



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



SHELBURNE 2014

Shelburne was the highlight of our driving for this year, even though it was one day shorter than in past years. We started from home [New York] very early so we could get a beautiful drive in on Sunday afternoon.

The weather every day was blue skies and warm winds with the changing leaves making it a perfect experience. The Gerrellis came with us. We had breakfast one day at the estate house [Shelburne Inn on the grounds near the Coach Barn] so to see the magnificent rooms and to stroll the gardens.

But we came to drive, and we drove every chance we had with Sam our Haflinger on our Roberts wagonette. We passed the lake [Lake Champlain], went through the woods, over the fields, by the cemetery, around the working and dairy barns and into the awesome breeding barn. Everywhere we went the views, colors and scenery were terrific. Vermont is pretty!



Herb Cade & his Haflinger, Sam. Al & Sally Ann Gerrellis on the road at Shelburne

We hope to see [everyone] next year at Shelburne or some other GSCA gathering-- they sound so interesting, pretty and friendly in my collection of newsletters.Fondly,

Susie, GreinacherMHDA, Sec.

Suzie Greinacher & Herb in the breeding barn



HANCOCK DRIVE/RIDE



Laurie Goodwin pauses to enjoy the fall colors

In spite of reports of rain and cold temperatures those who attended the Fall Foliage event had a great time. The foliage was near peak and the riding and driving were spectacular! The color and the light was truly beautiful. Amy Sintros and her husband, Tom, said that she hadn't been on



prettier roads since her trip to Acadia. That was quite a compliment and, it's true, we have some pretty awesome roads and trails here in Hancock.

The Fall Foliage event offers several loops for driving and, in addition to beautiful dirt roads we added trails in the woods for riders giving even more variety.

Leslie Baxter heading out



Amy & Tom Sintros

PLANNING MEETING

The GSCA planning meeting was held on November 1, 2014. Many of the popular drives/rides will be back in 2015 and several new venues are being added. The group is also looking into co-hosting some unmounted activities over the winter. We welcome ideas on the types of recreational driving events people would enjoy and topics for unmounted seminars or workshops of interest. Contact Jean Harvey with your ideas and suggestions. (603) 667-1880. Winter is a good time to tune up carriages, clean and condition harnesses and tack, and kick back with friends who share your passion for all things equine. Be sure to check out the GSCA website for the latest news and event schedule.

OFFICER CANDIDATES WANTED NOW!

GSCA wants your help! YOU CAN SERVE YOUR CLUB... hold the reins for a while and help steer GSCA into the future!

Sometimes in a small, all-volunteer club it may be heard that "the same people run the club all the time." That remark may be true in some cases, but if this happens in GSCA, it can only be because "new" candidates do not come forward to volunteer and run for office.

The GSCA governing Board is now addressing the difficulty of finding candidates for office each year by proposing to increase officers' term limits (see below.)

What is the Board and its terms of office? Your club is run by an elected "Board of Directors" of four Officers and three Directors, who each serve 2-year terms. In 2007, the GSCA Board amended club Bylaws to establish "term limits." This meant that each officer, instead of serving an unlimited number of terms, would be eligible to serve for only two consecutive 2-year terms in the same office, ie. for four consecutive years total. Officers' terms are staggered to begin in even and odd years, to enhance continuity of leadership.

An amendment to lengthen this term limit is now proposed by the Board (as of November 1) to allow THREE consecutive 2-year terms. Members will vote for offices and on this amendment on the 2015 Ballot for the February Annual Meeting.

How many Board meetings are held? As spelled out by GSCA's Bylaws, the Board must meet four times yearly. One of those meetings is the Annual Dinner Meeting early each year, and another is the Planning Meeting late in the year. This leaves only two other called meetings to manage club business, plus sometimes one or more additional if needed. A quorum of five present is needed to vote on issues during a Board meeting, and a board member should not miss three consecutive meetings.

WHERE ARE THE NEW CANDIDATES??? This coming year, at the Annual Meeting, several offices are up for candidates. Most of the current board members will offer to run again if they are not terming out. However, often there is only one candidate for each office on the ballot. MORE CANDIDATES CAN RUN!! The club benefits from having choices!

Each position has many rewards in self-satisfaction and the opportunity to significantly influence our organization. Any club member can offer to run and can serve in an office once elected. The Nominating Committee each year connects with many members and searches for candidates to run. It is not an easy task to find volunteers, although only 8-10 regular meetings are held over two years' time.

PLEASE CONSIDER RUNNING for one of these positions:

President, for 1 year, to finish a term

Vice-President, for 2-year term

Treasurer, for 2-year term

Director for 1 year, to finish a term

Two Directors, for 2-year term each

Find GSCA Bylaws on our website for each officer's function-- granitestatecarriage.org under NEWS/RESOURCES> Library

Please contact for detailed description of office responsibilities, to decide if you might consider running--

Connie Moses cmoses@metrocast.net (Officer "job" descriptions)

Sonja Cahill rjcmoosecaboose@yahoo.com (NomCom)

Sue Booth mustangsofnh@yahoo.com

WHO WRITES THIS NEWS ANYWAY??

YOU WRITE THE NEWS whenever you wish! Anyone can send pictures, articles, tips, news, free classified Newsletter ads for club members, or Newsletter classifieds for minimal cost to non-members! The GSCA NEWSLETTER is where the club can SHARE and ADVERTISE monthly in a standard, savable "print" format, and all items of interest are welcome. The GSCA Facebook group is for timely, instant sharing and asking questions.

Share your comments and photos from GSCA outings and your personal accomplishments, or feature a new horse in your barn; share something you have learned from experience, or unusual website links, or ask others' opinions; share photos from any of your adventures and travels, or ask about good places to visit; share your horse-keeping tips and challenges-- whether backyard or boarded-- or seek advice from long-time horse owners.

There are many club members who cannot regularly participate in outings, and some might not be on Facebook, but they all keep in touch by following our Newsletter. Please speak out to everyone and share your thoughts and ideas! It takes only minutes to write down a blurb, and seconds to email or upload photographs.

For News in "print," contact GSCA Newsletter Editor Ginger Laplante at canterbrk@aol.com 603-783-4702

Also, connect with driving and riding group on Facebook-- request to join at www.facebook.com/groups/GSCAdriving/

And check out GSCA website for joining or renewing your Membership and all club details-- granitestatecarriage.org

SEARCHING FOR JOOMIA TECH

Our GSCA website is evolving, and we could sure use someone knowledgeable in Joomla. Connie Moses and Corin Brennan, GSCA Media Tech, have been updating the website content since its inception in 2012. Now we must learn much more than content management in order to update and maintain the site into the future. These efforts will require self-training and coaching in Joomla, including professional assistance at times. If you have website administration skills-- specifically in "Joomla" open source CMS-- or know of someone who does (friend, business associate, relative?)-- PLEASE advise Connie Moses 603-490-9694. THANKS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

By Liz Goldmann for her Morgan Horse Club Newsletter.

It was late December at a Christmas show, last class of the day and it was starting to snow.

A dozen turnouts had answered the horn with pairs and tandems and a unicorn. The paddock man yelled "I'm closing the gate!" when in swooped a turnout with a team of eight.

The judge shook his head and consulted his card, then flipped through his rulebook and looked real hard

For the section of the code, on which page it lay, for the turnout specs that applied to a sleigh

With a hitch of eight that were not equine...then with a flash of red nose
the hitch counted nine!



The whip on this rig was dressed for the night in a bright red coat and fur
lap robe tucked tight
Around his belly and over his lap, and jingle bells hung from the fur on his
cap.
Obviously he hadn't seen the "No Smoking" sign as he puffed on his pipe
while he guided his nine.

The announcer called "Trot" and the carriages glided while the gaze of the
audience was pretty one-sided
For the gent in red went around and around while it seemd his team didn't
quite touch the ground.
On the reverse the horses all got a look at the gleaming gold sleigh and
that's all it took
For the bays and the chestnuts, the gray and the black, to break to a canter
and refuse to come back.
They were snorting and pawing and a pair started to rear when the sleigh
driver shouted "You have nothing to fear."

"I got a little off course as I started my flight and decided to make this
show my first stop of the night.
"I'm afraid I paid no entry fee nor filled out the form and I know my sleigh
is out of the norm.
"In fact, no blue ribbons or some other prize, I've a sackful of goodies,
for all a surprise."
Then he lined up his hitch right beside the stunned judge, hopped out of his
rig and gave him a nudge
And a gaily wrapped gift from the pack in the sleigh while other entries
crowded 'round with a snort and a neigh.

Soon that jolly old elf had delivered his loot to each of the whips and
ringmaster to boot,
Then hopped back in his sleigh and to his team gave a whistle and away they
all flew like the down of a thistle,
But we heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight, "May your forty meter
circles all be round and just right."

Permission to use provided she receives copy of newsletter it appears in. liz.goldmann@frontier.com

FOR SALE

Pacific Carriage Dartmoor. Horse size maroon and black. Handsome, light weight four wheeled vehicle.

\$5000. Patricia Sanborn Barnstead, NH 603 435 7583. blackhorsefarm@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- DEC.11 CARRIAGE BARN FUND RAISER. Margaritas Mexican Restaurant. 93 Portsmouth Ave. (Rt. 108) Exeter,NH. 4-10PM. 15% of pre taxed food and beverage sales will be contributed to the Carriage Barn Assisted Therapy Program. Questions? (603) 378-0140, or www.carriage-barn.org.
- JAN 10 & JAN. 24 GMHA SLEIGHING COMBINED TEST. Green Mountain Horse Assn. Includes dressage & cones competition. Contact: Ellen Tully etully@gmhainc.org
- JAN. 11 & JAN. 25 GMHA SLEIGH RALLY Contact: Ellen Tully etully@gmhainc.org
- FEB.21 OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE ANTIQUE SLEIGH RALLY. Sturbridge, MA. Contact: 1 800 733-1830

**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



THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION

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*The Granite State
Carriage Association*

