

December 2013

HANCOCK FALL FOLIAGE RIDE/DRIVE

Columbus Day Weekend 2013



symphony of fall colors it was hard not to enjoy oneself. About a dozen people

Granite State Carriage Association's Fall Foliage, Ride/Drive held over Columbus Day weekend, October 11-13, 2013 was chilly and drizzling but between the spectacular views and



attended the event this year. Foliage was at peak and the weather wasn't all that bad considering the time of year.

Bob and Carolyn Townsend along with granddaughter, Megan and pal Becky Greenan arrived Friday evening to set up camp for the weekend. Karen Desroches and I had also set up camp. We all enjoyed a good company and a nice fire before heading to bed.

Saturday was a little bit drizzly but Laurie Goodwin and Corin Brennan arrived anyway to camp for the night. Laurie and Cindy Pirkey took Laurie's pony, Nick out for a drive while everyone else



headed out for a beautiful ride. Bob Townsend was in charge of the dogs while everyone was gone. Late Saturday afternoon we all huddled around the fire again while it drizzled into the night. It was pretty damp and raw but we all enjoyed a hotdog lunch cooking the dogs over the open fire. They always taste better that way!

Others coming in for the day included Cindy Schlener with her horse Apollo, and Carrie Finke

Heading out

and daughter. I am sorry I did not get the chance to take a photo of Carrie ponying her daughter it was cute to see. Everyone enjoyed another day of riding before packing up and heading out.

This event was held at a new location this year due to a conflicting date at the field that we normally hold it.



LR:Becky Greene, Karen DesRoches, Carolyn Townsend & granddaughter.

It was held at my home on the north side of Hancock. I got feedback from many that they enjoyed this location as much as, if not better than, the Jaquith Road location. No matter where you are in Hancock, it's going to be beautiful!

Unfortunately, while we were holding this event, Boo McDaniel was holding her Fall Festival event just over the mountain from here! I know many GSCA members were attending that event. I think we will not have this date conflict in 2014 so plan on attending both of these great events in the fall in the Monadnock Region.

SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We need candidates for the following Board positions to vote on at the Annual Meeting in February.

President (Connie has served her two terms)

Vice President for 1 year to finish out term Cresca Albright was filling in

Director (Laurie Goodwin does not wish to run again)

If you are interested, or know someone you think would be good for one of the positions please contact one of the members of the Nominations Committee. They are:

Sonja Cahill rjcmoosecaboose@yahoo.com 978 851-5124

Linda Stebbins Jim-Linda@comcast.net 603 778-1196

Ginger Chiappetta gingerchiappetta@gmail.com 603 543-9868

RECENT APPOINTMENTS RECOGNIZED

The President is pleased to announce her appointments of two long-standing club members to the newly-created positions of Senior Advisors-- Ginger Laplante and Sonja Cahill. Both Ginger and Sonja have been active contributors to the Club for MANY years, pretty much since the beginning in 1978. Both Sonja and Ginger have volunteered their time and efforts, and continue to be steadfast "mentors" to the Board and extremely helpful to members. Sonja, a past president, has also served in every other capacity on the Board over the years, most recently as Director. In addition, Sonja has hosted the Chocorua Outing and the Greenfield Outing for several years, and other drive/rides in past years. Ginger, is one of our founders, has served as both President and Secretary and is our long-time Editor. She devotes untold energy to the GSCA Newsletter every month, gathering much news on her own, and collecting reports and photos from Outings. Ginger also has hosted several drives and activities at her farm over the years; currently she hosts the "Mystery" drive/ride in Canterbury; in past years it has been The "Newbie" drive, other drives, clinics, and playdays. Ginger also is our "Historian" and keeps track of GSCA archives. Reams of thanks go to both these individuals whom I, for one, have come to rely on for their backgrounds and extensive knowledge of the Club. My hope is that future officers will look to our Senior Advisors for continued support into the future! Connie Moses, President.

CONCERNS FOR EQUINE-DRIVEN VEHICLES ("Carriages") Submitted to DRED

by representatives of Granite State Carriage Association--

Regarding DRED's initially proposed rules revisions, as President of Granite State Carriage Association I wish to address primarily the concerns of carriage drivers.

NH is sorely lacking in suitable areas for carriage driving. Dirt roads even in rural areas are fast disappearing. State parks with tracks, dirt roadways or trails-- especially rail trails-- offer opportunities for recreational carriage driving and therapeutic carriage driving.

TRAIL ACCESSIBILITY Carriage drivers seek for carriages the same degree of trail use available to horseback riders, which should be expanded instead of restricted further, per NH statute defining horse use as a primary use. Carriage drivers are currently quite restricted in their use of state trails by the gates in place to block motorized vehicles; specifically, rail trails and any gated trails are at issue. We understand there often are gates in place which would have to be unlocked by either the driver or state / park personnel to allow carriage access to trails. Drivers would like to have the easiest possible access to keys, such as has been afforded to snowmobile clubs.

TRAIL SUITABILITY Carriage drivers will self-limit to trails which would accommodate their cart or carriage and their horses' abilities, so long as signage or maps or prior knowledge inform them of trail conditions. Drivers would NOT be trying to enter too-narrow, really rough, or steep trails or paths. Carriages need somewhat more clearance than horseback riders; as a rule of thumb, if a non-4WD street vehicle can negotiate a roadway or trail, so can a carriage. Average width ideally should be 5 feet or more for carriages on a single track, however 4 feet width is negotiable for short distances. A trail of varying width is acceptable, so long as min. width is 4-5 feet or more. Trailheads and cross-trails which start out 5 feet or wider should carry "Trail becomes narrower" warning if trail constricts to less than 5 feet actual width at any point. Natural tread surface is preferred for all horses; hard-packed dirt is suitable for wider and longer stretches of trail or road for carriages; dirt/finer-gravel roads are very suitable for carriage horses; paved roads are less desirable for horses, however can be traveled perfectly well, especially at a slower pace. Carriages need relatively smooth tracks or trails, and hills should not be over 10% grade except for a very short distance. Carriages CAN navigate fairly rough terrain such as rocks and roots, however most drivers would prefer to avoid rough trails. The degree of steepness or width of trail negotiable will vary with the driver/horse's ability levels and the size of the vehicle.

SAFETY ISSUES Solo carriage drivers would be placing themselves and other users at risk to exit the carriage to open and shut a gate OR to remove manure from trail or road; a carriage horse should be under control of the driver seated in the carriage at all times. If using gated trails, gates would need to be dealt with in advance of solo driving, and after completing the drive; EXCEPT in the case of the driver having an able passenger(s), the passenger might open and shut gates as needed for the carriage driver. An able passenger usually could deal with manure simply by kicking it off of heavy-traffic areas. Drivers in pre-arranged group outings should be able to return to driven paths afterwards to relocate manure off trails; our own group drives have always done this. And of course, manure should be removed from parking areas and campgrounds in season.

SPECIAL PERMITS/GROUP USE: GSCA driving groups have experienced inconsistent application of special use permits-- in past years our groups have paid special use fees in Bear Brook, however we do NOT charge participation fees for our drives. In NH state parks other than Bear Brook, the fee has been waived because GSCA is non-profit (and charges no participation fees for their group drives).

SUGGESTED SAFE PRACTICE EDUCATION/SIGNAGE: Horses have right of way-- -per NH law on streets and roadways-per National Parks posted regulations & practice-per state parks in neighboring states posted regulations & practice-signage should notice yield to horses, announce possible presence, use caution before passing from behind, and other safety/educational messages-signage should potentially designate one-way traffic for carriages, on trails which are generally too narrow to allow 2 carriages traveling in opposite directions to pass.

CARRIAGES ON THE BEACH Carriage horses are able to use Hampton Beach where/when hard-packed sand is exposed; pulling a carriage a long distance through soft, deep sand may be difficult for some horses, but some "rigs" can be driven in sand.

SUGGESTED REVISED RULES WORDING RELATED SPECIFICALLY TO DRIVING:

Res 7301.09 EQUINES and Other Animals.

- (a) EQUINES and other animals used for riding or driving, except for animals regulated by Res 7301.08, shall be permitted in state parks.
- (b) EQUINES AND EQUINE-DRAWN VEHICLES shall be permitted at Hampton Beach from October 1 through April 30.
- (e) Driving of an equine-drawn vehicle shall be permitted on designated trails, roadways and rail trails. Driving of an equine-drawn vehicle shall be permitted on such designated pathways that are restricted by gated access, and the means of unlocking and relocking gates shall be made available to equine drivers in any way possible.

DRIVING OF A GROUP OF EQUINE-DRAWN VEHICLES SHALL BE by special use permit pursuant to Res 7306. Special use permit fee shall be waived for groups charging no participation fees.

Thank you for the opportunity for public input. Connie Moses President, Granite State Carriage Association

UPDATE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRED RULES

by Renee Wormell

There is a bit of good news and bad news that came out of the Horse Community follow up meeting held on November 17th, relative to proposed changes to administrative rules as they pertain to equine access to DRED-managed properties. To re-cap, the original proposed changes would have restricted horse use to 8'-wide, hard surfaced trails, effectively eliminating the woods trails currently enjoyed in NH State Parks and Forests. Riders and drivers would also have been required to remove all manure from trails and roadways as well as parking areas. Numerous public hearings held around the state, and public comments indicated very strong opposition to the proposed changes. In addition to voicing objection to the width and surface and manure removal provisions, GSCA's comments requested that carriage drivers be provided with the same access as horseback riders and a means to access trails that are currently restricted by gates and barways. [\(should we attach another copy of Connie's position paper?\)](#)

In response to the input by the Horse Community, DRED provided an outline of their revised position for discussion at the 11/17 meeting. The good news is that they agreed to drop the 8' wide hard surface requirement and also remove the currently in effect reference to "road width". The requirement to remove manure on trails will also be removed, however will remain in effect for "public traffic areas". The bad news is that the rules relative to carriages would not change from what is currently in force. Thus, **MORE INPUT FROM CARRIAGE DRIVERS IS NEEDED!** The current rules are ambiguous and do not reflect actual practice. Currently, Res 7301.09(e) reads as follows: "Driving of any animal-drawn vehicle shall not be permitted, unless permission has been granted by special use permit pursuant to Res 7306." This would seem to mean that carriage drivers cannot drive any of the roads or trails in any DRED managed properties (state parks, state forests, rail trails, conservation areas, etc.) without first obtaining a permit. In practice, is not unusual for carriage drivers to utilize the relatively safe gravel roads and woods roads and wider trails on a casual basis. There is some debate as to whether section 7301.09(e) includes horses as other sections of the rules (§ 7301.02 and §7301.08) do not include or apply to horses, however this issue has never been tested. It is likely that the intent was for it to apply to horses.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? the rules changes are going to be revised and will be re-released for additional public comment. As trail riders and carriage drivers it is imperative that we present a united front and push for the preservation of our rights to use these

public lands for the use and enjoyment of our sport and hobby. New Hampshire Horse Council is taking leadership role in negotiating acceptable rules. GSCU is a member of NHHC and has representative members (Connie, Cresca, and Renee) on the discussion panel, however individual membership is also encouraged. Go to www.nhhorsecouncil.org to find out how you can join and to get updated information. You may also keep up to date via NHHC Facebook page. It is important that you let your senators and representatives know you're your position on this issue. Senator Sanborn has submitted a proposed bill which allows horseback riding on any trail in the multi use statewide trail system.

Go to <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/members/wml.aspx> to find out who represents your district.

FACEBOOK PAGE FOR KEEPING UP WITH THE DRED SITUATION

Patricia Morris has started a page for trail riders/carriage driving folks who want to keep up with the DRED situation. Please like her page to keep up to date....

New Hampshire Equine Trail Coalition-NHETC

Facebook Site: Where people who ride and drive their horses in NH DRED properties can discuss current issues regarding the applicable laws in NH.

This is where we will discuss current issues concerning horse access (under saddle and driving) to NH state parks/DRED properties. This is not a trail riding social page, it will address specific issues in NH Law, the Legislature or any administrative agency. There will be 10-15 standing members from the equine community who will work directly with lawmakers. There will be additional advisors appointed when needed (for example, if we are working on Bear Brook State Park, we will enlist the assistance of horse folks very familiar with the park).

https://www.facebook.com/nhequinetrailscoalition?notif_t=fbpage_fan_invite

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO GSCA FACEBOOK GROUP MEMBERS

Facebook Group to accept Non-Club Members starting Nov. 30

Our Officers have decided to "open" our GSCA Granite State Carriage Group on Facebook to a wider equine-interested community on request. Currently there are nearly 120 GSCA Club Members who are participating in the group on Facebook. We receive a few requests weekly from non-GSCA members asking to join our FB group, and the majority of these requests are from Facebook "Friends" of the existing members of the Group.

We feel that Facebook is an ideal forum for horse folks outside of the Club to learn more about what GSCA is all about, and for these folks as well as past members to see our Outings and activities. Therefore, on November 30 we will start approving non-Club members who request to join, or are invited into the Group by existing group members. Each new Group entry will be "screened" to the extent that they will have to be approved by one of the Club's Facebook Administrators-- who are Connie Moses, Corin Brennan, and Stephenie Merrill.

Present members of the Facebook group might want to review past comments and photos you have posted in the Group, in case you want to edit, change Settings on, or remove anything to keep it more private (if unfamiliar, see how to make SETTINGS below). All FB Group members WILL be able to see other Group members' comments and photos posted TO the Group page, including any "Tags" which are assigned to the photos.

ANY Facebook member with privacy concerns should also review your own photo "Settings" whenever you post photos, to be sure you are allowing only the people whom you have CHOSEN to see your photos. If you post photos TO a Facebook Group-- ie., in your own comment on the GSCA Group page-- then all members of the Group will see it. If you "SHARE" one of your existing photos from your own page/timeline to the GSCA Group, the Settings assigned to that photo will govern who it is seen by in the group, AND who the photo may be "Shared" with. Your photo posted TO THE GROUP page may be SHARED by other GSCA Group members to their own Friends, BASED ON THE PRIVACY SETTINGS you have set on the Photo. Videos which are linked in/embedded from an external video site (YouTube, vimeo etc.) might not be able to have Privacy settings applied. FRIEND PRIVACY SETTINGS: Everyone you agree to "Friend" on Facebook is called your "Friend." The SETTINGS controls for your FB "Friends" enable you to differentiate between "Close Friends" and "Acquaintances." Access these controls by placing the mouse over an individual's Facebook avatar, and the controls will pop up, whereby you designate that person's status level. There you may also click on "Settings..." to choose how much of and what specifically you wish to see of that Friend's postings on your own Home/News Feed page. You have the option to "Unfriend" anyone at any time.

PHOTO PRIVACY SETTINGS: When posting photos or videos on your own page or in a Photo Album, you may specify your photo, Album, or video is to be seen either by "Public," "Friends," "Close Friends," "Friends Except Acquaintances," "Only Me," or "Custom." You can change the settings on any of your already-posted photos or videos, or of an Album, by clicking on "Edit" while you are viewing that photo. Photos in an Album all share the same Album privacy settings.

GSCA Facebook Group membership is now nearly 200 and growing fast, almost doubled since "opening" to non-members!

Any questions or comments, please message to Connie Moses on Facebook, or email connie@portraitswithhorses.com .

GSCA BOARD MEETING

May 26, 2013



Attending were Connie, Renee, Cresca, Eric, Ginger, Dave, Leslie, Sonja, Laurie, Boo, and Bob (Cahil)

Called to order by Connie at 5:53 pm at Herrick Tech Labs

Main purpose of meeting is to discuss the 2013 Budget'

Dave Herrick moved to skip reading previous minutes, 2nd by Sonja and approved.

Eric, our new Treasurer, presented a draft budget and noted that recently expenses were trending up while income trended down.

Some specific issues:

We pay liability insurance for drives even if they end up being cancelled.

Only 77 members had paid dues as of this date, how do we get them to pay up?

Should we stop subsidizing meals like at Annual Meeting, Planning Meeting, Greenfield BBQ etc?

Should we add fundraising events besides the Auction?

Acadia Drive may be cancelled due to low attendance last four years possibly because you can go on your own or with other groups at a more convenient time.

Boo offered several ideas to promote ourselves:

Come up with a branding message, i.e. "GSCA: Great scenic drives on mostly dirt roads with safe, knowledgeable and friendly people." There is a pre-drive briefing and then you can leave at your leisure. Target audience could be competitive drivers who mostly work in rings.

Eric brought up the subject of shirts suggesting we don't maintain an inventory but just place an ad in each newsletter so people can order at will. Boo suggested doing what Pony Farm does: buy cheap Ocean State Job Lots shirts and add labels to them.

More discussion on improving renewals. Eric suggested mailing cards because not everyone reads the newsletters. Send first notice in January and second in May. Approximate cost would be \$71. Ginger moved and Connie seconded. It was decided to send email notifications to those with a "yellow" status and call the "reds."

Discussion of insurance: Is \$2 million liability enough? It was voted (?) [or discussed ?] and agreed to set up meeting with a non-profit attorney to review club's insurance standing for suitability and adequacy. Suggested \$200 attorney fee to consult about our insurance coverage and standing. Boo recommended Eaton and Berube, as they have served Pony Farm well. Further discussion moved to later board meeting. Should we continue to subsidize meals? Ginger moved to not subsidize and Dave seconded. The motion was amended to reconsider at next board meeting. Ginger moved the amended motion and Laurie seconded.

Motion to accept Eric's budget by Boo and seconded by Cresca. Eric will clean up and re-issue.

Discussed sending some of the new brochures to carriage dealers and agreed to have them at Touchstone Farm's Equine Affaire Booth.

Next board meeting scheduled for August 8.

Meeting adjourned.





UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- DEC. 8 CARRIAGE BARN HOLIDAY GATHERING. Trundle Bed Farm, 10 Trundle Lane, Kensington, NH. Come see their new home. Demonstrations, potluck lunch.
Contact: carriagebarn@comcast.net (603) 378-0140
- JAN. 4 & 18 GMHA SLEIGHING COMBINED TEST. Woodstock,VT. Training, preliminary & Intermediate tests. Contact: (802) 457-1509
- JAN. 5 GMHA SLEIGH RALLY. Woodstock,VT Working, Reinsmanship. cones, Pace, Currier & Ives. Contact: (802) 457-1509
- JAN 5 OPEN HOUSE AT PONY FARM. Temple, NH. 1-4PM. Contact: (603) 654-6308.
Touchstone_Farm@mail.vresp.com.
- FEB. 1 OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE ANTIQUE SLEIGH RALLY. Sturbridge,MA.
Contact: (800) 733-1830
- FEB 16 MVTC WINTER WONDERLAND SLEIGH RALLY, 10AM-3PM McCray's Farm, 55 Alvord St., S. Hadley, MA. Contact: Jamie Cinq-Mars, Show Secretary (413)433-9436
www.jamiecinqmars.com

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 _____

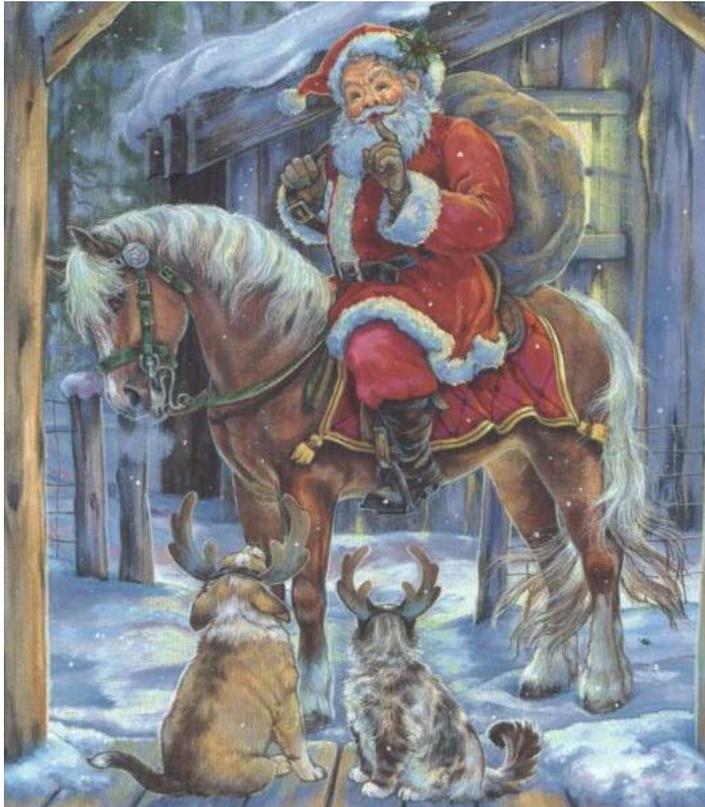
Facebook username or e-mail _____ New Membership ____ Renewal _____

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION

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*The Granite State
Carriage Association*

