



Rambling Willie

In God We Trust



*Serving Jesus Christ in
Harness Racing*



NOVEMBER, 2014

CHRISTIAN HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Remember...

I pray for all our members every day.



Chaplain Lee

Board of Directors

Chaplain Lee Alphen
Racetrack Ministry

Amy Bondon, President
Estrorace, LLC

Greg Gehman, Vice President
Knight's Landing Stable

Lori Romanetti
Moshannon Stables

For newsletter questions or ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor
leealphen@comcast.net
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

2015 Stallion Auction



Please consider donating a breeding to our January 28-31, 2015 stallion auction.

Where's God?
By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Is God at the track? Should I look for Him standing on the apron near the finish line? Absolutely!

Last month we discovered horse racing officially began in 648 BC likely in conjunction with the Olympics. As kids we raced each other to school, home or to the corner just for the fun of it. It is likely Jesus and His friends did the same thing. And, yes, if they had donkeys to ride they probably raced them too.

The fact is God is everywhere. David in Psalm 139 is pouring his heart out to God, realizing there is no way for him to escape God's presence. God even knows his inmost thoughts. Oh, no... I guess that means God knows all my thoughts too. David realizes God made him and knows him inside and out. The closeness of God overwhelms David as he cries out for God to help him get his act together.

Not to worry... We read in Psalm 46:1-2 that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble." Let's boldly claim with the psalmist "Therefore we will not fear, even if the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the sea." We can rejoice knowing with

God's help we can overcome any difficulties and get our lives back on track.



Though God knows every step we take and every thought we think, He is not out to get us. God loves us and wants only our happiness. Since God made us, God knows what makes us happy. Horses and cars and houses and fancy meals and a big bank roll may seem to us like the ticket to happiness. Some even may think a good high on drugs or alcohol is pure bliss. However, when it comes right down to it, we know these things are not the pot at the end of the rainbow. Sure, God wants us to enjoy all the wonderful earth He created has to offer. God's plan is for us to enjoy peace and harmony with all creation, as we seek to find Him in all things.

The secret to happiness is having a good relationship with God. That's right! When we have a good

Cont. on page 3

Surf Cast Jimmy, The Miracle Colt
By John Prescott

West Nile disease is a nasty, debilitating disease that affects the central nervous system and kills a good percentage of horses that contract it. This is a story of how my beautiful yearling colt contracted that disease, and how God intervened to heal him.

On the morning of July 5, 2013 Surf Cast Jimmy, a full brother to Surf Cast Michelle, p 1:53, showed a limping lameness while in the field. I thought that maybe he had banged his leg and would work it out; not so. Around 1 PM we brought him into the barn and into a stall where he immediately went

down. The colt tried desperately to get up. His front legs were forward lifting his head and front end, but his rear end was down and immobile. We called Dr. Neff. He came within the hour and worked on him for nearly two hours. He seemed to be getting worse. His front end collapsed, and he lay helpless on his side. Dr Neff said he could do no more. Jeff, my partner on the horse,



Jeff, my partner on the horse,

Cont. page 3

Obituaries

Please pray for the families of these harness racing friends:

Robert M. Baggitt Sr of Allentown, NJ, a longtime horse owner and a board member of the SBOANJ, passed away on Wednesday, Oct 1. He was 81. It was through his wife of 54 years, Sandra, and her father, driver-trainer Larry Powers, that he was introduced to harness racing. His son, Bob Jr. and nephew, Jack Baggitt Jr., are both horsemen.

Robert J. "R. J." Brown, 90, of Troy, OH, died Oct 14. RJ was a Standardbred owner, trainer and driver since 1951 when he began racing at the Miami County Fairgrounds. RJ won more than 1,900 races and more than \$2.5 million during his career of 60 plus years.



Melvin L. Chupp, 83, father of longtime Chicago trainer-drivers Merv and Del Chupp, died Sep 30 in Toledo, Ohio. Melvin trained and drove Standardbreds for many years throughout the Midwest, including the Chicago tracks, Raceway Park and Fairmount Park. He was well-known for his ability to get along with hard-to-manage horses.

Donald E. "Donnie" Conrad, 66, of Corydon, Indiana, died Oct 25. He was an owner, trainer, driver and breeder of Standardbreds, as well as a former board member the Kentucky and Indiana Horsemen's Associations. He spent a lifetime in the harness racing industry. Donnie was also a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard.



Marvin "Clay" Clayton Hudson died on Thursday, Oct 3. Marvin owned, trained and drove Standardbreds in Michigan.

Robert G. Farrington, 85, died Oct 13 from a heart attack. Bob became the leading driver in the nation in 1961 and held that honor for six of the next seven years. He was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame and has also been named the Harness Horsemen's International Man of the Year. He is in the Ohio and Illinois Halls of Fame. Bob was about to retire when Rambling Willie came along and together they became a winning combination winning more races than any other horse in history (128) and Willie was the first horse to win more than \$2,000,000. Bob and Rambling Willie went on a book tour across the United States promoting the book "The Horse That God Loved".



Douglas "Doug" Hyatt, 81, of Milton, Ontario, died Oct 23. Doug was very successful with his Standardbreds, most notably Eleganimage, Holborn Hanover and 2006 Little Brown Jug winner Mr Feelgood. In recent years he had been heavily involved in the Standardbred Race Track Chaplaincy of Canada, and was instrumental in many of their golf tournaments and barbecues. He was associated with the Canamerica Capital Corp. and Hyatt Holdings and is the father-in-law of Hall of Fame driver Steve Condren.



Joseph V. "Trigger" Marone, 90, died Oct 2. Trigger served in the Navy in the South Pacific in World War II. He was co-owner of the Pok-A-Dot Restaurant, a Batavia landmark, with Phillip "Philly" Pastore. The two owned and operated Sunny's Restaurant from 1977 to 2000. He was also owner of United Horse Transportation Company.

Vincent Dean Messina, 75, died Oct 14 at his home in Haines City, FL. He worked as a Union Official at Batavia Downs and also worked on many construction projects throughout the area. Vincent enjoyed harness racing and was a former harness horse owner. His brother, Paul, is currently racing at Batavia Downs.

Marvin Miller, the father of horsemen Erv and Andy Miller, died Oct 4 after a long bout with cancer. He was 67. Marvin, a member of the Old Order Amish Faith, was a long-time breeder and owner of Standardbreds. He managed the Arthur Sale Barn in Arthur, IL for over

12 years and also operated the Midwest Standardbred Sale.

Shirley L. Otto, 79, of Jefferson, OH, died Oct 16 at her residence, surrounded by her loving family. Shirley was a former employee of Jefferson Manufacturing and was affiliated with the Andover United Methodist Church. She owned many Standardbreds over the years. She enjoyed watching the live race telecasts on her computer and was a fan of Roger Huston, the race caller at the Meadows. Shirley also enjoyed gardening and bird watching and was an excellent seamstress and cook.



Clarence J. Schalk Jr., 83, of Wilmington, Ohio, died Oct 28 at home, surrounded by family. Clarence was a farmer, trainer, breeder and Korean War veteran. He enjoyed racing on the Ohio fair circuits with his small stable of horses.

Hobart Dale "Doc" Schoonover, 96, of Findlay, died Oct 3 at his home. Doc had his own veterinary practice until he retired in 1980. From then on it was full time training and racing harness horses. His racing career spanned 64 plus years, competing in Ohio and Michigan at the county fairs and pari-mutuel tracks. Doc also worked in the judge's stand as a timer for many years at the Hancock County Fair and served on the Fair Board. He was making appearances in the winner's circle at age 91, 92 and 93. As Doc would say, "The good Lord has provided me with many blessings."

Miracle from page 1 and I were devastated. I had to leave but would return later.

About a half hour later Jeff called me to say the colt had sprung to his feet. I returned to the barn immediately and asked Jeff what happened. These are his words: "I got down on my knees in front of the colt and said, 'Lord this baby is too good a horse to let this happen. Please heal him.'" Within five minutes of the prayer the colt jumped to his feet and was awkwardly walking around the stall munching hay. In September we broke the colt to the cart only to see him occasionally fall down not strong enough to jog much yet. I believed God would continue to heal him, especially since Dr. Neff had said that he would possibly recover 100%. Each day I jogged the colt, and he continued to show signs of improvement. Daily I would pray, and in the mid spring I put hobbles on him.

From the end of May until the first of July, the colt improved miraculously. He was now pacing miles in 2:25. Knowing how far he came and seeing his courage and determination, I was as thrilled as if he had won the Little Brown Jug. Surf Cast Jimmy raced this past summer at the NY County Fairs passing a few horses to finish third a couple of times. At the end of August Jimmy paced in 2:08 in a qualifying race at Vernon Downs, then I quit with him.

As I am writing this story Jimmy is out in his paddock resting and continuing to heal. I do so look forward to his three year old season fully expecting God to continue healing my Surf Cast Jimmy. Why God heals some while not healing others is a mystery to me. God's ways are not our ways. Nevertheless prayer requests are made daily to God by the Christian community for the healing of cancer, accident injuries, financial needs, etc. One thing for sure, people are turning to God. I have experienced many prayer requests that have seemingly gone unanswered, many of which I am glad were never answered. But this is not the case with this colt. I do hope these events bring some hope to anyone who is praying for a miracle.

Please verify or add address on back

Please activate my FREE membership. My address is on the back.




Email Address _____

Please pray for my intentions _____

Phone _____

Circle one:

Please return to: leaalphen@comcast.net

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

OR

CHHA
157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

Name on Card _____

Choose from these free gifts with your donation

Standardbred Old Friends by Barbara Livingston (\$30) donation *Bruce Ranger* reprints _____ qty (free)

Don't Blow it with God by Jack Levine (\$25) donation *Where the Rubber Meets the Road* by Jack Levine (\$25) donation

Publications available while supplies last

Donations also accepted at www.chha.net.

Prayer Corner

Please pray for all the people on our Prayer

List who are battling cancer, especially:

Debbie Boardman, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Wayne Cowdry, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, John Fowler, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Mary Haskell, Karen Hettrick, Rose Hennessey, John Hufford, Betty James, Bob Kinsey, Rox Liles, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Priscilla McFayden, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Patsy Payne, Robyn Rembleski, Del Smart, Rose Sinclair, Jimmy Sommers, Jack Taylor, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward, Sr., Alice Wardman, Betty Wogoman, Marty Woebkenberg, Chaplain Yurian and Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Amy Bondon, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Diane Boyken, Lois Boyken, Phyllis Bunch's mom, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Dale, Harold Dancer, Dick, Blanche DiDonatto, Jimmy Doherty, Dennis Drenth, Chaplain Tom Farley, Nora Fenner, Barbara Elrod, Barbara Fowler, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, David Graham, Debbie Gray, Harry Harvey, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, Donna Holterman, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Thelma Klark, Kenny Kane, Katherine Lonager, Faye Mackey, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Stewart Nemiro, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Susan Parks, Rita Polese, Donnie Richards, Ken and Peggy Roper, Rev.



and Mrs. James Slack, Tom Smith, Brad Strawser, Tony, Lee Anne Taylor, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Greggie Welch, Jr, Bill Wick and Tony Working.

Please pray for those serving in the military, especially Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu and Chris Petruzzo.

Please pray for all the Christians who are being persecuted for their faith and for peace especially in the Mideast.

Heidi Alphen is in a six month drug rehab program with her baby.

Priscilla, Chaplain Ken Carter's granddaughter, is having a real struggle with brain and lung tumors. They just found a lump near her elbow.

Gary Cartwright is scheduled for a hip replacement.

Please keep Denise Sebolsky in your prayers. Her little horse died. She races at Monticello.

Please pray for Kathy Auer and her family. Her brother-in-law, John Edmund David, 66, of Parsonsfield, Maine, died September 24 in a tractor accident. He was a Vietnam Veteran who proudly served in the United States Army. Her niece, Amanda Darling, 29, was killed in an auto accident few weeks later. Kathy headed up the Harness Horse Youth Foundation Summer Camps at various tracks the last two summers. She has worked at various harness tracks on the east coast.

Praise Reports

Heather Wilder recovered quickly from her broken leg.

Greg Gehman has healed enough from surgery to lay aside his scooter.

Karen Carter's knee replacement went well. So did Gary Cartwright's hip surgery.

Thank you for your prayers!

Memorial Contributions

Memorials are posted at www.chha.net.

In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Jerry and Cheri Carroll

In memory of **Chip Noble** by: Jerry and Cheri Carroll

In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Thelma Klark

In memory of **Ruth Helen** by: Diane Helen

In memory of **Terrance Blair** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Warren Cameron** by: Larry Martin

In memory of **Marvin Miller** by: Gloria Cisna

In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assoc

In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Country Place Homeowner's Assoc

In memory of **Sandy Lovato** by: Amy Bondon

In memory of **Doug Hyatt** by: Jean Emerson

God cont. from page 1 relationship with God; God encourages us to have right relationships with the people and things around us. Often that means lending a hand or a smile or even feeding the hungry and providing for those who have less. It also means not putting things before God.

Do you remember Bette Midler's beautiful song, "From A Distance?" Indeed, God is watching us. God is watching us because God loves us and wants so much to be there for us. God wants to be there for us even more than we want to be there for those we love.

Yes, the Lord Almighty is with us. In fact, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 17 that God's Spirit lives in us. The Spirit of God lives in you and me and all God's people everywhere. Whatever we do for those around us, we do for God. Remember too, God is always there to help. God is at the track, in the kitchen, the market, the pool hall and even at the football game.



157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

Please indicate
address corrections.

<i>Where's God?</i>	1
<i>The Miracle Colt</i>	1
<i>Obituaries</i>	2
<i>Return Coupon</i>	3
<i>Prayer Corner</i>	3
<i>Praise Reports</i>	3
<i>Memorial Contributions</i>	3
<i>John Klark Memorial Race</i>	4
<i>Sweet Sweet Savior</i>	4

Please consider donating a breeding
to our Stallion Auction
January 28-31, 2015



John Klark Memorial Race at the Barton County Fair By Joanne Mann

I was proud to again represent CHHA at the harness racing meet at the Orleans County Fair in Barton, Vermont on Thursday, August 14th. The mood there was somewhat bittersweet due to the absence of beloved local harness racer, veterinarian and long-time fair board member, Stanwood "Doc" Churchill, who passed away earlier this summer. "Doc" had been largely responsible for keeping harness racing alive at this event and, thankfully, his family is now carrying on the tradition.

My dear friend, Darlene White, and I were warmly greeted by "Doc's" son, George, and daughter-in-law, Robyn, who arranged for the John Klark Memorial race again this year and it was our pleasure to make a presentation to the race winner on behalf of CHHA.

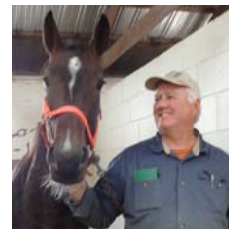
First at the wire was 10 year old mare, "Molly McGuire," owned by Barbara Lawson of Medfield, Massachusetts, trained by Russell Lawson and driven by John Dunleavy, Jr., with a time of 2:03:2. Other horses on the race program hailed from not only Massachusetts and Vermont but also from New York and Florida.

Despite heavy rain the previous day, the track was in pretty good condition. Thanks to everyone there for their hard work and friendly welcome. It's easy to see why the Orleans County Fair is referred to as "the little fair with a big heart!"

Sweet Sweet Savior

By Ernie Lowell

I read the book you left for me.
I read each line and scripture so carefully.
Your wonderful sentence tells me of my repentance.
Your word shines bright as I continue to look
At the Golden Words within your Book.
Yes, the Word evermore shines
From the red letter edition lines.



Ernie Lowell with
Bubbas Bustn Out

Those words of wisdom will never grow old,
For they were written in blood from the Savior's love
That flowed from a heart of gold.
From the Word of God I can look upon the Savior's face
Of tears and blood and mercy and grace.
On the words of the Savior's love I now stand
The Savior now leads and holds my hand.
I once was on the devil's path.
The Savior's love has saved me from satan's wrath.
Nothing can curse the devil more
Than the cleansing blood and the word of the Savior's love
Satan and his demons cannot endure.
SWEET, SWEET SAVIOR I am yours forever more.
© 2014 E.S. Lowell

Ernie Lowell, a Scarborough Downs blacksmith, pulled out a piece of scrap paper at his grandson's ball game and scratched out this poem. Frequently the Lord inspires Ernie with a poem or a cartoon. Diane Fenderdson from Old Orchard, Maine actually put this poem to music and sang it in Nashville. Way to go Ernie!

The Lord also inspires Ernie to use his talents, forge, and hammer to shape iron into works of art. Some of these he uses to benefit his favorite charities.

The last six years Ernie spearheaded a massive Tractor Pull Fundraising Event for Make - A - Wish Foundation.