



*Gerri and Jeff Herbster of Brunswick, Maine conduct the gourmet picnic basket raffle at Maine Carriage Day in October. Patti Mikkelsen photo*

# Down The Lane



SKYLINE FARM  
95 The Lane  
North Yarmouth, Maine  
(207) 829-9203  
[www.skylinefarm.org](http://www.skylinefarm.org)

WINTER 2008

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sleigh Day & Grand Opening of New Exhibit - Saturday, February 2

On Saturday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12 - 3 pm, Skyline Farm will host its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sleigh Day while its museum will feature a sleigh exhibit entitled "Good Sledding". Come to this double-header where horse-drawn vehicles are displayed in the museum and also being driven outdoors in the surrounding fields. \$8 admission fee per person; free for Skyline Farm members and kids under 6.

This sleigh driving demonstration is a virtual step back in time; a unique opportunity to get a first-hand glimpse of the glorious days of the horse-drawn transportation era. If you'd like to truly feel what it was like to drive along the quiet snow in an old-fashioned, horse-drawn sleigh, **a sleigh ride will be included as part of your admission fee.** It's the perfect opportunity to get out of the house and celebrate winter. Lunch will be catered by Equisine. In case of a storm, Sleigh Day and the exhibit opening will be held on Sun., Feb. 3. For current information or directions, please check [www.skylinefarm.org](http://www.skylinefarm.org) or e-mail: [info@skylinefarm.org](mailto:info@skylinefarm.org).

In the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum you will learn the variety of ways in which nineteenth century folks handled winter driving conditions, writing in their diaries about "good sledding" when conditions were optimum for visiting neighbors. You'll see examples of snowshoes, skis, and nineteenth century sleighs in the museum's Exhibit Hall (please dress warmly as it is unheated) and gain a sense of how people took advantage of the snow-pack to revel in recreational pursuits.

If you can't attend Sleigh Day, the museum will be open from 12 - 3 pm every Sunday through March 23rd. Museum admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted. All 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. Skyline Farm is located at 95 The Lane in North Yarmouth, Maine. Let's hope for "Good Sledding"!

*Late breaking news.....  
Unique vehicle to showcase exhibit!*



*The "Good Sledding" exhibit will feature a school bus sleigh from BF & PC Farm (currently Smiling Hill Farm, Westbrook, Maine). The turn-of-the-century sleigh was used by the Knight family and other area children. On loan from Roger Knight.*

*Greg Cuffey photo*

## Owls Head Transportation Museum



Skyline Farm will have a presence at the Winter Transportation Festival hosted by the Owls Head Transportation Museum, located on Route 73 in Owls Head, just 3 miles south of Rockland, Maine.

The poster for the event sports the tag line, "If it goes in the snow, it belongs at this show!" The festival will take place on Sunday, Feb. 10; gates will open at 9:30 a.m. An admission fee will be charged.

The festival will feature antique and vintage snowmobiles, snowplows, ice boats, snow blowers, sleds, toboggans, and yes, sleighs. That's where Skyline Farm comes in. A sleigh from its collection will be on display. Two of our trustees, Les Peters and Patsy O'Brien, will be on hand to provide information.

For more details on the Winter Transportation Festival call (207) 594-4418 or visit [www.owlshead.org](http://www.owlshead.org).

## GoodSearch.com Fundraiser by Jennifer Kimball

What if Skyline Farm earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! If 100 people search an average of 2 times per day, Skyline's estimated revenue would be \$730/year.

To make GoodSearch your homepage:

1. Select Tools/Internet Options.
2. Select the General tab.
3. In the address textbox, type:  
<http://www.goodsearch.com>, then click OK.

That's it! Now GoodSearch will be your browser's homepage.

A second fundraiser involving GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Skyline's estimated donation per year could be \$1500, if 100 people purchase \$500 from participating retailers.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Skyline Farm as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!



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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** (not a board position) Patti Mikkelsen, [mikks@securespeed.us](mailto:mikks@securespeed.us), (207) 926-5660

## Skyline Farm Sledding Party - Saturday, March 1

In keeping with the “Good Sledding” theme of the new museum exhibit, this party is a chance for families with young children to get together for a morning of sliding down the snow-covered rolling hills of Skyline Farm from 10 am-noon. Warm up with hot chocolate and goodies. Free.

The sledding party will only be held if favorable snow conditions exist.

Last year’s debut of this wintertime event was a big success, attracting dozens of young families.

Info: Jennifer Kimball, (207) 829-6278



Clip art image

## Skyline Farm Facilities Update by Paul Lones

Autumn was a busy time for Skyline Farm with several projects completed to improve the facilities at the farm. The early and persistent snowfall prevented a couple of other outdoor projects from getting done, but otherwise our volunteers and contractors were productive. Some items completed over the past several months include:

- The North side of the Barn was sided with clapboards. This project finished and closed in the sill and sheathing repairs that had been made on this part of the Barn more than a year ago. The flashing between the Barn and the Exhibit Hall was also re-done to reduce the chance of leakage when accumulated snow and ice begins to melt.
  - The side door of the Farm House was replaced. Water intrusion had caused some sill rot, which required that the siding be removed for roughly 20 feet along the lower part of the building to replace the sill. Once the sill was done, a new four panel door with overhead light was installed to match the old door. The original Greek Revival trim was reproduced to match the style of the house and retain its character.
  - Several exterior lighting projects were also completed. A new pole lamp was installed near the entrance and parking area lighting was added near the carriage sheds. All new outdoor lights have motion sensors for improved safety and security.
  - Several weatherization projects required attention, especially in the barn. Many windows and doors were repaired and secured before the first snow arrived.
  - Skyline Farm’s Fire and Security Alarm system was extended to cover more buildings, adding to the safety and security of the whole site.
  - Landscaping and granite curbs were installed to finish the entry ramp.
- There are several new projects planned once the warm weather returns. These include a wide range of indoor and outdoor projects. Many projects are suitable for volunteers. Such projects would include: exterior painting, landscaping and gardening, light carpentry and trail work. Please contact Paul Lones at paul.lones@skylinefarm.org if you are interested in helping with any of these projects.

*Once the warm weather returns, many projects for volunteers will be coming up including:*

- Exterior painting
- Landscaping & gardening
  - Light carpentry
  - Trail work

*Please contact Paul Lones at paul.lones@skylinefarm.org if you are interested in helping with any of these projects.*



*Contractor Bill Wilson and Jake dramatically improve the appearance of Skyline’s farmhouse.  
Pamela Ames photo*

*August Adventure**by Greg Cuffey*

I traveled to Northport via the Atlantic Highway to visit with Cindy Rogers and her daughter Stephanie McAllister. They were looking for suitable museums to become guardians of various family heirlooms.

I found the charming century-and-a-half-old white homestead situated alongside the Atlantic Ocean. When I met with Cindy, she explained relatives Robie and Mary Ames got married and moved into the family homestead around 1900 to care for Robie's elderly parents. Through the years, the Ames family had five children. One daughter, Isabel Ames, never married. She taught school at Hamden Academy for more than thirty-five years. Upon her retirement, she moved back into the family homestead to care for her parents. In time, Isabel became the sole resident of the property. As she is no longer able to live alone, she has put the property up for sale.

Cindy who was in charge of cleaning out the estate for Isabel was mindful of Isabel's wishes. Isabel had always hoped the family belongings would be useful as teaching tools for future generations. Isabel's father was a lobsterman, farmer, state legislator and the last salmon fisherman in the Camden area. A few

years ago, his fish house was moved to, and is currently on display at, the Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut.

Cindy and Stephanie gave me a lovely tour of the property, and we scoured every corner for horse and carriage related items. I had been told the Maine State Museum lowered a lovely hay wagon hung from ropes in the barn and added it to their collection. I was to look at two Concord style buggies and a pung. One buggy, Cindy cautioned, sat on rickety boards in the third floor loft. I decided the two buggies would fit nicely into the Skyline collection and went about the game of "chutes and ladders" to get them down safely. Further exploration uncovered carriage building tools, vintage children's sleds, hay rake, brass fire extinguisher (for Skyline's fire wagon), ice drags and bells.

All in all, it was well worth the trip. It was refreshing meeting folks like Cindy and Stephanie who took great care appreciating and organizing the heirlooms, then calling various interested museums. They've made the Ames family proud.



*Democrat (John Sowles photo)*



*Concord Buggy (John Sowles photo)*

*Skyline Memories*

by Sheila Libby Alexander

So many fine memories came back to me while driving down the Lane on October 14<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of judging the classes at the 30<sup>th</sup> Maine Carriage Day. Arriving at Skyline, the gentle ghosts of people and horses who had called this lovely farm home seemed to enjoy this fall day with shining red/orange trees and leaves drifting to the ground as much as I did.

I've been going to Skyline since 1958, before the indoor (arena) was even built, early on for riding lessons and then for my first job as riding instructor. How pleased Abby and Carl Semmes would have been to see Skyline looking so *absolutely cherished*, with horses, ponies, and a fabulous donkey trotting around the ring, through the fields and down The Lane. The dear kind school horses from the Skyline Stable era, Frosty,

Santa Fe, Rocket, Pedro, Pepper, Jet, Major, Chico and Dusty, to name a few, would have been delighted, too, to see all the activities. It was just that kind of crisp autumn day that energizes people and horses and makes them happy to be out and about.

Ken Sowles, the heart and soul of Skyline Farm from the '70's on, certainly would have been beaming as well. Maine Carriage Day, first held at Union Fairground 30 years ago was now taking place at his beloved Skyline Farm. People coming together with their horses, ponies and that charming donkey, put to all sorts of two and four wheeled carriages, having such a good time, this would have thoroughly delighted him. No wonder the fine memories continue, coming or going down The Lane to or from Skyline Farm.



*Stephanie Buckley of Brunswick, ME, maneuvering her team through the large cones. Patti Mikkelsen photo*



*Maren Robinson from Cape Elizabeth, Maine, driving "Boots" Patti Mikkelsen photo*

**In Review: Maine Carriage Day** by Pamela Ames

Congratulations to Robin Kroc, Lynn Young, Patsy O'Brien, and Cynn timeriques for developing a new format for Maine Carriage Day that was well received by the carriage drivers. We saw many new faces, and it was unanimous - what a fantastic time everyone had!

The country drive through Skyline's neighbors' fields and orchards was a highlight for both driver and land owner. Even people out apple-picking at Hansel's orchards were pleasantly surprised to see horses driving by!

The picnic class was something to behold! No one knew what to expect, and the picnic feature added an appealing flair. Maine's Chef of the Year Jeff Landry is excited to build on this event next year.

The afternoon obstacles drew in a few more drivers, and a good time was had by all.

Thank you to Robin and the other organizers for boldly moving in a direction that resonated with some drivers whom we haven't seen at the Farm for a while.



*Barbara Hardenbrook of Weld, ME, encourages her donkey through the cones. Not surprisingly, they did not win fastest time of day. Patti Mikkelsen photo*

**In review: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Fest by Jennifer Kimball**



*Kids at the donut string challenge.  
Jane Gordon photo*

Over 250 people turned out on a beautiful sunny afternoon for Halloween fun at Skyline Farm on October 20, 2007. Many kids arrived in costume for horse drawn wagon rides; games like donuts on a string, bobbing for apples, beanbag toss; coloring and cupcake decorating. Lots of families enjoyed playtime in the field and a tour of the museum. There was a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm for what is going on at the farm.

Special thanks goes out to Alison Hoyt, who with her family and friends, organized and ran the event; Luther Gray and his team of Percherons for staying late to accommodate the crowd and their desire to ride behind those beautiful horses; and the Cumberland/North Yarmouth Family Network for promoting and supporting Skyline Farm.

**In review: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive**



*Keji Wiessner, along with Hannah and Tyler Moore enjoy themselves at Pumpkin Fest.  
Jennifer Wiessner photo*

Skyline Farm Trustee Becky Totten received rave reviews for a Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive she organized last November. Here's a sampling of the post-event comments:

"I would like to thank Becky Totten and her family & friends for putting on a wonderful trail ride/drive Sunday, to benefit Skyline Farm, at Margaret Gardiner's Kennebec Morgan horse farm. The route was well organized and planned; ocean views, fall colors, migratory bird life and food were all top notch. Judging from the overflow of horse trailers I would guess she brought in twice as many entries as last year. I think at least 8 drivers and more than 30 riders. Congrats, Becky."

Greg Cuffey

"It was a glorious day at Kennebec Morgan Farm. Becky had trails open on all sides of beautiful Phipps Point. We rode for two hours through the woods, fields, and always beside the glistening bay. The memory of the day will certainly last through the long winter. Many thanks to Becky

and her crew for a well run ride/drive and to Margaret Gardiner for again sharing her beautiful bit of Maine with so many riders/whips and their happy equine partners. The delicious food at the end of the trail was most appreciated as well."

Cheerio.

Sheila Alexander & Rohanna

"Wow! I could hear Becky's excitement and enthusiasm in her voice when she left me a voice mail about the 50 ENTRIES, including 7 drivers, she had for this event!!! Ursula Baier said that she and Donna Thurston had a wonderful day. (It almost makes me want to get a horse.)

Thank you, Becky, for raising \$1,300 for Skyline Farm by putting on a fun event at a beautiful site.

Also, on behalf of the Board, I'll send Miss Gardiner a note of thanks for generously letting us use her farm. I'm sure the venue must have attracted some of the entries."

Pam Ames



*Riders meander down a curvy trail at Kennebec Morgan Horse Farm in Woolwich, Maine.  
Becky Totten photo*

Nik Josephson, Gage Gallati, and Brendan Coyle are 3 Boy Scouts who needed to get in some service work before mid-January, so Skyline Farm President Pamela Ames put them to work around the Farm.

On December 27, two of the scouts helped create a brush pile with the pine that was piled up on Sweetser Road. Having been hampered by snowstorms, the scouts finally were able to torch a big bonfire about two weeks later. On that beautiful sunny day, the crew went from parkas to t-shirts all in a 4-hour time span. Their moms brought hotdogs, rolls and the ingredients for S'mores to roast over the coals as a reward for the boys' completing their 24 service hours at Skyline Farm.

The next day, John Ames spread out the ashes from the bonfire pile, so

that no one will ever know what transpired at that spot. As people walk along Sweetser Road past the area the boys cleaned up, all they will notice is how nice it looks.

Going back to a separate project the scouts performed in late December, the group hauled out all the remaining loose hay scattered around in the hayloft area. Now the hayloft is useable for storage and other purposes. People who have toured the farm since have remarked that they have never seen such a clean barn. When told about all of the Boy Scouts' hard work, they were very impressed!

Skyline Farm received almost 60 person-hours of volunteer time on these two projects, because of parent and sibling involvement, too. This partnering of needs was truly community-building in action!



*Boy Scout Nik Josephson gives the hayloft a much-needed vacuuming.  
Pamela Ames photo*



*Bonfire crew in action.  
Michelle Josephson photo*

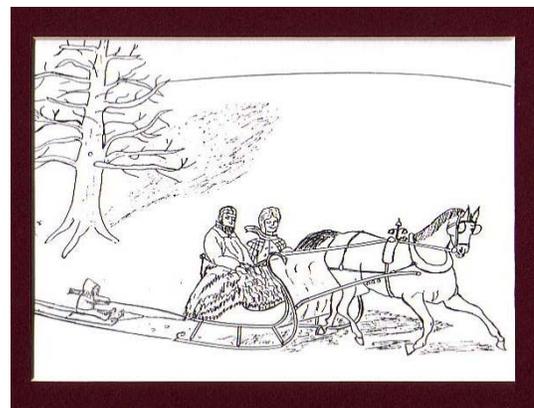
## History: Sleigh-day by Greg Cuffey

A century ago children dreamt of waking to several inches of white fluffy snow. The new day might consist of grabbing a sled and heading out for snowy adventures. The city streets would have been full of commercial and pleasure sleighs. To the chagrin of their drivers, the child might have threaded a loose rope around the back of a commercial sleigh and then taxied to their favorite sledding hill.

Another popular winter equine pastime that the children might enjoy would be watching a couple of trotters engage in an impromptu "brush" (horses going a short distance at top speed). Winter racing was commonplace, particularly along straight flat sections of road. Farmers and business men alike took great pride in their fast horses. Common sleighs used were the Portland Cutter, Skeleton sleigh with its lightweight frame and/or a racing Sulky with sleigh runners replacing the high wheels. These races would often culminate months later at a more formal venue which included fairground tracks, frozen rivers (Royal) and lakes (Sebago). Unlike today, the race would have been run

in three "heats". The winner would have placed first in two out of three heats.

Young and old enjoyed the winter pastime of sledding.



*Sketch by Greg Cuffey  
2008*

**2008 SKYLINE FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS (First half of year)**

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: Contact the event chairperson, go to [www.skylinefarm.org](http://www.skylinefarm.org), write to [info@skylinefarm.org](mailto:info@skylinefarm.org), or leave a message at (207) 829-9203.

**Feb. 2 through Mar. 23** **“Good Sledding” Sleigh Exhibit** *Sundays, 12-3, or by appointment*  
 Come to Skyline Farm Carriage Museum to learn the variety of ways in which 19<sup>th</sup> century folks handled winter driving conditions, writing in their diaries about “good sledding” when conditions were optimum for visiting neighbors. You’ll see examples of snowshoes, skis, and 19<sup>th</sup> century sleighs in the Exhibit Hall (please dress warmly as it is unheated) and gain a sense of how people took advantage of the snow-pack to revel in recreational pursuits. Free admission.  
 Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 894-5134

**Feb. 2** **Sleigh Day - 9<sup>th</sup> annual** *12-3 pm*  
 This sleigh driving demonstration at Skyline Farm is a virtual step back in time, bringing “Currier & Ives” to life. Take this unique opportunity to get a first-hand glimpse of the glorious days of the horse-drawn transportation era. \$8 per spectator (free for Skyline Farm members and children under 6). If you’d like to truly feel what it was like to drive along the quiet snow in an old-fashioned, horse-drawn sleigh, a sleigh ride will be included as part of your admission fee. Lunch will be catered by Equisine.  
 Info: Lynn Young, (207) 829-5838 or Patsy O’Brien, (207) 688-4402

**Mar. 1** **Sledding Party** *10 am - 12 pm*  
 In keeping with the “Good Sledding” theme, this is a chance for families with young children to get together for a morning of sliding down the snow-covered rolling hills of Skyline Farm. Warm up with hot chocolate and goodies. Free admission.  
 Info: Jennifer Kimball, (207) 829-6278

**May 4 through Aug. 31** **Carriage Exhibit** *Sundays, 12-3 pm or by appointment*  
 Skyline Farm Carriage Museum showcases the new carriage exhibit, accented with vintage accessories. Free admission.  
 Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 894-5134

**July 12** **Carriage Auction - 6<sup>th</sup> annual** *10 am*  
 Once again auctioneer Phil Stanton from Falmouth, Massachusetts, has volunteered his services to auction off carriages, sleighs, antiques and collectibles. Come find that next gem to add to your collection or get you in the driver’s seat! Donated and consignment items needed.  
 Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 894-5134

**July 12** **Lobster Bake & Concert - 6<sup>th</sup> annual** *5–8 pm*  
 A summer evening of enjoying Maine’s favorite shellfish and the sounds of a live band. Carriage rides through the fields available (separate fee).  
 Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708



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Minutes after the Dog and Pony Show silent auction closed last October, Ivy Anna Kitchen of Yarmouth, Maine, displayed her new limited edition print “Get Well Soon” by artist Beth Carlson. According to Ivy’s mom Suzanne (pictured on right), Ivy chose this painting as her Christmas present. Patti Mikkelsen photo