



The Carriage Courier

May, 2010

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www.StCroixHorseandCarriageSociety.org

The May Meeting Program

from Marci Ukura

Mary Lawrence reported a synopsis of the coming drives for the season, the waiver and food policies are printed elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Isanti School House drive in May is open for people who want to stay overnight and drive both days. Water is not available, electricity is, and there is an outhouse on the premises. We will hook at noon and drive at one.

Cherie McKenzie reported that the Hugo parade is Saturday and we will be driving on Sunday. The options range from six to nine miles on quiet roads. Bob Matthews projected a picture show of Drum Creek Farm (the July drive) with his new computer gadgets. The trails on the farm are some flat, but many are up, down, and sideways hills. Steve Wood described it as an intermediate course, but everyone loved it last year. There will be a cones course in the driving arena and the obstacle course, complete with water hazard will be open. You are requested to school your horse in hand before attempting the water hazard. The same is requested before crossing the bridge. You will be expected to sign a farm waiver in addition to the club waiver if you are driving on farm property. There are five, six, seven, and nine mile options for road driving, most on gravel roads. All paved roads have wide shoulders that easily accommodate a single horse. Your hosts will provide beverage and tableware; just bring a chair and potluck offering. 31 year old Miguel will be available to give a lesson in driving for anyone who has never driven a horse and would like the opportunity to do so.

Clark Anderson stated that their farm is open for camping on the weekend in October and this author reports that it is worth the trip to Sebeka. One day will be road driving, the other will be on trails through Clark's woods. Clark and Patty will serve

pancakes on Sunday morning; we can bring sausages to share. A tour of the carriage collection is on the agenda with a bonfire for Saturday night.

Arlene Swenson, new member and novice host is expecting us in November. Parking is available on the road.

Check the website

www.stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org and the newsletter for the latest updates

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be in the Fall. Have fun with your horses, try to make it to the club drives, drive safely and take pictures to share with everyone.

The Farmer's Wife

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing -- Hebrews 13:2

The Farmer's Wife is shocked that she is quoting the bible but found this in a crytoquip and thinks it is worth sharing.

Discretion and pity prevents us from naming the person who read the restroom signs carefully at Expo, went in and was so happy to see that the stalls did not have doors, just shower curtains, washed her hands, then turned to face the little man who told her she couldn't be in the men's restroom.

Someone did their part for the economy at the Horse Expo and went home with a fabulous amber necklace. Someone else was more practical and went home with a new pair of leather boots.

Tensions were high in the coliseum when Andy Marcoux was putting the demonstration drivers

through their paces in the Dressage phase. One well known local whip drove his vehicle into a fence.

By now many of you have heard about the run away that happened to the SCHCSI member who holds the record for the most runaways. We must write a corollary to the Harlan Shull Principle, "If you are ground driving a horse and he takes off after you've lost the reins, it's a runaway". We've been assured that the story can be told in graphic detail to anyone who asks for a telling.

New members, Charles and Lind Mueller of Elkmound, Wisconsin, will be meeting Bob Matthews and Marci Ukura at the World Equestrian Games in October. Stockman's and Michael Ridge will be attending too, a nice contingent from our SCHCSI.

Mary Lawrence took the blue ribbon for best female costume at the Prairie Home Carriage Festival. She had a real cutie sitting next to her and their straw hats were all the rage. Mary also took a third for single horse

Cherrie Rose took the blue ribbon for best small draft and Willow was looking quite well coiffed. Cherrie said it was just horse shampoo, not bleach. Cherrie and her friend Sandy were decked out in colors that coordinated with those of Willow. The matching hats with contrasting colored feathers that wafted in the breeze were outstanding.

Jay Carlson motored down from Grand Forks to take a second place for best single horse and a blue ribbon for his particularly elegant Doctor's buggy. Needless to say the furthest distance award was his too.

Clark Anderson took 7th for single horse and a blue ribbon for most authentic turnout. They couldn't stay for the awards; Kajsa was suffering from the effects of stopping at a taco place on the way down.

Sue Lockling won a 5th for single horse and a second for draft horse. She also did her travois turnout, which we are told may appear in a publication.

The Blocks won blue ribbons for best pony team and best long ears team.

Marci Ukura and Bob Matthews took the blue ribbon for 4 passenger restored vehicle. Their second place for pair was astonishing until they realized there were only two there.

Saving the best for the last, new members of SCHCSI did very well too; Jeff Pomije won most authentic male costume, Jeff and Ginny Pomije won a blue

ribbon for single draft horse, and Jane Kittelson took a 4th for single draft.

The Farmer's Wife congratulates all of these members who helped make the Prairie Home Carriage Festival a successful and fun event.

Something Special

From Marci Ukura

St. Croix Horse and Carriage Society's founding and current members, John and Orphy Beattie have given selflessly to the River Valley Riders program for the past 13 years. Not to be forgotten is their trusty Fjord, Olaf, a part of the team that makes special needs driving a possibility for so many.

Orphy had a dream to give her long time student, John Blackford, the opportunity to show his skills at a show. Many waiver and releases later, it became a possibility at the 2nd Annual Prairie Home Carriage



Picture thanks to Pete Markham.

Festival. John took second place in the single pony draft category, doing all the driving of Olaf himself.

SCHCSI congratulates John Blackford for a job well done and blesses the Beatties for their devotion to the sport of carriage driving.

125 Years Ago

From the Cannon Falls Beacon Archives, April 10, 1885

William Mee, deputy sheriff of Rice County, arrested Ernest Babcock at his place last week on a charge of horse stealing.

For Sale

Standard size brown leather harness with halter/bridle combination, made by St. Paul Saddlery. Three years old, tried on for size, never used. \$250 Contact Mara Miletich at 651 208 8723.

The 2010 MN Horse Expo

From Marci Ukura

In years past, booths at the Horse Expo were not successful in promoting membership in our driving club. We've been loath to venture into that venue again. This year was quite different. With the Expo showcasing the events of the WEG, Andy Marcoux was brought in as a clinician, the ADS rented a booth, the CAA shared the booth, local events were promoted and a very successful venture was created with a lot of local volunteerism.

Members of St. Croix, Whips and Wheels, and Northwoods staffed the booth. The ADS sold eleven memberships; the CAA six; St. Croix eleven; and, Whips and Wheels two.

Andy's presentations were about the sport of combined driving and it was obvious from the traffic at the booth that there is a great interest in it. Susie Koos-Acker, Executive Director of the ADS is promoting dirty harness events; contestants come with dirty harness, dirty vehicles and the award for winning is a six-pack of beer. Will that attract the NASCAR crowd?

Local trainer Steve Wood is hosting Continuous Drive Events this summer to give local drivers a taste of the sport. If you haven't already received an email about this, contact carriagenews@frontier.com

Bad News

From Marci Ukura

In the process of reserving Lebanon Hills for our August drive, Sue Lockling was told that the park has decided not to allow carriage drivers to use it any more. Several new memberships were sold in southeast Minnesota on the basis of two drives being scheduled for that area. Not to fear, your board is working on a couple of possibilities for a drive in that area. Watch the web site and future newsletters.

Drives are BYO

From the Property Management Policy

Members are to bring their own chair, drinks, napkins and utensils for SCHCSI drives unless host chooses to provide some or all of these.

Hosts are to provide directions and maps to the drive, get the waivers signed and returned to the secretary and provide a serving table for the potluck.

SCHCSI Waiver Policy

In January, 2009, on the recommendation of counsel, and agreement of our insurance agent, SCHCSI adopted the following policy.

All SCHCSI members and family must sign the annual waiver form along with their renewal. A separate waiver will be signed by participants for events where a horse might be present.

The Secretary provides waiver forms to the event host who has waivers available for all participants to sign. All drive participants and guests sign the waiver before driving.

2011 SCHCSI Calendar

Cherrie Rose has agreed to put the 2011 calendar together for us again. Now that the drive season has started, please send your photos to her as soon as you get them. She will be working on composition all through the rest of the year and won't have to do it at the last minute.

Email your digital photos or snail mail regular photos to Cherrie at cherrierose@izoom.net or Cherrie Rose 24121 167th St. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309

Proactive Driving™ with Andy Marcoux

Andy Marcoux was one of the main speakers at this year's Horse Expo. I drove one of the demonstration horses. While this wasn't a clinic, he gave suggestions to the drivers on how to improve the performance of the horse. Most of the advice came from the principles he explained in his one hour lecture on what he calls Proactive Driving™.

When we drive, most of us look at what the horse is doing and try to fix what is going wrong. Andy suggested that this is backwards. Instead of reacting to what the horse is doing, the driver should act and get the horse to react. After all, it's the driver who knows what the dressage pattern is, where the next cone is or how to approach the cross-country obstacle. His slides suggested that the driver be looking thirty or more yards ahead of the horse to properly prepare for what the class or test or course would require. Instead of waiting until the corner and trying to correct the counterbend after it happens, the driver should prepare the horse to carry his own weight around the corner so that the counterbend never happens.

Schedule of Events

2010

- May 23 Open Drive. Victory Schoolhouse. Whips and Wheels and North Country driving clubs will also be driving.
- June 13 **Flag Day Drive at Itchin' Post. 16177 Harrow Ave N, Hugo MN.**
- July 17 **Drum Creek Farm Drive and Fun Day. 12181 390th St, Goodhue, MN.**

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