



SLOWHEGAN STATE FAIR

*Year 201 - Still #1
1818 - 2019*

AUGUST 8-17, 2019



Contributed photos

Left, KSR Motorports Auto Thrill Show and, above, the North Atlantic Wrestling Association have shows on multiple days. Check the schedule in this section on pages 6 and 7.

Right, Maine balloon twister and magician Carroll Chapman has traveled throughout New England with his balloon zoo and baffling magic tricks.

Bargains and exciting shows highlight the 201st Skowhegan State Fair

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

This 201st year of the Skowhegan State Fair will offer some bargains at the gates, along with several new shows and plenty of traditional favorites.

Starting at 7 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 8, fairgoers will pay only \$1 to see the first day of the 10 days of fun. That includes a 4-H horse and working steer show, an antique power equipment display, a poultry show, G-Force laser tag, the Magic of Conjuring Carroll and his Maine-ly Balloons, bingo and plenty of music.

For those who love the big and loud shows, the Doodlebug Pulls and the KSR Motorports Auto Thrill Show will exceed all expectations. Throw in the North Atlantic Wrestling Association's exhibition matches, and that dollar couldn't be better spent.

Children under age 10 get in for free. General admission fees are \$1 on opening day, Aug. 8, \$10 on Aug. 9-11 and Aug. 16-17, \$8 on Aug. 12-15. A 10-day fair pass is \$50 per person, and a seven-day harness racing pass is \$25. Senior Citizens Days are Monday,

Aug. 12 and Thursday, Aug. 15. People 62 and over will pay \$4 at the gate. Wednesday and Thursday are designated this year as Military Appreciation Days, and those with a military ID will pay \$4 admission. Discounts and passes do not include parking.

Maine balloon twister and magician Carroll Chapman has traveled throughout New England with his balloon zoo and baffling magic tricks. As Conjuring Carroll, he has developed a magic show that includes Buster, the Disappearing Bunny Rabbit, an amazing rope trick and sleight of hand entertainment. As a supporter of local farms and agriculture, he is a seed saver, has a flock of Rhode Island Red chickens, rabbits, a compost bin, and grows his own vegetables.

"I try to throw in a few agricultural fun facts," he said.

He will have several magic and balloon shows throughout the week, starting on opening day at 2:45 p.m. Check the schedule on pages 6 and 7 or online at skowhegan-statefair.com/daily-event-schedule for his other show times.

Each year, Fiesta Shows brings popular rides to Skowhegan State Fair, and this year,

three crowd favorites will return. The Fire Ball is a high-speed looping thrill ride that turns riders upside down 60 feet above the midway in an open air car. Riders are required to be very securely fastened in their seats with over-the-shoulder restraints and industrial locking seatbelts.

The Pharaoh's Fury is a family ride with an Egyptian ship that swings back and forth on a pendulum supported by four large towers.

The Magic Maze requires participants to find their way through the fun house's mirror maze on the first level. They'll have to find a hidden staircase to get to the second floor, where they'll be confused by trick mirrors on their journey to the spiral slide exit.

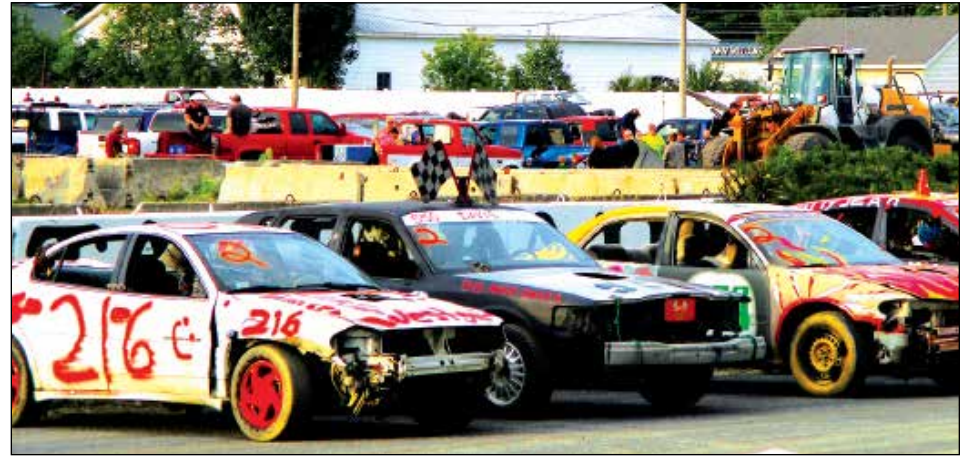
Another popular midway offering rides is Smokey's Greater Shows, which started with a Belgian horse, according to those who knew the show's legendary late owner, George (Bud) Gilmore. He told the story that his father, Ronald (Smokey) Gilmore, claimed he owned the largest mare in the world at 3,200 pounds. His parents took Bud and his siblings on the fair circuit, traveling around the country when they weren't in school in Massachusetts. They started small and camped out

wherever they were working a show. They added games and rides and became one of the best-known midway shows in the country. Smokey's son, Bud took over the business after his father died. After Bud died in 2013, his wife Jeanette kept the business running until 2017, when she sold it to Rob Driskell.

Driskell said he'll be bringing all the popular rides, including the Thunder Bolt, the Zipper and the Trabant.

"One new ride that folks really love is the Spider," he said. "It has six arms attached to a central axis that moves up and down at random, while the cars at the end of the arms spin free."

The ever-popular Demolition Derby races will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9 and continue on Monday, Aug. 12 and Friday, Aug. 16. Each night brings a new group of hopefuls who all have a chance to take home trophies and prizes. Seven days of pari-mutuel racing will start at noon on Sunday, Aug. 11. Some shows start at 6 p.m., so fairgoers should check the Skowhegan State Fair daily schedule in the center spread of this section or online at skowheganstatefair.com/daily-event-schedule.

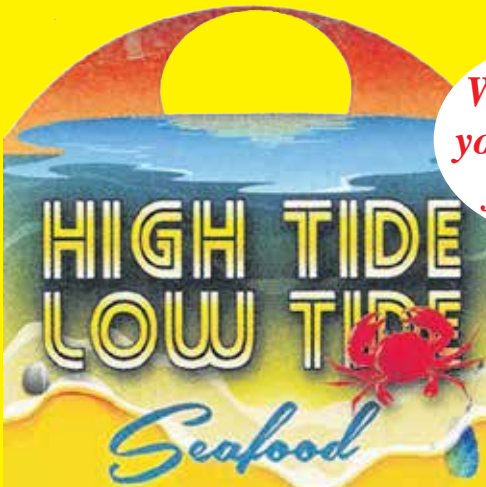


Contributed photos

Fiesta Shows brings the rides to Skowhegan State Fair. The popular Demolition Derby returns with three races on Friday, Aug. 9, Monday, Aug. 12, and Friday, Aug. 16. Horse pulling, harness racing and so many more events are available to see and do at the Skowhegan State Fair this year!



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Thrill shows, Doodlebugs and ATV pulling are new fair events

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

Several new events are expected to draw the crowds to the 201st Skowhegan State Fair this year. Opening day is on Thursday, Aug. 8, and fairgoers will pay just \$1 to see two of the biggest thrill shows in the country.

Randy Chapman, a member of the Maine Antique Tractor Club, has put together a Doodlebug competition at this year's fair. For those who don't know what Doodlebugs are, he said, they can imagine a homemade hybrid version of a car and tractor, powered to pull 3,000, 3,500 and 4,000 pounds in competitions. When farmers couldn't always afford tractors, they learned to modify and cobble together existing vehicles that were sometimes even more powerful than tractors, he said.

Doodlebug conversions typically involved an old Model T Ford with a shortened wheelbase, a heavy-duty rear axle and large, cleated rear wheels. Adding some lower gears made the vehicle able to do heavy work on the farm and, today, collectors get together for friendly competitions and shows.

"We'll have some great challengers at our 5 p.m. show on opening day," Chapman said. "People who build and collect these Doodlebugs are pretty passionate about them and bring their best for the audience."

Also on Thursday, fairgoers will see legendary stunt drivers perform some breathtaking feats of skill and daring. At 7 p.m., KSR Motorsports drivers will keep crowds on the edge of their seats with a thrill show performed by several of the world's legendary stuntmen. Shows will be offered again at 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 7 p.m. on Sunday.



Contributed photos

KSR Motorsports drivers will keep crowds on the edge of their seats with a thrill show performed by several of the world's legendary stuntmen.

"Our shows combine the best stunts of original Joie Chitwood's Traveling Thrill Shows with today's monster trucks and big and loud action," said event organizer and manager Jack Brady.

Ready to meet his fans will be stunt driver Tonny Petersen. Now 85, he was born in Denmark and has operated his own Hell Drivers show around the world.

Doug Danger is another legend in the stunt driving world, said Brady. He set a record for the Longest Motorcycle Jump of 251 feet over 42 cars, and that got him into the Guinness Book of World Records in 1991. He also broke Evel Knievel's jump record over cars

at the Sturgis, South Dakota Motorcycle Rally in 2015. Even though Danger is over 50 and he's broken nearly every bone in his body, his skill and daring will match anything expected of riders more than half his age, Brady said.

KSR will bring several other internationally-famous professional performers for the four shows, packed with airborne motorcycles and Hollywood-style car crashes.

Long-serving fair volunteer Steve Frederick has organized ATV pulls that include several weight classes for both standard single riders and two-person side-by-sides. The pull contestants will be entered into categories based on engine size measured

"Our shows combine the best stunts of original Joie Chitwood's Traveling Thrill Shows with today's monster trucks and big and loud action."

JACK BRADY, KSR MOTORSPORTS
EVENT ORGANIZER AND MANAGER

in cubic centimeters (ccs.) Both the four ATV and side-by-side classes include maximum 500ccs, 600ccs, 700ccs, and the 800ccs and up. Frederick said the entry fee is \$5 per class, per machine. Cash prizes of \$50, \$40 and \$30 will be awarded to winners of each of the two classes. The allowable maximum hitch height is 14 inches, and can't have any added weights. Helmets aren't required, but are advised.

"We're also having a new petting zoo this year," Frederick said. "Kids will love it."

Children can sit on hay bales and interact with the animals, he said. The Shady Lane Farm is well known to past fairgoers because they have a clean and well-organized exhibit for the public. There's a hand washing station for visitors, and animals are tame and used to being handled.

"We're also having a miniature horse show on display all week in the Agway Building," he said.

Horses will be entered in a show at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 11. Judges will grade entries on showmanship in adult, youth and novice classes. Among the several competition categories are Mare in Hand, Junior Gelding, Gelding in Hand, Stallion in Hand and Youth and Novice Halter, Frederick said.



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Tuperware	Constitution Hall	Tuperware	pretzel pizza, pretzel bites		
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Wilderness Rentals/Moose Lodge	Constitution Hall	Lodging in Jackman ME	The Lost Wombat	Independent Midway	Concession: German Street Food
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Laurie's Lunch	Grounds	Various Breaded Foods	Hardy's Motor Sports	Midway Hall	Lawn & Garden Products
Skowhegan Federated Church	Grounds	Dynamites, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Pies	VSI Upholstry	Midway Hall	Upholstry
Skowhegan Lion's Club	Grounds	Sit down Meals - daily menu	Wireless Zone - Verizon	Midway Hall	Cell Phones
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			Ken's Restaurant	Midway Hall - Food	Chicken & Fish Baskets & More
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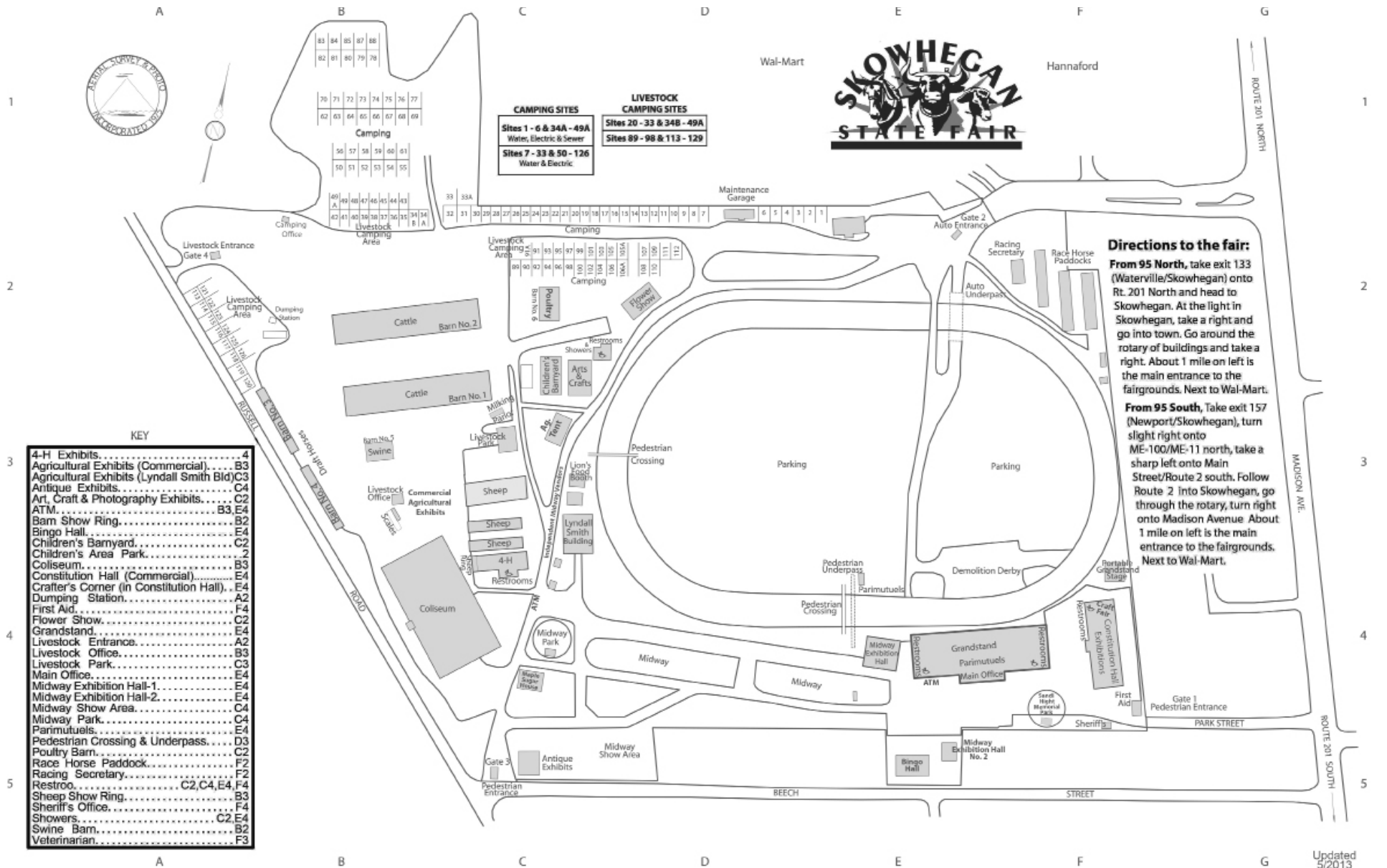
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SKOWHEGAN STATE FAIR DAILY PROGRAM - subject to change without notice

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8			TUESDAY, AUGUST 13		
TIME	PERFORMER/ACTIVITY	LOC	TIME	PERFORMER/ACTIVITY	LOC
7:00 AM	Gates Open		7:00 AM	Gates Open	
9:00 AM	4-H Horse Show	(COL)	10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens	
10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens		12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	
10:00 AM	Poultry Show	(PSB)	12:00 PM	4-H Dairy Cattle Show	(BSR)
12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open		1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens	(MSA)
12:00 PM	Bingo for Charity - Longaberger® Prizes	(BH)	1:00 PM	Midway Opens	
1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens	(MSA)	1:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 3000 lb., 3100 lb. and 2900 lb.	(COL)
1:00 PM	Midway Opens		2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/Dj Music	(MP)
1:00 PM	4-H Working Steer Show and EST	(BSR)	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 9	(BH)
2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/Dj Music	(MP)	2:45 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
2:00 PM	Bingo Hall - Open 2 to 9	(BH)	4:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
2:45 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	5:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association	(BH)
4:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	6:00 PM	Pari Mutuels Open	(GRA)
5:00 PM	Doodlebug Pulling Competition	(COL)	6:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
6:00 PM	Children's Bicycle Drawing	(SHP)	7:00 PM	Borderline Express / Country and Classic Rock	(MP)
6:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	7:00 PM	Harness Racing	(GRA)
7:00 PM	The Shack / Rock	(MP)	7:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 2lb. Rock - Base Load 5400	(COL)
7:00 PM	KSR Motorsports Auto Thrill Show		7:00 PM	Win a TV at BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	(BH)
	<i>Sponsored by: Folsom's Auto</i>	(GRA)			
7:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association	(BH)			
7:00 PM	Win a TV at BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	(BH)			
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9			WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14		
TIME	PERFORMER/ACTIVITY	LOC	TIME	PERFORMER/ACTIVITY	LOC
7:00 AM	Gates Open		7:00 AM	Gates Open	
9:00 AM	Steer and Oxen Show	(BSR)	10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens	
10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens		10:00 AM	Sheep Show	(SSR)
10:00 AM	Tractor Pull Trials	(COL)	10:00 AM	Beef Cattle Show - All Breeds - Beef Grand Champion to Follow	(BSR)
12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open		12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	
1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens	(MSA)	1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens	(MSA)
1:00 PM	Midway Opens		1:00 PM	Midway Opens	
1:00 PM	Tractor Pull - 5,000 lbs, 12,000 lbs, 6,000 lbs, 14,000 lbs, 8,000 lbs	(COL)	1:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 3300 lb., 3200 lb. and 3-Horse Hitch	(COL)
2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/Dj Music	(MP)	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/Dj Music	(MP)
2:00 PM	Bingo Hall - Open 2 to 10	(BH)	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 9	(BH)
2:45 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	2:45 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
3:00 PM	KSR Motorsports Auto Thrill Show		4:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
	<i>Sponsored by: Folsom's Auto</i>	(GRA)	5:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association	(BH)
4:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	6:00 PM	Pari Mutuels Open	(GRA)
5:30 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association	(BH)	6:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
6:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	7:00 PM	Davidson County Line / Rockabilly and Southern Blues	(MP)
7:00 PM	Sharon Hood and Dixon Road Modern Country and Classic Rock	(MP)	7:00 PM	Harness Racing	(GRA)
7:00 PM	Demolition Derby		7:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 3300 lb. - 12' Elimination	(COL)
	<i>Sponsored by: Ware Butler Building Supply and Motor Supply</i>	(GRA)	7:00 PM	Win a TV at BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	(BH)
7:00 PM	Tractor Pull - 16,000 lbs, Free for All and Pro Farm	(COL)			
7:00 PM	Win a TV at BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	(BH)			
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10			THURSDAY, AUGUST 15		
TIME	PERFORMER	LOC	TIME	PERFORMER/ACTIVITY	LOC
7:00 AM	Gates Open		7:00 AM	Gates Open	
10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens		10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens	
10:00 AM	Tractor Pull Trials	(COL)	10:00 AM	Dairy Cattle Show - All Breeds - Dairy Grand Champion to Follow	(BSR)
12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open		10:00 AM	Sheep Show and Sheep Grand Champion	(SSR)
12:00 PM	Bingo for Charity - Longaberger® Prizes	(BH)	12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	
1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens	(MSA)	1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens	(MSA)
1:00 PM	Midway Opens		1:00 PM	Midway Opens	
1:00 PM	Tractor Pull - 18,000 lbs, 10,000 lbs, 20,000 lbs, Free for All and Pro Farm	(COL)	1:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 3400 lb. and 3600 lb.	(COL)
2:00 PM	Bingo Hall - Open 2 to 10	(BH)	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/Dj Music	(MP)
2:45 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 9	(BH)
			2:45 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
			4:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
			5:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association	(BH)
			6:00 PM	Dana Seavey Memorial Farmers Draft Horse Pull	(COL)
			6:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
			7:00 PM	Middle Ground/Rock'n Funk'n Reggae	(MP)
			7:00 PM	Demolition Derby	
				<i>Sponsored by: Ware Butler Building Supply and Motor Supply</i>	(GRA)
			7:00 PM	Win a TV at BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	(BH)

BUILDING KEY: BH - Bingo Hall • BSR - Barn Show Ring • CAP - Child Area Park • CBY - Children's Barnyard • COL - Coliseum • FSB - Flower Show Building • GRA - Grandstand • MP - Midway Park • MSA - Midway Park • PSB - Poultry Show Barn • RT - Rabbit Tent



SKOWHEGAN STATE FAIR DAILY PROGRAM - subject to change without notice

6:00 PM	Men's Hammer Toss	(COL)	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 10	(BH)	10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens	
6:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	2:30 PM	Feed Team Race	(COL)	12:00 PM	Pari Mutuels Open	(GRA)
7:00 PM	Noreaster Cowboys	(MP)	2:45 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	
7:00 PM	Harness Racing	(GRA)	4:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	12:00 PM	Bingo for Charity - Longaberger® Prizes	(BH)
7:30 PM	Pud Porter Sweepstakes Horse Pull	(COL)	5:00 PM	Draft Horse and Pony Show - All American Belgian and Percheron	(COL)	1:00 PM	Harness Racing	(GRA)
7:00 PM	Win a TV at BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	(BH)	5:30 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association	(BH)	1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens	(MSA)
	FRIDAY, AUGUST 16		6:00 PM	Agricultural Hall of Fame, following Livestock Exhibitors Meeting	(COL)	1:00 PM	Midway Opens	
TIME	PERFORMER/ACTIVITY	LOC	6:00 PM	Herdsmen Award	(BSR)	1:00 PM	Mutton Bustin	(BSR)
7:00 AM	Gates Open		6:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)	1:00 PM	Pig Scramble	(BSR)
9:30 AM	Draft Horse and Pony Show - All American Belgian and Percheron	(COL)	7:00 PM	Set in Stone / Classic and Modern Rock	(MP)	1:30 PM	Barrel Racing	(COL)
10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens		7:00 PM	Demolition Derby	(GRA)	2:00 PM	Shepherd Awards	(BSR)
10:00 AM	4-H Sheep Show	(SSR)		<i>Sponsored by: Ware Butler Building Supply and Motor Supply</i>	(GRA)	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/Dj Music	(MP)
12:00 PM	Pari Mutuels Open	(GRA)	7:00 PM	Win a TV at BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	(BH)	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 10	(BH)
12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open					2:45 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
1:00 PM	Harness Racing	(GRA)				3:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association	(BH)
1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens	(MSA)				4:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
1:00 PM	Midway Opens					6:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll and Maine-ly Balloons	(SHP)
2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/Dj Music	(MP)				6:30 PM	Truck Pulls <i>Sponsored by: Randy's Auto Repair</i>	(GRA)
			TIME	PERFORMER/ACTIVITY	LOC	7:00 PM	HonkeyTonkers/Modern Country	(MP)
			7:00 AM	Gates Open		7:00 PM	Win a TV at BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	(BH)

BUILDING KEY: BH - Bingo Hall • BSR - Barn Show Ring • CAP - Child Area Park • CBY - Children's Barnyard • COL - Coliseum • FSB - Flower Show Building • GRA - Grandstand • MP - Midway Park • MSA - Midway Park • PSB - Poultry Show Barn • RT - Rabbit Tent

Barrel racing, miniature horse show, oxen pulling on tap this year at the fair

BY SUSAN VARNEY
Correspondent

BARREL RACING

Milt Porter and Jodi Merry, long-time friends and members of two barrel racing associations in Maine— Maine Barrel Racing Association (MeBRA) and National Barrel Horse Association (NBHA) are still very active in their skill sets and will show them off at the Skowhegan State Fair that begins Aug. 8.

They both have competed and worked in the show setting, Potter in the arena, and Merry in the show office.

Besides working in the area, Porter also will be competing. Merry gave up competing in speed events due to health issues. Spectators seem to love speed events involving horse and rider. In turn, competitors love the atmosphere of the fair and the crowd. This event will bring in competitors from all around Maine.

Skowhegan State fairgrounds is the only place in Maine that has a covered arena large enough to put on a speed event show. That is expected to draw people because they know that, rain or shine they can compete on dry footing. The fair provides all of the prizes, which include trophies and ribbons to the top competitors, and also added prize money of \$1,500. A portion of the entry fee also goes into the payouts.

Porter and Merry are using a program that will be inviting to competitors. There will be five classes with \$250 added in each event, in addition to a

portion of the entry fee money. Each event will adopt the NBHA system of splitting the class into divisions. It will have a top division, which is the 1st division (1D), being the fastest horse and rider combinations. Then a half-second will be added to the winning time to make up the 2nd division (2D), one second then added off the winning time to make up the 3rd division (3D), and add two seconds off the winning time to make up the 4th division (4D). The top three riders in all divisions will receive prizes.

This original NBHA system has really taken speed events to a whole new level, drawing in more entries at shows, which in turn adds more money to the jackpot, and also allows riders of all levels to be winners.

There also will be a point system for riders who enter all five events. There

will be tallying points as to where they place in the end to come out with a title of All-Around Skowhegan State Fair Speed Event Champion.

This will be the first time Porter and Merry have produced a show together. They hope it will be a success and that in the future it will become one of the larger shows that competitors have available to run in Maine. The future plan is to gain sponsors for the show and have some "big time" prize money. Porter and Merry are excited to be taking on this new challenge and look forward to its success.

MINIATURE HORSE SHOW

Miniature Horse Shows are in the Barn Show Ring at scheduled times Sunday Aug. 11, but the horses will be on display throughout the day. This is a non-rated Miniature Horse Show follow-

ing AMHA and AMHR rules and regulations. Ribbons will be awarded for the first through eighth in all classes.

Shows for various ages include Showmanship, Halter, Mare in Hand, Gelding in Hand, Stallion in Hand, Solid Color in Hand, Multi-Colored in Hand, Costume Class, Youth & Adult Liberty with music, Youth Trail Obstacle, Adult Trail Obstacle, Hunter, Jumping, Country Pleasure Driving, Champion, Supreme Champion and Reserve.

OXEN PULLING

Oxen Pulling will take place in the Livestock Coliseum starting at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 12. Weigh-In at 7 a.m. with all cattle in halters. All sticks will be measured and must not exceed 48 inches. All rules and regulations will apply to all classes. Pull Superintendent is Steve Frederick, Skowhegan.

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Oxen Pulling will take place in the Livestock Coliseum starting at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 12.



Photo courtesy of Jodi Merry

Riders like Milt Porter, may participate in the barrel racing at the fair. He is on a horse named Angel leased from Pam Haskell of Palermo. Photo was taken at the Halee Lyn Cummings Memorial Barrel Race in Sidney on July 6 of this year.

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Clayton Smith, 98, retires from horse racing duties

Legend has long history of leadership

BY SUSAN VARNEY
Correspondent

Clayton Smith, longtime director of racing, is retiring this year at age 98. Born in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1921, he shared life with three sisters and a love of horses—he and his dad bought a race horse when he was 25. Married for 74 years, his wife died a couple of years ago. He denied being retired in his phone interview. Last year was the first year he didn't go to the Skowhegan State Fair.

Walter Hight, director of the fair, told Smith when he talked about retiring, "You still have a phone, don't you?"

Smith admitted his job is getting in touch with the 34 or so employees to make sure they will be at the fair. He said most of them have been working the fair for years and

know their jobs — from judges to starters and clerks to gatekeepers.

Then Smith said Kenneth Sumner, his Racing Secretary, was the new Director of Racing this year.

Tom Dillon, president of the Skowhegan Fair Association, said Smith is still active and his mind is good. As Director of Racing at the Skowhegan State Fair, he did everything from Race Secretary to Presiding Judge, to overseeing all races, as well as hiring all officials.

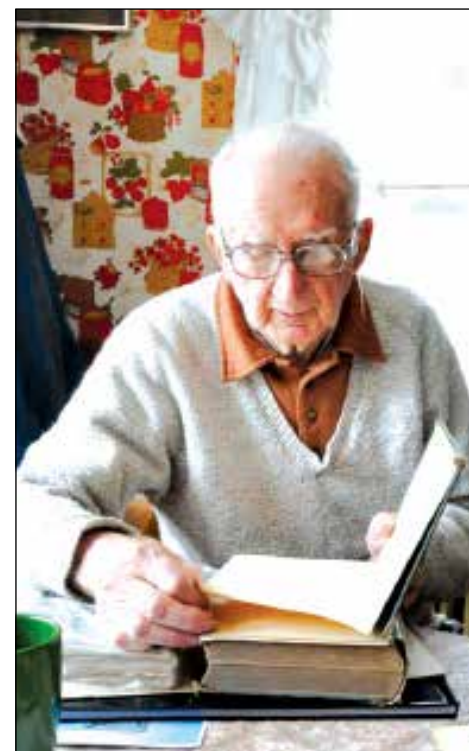
In the late 1940s, Smith purchased the old trotting park property in Yarmouth, Maine, and with a neighbor, cleared the track and established a training track for Yarmouth horsemen. Smith referred to it as the Royal River Speedway and offers stories about trotting on the ice of the Royal River.

Smith hired Donnie Richards, a Yarmouth horse trainer, when Richards was 13. They

have remained friends and worked together all these years.

It was his taking a neighbor's horses to the Cumberland Fair that got him into announcing. Smith and the horses put on a show of tricks with Smith doing the announcing. His voice made such an impression that he was hired to be the fair announcer. He continued announcing at Maine fairs from 1951 through 1970. He did managerial jobs as well as announcing at Rockingham Park, N.H., Foxborough, Massachusetts, and Rosecroft Raceway in Maryland. He was Presiding Judge at Rockingham Park from 1970-80. His name is well-known at tracks in New England, Kentucky and Delaware. He owned Pine Tree Sales, buying and selling horses.

More SMITH, PAGE 11



The Lost Trotting Parks Storyboard
Archives photo

Clayton Smith, Yarmouth, reminiscing over his long career with horses, fairs, tracks and friends.

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May 1981 issue of
Northeast Harness
News

Clayton Smith, fourth
from the left, Race
Secretary Scarborough
Downs.

Smith

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

In Maine, he became Race Secretary of Scarborough Downs, then Race Secretary at the Fryeburg Fair until 2009.

Racing times continue to improve with the improvement of equipment, sulkies, harnesses, training and tracks, Smith said.

Harness racing at Skowhegan State Fair has been active since the late 1800s; horse racing was a popular sport as farmers and

businessmen competed to see who had the fastest horse.

Clayton Smith uses a walker now because he has a limp. Last year was the first time he didn't go to the fair, he acknowledged.

"It's hard to be there with a walker," he said. He admitted he missed being at the fair. He has a 77-year-old caretaker who comes in to cook breakfast for him and returns later for lunch. His daughter, Andrea, lives with him so he isn't alone nights. Smith has family and friends around him and he stays as active as a 98-year-old man using a walker can, he said— and is still drawn to the excitement of racing at the Skowhegan State Fair.



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