



DRIVING NEWS

Spokes & Spurs Inc Newsletter

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Photo Credit: Lisa Michelle Dean Photography

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

July will be a busy month! Once again it will be time for an educational program. This one will be held on July 11 at Valkyrie's Haven, Paris, KY. Sterling Graburn will be presenting his wonderful program on Navigating. Whether you are a beginner, new to driving or experienced 'gator, Sterling will cover the ins and outs to safe navigating as well as key tips to help the driver in obstacles. We will begin the seminar at 10:00 a.m. in the viewing room of the indoor arena. We will break for a pot luck lunch then have an opportunity to put to practice hanging on to the back step! Please let Ann know if you plan on attending as well as what you would like to bring for the luncheon. Spread the word and invite your friends.

The 2026 USPC Festival takes place from July 13–19, 2026, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. The event will feature a three-day Education phase (July 13–16) with top clinicians and Olympians, followed by the USPC Festival National Championships (July 16–19) across multiple equestrian disciplines. **They still need a few lesson horses/ponies and demo drivers for the Fault/Out Obstacle and Derby. Volunteers are welcome too! Contact Karen Cherry at karencherry122@gmail.com.**

Unfortunately Spokes and Spurs had to postpone the June 27th Driving Derby. We will let everyone know when we can re-schedule this event.



Photo Credit: Blue Ribbon Images

2026 EDUCATIONAL CLINIC SERIES

Sponsored by Spokes and Spurs at Valkyrie's Haven

One Day Potluck Lunch and Learns

Expand your experience in the driving world with a series of fun interactive clinics. Clinics will begin at 10 AM. followed by a Potluck luncheon around noon. Potluck meals are a driving tradition – everyone brings something to share. Specifics about Clinicians and Schedules to be sent out as we get nearer.

July 11, 2026 Learn to Navigate – Be the Backstep! What does a navigator do and can you do it? Ever wonder how they know where to stand? When to lean? How to help avoid getting hung up on an obstacle? Everyone will have the chance to give it a try as we practice on an indoor obstacle course. Bring your friends or spouses – maybe they will be your next navigator.

August 8, 2026 Obstacles: See It – Time It – Hold It. Volunteering for marathon? No need to panic – incoming equines and they can be very fast – lots going on and it's your job to manage it. And what if there is a hold? And what if something gets knocked down? And what if someone gets stuck and the groom gets down? Who does what in an obstacle during an event? Observers, judges, timers all have a job and you will learn what those are and how you can be large and in charge with confidence.

MEET THE CLINICIANS



Internationally recognized driver, trainer, and sport horse handler Sterling D.B. Graburn has decades of experience with singles, pairs, tandems and teams. Sterling trained his first pony at thirteen and has been competing since the age of fifteen. He is a Navy veteran, Pony Club graduate, and coach, Sterling has been a Glinkowski Carriage and Comfy Fit Harness representative since 2010. He and his partner, Kim Moore, breed, train and sell sport horses at Waypoint Farm in Harrodsburg, KY.

- Navigator Combined Driving World Championships 1984, 1993, 2005
- Competed at Combined Driving World Championships 2006, 2012, 2016
- National Champion 2008, 2012, Reserve Champion 2006



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 '20 & '21
- 2020 US Single Horse Team Alternate

2026 DRIVING DERBY SERIES

How It Works

***First of a 3 part Derby series in Kentucky,
sponsored by Spokes & Spurs driving club.***

We welcome all participants!

Each Derby will be held in the indoor arena and consist of a course that includes both obstacle elements and cones.

Each participant will go 2 rounds with points being totaled for the Final Scores at each of the events. Ribbons will be awarded in each class.

Classes for VSE, Pony, Horse, Para.

Divisions will be Training (no cantering) and Prelim/Open.

All Divisions drive all gates, Standardized cone settings (ADS Rulebook)

At the Final - Top 3 overall Division score totals will earn prize money (all classes within each division are eligible)

To qualify for Finals and be eligible for Prize Money, you must have at least 3 round scores to add together at the final event in July. Therefore, you need to participate in at least 2 of the derby events. Of course, you are welcome to simply come to any and all for the fun!

Entries will open 30 days before the event and close 1 week before the event - details to be sent out with entry forms, waivers and request for equine health information. Current Coggins within 12 months; Flu/Rhino/EHV within 6 months, Health Cert out of state.

**DERBY #2 WAS POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER.
WE WILL TRY TO RESCHEDULE FOR A LATER DATE.**

2026 Driving Derby Series

Derby #2

Saturday June 27, 2026
Start Time 10:00 am

Pot Luck Lunch with beverages provided by the Club
Entries Open May 28 Close June 19

**After Lunch - Open Day of Driving
Go out and Play on the Obstacles or Drive the Farm**

Sponsored by Spokes & Spurs
At Charlotte's Creek Farm
4152 Paris Pike
Georgetown, KY 40324

Entry Cost \$50 per equine. Drivers may enter more than once with different equines
\$25 goes into the Prize Money Pool for Finals
\$25 goes to support Spokes & Spurs

Entries will open 30 days before the event and close 1 week before the event - details to be sent out with entry forms, waivers and request for equine health information. Current Coggins within 12 months; Flu/Rhino/EHV within 6 months, Health Cert out of state.

2026 Driving Derby Series

Derby #3 SERIES FINALE

WATCH FOR ENTRY FORMS IN YOUR EMAIL!

Saturday, July 25, 2026
Start Time 10:00 am

Pot Luck Lunch with beverages provided by the Club

Entries open Thursday, June 25, 2026 and Close Friday,
July 18, 2026

After Lunch - Open Day of Driving
Go out and Play on the Obstacles or Drive the Farm

Sponsored by Spokes & Spurs
At Valkyrie's Haven
487 Cynthiana Road
Paris, KY 40361

Entry Cost \$50 per equine. Drivers may enter more than once with different equines \$25 goes into the Prize Money Pool for Finals

\$25 goes to support Spokes & Spurs

Entries will open 30 days before the event and close 1 week before the event - details to be sent out with entry forms, waivers and request for equine health information. Current




Suzy Stafford
DRIVING CLINIC

AUGUST 28-30

CHARLOTTE'S CREEK FARM
GEORGETOWN, KY

★ **A USEF** ★
EMERGING DRIVER CLINIC
Beginner-Advanced
LEVELS WELCOME

CLINIC & FACILITY INFORMATION


-  \$120 / LESSON
-  \$30 / NIGHT STABLING
-  SHAVINGS \$9 / BAG
-  RV SITE \$30 / NIGHT

EVENING DINNER
QUESTION & ANSWER
SESSION WITH SUZY!

MORE INFORMATION

-  www.charlottes-creekfarm.com
-  dunhorse1220@gmail.com
-  (304) 208-5224

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 **US EQUESTRIAN** |  **Charlotte's Creek Farm**

★ **RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!** ★

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Apr 23-26	National Drive Spring Fling	Hoosier Horse Park Edinburgh, IN
May 15-17	Charlotte's Creek CDE	Charlotte's Creek Farm Georgetown, KY
May 23	Spokes & Spurs Derby 1	Valkyrie's Haven Farm Paris, KY
June 27	Spokes & Spurs Derby 2	Charlotte's Creek Farm Georgetown, KY
July 11	Educational Series 2	Valkyrie's Haven Farm Paris, KY
July 25	Spokes & Spurs Derby Finals	Valkyrie's Haven Farm Paris, KY
Aug 8	Educational Series 3	Valkyrie's Haven Farm Paris, KY
Aug 28-30	Suzy Stafford Clinic	Charlotte's Creek Farm Georgetown, KY
Sept 11-13	Villa Louis Carriage Classic	Prairie du Chien, WI
Sept 17-20	Tryon Fall CDE	Tryon, NC
Sept 25-27	Indiana CDE	Hoosier Horse Park Edinburgh, IN
Oct 5-11	National Drive	Hoosier Horse Park Edinburgh, IN
Oct 16-18	Nashoba Carriage Classic	Germantown, TN
	Halloween at the	

[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, 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. Ritzenhouse

*[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