



*Luther Gray guides his pair of Percheron horses around a snowy track at last year's Sleigh Day.
Photo by Patti Mikkelsen*

Down The Lane



SKYLINE FARM
95 The Lane
North Yarmouth, Maine
(207) 829-9203
www.skylinefarm.org

WINTER 2012

13th Annual "Sleigh Day" - Feb. 4

13th Annual "Sleigh Day" coming right up!

Saturday, Feb. 4, 12 to 3 pm (Storm Date: Feb. 5)

On Saturday, Feb. 4th from 12 to 3 pm, Skyline Farm is hosting its 13th Annual Sleigh Day, in conjunction with the debut of its new exhibit, "Winter Transportation: From Horse to Horseless." Dress warmly and come to this double-header where horse-drawn vehicles are both displayed in the museum and driven outdoors.

Enjoy an unforgettable adventure through an open field of snow! Your \$8 admission fee (or \$30/family) includes one sleigh ride given by J. L. Gray & Son of Monmouth and his handsome pair of Percheron horses. Free for Skyline Farm members (become a member today!) and children ages 5 and under.

At 1 p.m. horses and drivers, both in fur coats, demonstrate their skills in the outdoor arena. Spectators can imagine what life was like when snow meant sleigh parties and socializing as long as one had a warm muff and a one horse open sleigh. Gentle ponies will be available for the children to pat.

Bring your snowshoes or cross-country skis for a 2 p.m. guided tour of Skyline's beautiful trails.

NOTE: Sleigh drivers with all types of sleighs and equine breeds are welcome to participate, free of charge. Although no fancy turnout is required, some drivers will be dressed in the style of "Currier & Ives" from this bygone era.

Hot food and drinks will be for sale inside the heated Visitor Center, starting at noon. Storm date is Sunday, Feb. 5. For more information, please call Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708, or visit www.skylinefarm.org.

Winter Transportation Museum Exhibit

"Winter Transportation: From Horse to Horseless" Museum Exhibit

Open Feb. 4 & Sundays, Feb. 5 thru March 25, 1 to 4 pm

Come explore the evolution of horse drawn transportation. The exhibit will start with the earliest form of American horse transportation called a Travois, once used by Native Americans to carry cargo. This system evolved into simple wood platforms on runners called a sledge or pung and finally into more elaborate sleighs we know today. We will display the romantic and not so romantic side of the sleighing scene throughout the exhibit time period of 1750 to 1906.

Let's not forget that muddy or snow-less roads were not uncommon along the coast. Easier to turn two wheeled carts would be used during the earliest of times. These carts evolved into much larger four wheel enclosed vehicles to protect passengers and cargo from the elements. A sampling of wheeled vehicles to be displayed will include a 1780's Pleasure Wagon, Fiddler Gig, Doctors Gig, Van Tassel, Maine State Prison made Concord Buggy, Surrey, Bronson, Extension Top Phaeton, and a Rockaway.

The exhibit's title mentions horseless transportation. We will have on display a rare 1906 "Black Motor Buggy" on loan from Owls Head Transportation Museum. The vehicle looks very similar to a "later" horse drawn Concord Buggy. The "Black" vehicle along with other motorized vehicles of its time period were the beginning of the end of the horse drawn era.

Please note a special sub-exhibit: "Canadian Sleighs", on loan from Willowbrook Museum.

President's Column by Kristi Wright

There are times when everything falls into place and great things happen. Some may call that fortune. Others luck. I prefer to think of such incidents as inevitable blessings. When hard working, well-intentioned people join together great things DO happen.

Such has been the case for Skyline Farm over its long history. This is most evident since 2000 when Skyline Farm became a non-profit. It endures today as a living carriage museum, community resource, open space and home to a working organic farm, because of the hard work, support and will of many, many people.

Two of those people are on my mind, as I write this president's column.

At Ursula Baier's 82nd birthday party in July, I had the pleasure of meeting a long-time Skyline patron, Charles "Stick" Stickney. Charles, his wife Anita (a former Advisory Trustee), and Skyline Farm go way back. For example, it was the Stickney family who brought their lobster bake equipment and put on the first two fund-raising lobster bakes at the Farm.

At our meeting, Charles told me the story of how he had saved the Gem of the Bay, a flashy red and black wagonette. After the museum was founded, Stick kept the Gem at Skyline for display in the museum. Luther Gray's Percherons pulled the Gem in several Fun Day parades and on the grounds of the farm before the vehicle's retirement a couple of years ago.

Charles Stickney died on Dec. 3, 2011 at the age of 89. His obituary outlined his accomplished, interesting life and highlighted his contributions to his family and community. "He died as he lived – active to the end," his obituary read.

Skyline Farm certainly was blessed by Charles Stickney's example, by his patronage, by his passion to give so much to his community.

After the Art Show in December 2011, the Board of Trustees had the opportunity to recognize another of Skyline's blessings – Ursula Baier.

Sandra Mason Dickson, one of the artists in the show, had submitted a painting she had done of Ursula competing at the 1990 Maine Carriage Days at Cumberland Fairgrounds. Ursula had admired the painting as it revived many wonderful memories of her driving days and her beloved horse, Flame. She had said she would be sad to see it go after the show's closing.

Unbeknownst to her, a few friends pledged additional donations to Skyline, so the board could buy the painting for her, in her honor, to forever grace Skyline's walls.

A placard accompanies the painting. It reads: "A Dashing Pair—Ursula and 'Flame'. Your passion, knowledge, curiosity and commitment to Skyline Farm's mission inspire us all. We so very much value your friendship, good humor and flair. Presented with our warmest appreciation. Christmas 2011 by your Skyline friends."

And so the Ursula Baier Carriage Collection Fund was created. If anyone else would like to contribute, please make out the check to Skyline Farm and include a note that you are donating to that fund.



Ursula Baier admires a painting, in which she and her horse were the subjects, that was purchased in her honor.

Photo by Pamela Ames

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Help for Horses by Kristi Wright

The first part of Bob Solman's e-mail address, "helpforhorses" says a lot about his passion for improving the lives of horses and in turn their riders and drivers. Bob practices Natural Balance Hoof Care and hopes that by sharing his knowledge and experiences as a Natural Balance Hoof Care farrier, he can solve many lameness issues in horses, and raise money for Skyline Farm and its Carriage Museum.

Upon retiring from the business world several years ago, Bob decided to attend farrier school. After a few days, he determined he was learning more about pounding metal than hoof anatomy. And so he went to

work for a stable across from the school. With more research and experience, Bob discovered the work of farrier Gene Ovnicek, who using studies of wild horse hooves, developed the practice of Natural Balance Hoof Care. Bob learned the principles of Natural Balance from Mr. Ovnicek and now teaches them to others. Natural Balance treats and prevents equine unsoundness with techniques that mimic the natural form and function of a horse.

Bob and his wife Judy recently purchased a horse property in North Yarmouth. They built a barn and hope to be driving their Saddlebred pair around the area soon. The Skyline Board of Trustees welcomed Bob as an Advisory Trustee in November. *(go to page 4)*

"Back to the Land" Fine Art & Crafts Show Wrap Up by Pamela Ames

"Back to the Land" Fine Art & Crafts Show

"Back to the Land", Skyline's benefit sale of fine art and crafts, offered a broad array of fine crafts and art to suit every taste and budget. During November and December, artists' paintings and fine crafts, which were inspired by Maine's 'back to the land' movement, were showcased in Skyline's warm Visitor Center.

Skyline Farm was pleased to represent the artwork from these fine artists and artisans:

FINE ART by Sandra Mason Dickson, Sally Caldwell Fisher, Alice Wheatland Ingraham, Renee Lammers, Tony Lisa, Edgar Reims, and Anne Winslow Tarbox

FINE CRAFTS by Judy Gray, Cathy Heinz, Jennifer Kovach, Mike Mason, Lynda McCann-Olson, Susan Mills, and Julia Ventresco

Skyline would like to recognize and thank **Anne Tarbox**, a North Yarmouth artist and longtime Skyline supporter, for her assistance in planning and helping hang the show along with trustee **Greg Cuffey** and Cumberland artist **Tony Lisa**. **Vivian Page**, Skyline Farm resident and talented graphic designer, used Anne's art to design eye-catching posters and cards that helped brand the show. **Patti Mikkelsen** developed the Art Show catalog, a complete collection of the artists' biographies and examples of their work. For the sixth year in a row, trustee **Lynn Young** artfully managed the Silent Auction. Assisting Anne, Lynn, and Pam in hosting the show were seven trustees and four Skyline supporters.

The most popular gift items fell into the 'useful' category: seventeen colorful, lined plastic totes and messenger bags (which Julia Ventresco made from recycling grain bags and seatbelts) and thirteen pairs of wool mittens (which Judy Gray made from recycling wool sweaters). Skyline supporters also invested in nine pieces of art and many fine crafts.

A portion of each sale and all of the Silent Auction proceeds benefited Skyline Farm. It was a win-win situation for all, including the museum visitors who were able to shop for the holidays in a relaxed and cozy setting. This high quality show continues to be one of Skyline's most important fund raisers!



Jewelry designers Lynda McCann-Olson and Cathy Heinz chat in front of paintings by Renee Lammers and Alice Ingraham. Photo by Pamela Ames

Help for Horses (continued from page 3)

This year, Skyline Farm hopes to play host to several clinics by Bob for horse owners and farriers to learn and practice the Natural Balance technique. Bob wants to donate all proceeds from these clinics and from any consultations he does to Skyline Farm and its museum.

Bob gave a brief talk to the Skyline Board of Directors in December. All were excited for their own horses and at the prospect of spreading the information. Bob said he was pleased to be able to help his new neighbors.

"There is just about nothing prettier in the world than seeing a horse pulling a carriage," he said, "You have quite a resource here."

Help For Horses

Shoeing for Prevention of Lameness in the Equine
Bob Solman, (207) 768-6444

E-mail: helpforhorses@live.com

Other resources and information:

A conversation with Bob Solman on NickerNews.net at <http://www.nickernews.net/bob-solman.aspx>

Equine Lameness Prevention Organization at <http://www.e-hoofcare.com>

Article on Gene Ovnicek at <http://www.all-natural-horse-care.com/gene-ovnicek.html>

Adopting a New Family Member at Dog Day by Jennifer Kimball**Adopting a New Family Member at Dog Day** by Jennifer Kimball

When I signed up to volunteer at Dog Day, I knew our elderly Lab would no longer be alive. I was hesitant at first, thinking I would be too sad. My daughter, Diana, wanted to help out in the role of pet sitter. Of course, I wanted to support that decision and help her with that job. By the time Dog Day rolled around, our dog had been gone for a month and we were all feeling the void in our home. We had started talking about finding another dog and thought this might be a good "research day", to observe the different dog breeds attending to help figure out what besides a Lab might be a good fit in our home.

While we were waiting for people to arrive and activities to get started, I walked over to the Pack Life table to look through the book of adoptable dogs and ask some questions to find out more about the organization and how the adoptions work. Of course, there was a cute puppy called Cranberry behind the table, wearing a vest that said "adopt me". We (Diana and I) were encouraged to walk around and spend some time with her. Needless to say, a little bond developed. By the time lunch rolled around, we had brought her to meet "Dad" and our other animals at home to see if this might be a good fit.

At the end of Dog Day, we had fallen in love, filled out adoption applications, signed contracts and brought little Cranberry home with us. She has made a little girl

very happy and has taken away the emptiness we were all feeling. I am happy to know that we were able to help a puppy pulled from a shelter find a forever home.

Cranberry's name has been changed to Mikala. We are guessing that she is an older puppy than we had originally thought, but that is okay. It actually makes life easier. Her breed combination is unknown, so we just call her a cute little black dog. We all have become very attached to her. For our family, Dog Day 4 was a happy, memorable day. Thankfully, we were all in the right place at the right time.



Diana Kimball hugs her new puppy after the adoption papers were finalized at last year's Dog Day event at Skyline Farm.

Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

Pleasant Hill Farm Market Wagon

Description from the accompanying placard

One of Skyline Farm's vehicles greeted shoppers at Shaw's grocery store in Falmouth, Maine last fall.

The red and yellow three-spring Pleasant Hill Farm market wagon transported cans of milk daily from the Titcombe family's dairy (Route 231 at North Road, North Yarmouth, Maine) to the nearest railroad depot at East Gray for shipments to the cities of Portland and Boston, Massachusetts.

This 2-mile route included a long, steep downhill section. The efficient rim wheel brakes greatly eased wear and tear on the horses' legs while hauling a loaded milk wagon.



Skyline Farm's Pleasant Hill Farm Market Wagon was on display at Shaw's grocery store in Falmouth, Maine last fall.

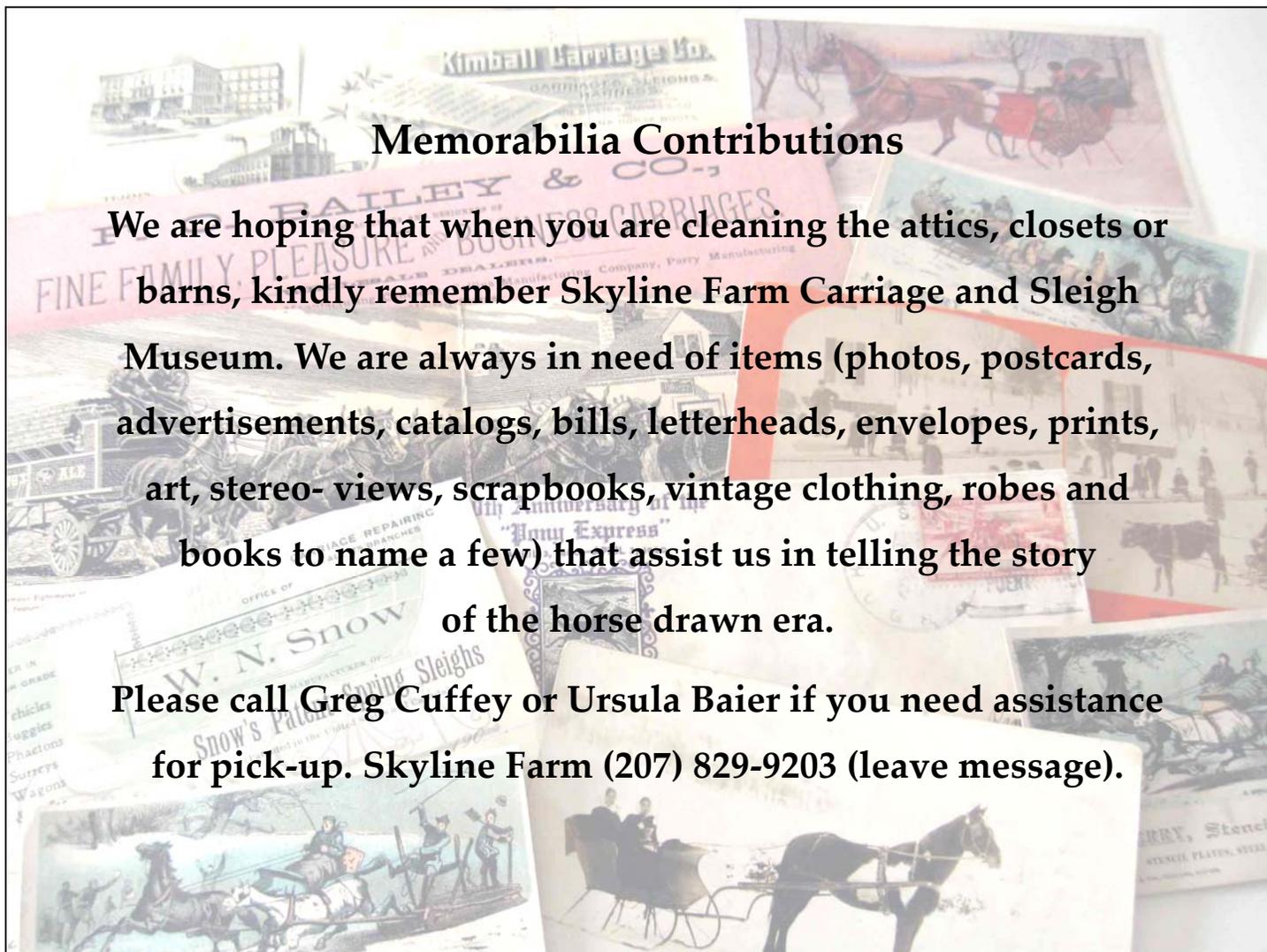
Photo by Gregory Cuffey

Collection Corner: Memorabilia Contributions by Gregory Cuffey

Memorabilia Contributions

We are hoping that when you are cleaning the attics, closets or barns, kindly remember Skyline Farm Carriage and Sleigh Museum. We are always in need of items (photos, postcards, advertisements, catalogs, bills, letterheads, envelopes, prints, art, stereo- views, scrapbooks, vintage clothing, robes and books to name a few) that assist us in telling the story of the horse drawn era.

Please call Greg Cuffey or Ursula Baier if you need assistance for pick-up. Skyline Farm (207) 829-9203 (leave message).



Facilities Update by Paul Lones

In 2011, the most important facilities work was focused on the carriage sheds. In particular, shed # 2 needed foundation work and an exterior wall replaced. Thanks to everyone who supported this project financially and to G. J. Cuffey, Inc. for their ingenuity and fine workmanship in making these urgently needed repairs. Combined with earlier work on the other two sheds and some additional weatherization and drainage improvements, these three sheds should provide many years of secure storage for vehicles not currently on exhibit in the museum.

Starting off in 2012, Skyline Farm is excited to announce that the trails will be groomed this winter. Grooming will begin as soon as we get enough snow. When snow is deep enough, cross country ski tracks will be set, in addition to packing and smoothing the trail. Skyline Farm trails get a wide variety of uses. In order to take best advantage of the grooming and improve the experience for everyone, please observe any signs about using the trails. For example, we may ask

that those walking or snowshoeing use one side of the trail while skiers use the other side. We also plan a separate groomed field loop for dog walkers. This will be our first year grooming the trails, so we will be experimenting a bit. We welcome your feedback.

On other trail news, improvements to alleviate wet areas are planned in 2012. We will describe these in more detail in an upcoming newsletter.

As always, there are numerous opportunities for volunteer projects at Skyline Farm. These can range from trail work, to painting, carpentry and landscaping. If you are interested in helping Skyline Farm with some of our facilities maintenance projects in 2012, please contact Paul Lones at (207) 829-4171 or by email: paul.lones@skylinefarm.org.

Lastly, Skyline Farm is a beautiful location for weddings and other events. If you are interested in renting Skyline Farm for your event, please contact Pam Ames at (207) 829-5708 or info@skylinefarm.org to inquire about rates and available dates.

“Preserving Horse-Drawn Vehicles” Video by Pamela Ames*“Preserving Horse-Drawn Vehicles” Video*

by Pamela Ames



A segment of a 35-minute television program includes a carriage driving demonstration by Skyline Farm Trustee Patsy O'Brien and her 21-year-old mare Champagne put to an Oakland Cut-under Runabout. Sheila Libby Alexander narrated that portion.

Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

Patti Mikkelsen and Richard Erwin at New Gloucester Community Access Television in Maine produced a charming and interesting video of New Gloucester's vehicle collection, Pownal's Hearse, and parts of our collection narrated by Ursula Baier. To top it all off, Patsy drove "Champagne" put to the Oakland, while Sheila Alexander narrated the action. This section of film really sets us apart as a 'living carriage museum', because the viewer can actually see how the vehicles would have looked in action. It's one thing to see some vehicles looking nice in a building, but it's another to see them in action outdoors in a realistic setting.

Kudos to Patti and Richard for the filming and production; Gary Harriman who shot the cutaways at the New Gloucester History Barn; Tom Blake who acted as program host to do the segues and wrap-up, which gave the show its continuity; Donna Boyles, Pownal Scenic and Historical Society president who narrated the Pownal segment; plus Skyline's own Ursula Baier, Sheila Alexander, and Patsy O'Brien.

DVD copies of "Preserving Horse-Drawn Vehicles" are available at Skyline's Visitor Center for \$5.00 each.

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Please make check payable to Skyline Farm and send to: Skyline Farm, P.O. Box 144, Yarmouth, ME 04096.
Skyline Farm is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for your gift.

This quarter's donors: Your support of Skyline Farm is sincerely appreciated!

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*Trustee Pamela Ames enjoys trekking along a Skyline trail on a brisk winter's day in Feb. 2011.
Photo by Patti Mikkelsen*

New this winter at Skyline: GROOMED TRAILS!
For more info, see "Facilities Update" on page 6.

2012 SKYLINE FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS - All are open to the public.
All event proceeds benefit Skyline Farm, a nonprofit organization, which owns an historic farmstead, including a carriage and sleigh museum, and offers trails through its woods and fields for public use.
FMI: Call event chair, go to www.skylinefarm.org, info@skylinefarm.org, or (207) 829-9203 (leave message).

Feb. 4	<p>Sleigh Day & Sleigh Rides <i>13th annual</i> <i>Saturday, 12-3 pm (Storm date: Feb. 5)</i> 12 pm Lunch and sleigh rides start. Museum opens. 1 pm Sleighing demonstration. Ponies to pat. 2 pm Snowshoe through the woods. \$8/person, or \$30/family, includes a sleigh ride in the field. Free for Skyline members & kids under 6. Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 <i>(see page 1)</i></p>	<p>May 5* <i>Plow Day 4 with Deri Farm (May 12 rain date) Teamsters and Blacksmith demonstrations, Pony Rides, Kids' Activities, Food for sale</i></p>
Feb. 4 through Mar. 25	<p>"Winter Transportation: From Horse to Horseless" Museum Exhibit <i>Sundays, 1-4 pm or by appointment</i> Come explore the evolution of horse-drawn transportation from the time period of 1750 to 1906. A rare 1906 Black Motor Buggy will be one of the vehicles on display. Free admission, donations welcome. Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 239-5782 <i>(see page 1)</i></p>	<p>May 5* <i>"Summer Transportation: From Horse to Horseless" Museum Exhibit, Sundays through Aug. 19</i></p>
Winter	<p>Winter Outdoor Fun <i>Anytime during daylight hours</i> Go cross-country skiing on groomed trails, sliding in the fields, or snowshoeing. <i>(see page 6)</i></p>	<p>June 3* <i>Trail Ride near Snowfields in Pownal, Maine</i> June 16 <i>Beginning Horsemanship Clinic - 2nd annual</i></p>
Apr. 1	<p>Deadline for the submission of materials for the Spring issue of "Down The Lane" (Apr.-June events) Info: Patti Mikkelsen, (207) 926-5660</p>	<p>July 14 <i>"Summer Celebration" Barn Sale, Pony Rides, Kids' Activities; Lobster Bake & Dessert, Silent Auction</i></p>
		<p>Sept. 9 <i>Henry Fest Music Festival - 8th annual</i> Sept. 22* <i>Harvest Day, farm-related activities, kids' activities, antique tractors; Harvest Dinner</i></p>
		<p>Nov. 4 <i>Skyline Benefit Ride/Drive in Woolwich, Maine</i> Nov. 9 <i>Artists' Reception for Fine Art & Crafts Show</i> Nov. 10 <i>Fine Art & Crafts Show, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 9</i></p>
		<p>Nov. 24 <i>Sitar Music-Live!</i> * indicates a tentative date</p>