



VIEW FROM BEHIND THE DASH

PROMOTING ALL ASPECTS OF EQUINE HARNESS DRIVING BY ENCOURAGING GOOD WILL AND EMPHASIZING SAFETY AND EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA WHIPS • DECEMBER 2019



Bob's Back!!!



Bob Giles, Cones Judge Extraordinaire at the inaugural Lucky V Ranch HDT



WHAT'S INSIDE

• Trainer Directory • Happy Holidays • Competition Updates • Human Hacks for Horse (people) • Clinic Update • Metta Baxter • Understanding Balance

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View from Behind the Dash is the newsletter of The Florida Whips, a state-wide organization of driving enthusiasts. The newsletter is published September through May.

BUSINESS ADS

Full Page (one issue)\$40
Full Page (annual).....\$300
Half Page (one issue)\$25
Half Page (annual)\$200
Quarter Page (per issue)\$15
Business Card (annual)\$75
(included with a business membership) Annual
newsletter ads run in all issues. Annual
business card ads are displayed on the website
12 months (Sept. through Aug.).

EVENT ADS

Event Sponsored by Florida Whips: Free. Link to event forms/ads can be added to the calendar on www.flawhips.org. Other than Whips Events: one-half Business rate. Link to Event ad from newsletter can be added to the calendar on www.flawhips.org. Event Calendar listings on website: free link to organizer's event website. Email calendar information to calendar@flawhips.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Florida Whips members: One ad (per issue), up to 100 words, free for three months, text only; 1 photo and email link free on website. Additional ads past the first, \$10.00. Photo in newsletter \$5; additional photos past the first on website \$5 each. Other than Whips Members: \$10.00 per ad, up to 100 words, for three months; text only; 1 photo in newsletter/on website \$5, additional photos on website \$5 each.

DEADLINES AND SUBMISSION

Deadline is the 15th of each month preceding month of issue. For instance, for the May issue, deadline will be April 15. Payment must be received before inclusion. Submit ads electronically to newsletter@flawhips.org and webmaster@flawhips.org as appropriate.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Checks are payable to Florida Whips Inc., and mailed to our Treasurer:

Anna Crothers
treasurer@flawhips.org

Credit card payments accepted online at www.flawhips.org or via Paypal to treasurer@flawhips.org.

Join the discussion on Facebook. Search for 'Florida Whips Carriage Driving' and ask to join the group.

Find us on 

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Need a trainer? Here’s a list of trainers recommended by our Whips membership:

Elizabeth Keathley (615) 849-5105	Jean Thornton (386) 985-2103
Olof Larson (352) 804-0284	Boots Wright (352) 812-8701
Muffy Seaton (540) 454-1092	Sara Schmidt (908) 303-1830
Thoreston Zarembowics (352) 857-9718	Audrey Hartnett (978) 290-1072
Kacy Tipton-Fashik (Grand Oaks Trainer) (352) 409-1398	Larry Poulin (508) 574-0313
David Saunders (352) 229-3159	Bob Giles (352) 208-0476
Gary Yeager (352) 286-5365	David Jay (407) 783-6663

We Need To Hear From You!

Do you have some "human" technology (or anything, really) that you have found a great use for around the barn or while driving? If so, send in your ideas (and pics) for your "Human Hacks for Horses".

Ideas for future articles include your ideas for making homemade hazards or dressage arenas. Also what are your best driving "gymnastics" for a succesful Marathon day?

But we are not limited to these topics, send in your ideas, articles and updates (and most of all, pictures!) to newsletter@flawhips.org!!

Florida Whips Calendar of Events *(updated as of 12/2/19)*

Meeting	Competition	Recreational		Clinic		
CALENDAR of EVENTS 2019-2020 <i>(updated all season long, contact the newsletter editor with updates, etc.)</i>						
Date	Event	FL Whips	ADS	USEF	FEI	Contact
12/5 to 12/8/2019	American Driving Society Annual Meeting		X			ADS Omnibus
	at Grand Oaks Resort, Lady Lake, FL					
12/6 to 12/7/20	Driving Event at 2019 ADS Meeting		X			ADS Omnibus
	at Grand Oaks Resort, Lady Lake, FL					
12/29/19	Holiday Fun Drive	X				Bettina Scherer
	Flying Cow Park, Wellington, FL					
REVISED: 1/10 - 1/12/20	Nature Coast Driving Event		X			ADS Omnibus
	at Black Prong Equestrian Village, Bronson, FL					
1/18 to 1/19/20	Lessons at Caloosa Park	X				Deb Bennett
	at Caloosa Park, Boynton Beach, FL					
1/29 to 2/2/20	CDE at Grand Oaks		X	X		ADS Omnibus
	at Grand Oaks Resort, Lady Lake, FL					
02/07/20	Grand Oaks CT, Derby & Pleasure Show		X			ADS Omnibus
	at Grand Oaks Resort, Lady Lake, FL					
2/14 to 2/18/20	Florida Spring Fling CDE/HDT/CT		X	X		ADS Omnibus
	at Florida Horse Park, Ocala, FL					
2/15 to 2/16/20	Metta Baxter Clinic	X				course coordinator: wacahootakj@gmail.com or 225-767-9615
	at Canturbury Showplace, Newberry, FL					
REVISED: 2/19/2020	Continuous Drive @ Steeplechase	X				randwgroves@gmail.com
02/29/20	Inglis Island Trail Drive	X				Yvonne Harris
	Inglis Lock Recreational Area, Crystal River, FL					
3/4 to 3/9/20	Live Oak International		X	X	X	ADS Omnibus
	at Live Oak Farm, Ocala, FL					
03/11/20	Continuous Drive @ Steeplechase	X				randwgroves@gmail.com
	at Steeplechase					
3/14 to 3/15/20	Lessons at Caloosa Park	X				Deb Bennett
	at Caloosa Park, Boynton Beach, FL					
3/20 to 3/23/20	Windsor Trace CT & CDE		X			ADS Omnibus
	at Windsor Trace, Windsor, SC					
3/27 to 3/29/20	Black Prong HDT - CAC		X			ADS Omnibus
	at Black Prong Equestrian Village, Bronson, FL					
4/18 to 4/19/20	Lessons at Caloosa Park	X				Deb Bennett
	at Caloosa Park, Boynton Beach, FL					
REVISED 4/25/20	Lucky V Ranch HDT	X				Paul Van Sickle
	Lucky V Ranch					
5/7 to 5/10/20	The Southern Drive	X				FL Whips
	at Grand Oaks Resort, Lady Lake, FL					
05/08/20	Florida Whips Annual Membership Meeting	X				FI Whips
	at Grand Oaks Resort, Lady Lake, FL					

PLEASE NOTE: Revised dates for the Nature Coast Driving Event (January), the Lucky V Ranch HDT (April) and Steeplechase Continuous Drive (February)



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

ON THE 12TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE
TO ME:

12 BAGS OF SHAVINGS

11 BALES ALFALFA

10 SHIPPING BOOTS

9 SETS OF CONES

8 BAGS OF PELLETS

7 NICKER MAKERS

6 BRAND NEW HALTERS

5 NEW PONIES.....

4 FANCY HARNESS

3 GOOD GROOMS

2 NEW CARRIAGES

AND A TRAILER FOR ALL OF THESE!!!



*Poetic stylings
by Bettina
Scherer, holiday
models are Tina
and David Ring,
along with 4
rudolphins
(Diesel, Dusty,
Denali and
Dually)*



MUSINGS FROM THE (somewhat established) EDITOR

No musings this month, just that I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and continues to have a wonderful (stress free) holiday season with family, horses, pets and friends in whatever quantity and frequency makes you happy!

I hope to see all of you at the American Driving Society annual meeting!

Denice & Xander



FRIENDS GIVING FLYING COW PARK DRIVE

We were given perfect weather for the SE Region's 2nd Thanksgiving Fun Drive at Flying Cow Park in Wellington.

Three of our local and most senior members, Peggy and Kim Belvin, and Barbara Young, as well as two new members, Sherrill Clark and Jackie Harris, joined Kathleen Alston, Eloise Nelson and I on a pleasure drive through the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Preserve on November 30th.

We all enjoyed a picnic lunch and shared stories of driving, discussed training and we got to know our newest driving friends a little bit better. Grateful...

Bettina Scherer



Nothing says "Friendsgiving" like a table full of yummy food!
Pictured below: Left to Right Barbara Young, Jackie Harris, Eloise Nelson, Kathleen Alston and Sherrill Clark.

Photo Credits Peg Belvin



Human Hacks for Horse (people):

Adding a Speedometer to Your Carriage

I admit it, I have a problem with data. I want to know it, understand it, study it, put it on excel spreadsheets, cuddle up with it on cold winter nights... OK maybe not that far... but you get the analytical drift. I like the numbers. I'm also a bit of a klutz, so while looking at my phone app or my handheld GPS is a solution to knowing how fast I'm driving, how much distance I've gone... well let's just say it isn't advisable at this stage of my driving career. Also, it wasn't lost on me that when I DID use both of them at the same time, they came up with different results. This can be a problem if you like absolutes in your numbers. Obviously, I needed a fancy odometer with results driven (get it? I made a pun!) by wheel revolutions rather than a satellite-based GPS that could get distorted if I made a small circle.

My first attempt was a wired odometer that calculated distance/speed by relying on a magnet attached to a spoke passing the wired receiver (CatEye). It lasted less than six months. It needs to be seated firmly in the mount in order to get a reading and that started to fail after a while, presumably the jarring of the carriage finished that off. But more importantly, a magnet on the wheel spoke passing a fixed point is a doomed strategy on a marathon carriage. Every bump meant the magnet either missed the receiver or double counted revolutions. #FAIL

My next attempt involved actually talking to *trained professionals* working at a serious bike store. They were amused, but hardcore mountain bikers, so also appreciative of the challenge. Their recommendation was a Wahoo ELEMNT. I've used it for about 7 months and I really like it!

You can go one of two ways – just a Wahoo Speed Sensor which works with an app on your phone (about \$32 on Amazon, be sure to get the SPEED sensor, not the cadence sensor!) and you are done. But this does have the limitation of having to look at your phone while you drive if you want information. Or you can get the Wahoo ELEMNT Mini Bike Computer (comes with speed



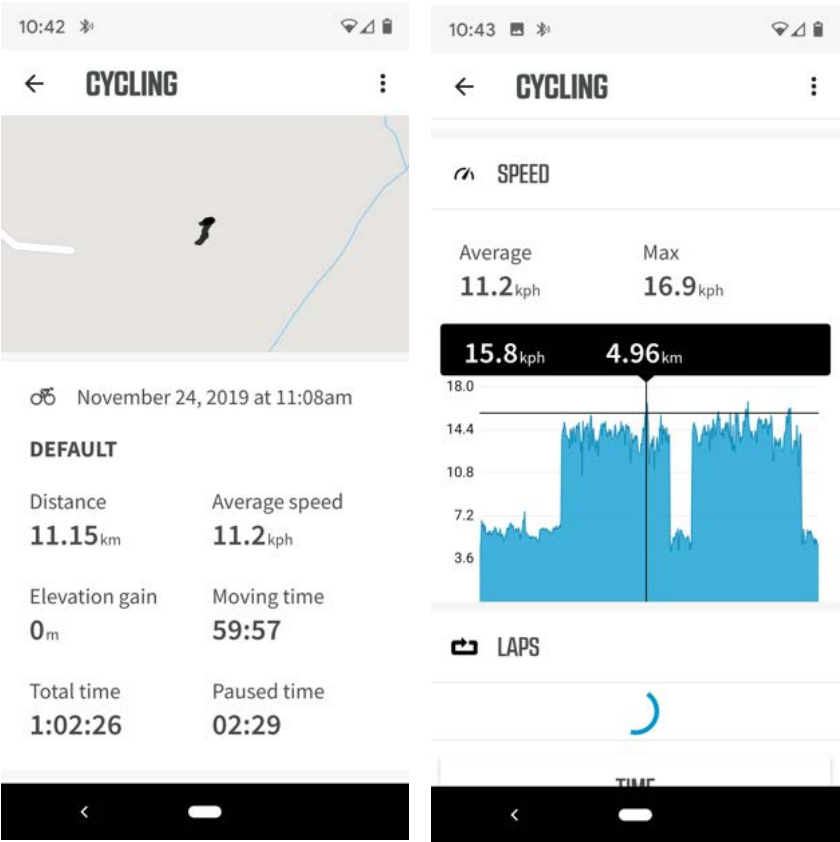
Above left - Wahoo sensor on my RF wheel. It's designed to loop around a narrower axle, so I had to finagle it with an additional hairband, then put a zip tie over it for good measure. I switch out between pneumatics and competition wheels depending on the season and make a point of making sure it is still securely connected/replace the zip tie when changing tires.



Above right - ELEMNT Mini attached to carriage with KOM mount, it's off to the right of the brakes, but not so far that I can't reach it with my hand or feet while driving

Continued on page 8

Human Hacks, Continued



The phone app: above left and right are the main screens with all summary data and a nice speed visual slider chart

Measuring the circumference of the wheel: mark the bottom of the wheel with chalk as well as the ground – roll carriage forward until chalk is at bottom again. Mark the ground with chalk again and measure with your tape (and convert to mm).

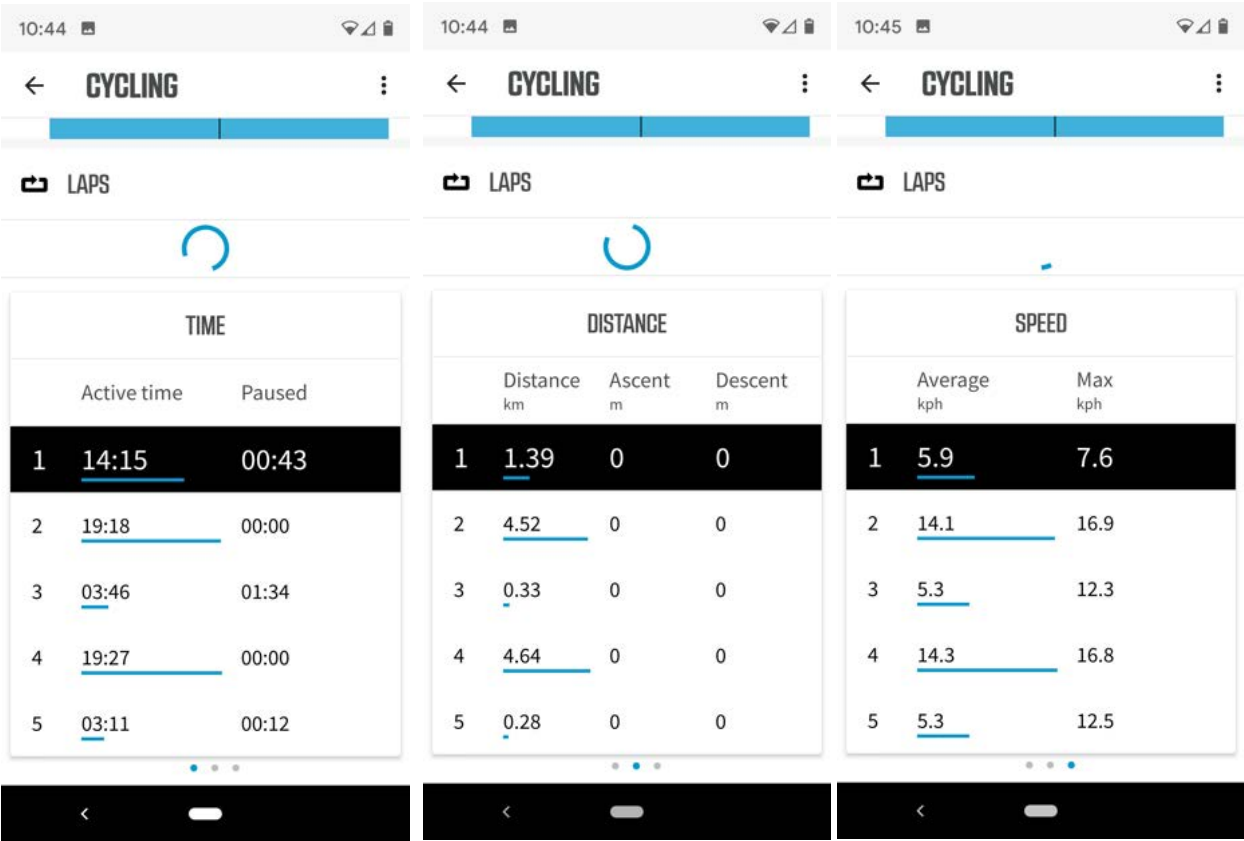
sensor, about \$90 on Amazon). It's small (hence the name "mini") but it's mounted on the lower front rail (I purchased the KOM Cycling Out Front Handlebar Mount for Wahoo ELEMNT Mini about \$18 on... you guessed it, Amazon) and I can see the numbers from my seat.

The Wahoo ELEMNT Mini has a couple features I really like. First, in the app, you can program what numbers you want to see on each "page" (which is a different screen on the display) and it tracks them all. It shows 3 points of data on each page and one number is very large (aka "readable"). I have set mine up so avg KPH, current KPH and time elapsed are the "large" numbers on each screen and I've gotten good enough to lightly touch the button with my shoe to change the page so I can toggle between all three of those values as needed. You can download the app on your phone to save your workout history. The ELEMNT will work without the app as well, it just won't save all the data.

But for me, the best feature is "laps". You can set a new lap as you go by doing a long hold on one of the buttons and the computer will track all the values within the lap. I really like this for interval work or trot sets so I can see what our average speed/distance was in each lap. If I'm really organized Xander has the heart rate monitor on as well and I have a good record of recovery when we add speed and/or distance to the workout.

If you were wondering about adding a speedometer to your carriage, hopefully this little "hack" helps you out!

To the right is the lap data for this workout, based on the three "pages" I have set up, from left to right is time in each lap, distance (it can track elevation but I haven't selected that value) and speed (average and max)



Competition Updates: Lucky V Ranch HDT

05:30 The best part of waking up is coffee in your cup,and sitting in a cozy kitchen, with friends, sharing stories, smelling quiche in the oven, before sunrise. Truly the start of a wonderful day!!

And a wonderful day it was. Hosts Paul and Glenda Van Sickle opened the gates of their Lucky V Ranch for their first HDT, on Saturday, November 23rd. While limiting entries for this inaugural event, stabling and camping were available for anyone wishing to overnight. There was an "official board", packets prepared and Judi Tintera was the scorer for the day.

08:00 As the first of us where getting our horses ready for the dressage phase, we were all greeted by a fly over of four RV8's, in formation, flying low over the grounds. Not once, but twice. It was like the start of the Super Bowl. The Van Sickle's roped many of their friends, neighbors, barn helpers and some pilots into volunteering, which made this HDT a great success.

12:00 Glenda prepared most of the lunch, and a couple drivers brought a dish to help with the pot luck, which was held in the "Saloon" above the barn. It was a great spot for drivers and volunteers to meet-and-greet. Always a pleasure



A fly over! Does the Live Oak Invitational get a fly over? Just sayin...

Below, volunteer briefing

Photo credits: Sali Petri and Chuck Tintera (all photos)



Left top - Mary Phelps and Wayne Humphries

Left bottom Margy and John Cox



to meet new people, introduce them to driving and sometimes recruit a member, which was the case. Welcome to the Florida Whips, Terry and Darlene Geisner, of Reddick Florida.

For such a small group there was a wide variety of talent, as we had international drivers and judges, ponies, horses, singles and pairs. We had green horses and training level drivers. The cones course was very challenging and technical, and the marathon course (commencing at 13:00) was the perfect distance, with 5 obstacles and good footing.

15:00 Awards. Kudos to Boots Wright and Bob Giles for judging and for helping first time volunteers figure out how to judge a marathon. Thank you to Glenda and Paul, all participants and new driving friends for a great day of sport.

Bettina Scherer
SE Region Director



Clinic Update: CDE Warm Up Clinic - Florida Horse Park

by Anne Raisner

The Florida Whips CDE Warm-Up Clinic with Yeager Equine Services took place on November 9-10 at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala. The participants shared the facility with the Budweiser Clydesdales, the Mopar Classic Car Event, and a hunter jumper show. This made for quite a crowd being introduced to driving as the onlookers walked around the facility! As an added bonus we had several food vendors that were in attendance for the car show.

The weather for the Saturday session started overcast but quickly turned into clear skies with no humidity - perfect driving weather! Most drivers on Saturday worked on their dressage skills followed by cones. Gary designed the cones course as three separate exercises. This enabled the drivers to hone their steering skills while keeping the cone balls up and working on decreasing their time on the cones course.

The participants (along with Gary and Marianna) that stayed overnight at the Florida Horse Park enjoyed a potluck dinner under the stars. Denice Klinger brought slow cooked BBQ pulled pork and the other drivers supplied desserts, condiments, and sides for a complete, delicious meal. The laughter from everyone made it a wonderful evening.

Sunday was another perfect Florida weather driving day. Marianna joined Gary in teaching the clinic due to some doubling up of lessons, so the barn was buzzing with activity as drivers helped each other. The drivers chose hazards to work with on Sunday. Gary and Marianna rode along as navigator and trainer for each driver. It was amazing to watch as drivers gain confidence as they negotiated each hazard several times. Hopefully, the skills that each driver gained will help them for the upcoming shows this season.

A few of the drivers have never shown, so they were able to experience what a CDE entails. Hopefully, they had such a good time that they will join the rest of us during the CDE season which starts in a January!



Top - Linda Evens and Versace working a hazard with Gary navigating

Center - Kathryn Powell and Nugget



Left - Denice Klinger and Xander working the oxer

Photo credit -Marianna Padgett, Anne Raisner



Metta Baxter Driving Class

a Florida Whips tradition

Carriage Driving Course Slated for January 11-12, 2020

By Karen Wolfsheimer

The Florida Whips will again offer the “Metta Baxter Driving Class” , on the weekend of January 11-12, 2020. This year the class will be offered at a new venue....the Alachua County Agricultural & Equestrian Center. Alachua County purchased the facility in 2019 to be used as a public facility for equestrians from Alachua County and surrounding areas of Florida. It is located at the former site of Canterbury Equestrian Showplace in Newberry, Florida. Alachua County is making major renovations and improvements to the facility and the Florida Whips are excited to support this new facility. This popular course which teaches you how to train your horse to safely drive was first organized by the late Metta Baxter. It was Metta Baxter’s aim to share the knowledge and enthusiasm of the local driving community with newcomers interested in learning about the sport. The course has been offered for over 20 years and continues to grow in depth and volume of information for the new driver or those drivers just wanting to sharpen their skills.

The course is an intense two day event consisting of lectures, demonstrations and hands-on sessions. Day 1 will begin with lectures on safety, horse selection, harness, carriages and bits. Driving safety is a major aspect of the course to minimize risks to horse and driver. The afternoon sessions will consist of small groups of students to allow “hands-on” experiences. “Rein board simulators” will be available to learn the “feel of the reins” as well as begin to appreciate “contact” and whip handling. Harness assembly, carriage selection and carriage maintenance, will round out the group sessions. A demonstration on how to start a horse in harness with ground driving as a preparation for “hitching” the horse to a carriage or cart will complete the afternoon.

Day 2 continues with a demonstration on “Harnessing & Hitching” followed by a hands-on session where participants will practice harnessing a horse. Next participants will actually ground drive horses/ponies. After lunch, a demonstration on “Driving Gaits & Cones” will be given. Then students will have the opportunity to actually drive a variety of horses/ponies and carriages/carts. All harnesses, horses/ponies and carriages/carts are provided by members of The Florida Whips. All that the participant needs to bring is enthusiasm, a pair of riding/driving gloves, appropriate footwear and a helmet . Food and drink will be available for purchase onsite.

Registration for the course begins December 1, 2019. To register or if you have questions, contact the course coordinator at wacahootakj@gmail.com or 225-767-9615. Participants are limited to adults 18 years of age or older.

Course fee is \$75 per person.

Understanding Balance

by Kim Robare

I am classically trained in balancing horses both under saddle and ground work. I've studied with several Masters in the United States and Portugal.

When Paul and Glenda Van Sickle asked me to help with their driving horses in September of 2018, I was very intrigued. How would riding the horses in a good balance translate to their "real" job?

Now, over a year later; it has been quite successful and also, a very interesting study in the mechanics of the horse.

Driving aids are limited to hands, whip and voice. There is no leg, seat or weight aids, this presents an additional challenge.

The horse turns naturally by looking slightly out and leading with the inside shoulder. This puts more weight on one shoulder than the other. This makes tight turns, especially at speed, very difficult for the horse as well as the driver trying to manage the horse(s).

Here are a few examples:

Turning left but bent right



Turning right but bent left



This way of turning will not produce results and can effect soundness. Often we hear "push the hind legs!" While this is not wrong, it is in the wrong order. If the horse has more weight on one shoulder than the other, pushing the hind legs will only push the horse more out of balance. The solution to this problem: the horse should carry even weight in the shoulders, **before** we push the hind legs.

As a classical trainer, I have many tools to help the horse learn to carry themselves balanced, i.e. even weight in the shoulders. It is from that position that we can ask the horse to push with the hind legs for a good result, engagement and connection!

Here is an example of the same horse more even in the shoulders

Turning left:



Turning right:



It is from this balance that we can begin to push the hind legs. However, if we push the hind legs while the horse has more weight in one shoulder than the other, the horse will lean on the hand and power through us, instead of having a conversation.

Balance is a time proven concept; many, many masters talk about it. Applying it to the driving horse uses the same principles.

As a riding trainer, I have found working on driving horses not only interesting but educational. They are essentially left to their own balance at times, especially when driving in multiples. When you improve that balance, you improve the athletic ability of the horse in all areas.

This article was originally written including video
<https://classicalsolutions.wordpress.com/2018/10/17/balance-training-driving/>

Kim Robare @ www.facebook.com/classicalsolutions

MORE PICTURES!



We had a few types of horsepower at our clinic! A HUGE MOPAR show AND the Budweiser Clydesdales were on a layover in the barn next to us. Here are two "naughty" clydes waiting to be unhitched (Pro tip: naughty clydes are still more well-behaved than 90% of the rest of the horses on the planet)



"F" is for FJORD!!! New Whips member, Cathy and Ellinoir getting a lesson from Gary at the clinic



Sandy and Howard Hebert moving out at the Lucky V Ranch HDT!

Paul VanSickle discusses the finer points of cones measurements with (much appreciated) volunteers at the Lucky V Ranch HDT



More Lucky V Ranch HDT pictures



Sandy Swift and Tom Childress negotiating a hazard

Louise Lester and Marianna Padget on course



Laura Howell is looking good on the cones course!