



Granite State Carriage Association

2013

Event Calendar

2013 Dates	Recreational Horse Outing	Location
March 17	<u>Annual Meeting</u>	Manchester, NH
May 19	<u>Mystery Drive and Ride</u>	Canterbury, NH
June 2	<u>Ellet and Shirley Seavey Memorial</u>	Auburn, NH
June 16-23	<u>Acadia NP -Where the Ocean Meets the Mtns.</u>	Bar Harbor, ME
*Fri July 5	<u>Billings Farm</u> *CANCELED*	Woodstock, VT
*July 5-7	<u>Lands End Farm with Sue Rogers</u>	Reading, VT
July 19-21	<u>Look to the Mountain</u>	Chocorura, NH
August 2-4	<u>Northeast Kingdom</u>	Danville, VT
Aug 31-Sep 2	<u>Labor Day Outing and BBQ</u>	Greenfield, NH
Sat Sept 21	<u>Branch Hill</u>	Milton Mills, NH
Sept 22-26	<u>Shelburne Weekday Drive</u> (carriages only) in conjunction with Charlotte Bonus Drive**	Shelburne, VT Charlotte, VT
Oct 11-13	<u>Fall Foliage Drive and Ride</u>	Hancock, NH
Nov 2	<u>Planning Meeting</u>	Bedford, NH

Mystery Ride and Drive, Canterbury NH, spring



*Mustang rider on the Mystery Drive Outing
Outing Hosts - Ginger L. and Claudia L.*

Come and drive/ride Canterbury's scenic country dirt roads during May's lovely spring weather. There will be two three-mile loops which can be driven together as a figure eight if you wish, and an eight mile loop with a "twist". What's a "twist"? That's the mystery! Routes are a mixture of pavement and dirt.

Ellet & Shirley Seavey Memorial Outing, Auburn NH (since 2008)



*Tower Pond area at Auburn, NH outing
Outing Hosts - Linda and Eric W.*

Eric and Linda W. have been hosting the Annual Ellet and Shirley Seavey Memorial Carriage Drive since 2008 on the Manchester Water Works (MWW) property off of Depot Road and Tower Hill Pond in Auburn, NH. The area provides 6 to 10 miles of trails to enjoy via carriage or horseback, including criss-crossing, tree-lined lanes and dirt/gravel roads, some circling ponds both large and small.

We enjoy sharing these beautiful trails with everyone-- the first two years we had over 30 participants. There are both walkers and bicycles using the trails. The most important thing for horse people to remember is that these trails are open at all times for us to use, the only thing that MWW asks is to pick up your horse's manure.

Where the ocean meets the mountains, Acadia National Park Maine, June



Alongside Bubble Pond in Acadia National Park, Mt. Desert Island, Maine

Outing Host - Laurie G.

Forty-five miles of rustic carriage roads, the gift of philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. and family, weave around the mountains and valleys of Acadia National Park. Rockefeller, a skilled horseman, wanted to travel on motor-free byways via horse and carriage into the heart of Mount Desert Island. His construction efforts from 1913 to 1940 resulted in roads with sweeping vistas and close-up views of the landscape. His love of road building ensured a state-of-the-art system.

Acadia's carriage roads are the best example of broken-stone roads— a type of road commonly used at the turn of the 20th century— in America today. They are true roads, approximately 16 feet wide, constructed with methods that required much hand labor. The roads were engineered to contend with Maine's wet weather. Stone culverts, wide ditches, three layers of rock, and a substantial six- to eight-inch crown ensured good drainage. Rather than flattening hillsides to accommodate the roads, breast walls and retaining walls were built to preserve the line of hillsides and save trees. Rockefeller, naturally gifted with the eye of a landscape architect, aligned the roads to follow the contours of the land and to take advantage of scenic views. He graded the roads so they were not too steep or too sharply curved for horse-drawn carriages.

Billings Farm, Woodstock VT, July



Driving past Billings Farm

Outing Host - Connie M.

Twenty miles of scenic carriage roads, built in the 1880s by Frederick Billings, traverse the gentle slopes and historic woodlands of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. These trails crisscross the gentle forested slopes of Mount Tom, one of the oldest professionally managed woodlands in America. View the cool canopy of centuries-old hemlocks, beech and open-growth sugar maples to visit the Pogue, a 14-acre pond perched near the mountain summit. A beautiful .75 mile carriage train encircles the Pogue, creating scenic vistas against a backdrop of evergreens and hardwood trees in the middle of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Lands End Farm with Sue Rogers, Reading VT, July (near Mount Ascutney, since 2012)



Trotting to the view at Lands End Farm

Outing Host - Sue Rogers

Join us for carriage driving in some of the most beautiful countryside Vermont has to offer! Land's End Farm is a great place to relax, have fun, and learn. Whether you're looking for weekly lessons or a clinic series, a romantic moonlight drive or a driving vacation, single or group events, let us know what you have in mind. The indoor arena and miles of scenic back roads ensure that there's always something new to do and see.

Look to the Mountain Outing, Chocorua NH, July (since 2000)



Chocorua-- loved by riders and drivers

Outing Hosts - Sonja and Bob C.

Members can ride and drive miles of scenic Chocorua and Tamworth gravel roads. Follow the shady brook trail and enjoy great riding through Hemenway State Forest. Ride or drive to beautiful Chocorua Lake and up to the spectacular vista at Mountain View Farm. There are several hills on this ride, but an unconditioned horse going slowly will manage. Camping is at Coruway Farm at the foot of Mt. Chocorua where LeGrand Cannon penned *Look to the Mountain*. It is a popular summer outing where folks come for a day or camp for several days. It's a vacation destination for you and your horse!

Northeast Kingdom Ride-Drive Outing, Danville VT, August (since 2004)



Landscaped campsite with two ponds!

Outing Hosts - Deb and Jim H.

The Northeast Kingdom Ride-Drive, held over a long weekend in August, invites members to stay and explore quiet country roads in Danville and neighboring communities of Peacham and Barnet. Camping is by a pond at the Frye Refuge, beautifully reclaimed land once operated as a gravel quarry by our host, Bert Frye. The campground includes a portable toilet, water for horses and space to set up portable corrals (no electric hookups). There is a second pond on the grounds for swimming. A marked loop of about 7 miles from

the campground (all gravel) can be driven in either direction and follows a lovely brook for part of the trip. Other gravel roads suitable for riding or driving are highlighted on a map provided to all participants. Many miles of routes and loops can be driven without using any paved roads. A riding trail from the refuge is marked and the hosts can generally provide guidance on riding options in addition to the nearby country roads. This part of Vermont is hilly. The marked loop from the Frye Refuge is a combination of relatively flat and rolling terrain. Many of the other wonderful driving roads climb and dip a fair bit, so horses should be conditioned for the terrain.

Labor Day Outing, Greenfield NH (Monadnock Region, since 2010)



Cones practice course at BBQ outing

Outing Hosts - Sonja and Bob C. and John and Susan B.

The Granite State Carriage Association holds a Labor Day Weekend ride and drive in the beautiful Monadnock Region of New Hampshire. The Kokal Farm offers a covered lodge for gathering and eating, a pond for swimming and many miles of marked trails and dirt roads suitable for driving and riding. There is plenty of room to park and stay the weekend and enjoy the pleasant company of fellow members and guests. If you prefer to stable your horse, there are a few box stalls available at the barn. There is an arena and cones can be set up for those who wish to practice. A catered BBQ was held this year (2012) which brought many members past & present.

Branch Hill Farm Outing, Milton Mills NH, Sept.

Outing Host - Pat P.

Branch Hill Farm property has always been open to the public for multiple uses. A network of 45 miles of woodland access roads provides fire protection as well as multiple recreational opportunities to the public. There are approximately 10 miles of river frontage on the Salmon Falls River, the Branch River, and the Jones Brook. The land also serves as a living laboratory for educating all age groups about good forest and field management. It was Carl's wish that his protected land would provide "an oasis of forests, fields, wildlife, recreation, clean water and air for generations to come."

Shelburne Farms VT Drive, late September (since 1999)



Tandem alongside Lake Champlain
Drive Hosts - Lucia and Jim O. and Rick V.

Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, Vermont is a 1500-acre estate originally owned and built by the Vanderbilt-Webb family in the 1920's. The grounds were designed by Frederick Law Olmstead (who also "did" Central Park) and contain large barns and outbuildings in the "chateau" style, a working dairy farm, and lots of livestock. The farm has been a public trust for many years and is open to the public year round. The famous Shelburne Inn, the former family residence, sits on a hill with a sweeping view of Lake Champlain and New York's Adirondack Mountains beyond. If this sounds like the perfect place to drive a carriage, it is. For about 12 years GSCA has had the privilege of using the Coach Barn near the Inn and from there, having access to the network of roads that crisscross the farm. Unfortunately, riders are not permitted by the management, so this is a drive-only outing. We are the only people to use the Coach Barn for horses regularly. Our time slot is now the third week in September (exact dates tba), having been moved from late summer.

The way the drive works is defined by Shelburne Farms schedules and policies, and it goes something like this: People arrive on Sunday and depart on Thursday by noon. (You do not have to stay for the entire time.) During that time we can drive out at will. The stabling limits the number of attendees because we are not allowed to truck in for the day. Registration for the drive opens sometime in March (tba) and information and updates are sent out once in early summer and then about 10 days before the drive. The barn accommodates nine horses, with the possibility of two more stalls if needed. Stabling recently has a per-night fee (charged by Shelburne); drivers bring feed, bedding, etc. and leave the stable as immaculate as found when they depart. There is a wait list. There is no camping on Farm grounds but there is a campground very close by, and of course motels and B&Bs.

There are two special drives during the four days. First, a picnic drive of about 10 miles, tentatively scheduled for the Tuesday, allows us to drive off the Farm grounds and onto a neighboring estate, also overlooking Lake Champlain. Bring a picnic, unhitch, and enjoy the view! The drive is about an hour each way.

Plus in 2012, for the first time, an optional Bonus drive in Charlotte was offered by a local club member and regular participant on this drive. He planned and laid out a gorgeous 14

mile drive that began about ten miles from Shelburne Farms (trailing out of Shelburne) and wound through the Vermont countryside on lovely dirt roads and through two covered wooden bridges.

At this point we plan this "Bonus" drive in Charlotte again in 2013. Since it involves loading everything up, we will try to schedule it for the Wednesday so people don't have to load and unload carriages an extra time before leaving on Thursday.

Fall Foliage Outing, Hancock NH, Oct.



*Horse camping in splendor in Hancock
Outing Hosts - Cresca A. and Karen D.*

The autumn leaves are always beautiful around Hancock NH. What better outing to end the season than camping in a lovely field flanked by colorful trees and picturesque ponds, and driving your carriage or riding on the quiet dirt roads around you! Hancock is a weekend outing enjoyed by many for its rural setting.



Campsite pond at Hancock fall outing