

NDS NEWSLETTER

Northamptondrivingsociety.org



Promoting the Equine Sport of Carriage Driving

August 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trace Pace/Pleasure Drive

September 26 at Audrey Cooper's farm. This is an optimum-time event for all skill levels using trails and ½ mile track. Whips can choose to drive for pleasure and not be timed.

The fee is \$25 for non-members - to be used as a membership fee if they want to participate (for insurance purposes). All turnouts will be accepted. Helmets are required. Must provide proof of rabies and negative Coggins.

There are also dressage and cones courses for those who want to practice those for fun.

Rain date Sept 27.

RSVP required: reenieromeo@gmail.com

Batavia Downs Racing/Dinner

Saturday, October 17.

Lindsay will help with collection of money. More info to come.

Christmas Tea Cookie Exchange

Dec 12 at 1:00 PM

Reenie will try to book the Ogden Farmer's Library.

The NDS Board will outline our 2027 calendar beforehand and present it at the exchange.

RECENT EVENTS

CT Show

Our first CT show was held June 21 at Avon Driving Park.

The Combined Trial (CT) event had three phases: dressage, cones, and pace.

September 26, 2026

NDS Trace Pace and Pleasure Drive

Starting at 10:00 am

Audrey Cooper's Farm

279 E. Manitou Rd

Hilton, NY. 14468

RSVP reenieromeo@gmail.com

Rain Date September 27

Bring a lawn chair.

The judge was Megan Boss.

In the VSE Training B class, Patricia Fulkerson won first place with her VSE, Kash. Lindsay LaBella won the VSE Prelim B class with Tuna with Jess Clark taking second with Moon Pie. Teresa Jackson took first with Echo in the Horse Prelim B class, with Brenda Lester taking second with Waywatcher.

Everyone agreed the venue was perfect for our needs. There was a screen room for our secretaries and raised judge's room overlooking the fenced arena. The arena, the area for the cones course, and the trailer parking area were all in the infield of the track. The park, built in 1836, offers the oldest ¾ mile trotting track in the country. The large trees throughout the property added comforting shade. Lots of volunteers came out and enjoyed a beautiful day with horses.

For those who missed our annual pleasure show, don't worry, volunteer to help plan it, and it will be back next year.

The Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum Tour

Thirteen of us enjoyed a fascinating look back at history. Our tour guide, Dawn Ziegler, has long been our NDS treasurer. The wealth of knowledge she presented was wonderful.



2026 NDS CALENDAR

August	6-9	Orleton (Stockbridge, MA)
	23	NDS Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum tour - Dawn
	20-23	GMHA CDE Prelim & Interm Championships (VT)
September	5-6	GVRDC CT & DT (Geneseo)
	9	NDS Board mtg 7 PM via Zoom
	15-20	Tryon CDE (NC)
	26	NDS Trace Pace/Pleasure Dr/Cross Country - Audrey's Farm - Mary/Reenie
October	1-4	Garden State CDE (NJ)
	14	NDS Board mtg 7 PM via Zoom
	17	NDS Night at the Races - Batavia Downs -
Nov	11	NDS Board mtg 7 PM via Zoom
Dec	12	Christmas Tea Cookie Exchange 1 PM Ogden Farmer's Library

In Memoriam

John P. Barrow

Western New York horseman John Barrow passed away on July 25, 2026 at age 86, after a lengthy illness.

At age eleven, John was jogging horses for his father in Rochester, New York. At eighteen, he made his first start at Vernon Downs with a mare named Frisco Sue Heck.

A couple years later, he and Ben Webster, both twenty years old, were featured in a local newspaper as “among the most promising of the track’s new sulky pilots,” as rated by veteran horsemen at Batavia Downs.

John enjoyed training and driving success on the western New York circuit during the 1960’s with horses like For Zeno, Sleek Hanover, and Katie Lou.

In the early 1970’s he married his wife, Elma, gave up racing, and moved to Florida where he was employed in property management.

While most people retire from western New York to Florida, John flipped the script and moved back to western New York from Florida with Elma when they retired. Before long he was back in the racing business, owning and training Don’t Tell Elma (1:51.2, \$150,143), Who Told Elma (1:57, \$39,697), Manvincible (1:54.1, \$63,986) and Tinker Taxi (1:55.1, \$78,425), among others. Between 2006 and 2021 he had 309 starters and was on the board 103 times, with an UTRS of .410 in 2017 and .433 in 2018.

John had a great sense of humor, twinkling blue eyes and a cheery smile for everyone, from the security gate, shed row, and race office. He fussed over his horses and was very fond of them, as he was of his cats.

John is survived by his sisters Roberta Potter, Charlene Norter, and Francis Hafner; his stepson Gary Colburn, and grand-daughter Tanya Griepp; great-grandson Benjamin Metzger; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters Ann Marie Berner and Constance Manfreda; and his very close friends Gary Gregory and Dale Vidler.

John was a friend to NDS and enjoyed outbidding people at the annual banquet. I will always remember his fierce love for his cat, Puppy. He will be missed. ❤️