

A WONDERFUL DAY
OF DRIVING AT
SHAKER VILLAGE
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2021
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NEWSLETTER

David Gaston, Publisher and Editor

President's Message

Wow! Where did this year go? 2021 seemed to have flown by. I'm sure that we all were looking forward to realizing some form of normalcy after 2020 with COVID. I feel that Spokes and Spurs members were able to safely enjoy many events this year. I cannot thank our farm hosts enough for opening their farms to our members. We also have been so fortunate to have great clinicians help us to progress with our training. I'm very proud of what so many of our members have accomplished in 2021. Besides COVID, many of us faced challenges of various degrees. We will be sharing some of our members accolades from this year.

I love that this club has members competing at every level from Training through Advanced. I also know that it's not only about competition. Quite often the ground work at home, a trail drive with friends, a local parade, etc. can be so rewarding.

We tentatively have our annual club meeting scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 5 at 1:00. This is to be held at the CAA office at the Horse Park. I'm not 100% sure of this due to the Delta variant, etc. with COVID but we will keep you posted. The board will be having a meeting in November to complete planning events for 2022. I'm so excited for what we already have in the works for 2022!! Thank-you to all who have contributed so much to Spokes and Spurs!

Ann Katona



Fall National Drive

by Ann Katona, President

Another event that many of our members attended recently was the National Drive. As usual we had a great time!!

The event is held at the Hoosier Horse Park in Indiana. This park is so welcoming to drivers of all levels. The organizers had so much planned. Our own Lenny Courtemanche laid out several, well marked trails throughout the park. From leisurely, scenic drives to a route that followed the obstacles



from the recent CDE. The cones course was changed every day and a dressage arena was also available. Add to this other fun driving opportunities; BINGO cones, a Driving Derby, and Tacky Turn out (like a pleasure class except drivers are quite creative with their outfits!)

Tracy Raikes

As if this all wasn't enough there were continuous presentations and clinicians available for private lessons. This event presents such a great opportunity for drivers and their horses.

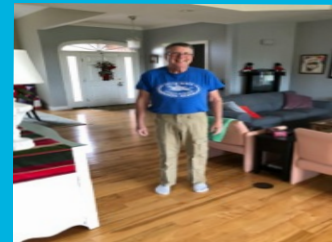
Linda Freeman



A Change on Our Board and Thoughts for Kathy

by Ann Katona

*Our Vice President, Christy May, took on a new job. This job requires more weekends therefore Christy has not been able to be active in the driving world. While we miss Christy she has resigned as VP. David Gaston was kind enough to step into the position. Per the club bylaws the board has voted to have Dave as our new Vice President. **Thank you, Dave.***



Please lift Kathy Courtemanche up in your thoughts. She had knee surgery on October 25.



Ann Katona

A Wonderful Day of Driving at Shaker Village

by David Gaston

Our traditional Autumn drive/ride at Shaker Village was originally scheduled for Saturday, October 16, 2021. Due to wet and somewhat flooded sections of the trails, Shaker Village Equine Management requested us to move our activity to the following weekend of October 23. Many of us worried that moving the drive/ride would hurt attendance, as well as there were doubts that the weather would not be much better. Though a chilly and foggy start, the day turned out to be absolutely beautiful!



Linda Freeman, Our Leader



Linda and Van Sudduth



Charlie and Diana Friebert with their new pony



Pam and I took our ponies Suzy Q and Scooter. We paired off on our own since Scooter, who has some trust issues, is wary of anything behind him. Pam drove Suzy and Leslie Cashion drove Scooter, with yours truly navigating. He did everything splendidly as long as he followed Suzy. We had a lot of good laughs when Leslie would try to get him to lead. He would walk on while turning his head back to make sure Suzy was there. Since all our hands were busy and we went on our own, we didn't get into the photos.

We returned before the others, getting the experience of watching all others come in. Everyone was delighted. Bob and Esther Vance reported that their horse, Buckeye, wanted to lead. Our esteemed guide, Linda Freeman encouraged the Vance's to go ahead.

Bob and Esther Vance with their leader, Buckeye

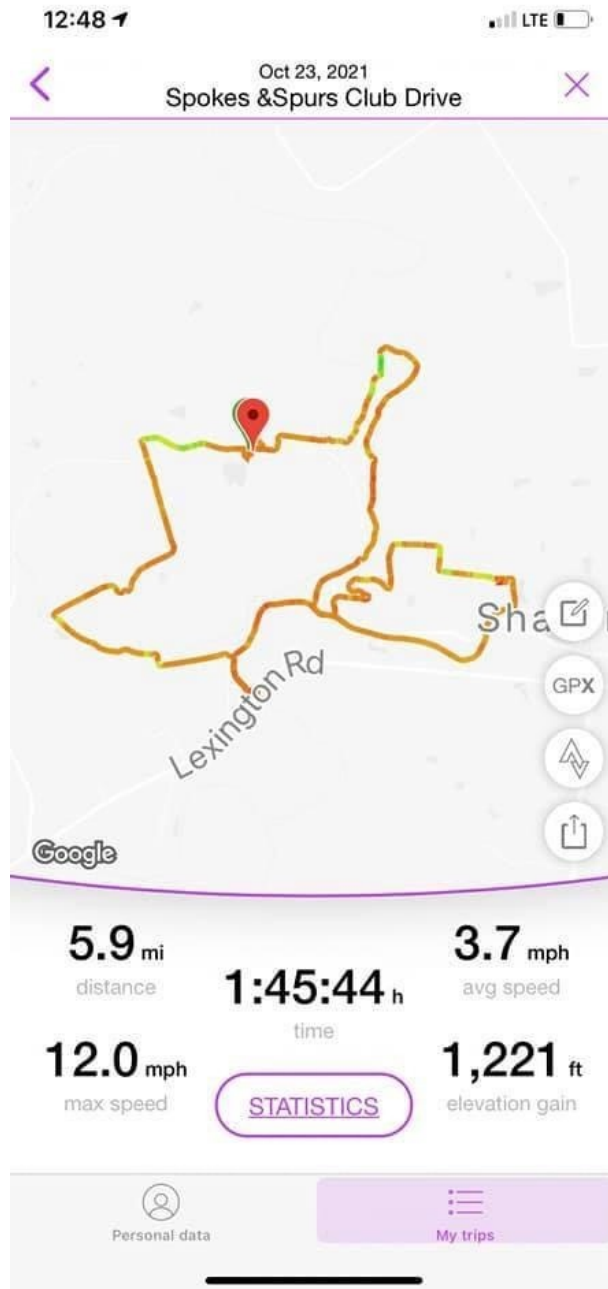


After the drive (no riders this year), we all met back at the barns to have a terrific time getting to socialize while we ate lunch. Cindy and Hugh Bellis-Jones got a call while they were returning to the barns to hurry home because the farrier was coming to their farm, so they missed lunch with us.

Cindy and Hugh Bellis-Jones with Kansas



Liz Skelton went high tech and furnished us a map and details of the day's drive. (My apologies to Liz. I could not get her picture at the drive to transfer to this Newsletter.)



Stories and Achievements by Our Members

We are so proud of our members. To help highlight this so other members will know what is going on, we would like to include stories and achievements from our members in the Newsletter and on our Website. Please send us your stories, awards, achievements, and even humorous incidents so that we may include them in future issues.

Perseverance Is The Key!

by Deborah Lawrence

My journey with O.P. (Top Secret 53) began with a rollover incident that stripped my confidence and scared him to death. He was very new to me at the time, and while he was not injured, he was a mental basket case and it took about three years to get him back on an even keel. I WAS injured, and while I wasn't afraid to get back on the carriage with my more seasoned pony, it was almost a year before I got behind OP again. We spent most of that time relearning ground work, and desensitizing.

He went to Florida with us the first time in the winter of 2016. We spent three months working up to getting him hooked and into the covered arena on the farm without incident, and working him in the deep footing there, which helped slow down his spook-ability and wear him out faster. We counted ourselves lucky that nobody died, as he was really not safe to drive at that point. We got him out to a couple of shows at training level that summer, which were terrifying, and then back to Florida in 2017 where things started to get a little bit better. He was spooky, nervous, reactive, and had the power of a rocket. When things went south it happened fast, and it was nerve wracking to say the least. That summer we managed to do several CDEs with him, and it began to look like we might be able to pull it off after all. The key to him was consistency. He always needed to know when and how things would happen, and his security was in the routine. Every little detail of it. He was afraid of the carriage chasing him, afraid of shadows on the ground, and generally afraid of things we never even figured out. But he was not afraid in obstacles, and he loved cones. I think he got caught up in the fun of it. So, in 2017 he did quite well at preliminary level, and ended up being the USEF Horse of the Year. I didn't even know we were in the running until they announced the awards, and a friend sent me congratulations!!!

We were fortunate enough to get into the Developing Driver program sponsored by USEF, and had numerous clinics with Thorsten and Olof, among others, which all helped to figure him out. I moved him up to Intermediate in 2018 probably before he was really ready, because he seemed to need the challenge of more difficult movements in dressage to keep him mentally engaged. And obstacles and cones were never a problem. He has had very few balls down in cones or time penalties either for that matter. He LOVES cones and is totally focused when we are on course.

In the process of asking for more from him, we discovered a few things. He was never perfect (so few of them really are) as we knew from the beginning that he had a clubby front foot, and limb length disparity, which led to a very undeveloped left shoulder and a lot of bad habits he had developed to try to keep from using it properly. We had a lot of trouble with right turns, and had no left lead canter for a couple of years. With corrective shoeing and development of the shoulder, most of that disappeared, but it didn't happen overnight. And once we started asking for more, we noticed a lameness that only appeared in harness and not on the lunge line. A bit of close investigation uncovered an old broken jaw that had healed badly, It left him with a super sensitive area right where the bit sits on the bar of his mouth, and it would get sore and he would show rein lameness. The only solution we could really find was to use a bit lifter, to keep it from ever touching his jaw. It works, but it is a bit like driving him in a hackamore, because there is no jaw or tongue pressure, that can be

challenging, with a sensitive, slightly hot pony!!!! Especially on marathon. But, it seems to have solved the problem, it just makes contact difficult for dressage.

By the end of 2018, we had figured most of it out, and he had a very good year, culminating in Garden State in October, which was the USEF Intermediate National Championship that year. He did not have a great dressage test, partly because the arena is in the middle of the marathon course (!!!), but he was super on marathon. We were behind by less than 3 points going into cones, and he absolutely rocked a difficult and challenging Barry Hunter course for a double clear round (11 seconds under the allowed time), and won the championship. What a moment that was! I've never been more proud of him.

He won ISP at Grand Oaks in January 2020, and then turned in a solid performance at Live Oak, showing all kinds of bravery in those obstacles. We had one ball down in cones, but made the time. He was a rockstar, from beginning to end, in a very atmospheric situation. We tested the waters of Advanced at Florida Horse Park in February 2020, knowing that the World Championships in France were only about 18 months away. We just did the combined test and it was a big jump from Intermediate to Advanced, particularly in dressage. We didn't try it again until Tryon in the fall of 2020, where he had no competition in his class, but turned in a respectable performance and got his first qualifying score. He got his second one at Grand Oaks in January 2021. We had him entered at Spring Fling, where he came up lame in the dressage warm up. That turned out to be a horrible abscess in his hind foot, and he missed about 8 weeks of work. We had to bring him home to Rood and Riddle to get the help he needed. Of course that meant he missed Southern Pines and Tryon, both of which were on our agenda, and left us with only about 3 and a half weeks of solid work to get him ready for Kentucky Classic. We knew we had to compete to have a chance at getting selected for the WC's.

He was not quite ready, but he was super game. He won the dressage, was second in marathon (a course correction thanks to a momentary driver lapse didn't help), and also won the cones, which left him in second place overall. We were so proud of him. And best of all, he won the best conditioned horse award!!!! Shocking, especially considering that it was the first long format CDE he'd done in a year, since so many events were using the controlled warm up.

We were thrilled to be selected as the alternate for the World Championships, and even more excited when we were moved up after Jennifer Keeler dropped out. Unfortunately, due to Covid and travel concerns, none of us could figure out a way to safely get there, so we made the heartbreaking decision to withdraw. But we reached our goal of making a team!

I think the real message to take away from OPs story is that persistence is what really matters. He had so many things to overcome, and there were so many people who gave up on him, but determination and dedication go a long way, and it all takes a lot of time and patience. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything and it has taught me so much I can't begin to explain. You just have to keep moving forward.





A Great Year for Buckeye!

submitted by Bob Vance

It has been an impressive year for Bob Vance and Buckeye. In the past 12 months Buckeye was ADS Reserve national champion preliminary single horse (psh) at Tryon, second at Spring Fling CDE at the Florida Horse Park, USEF Reserve National Champion (psh) at the Grand Oaks CDE, the Florida State Grand Champion (psh) at Grand Oaks Live CDE, and then Buckeye moved up to Intermediate level taking first at the Black Prong HDT. Bob wishes to extend a heartfelt thanks to Carrie Ostrowski for coaching and navigating!!

2021 Was an Awesome Summer for Me

by Nancy Dozier

I finally got my DHH/Morgan (past Amish horse) horse to his first CDE ever! He's been my three year project and I think he's coming along nicely.

Our first CDE was Metamora (August) both the Training Single Horse CT & CDE. We placed 2nd in each; won the CT dressage for our first dressage competition ever!! We did a great job on the marathon course as well; finished with smiles and had a better idea of a trotting pace.

Our second CDE was Indiana (September) both the Training Single Horse CT & CDE. We got 1st place in the CT dressage with a 50.50 dressage score!! Our cones performance brought us back down to earth....for a finish of 75.50....BUT WE FINISHED !!! We came in 2nd in the CDE here, too. I am OVER THE MOON with my horse's performance and willingness to enjoy his new driving game!

Against All Adversity

by Ann Katona

I was so excited to be able to compete this year! Its been a few years since I have been able to compete. Not to mention, I had LRTI surgery on my hand at the end of 2020 (At a future Spokes and Spurs meeting we will be talking about the topic of hands and arthritis, etc. as it pertains to driving). In my particular case it took a village to get me ready for competition. So many people, in this club, helped me to be able to work my Pony consistently. We competed at the Indiana CDE which is a marvelous event! The ICDE is well organized, has relatively flat terrain, and I was familiar with the grounds from competing in years past with other horses. Cody is a Large Pony and I was thrilled with his performance! We ended up in 2nd place at Training level and he showed me that we definitely are ready for Prelim at the next competition. Thank-you to everyone who helped us along the way!





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Membership for 2022 is Around the Corner

If you haven't joined this year or would like to refer a friend, the form is on line with directions for submitting your payment on the form. Any new member that joins in October through December will get a bonus! Your membership fee will cover that remaining part of 2021 and your membership will cover you for the whole year of 2022! Be sure and write down the address for payment before you submit the online form. Memberships are not in effect until your payment has been received. If you don't wish to sit and type the site into your browser, you may find the site to click on through Spokes and Spurs Facebook site or our website: www.spokesandspurs.com For 2021 membership, go to:

<https://fs20.formsite.com/6owStr/9gxkgrwfqa/index.html>

Spokes and Spurs Has a Library for You to Check Out

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

Title Author American Carriages, Sleighs, Sulkeys 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 Iannazzi; Photographer. Bill Remley; Commentator

Schedule of Events

Exciting plans are being made for 2022. Details coming in December!

Proposed Date	Activity
December 5 1:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting, Pot Luck, and Elections (Tentative depending on COVID warnings.)
Beginning in June and then monthly:	Thorsten Zarembowicz Clinics at Coach House Farm
June 23-25	Lexington Carriage Classic at the Kentucky Horse Park

All of the above dates and details can be subject to change, mainly due to weather! In the event of changes, we will notify the membership as soon as possible through email, Facebook, and our Website.

Find us on-line at www.spokesandspurs.com

This is Your Newsletter!

Please send us any equine activities, news, and your achievements! Whenever possible, include photos. We will also list at no charge to members any equine ads. For example, we will accept ads for selling carriages, horse trailers, horses or ponies or especially tack and equipment. In the past, members placed ads on Facebook which unfortunately sometimes didn't allow our members first crack at it. Obviously, if you are in a hurry to list something, still use our Facebook site. If you have time, send us your listing and photos.

We also invite articles written for the Newsletter. Many of you are talented writers and have great information to share with others. These articles should be about riding or driving tips, repair of carriages, horse equipment, and farm equipment. We also invite humorous articles that bring joy to our lives about your equine or farm experiences.

We would love to have pictures of your favorite pets and scenic pictures of your property. When we receive these pictures, we will include as many as possible in order that we receive them. If so many pictures are received, we will notify you which issue your photography will appear.

We do reserve the right to edit articles or ads, but we will notify you of the editing and get your approval before publishing.

Send your ads and articles to: spokesandspursky@gmail.com

Under "Subject", type in: Newsletter Editor

Photos need to come in JPEG or HEIC images in an attachment to your email.