



# NEWSLETTER

The Granite State Carriage Association

<http://www.GraniteStateCarriage.org>

**FEBRUARY 2015**

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## **COME ONE- COME ALL TO THE 36th-Year GSCA ANNUAL MEETING and AUCTION SUNDAY MARCH 1ST!!!**

It's that time of year again when horse and carriage lovers get together for fun, socializing, dinner, entertainment and the chance to bid on interesting and useful items! This **ANNUAL MEETING and FUNdraising Auction** is the Club's only fundraiser and is a big hit every year!

Dinner (12 noon) is in a new place this year, Chen Yang Li on S. River Road in Manchester. They are well recommended by some of our Board members and will give us a full buffet plus dessert your cost is only \$21 per meal.

### **ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER**

This year's Annual Dinner meeting and banquet will feature our own Boo Martin speaking on the efforts that Touchstone Farm is making to promote fun and safe carriage driving. She will also be discussing the CAA Driver Proficiency Program.

### **FUND RAISING GSCA AUCTION !!!!**

**WE INVITE ALL--** PAST MEMBERS, NEW OR WANNABES, FRIENDS and FAMILY-- to join in this GSCA off-season pleasure event!! Our famous AUCTION is always fun and funny and an unparalleled chance to find bargains on various interesting and useful items! These are things you just can't do without!

**Please don't forget to bring your own usable items to donate for the Auction, whether they are horse-related or not.** If donating smaller-value items, please bundle or box them together to make a desirable package worth at least \$10, and PLEASE write a short description or list for the auctioneers of what is included.

### **AWARDS AND OFFICERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL MEETING:**

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2015 as voted (see and complete your BALLOT sent via e-mail. A second copy is with this Newsletter for your convenience) Your vote for Officers is requested and NEEDED, before or on March first at the Annual dinner meeting.

### **2014 PARTICIPATION AWARD**

Determined from the year's release forms who attended the most drives/events in 2012 (No vote by members.) Engraved Participation plaque is perpetual and travels each year to new recipient(s).

## **MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD**

\$50-- sponsored by Ellet and Shirley Seavey funds. Members vote (see BALLOT enclosed) for person who is most supportive & helpful and who makes our events fun for all. (This Award was formerly the Ellet Seavy trophy and Sandra Platts basket of goodies.)

**There will also be a drawing for a DOOR PRIZE of \$25.**

## **GSCA MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE SNOW THIS YEAR**

There's no shortage of snow this winter and several GSCA members are taking advantage of opportunities to get out their sleighs and enjoy the great outdoors! Boo Martin recently enjoyed a sleigh outing with her brother and they look forward to getting out again soon. Tracey Turner finally had the chance to use her restored 100 year old Express sleigh with her Fjord mare, proudly driving four miles to show off her neighbor how she'd brought back to life the treasured vehicle he'd used as a boy to go to town to pick up supplies for his family.



*Tracy Turner*



*The Adler children and William*

easy-going, versatile little horse. Joan is a new GSCA member and is looking forward to participating in many GSCA events this year.

Joan Adler's family is also enjoying their

Fjord, Willem. They don't have a sleigh but Willem enjoys romps in the snow, pulling the kids on a sled. Willem has been a part of Joan's family since he was only 6 months old.

He is now 16 and is an

## **GSCA SNOWBIRDS ALSO ARE ENJOYING THE WINTER**

While the southern states have also experienced colder weather than usual this winter, our friends in the Carolinas and Florida, have no need of sleighs but are hitting the trails.

Linda Stebbins and husband, Jim, along with the rest of their four-footed family, are enjoying their first winter in their new winter home in Windsor, SC, between Katydid and Windsor Trace, a

driving community. While Windsor is noted for its driving events, riding opportunities also abound here and in nearby Aiken. The historic Hitchcock Woods, situated in the heart of Aiken, offers 70 miles of sandy trails, most suitable for driving as well as riding and hiking, through 2,100 acres of forestland. No matter what your discipline is, there is plenty for the horse enthusiast to do in Windsor and Aiken. Linda reports that housing prices are more favorable than New England, and real estate taxes are lower. Though her horses are kept at her winter home, there are plenty of places to board horses short or long-term. Average Aiken temperatures in January and February run mid-40s to mid-60s.



*Stebbins', Windsor, SC.*

Bill and Renee Wormell purchased their "mini farm" property in Landrum, SC several years ago

and have been snowbirding since retirement in 2007. Landrum is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, next to Tryon, NC. Like Aiken, this is "horse country" with picturesque farms, miles of board-fenced pastures and covered arenas. The terrain is rolling hills, mountain laurel, and gorgeous mountain views, without the mountain weather! Bill and Renee like the trail riding and hiking opportunities the Tryon area offers. They are a short distance from Croft State Park and Fants Grove in SC *Blue Ridge Mt.*



*view from Landrum, SC*

and only an hour away from beautiful Dupont State Forest in NC. Dupont is 10,000 acres of forests, trails and waterfalls open to horses, bikers and hikers. As members of the Foothills Equestrian Trails Association, the Wormells also enjoy a network of 150 miles of riding and driving trails over public and private lands and dirt roads in the Tryon area. The Carolina Carriage Club hosts numerous events throughout the year, including trace paces and CDEs, and the ever popular carriage parade before the annual Block House Steeplechase each spring. Weather in the Landrum/Tryon area is similar to Aiken. The foothills are in an isothermal zone, which means temperatures are more moderate than the mountains or the plains. Renee reports that they are only an hour away from Asheville, NC, but upstate SC temps generally run 5 to 10 degrees warmer in the winter. Snow events are rare in the foothills.

Laurie Goodwin is sitting out the winter with her pony at Black Prong Equestrian Center in Bronson, Florida. Laurie has made the 3 day trek down the eastern coast to Black Prong for several years. Like the Wormells and Stebbins, Laurie prefers to trailer her own horse. It takes her



a day longer to get to Florida than to the Carolinas, but there are excellent lay-over facilities along the way. Black Prong is "A Horsemen's Heaven" - a unique 250 acre facility dedicated to equestrian sports, training and pleasure activities, especially carriage driving. Laurie says she has her own private cabin, complete with kitchenette, and access to dressage rings, cones and obstacles for training. The center abuts the 53,000-acre Goethe State Forest, so pleasure driving opportunities abound.

*Laurie and her pony in Florida*

There are both on-site and nearby driving events most every week. When she's not out driving and visiting with other residents, Laurie kicks back in the relaxing atmosphere. She reads a lot of books over the winter and is learning to weave. Many trainers and serious driving competitors winter at Black Prong so there is no shortage of opportunities to train and learn from the best. Everyone caps off the winter with the prestigious Live Oaks International CDE in Ocala in mid-March. Florida temperatures in the Ocala area average mid 50s to mid 70s during the winter - perfect for getting out and enjoying time with your horse!



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCIE JARVIS**

Congratulations to GSCA member Nancie Jarvis of Surry, NH and her paint/pinto mare Debagals Sanjo Imp (aka Mindy). Nancie is active in the New England Horse and Trail Association riding program. In 2014 Nancie reached her 1000 mile goal and Mindy reached her 750 mile goal. Nancie's mule Katie is also enrolled in NEHT with over 500 miles.

*Nancie and Mindy*

The Editor wants to thank Renee Wormald for collecting all of the above news and pictures and passing them on to her for the Newsletter.

**HB 592 RELATIVE TO VUNERABLE USERS OF HIGHWAYS**

**Additional Protection for riders and drivers**

This bill increased the penalty for vehicular assault when the victim is a vulnerable user as defined in the bill. Horse people are encouraged to contact the bill's sponsors and their representatives to voice support.

The bill makes it a "class B felony where a person's unlawful operation of the propelled vehicle or vessel causes or materially contributes to the collision and the victim is a vulnerable user as defined in paragraph II." That paragraph defines vulnerable users as (a) pedestrians including persons engaged in work along a highway or engaged in provision of emergency service within a right of way. **(b) A person riding an animal.** (c) A person lawfully operating any of the following on a way or shoulder of a way: bicycle, implement of husbandry, skatebosars, rollar skates, in-line skates, scooter, moped motorcycle, **horse drawn carriage**, electric personal assistive mobility device or wheelchair.

The bill's sponsors are: Rep. Gould, Hills 7; Rep. Gagne, Hills 13; Rep. LeBrun, Hills 32; Rep. Moore, Hills 21; Rep. Higgins, Graf 12; Rep. Borden, Rock 24; Rep. Verschueren, Straf 13; Rep. Cordelli, Carr 4; Sen. Carson, Dist 14

**UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**



FEB.21 OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE ANTIQUE SLEIGH RALLY. Sturbridge, MA.  
Contact: 1 800 733-1830

**MAR. 1** **GSCA ANNUAL MEETING, DINNER & AUCTION.** Location to be announced.

MAR.22 FROSTBITE ADT. Touchstone Farm, Temple, NH. Contact:603.654.6308  
<http://www.touchstone-farm.org>

MAR. 22 INTRO. TO CAA CARRIAGE DRIVING PROFICIENCY PROGRAM. Carriage Barn,  
Kensington,NH Contact: [www.carriage-barn.org](http://www.carriage-barn.org) 603-378-0140 [carriage-barn@comcast.net](mailto: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



**Horse drawn snow plow dealing with deep snow in the good old days**

**THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION**

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*The Granite State  
Carriage Association*

