

NDS NEWSLETTER



Promoting the Equine Sport of Carriage Driving

November 2023

Please join us at our NDS Christmas Talk and Tea

Who - The Northampton Driving Society
Date - Saturday, December 9
Time - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Where - The Ogden Farmer's Library
269 Ogden Center Road --
Spencerport, NY 14559

We will set a calendar for 2024, discuss the annual banquet, possible clinics for next year, and general ideas people want to share. **Bring a dessert or snack** (or just yourself) and ideas about future clinics/events that interest you.

Note – If you have items for the 2024 NDS Auction, you can bring them to the Christmas Tea, so we can organize them before the banquet. This is just an option, not a requirement.

ALSO – You can renew your membership at the Tea - \$25 individual; \$30 Family- See Audrey at the Tea- she will be the one in the beautiful hat.



Minutes of the Nov. 8 NDS Board Meeting

Members Present: Jerry Lechner, Reenie Romeo, Audrey Cooper, Dawn Ziegler, Tom Barbato, and Bob Brunsdon.

Treasurer's Report

Dawn reported we have approximately \$5,500.00 in our treasury.

OLD BUSINESS

Batavia: A night at the races was planned for November 18. See article below.

Christmas Tea: This annual meeting will be Dec 9 at Ogden Farmer's Library from 10-11:30 AM. Board members should get there around 9 AM to help set up. Refreshments will be provided – like last year – Reenie and Audrey will plan that part. Our goal will be to set a calendar for 2024, discuss the annual banquet, possible clinics for next year, and general ideas people want to share. **Bring a dessert or snack** and ideas about future clinics/events.

If you want to eat, RSVP to (585) 469-0128 or reenieromeo@gmail.com by Dec 5.

2024 Show: Gareth Selwood is confirmed as our judge. We need a board member to coordinate with Jerry as show manager. Contact Jerry at jer2251@gmail.com to discuss what this entails if you are interested in helping out.

NEW BUSINESS

CAA

The CAA has offered to print a ¼ page ad about our show for free. Reenie and Jerry will create the ¼ page ad. Nicole has given info to Reenie about it and suggested a picture to use in the ad. Reenie contacted a person from CAA to say we're will take advantage of the offer and contacted Bruce Jones about using the photo Nicole suggested. He granted permission.

Sad News

Our thoughts and prayers are in support of Terry Brooks, our show secretary, who lost her home in a fire.

Reenie moved that we adjourn. Dawn seconded

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41.

Next Board Meeting: January 10, 2024 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

2023 FUTURE EVENTS

DECEMBER

9 NDS General Membership Mtg-
A Christmas Tea Ogden Farmer's Library
10-11:30 AM Please bring a dessert or snack

2024

JUNE

23 – NDS Annual Pleasure Show

BATAVIA DOWNS WELCOMES NORTHAMPTON DRIVING SOCIETY

Twenty-seven members and guests enjoyed a night of harness racing and camaraderie in the clubhouse at Batavia Downs on November 18. We were seated at tables next to the windows overlooking the track, with easy access to both the buffet and the bar!

Leading Batavia Downs driver Jim Morrill Jr. won nine out of thirteen races. Most of his horses went off at low odds, due to his dominance as a driver and consequential ability to pick the best horses to drive. That meant that the best wagering opportunities were place, show bets and more exotic bets. One exception was Dennis Bucceri's win in the fifth race with "It's Pronounced Jif" (morning line 15-1) who paid \$74 to win.

Three races were timed in under 1:55: the fastest, 1:55.1 in the third race, won by Virgil N, a 7-year-old black gelding from New Zealand.

The sixth race was dedicated to our group and a handful of us braved the stairs and the cold to get our photo taken in the winner circle with Discus Hanover and his connections.

Everyone received \$20 in "free play" cards for the casino. A few parlayed these into profits!

Thank you, Elaine Jones, for shepherding Mary Crinean, Barb Crinean, and others through the casino and explaining the gaming machines!

Great to see you Laurie Drouin, Jerry and Grace Lechner, Frank and Judy Kraemer, Nancy Beaney, Maureen and Sheila Kingston, Tara and Donna Defendorf, Cheryl Yelle, Laurie Neubauer, Mary and Barb Crinean, Elaine Jones, Mary and Ron Hull, Patty and Conward Fulkerson, Dave Fanton and Terry, Sue Zuber, Amanda Cervini and Hannah Lenz!

OFFICERS

Jerry Lechner – President
Jim Knauer – Vice-President
Treasurer – Dawn Ziegler
Recording Secretary – Maureen Romeo

BOARD MEMBERS

A GROUP – Elected in 2023 for a two-year term.

Mary Crinean
Tom Barbato
Jeff LaDue

B GROUP – Term will be fulfilled at the end of 2023

Erika Martin
Audrey Cooper
Gareth Selwood

FYI – Hats off to our Dawn Ziegler, who gave a talk at the CAA International Carriage Symposium about the Granger Museum collection and Judge Joseph Cribb. Dawn is a wonderful resource!!

Horse Driving Enthusiasts Rejoice! Martin's Auction in New Holland, Pennsylvania Was a Huge Success-

By Gael Orr

Hundreds of horse driving and horse lover enthusiasts turned out to Martin's Auction in New Holland, Pennsylvania on October 20, 2023, and they were not disappointed. The auction was a buyer's market, with hundreds of carts, sleighs, carriages, and wagonettes for sale at the lowest prices one could hope for. In addition, many fun lower-priced horse-related items were also sold, such as saddles,

halters, bridles, bits, buggy whips, boots, shovels, rakes, and virtually every kind of horse-oriented home interior item you could imagine.

The event was truly overwhelming to the senses, with three auctioneers calling out items for sale all day long. But it was also super fun and enjoyable. If you're a horse-driving enthusiast, you won't want to miss Martin's next auction! Be sure to mark your calendar for Martin's next auction in the springtime when they release the auction date. It's the perfect place to find everything you need to enjoy your favorite hobby.

Where Driving Intersects with Sidesaddle By Gael Orr

My name is Gael Orr, and I'm a volunteer president with the WNY Sidesaddle Chapter of the American Sidesaddle Association, but I'm also a new member of the Northampton Driving Society. I'm super excited to be a new member, too! Some of you have taught me a lot about driving in a very short period of time. I'm fortunate in that I have three driving horses at home, 2 standardbreds, and one peppy little Welsh Pony named, Danny. One of the things I have observed is so many of our ladies that ride sidesaddle, also drive their horses. In fact, the number is close to half of our membership! I thought I'd share some things I've observed.

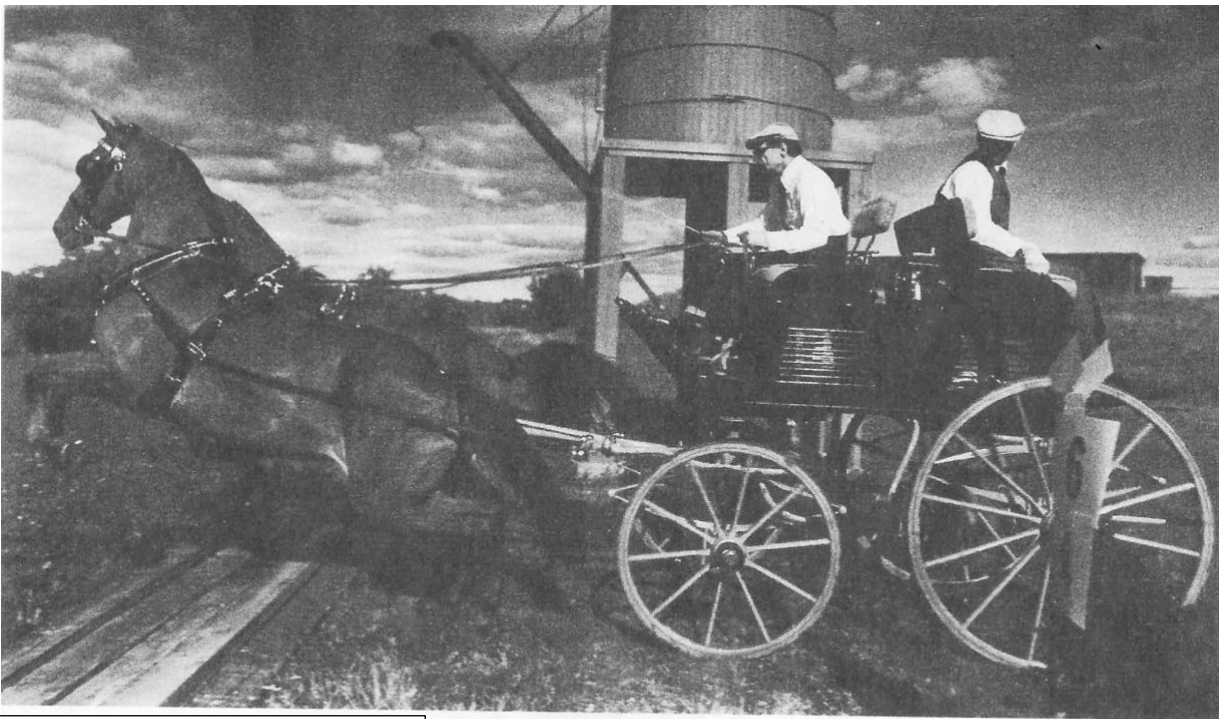
As a riding instructor, specializing in teaching sidesaddle (but also children English astride) I've found that nothing touches up the training of a spunky pony more than driving it. Obviously, ponies are way too small for me to ride, so driving becomes a great option. When my pony gets a little too sassy, I just hitch him up and drive him for an hour or so, over a few days' time, and he gets a whole lot more perspective. The result is my pony becoming much more respectful to a child's riding requests. The same is true of driving larger horses. As I get a little bit older, it's harder to hold a good riding frame for longer periods of time, driving my horse is a great way to touch up their training and is less physically demanding.

As for sidesaddle riding and driving, I'd be remiss if I didn't talk for a moment about one of the most widely used breeds in the sport of sidesaddle

riding, the Standardbred. Don't believe me? Head to Gettysburg this November for the Remembrance Day Parade and count the breeds- last year we had 20 sidesaddle riders in the parade and all but two horses were Standardbreds! This breed has really found a second career among sidesaddle enthusiasts because they have a topline more accommodating to older sidesaddles, which were built to stand the test of time. Many of our ladies ride in saddles that are 100 years old, or older! Modern horses have gotten bigger and definitely rounder, but the Standardbred maintains a topline that is more accommodating to narrower trees that often come with antique sidesaddles. The versatile breed is also extremely calm and willing to please and has often been exposed to a lot of stimulation on the track, making them far less spooky than the average horse. Calmness is definitely needed for the sidesaddle sport. And as sidesaddle riders don't ride with a leg aid (considering there is no leg draped over the right side of the horse) the ex-race sulky horse doesn't know what a leg aid is; therefore, they are quite willing to carry forward at the sound of a click or kissing noise from their rider.

Many sidesaddle riders are also engaged in historical reenactment, often requiring good quiet-minded driving horses. So, the versatility of the Standardbred, for those in love with historical reenactments, gives our sidesaddle enthusiasts even more than just sidesaddle to enjoy! Most of our sidesaddle riders keep to a slower pace under sidesaddle, but not all! Having another sport in which to engage the horse to keep it in good athletic shape, brings carriage driving to the forefront as another form of entertainment. While sidesaddle is primarily enjoyed by women, driving gives all of our members a way to participate in our historical reenactments and events. In WNY Sidesaddle Chapter, we have a lot of men in our club, and driving also gives them a way to enjoy horses, in addition to riding astride.

I look forward to learning more about driving. As a sidesaddle club, we have always tried to include driving as part of all of our virtual events because it's fun and gives our members another way to enjoy their horses. I'm hopeful going forward we can communicate Northampton's clinics, shows, and events to our club members for their participation, too.



Who's that good-looking groom on the back of that dog cart? Could it be one of our founding members? Read the caption to find out!!

Railroad tracks were part of the obstacle course at the Erie Canal Driving Competition. The driver is Harris Wilcox driving his Morgan pair, Long View King Pin and SHF Marshall Tucker, to a dog cart; the groom is Don Grentzinger. Mr. Wilcox noted that although his pair "walked casually across the track earlier that day during the marathon, they unanimously decided to approach it in a different manner during obstacle driving."