



THE DRIVING LINES

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TEAMSTER Topics

The 2011 Christmas Party was a resounding success and well attended. A good time was had by all. I presented the "State of the Club" showing that we completed the year with a bank balance only \$570 less than we started the year. That was despite the weather-induced cancellation of our June Horse Show which cost \$1600 in LVHP rental and judge expenses, and subsidizing a portion of the April Fools Clinic.



New member Brenda Tolmachoff won one of the poinsettias decorating each of the tables.

Club membership grew between 18% and 20% indicating that we are providing activities and information that is enticing to the Equine owners and users community. We met our goal of hosting a member requested club event every month and plan on doing the same for 2012. The activities hosted this year were based on the member survey we conducted in January and it is our hope that if you missed one or more of the activities and heard how much fun those who attended had, you'll plan to attend this coming year.

Mary Sawyer and Barbara Kirby completed their Board terms this month and I greatly appreciate their support and service to the Club. We elected Jerry Plummer and Gail Thomas from a slate of five candidates, to a 3 year term. Congratulations!

With cold weather and short days it makes it harder to get out and drive, just remember underneath all the mud and fur is the same equine partner you enjoyed driving this summer. All it takes is a little more motivation and planning to get out and enjoy each other during this season, get out and do it, you will be glad you did.

Have a Merry Christmas!

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Dues: \$20.00 per calendar year. Dues received after Oct. 1st will be paid through next year.

Deadline: New submissions by 5th of month. Items received after deadline will receive priority the following month. Electronic submissions are welcome. rcmlbrown@me.com

CDSGKC 2012 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Contact
Jan. ? 2012	Pony Express Horse Show Circuit Awards Banquet	
Feb. 10 - 12 2012	Equifest of Kansas — club booth and demonstration.	Sharon Lewis Sharon_lewis@mail.com
May 7 – 12	Plowing, Planting & Driving Horse Clinic with Doc Hammill at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm in Olathe, KS More info at www.mahaffie.org	Matthew Romero mromero@olatheks.org 913-710-5310
<p>*This is a club sponsored event. To participate in Fun Days, non-members must sign a release and pay \$20.</p>		

Christmas Fun

The Annual Christmas Party and Election of Officers was a gala event again this year, full of food, fun and friendship. Judi Adams, as usual, put on a great party, ably assisted by Mary Lu Norland. Poinsettia's decorated the tables while a super slide show put together by the Norlands highlighted club members and events. Dick Brown hosted the party and filled it with great stories and loads of humor.

Something new this year was a club donation to the Helping Hands Therapeutic Riding/ Driving Program. Because Judi was able to get everything donated for the party, her budget of \$200 became a donation to this group. In addition, President Rick Norland passed his supersize cowboy hat around the room and collected another \$112!



Sue Martin accepting the club's donation to Helping Hands Therapeutic Riding Center from Treasurer Bobbi Wojtowicz.



Jerry Plummer was the big winner of the harness bag donated by Mary Lu Norland to encourage all of us to wear our helmets.

2011 CDSGKC Awards

Bill Shaffer received the Broken Shaft Award for taking his "swan dive" off the trail at Rantoul and living to tell the tale.

Leah Huber received the Road Apple Award for her cheerful and "gutsy" attitude.

Jacki Turner received the Broken Bones Award for her whole-hearted and whole body dedication.

Jack Turner received the Best Nurse Award for the care and nursing of wife, Jacki, ('cause he knew he'd better!)

Lisa Packard received the Smiley Face Award for her cheerful and pleasant attitude and for working to see that the dressage phase of the HDT went fine despite...everything.

Mary Sawyer received the Whipsnapper Award for all of her dedication and hard work on the June Horse Show.

New Board Members

Many thanks to those members who answered the call for new board members. We had five, highly qualified nominees for the two open board positions. That says a lot about the willingness of our club's members to get involved.

And CONGRATULATIONS! to our new Board Members for 2012 to 2014, Gail Thomas and Jerry Plummer.

What We Did in 2011

In his remarks about the "State of the Club," at our Christmas meeting, Rick Norland listed the following major activities that the club planned and organized.

- January general meeting and dinner: talk by Kathleen Gustafson on Horse Nutrition
- Missouri Equine Celebration booth
- February general meeting — Leavenworth Carousel Museum tour
- March Fun Drive – Lone Wolf Arena
- April Fool's Clinic — Lone Wolf Arena
- Annual Horse Show at Longview
- Pleasure Drive – Jerry & Charity Mathews
- Longview Lake Driving Trial – LVHP
- LVHP Fun Day Drive & Weiner Roast
- Rantoul Pleasure Drive & Lunch – Rantoul Rails to Trails
- Annual Christmas Party

What a busy year!!!

Calendars Ready

Mary Lu Norland worked like a whirlwind to get our 2012 (13-month) calendar ready in time for the Christmas meeting. Twenty-seven copies were swept up at the dinner!

The price is still just \$15 and they make terrific Christmas presents. Contact Mary Lu and you may still be able to get yours by Christmas! 913-533-9923 or bygonefarm@gmail.com

Horseman's Prayer

Dearest God in Heaven,
Give me the strength to guide my horse.
Make my hands soft and my head clear.
Let my horse understand me, and I him.
My heart You have blessed with a special love
of these animals,
Let me never lose sight of it.
My soul You have gifted with a deep need for
them.
Let that need never lessen.

Always let my breath catch as the sun gleams
on an elegant head.
Always may my throat tighten at the sound of a
gentle nicker.
Let the scent of fresh hay and a new bag of
grain always be sweet to me.
Let the warm touch of a warm nose on my hand
always bring a smile.
I adore the joy of a warm day on the farm.
The grace and splendor of a running horse,
The thunder of its hooves makes my eyes burn
and my heart soar.
Let it always be so.

Dearest God, grant me patience,
For horses are harnessed wind, and wind can be
flighty.
Let me not frighten or harm them.
Instead show me ways to understand.
Above all, Dear God, fill my life with them.
I am not whole without them.
When I pass from this world, send my soul to
no Heaven without them.
For this love You have given me graces my
existence.
I shall cherish it and praise You for it for all
time.

Amen
Author unknown

THANK YOU!

"Thank You" to Barbara Kirby and
Mary Sawyer for their three years
of service to the club.

Kansas Horse Council

The **Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Act (K.E.E.P.)** would create an equine feed check-off program to generate revenue to be put back into building and sustaining equine activities, education, research and marketing programs in Kansas. It's only 5cents per fifty pound bag of feed or \$2.00 per ton, an average of \$1.50 per year, per horse.

Funds raised would be distributed through grants awarded by the **K.E.E.P.** Board twice a year. Examples of grant applications could include: help upgrading trails in your area; rescue groups could apply for funds to establish a hay / feed bank for families in emergency situations; or therapeutic riding facilities needing help providing training for volunteers.

The **K.E.E.P.** Act will be presented to the Ag and Natural Resources Committee in January. Please contact Pattie Stalder at the Kansas Horse Council, 785-776-0662 or director@kansashousecouncil.com, or any of the KHC Board of Directors for more information and to share your thoughts.

2012 Dues

Accompanying this newsletter is a 2012 membership application. It is very helpful if everyone will fill out one of these applications when you pay your dues. It helps us keep our membership information current. Thank You!

For Sale

Antique Doctor's Buggy. Restored and previously used by former member Lisa Sloan Carmack. Stored by her parents since her death in 1993; it is in good condition. Asking \$2000.00, obo. Contact: Kenny or Nina Sloan, 816-665-6334 (cell) or 816-697-8880 (home).

Great Gifts

Judi Adams wants to remind all that our club T-shirts or polo shirts would make a nice Christmas present. Call Judi at 913-441-3723.

T-shirts are \$10.00

Polo shirts are \$28.00



Welcome

Tracey Higgins is a driving person who has moved from New Jersey to Kansas City. Those of us who were at the Christmas party had a chance to meet her and to learn that she also has a business named *The Harness Room* which sells driving/horse related consignment items. Be sure to check it out at www.theharnessroom.com. And look forward to meeting Tracey in the new year!



KNOW RISK

This monthly column addresses safety within the realm of equine activities.

Don't let go of the lines and trust horses to stand.

A lot of people trust their horses to stand while they put down the lines and do such things as open a gate, grab a wrench from the barn or visit with a friend. It often happens that horses do well learning to stand, and people will start trusting them more and more. But regardless of how obedient the horse is or how many years he has been trustworthy about standing unattended, there's always a chance that when least expected he will leave the scene.

If a saddle horse runs away with a saddle on his back, chances are he's not going to be hurt, but if a driving horse runs away with a vehicle or implement hooked behind him, the chances of injury and psychological damage are huge.

My first choice is to tie my horses or have someone else hold them if I have to let go of the lines. But I am often working with them alone so must repeatedly discipline myself to resist the urge to put the lines down and trust them to stand.

To some, these may seem like time-consuming routines. However, for me, working horses isn't about time. I believe we shouldn't sacrifice the physical or mental wellbeing of our horses to save time

No matter how good and trustworthy horses are, we are always taking the risk of a wreck if we let go of the lines and trust them to stand.

from Ten Common Wrecks with Driving Horses, Their Causes and Prevention by Doc Hammill, DVM

FOR SALE: Brass rein rail from Smuckers and an unpainted single tree. Contact Al Hale at halea253@aol.com or 816-836-5229.

Doc Hammill Clinic

Doc Hammill (quoted in our "Know Risk" column) is coming for a special clinic at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site in the spring. Club member and Mahaffie Facility Coordinator, Matthew Romero would love to have some of our members take part in a social event with their equines and carriages.

Mark your calendars now! A free reception and lecture will be on Monday, May 7th with the 5-day clinic workshop beginning on Tuesday, May 8th.

FOR SALE: Leather harness for large horse, half draft or warmblood. Black with stainless fittings. Very well made Amish everyday harness, but will clean up nice enough for show. Excellent condition. Please call if you would like to see. Asking \$500. Bobbi Wojtowicz (816) 540-2363.

Properly removing the bridle

A Clinton Anderson "Tip," from 12/12/11

Taking the bridle off is something that most people do without thinking. It's very easy to take it off incorrectly; carelessly pulling the headstall over the horse's ears and dragging the bridle off his face.

When you just pull the bridle off the horse's face, you don't give him a chance to spit the bit out which means the bit hits his teeth causing discomfort to his gums and soft tissue. A lot of horses develop bridling problems because of this.

To avoid hitting his teeth you should hold onto the headstall against his head with your right hand and slide it down his face. This will allow the bit to glide over his tongue and out of his mouth without hitting his teeth.

Every horse will become defensive towards the bridle if you repeatedly hit his teeth with the bit, so be considerate when unbridling your horse.

CDSGKC Committee Heads

Driving Trial..... Pam Johnson
Equipment Bill Shaffer
Long Range Planning Rick Norland
Mrkting&Mmbrship Jack Turner
Programs&Events Judi Adams
Fuzzbuster Show Laura Browning
June Show&FunDay Mary Sawyer

CDSGKC Group Representatives

Longview H.P. Barbara Kirby
Longview Museum Amy Hull
Pony Express..... Laura Browning

Is it Christmas yet????

C.J. Kirkland, Laura and Dennis Browning's grandson, has been patiently waiting for Christmas. You can almost hear his sleigh bells ring, ring, ringin'!!!



Check out this websites:

Find out more about the Helping Hands Therapeutic Riding Center in Greenwood, MO —

www.hhtrc.org

Mary Loy Brown
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Driving Lines