

NEWSLETTER

The Granite State Carriage Association

<http://www.GraniteStateCarriage.org>

JULY 2013

NORTHEAST KINGDOM DRIVE/RIDE COMING AUGUST 2-4

Come and enjoy driving and riding up around two grassy ponds in an environmentally reclaimed gravel pit created by our host Bert Frye. A water hose for horses and a port-a-potty are available on the grounds. There are restaurants and other attractions in the area.

A driving loop of @ 7 miles on gravel roads is marked from the campground; many additional miles of scenic country roads are detailed on maps provided to all participants. Roads are quiet and suitable for riding horses as well and there are some additional woods trails. Terrain is hilly.

Reservations are required. All the details are in the enclosed flyer.

MUSINGS AND MEMORIES FROM A MEMBER

I wanted to give a 'shout out' of commendations and congratulations to the GSCA board and drive hosts. I recently went with three friends to the Auburn Drive outside of Manchester. What a fantastic day we had. It was equaled only by the "Look to the Mountain" drive I did with some buddies last summer. Both drives provided memories galore of driving bliss!

What could be better than setting out on a beautiful day with ones beloved equine or two? With a yummy picnic all packed and drinks sitting on ice, we loaded up without issue. The directions to the drive were simple and easy to follow. We arrived to a warm, hearty welcome and briefing from the drive hosts. We had plenty of help to unload our equipment with ample room to tether the horses for a quick graze. With maps in hand and lots of encouragement, we set off on a beautiful trail with signs at every turn. We could not have gotten lost if we tried!

The scenery was fantastic at both drives. Lovely vistas, great footing, easy to navigate roads, and almost no cars made for a memorable drive. Best of all, it was so safe for both drivers and horses. With lots of hands on deck to help get started and support along the way as each turnout went out on their own schedule, it was reassuringly safe. Even new horses would love the leisurely atmosphere and peaceful surroundings.

Upon return from a gorgeous two or three hour drive, we all gathered around in the shade under the awning of the trees to munch on some lunch and share a sip. The camaraderie of fellow drivers who truly love their horses (and dogs, too) make it an ideal way to spend a summer day. I cannot wait to come back

and get to see more glorious scenery and while away some more pleasant hours of peace and relaxation with GSCA friends.

We truly have a treasure in this club. The fact that we get to see some of the most pristine and perfect areas in our rural state is such a treat. Best of all, how is it possible to have so much fun for so little money! The membership is \$20 a year and all the drives are free...What a deal of a decade this is. I for one can't wait for the next drive. Come along for the ride with us. Enjoy our great sport of recreational driving for pleasure and simple fun & friendship!

See you on the trail, Boo Martin, Enthusiastic GSCA Member

CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA DRIVER PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

The CAA has developed a terrific new program to promote driving safely for both humans and horses. It is called the Driver Proficiency Program and is designed to be educational and supportive. Modeled after a similar program in England and Europe, this program helps carriage drivers of all ages and levels to learn all they can to be as safe and responsible as possible to both their own horses and fellow drivers.

The program has three levels of proficiency. The first level is made up of various elements which one must know to safely and successfully drive a two or four wheeled carriage. These sections are horsemanship and care of the driving horse; correct harnessing and putting to/taking out of the vehicle; maintenance of the vehicle; care of the harness; and driving. The driving proficiency piece is a simple test of circles and straight lines; being able to pass through several pairs of cones with plenty of wheel room; and driving down the road with appropriate signals. Anyone who can drive on a pleasure drive through hill and dale with the GSCA should easily pass this part of the program!

Touchstone Farm is proud to be a part of this national (and international) program which improves the safety of our sport. We have become one of four places in the US which offers the training for Level 1 and the Road Evaluation. We also are able to also offer the testing for Level 1 with an Evaluator. Please contact Boo Martin at bmartin@touchstone-farm.org if you have interest in learning more about our educational and evaluation program with CAA and its excellent Driver Proficiency Program. Let's all make our sport even better by increasing our own education and knowledge.

MEET NEW GSCA MEMBER LAUREN KOCHAKIAN

One of Granite State Carriage Association's newer members is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemen (PATH formerly NARHA) certified riding instructor. Lauren works at UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center in Goffstown, NH where she is currently working on requirements to pursue a PATH Driving Level 1 certification.

UpReach has had a therapeutic driving program for many years and currently has 2-horses, Clarissa and Lulu both Haflingers, who participate in the driving program. The center has 3-driving carts; one of which is wheelchair accessible.

UpReach serves both children and adults of all ages and is a premier accredited center meeting the highest standards of PATH. UpReach recently celebrated its 25-year anniversary of serving children and adults.

There are many therapeutic benefits to carriage driving, such as the movement of the cart stimulating movement in the pelvis, the steering and holding of reins encourage individuals to look ahead and keep

their hands up, freedom of movement and independence, and learning horsemanship skills such as harnessing a horse can provide a sense of accomplishment. Carriage driving provides an alternative for individuals who are not able to ride for some reason such as their weight or other physical conditions where riding might be contraindicated.

Lauren who has been teaching therapeutic riding for eight years meets many of the PATH requirements for attending a certification. However, PATH requires 250-hours of driving time with various equines before allowing individuals to apply to a certification. Lauren is currently working on these hours requirements.



Lauren having a lesson from Mary Gray

If you would like to contribute to UpReach or help Lauren go to certification, please contact UpReach at 603.497.2343.

SENIOR BEGINNING DRIVING CLASSES AT THE CARRIAGE BARN

Response was so positive to The Carriage Barn's Senior Beginning Driving Classes in July that we are offering them again. Special classes just for Seniors will be held Sundays in August & September. Know the thrill of holding the reins and controlling a special journey known for centuries. Learn the fine art of carriage driving with The Carriage Barn's carriage collection and horses on a heritage farm in Portsmouth.

Classes will be held each Sunday (10 to 11:30am) at 305 Peverly Hill Rd., Portsmouth, NH. The first 3 classes, August 4th, 18th and 25th, are instruction and the 4th class will be a "carriage driving show" for friends & family on September 8th.

Enrollment is limited. No prior horse experience or equipment needed. Cost is \$100 per Driver. For more information, please contact The Carriage Barn at 603-378-0140 or email carriage-barn@comcast.net. Information & registrations can also be found on our website at www.carriage-barn.org.

All class proceeds benefit The Carriage Barn's equine assisted therapy programs, which provide instructional horsemanship for assistive therapies through carriage driving and riding programs for adults, veterans, and children with disabilities.

CARRIAGE BARN THERAPY PROGRAM SEEKS SUPPORT TO REACH FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR MOVE TO NEW HOME

The Carriage Barn Therapy Programs for 13 years has provided instructional horsemanship for assistive therapies through carriage driving and riding programs for adults, veterans, and children with disabilities. With their current lease set to expire, the program is in jeopardy of closing.

Fortunately, The Carriage Barn Therapy Program has a unique opportunity to move to a new facility in Fremont, NH. The Carriage Barn will be the sole tenant and the facility has plenty of stalls, paddocks, and an indoor arena, allowing the programs to operate 7 days a week, 12 months a year, regardless of weather.

The Carriage Barn is asking the community for financial assistance in helping to keep the program alive and continue to benefit the many children and adults that are currently enrolled as well as saving the horses that are the core of the program. According to Carriage Barn Executive Director, Ann Miles, "The one-time cost of moving the program to our new home is \$10,000. A major donor has pledged \$5,000, if the program can match their contribution dollar for dollar. To date, we have successfully raised nearly \$3,000 towards that goal. We are asking the community for their support in helping us to reach our total goal by the end of July."

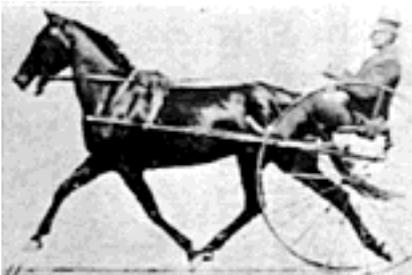
Tax deductible contributions will help the program reach its fundraising goal and allow this worthwhile program to continue. Donations can be made through the Carriage Barn website, via check or through PayPal. Donations can be completed in any of the following ways:

- Make a check payable to "The Carriage Barn Therapy Programs" with "Matching" in the memo field and mail it to:
- Attn: Michele Shepherd The Carriage Barn Therapy Programs C/O 8 Sarah's Way Newton, NH 03858
- Go to their website, www.carriage-barn.org and use the "Donate" button.
- Contact our office and ask that a PayPal "request for payment" be sent to you, which you can then complete through your PayPal account.

For more information, please contact Michele Shepherd at carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140.

DRIVING IN CYBERSPACE

Something to keep you cool in this steaming weather - Skijoring



Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sEqUD5m1g8>. I remember in the '50s when my dad pulled my brother and me behind the car on skis on snowy roads in Dexter, NY. We reached speeds greater than 30 mph.

I can understand why there is a piece of cloth between the shafts. It is to prevent the snow balls thrown from the horses' hooves from hitting the skier in the face. When I went joering behind a car, there was an awful lot of snow thrown up.

Aah to be young again. Bill Hatt

There must be some sweet pastured place
where creeks sing on~and tall trees grow,
Some paradise where horses go
For by the love that guides my pen,
I know great horses live again.

--Stanley Harrison



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. 2-4 GSCA NORTHEAST KINGDOM DRIVE/RIDE. Danville, VT. Contact: Deb Hunt (802)684-2583 or waterhook@myfairpoint.net

AUG 3-4 GMHA 25/25/50-MILE RIDE & DRIVE. Conditioning Distance. S. Woodstock, VT. Contact:(802) 457-4471.

AUG 5-9 KID'S CARRIAGE DRIVING CLASSES. The Carriage Barn, Kingston, NH Contact: (603) 378-0140.

AUG 13-15 ADULT CARRIAGE DRIVING CLASSES. The Carriage Barn, Kingston, NH Contact: (603) 378-0140.

AUG 17 MDC DAY OF DRIVING FUN. Larry & Vicky Catlett's. Leeds. ME. Contact: president@mainedrivingclub.org

AUG 24-5 GMHA COMBINED DRIVING EVENT. S. Woodstock, VT. Contact:(802) 457-4471

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.

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

**THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.
A PLEASURE DRIVING CLUB
DRIVE WITH US JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT (Riders Welcome)
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

Name (include all family members): _____

_Address: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Facebook username or e-mail _____ New Membership ____ Renewal ____

Add \$1.00 for Maine Driving Club Associate Membership? _____ TOTAL SENT _____

Any Changes from last listing? Yes No What? _____

Annual Membership Single or Family \$20.00.

Please make checks payable to: GSCA. For more info. call: Treasurer Eric Wilking (603) 731-0513
Mail to: Eric Wilking, 162 Pickpocket, Rd., Brentwood,NH 03833



Ahhhhh. Cool at last.

THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION
Virginia G. Laplante, Editor
137 Old Tilton Road
Canterbury, New Hampshire 03224

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

