Sue Waite

Next CVHA Meeting:

Wednesday,

October 5, 2011

at Denny's on

Blackstone

at Herndon, Fresno

7:00 P.M.

Guests Welcome!

Central Valley Harness Association

P.O. Box 1192

Clovis, CA 93613

Postage

The purposes for which this organization is formed are to promote the education and training of the public in the safe use of the equine in harness for pleasure, recreation, and sport, and for the advancement of the collecting and restoration of equine drawn vehicles.

Please visit our website at www.centralvalleyharnessassociation.com

CVHA Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Individual Membership \$35 Family Membership \$45

New member Renewal

I wish to receive the CVHA Newsletter via e-mail or US Postal Service (choose one)

Please make checks payable to CVHA

Mail to: CVHA

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Are you a member of Carriage Association of America? Yes No

CVHA Membership runs from January 1 thru December 31. Exception: For those joining on or after October 1 of the current year, the membership will be valid to December 31 of the following year. Thank you for joining and welcome to our club.