



NEWSLETTER

The Granite State Carriage Association

<http://www.GraniteStateCarriage.org>

AUGUST 2013

DRIVE/RIDE WEEKEND AT GREENFIELD

Horse Tenders is again pleased to host GSCA members for an exciting Labor Day weekend in the beautiful Monadnock region of New Hampshire. The farm offers a covered lodge, a pond for swimming, parking and camping space and many miles of trails to enjoy. So bring your horse and have a wonderful driving weekend.

AND on Sunday there will be a Barbeque offering chicken, pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, watermelon and strawberry shortcake! Wow!! That's not to be missed. All are welcome, no horse required. So get your reservations in now. Deadline is August 24th. All the details are on the flyers which have been sent separately earlier this week.

SUE ROGERS DRIVE/RIDE WEEKEND ENJOYED BY ALL

The dirt roads and mountains of Vermont were busy with drivers and riders on July 6 and 7 for two days of fun. Land's End Farm is nestled in the mountains just west of Mt. Ascutney and a few miles south of GMHA, in Reading, Vermont. Great views of the mountains and valleys greeted the 10 members that participated in this great drive. The weather was a bit warm but many went out first thing in the morning and enjoyed the indoor arena lessons and practice during the 90+ degrees.

3 riders and 6 drivers enjoyed 2 days of riding/driving, food, camping and fellowship around the evening campfire. The roads surrounding the farm provided nearly perfect footing and many loops ranging from 4 miles to 9 miles. As members arrived they were provided a map of the area and checked for safety before heading out. Many found it enjoyable, because they could ride/ drive at any pace that felt comfortable to the horse and driver.



Welcome Kelli and Mike Gerrior as new members to GSCA, they are regular visitors to the farm, so they decided to join the group. Kelli has a very nice and large Belgian draft horse. Ginger Chiappetta had some excellent assistance from Sue with harnessing her horse.

Anyone wishing to ride or drive at Land's End Farm can contact me directly at noblegesture@tds.com or visit my website <http://susanrogerscarriagedriving.com> for stabling, lodging and lessons. I would like to thank Linda & Eric Wilking for their help with organization and food for the weekend. Hopefully we can have even more members participate next year.

Sincerely, Sue Rogers

LOOK TO THE MOUNTAIN DRIVE/RIDE JULY 2013

“Extreme” comes to mind when recalling this year’s GSCA Look to the Mt. Ride and Drive in Chocorua, NH. Extreme heat, extreme storm, extreme camping, extreme brake failure... but extreme good fun in between!



When Bob and Sonja arrived on Thursday, our trail scouts who had come

earlier to check and mark trails reported on the conditions. Sue Dunfey exclaimed, “You’ve got work ahead of you!” Heather Good and Mary Dew and Cindy Pirkey recalled the terrific rain storm they had endured Wednesday night, with lightening and thunder that came tearing through the campground. A tent was blown away, Heather and Mary did all they could to hold down their pop-up tent, Sue’s camper trailer

rocked and Cindy prayed! Thankfully all survived unscathed and by Thursday there were few signs of the storm in the campground, although a lot of storm evidence was found on the trails.



Bob Cahill and a local neighbor cut away a large tree which blocked our popular Paugus Brook trail. One snowmobile bridge on James Pond trail was deemed unsafe after Mary’s horse went through a weak spot; luckily her horse was unhurt. A temporary plywood patch was put over the hole and riders and drivers were warned of the situation. Also,

Dawn Fortier & Lexix look to the mountain



Rick and Connie Moses had a very scary moment when their truck brakes failed on the way home. With Rick's quick reactions, he was able to avoid a rear-end collision and get the truck and trailer off the road. Nils and Pat Pearson, who live nearby and had been at the outing Sunday, came to their rescue and hitched the Moses' trailer onto their own truck and hauled their horses safely home. Needless to say, they were thankful and it turned out ok. And special thanks to Keely Pearson for donating slices of her pizza to the Moses'!

Harvey & Pixie in her pink boots

Saturday and Sunday when the heat broke. We want to welcome five recent new members who came. One is Jean Harvey, who drove her adorable pony Pixie everywhere. This pony could cover miles with ease especially in her pink Cavallo booties! She had no problem keeping up with Sonja's speedy Arabian, Ms. Breeze. Dawn and Keath Fortier came all the way from Ghent, NY to drive their lovely Saddle-bred / Spotted draft mare, Lexus. After a 6 hr. haul, they still had energy to hike to Chocorua Lake for a swim!

Three new riders were Melinda Zimmer-Rankin, a friend of Corin Brennan, and Sarah Curtis and Marcial Socha who were spotted riding up to Mt. View. Some new trails were opened for us this year



Corin Brenner & Melinda Zimmer-Rankin



Heather Good, Mary Dew, Sonja Cahill, Sue Dunfey, Rick & Connie Moses enjoy a swim in Chocoura Lake

at the Boy Scout Camp accessible from Paugus Brook trail and Fowler's Mill Rd. Connie and Rick took their pair over the bridge and drove some loops.

Corin and her friend Melinda said they had a blast checking out the Camp trails. Most folks took refreshing swims daily in Chocorua Lake and one sweaty rider was caught taking a quick dip in Heron Pond!



Saturday night, everyone gathered for a pot-luck dinner which was plentiful and delicious. It's amazing how many provisions folks have in their trailers! We really got to know each other well especially the new folks and lively conversations were enjoyed late into the evening.

Many thanks are extended to our helpers, our trail scouts mentioned above, as well as Rick and Connie Moses and Bill and Renee Wormell who lent a hand to Sonja and Bob when needed. Of course, our hostess Peggy Cannon made it all

possible by inviting us again to camp in her beautiful field. Her daughter Lisa also opened gates so we could visit Mt. View. Thanks as well to David and Tracey Little for allowing us on their James Pond Trail. It's wonderful coming back to Chocorua where Peggy, Lisa, and many of her hospitable neighbors welcome us year after year!

Sonja and Bob Cahill

Pictures courtesy of Sonja Cahill, Connie Moses and Dawn Fortier

NORTHEAST KINGDOM DRIVE/RIDE 2013

The weather forecast was discouraging – “unsettled”. At times the sky was gloomy, rain threatened on and off and there was a little actual drizzle and some rain at night. But conditions on site were not too bad for those who made it up to Danville for the NEK weekend August 2-4. Rick and Connie Moses and their pair arrived first and staked out the higher ground campsite, leaving waterfront locations for others to enjoy. They were joined on Friday by Dawn and Keath Fortier and their draft/standardbred cross





Corin Brennan & Remy

reportedly a little nervous when Dawn disappears around a bend in the road. The Fortiers did many miles over the weekend on foot, in the saddle and in the road cart. Corin and Remy also logged a good distance on Saturday but reported in with a missing shoe and a dying cell phone battery late in the afternoon. The signal was too weak to mount any rescue effort and they arrived back at camp just fine, no help needed. Jean Harvey's pony Pixie, new to driving after a successful gymkhana career, did not seem to notice the terrain was hilly and trotted back from her outings as briskly and she went out.

Although everyone who rode or drove from camp had to break out their slickers at some point on Saturday,

Lexus and Corin Brennan with her gelding Remy. Jean Harvey set up camp with her pony on Saturday morning. Also enjoying the weekend were Linda Stebbins and new member Felicity Beech who stayed with the Hunts.

Everyone rode or drove the scenic marked loop from the campground at least once and explored other territory up the steep climbs north and south of Danville's covered bridge. In a first ever for the NEK event, Dawn Fortier ran the marked loop on foot with Keath trotting behind on Lexus. The mare prefers to keep her herd in sight and is



Dawn & Keath Fortier

Jim Hunt, Linda Stebbins and Felicity Beech (at left) rode a beautiful loop from the Hunt farm (only a few miles away) in t-shirts and didn't feel a drop all day, so showers were definitely isolated.

The group enjoyed a pot-luck barbeque supper together on Saturday evening. Bert Frye, our host at the Frye Refuge, joined the circle to tell a few Danville tall tales before the evening showers sent everyone back to their shelters.





The Potluck Barbeque



Host Bert Fry

KEEPING OUR DRIVE HOSTS HAPPY
HERE ARE TEN SIMPLE THINGS EACH OF US CAN DO
to show appreciation and make our Hosts' efforts go more smoothly...

1. Give your Host a heads-up that you plan or hope to attend the Outing, even if reservations are not required. It always helps the Host to plan better.
2. If reservations are required, make them in a timely fashion.
3. Be sure your membership dues are current EARLY in the year. (NOTE that you are NOT covered by GSCA liability insurance unless your Membership dues are current.)
4. Be sure you have the Host's contact numbers plugged into your cell phone before you travel.
5. Remember to bring the directions and necessary documentation as required for the Outing; pre-preparing your liability releases is a BIG help to the Host, and saves you time too on arrival.
6. If you CAN'T make a planned Outing or you will be arriving late, PLEASE let the Host know what to expect. Many times hosts are hanging at the campsite to check someone in who is a no-show or hours late.
7. Offer a hand whenever possible.
8. Take pictures and offer to provide some to host or to Newsletter. Post your pictures to a Facebook album and share with our active Facebook group.
9. Tell everyone what a great time you had!
10. THANK your Hosts and ALL our volunteers for the great jobs they do!!! Help keep your Club active and healthy!
- 11.

IS THE GSCA FINANCIALLY HEALTHY?

Is GSCA financially healthy?? Thankfully, YES. Our club operations just about break even from year to year, and some extra funds are retained for special items that come up, as well as for possible emergencies. Your Board of Directors manages well.

HOWEVER, because our largest club expenditures (insurance) occur early in the calendar year, the club relies on collection of dues early in the year to keep us in the black. Sometimes members don't get those dues and renewals paid early, and things get tight. Our Treasurer may get nervous.

THIS IS A REMINDER to any who have overlooked their RENEWALS for 2013, or even for 2012-- everyone would agree that \$20 for a family membership (with no outing fees charged by the club) is a terrific deal for all the club offers. Keeping our membership low cost has been a priority for the Board, but the club needs your support early in the year, ideally by March or the Annual Dinner Meeting. Please don't tell yourself you'll pay your dues at the first outing you attend, as this creates difficulties for the club and also makes more work for your Outing Host. In addition, Club insurance coverage requires that attendees bringing horses to Outings be current members. All Members can make a difference by paying Dues early, and also by encouraging other horse folks or former members to consider (re)joining us.

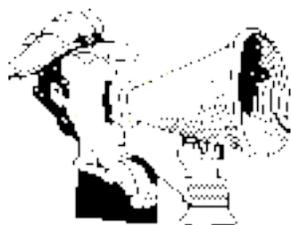
Our GSCA Treasurer will happily accept dues: Eric Wilking, 162 Pickpocket Rd., Brentwood NH 03833 tel-- 603-235-8459 email-- treasurer@granitestatecarriage.org If you are not sure whether you're paid up, please contact Eric; or those members who have a "User" Log-in can double-check our most current Membership directory in the Members' Area of the website-- www.GraniteStateCarriage.org (If you need a member's Log-in, email Connie Moses info@granitestatecarriage.org)

THE CARRIAGE BARN IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ITS FALL HORSEBACK RIDING & CARRIAGE DRIVING PROGRAMS

The Carriage Barn is now accepting applications for its Fall Horseback Riding and Carriage Driving Programs. Programs include Therapeutic horseback riding, Therapeutic Carriage driving, and Hippotherapy. For more information please contact The Carriage Barn at 603-378-0140, see our website at www.carriage-barn.org, or email carriage-barn@comcast.net.

The Carriage Barn programs seek to promote the health & well-being of individuals by enhancing their physical, psychological, cognitive & emotional healing & strengthening through equine activities. Program activities further this purpose by utilizing horses to provide opportunities for individuals to form unique relationships that nurture & empower them in a way that brings new insights, self-confidence, improved communication, & relaxation. In the context of a natural outdoor setting, these activities provide a serene learning environment.

The Carriage Barn is a 501c3 Not for Profit Organization and a member center of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International. Our instructors are specially trained and experienced equestrians. The programs serve Rockingham County & the greater Merrimac Valley. Just minutes from I-95, it is an easy drive to a wonderful country setting surrounded by knowledgeable and supportive staff and volunteers.



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

AUGUST SUNDAYS SENIOR CARRIAGE DRIVING CLASSES. The Carriage Barn. Portsmouth, NH. Contact: (603)378-0140 or carriage-barn@comcast.net

AUG 31-SEPT 2, SAT-MON GSCA DRIVE, RIDE AND BARBEQUE WEEKEND, Greenfield, NH Contact Sonja & Bob Cahill (978)851-5124 or Sue & John Booth (603) 502-2538.



Friends swimming together in the good old summertime

THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
1978 - 2008
*The Granite State
Carriage Association*

