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# NEWSLETTER

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**Year End Spokes and Spurs Meeting, December 10 at 2:00 p.m., CAA Office at the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY**



## Spokes and Spurs, Inc.

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## President's Message

*by Ann Katona*



We certainly had a fun filled year of activities! Both Charlotte's Creek and Valkyrie's Haven were so generous in allowing our club to hold activities on their farms; Mini-CDEs and driving clinics. And of course Valkyrie's Haven finished off the year with an outstanding HDT. Their first HDT was so much fun! Great new obstacles and such a well run event. None of these activities could have happened without the participation of our members and especially the members who volunteered

for so many activities.

We, as the board, will be meeting soon and we will be posting activities for 2024. Charlotte's Creek already has Suzy Stafford, as a clinician, on the calendar for 2024.

We do want to hear from you, the members. What would you like to do next year? I believe that the mini-CDEs are quite popular. What about a day of carriage driving games? A Low Key Pleasure Show? Would there be an interest in the Carriage Association of America (CAA) Driving Proficiency Test?

I am interested in having the Level One + Road Driving evaluation as laid out by CAA. There is a syllabus available from CAA, "CAA Driver Proficiency Syllabus - Level 1 + Road Driving". From the description, "The basic level (but not for complete beginners) is for those ready to drive away from home. This is a competence evaluation and will confirm that you are doing things safely. This level covers harness knowledge, harnessing and putting to, practical driving, horse care and general knowledge. Any style of driving is accepted."

Let me know if you have any other ideas!

## Thoughts from the Vice-President

*by Kathi Davis*

For those that don't know much about me, I am an original founding member of the Spokes and Spurs. I have held positions as secretary, vice-president, and president. My husband, Colonel, also has been treasurer, vice-president, and president. I retired during the pandemic and last year decided that maybe I should take more interest in the club that I have been a member of for so many years. It had been a while since I was very active so I decided to volunteer to be vice-president. I have to admit, I was a bit behind the times and this year has been a real education for me.

Wow!! How the club evolved!

As most of you know, Harley Sutton, DVM, was the instigator of the club and first president. We had mostly pleasure drives that Doc Sutton arranged on some of his clients' farms. There was the occasional show at the Kentucky Horse Park and the Carriage Roundup organized by Charlie and Suzie Poppe and Joe and Helaine Winfield. It's hard to believe back then the Newsletter was printed on a dot matrix printer and envelopes were stuffed, stamped, and mailed. We had a phone chain to call people when we needed to cancel an event at the last minute and I mailed out reminder "save the date" cards before an event. Everyone got a membership list. Now newsletters are digital, reminders are emailed or you get a text message, much more efficient and the membership list is on the website.

Over the years, places to pleasure drive became less available and the club shifted course. We still had pleasure drives but we also had a few clinics and more members participated in shows.

The club had adapted thanks to the amazing direction of the many who have volunteered their time and vision. Looking at the Spokes and Spurs Event Calendar for this year I still am amazed and wonder how it all got done. In July alone there was four events that members took part in.

Central Kentucky also has become a driving center. We have world class drivers that have moved to the area along with several facilities that cater to driving. The office of the Carriage Association of America moved to the Kentucky Horse Park which has great driving resources. Some of our members founded the National Drive which is going strong at 20 years. The club sponsors clinics and the members are very active on all levels.

As I sit here writing this on a drizzly Sunday afternoon, I want the club members to remember this is your club. What has made our club survive all these years is the membership participation and input. As officers we want to make sure the events we sponsor are events the members want to participate in. Therefore, your input and feedback is essential to the club. Please feel free to contact any officer at any time with suggestions for events.

Doc Sutton probably wouldn't recognize the club much as it is today but I am sure he would be proud. I am. I am proud that the little club started approximately 34 years ago has managed to withstand the test of time and the ups and downs of any organization. I am extremely proud of everyone. Thank you. Here's looking forward to 2024!!!



Colonel Davis presenting Harley Sutton, DVM with a plaque for his pony SPICK at the Kentucky Horse Park. Dave Sutton is to the left of Colonel.

## Shaker Village Drive 2023

We originally scheduled the Shaker Village Drive for August 26, but due to two other clinics scheduled that weekend involving a large share of our members and many more on the CAA trip to Vienna, that date was moved to **Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** Fortunately, it turned out to be a beautiful day that several turn-outs enjoyed. Courtesy of Van Sudduth, there are a few pictures below.



**Shakertown Village** is having an **equine festival** on **November 4, 2023**. They have invited the club to participate in a parade down the center of town at 4:30 p.m.. The date for notification of entering ended at the end of September, but Shaker Village has indicated that others may join the fun at the last minute. Call the Shaker Village line: 800-734-5611 ext. 1546.

## Fun Drive and Ride at Bluegrass Heights Farm

On Saturday, September 23rd, Colonel and Kathi Davis sponsored a pleasure drive and luncheon at their beautiful farm, Bluegrass Heights, near Cynthiana. The weather could not have been more wonderful. Colonel and Kathi worked so hard to make the day a flawless success. As Pam Gaston said, "I have never been on a course that was so meticulously marked!" Every lump and bump was given a warning sign, that were very small, as the course was smooth and mowed expertly. We even had an appearance of a flock of wild turkeys!

After the drive, we had an outstanding potluck lunch where so many had joyful conversations and with several reunions of long-term members. We were all so full from the lunch, individuals were asking Colonel and Kathi for places to take a nap! (LOL) If you weren't in attendance, you missed a terrific event.



Pam and Dave Gaston with Nitro and Sarah Dunham with Frankie

# HDT at Valkyrie's Haven October 28-29

On October 28 - 29, **Halloween at the Haven HDT** at the boo-tiful Valkyrie's Haven in Paris, Kentucky was held. Dressage and cones were held on Saturday, then the marathon on Sunday. Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Hybrid (Advanced dressage/cones with Intermediate Marathon) divisions in Singles, Tandem, Pairs, and Fours for equines of all sizes were offered. There was 5-7 obstacles, depending on the entry level, with cones and marathon course designed by Leonard (Lenny) Courtemanche.

The weather was cloudy and cool with sporadic bouts of rain, but it didn't stop the hardy participants. Many of our club members participated with several entries from other states. Thank you to those that volunteered to make those days possible!

Costumes were highly encouraged at the spook-tacular reception on Saturday night!! It was certainly a fun filled evening! The barbecue dinner was sensational with sweets enough to give a sugar high! Thank you and congratulations to Leslye Sandberg and Jim Shanel for your first ADS event. The entire two days and dinner were terrific!

Some costumes from the Spooktacular!



Our President and "gator" daughter Breaking Bad

So clever!! Organizer, Danielle Aamodt



Anyone who's been to the Indiana CDE or The National Drive will know all about this costume! LOL!!

The marvelous hosts!



The judge, Leslye, and TD



EMT and TD



# Treasurer's Report

by Hugh Bellis-Jones



As November 1 rapidly approached, our thoughts turned to the upcoming holidays and the start of the new year. This is a timely reminder that renewals will soon be due for 2024 membership with Spokes and Spurs. Club membership follows the calendar year and so it behooves everyone to rejoin promptly rather than delaying until mid summer. With this in mind, member John Stallard has volunteered to mail a membership renewal notice directly to each of our 2023 members. Thank you so much, John! It bears repeating that it's only due to the volunteer efforts of a core group of members that we are able to have such a vibrant and active driving club in the area.

The club continues on a sound financial footing. The bank balance as of November 1 stood at \$4,496.17, down somewhat from the year's starting balance of \$5,259.22. As the club held a full calendar of 2023 in-person events, this should surprise no one. All the more reason to renew your membership upon receipt of your renewal notice!

A full accounting of the year's financial activities will be give to the membership during our **annual meeting** that will be held **December 10 at the office of the Carriage Club of America at the Kentucky Horse Park**. We hope to see many of you there.

## Carriages and Tack Available

Two pony/cob carriages available in central Kentucky. Used for 12.2-13.1 pony pairs in their previous lives. Both come with pole and shafts.

Kuhnle Marathon Carriage. Old and well kept. Never wrecked. Extremely stable. Black/red. Perfect for new driver with a single Haflinger or Fjord type, or a pair of similar or smaller ponies. Four wheel disc brakes. 300/350 lbs? Comes with shafts and pole. \$2,750



Pacific all-purpose carriage. Hunter green/black. Also pony/cob size, single or pair. Comes with pole and two sets of shafts and "conversion kit" for marathon... back seats come off and replace with navigator step/hold bars. Front seat moves to center or either side. Rear disc brakes and air shock in front. Never wrecked. Needs front left rubber on tire replaced. \$2,500



Message me for more photos and measurements.  
Could bring either to National Drive or possibly deliver locally.

Leslie Bebensee  
Kokovoko Breeding Farm and B&B  
[www.gotlands.net](http://www.gotlands.net)  
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Bennington BX4 for sale. Suitable for 14-15.3 hand horse. Has a pairs pole, set up for a single. Extending axle from 125 cm-138.5 cm, black with red pin stripes, cambered steel wheels with rear brakes and delayed steering. In very good used condition. Very stable, very fun, very competitive lightweight (under 300 lbs without the pairs pole)carriage. Asking \$4200.00



Bennington Buccaneer Competitor for sale. Has wedge and single seat, 2 sets of shafts, 2 single swingle trees, and a pair of shaft expanders, mechanical screw for balancing carriage, removable back step, 43" wheels. I put 14 hand 15.1 hand horses to it, it has been used for a16h Fresian. In very good used condition, asking \$2200.



Cob size Zilco Classic harness with Empathy breast collar, full harness including 2 pairs of traces, and 2 pair of breeching straps. In very good condition. Asking \$1100.00



Smuckers Deluxe Cob Black Harness with leather, patent leather and brass. In excellent used condition. Asking \$1000.00

Custom made English Cob sized russet brown leather harness with brass appointments. In good shape, asking \$500.00.



Also several pairs of driving lines and MCR whips.  
Retiring from driving, so passing on some great equipment. Offers are considered. More pictures available upon request.  
Contact Heidi Ball at 530-979-1058 or [hhball58@gmail.com](mailto:hhball58@gmail.com)

## Margarita Monday Pic



## Spokes and Spurs Library Available 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.

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 Iannazzi; Photographer. Bill Remley; Commentator

## Calendar of Events

**Dec. 10**    **Year End Spokes and Spurs Meeting, 2:00 p.m., CAA Office at the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY**

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](http://www.spokesandspurs.com)