



DRIVING NEWS

Spokes & Spurs Inc Newsletter

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President's Message...

March/April NL happenings.

We had a wonderful time at our February meeting. Special thanks to Terry Shaw for taking the time to share tips about the proper cleaning, polishing and storing our harnesses.

We have many events planned for the 2025 season which I know we are looking forward to, especially after this past winter!! These events will cater to all levels of driving. Driving for pleasure or competing as well as introducing the world of driving to newcomers.

April 12 will be the CAA Proficiency exam to be held at Valkyrie's Haven, Paris, KY. We still have openings for this event. More information about this is available via <https://www.carriageassociationofamerica.com/driver-proficiency-program/>

May 10 - Valkyrie's Haven will be opening the farm for a Fun day of driving for our members. Please see attached flyer

May 16-18 - Charlotte's Creek will be hosting a CDE. Even if you are not competing, I hope that our members will be able to help out by volunteering.

Other events are on our calendar with details to follow in upcoming Newsletters.

You will also notice on the calendar some tentative dates for an, "Intro to Driving Workshop Series". This is a three part event that will be an educational event for anyone wishing to learn more about the sport of driving. At the Dec. meeting we had had some discussion about bringing on newcomers to the world for driving. We are still working on instructors for each phase as well as members who would like to volunteer to help out. Let us know if you can help out as well as what groups you think may be good to target for this series. Details will be announced as they become available.

Ann

CAA DRIVER PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

Driver Evaluation April 12, 2025

Valkyries Haven, Paris KY

The Driver Proficiency Program is based upon an increasing set of skills regarding safety and commonsense horsemanship as relates to driving. It covers choosing, fitting and maintaining the correct harness and vehicle; balancing a cart; grooming and care of the equine; and safe driving practices. A study syllabus is available for each of the three levels. The program has been adapted by the Carriage Association of America (CAA) from the well-recognized British Driving Society's evaluation program.

If you already care for your horse (pony/donkey/mule), harness it, put to the carriage and drive, then you are well on your way to being ready for Level 1 of the program!

To further your knowledge of basic driving skills and safety, you will need to do the following;

1) Order the Level 1 & Road Driving syllabus from the CAA (cost \$18.00 plus postage) www.caaonline.com or call CAA office at 859-231-0971.

2) Study the syllabus. If you drive, you will already know much of the material. Other information that you'll need to know is readily available from books or internet sources. Practice.

3) Although not required, taking a lesson or clinic with Driver Proficiency Instructor is very helpful! You'll have a chance to review your skills and understand more about how an evaluation will go. A list of Instructors and Evaluators is maintained on the CAA website (www.caaonline.com).

4) If you would like to participate in the CAA Evaluation at Valkyries Haven on Apr 12, contact Ann Katona at katdogpony@gmail.com.

5) When you are ready, submit your fee and application form for evaluation to the CAA and schedule your evaluation. The Level 1 and Road Driving evaluation takes about 90 minutes.



Driving Derby Day

Come out and Play on May 10, 2025

Fun for all levels of experience - drivers and equines.

A chance to practice and socialize with your fellow drivers.

9 - 12 am *Dressage by the Letters - drive a cones course on the dressage arena, from A to X in alphabetical order.*

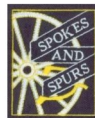
12 – 1 pm *Lunch sponsored by Spokes and Spurs*

1 – 3 pm *Indoor Obstacle Course – drive an indoor arena course of various obstacles*

Please RSVP by May 6 so we know how many drivers/crew etc to expect.

Email Leslye at leslyesandberg@gmail.com or call or text 847-602-7500

Farm Address: 487 Cynthiana Road, Paris, Kentucky, 40361



Intro to Carriage Driving Workshop Series

Add to your working knowledge in a series of teaching workshops, presented by local trainers.

Everyone is welcome. This is an excellent opportunity to expand your personal knowledge – particularly if you are new to driving or just interested in finding out more about the sport.

You can haul in for the day and drive the property as well if you like or take the opportunity to ask experienced opinions on your turnout or ask questions of other club members on equine/vehicle/harness.

Each workshop will start at 10 a.m., break for lunch then allow driving in the afternoon for those who hauled in.

May 24, 2025 – Harnessing – Carrie Ostrowski-Place

June 28, 2025 – Ground Driving – Jacob Arnold

July 26, 2025 – Vehicle Types and Hitching – Sterling Graburn

Asking for a \$10 donation per workshop to cover lunch

Please RSVP by midweek before so we know how many drivers/crew to expect.

Email Leslye at leslyesandberg@gmail.com or call or text 847-602-7500 Farm

Address: 487 Cynthiana Road, Paris, Kentucky, 40361



Spokes & Spurs Driving Clinic - Harnessing

Meet The Clinician

Carrie Ostrowski-Place uses her 25+ years of driving experience to help guide her clients to fully enjoy their equines whether their goal is to compete at the highest level or enjoy driving their horse safely at home.

As an FEI 3* driver, Carrie has experience competing both single ponies and horses at multiple levels. She has also trained pairs and worked for 4-in-hand drivers. Most recently she and her FEI horse, Gellerdüht (Gus), were on the 2022 US Single Horse World Championship team finishing as the 2nd highest American Driver. As a navigator she has done everything from helping clients experience their first CDE to navigate at the 2016 FEI Single Horse World Championships in Piber, Austria.

As an official, Carrie is an “r” American Driving Society Technical Delegate since April of 2022.

Carrie is a South Dakota native, now located in Lexington, Kentucky, most of the year and Ocala, Florida, for the Winter driving season.

Additional Achievements:

- 2022 USEF Advanced Single Horse of the Year
- USEF Single Horse Advanced Reserve National Champion 2020 & 2021
- 2020 US Single Horse Team Alternate

Educational Overview

Basic types of Harness Measurement and Fit

Leather vs Biothane Measure Chart – how to measure for harness

Fancy Show versus Performance Pony versus Horse harness

Cleaning, Care, Storage Adjustments while harnessing

Resources – Where and how to order

Safety Safety Safety

Tips – harness hanging nearby, cross ties, nose buckle halters, etc.

A bit about bits – basic driving bits

Hands on opportunity to harness

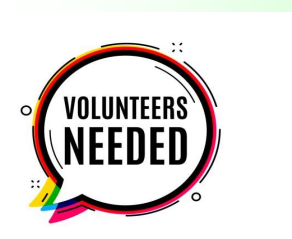


Volunteers Needed!! For the Charlotte’s Creek CDE & CT

May 16-18, 2025 Charlotte’s Creek Farm Georgetown, KY

You will be greatly appreciated and well fed!! Volunteer prize drawings throughout the weekend. All volunteers are invited to our competitors party Saturday night, catered by Red State BBQ. No experience necessary, we can find a job for you! All training provided!

To sign up <https://www.charlottes-creekfarm.com/volunteer>



February 9, 2025 meeting - Harness Care & Cleaning

Terry Shaw kindly joined us in order to share his knowledge and expertise in caring for our harnesses. Terry has a wealth of information, having started in 1980 with various aspects of driving. Notably Coaching in the USA and Canada. Terry has worked with beautiful turnouts; Hackneys, Gelderlanders, 4-In-Hand, Unicorn, Gigs, at prestigious events such as Walnut Hill and Toronto. This at a time when it was not unusual to see 12-15 coaches turned out. Terry has followed details of proper turnout & presentation traditions from over 100 years ago.

Some highlights of this presentation:

- With the Harness, one should never use the last hole; that is telling the judge that your harness doesn't fit properly as well as a safety concern.
- Cleaning the harness removes Mud, Sweat, hair, etc. Use warm water and a sponge with Murphy's Oil soap to cut through the grime.
- Polish the Harness with a good wax shoe polish. Best method is elbow grease! If one's harness is conditioned well it is easier to clean.
- Condition with Saddle Soap; take the harness apart and also check stitching. Document the hole setting (count the holes from the point and jot this down on a piece of paper as you take the harness apart)
- Keep a nail on a string with your cleaning kit-use this to keep the holes free of dirt and any saddle soap, etc.
- Clean the Brass - A couple of good brass products are Brasso as well as Flitz. If you clean the brass first, then the harness, you will clean off any excess brass cleaner that you do not want left on the harness.
- With a Black harness obviously use black shoe polish & buff with a horse hair brush. For a Russet harness, use clear Shoe polish. Care must be taken to not change the color of a russet harness. (If you want to see a lovely russet harness, visit the CAA office)
- Patent Leather - Pledge or Windex to shine. Although Terry pointed out that Pledge may leave an iridescent glow to the Patent. You cannot condition Patent so be sure to watch for cracks on Patent.
- Harnesses are best stored on proper hangers that keep the shape of the harness correct. You also don't want too warm of a room as this is drying to the leather. Terry also commented that it is important to take your harness completely apart several times a year. Not only does this ensure that it is very clean but just as importantly it is the best way to examine every piece of harness in order to observe that the harness is not in need of any repairs. It was also pointed out to never dip your harness in an oil bath. This saturates the leather and you will never be able to obtain a good polish to the leather once that it has been saturated with oil. Remember, leather "breathes".

A leather harness will last many years (the Russet harness on display at CAA is over 100 years old). My first two harnesses are leather - one for every day and one for show with patent & brass. Both of these leather harnesses are over 30 years old and are still in excellent shape. I know that many of us use synthetic harness due to ease of hosing off but these harnesses also don't maintain a nice shape that is formed when using day after day on your horses or ponies. Not to mention there really is something to take pride in with a beautiful, clean properly presented leather harness. I'll also add that I did purchase a synthetic harness in 2003. Recently, my husband commented as to how good that harness looked. Well... over the years I have had to replace pieces and parts; the hip strap, the saddle, etc. So, while it does look good and I keep the harness clean it essentially has been replaced piece by piece over the past 22 years. Unlike my leather harnesses which are still original.



Spokes and Spurs 2025 Calendar		
Date/Time	Description of Event	Location
Mar 13-16	Live Oak International	Live Oak, FL
April 3	Southern Pines CDE & CT	Raeford, NC
April 12	Aiken Carriage Classic	Aiken, NC
April 17-20	Katydid CDE	Tryon, NC
April 12	CAA Driver Proficiency Program Level 1 and Road Driving	Valkyries Haven Paris, KY
April 12	Aiken Carriage Classic	Aiken, SC
May 2	Carriage Classic in the Pines	Southern Pines, NC
May 10	Fun Day-Driving Derby 9:00am-3:00pm	Valkyries Haven, Paris, KY RSVP leslyesandberg@gmail.com
May 10	Carolina Carriage Club DT & CT	Mooreboro, NC
May 16-18	Charlotte's Creek CDE & CT	Charlotte's Creek Farm Georgetown, KY
May 24 Part 1 Tentative	Intro to Carriage Driving Workshop Series-Harnessing, Carrie O	Valkyries Haven Paris, KY
June 7	MHDVA Blue Ribbon Driving Show	Ionia, MI
June 13	Midwest Carriage Festival & CY	Elkhorn, WI
June 14	Spokes & Spurs Pleasure Fun Show	Coach House Farm Paris, KY
June 28 Part 2-Tentative	Intro to Carriage Driving Workshop Series-Ground Driving	Valkyries Haven, Paris, KY
July 19	Spokes and Spurs Fun Drive & Cookout 1pm	Charlotte's Creek Farm Georgetown, KY
July 26 Part 3-Tentative	Intro to Carriage Driving Workshop Series-Vehicle Types & Hitching	Valkyries Haven, Paris, KY
Aug. 29 - 31	Suzy Stafford Clinic	Charlotte's Creek Farm Georgetown, KY
SUMMER TBD	Spokes & Spurs Youth Drive	TBD
Sept 5-7	Villa Louis Carriage Classic	Prairie du Chien, WI
Sept 18-21	Tryon Fall CDE	Tryon, NC
Oct 7-12	National Drive Fall Drive	Hoosier Horse Park, Edinburgh, IN
Oct 17-19	Nashoba Carriage Classic	Germantown, TN
Oct TBD	Halloween at the Haven DT & CT	Valkyries Haven Paris, KY
Dec TBD	Annual Spokes & Spurs Meeting	TBD

Spokes and Spurs Library

Spokes and Spurs has a nice little library available to our members. Let Ann Katona know if you would like to check-out anything.

*American Carriages, Sleighs, Sulkies and Carts 168 Illustrations from Victorian Sources! Edited by Don H. Berkebile

*American Horse-Drawn Vehicles - Being a collection of 218 pictures... Jack D. Rittenhouse

*Bending the Driving Horse Muffy Seaton

*Breaking a Horse to Harness - A Step by Step Guide Sallie Walrond

*Bristol Wagon & Carriage Illustrated Catalog, 1900 Bristol Wagon & Carriage Works Co. Ltd.

*Carriage Driving - A Logical Approach Through Dressage Training Heike Bean and Sarah Blanchard

*Discovering Horse Drawn Carriages D. J. Smith

*Driven Dressage with the Single Horse Sandy Rabinowitz

*Driver Proficiency Program - Level I and Road Driving Syllabus The Carriage Association of America

*Driving a Harness Horse - A Step by Step Guide (A sequel to Breaking a Horse to Harness) Sallie Walrond

*Driving for Pleasure or The Harness Stable and its Appointments Francis T. Underhill

*The Encyclopedia of Driving Sallie Walrond

*The Essential Guide to Carriage Driving Robyn Cuffey and Jaye-Allison Winkel

*Fundamentals of Private Driving Sallie Walrond

*Horse-Drawn Vehicles at the Shelburne Museum Kenneth Edward Wheeling

*Illustrated Catalogue of Carriages and Special Business Advertiser / G. & D. Cook & Co.'s Forward by Paul H. Downing

*Walnut Hill: A Grand Celebration of the Horse & Carriage Robert Lannazzi; Photographer. Bill Remley; Commentator

Did You Know.....

***Spokes and Spurs
members may post
classified ads for free!***

***Send ads to
dunhorse1220@gmail.com.***