



The Carriage Courier

JANUARY 2012

Bob Matthews, Editor

507-824-3333

editor@stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org

www.stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org

FEBRUARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012

7:00 PM at the Scandia Community Center

Program: Renee Hogendorf will discuss Who are we when we arrive to work with our horses? See her biography elsewhere in this newsletter.

Goodie Assignment

Annette Boeser and Mary Lawrence

Deadline for the next newsletter, February 15, 2012

DUES ARE DUE!

It's time to renew your membership in the club. A 2012 renewal and waiver form are included with this newsletter for your convenience.

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

After an entertaining program put on by the members of our club, the meeting was called to order by President, Mary Lawrence at 8:30 p.m. Approximately 21 members were present.

Old Business:

The minutes of the December meeting, as printed in the Carriage Courier, were approved by Sue Lockling and Orphy Beattie.

Treasurer, Heidi Block, gave a report of the balance of the club's savings and checking.

A report from the Logo Committee by Bob Matthews - No new information has been gathered. Thus, tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

Marci Ukura asked if the club would look into fixing the metal music stand on the piano at the Scandia Community Center. The piano was used at the Christmas Party and the sheet music had to be propped up with a towel that evening. In addition, it would be nice to have the piano tuned. Since we do not pay a fee to use the community center, it would be a nice gesture of our club to get the piano fixed and tuned up. John Beattie will ask the city administrator to get an estimate of the cost of piano tuning and Joe Boeser will see if he can repair the metal stand.

Annette Boeser and Mary Lawrence will bring treats for the February 1st meeting.

Treasurer, Heidi Block, gave an overview of the 2012 budget. At this time our estimated expenses for 2012 is \$1,398. This will cover various club memberships, speaker fees, registration fees, and miscellaneous supplies.

Vice President, Bob Matthews, gave an overview of the upcoming events that are planned for 2012:

Renee Hogendorf, founder of Equine Defined, LLC, Techniques to Improve Performance with your Horse.

Orphy & John Beattie, Therapeutic Driving Demonstration.

Farming with Draft Horses

Safety Program

Roger Berg is having a sleigh drive on February 18th. Hook-up @ 12:30 pm.

The first Spring Drive will be held in late April near Almelund and North Branch, MN, hosted by Mary Lawrence and Arlene Swenson.

Other planned drives are: Eau Galle, WI, host, Raven Flores; Crow Hassen, host, Cherrie Rose; Drum Creek, hosts, Marci Ukura and Bob Matthews; Hugo, Sundown Shelter, host, Cherie McKenzie; Sebeka, MN host, Clark Anderson; North Branch, MN, hosts, Annette & Joe Boeser.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Swenson

WINTER CARNIVAL SLEIGH & CUTTER FESTIVAL UPDATE

According to weather forecasts there should be enough snow to go on the golf course with sleighs.

The contingency plan, if Mother Nature does not cooperate, is to go on wheels. We would travel a route that would take us through a residential area.

If you are not sure if we have enough snow by the 29th call for conditions.

John Block 651-433-5312

A BIG THANK YOU!

Editor's note: The Steve Wood letter that Cherrie refers to below is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who visited me in the hospital and at home, called, emailed, or sent cards and flowers. Your well wishes are appreciated. It amazes me how quickly the body can heal itself. It has only been a month and I am able to work part time with hopes of full time in another week or two.

I also want to send a special thank you to Steve Wood for his concern for me and his overall concern for the safety of the driving community. Steve did not need to write a

letter about the accident or research ways in which to diminish the likelihood of the bridle rubbing off again. Because Steve is the horseperson that he is, his reaction was to get the word out to the driving community on how to stop this type of accident from happening again. I commend Steve for his honesty and willingness to share what we learned. It is Steve's and my hope that each person who reads Steve's article will evaluate their own bridle for safety and take appropriate measures. My accident was the first accident that Steve has had in his 35 years of driving and training horses. I hope it is the last one for both Steve and I.

My sleigh will likely stay in storage for the winter as I continue to recover but come spring you will see me out with Willow and Lady. I can't wait to drive again. Happy Trails and Stay Safe! ~Cherrie Rose

THE FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Renee Hogendorf will be presenting a program at the February meeting titled "Who are we when we arrive to work with our horses". Following is a short bio:

Equine Defined offers a truly unique program that blends the art of Equine Touch, equine massage, Reiki and aromatherapy-specializing in horses with behavior and fear issues.

Renee Hogendorf, founder of Equine Defined, LLC has been providing services to the equine community since 1988. She is a graduate of the Minneapolis School of Massage and Equissage and is a certified equine and human massage therapist, and Reiki practitioner. She was chosen to receive the "Massage Magazine's" achievement award and scholarship for her work with horses in 2000.

Renee has also been a student of Jock and Ivana Ruddock since 2004 (internationally recognized founders of Equine Touch), and is a Level 4 Equine Touch practitioner. Renee has also studied with world-renowned Linda Tellington-Jones and the Ttouch methods of body work.

Over the last twenty years, she has also served the equine community as a riding instructor with focus on physical and emotional wellness programs for both horse and rider.

She is an EAGALA Certified Level 2 Practitioner, and a Certified Therapeutic Coach, Spiritual Coach, and NLP practitioner. In addition, Renee has been featured on a number of television programs, radio talk shows, newspapers and magazines. She has authored articles that have been published in over 50 countries and has traveled across the US and Europe providing services and instruction to both horse and rider.

For more information, go to her website www.equinedefined.com

THE ST. CROIX HORSE AND CARRIAGE SOCIETY HAS TALENT.



The title of this article was the title of the program at the January meeting. Marci Ukura came up with the idea and I must confess I was skeptical, but it turned out to be a

success. Who would have thought we have so much talent in the club.

The first participant was Julia Childs doing her imitation of Barb Long (or have I got that backwards?). Barb wowed the crowd with her skit – she had us rolling in the aisles with laughter.



The next act was Joe and Annette Boeser who dazzled us with

their performance of the Texas Two Step. They really put on a show with a lot of



different steps and twirls. They were great!

Next was Cherie McKenzie with her faithful dog Shamus. Cherie demonstrated how to make a harness for a dog out of an old draft horse halter. Then she showed how she harnesses the dog and trains it to pull a load. Shamus showed off by happily pulling his sled around the room. Cherie's dogs use this skill at home to help with the chores by pulling bales of hay to the horses. Afterwards Shamus made the rounds of the crowd to get



petted, what a nice dog.

Mary Lawrence was next with her repertoire of card tricks.

Unfortunately, the cards insisted on playing tricks on Mary. Maybe she can give us another card trick demonstration at our next



meeting.

Marci Ukura kept us all on the edges of our chairs with her excellent recitations of two poems by Robert Service. She started with *The Cremation of Sam McGee* and then by popular demand she

recited *The Shooting of Dan McGrew* as an encore.



Our last performer was the multi-talented Roger Berg, the club's original stand up comic. He warmed us up with a joke and then he switched to playing a tune on the mouth harp and then played another tune on the

nose harp.

After that we took a break for goodies and some socializing before the monthly club meeting.

It was a fun and entertaining evening

ARTICLE FROM STEVE WOOD AND CHERRIE ROSE

Following is an article sent on December 23, 2011 from Steve and Cherrie describing a driving accident in which they were involved. Both Cherrie and Steve think it is very important to get this message out to all people involved in carriage driving.

Cherrie and I had a driving accident and here's what we are doing about it.

This past Saturday Cherrie spent the first of several nights in intensive care at a hospital in the Twin Cities. While lying awake that night I replayed 30 seconds of the afternoon over and over in my mind. I have made several decisions about how I will change my driving routine to avoid a repeat of that 30 seconds in the future.

While thinking of what Cherrie might be going through, it occurred to me that I had read in a driving club newsletter that she had a new driving pony at my barn. We have been working on preparing a future CDE prospect for her. My immediate thought was that folks who hear of Cherrie's hospital stay would assume that Cherrie and her new horse had a driving accident.

That did not happen!!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED:

Cherrie was driving one of my teams to get some pairs experience. I was seated next to her. We drove a trail through the trees, out in open for a short time, and then came back to the buildings. Cherrie then made an expert stop at a spot where my teams have stopped perhaps hundreds of times. As I stepped down from my seat, I turned and walked to the back of the wagon to unload some cargo, but never touched the back of the wagon. In the space of a few moments my right hand horse reached over to her teammate and rubbed off her bridle, jerked her head up high, and immediately bolted to the left. The team, the wagon, and Cherrie were traveling at full speed away from me. They were headed for some thick trees where there was no trail. The team dove into the trees and turned a sharp right. The springy wagon seat ejected Cherrie. The team and wagon continued for about another 30 seconds, diving onto trails and off through small trees.

Seeing family headed for Cherrie, I ran to cut off the team. Now I have not tried to run this fast for about 25 years, add the winter boots and small trees, and I went tail over teakettle. I got up and started sprinting off in a new direction. The team was now headed across an open field. As I was getting closer, it was apparent that both horses were now without bridles.

They began to slow down, then stopped when I hollered "NOW STAND". I thank the Lord Above for that. Cathy envisions of a wall of angels. I can just see a row of stern faced winged

creatures with their hands pushed toward the team saying, “You shall not pass”. Stopping probably had little to do with me hollering.

They stood while I and two passersby from the road (more angels) disconnected them from the wagon and collected lines and bridles that were dragging behind them. They lead off fairly quiet when asked to walk and we went back to the buildings.

Family had called for an ambulance by the time I got to Cherrie. Having recovered from getting the wind knocked out of her, we began to concentrate on her tender knee and shin. The ambulance crew checked Cherrie, gave some ice packs, talked about her tender tummy, and drove away. So we sent Cherrie on her way home to rest.

Fast forward several hours.

Cherrie calls from the emergency room while waiting for an ambulance ride to the intensive care unit at North Memorial Hospital. Immediately after driving home, Cherrie experienced severe pain in her abdomen, called an ambulance and the same ambulance crew came to her home, gave her a ride to a local hospital where they found that her spleen was bleeding. Trees are a very hard landing pad.

By Tuesday, Cherrie had impressed many doctors with her healing powers and was already out of intensive care! Cherrie and I have discussed the lessons we have learned and want to share them with you.

Cherrie’s 9 year old niece hit the Lesson Learned nail right on the head. “If you don’t have the proper equipment for driving- you shouldn’t drive your horse.” I have a thought on equipment to propose to all of you, but first Cherrie and I have some procedural changes we will make that we want to share with you.

We both have learned that the groom or helper for the pair needs to go directly to the heads of the horses as soon as they stop. Teams will usually try to rub heads together as soon as they come to a halt. If I had stepped to the heads of the horses as soon as I got off the wagon, I would have seen them rub, would have scolded them, and put any leather back into place that the team had displaced. The groom needs to be quick. My team did not take 10 seconds from the command to stop until they removed a bridle, probably closer to 5 seconds.

A pair driver needs to be aware of the need and be prepared with line handling techniques to discourage heads from getting together. Any time in the future I go to a commercial job with a pair, I will have a helper stationed at the location where I expect to stop the pair. The moment the pair stops, the helper will be at the heads. No climb down time. If we do a parade, we will have two walkers. Parades always come to a stop several times.

Now for the equipment proposal.

Most of us have heard of the Gullet Strap. It can be used to connect the throatlatch and the noseband of most carriage bridles. It’s effective for keeping the bridle in place and I have recommended it many times. However most farm /draft bridles do not have a full noseband and there is no way to use a gullet strap. That is the case with my bridles. Then what do we do? We could add a noseband. However I feel there is an even better option.

About a year ago I read a magazine article that described remolding a farm bridle to build a double crown bridle. Now there is a harness builder in Iowa who is building new bridles with

this double crown available as an option. I bought one new pair of bridles for my most commonly used team a few months ago. This second crown has it's own throatlatch that can be tightened around a smaller area of the throat of the horse. This second crown can catch the bridle if the primary crown is pushed over the ears.

I have 10 bridles, so unfortunately I have not bought new double crown bridles for the whole herd. I won't use a single crown bridle anymore. Fortunately, this harness maker, and I suspect others also, make an adapter to add to your bridle to create a double crown bridle.

Jeff and Ginny Pomije at <http://www.bigblackhorse.com/equine.html> are my contact to the harness maker that builds these adapters. The adapters use a replacement brow band so you may need to do some measuring, but the additional security is well worth the effort.



Two views showing double crown bridle on



Two views showing double crown bridle partially off.

Note that even though the bridle's bit is not in the usual position, it is still in the horse's mouth.

Single driving horses are not immune to bridle removal. They can catch the end of the shafts, rub on trailers or buildings, or they can even catch a post on a hazard during a CDE. So please

add this double crown to all bridles. If you honestly can't afford one, I'll help you get one. I think they are a wonderful innovation.

Lesson Learned #1 ***If you don't have the proper equipment, you shouldn't drive a horse. Helmet, gloves, bridle, harness, and I am even looking into protective vests. It all makes good sense.

Lesson Learned #2 ***Helpers should get to the horse's head as soon as possible after pulling to a stop. Drivers need to be aware of line handling techniques that will discourage the horse from messing with their heads.

Lesson Learned #3 ***If someone brings an ambulance for you, go with the ambulance to a hospital and get checked out thoroughly.

On Thursday Cherrie was released from the hospital. She is on her way to recovery. It will take some time. CDE's and her new pony, Lady, are in the near future, and for that reason I may be the luckiest guy around. Praise the Lord for his army of angels and medical personnel that have done what they do best these past few days.

I will document the recovery process for the horses that were involved in this incident. I firmly believe they will be good and comfortable driving horses again. The challenges, reasoning, and progress will be in another letter.

Sing loud, talk to your maker, and have a blessed Christmas.

Steve Wood

Wild Wood Sleigh and Carriage.

FOR SALE

Buggies, carts, sleighs, equipment, parts, lots of miscellaneous every day things. Bob & Mary Taylor 320-396-2310 evenings.

FOR SALE



Portland Cutter has been sold. Wagon wheels, wood with steel rims and an axle, 57 inch diameter by 3 inches wide -- \$100.00 pair.

Gray mink coat size 10, 2 black furs 1 jacket and 1 coat size 12 -- \$20.00 each. Rita & Loren Conrad 651-436-8939.

FOR SALE



Bob Sled -- Custom embroidered Fjord seats, new box, dashboard, shafts, and pinstriping. Whip holder attached. Ultra high density poly on all runners to facilitate glide. \$3495. Call Susan Heyvaert, #763-479-1895.

THE FARMER'S WIFE

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?

Bob Matthews took a trip to Amish country for bobsled repair and heard a couple of tidbits that we call "Amish Philosophy". When complimenting David Yoder on his huge building; the reply was that the old building was so small, you had to finish the project before you could start another one. The new building is so big you can have 6 projects going at once but don't get any of them done. When discussing horses, David said they have 50 horses on the place and the bad ones never get lame.

Electric shock pads under the Christmas trees really do keep the cats off.

Sophie's boyfriend, Tucker, shows up on the deck about ten PM for an evening romp and a treat before bedtime.

From The Cannon Falls Beacon January 5, 1912

Clair Wilson, a Boy Scout, showed his mettle when he overtook a runaway team Wednesday, boarded the sleigh and did his best to slow down the team until assisted by a pedestrian.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mary Lawrence --763-785-2442

president@stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org

Vice President: Bob Matthews – 507-824-3333

vicepresident@stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org

Secretary: Arlene Swenson – 651-433-5518

secretary@stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org

Treasurer: Heidi Block – 612-875-1004

treasurer@stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org

Past President: Cherie McKenzie – 651-407-1908

pastpres@stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org

EVENTS CALENDAR – 2012

January 29 Winter Carnival Sleigh and Cutter Festival.

Eagle Valley Golf Course in Woodbury, MN. For more information, contact John or Mary Block at 651-433-5312.

February 1 club meeting 7:00 PM Scandia, MN

Program: Renee Hogendorf – Who are we when we arrive to work with our horses?

February 11 – Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival

www.sleighandcutter.org

February 12 – Paul Olson's Valentine Sleigh Party at Ogilvie, MN

February 18 – Roger & Joan Berg's Sleighing Party – hook at 12:30 drive at 1:00. For more information

contact rjberg@centurytel.net

February 25 – Sleigh & Cutter Rally sponsored by Riders In Cahoots at Itasca County Fairgrounds, Grand Rapids, MN. Trophies and ribbons will be awarded in many categories. www.ridersincahoots.com

February 25 – Kenyon Carriage and Cutter Day Parade

March 3 – Klondike Days Vintage Sleigh Rally at Eagle

River, WI www.klondikedays.org

March 7 – club meeting 7:00 PM Scandia, MN

Program: Panel discussion on safety with horses.

April 4 – club meeting 7:00 PM Scandia, MN

Program to be determined.

April 19 – club drive sponsored by Mary Lawrence and Arlene Swenson. Sunrise Road Drive near Almelund and North Branch, MN.

April 27 – 29 Minnesota Horse Expo

May 2 – club meeting 7:00 PM Scandia, MN

Program: John & Orphy Beattie will put on a Therapeutic Driving Demonstration in the parking lot of the Scandia Community Center.

Northwoods driving clinic with Suzy Stafford. Contact Candy Hankins kess@cheqnet.net

May 12 – 13 club drive sponsored by Raven Flores, overnight at Eau Galle Recreation Area. Pot luck on the 13th.

May 19 the 4th W&W Annual Carriage Festival. New Location: The Landing Shakopee, MN

May 26 – 28 Northwoods horse camping at the Bird Sanctuary in Gordon, WI

June 8 & 9 club drive sponsored by Cherrie Rose overnight at Crow Hassen. This is a combined drive with W&W.

June 23 club drive sponsored by Cherie McKenzie at Sundown Horse Rescue

July 20-22 club drive sponsored by Bob Matthews & Marci Ukura at Drum Creek Farm. Features a mini CDE, pleasure drive, and possibly a barn dance.

October 13-14, 2012 Minnesota EquiFest 763-421-5750