



The Carriage Courier

November 2012

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DECEMBER MEETING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2012



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE SCANDIA COMMUNITY CENTER

Social 6:30 to 7:00

Pot Luck Dinner 7:00 to 8:00

Meeting 8:00 to 9:00

More Social 9:00 to 10:00

Entertainment will consist of singing
Christmas carols with piano
accompaniment.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for
the Scandia Food Shelf.

Deadline for the next newsletter, December 14,
2012



October Membership Meeting Minutes

After viewing photos from driving events, the meeting was called to order at 8:50 pm.

Secretary, Arlene Swenson, requested approval of the minutes from the October meeting. Cherrie Rose made a motion to approve the minutes and Cherie McKenzie seconded the motion. Motion approved.

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

There was discussion among those attending that we consider closing the savings account as there is not very much money in there and that it earns such a low interest rate. Cherie McKenzie made a motion to close the savings account. Marci Ukura seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Marci Ukura, Barb Long, Bob Matthews presented information regarding the 40th Anniversary event in July. They found out that the owner of the Little Log House Show will not require owners of animals to produce Coggins papers. There was discussion that there might be laws governing the requirement of a Coggins test when there is a public gathering of animals. Marci Ukura offered to ask the owner as to who is bringing horses. It would then be

possible to contact the owners for more information. In regard to the printing of publicity, the flyers can be printed at any time. The plan is to work on the flyer shortly after the first of the New Year. Mary Lawrence offered to work on the design of the flyer and also work on the design of the pin and the flag.

Nominating Committee: Arlene Swenson reported on the people who have volunteered to be on the Board of Directors for 2013: Nominations are: Clark Anderson, President; Bob Matthews, Vice President; Barb Long, Secretary; Arlene Swenson, Treasurer. The election will be held at the December 7, 2012 Christmas Party.

Christmas Party - Barb Long asked what time we should start the upcoming Christmas Party at the Scandia Community Center on December 7th. After a little discussion of how it was done last year, the decision was to begin the event at 6:00 pm. In addition, Barb Long asked if we should bring an item for the Scandia Food Shelf. There was strong agreement that we should do this again this year.

Vice President, Bob Matthews, asked members if they knew of upcoming events. John Block said the Winter Carnival Sleigh and Cutter Festival will be held on January 27, 2013 at Eagle Valley Golf Club, Woodbury, MN.

Cherrie Rose talked about the summer drive at Cut Foot Sioux Horse Camp Forest near Dear River, MN. It is a very enjoyable drive and many club members gather there for the weekend. Cherrie explained there is much to do before the event to be sure

trails are free of fallen trees. She is considering taking on the organizing of the event and working with the DNR to make the trails available for use. Thank you, Cherrie!

Cherrie Rose made a motion to end the meeting. Cherrie McKenzie seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 9:10 pm.

The Farmer's Wife

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. That is the principle difference between dog and man.
Mark Twain

Stormy is enrolled as a student in the Steve Wood School of safe carriage driving. His driving boots are a big success as is his person, Arlene Swenson who practices with him every Wednesday. We hear a new cart is on the horizon.

Melena is fellow student at Wildwood, practicing the straight flat footed walk with Professor Jim. Her person shows up on Wednesday too, two weeks ago with a cowbell and last week with a tambourine being hit with a hair brush. Who'd a think that Ebay would be such a good source for noise makers in the noise desensitization process.



Clark Anderson needs to build a new shed, a big one for the increasing size of his carriage collection. Recently back from a

trip to Iowa; a vis-à-vis, a brougham, and a wicker drop front phaeton with a dickey seat (all cut under) have been added to the collection. Which do you suppose we'll be able to sample at next year's trek to Sebeka?

Clark Anderson went to Sweden again, we repeat, we think a new building is in order.

The road through the NE corner of Drum Creek Farm has been reclaimed. To accommodate the beaver canals, a new S shaped trail has been created with crushed limestone and sports 4 bridges over the canals. We'll see what the horses think of it at the 2013 Drum Creek Farm Fun Day and drive.

The "kids" have left home and set up housekeeping on the west side of Drum Creek Farm. There seems to be plenty of room for "expansion" that won't affect the trails. Could another Clemson Pond Leveler be in the future?

John Block is ambulating with a cane and looking great, just in time for the holiday season.

It's been great weather for November, especially for driving and a few of us have been taking advantage of it.

Thanks to Cliff and Marilyn Hitz, Karen Monson has entered the world of the light driving horse with a six year old Morgan gelding.

Paul Olson had a successful deer hunt in Wisconsin, does that mean there will be a venison dish at the Christmas party?

Crex Meadows Drive -- October 28, 2012

From Arlene Swenson, host for the day.

Photos by Arlene.

A party-cloudy, cool morning brought



members out for a drive at Crex Meadows Wildlife Bird Sanctuary, Grantsburg, WI.

Eight SCHCS members came with horses and carriages and crock pots at about 11:00 am. After a little socializing and getting the



horses adjusted to their environment for the day, the members assembled the harness and hooked up to their vehicle. We started out about 12:30 pm and traveled down the road into the park. On our way up the trail past Paul Olson's childhood home, we reminisced about last year's drive with Paul Olson giving us a historical talking tour of the area. We even took a photo of his home place. Cherie

McKenzie got to practice with her tiny pony. She usually comes with the biggest horse,



but today, it was the tiniest pony. What a cutie!

We found a new trail this year that went around the lake on the southeast side. The



unpaved, sandy trail wound around the lake and through the wooded area. The blue

water, green pine trees, brown leaves on the trees and ground along with the yellow marshy weeds, made a spectacular



backdrop to the horses and carriages in the foreground. It was perfect day for a drive. The horses loved the cooler weather and worked hard pulling us through the slightly hilly, winding trail. We also saw swans swimming in the lake. That was a treat.

At about 3:00 pm, we gathered in the mess hall and had a nice lunch of various soups, crackers, bread. Desserts included Halloween decorated cupcakes and cookies, and Halloween candy. Such a nice conversation and much laughter at mealtime discussing horses personalities, slightly scary incidents of horse/carriage mishaps, and thinking of those who were not able to be with us today. We missed you!

Thank you all for coming!

Driving toward a well deserved award

By Phillip Bock

Editor, Osceola Sun and Country Messenger



Driving instructor Orphy Beattie, pictured here with one of her students, has been awarded the international Sis Gould Driving Award for her work with the River Valley Riders. Photo by Phillip Bock

The year was 1998 when Orphy Beattie was asked by the River Valley Riders to host a carriage driving class for people with special needs. After 15 years in the position, Beattie is retiring this year — but her hard work has not gone unnoticed. Beattie is being awarded for her work as a driving instructor by the international organization PATH (Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemen).

Prior to her position with the River Valley Riders, Beattie, a semi-retired nurse, had attend several driving shows over the years, so she was a natural fit when the organization began looking for an instructor.

"It was an honor for me to be asked," Beattie said. "I had shown horses, and they knew I was real versed with horses."

River Valley Riders provides therapeutic riding and driving sessions for people with special needs. The parent company of the organization is PATH, an international company with a similar mission.

Beattie used her own horse, a 19-year-old Norwegian Fjord named Olaf, for the program. The cart, provided by River Valley Riders, was specially designed to hold extra people and wheel chairs. It was built special for the organization by Steve Waddell of Buffalo, Minn.

The craftsman donated his time, while monetary donations from the Scandia-Marine Lions and the Minnesota Horse Council paid for materials.

Beattie accepted students from mid April through October – often taking on the same students year after year. Classes were held Tuesdays and Thursdays, often at her and her husband, John's, farm in Scandia.

"We did it for 12 years at the Washington County Fairgrounds," Beattie said. "The last three years we've done it here on our farm."

The carriage and horse are set up to have two sets of reins. The student uses one set, while Beattie holds the other in case her expertise is needed.

"It's something they can do where they don't always need assistance with," she said. "We have a second pair of reins just in case."

Beattie was nominated for the award by Kathy Jo Hanson, a member of River Valley Riders. Hanson, as well as several parents of students, submitted letters to PATH explaining why Beattie would be a great candidate for the award.

"The heart of this nominee is filled with compassion and humility," Hanson wrote in her letter. "With a life-long career in nursing, this person 'semi-retired' to become our carriage riding instructor."

Parents of riders spoke of Beattie's kindness and positive attitude.

"Her kindness is not missed by my son, who has very limited speech," another letter read. "As soon as my son is done driving, my son says 'happy.' To me, this speaks volumes to the experience the nominee provides."

It was not long before Beattie received word that she had won the award. The official title of the award is the PATH International Sis Gould Driving Award.

"I was just awed by it, and I still am," she said. "I thought 'do I really deserve all this?'"

Her work with the students would not have been possible without the help of the many volunteers over the years, she added.

"I couldn't have done it without volunteers. It wouldn't have been possible," she said.

Beattie will head for Bellevue, Wash. with her family on Oct. 31 to accept the award. The PATH International awards banquet is scheduled for Nov. 1.

"Our daughter and son-in-law from Hastings are going with us and our son and daughter-in-law from Arlington, Texas are coming too," she said. "They have a banquet when the awards are presented."

The timing of the award is bitter-sweet for Beattie, who said she is retiring from the position after 15 years. She has trained Hanson to take the reins, though a new horse will be required for the program as well.

"Olaf is retiring with me," she smiled.

Beattie said she'll miss the volunteers, parents, and students who have been with

her over the years.

"These kids are in my heart," she said. "I'll certainly miss all these students, their caregivers, and their parents. You get really close to all these people."

For more information on the program, the River Valley Riders can be reached at 651-439-2558.

Kathy Johnson retires from We Can Ride

From the We Can Ride newsletter

One of We Can Ride's most loved instructors is retiring after 20 years of involvement with us. Kathy Johnson will be greatly missed and we wish her well on the next leg of her journey.

Kathy will be specially honored at our upcoming Annual Meeting potluck and silent auction along with our Volunteers of the Year. Please join us as we celebrate the amazing community of We Can Ride.

Tuesday, November 13 at the Minnetonka Community Center from 5pm-8pm.

I asked Kathy to answer a few questions about her time with We Can Ride:

1) How long have you been with We Can Ride (as a volunteer?, an instructor?, a site owner?)

I started volunteering in 1992 as a sidewalker, horse leader, barn aide, teaching assistant, able-bodied whip. I have also volunteered at: Chef's Dinners, day camp at Waconia, demos at Tanbark, fashion show, Polo events, Harvest Horse Shows, State Fairs, MS camps at Camp Courage.

I became a certified riding instructor in 2000 after the death of Don Hamilton in order to keep the driving program going. I

became a certified driving instructor in 2001.

In 2002, I moved the carriage driving program to Woodpecker Woods.

2) How did you learn about We Can Ride?

At the MN Horse Expo Booth!

3) How did you and your family decide to become a site for WCR?

For a number of years, We Can Ride was a guest of Pine Meadow Farm. After trailering three horses every week of class for three years, we enlarged the Woodpecker Woods arena in 2002 and were able to move the program there.

4) Are there any special stories that come to mind about your work with WCR?

We have offered hippotherapy, therapeutic riding and therapeutic carriage driving here at Woodpecker Woods. We have also provided a host location for some great staff retreats.

I am always amazed at the horses...their uncanny sense to moderate their behavior/speed and sense of responsibility to their rider/driver...making sure the clients are safe.

For example:

-I have seen a horse stop work when a client has a seizure coming and be ready to resume when the seizure has passed

-I have watched them listen for many minutes, with their head curled around a rider who is seriously talking to them...the horses understand when we humans cannot! Horses being very tolerate of the bouncy rider, their very busy hands and many volunteers around.

I also think of clients and their families that at end the class, realize they have had a lot of smiles, laughing, singing, humming and making new friends. Learning about their horse and themselves, social skills enhanced as well as the opportunity to participate in an activity that anyone can try. Seeing that very shy, non-communicative rider/driver blossom into a confident person when they have mastered that cones course or the trail classes...just makes me proud to help them on their journey.

Volunteers are the very core of our program...without them, the program would not exist!! We cannot say thank you to these very kind and generous people enough! So, I would like to again say thank you to all volunteers for We Can Ride....you do make a difference!!

5) What are three professional accomplishments you are most proud of?

-Providing a safe environment for the we can ride program to operate their program

-Providing a herd of Norwegian fjords to be used for all facets of we can ride

-Obtaining and maintaining my riding and driving certifications

6) What will you do in your retirement?

I will continue working in our business, Relay House.

At Woodpecker Woods, we are expecting six foals next spring...so we can't wait for that! Working with the young stock brings me a lot of enjoyment.

My friend, Linda Syverson-Kerr and I will be very active in combined driving events with my gelding, WW Reidar.

Plans are underway for the construction/improvement of the trails/hazards on our farm with the intent of hosting carriage driving events.

For Randy and I...some traveling...and working on some of the things on our bucket list!!

If you can't make the meeting and would like to contact Kathy, please call the office and we will connect you!

Trying a Trial

From Michael John Ridge

At this year's Minnesota Equifest, Steve Wood organized the first ever recognized Arena Driving Trial (ADT) in Minnesota. Similar to the continuous drives Steve has held at his farm, the ADT compares horses and drivers in several different tests of driving skill — a dressage test, a cone obstacle course and a course of cross-country type obstacles. All three phases were going to be held in the new judging arena at the Fairgrounds.

An ADT is supposed to be a very informal competition; we were allowed to use our training vehicle with motorcycle tires, competitors may wear jeans and sweatshirts in all phases and brass needn't be polished. Mary Jo and Paula Thompson thought it sounded like a fun event; so they each entered a horse and started planning outfits.

When we arrived at the Fairgrounds on Friday, it seemed like we were at a club event. The first people we saw were Candy Hankins (Northwoods), Joe and Annette Boeser (SCHCSI) and Kathy Johnson (Whips and Wheels).

We settled the horses in the stalls next to the arena (12'x12' metal stalls) after adding our own mats over the concrete flooring. Then, we hooked up and gave the horses a quick tour of the large new warm-up ring (next to the camper parking west of the arena) and the new Agstar Arena (bigger and brighter than the old judging arena) with the audience safely up on a balcony.

The first phase of the competition, dressage, was scheduled for Saturday morning. The American Driving Society has specific tests available to use in an arena that is smaller than a standard dressage ring. These tests were written for an arena measuring about 60'x150 so that they work in most arenas. There is a letter in the middle of each side and corner letters about 32' from the short side on each long side.

Anne Council was the judge. She began her horse career breeding and showing Morgans, but has been active in open competition in combined driving, pleasure and dressage. Anne gave the collective marks (gaits, submission, driver and overall impression) and an extended explanation of her scoring for the audience,

The second and third phases were scheduled for Sunday afternoon, but we were asked to fill in the time for a cancelled demonstration of horse agility. The competitors decided to fill in with more obstacle practice. Marc Johnson, our technical delegate, quickly designed four more cone and obstacle classes so that the audience would see agile horses even if they missed the horse agility demo.

After a long career working for other drivers, Marc has spent the last 16 years training driving animals and drivers, organizing competitions, course designing and being an ADS Technical Delegate. He was the major force in creating ADS Arena Driving Trials as a new version of Combined Driving. So, it wasn't hard for him to design a few short courses on the spur of the moment.

The second phase was marathon obstacles. These are driving tests through structures built of things like barrels and walls. Each competitor drives four obstacles and is timed through each of them; training level competitors must trot or walk only, but higher levels can trot, canter and walk.

Marc built some interesting obstacles using materials from the lumber yard. He said that the obstacles need to be constructed out of safe materials so they can be knocked over and crushed without hurting an animal or flipping a carriage. These were made of corrugated plastic sheets attached to PVC pipe or cardboard tube forms for concrete. He perched a lot of tennis balls on the elements of the obstacles to encourage careful driving.

We finished the day with cones. Each pair of cones was numbered and the direction to drive it was specified. Even though it was in the arena, you had to drive nearly a quarter mile to go through each set of cones in the right direction and in order.

Arena Driving Trials were designed to be a way to bring more people to Combined Driving, but this weekend was enough fun that I think this kind of competition may be

able to stand on its own. I'm willing to give it a try next year.

The results:

Driver	Penalties	Place
Preliminary Horse		
Joe Boeser	70.77	1
Preliminary Pony		
Annette Boeser	73.20	1
Candis Hankins	103.87	2
Training Horse		
Paula Thompson	81.12	1
Mary Jo Stockman	109.58	2
Steve Wood	115.11	3
Heike Lewandowski	116.60	4
Training Pair		
Matt Kautz	E	
Training Pony		
Laurie Christianson	89.95	1
Cherrie Rose	116.70	2

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

**December 7 Christmas party and election
5:30 pm at Scandia City Hall.**

2013

January 27th Winter Carnival Sleigh and Cutter Festival at Eagle Valley Golf Course in Woodbury, MN John or Mary Block at 651-433-5312.

February 9th Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival in Waseca, MN. Go to www.sleighandcutter.org

February 9th Columbus Sleigh Rally at Fireman's Park in Columbus, WI.

February 10th Paul Olson's sleigh event call 320-272-4490

February 16 sleigh rally in Brainerd, MN

February 23, Rider's In Cahoots sleigh rally.

June 1 & 2 Pleasure show at the Catalpa Corner Horse Park in rural West Branch, Iowa, 15 minutes from Iowa City. Laurie Renda 319-360-1078

Please visit the club website, www.stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org, for the current events calendar. In case of any changes to events, this will be kept up to date during the month.

If you know of any horse or carriage event, please send an email to editor@stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org to get it included on the events calendar.