

Sept 3, 2020:

Dear MDHMA Members,

We are excited to meet many of our members next week (Sept 11-13) at the Madison County Fairgrounds in Twin Bridges. Here are a few logistics to note:

- The pens next to the arena and the open air stalls on the west end barn will be available on a first come, first serve basis (but there are tons more than we will need. Stalls are covered and are single horse and pens are uncovered and can easily hold 2-3 horses. Stabling cost is \$20/horse for the entire weekend.
- Pens have water bins. You will need water buckets for the stalls. If you have a spare hose, you may want to bring one. There are water spigots throughout the stabling area.
- Pens will likely have grass growing in them. For those with easy keepers, you may prefer the stalls which are covered and dirt floored. If you prefer a stall, you may want to add some shavings. You can bring your own or they are available for \$8/bag. If you want to buy shavings, I will need to know in advance how many bags you want.
- Hay is NOT available, you will need to bring your own hay/feed.
- When you clean out on Sunday, simply pile the manure/shavings outside the stall/pen and they will collect it with their front end loader.
- Camping is available for \$20 for the weekend. There are electric hookups all along the main drive by the barns and grandstands as well as past the grandstands in the park area. There are no water or sewer hookups although you could certainly hook a hose up to a water spigot to fill your water tank if need be.

Below is the general itinerary for the weekend which includes a lot of great instruction and education.

Friday

Lunch on your own

1:30 – 3:30: Claudia Hrebicek – Mini Workshop

- This workshop covers the basic skills a driver / teamster needs and exercises are tailored to all levels of participants. Depending on what areas participants need, we may focus on line and whip handling, driving with focus and precision. How loss of forward motion and your horse going on the bit impacts your driving. The difference between “driving “ your horse(s) around a corner and “pulling” them around a corner and/or transitions and speed control.

4:00 – 5:30: Harlan – Finding a quality vehicle and keeping it in top shape

- Harlan, the expert wheelright at the Nevada City Living History Museum, will discuss what to look for when purchasing a used, and especially older, vehicle which also applies to the vehicles you currently own. Preventative maintenance of your vehicles and how common problems are fixed will also be discussed. Bring your questions or questionable vehicles!

Dinner on your own - Twin Bridges is so generous to let us use the fairgrounds each year for next to nothing (and include us in their umbrella insurance so we don't have to pay hundreds more on our insurance policy to insure the fall event) so we encourage everyone to support their local businesses and visit one of their local restaurants for dinner Friday night.

7:00 – 8:00: Hellhat Helmet Making – Bonnie Doyle and Robin Williams will lead those who wish to make a Hellhat Helmet brim. You must bring your own helmet and materials (see previous email for material list).

Saturday

7:30 – 9:00 – Breakfast

9:30 – Noon: Concurrent Instruction – Feel free to move from one area to the next

- **Claudia Hrebicek** – Mini Workshop - Continue to work on the areas mentioned in Friday's description. An obstacle course and cone pattern will be set up for instruction. Drivers may join any time during the day, but will get the most out of it, if they start at the beginning.
- **Matt Clover** – Learn to skid logs or improve your skidding ability with instruction and tips from Matt

Noon – 1:00 – Lunch

1:00 – 3:00: Friendly Competition

- **Obstacle Course** – There will be an open class for experienced drivers and a “novice” class for beginning drivers and/or horses. An experienced driver will be assigned to ride with each novice to help talk them through the course.
- **Canadian Maze** – There will be 2 classes. An open class and a “walk/trot” class for novice drivers. Novice drivers will be assigned an experienced driver to ride with them and help guide them through the maze.
- **Log Skidding** – There will be a team class and a single class, open to all. Novice skidders can request a guide to walk with them during their skidding run.

3:00 – 5:00:

- **Short drive to the Round Barn** – Melody Quade will organize a short 1.5 mile (one way) drive to visit the historic Round Barn at Twin Bridges for those who would like to go for a pleasure drive (and hopefully a short tour inside again since many folks who will be coming this year were not there 3 years ago when we visited it?)
- **Claudia** will be available for anyone who may prefer to stay and work on their or their horse's driving skills

6:30: Potluck Dinner and Business Meeting – Bill Blomley will be making his famous pulled pork BBQ for dinner. Everyone else is asked to bring preferably a side dish or salad, or perhaps a dessert (or both? ☺).

Sunday

7:30 – 9:00: Breakfast

9:30 - 11:00: Pleasure Drive – Loren Tucker is organizing a pleasure drive in the Twin Bridges area.

11:00 – Noon: All hands on deck to help load up the association trailers, clean out pens/stalls, etc.

Noon – 1:00: Lunch

After Lunch: Finish packing up and head home or stay and drive around a little more – the afternoon is yours to plan

If you are planning on attending but have not yet let me know, please do so by the end of this weekend as I will be food shopping early next week. If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Thanks,
Nicole