

I live in southwest Idaho, where we have endless miles of historic trails to drive. This area is host to wild mustang bands, wildlife, sagebrush, canyons, granite spires, lava beds, juniper forests and ghost towns. We enjoy driving for the adventure that each mile brings.

My 101 hours of driving were spent with my driving partner, Strider. He is an American Saddlebred and is quite enthusiastic. He is a big stout guy at 17.2 hands, chestnut with flaxen mane

and tail. Strider has an incredible ground-covering walk which is perfect for lots of miles. My husband out-rides with us on our journeys with his Saddlebred, Newt. It is fun to go out together and forget everything else but the trail ahead and the beautiful views and stillness of the land.

Strider and I not only explore trails in cart, we also explore the country by ground—driving miles and miles of trails. We will go out and walk trails for hours that are not accessible by cart. The time I spend ground-driving him is priceless. I get tons of exercise walking/jogging behind him while strengthening our relationship.

This is the first year of logging my recreational driving hours and I have enjoyed tracking each outing that I did. Thank you to the ADS for supporting this program for the recreational driver. I want to encourage others to keep track of their hours as I start my journey for my 250-hour pin.

JoAnn (Joey) Bruce Oakdale, California

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It all started with my first ride on the back of my friend Jennifet Sperry's carriage. I have had horses in my life since I was 8 years old. I started out riding Western, then hunter/ jumper. That ride on the back of Jennifer's carriage redirected my passion for horses. I will never forget how amazing it was to see how a horse moves from behind! I was always on top of or beside them. The power of Jennifer's horse, Ben, was thrilling. She let him trot out at full speed as a Standardbred trotter can do.

I happened to be at the right time; someone had a Standardbred pacer that needed a home. Jack (registered



name He Man Woman Hater after the Little Rascals clubhouse name) came into my life.

I drove Jack intermittently. I took lessons here and there, but Jack and I had our insecurities. It was after attending a free social at Sergeant Equestrian Center in Lodi, California that I met Jeanne Williams and her trainer Vernon Helmuth.

Jack spent 6 months at Sergeant Equestrian Center in training. I would take weekly lessons from Vernon or Jeanne. Eventually Jack and I were driving on our own. We are now able to participate in the driving activities that are available in Northern California.

This is a photo of me driving Jack and my grandson, Jordan Serna, navigating at one of the scurries held at Sergeant Equestrian Center.

