

WHIPS & WHEELS DRIVING CLUB

www.whipsandwheelsdrivingclub.org

APRIL 2008



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CARRIAGE

Well I think Spring is finally here maybe no more real cold weather and no more blanketing horses. There are so many events coming up this year, I am hoping to get to attend at least a few of them. Don't forget the meeting on April 27th. Please bring your ideas for a September event as that is the only month we don't have anything planned as of yet.

"Keep your hooves on the ground."

Faith Bradshaw

**EGGSTRAVAGANZA CANCELLED
DUE TO THE MUCH NEEDED
RAIN!**

NEWS FROM THE VICE.....

I recently attended a meeting held at Tanglewood Park that was organized for horse enthusiast to meet with the Forsyth County Commissioner and the City Manager regarding the return of the annual Tanglewood Steeplechase and the proposal of building an additional Equestrian Center for other horse events to be held. These are some things that were discussed by Ted Kaplan, Dudley Watts Jr. and Damon Sanders-Pratt.

They proposed upgrading Tanglewood through working with the Travel Development Authorities (TDA) and that they would play a role in returning the annual Steeplechase to Tanglewood, usually held in May. They have discussed with other commissioners the possibilities of building an additional indoor, covered Equestrian Center to host other horse events. They said that money would need to be raised to build a facility and that the racetrack is already undergoing repair. They

**TEAM FALLER WINS
AT SOUTHERN PINES CDE**

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expressed the importance of organizing how to plan events, what's needed, who to call and asked for suggestions for a planning process. They estimated putting together over the next 6-9 months a marketing plan. Some concerns voiced by people were the importance of proper footing for a large arena and the cost involved. The point was made that the trails were in need of repair and it would be nice to have them widened for carriages and better marked. Other concerns about adding a new facility were the location and that the area where the race track is currently is very close to the Yadkin River and has flooded before. The meeting closed and additional suggestions were to be sent to Beth Cox at bethcox22@aol.com

The thought of having an indoor arena for this area to hold horse events is very exciting and much needed. With the quick access to I-40 and hotels and restaurants this area could easily attract some prestigious horseman and clinicians alike. If you have suggestions or would like to become involved, please contact Beth Cox.

Thanks and Drive safely!
Linda Harbison

TEAM FALLER WINS AT SOUTHERN PINES CDE

by Reba Wagner

The Southern Pines Combined Driving Event held last weekend, April 11-13 was attended by 76 competitors, and with them traveled 108 equines and countless trainers, navigators and grooms. Behind the bustling open air stables, a grass field was consumed with gooseneck horse trailers, with their awnings open, grills, lawn chairs, golf carts, and carriages creating the buzz of a small, well organized transient city in a desert. Drivers traveled from as far away as Texas to Ontario Canada with every state in between being represented by hopeful competitors. One advanced level competitor traveled from as far away as California. The warm early April weather and the famous sandy footing of Southern Pines was no doubt a big draw for the high caliber of competitors who participated.

Many of our North Carolina CDE drivers whom we only know from magazine articles and photos were there including Eleanor Gallagher with her team (in this instance team refers to a 4 in hand) of ponies, Keady Cadwell and her advanced pair of horses, Miranda Cadwell, and Muffy Seaton. Others who attended included Claudia DeLorne, Marcie Quist, Robin Groves and Allison Stroud with her advanced team of imported ponies.

Competition was fierce, but the atmosphere was friendly, relaxed and fun. Drivers had assigned starting times for their dressage test on Friday, their marathon on Saturday and their Cones Obstacle course on Sunday. As the Marathon day arrived on Saturday so did the crowd of spectators; some avid fans cheering for their favorite drivers and others who were new to watching the sport.

By the end of the day on Saturday having weathered the wind and rainstorm, the competition in each division had sorted itself. Competitors knew what they had to do as they planned their route early Sunday morning for the final drive in the Cones course. Did they need to go fast and clean or could they afford a few penalties and still take the ribbon?

I first ran into "Team Faller" on Friday afternoon while they were on a hat shopping spree getting in some retail therapy now that Rootbeer was comfortable stabled after his dressage test. Nancy Faller was trying on hats, followed by Tonya Barga, her navigator for many years, and trainer and coach Emily Ureche sporting a 3 week old broken ankle sustained while galloping Rootbeer through one of his conditioning practices. They were all somewhat disappointed in their dressage score that day but otherwise optimistic about their ability to rebound the next day in the marathon.

"Nancy was as prepared as she could be prior to the marathon." Emily said as she sat in the golf cart surrounded by her admiring fan club of dogs. "We walked the marathon course as a team 5 times. Each time rehearsing and challenging each other's ideas for the best route we could take. Sometimes my idea was the best most direct route, sometimes Nancy picked the longer but ultimately faster route."

“Nancy tell her what the marathon really feels like.” Emily encouraged.

“Ok. On Hazard 1, I sat in the carriage at the start and double checked where I knew the letters were and picked up a canter after Gate B. We drove between unforgiving telephone poles that held solid stacks of cut logs. Rootbeer and I stayed forward and drove hard. We took the long way around, but it was still faster.” Nancy said.

“Do you make adjustments in your route during the hazard?” Reba asked. ‘No! There is no Oh No! Epiphany moment in the hazard! You have studied and played all of this out in your mind well ahead of the drive. You know exactly what you’re going to do. You set up square through the gates and canter out. Every second in the hazard counts against you.” Nancy scolded.

Nancy has been a driver in pleasure shows and CDE competitions for years. She admitted she has struggled along somehow always managing 7th place. This year however her approach is completely retooled for winning. She spent this winter taking lessons with her trainer, making corrections on the spot, conditioning her pony and keeping focused on the spring competition.

“What went wrong with the dressage test today?” Tonya asked. “It was still not where I wanted it to be.” Nancy said. ‘The pony gets too worked up on dressage day; it’s always the first day of competition. We warmed up for an hour while I drove him hard. Then I put him back in his stall to chill out and eat. A little later I went back and after we worked another hour, Rootbeer had finally settled. At that point, I was ready to enter the ring.” Nancy commented afterwards as she sat and straightened her apron in the wooden road cart.

“How did Saturday go for the marathon?” Reba asked.

“We’ve discovered at home that a bigger route at a gallop is better than a shorter route through a tighter turn at a walk or a trot.” Nancy and Emily agreed. “We trot between hazards. There is only a 3 minute window of error in the marathon. For this course you had between 24 and 27 minutes to complete.” Tonya offered.

“Heading towards Hazard 2, I increased speed as I got to the entry gate and cantered wide and fast through gate A. I set myself up as best I could as every second counts. A hazard can be won or lost by 10th’s of a second.

At Hazard 4 there were 4 board fences and poles to negotiate. I cantered in, then instead of running fast and then slowing for a tight angled turn.

I chose to pick the straight shot through the gates and take it as fast as I could. We stayed wide and fast at a canter as we angled through the gates and avoided the hairpin turns at all costs. Afterward I went back to the course and noticed that all the other drivers took the same route I did as the sand was only dug out on that route.” Nancy beamed.

“On Hazard 5 the route Emily and I chose worked well. It was kind of intimidating with the maze of solid wood posts and horizontal boards. We took a left turn after gate A then slowed a bit for the turn then picked up speed again. The approach to the entry gate was the whole key to this hazard. I took the turn wide and headed straight in towards the entry gate where the clock starts your time. I was already cantering straight in when I crossed that line.”

“After the first section, they do a vet check, so I had a couple of minutes of silence to think about my plan for the next hazard. My motto is always

“How Can I Go Fast?!”

“Tonya tell her what the navigator does “Nancy said.

“Well the navigator needs to know as much about the planned route as the driver does. They have to agree on the route. Nancy drives the pony and the front of the carriage, and I make sure the back of the carriage makes it clean through the turns.” Tonya stated confidently.

‘The navigator walks the course in the position she will ride; behind the driver and a little off center. She studies the course looking at the tight turns so she can be ready to adjust to help the driver. The navigator is key to the course. She must be athletic and strong enough to shift or

bounce the back end of the carriage at just the right moment to clear a post. With practice, communication between pony, driver and navigator is almost second nature.

That's the part I like about my job!" Tonya smiles.

"Emily tell us how to use speed as a strategy." Nancy asked.

"You know I have ridden and driven forever. I know some trainers make horses just go fast, but if they don't work on bending and turning, it's just not going to produce the results you need in a hazard." Emily said.

"Hazard 6 was a water hazard and it was the last and most difficult one. Pulling a carriage through deep water can be exhausting for the horse very quickly. Rootbeer didn't seem as tired as the other horses were at this point in the marathon. We cantered on land and got 3 steps into the water when Rootbeer dropped back to a trot. I know in a water hazard you are definitely faster on land than in water and that any turn in the water will slow your time down significantly. Water is Rootbeer's and my favorite hazard every time. We love water. On this hazard, we really studied the route ahead of time and I take all and any opinions. Emily and I decided on the route with a wide turn around the log in the water and then up the bank on land to gate C through a pair of pine trees. I wanted a full gallop but at this last hazard Rootbeer just didn't have it left in him." Nancy's face still shows her delight in the results of the day while she describes her route.

Later while revisiting Hazard 6 a retired hunter jumper judge with her young protégé at her side listened to Nancy's animated replay of this drive.

I told the judge she was speaking with the winner of the single pony marathon. At hearing this while intently looking at Nancy, she said with her very southern drawl, "Well! You're going to need a bigger hat!"

When results were turned in at the end of the day on Saturday, Nancy, Emily, and Tonya learned they had won the division of Preliminary Single Pony in the marathon.

"It was awesome! We won every hazard in the class. The lessons and conditioning work really paid off. I used to freeze up in the tight hazards and we'd end up walking. Now I can pick the better routes and keep up a strong trot. This time I never walked in a hazard. We stayed very forward the whole time. We just went fast or faster. I've finally learned just how much those transitions at the turns in a hazard really shorten your time."

On Sunday morning Day 3 of the event, Rootbeer was not as frisky starting out as he was on Day one, but Tonya told Nancy to go do her dressage drills to put her pony in the right mindset for the cones. After some warm-up exercises, they could see Rootbeer was now back in the right frame of mind, listening and bending. "After working all winter, the dressage practice has really paid off. If she had gone into the cones ring without the warm-ups, Rootbeer would have been fussy and counterbending." Tonya observed.

Warming up in the cones practice ring, Nancy knew what she had to do to be a finalist, but she was losing confidence as she knocked tennis balls off the cones. At last, we hear Nancy's name called to the ring for the final event of the three days and she heads over to the cones course. Nancy looks worried. There are 20 sets of cones to navigate in a difficult arrangement with several very tight turns and several cones that can't be clearly seen in their numerical order. Nancy proceeds to the judge, gives her a salute, and drives the oak roadcart through the first set of cones to start the clock.

In cones, the wheel measurement is 35 cm greater than the wheel width for each competitor in preliminary division resulting in an overall clearance for Nancy of 195 centimeters.

Nancy realizes that these cones are much wider apart than what she was just practicing with moments earlier. She felt all her confidence come rushing back with this realization, so she picks up some speed. Rootbeer got partway through the course and he must have felt Nancy's pleasure radiate down the lines to him. He responded by dropping into his most confident, beautifully extended trot to complete the course.

After completing the course correctly and passing through the last obstacle with no penalties Nancy

knows she has done her best. Will it be good enough?! On the final day competing in the cones course, a driver can change a couple of places up or down in the standings just by incurring a time penalty or even just knocking one tennis ball off a cone. Jackie Lewis of North Carolina drove before Nancy and sadly, Jackie dropped into third place with a time penalty in the cones.

Walking the cones course earlier that day, Nancy knew she had to drive clean and go as conservatively as possible in order to get a ribbon.

Team Faller was in 1st place going into the cones on Sunday because of their results in the marathon the day before. Nancy knew she could drop 2 balls and still maintain 1st place. Now though, after Jackie's drive, Nancy knew she could drive a little less conservatively and still keep a potential blue ribbon within reach.

The Carolina Horse Park changed from tradition this year to announce winners and award ribbons at the completion of each class. Ribbons were given to the top 6 competitors in each division. They called the top three finalists for this class to come back into the ring to line up. They were Jackie Lewis, Brianna Elk and Nancy Faller, all of North Carolina. When she didn't hear her name called for 3rd and then not for 2nd, she knew Team Faller had won 1st place with a clean drive! Nancy felt the tears starting to well up. As she looked over at Tonya's proud face, she saw Tonya wiping her eyes as Nancy accepted the 1st place ribbon for all of them.

This was Team Faller's first major win of a CDE with Rootbeer the 13.1 hand pony. "Last year second place didn't feel anywhere near as good as this does!" Nancy beamed. "I'm thrilled at our performance" Emily said as she sat in the golf cart sporting the broken ankle that highlights the intensity of effort and dedication this team put towards this win today. Emily was grinning like a proud Mother. "I love it when it all comes together!" she smiled.

Later as Nancy, Tonya, and Emily load the carriages in the horse trailer heading for home, I'm reminded just how un-glamorous this sport can be as I watch Nancy laying on her back on the trailer floor attaching tie down straps to

stabilize the carriage for travel. As she lays there in the pine shavings, still beaming from her win, she says "After the next show, depending on how well we do, we might just move up to Intermediate class!" Tonya and Emily are all smiles and nod their heads in agreement. Clearly they've signed up for the whole adventure.

Curious to learn more of Team Faller's secrets?!

Put **Saturday May 17th** on your calendar for a one day Horse Driving Trial to be held at Paradox Farm. There will be opportunities for you to drive Dressage, Cones, and a Marathon course. This will be an informal way to get a taste for what happens at the big events.

Also plan to attend and watch the Carolina Carriage Club Horse Driving Trial **on May 31 - June 1** to be held at the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center, Tryon, NC Hunting Country Road Tryon, NC 28782

SO YOU WANT TO LEARN TO DRIVE, YES!

The newbie clinic sponsored by Whips & Wheels on March 29 at Paradox was great! We began with Emily Ureche introducing herself and letting us do the same including our background and our expectations from the class. The morning was classroom with a powerpoint presentation that included parts of the harness, bits and how they work, rein position, types of carriages, driving events and competitions, types of horses suitable or not for driving and lots of safety tips. There were many questions and Emily covered them all. We had lunch then everyone learned to harness and fit the harness properly to the animal. We all learned to hitch and then WOW! we all got to drive. Nancy and Root beer, Tommy and Rose, Adam and Peanut were all very patient with us and even though it got cold on that hill with the wind blowing and drizzle, no one was ready to quit. We finished the day with Nancy and Tonya giving a demo with the Marathon carriage at speed. I would like to thank Nancy Faller for hosting and especially Emily for encouraging everyone, and for the solid background she gave us on driving.

Bev Duval

HIGHWAY WEIGHT SEMINAR

Submitted by Bev Duval

Driver's License, 2 types, Commercial and classified

To determine if you need a class "A" license figure your total weight. Add the GVWR-Gross vehicle weight rating.

The tow vehicle will have its weight on the ID panel on the driver's door

The trailer will be on the manufacturer's ID tag

Class A: Required to operate any combination of vehicles exempt from commercial driver license (CDL) requirements with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is greater than 10,000 pounds. Also required for operating any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds, if the vehicle being towed has a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds.

If you have a class "A" license, you also need a medical card:

If questions arise about a driver's physical condition, the DMV may require the driver to submit a completed medical report, before or after certification, provided by the DMV Driver License Section

The ONLY exception to the driver's license rule is for volunteer fire and rescue personnel and when driving emergency vehicles only.

Registration:

There is a good deal of "Farm Tag" abuse. These vehicles must stay within 150 air miles of the farm. They are not for hire, and must only be used for your farm's purposes. Tractors, combines and some trailers are exempt from registration. There is a \$1000 fine for misuse of a farm tag and the tag could be seized on the spot.

Registration fees for your vehicle must be enough to cover your tow vehicle, trailer, people, and cargo. It's better to buy it at the tag office than to pay the fine on the side of the road and then pay the proper fee. Tag office employees are **NOT** DMV personnel but private contractors and their advice could be wrong.

Trailers:

Trailers with a GVWR of 4,000 pounds or more must have working brakes, lights, a State Inspection, safety chains, and a breakaway box even if they were not manufactured with one. Violations could result in fines on the spot.

These laws have been in place for years, but enforcement is getting more rigid. Ignorance of the law is not accepted as an excuse for violation. The troopers presenting this program told us they would soon be issued battery testers to check the charge on breakaway box batteries, so get ready and get legal!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 17th Saturday Horse Driving Trail @ Paradox Dressage Cones and a Marathon/obstacles course. BYOL. Fee: \$35.00 This will be informal (don't have to dress up like @ a show) A great way to get a taste for what happens at the big events. NOTE: there will be an HDT at Tryon put on by the CCC May 31-June 1st.

June 28th Saturday Blowing Rock a day pleasure drive but if you wish you can make arrangements to camp/board your horse and drive the whole weekend. **Blowing Rock Equestrian Preserve 828-294-4700** Stall fee \$15.00/night, Shaving \$6.00 per bag, Camping \$10.00 /night

July 12th Leyland Farm. Saturday, info to come.

August 23rd, Saturday Luau & General Meeting @ Doug's 4:00pm.

September to be announced ANY IDEAS????

October 18th (tentative, Nancy has to check her show schedule) Annual Halloween Drive @ Paradox.

November 22nd 3rd Annual Turkey Trot @ TLC Farm.

December 7th (tentative) Christmas Party, possibly at the winery in Mocksville. Tommy will work out the details.

***BYOL= Bring Your Own Lunch!**

CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: White w/ Black interior **Vis-a-Vis carriage**. Draft horse sized with two sets of shafts, new pole, top, and side curtains. Troyer/Anderson model carriage in good condition. We

used it in our carriage business which we are closing. To much heavy work, and not enough clients here to afford insurance. \$4000.00

Call 717 567 6615, or email for photos:

woodfinn@pa.net /

<http://www.woodfinncarriagecompany.com>

One stall available on April 1, 2008 for full board horse or pony.

Top quality feed, hay, bedding and care provided by 39 yrs experienced (show horses) farm owner. We have a great equine vet And CJF available for your horses' care as well. 12x13' box stalls. Daily turnouts, daily cleaning of stalls, and pleasant surroundings. Huge vinyl fenced driving or riding ring, temperature controlled tack room, view your horse from the large windows in the tack room as your child rides. Bathroom, efficiency kitchen with microwave, small refrigerator included. Driving horses Welcomed! "*Happy horses & humans live here*" \$275.00/ month

Call: 717 567 6615 or email woodfinn@pa.net
<http://www.woodfinncarriagecompany.com>

14 Yr old registered TB mare for sale. Bay, no white. Sweet to deal with, easy to ride for advanced beginner or more. Sound, but is blind in right eye.... We keep forgetting Ellie has no sight on her right side, she has adapted so well to this. She gets along well w/ pasture mates, and will crib slightly when stalled w/ no collar. No cribbing outside at all. She has been barefooted, and has wonderful strong hooves, is a proven broodmare, great mama, and is PA Bred. This mare needs her own teenager to love her! Call 717 567 6615 or email for photos woodfinn@pa.net take a look at Ellie on our website :

<http://www.woodfinncarriagecompany.com>

2000 Sundowner 3 horse slant load Gooseneck Trailer. 21' box, Rear ramp, 7' 6 tall, drop down head doors with bars, 6' short wall dressing room with large window, and door to horse area. Excellent condition. Asking \$14,000, will take an offer. 919-556-2764, e mail:

kathleeny@juno.com

Electro Braid Fencing for Sale: We ordered too much!! 1200ft (black) spools (5 of them) 219.00 each We also have the bolts and line post insulators available. Go to www.electrobraid.com to look at the product.

Call Delene Huggins 828-851-0569 or bencolin@embarqmail.com

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Exp 2/09



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Exp 3/09

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Deadline for articles is
the 25th of each month
with a publish date of the 1st.

All mistakes in this publikshun are their
for the benefit of those whom look
for them!

Think you

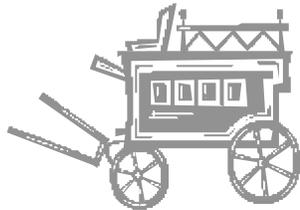
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Printed by: Hoof & Paws Press



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Membership Application

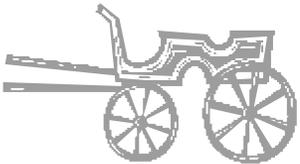


Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ (Home) (____) _____ (Office)



Fax (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Check all that apply: New Family New Single New after June 30th Renewal

NEW & Renewing current Memberships **AFTER November 1st** will run through the next year:

Family Membership (2 or more people) \$25.00 Single Membership (1 person) \$15.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____



NOTE: Membership will run from January 1st through December 31st. NEW Memberships joining AFTER June 30th will be prorated at \$12.00 (Family) \$7.50 (Single) for the remainder of the year and any one joining or renewing a current membership after November 1st is good for the following year.

Make checks payable to: **Whips & Wheels Driving Club**

Send Form & Check to: **Pat Granzky 6988 Lanvale Court Clemmons, NC 27012**