

## [History of the Southern Oregon Horse and Carriage Club](#)

January 2011 ushered in a new carriage driving club as a result of the merger of two smaller clubs in the region – the Horse and Carriage Society (HACS) based in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and the Southern Oregon Carriage Club (SOCC) based in the Rogue Valley in Oregon.

Here is a brief history of those two earlier clubs:

### [HACS:](#)



The first gathering of what was to be a driving club took place on December 2, 1989 at the George and Darlina Smith home. Eleven adults plus some children were present. It was decided to formally create a driving club that would adhere to the guidelines of the American Driving Society (ADS).

Throughout 1990 monthly meetings were held, officers elected, bylaws were created and voted upon, a newsletter was started, and the club applied for non-profit status. During the meetings topics related to carriage driving were presented and guest speakers were invited to talk about horse and driving-related subjects.

Over the years events were held and the club membership grew.

### [SOCC:](#)



The first gathering of what would become the Southern Oregon Carriage Club took place at the home of Carole Mercer in Eagle Point, Oregon on February 17, 1998. It was at this informal gathering that a decision was made to create a carriage driving club. Subsequent monthly meetings saw the creation of bylaws, election of officers, and the publication of a monthly newsletter. Events and educational presentations were scheduled and well attended.

Many of the SOCC members were new to driving, so education became a large focus of the group. Most of the meetings and events took place at Carole Mercer's ranch.

### [SOHACC: - the new club](#)



Sometime in 2009 Kathy Graves, SOCC President and JoAnn Gooch, HACS President, met to discuss how the two clubs, only 90 miles apart, might work together. It was decided to schedule some carriage drives that would be co-sponsored by both groups, thus allowing each club's insurance to cover its members. These events opened the door to meeting new people and helped make both groups aware of each other.

In 2011 Kathy met with the new president of HACS, Michael Wakefield, and proposed a meeting to discuss the merger of the two clubs as the viability of keeping two groups going was becoming more and more challenging. Long-serving officers were becoming burned out and new blood was challenging to find. A committee was appointed to discuss such a merger, draft bylaws and suggest a club name – all of which was presented to both clubs for a vote, which passed in late December 2010, thus creating a new and revitalized club, the Southern Oregon Horse and Carriage Club, beginning in January of 2011.