



Above is a four-foot log skidder made by Mr. E.C. Russell of St. Albans, Maine. It is one of 15 handcrafted model scale horse-drawn vehicles comprising a special Breyer model horse display courtesy of Triple Mountain Model Horses. The display is to debut in the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum on Sleigh Day.

Photo by Eleda Towle

Down The Lane



SKYLINE FARM

95 The Lane

North Yarmouth, Maine

(207) 829-9203

www.skylinefarm.org

WINTER 2018

Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides: Full-Size and Mini

19th Annual 'Sleigh Day' coming right up!

Saturday, Feb. 10, 12 to 3 pm (no Storm Date)

On Saturday, Feb. 10th from 12 to 3 pm, Skyline Farm is hosting its 19th Annual Sleigh Day, in conjunction with the debut of its new sleigh exhibit. Dress warmly and come to this double-header where horse-drawn sleighs are displayed inside the museum and brought to life outside by being driven by horses and ponies. Admission is free.

Ben Lapointe of Greene will return with his sweet pair of miniature horses, Buddy and Silver, to give Mini Sleigh Rides for children up to age 12. A donation of \$5 per child is requested.

Also returning this year is John Sczymecki of Hide-away Farm, Topsham, with his team of draft horses to provide sleigh rides around the field for an \$8 donation per person or \$25 per family. (Children ages 5 and under are free on this big sleigh ride.)

At 12:30 p.m. a narrated demonstration of horses/ponies and drivers using 19th century skills to make the vintage sleighs come alive will take place in the outdoor arena. Spectators can imagine what life was like when snow meant a chance to quietly drive a one horse open sleigh to visit their neighbors.

Bring your snowshoes for a 2 p.m. guided trail walk.

Delicious hot food and drinks will be for sale inside the heated Visitor Center, starting at noon. For more information, please contact Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 or info@skylinefarm.org.



On left, Sheila Libby Alexander narrates a demonstration, which uses 19th century skills to drive vintage sleighs. Mary Boutin and Elias are in front of the snow roller and the team of Nancy Wines-DeWan and Sinna are on the right.

Photo by Gregory Cuffey

Drivers Needed for Sleigh Demo

Invitation to Sleigh Drivers:

All types of sleighs and equine breeds are invited to participate in a narrated sleighing demonstration for the public at Sleigh Day, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

There's no entry fee, and you will be provided a complimentary lunch. Please feel free to dress in the style of 'Currier & Ives' from this bygone era.

Contact Pamela Ames at (207) 829-5708 or info@skylinefarm.org in advance to let her know that you'll be participating.

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**A Brief, But Interesting,
Deviation from Carriages**

By John Sowles

Skyline's carriage exhibits are the result of many generous donations. It is not unusual for a donated vehicle to hold a surprise wrench, basket, seat, foot warmer or other accoutrement. But last year, when 19th Century Willowbrook Village gave us a piano moving wagon, it came loaded with a hand cranked "piano." It sounded perfectly tortuous! Just dreadful NOISE!! Game over. We pushed it out of our mind.

Recently, however, curiosity prevailed, and we contacted Alex Peppe of Limington to take a look. Alex calls himself a Piano Tuner and Technician. But he is well more than a skilled technician. He is engaging, full of historical knowledge about pianos and music, and best of all, eager to learn. And oh, he has horses, too.



Piano tuner and technician Alex Peppe of Limington clearly enjoys the challenge and novelty of tuning Skyline Farm's Organillo. You only need to turn a crank to produce music.

Photo by John Sowles

It turns out our "piano" is not a piano after all, but an Organillo, a huge and magnificent music box. Made around the 1920's by Caselli of Barcelona, Spain, it consists of three instruments in one; a set of bells, a piano, and harpsicord. Like a music box, a large cylinder is turned by a crank. Protruding pins in the cylinder actuate hammers which strike the bells and strings.



Organillo on push cart in Madrid, circa 1930.

As Alex studied our Organillo, it became clear to him (not me) that not only was this not a piano, but the strings do not always correspond to standard keyboard convention. Thankfully, as a musician himself, Alex was able to sort it all out to make musical sense. But making music was not before spending hours, contemplating, studying, tuning, trying, plucking, contemplating again and tuning again, bending pins, that a melody finally emerged. Our Organillo now plays 10 historical melodies. Because it is so old, we don't know how long it will hold a tune. We have a second cylinder that we will exchange upon our next tuning.

You can see and listen to a restored Organillo, by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuT7AJ3awXY>. Better yet, come visit the museum on one of the Sundays we are open and make your own music!

“Evolution— New Winter Exhibit”

By Gregory Cuffey

Today when we think of winter sports, it may mean ice skating, hockey, various types of skiing and snowmobiling to name a few. In the 19th century winter recreation meant sleighing, and a good winter was often measured by the number of great sleighing days.

Country and city sleighing were very different from each other. In the city, an accident was often more severe with the normally better packed snow and so many hard stone and steel man-placed objects around, versus the country where snow was often deeper to cushion a fall. City folks used larger vehicles; some rented from livery stables carrying parties of up to 25 people. Elegant turnouts paraded around large central parks.

City sleighs were often pulled by two to eight horses while in less populated communities one or two horses would have been the norm. The country folks were more interested in smaller sleighs and smaller sleighing parties.

Skyline's winter exhibit will feature the evolution of smaller city and town sleighs—starting with a Peter Kimball style Portland sleigh (1816) and a James Goold style Albany (1817), swell body cutter with curved frame. Other “new” exhibit highlights include Speeding, Pung, Racing, Comfort, School Bus, Hooded Doctor, Old Comfort, Hearse, four passenger Surrey, Box and commercial delivery sleighs.

The museum will be open for public viewing on Sleigh Day, Saturday, Feb. 10, from 12-3 p.m. and on Sundays, Feb. 11 through March 25, 1-4 p.m., or by appointment. Free admission; donations are appreciated.

New Permanent Exhibit

“The Private Stable”

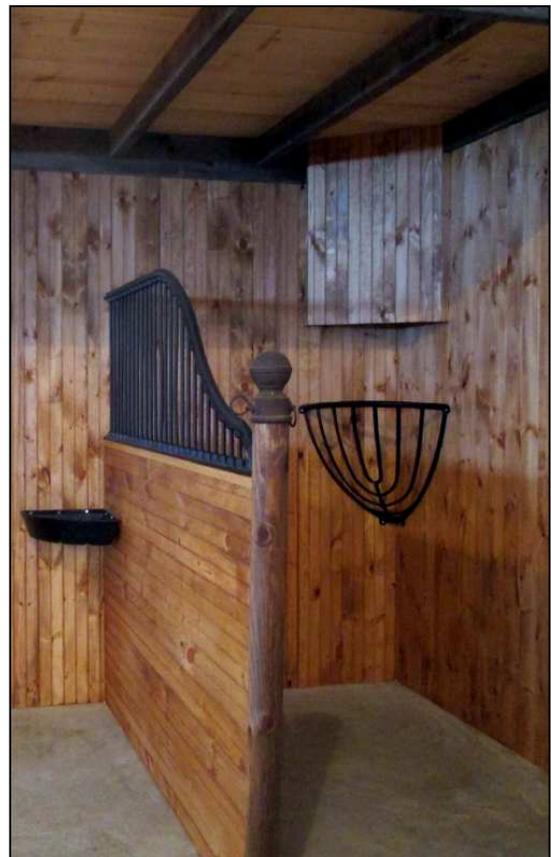
By Gregory Cuffey

Skyline has created a new permanent exhibit. We have collected hundreds of rare and unusual items that will be rolled out as part of this new stable exhibit over the next year. Original “appointments” that would have been used in a private stable, many signed, will be properly displayed. From time to time, the stall will be occupied by a live horse.



This is a fancy Cast Iron Door Guard in the form of a horse's leg. It prevents the wheel from passing too close to the stable door frame thus avoiding the hub from fetching up.

Photos by John Sowles



Pictured is one of two stalls recently built by Greg Cuffey as a permanent exhibit.

Photo by Gregory Cuffey

Field Trip! Skyline Farm Carriage Museum

By Eleda Towle, Owner of Triple Mountain Model Horses, Adapted from her Nov. 2 blog posted at www.triplemountain.com

This past Sunday (Oct. 29, 2017), June and I (June is my good friend who helps out at Triple Mountain, for those who haven't met her yet) took a field trip to Skyline Farm's museum in North Yarmouth, Maine. Skyline Farm is a non-profit organization working to maintain and display their 150+ piece antique carriage and sleigh collection, as well as preserve the open fields around the museum for equestrian, recreational, and agricultural use.

Last Sunday was their fall pumpkin celebration, and despite the cloudy sky, lots of people came to see the giant pumpkin catapult run by Andy Cole and his assistant, who are known as the "Dayton Destroyers." They flung pumpkins so far into the air that we couldn't see them until they crashed back to earth in an explosion of pulp and seeds!

Where did that pumpkin even go?!? The kids loved it, and some even got the honor of pulling the cord to fling the pumpkin. We joked that next year, they wouldn't have to bring in pumpkins because he was seeding the field for them, and they'd have plenty of their own next fall! A video is included on the Triple Mountain website for those of you who love watching pumpkin destruction! (Don't we all?)

On display by special arrangement was the regionally famous Pumpkin Coach, which was a star attraction at Story Land Amusement Park from 1957 to 1979. I was lucky enough to see it during its final year of touring the park, as Cinderella waved to the crowds from inside the pumpkin, while a livery driver handled the two horses negotiating the twisting streets. It was a cherished memory from my childhood, so it was exciting to see it up close after all these years. It features a lightweight sculpted body with wrought-iron vines and hardware, custom made for this carriage. Bench seats sculpted into the pumpkin allowed special visitors to ride with Cinderella. It's estimated that in its 22 years of service, the coach traveled roughly 16,000 miles!



Erin Bruce is Cinderella at "The Great Pumpkin" on Oct. 29, 2017. Robyn Cuffey completes driving the original Story Land Pumpkin Coach in the outdoor arena.

Photo by Gregory Cuffey

The Futures For Standardbreds organization was in attendance with some handsome ex-racehorses, showing off how wonderful they can be as companions and working horses after their racing careers are over. They accept Standardbreds from racetracks and homes, retrain them for pleasure riding, and re-home them.

The star of their group was Western Warrior ("Wes"), a four-year-old Standardbred gelding who enjoyed the attention of kids and adults all afternoon, while never even batting an eye when the huge pumpkin catapult rattled to life over and over.

Skyline's main attraction is its huge and diverse antique carriage collection. At Triple Mountain, we're enthusiastic over horse-drawn vehicles because they're becoming a forgotten part of equine history, and the craftsmanship required to build them is also becoming a lost art. It's with great excitement that we heard that Skyline is creating trade buildings to rekindle the arts of harness-making, blacksmithing, and wheel-wrighting, and hopes to showcase talented craftsmen who will teach their skills to others.

We were surprised and delighted at the end of the day, when Museum Director Greg Cuffey asked if we'd create a Breyer horse-drawn vehicle display for their next event, their annual Sleigh Day in February. It will be an honor to put together a display of model horses with vehicles made by a variety of model wagonsmiths to showcase at the museum.

Breyer Model Horse-drawn Vehicle Display

By Eleda Towle

At this year's Sleigh Day, Triple Mountain Model Horses of Hiram, Maine will be debuting a Breyer model horse-drawn vehicle display. At the request of President Greg Cuffey, we have gathered several wagons, sleighs, and horse-drawn vehicles from five different wagonsmiths around the U.S. and will be displaying them inside the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum.

Included will be seven pieces from the regionally famous Mr. E.C. Russell, who toured northern New England with his creations, teaching children of all ages about the importance of horses in the lives of our ancestors. Mr. Russell was most famous for his 40-Horse Hitch, originally created using 40 Breyer Roy models, which is now owned by the Ripley Museum in St. Augustine, Florida. That piece will not be at Skyline, but some of his most beautiful and detailed works will be, such as the log skidder pictured on the front cover.

Mr. Russell made harnesses, vehicles, and accessories completely by hand. All of his creations are driven by Breyer Alec riders, which he was able to purchase directly from Breyer by the caseful. They were then dressed appropriately for their rig and put to work. Mr. Russell's trademark is that no horse ever was put to work without shoes on. He fashioned shoes by hand by pounding aluminum wire flat and fitting it to each horse's feet, often adding caulks for traction on heavy pulling teams, like the pair pulling the log skidder.

Also included in the exhibit will be works by Stan Cote, Loren Pribbernow, the famous Reuben Kulp, and world-renowned customizer Lindy Pinkham, who has contributed to showing different scales with this team of Stablemate Belgians beautifully hand-etched to Leopard Appaloosas drawing a Circus Wagon.

There will be an ice harvesting diorama, showing how ice was cut in huge blocks and then brought to homes to preserve food before electric freezers were invented, a chuck wagon equipped with everything

a team of men needed to stay well-fed while away from the ranch, a donkey cart featuring two Breyer Standing Donkeys, and even a "mystery piece" specially created for the exhibit by Loren Pribbernow, showing a rarely seen, but very necessary to the times, horse-drawn vehicle, which we think may become the star of the show.



Donkey Farm Cart by June and Irvin Hill

All of these pieces are on loan to us from their owners for the exhibit, and we'll be there on event days to talk about the pieces, their creators, and the hobby in general. Model wagonsmithing is dying out as quickly as the real thing, so we're excited to be able to show off the artistry of the model wagonsmiths in the beautiful carriage museum alongside similar antique carriages. We hope to see collectors and horse lovers alike at Sleigh Day on Saturday, Feb. 10, between noon and 3 p.m.



Shown is a sampling of a special exhibit of Breyer models and unique scale vehicles assembled by Triple Mountain Model Horses of Hiram, Maine. This wonderful display, set up in the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum, debuts at Sleigh Day.

Photos by Eleda Towle



Race director Jen Robbins calls Rachel Delaney to accept her award for placing as top female in the 4th annual Fun Day 5K trail run/walk on Sept. 16.

Photo by Patti Mikkelsen



On Sept. 17, equine veterinarian Dr. Dave Jefferson addresses a large audience during his storytelling session based on his book entitled, "Maine Horse Doctor, On the Road with Dr. J."

Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

Bicycle Tour Rest Stop at Skyline Farm

Skyline's Aid Station Places Second in Volunteer Competition

By Pamela Ames

Once again, Skyline was a stop on a fun bicycling adventure organized by Wrenegade Sports of Vermont called Farm to Fork Fondo. On August 27, 2017, volunteers for Skyline's Team Orange welcomed three-hundred riders to our beautiful rest stop and cheered them on after they had stopped for a quick snack and a look around.

We'd like to recognize and thank the volunteers for contributing to the Farm to Fork Fondo event's huge success. The bicyclists who stopped at Skyline's Aid Station were met with cheerful greetings (think cow bells!) and delicious snacks and drinks all afternoon. They especially liked Hansel's Orchard's cider, Deri Farm's cherry tomatoes, When Pigs Fly's sourdough bread, and Beet Bruschetta made with Skyline supporter Jim Knight's beets. Surprisingly, a few people converted from not liking beets to liking them.

The stalwart volunteers who hung in there for the whole day, maintaining their enthusiasm and focus in order to make it a day to remember, included:

John Ames II, Jen Robbins and Rick Gause, Melanie and Brent Poperechny, and Terri and Steve Young. The volunteers, who arrived midway through the day giving a fresh boost of enthusiasm and energy to the event, consisted of Jeanne Chadbourne, Cynnie Henriques, Jen Kimball, and Donna Thurston.

Volunteers from the North Yarmouth Fire Rescue Department who kept the riders safe as they turned from Route 115 onto Baston Road were Kevin Ball, Ben Hillicoss, and Nick Thibeault.

Thanks to the whole crew's efforts, Skyline Farm came in second place for the Volunteer Competition Award. Wrenegade Sports wrote generous checks to Skyline Farm and North Yarmouth Fire Rescue Department, made possible by donations from the riders themselves who voted for their favorite stop.

As an aside, more people went inside the museum this year compared to last. They were definitely attracted to the 'Pony' and the Harvard Junior Wagon set out in front of the Visitor Center entrance. Many folks stopped to take pictures of it ... or with it. Hopefully, new bonds were built with people who will return to the Farm.

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Peg Puza models in front of the pleasure wagon provided by the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum for "Colonial Frolic" on Sept. 9, 2017. The event, which took place at Spurwink Farm in Cape Elizabeth, benefited the Tate House Museum.

Photo by Gregory Cuffey

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