



NEWSLETTER

The Granite State Carriage Association
<http://www.GraniteStateCarriage.org>

APRIL/MAY 2017

MAY 21 CHESHIRE RAIL TRAIL DAY DRIVE CANCELLED

Unfortunately due to unexpected medical problems and job demands this newly proposed drive has had to be cancelled for this year.

MYLES STANDISH STATE PARK, PLYMOUTH, MA DRIVE/RIDE JUNE 16-18



Come explore twenty thousand acres of great driving and riding. Miles and miles of fire roads, grassy meadows and many one-way campground roads. A few outer boundary trails are a little sandy, but many miles of grassy trails and roads await your riding and driving pleasure.

Camping is at the Charge Pond Campground in Myles Standish State Forest. Area C is reserved for just horses, so come camp with other equine enthusiasts. Each individual site is generally level, large enough for your trailer, and offers room to create a pen for your horse.

There are still sites available but they are filling fast so get your reservation in now. All the details are in the attached flyer.

PICKPOCKET ROAD ARENA DRIVING TRIAL (ADT) WAS BIG SUCCESS!

The first of a series of 3 educational Arena Driving Trials (ADT) hosted by Linda & Eric Wilking and supported by the American Driving Society was held on Sunday, May 7 on Pickpocket Road in Brentwood, NH. After what seemed like weeks of rain, (OK it was only a few days), Sunday was beautiful.

For those of you not completely familiar with competitive driving, an Arena Driving Trial or ADT is a smaller version of a full Combined Driving Event (CDE). It starts with a driven dressage test, moves to a



Leslie Baxter & Holly Who

Georgia Barry placed 1st in the VSE Training Division followed by Pat Musser; Dot Rourke won the VSE Preliminary Division; Denise Gagnon won the Training Horse Division; Hilary Miskoe won the Preliminary Pony Division and Leslie Baxter won the Preliminary Horse Division; and Janet Oliver placed 1st in the Intermediate Pony Division followed closely by Nancy Gauthier and her pair.

cones course and finishes with 2 obstacles, each driven twice. The idea of an ADT, is that it can all be accomplished inside an arena so it can be an all-season activity. We chose to set it up outside but the same principles remain, we used our dressage ring for the obstacles in the afternoon.

By 10am, 12 drivers had arrived at the field. Horses, Ponies and Minis (VSE) even a pair driven by Nancy Gauthier was here to compete. Most of the entries were from Granite State Carriage Association members: Leslie Baxter, Andrea and Doug Coursey, Micke Dutton, Denise Gagnon, Hilary and Sylvia Miskoe, Janet Oliver, Dot Rourke and GSCA President Jean Harvey. The day was a huge success, full of fun and great food.



Hilary Misko & Frodo

A huge thank you to Susan Koso, the judge (also a GSCA member) and Stephanie

Merrill, the scorer and countless volunteers, making this first of three ADTs in the series a success. If you were not able to make the first show, no worries, Linda & I look forward to hosting the second date on September 10 and the final date on October 22. Come join your friends to compete or volunteer and have fun in an educational/low stress environment.

Again, thank you all very much!

Linda & Eric Wilking



Jean Harvey & Pixie

IF YOU HAVE A GOOSENECK TRAILER BE SURE TO CHECK FOR BIRD'S NESTS

That nicely sheltered gooseneck looks like a wonderful place to place a nest, safe from predators and bad weather. BUT not so as the trailer travels! One year two trailers arrived at Acadia with nests and nestlings aboard. So be sure to keep birds from nesting on your gooseneck and don't travel without checking to see that birds have not set up housekeeping when you were not looking.



WITH AN EARLY SPRING DRIVING SEASON UPON US PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE COURTEOUS WHEN DRIVING



As riders and horses of all ages and degrees of experience come to our drives, and cars share the road, it is important to remember the rules of driving and riding courtesy.

- 1 - Arrive at the scheduled time - don't mess up the drive organizer's plans for a briefing, group lunch etc. by being late. IF you ARE arriving late because it can't be helped, PLEASE CALL your drive host to advise!
- 2 - Check in with the drive organizers and fill out your release form. Better yet bring it with you already filled out to give to the organizer.
- 3 - Please leave ample room when parking next to another trailer. Keep in mind that horse(s) will be tied there--even though they might not be there when you pull in.
- 4 - Be sure to have a slow vehicle triangle on the back of your carriage.
- 5 - Stay as far to the right on the road as possible except when passing.
- 6 - Always pass on the left.
- 7 - Check for cars coming from behind before pulling out to pass.
- 8 - Stop and look both ways at all intersections before entering.
- 9 - No tailgating.
- 10 - Never pass another horse or carriage without requesting and receiving permission.
- 11 - Walk past ridden horses if possible. Do not trot by without asking & receiving permission. They may not be used to seeing carriages.
- 12 - If someone is having trouble with a horse, always stop & wait until it is under control before passing from either direction
- 13 - If someone is hitching or entering a carriage or mounting a horse, wait until they are in the carriage or on the horse and in control before asking to pass.
- 14 - NEVER PASS ANYONE AT SPEED. You could cause a serious accident!

TWENTY ONE ELEMENTARY RULES FOR SAFE HARNESSING

- 1 - Lead the horse out of his stall with a halter & lead rope, then cross tie him in the aisle. Harnessing in the stall is risky. When taking the horse back after taking off the harness, walk him into the stall and turn him to face the door before releasing him..
- 2 - Place the collar on first over the halter.
- 3 - Place saddle & crupper on the horse, buckle crupper around tail, and then buckle girth.
- 4 - Lay traces across horse's quarters, not across his neck.
- 5 - Draw reins through terrets, and fold neatly through the saddle terrets or on back strap.
- 6 - Remove halter, buckling it around neck, and put on bridle.
- 7 - Adjust the bridle for good fitting and fasten reins onto bit.
- 8 - Two persons should "put to" for greater safety.
- 9 - Use shafts of correct length: not a small horse in long shafts, or vice versa.
- 10 - Place shaft points through tugs.
- 11 - Draw traces from quarter and attach to whiffle tree, or trace hooks.
- 12 - Wrap and buckle tie downs if using.
- 13 - Fasten breeching if one is being used.
- 14 - Driver MUST be in position before passengers take seats.
- 15 - The reins must NEVER be used in place of a whip but are held steady with constant mouth contact.
- 16 - Use bearing rein with consideration for the comfort of the horse and the job in hand.
Some horses will not tolerate a severe check, and may go best without any bearing rein at all.
- 17 - A tighter noseband may be more effective than a more severe bit.
- 18 - Severe biting is a common cause of rearing.
- 19 - A collar of proper size always gives best performance. Your hand should fit between the collar and the horse's throat.
- 20 - When at rest, the horse should be tied with the tie rope around his neck and drawn THROUGH the cheek ring of the bit, but not attached to the bit. It is safer to remove the horse from the vehicle.
- 21 - NEVER remove the bridle while the horse is still harnessed to the carriage.

These simple rules, or guidelines, were drawn up by the Special Committee on Safety While Driving, John Fairclough, Chairman. Originally printed in "The Carriage Journal" Autumn 1980, reprinted from the News Notes of The Mid-Hudson Driving Association, August 2010.

HELP NEEDED WITH COOS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRAIL PLAN!

The NH Horse Council's Trails Committee has been contacted by Nick Altonaga who is a Planner at the North Country Council (NCC) in Littleton NH. The NCC wants NHHC to help find equine trail users to interview for their comprehensive trails plan for Coos County. They are reaching out to the different groups to discuss their experiences and possible ways to connect the many trail systems throughout the region. NCC is working to schedule interviews sometime between late April and the end of May.

Are you or do you know club members in the Coos area who trail ride and we can connect with? Do you know stables in the area? Do you ride trails in Coos County?
Would you or someone your know from an equine organization agree to being interviewed for this project?

Please contact Nick, his contact info is below, and then contact NHHC trail committee if you are interested in being part of a NHHC informal subgroup willing to share and compile info to help with this trail plan.

Nicholas Altonaga, Planner North Country Council 262 Cottage Street, Suite 246 Littleton, NH 03561
(603) 444-6303 Ext. 21



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- May 27-28 SUZY STAFFORD DRIVING CLINIC. Runnymede Farm,N.Hampton,NH. Contact:Suzy Stafford (302) 540 5162 ponydriverss@aol.com
- May 29 WENTWORTH HUNT HUNTER PACE Milton Mills,NH. Contact: Ann Pembroke, 17 Ginaco Rd., Epping NH 03042
- June DRAWING RAFFLE TO BENEFIT FUTURES FOR STANDARDBREDS. for amazing prizes and tickets contact: Pam Rhodes fstandardbreds@maine.rr.com
- June 8-11 ORLETON FARM DRIVING SHOW. Stockbridge,MA. June 8, Super Derby and Cross Country Pleasure Drive, Friday, June 9. Divisions for VSE's, ponies, single and pair, Horse, single and Pair and turnouts of multiples, horse or pony. Pleasure Driving Show,Saturday June 10 and Sunday June 11. Contact: ColonialCarriage.org or Ann Willey at 518-392-6583.
- June 10 BENEFIT HORSE SHOW FOR MAKE A WISH, NH. Lakes Region Riding Academy in Gilford,NH Contact:
- JUNE 15-17 EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER COMPETITION. At the Big E, W. Springfield,MA. Contact: Mustang Heritage Foundation <brittani@mustangheritagefoundation.org> for more information, tickets or to compete.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

It is that time of year again to renew your membership. Please take a moment, to use the form below and mail your membership or log on to our website and use Paypal to renew today. Your annual family membership of \$25 allows the club to function all year.

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 \$25.00.

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 038



Sent in by Bill Hatt

THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION

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

