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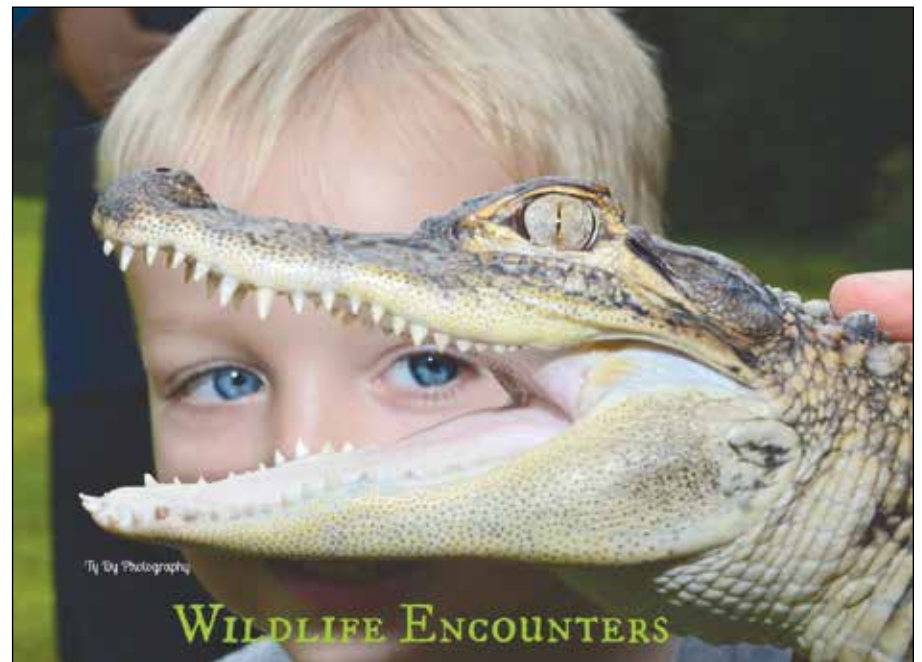
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Friday, August 4, 2017  
**Morning Sentinel**

# WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS®

Animals - People - Earth



## Wildlife Encounters® animal exhibits offer educational component

BY SUSAN VARNEY  
Correspondent

Wildlife Encounters® presentations and exhibits plan to educate on a variety of environmental, animal and personal health and wellness topics, while making a very personal and intimate connection with nature when they present at the Skowhegan State Fair August 13-19. Show times will be 2, 4 and 6 p.m., except for the last day, which will have only 4 and 6 p.m. shows.

According to its website, Wildlife Encounters® is not a zoo, although the owner and staff are professional members of various zoological, wildlife and conservation entities.

Many have degrees in biology, ecology, sustainable agriculture, conservation and the facility and operations are regulated by and compliant with the Animal Welfare Act: Class C Exhibitor.

Teachers from Wildlife Encounters® are expected to fascinate fairgoers with how they work with the animals and their ability to thrill, engage and communicate with diverse ages and learning abilities — and how they adapt to different venues and special needs.

Though Wildlife Encounters® participates in and supports the wildlife rehabilitation and release community, the Teaching Animals are all

non-releasable wildlife either because of injury, legal situations, or they were not born in the wild, according to promotional materials. The program includes professional educators and public speakers.

Wildlife Encounters® has a wide diversity of creatures, from cockroaches to kangaroos, porcupines, tarantulas, boas, pythons and tree frogs, giant turtles, lizard and cockatoos.

Krista Butts, promotions director, said in a phone interview, “We never know until the day of the show who will be there. It depends on who is in a good mood, and there will be different animals every day.”

You won’t see them all at the fair but here is a list of what could possibly be there, according to Butts. “We have over 130 animals and there will be an ever changing variety at the fair.”

### SMALL AMBASSADOR ANIMALS

#### “Wildlife”

Three-Banded Armadillo, Small American Alligator, Fennec Fox, Veiled Chameleon, Vietnamese Centipede, Pink-toed Tarantula, Laughing Kookaburra

#### “Interactive”

Chinchilla, Hedgehog, Domestic Ferret, Mini-lop Bunny, Sugar Glider, Corn Snake, Alligator Snapping Turtle, Adult Red-Eared Slider Turtle, three-Toed Box Turtle, Russian Tortoise, Small Sulcata Tortoise, Australian Bearded Dragon, Blue-tongued Skink, Red Iguana, Brook’s Kingsnake, Hognose Snake, Small Red-Tailed Boa Constrictor, Brazilian Rainbow Boa Constrictor, Australian Woma Python, Royal Python, Amazon Tree Boa Constrictor, Dumerils Monitor, Small Argentine Tegu Lizard, Blue & Gold Macaw, Umbrella Cockatoo, White’s Tree Frog, Red-eyed

Tree Frog, Gray Tree Frog, Marine Toad, Giant Cane Toad, Madagascar Tomato Frog, Pyxie Frog, African Giant Bullfrog, Rose-haired Tarantula, African Emperor Scorpion, Giant Vinegaroon, Madagascar Giant Hissing Cockroaches, Dubia Cockroaches.

### MEDIUM AMBASSADOR ANIMALS

#### “Wildlife”

Medium American Alligator six-Banded Armadillo, Brown Skunk, Bennett’s Wallaby, Mara (a.k.a. Patagonian Cavy), North American Porcupine, Ring-tailed Coati, Prehensile-tailed Porcupine

#### “Interactive”

Flemish Giant Rabbit, Mini Pig (juvenile), Northern Common Snapping Turtle, Large Sulcata Tortoise, Caiman Lizard, Green Iguana, Madagascar Ground Boa Constrictor, Large Red-Tailed Boa Constrictor, Small

Burmese Python (NH ONLY), Jungle Carpet Python, Irian Jaya Carpet Python, Australian Argus Monitor, Large Argentine Tegu Lizard, Moluccan Cockatoo, Greenwing Macaw.

### ADVANCED AMBASSADOR ANIMALS

Some of these animals have very particular venue and staffing requirements for their welfare and public safety and are NOT available for less formal / private gatherings in residences, unless very specific conditions are met and approval is granted by the Director.

#### “Wildlife”

Large American Alligator, Arctic Fox, Gray Fox, African Crested Porcupine, African Serval Cat, Prairie Dog

#### “Interactive”

Large Sulcata Tortoise, Large Burmese Python (over 100 pounds NH only), Mini Pig (adult), Pygmy Goat.

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*Photos from Wildlife Encounters®*

“Stitch” the Fennec Fox joined the Wildlife Encounters® family in 2006 as a young kit, and is one of our most popular Ambassador Animals and helps teach young students to connect with concepts such as physical and behavioral adaptations, and life in extreme climates. The Fennec Fox is native to the Middle East and North Africa (Sahara Desert region)

Wings of the Dawn is about baby birds and nesting material in dryer vents and in attics. A simple solution: take a small box, open the flaps on one end of the box then cut out a hole in the other end of the box that is close to the same size as the hole the adult birds are using to enter the dryer vent or attic.



Take the babies and as much nesting material as you can and put it into the box. Staple the open box flaps to the house

next to the hole that the parents are using to get into your house. Repair or cover the hole the parents have been using to enter the house. The parents should continue to feed the babies in the new nest.

The parent birds know where the nest is located and removing the babies and putting them more than a few feet away will only result in the babies dying. The parents will not recognize them as their babies if they are moved more than a few feet away. [www.facebook.com/wildlifeencountersnh](http://www.facebook.com/wildlifeencountersnh)



Wildlife Encounters® presentations and exhibits educate youth and the public on a wide variety of environmental, animal and personal health and wellness topics, while making a very personal and intimate connection with the “face of nature”! Here is a Moluccan Cockatoo, one of the medium interactive animals.





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# Horse racing fans gear up for harness racing action

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

Skowhegan State Fair offers horse racing fans a week of exciting action from Aug. 13-19. The pari-mutuel betting starts at noon on Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday; harness racing starts at 1 p.m.

Races will be broadcast on WSKW's 1160 AM Classic Country radio station. Pari-mutuel betting starts at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; harness racing starts at 7 p.m. One familiar presence at the fair will be Tom Dillon. He has worked in the lumber business for years, but he has nurtured a sideline passion and a lifetime love of the racetrack and the horses that run on them.

"I am a businessman, and obviously, I like challenges," he said.

In the 1970s, he became hooked on horse racing and decided to buy his own horse in 1984. That was just the beginning, he said.

"I've been losing money ever since," he joked.

He decided he had to build a farm for his horse. Then he had to have more horses and the bigger farm. Today, at any one time, he might own as many as 30 horses. Not really retired, he has one son running his logging business, and another running the farm. He and his buddy Walter Hight have been partners in many horse racing ventures. Both men learned quickly to expect some winners and some losers, with most in between.

Some foals show promise when they are a year old, and some need another year to mature before they are ready for action, he said.

"They go to the trainer in the fall, and they go to the track the following summer," he said. "Hopefully they are ready to race when they are two years old."

If the horse isn't ready, it can be turned back to the pasture and return to the track as a mature 3-year-old. Horses that just don't make the grade are sold to the Amish community across the country.

"You can spend \$10,000 before you turn the horse over



Staff photo

Skowhegan State Fair offers horse racing fans a week of exciting action from Aug. 13-19. The pari-mutuel betting starts at noon on Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday; harness racing starts at 1 p.m. Races will be broadcast on WSKW's 1160 AM Classic Country radio station. Pari-mutuel betting starts at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; harness racing starts at 7 p.m.

to the trainer," Dillon said. "Then, you can spend another \$10,000 on the trainer."

He listed other costs to own a horse, including breeding, veterinary care, feeding and stabling the horses, and a significant cost to train these potential winners. There are costs for travel, entry fees, and even the time spent making connections with other owners, breeders and trainers.

"It's not a sport for the faint-hearted," he said. "Some

have made me a lot of money, but they've caused me a lot of heartburn, too."

The big winners are a small percentage, which help offset the cost of raising and training and racing those horses who don't hit the big time.

"Horse racing isn't a path to early retirement," he said. "It can be just the opposite."

Owners can have investments in horses they rarely have seen because they are trained and raced in other states and in more prestigious

high-stakes competitions.

Trainers and drivers need to be paid, and their time and skills can be in demand. Dillon and Hight have maintained a long-term relationship with trainer and driver Donald Richards over the years, and even though Richards is in his

80s, he's still very much in the game, Dillon said.

Beginners can learn the ins and outs of picking winners, starting by studying the official daily program. Betting on a horse isn't the same as going to the casino. Everyone wants their favorite to win, and even though owners, drivers and trainers know and like each other, they all want their horse to cross the finish line first.

There are several types of betting categories. Playing against the other betters is called pari-mutuel wagering. The money is pooled, with a separate pool being kept for each type of wager. Winners get a share of the pool, based on the share everyone bet together. Straight wagers are on horses to win (come in first), place (come in first or second) or show (come in first, second or third).

Exacta wagers choose two horses, one to come in first and one to come in second place. The trifecta wager bets on three horses in exact order, and a superfecta bet picks four horses in the correct order of finish. The daily double wager requires betters to pick the winner of two consecutive races before the races start.

Tracks offer other types of betting structures, depending on the types of races and the levels of competition. In a claiming race, horses are for sale at a predetermined price, but the buyer can't take ownership until after the race.



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# Postcard Jack trains as saddle horse after winning Skowhegan race career

BY DOUG HARLOW  
Staff Writer

The last time racehorse Postcard Jack was on the track at the Skowhegan State Fairgrounds was in August 2010 during a memorial for the horse's namesake.

"Postcard Jack" was the mystery man who for more than three decades sent thousands of anonymous postcards from all over the world to a restaurant in Madison. Jack turned out to be Jack Garbarino, who was 67 when he died in December 2009 in New York City.

On that day at the fair in 2010, Postcard Jack — the winningest standardbred horse in state history — was harnessed up in full racing gear and paced around the track in a memorial lap for Garbarino.

"He knew where he was and what he was supposed to do," said Debbie Hight, whose family has owned the horse for many years. "He was calm in the paddock. Then he was out on the racetrack and — zoom — away he went."

The original Postcard Jack, a management consultant with ITT, Dun & Bradstreet and McKinsey & Co., sent an estimated 8,000-9,000 postcards from all over the world to the Oasis Restaurant in Madison beginning in 1979 — sometimes posting 100 cards in a single month.

He grew up in The Bronx, N.Y., and attended Fordham University under the ROTC program. Jack received his law



Postcard Jack — the winningest standardbred horse in state history



Rob Rowbottom trains former harness race horse Postcard Jack to become a saddle horse inside a riding barn in Norridgewock.

Staff photos by David Leaming

degree from Yale University, served in the U.S. Army and later graduated from Harvard Business School, according to his obituary.

Although he visited the restaurant, later called River's Edge and now closed, several times over the years, he never revealed his identity.

The mystery of Postcard Jack remained just that — a mystery — for more than 30 years.

Walter Hight, of Skowhegan, Debbie Hight's brother-in-law, said he and his business partner, Tom Dillon of Anson, bought a harness racehorse in 1990 and decided to name it Postcard Jack during dinner one night at the Oasis, where many of the postcards were on display.

Now the four-legged Postcard Jack, who turned 25 in March, is

being trained to slow down, take new commands and go from a career as a competitive racehorse to a saddle horse.

And it's not easy, Debbie Hight said.

"We're trying to make the horse safe to ride for anyone," she said.

Jack is 15.1 hands tall, or about 5 feet, 2 inches, from the withers, and weighs about

1,000 pounds.

Postcard Jack retired at age 14 in 2004 as the top horse in Maine history with the most finishes of less than two minutes and the most wins at 77 in 324 starts.

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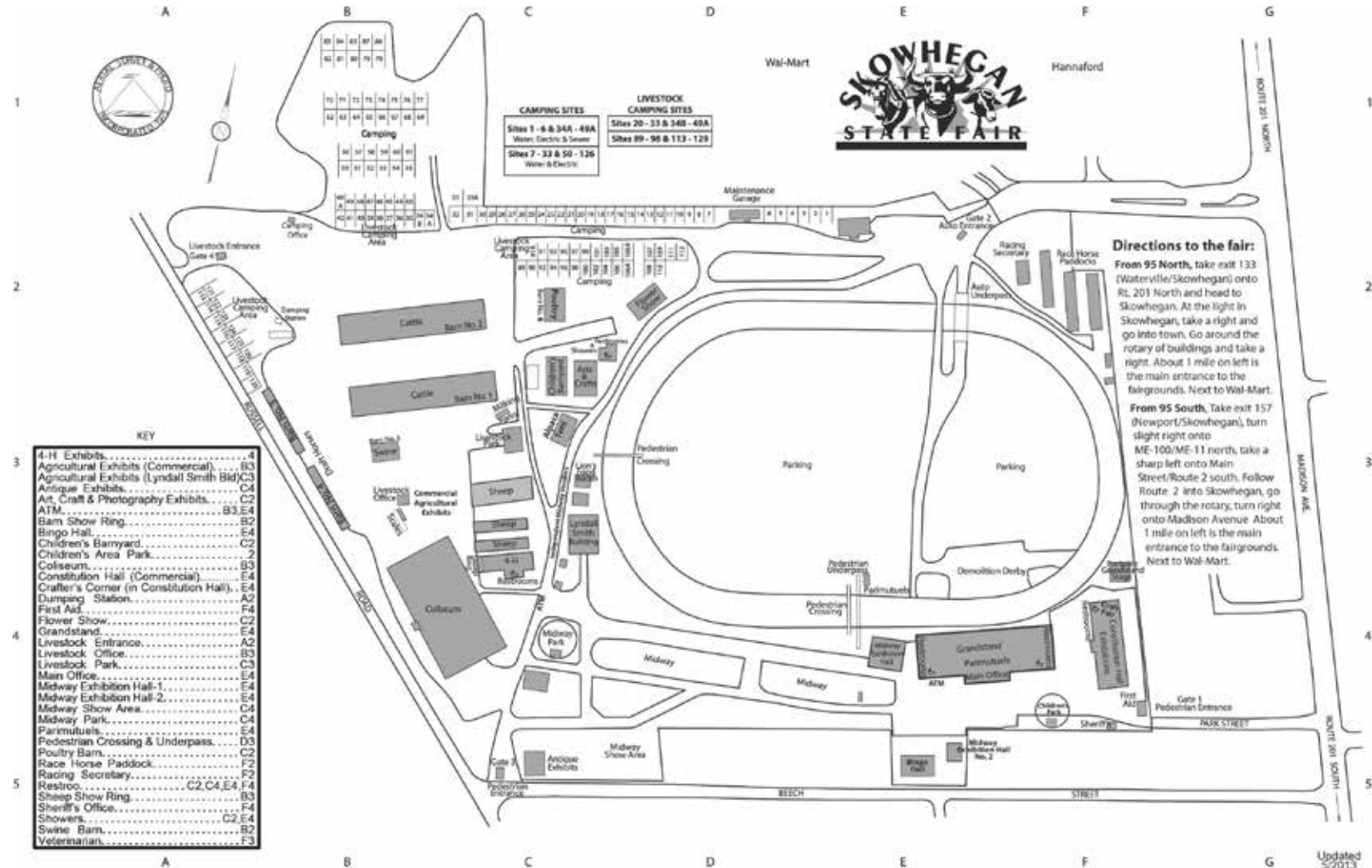
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**SKOWHEGAN STATE FAIR DAILY PROGRAM - subject to change without notice**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17		FRIDAY, AUGUST 18		SATURDAY, AUGUST 19	
7:00 AM	Gates Open	7:00 AM	Gates Open	7:00 PM	Classic Rock (MP)
10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens	9:30 AM	Draft Horse & Pony Show - All American		Demolition Derby (GRA)
10:00 AM	Dairy Cattle Show - All Breeds		Belgian & Percheron/New England Shire		Sponsored by: Ware Butler Building Supply & Motor Supply
	- Dairy Grand Champion to Follow (BSR)		Regional Show (COL)		
10:00 AM	Sheep Show & Sheep	10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens		<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 19</b>
	Grand Champion (SSR)	10:00 AM	4-H Sheep Show (SSR)	7:00 AM	Gates Open
12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	12:00 PM	Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA)	10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens
12:00 PM	Maple Sugar House (MSH)	12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	10:00 AM	NBHA Barrel Racing (COL)
12:00 PM	Rabbit Exhibit Opens (RT)	12:00 PM	Maple Sugar House (MSH)	12:00 PM	Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA)
12:00 PM	Longaberger® Skowhegan State Fair Souvenir (FSB)	12:00 PM	Rabbit Exhibit Opens (RT)	12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open
	Longaberger® Luck of the Draw Entry (FSB)	12:00 PM	Longaberger® Skowhegan State Fair Souvenir (FSB)	12:00 PM	Maple Sugar House (MSH)
1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA)	12:00 PM	Longaberger® Luck of the Draw Entry (FSB)	12:00 PM	Rabbit Exhibit Opens (RT)
1:00 PM	Midway Opens	1:00 PM	Harness Racing (GRA)	12:00 PM	Bingo for Charity - Longaberger® Prizes (BH)
1:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 3400 lb. & 3600 lb. (COL)	1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA)	12:00 PM	Longaberger® Skowhegan State Fair Souvenir (FSB)
1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)	1:30 PM	Midway Opens	12:00 PM	Longaberger® Luck of the Draw - Drawing begins at 3:30 pm (FSB)
2:00 PM	Wildlife Encounters®	2:00 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)	1:00 PM	Harness Racing (GRA)
2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/Dj Music (MP)	2:00 PM	Wildlife Encounters®	1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA)
2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 9 (BH)	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/DJ Music (MP)	1:00 PM	Midway Opens
3:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 10 (BH)	1:00 PM	Pig Scramble (BSR)
4:00 PM	Wildlife Encounters®	2:30 PM	Feed Team Race (COL)	1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)
5:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (BH)	3:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)	1:30 PM	Shepherd Awards (BSR)
5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)	4:00 PM	Wildlife Encounters®	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow/DJ Music (MP)
6:00 PM	Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA)	5:00 PM	Draft Horse & Pony Show - All American	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 10 (BH)
6:00 PM	Wildlife Encounters®	5:30 PM	Belgian & Percheron/New England Shire	3:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (BH)
6:00 PM	Women's Fry Pan Toss (COL)	6:00 PM	Regional Show (COL)	3:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)
6:00 PM	Men's Hammer Toss (COL)	6:00 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)	4:00 PM	Wildlife Encounters®
7:00 PM	New Relm/ Modern Country with a bluegrass twist (MP)	6:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (BH)	5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (CAP)
7:00 PM	Harness Racing (GRA)	6:00 PM	Wildlife Encounters®	6:00 PM	Wildlife Encounters®
7:30 PM	Pud Porter Sweepstakes Horse Pull (COL)	6:00 PM	Agricultural Hall of Fame, following Livestock Exhibitors Meeting (COL)	6:30 PM	Truck Pulls (GRA)
		7:00 PM	Herdsman Award (BSR)		Sponsored by: Randy's Auto Repair Sharon Hood & Dixon Road/ Modern Country & Classic Rock (MP)
			Christie Ray Band/Country,		

**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

# Got road rage — ever thought about entering a demolition derby?

BY SUSAN VARNEY  
Correspondent

Doodlebug pulls, truck pulls, tractor pulls, demolition derbies . . . Just some of the fun people have at the fair. Why is the Demolition Derby so popular? Maybe it has something to do with the break neck car chases in the movies - excitement, danger, destruction!

The Skowhegan State Fair, the oldest consecutively running agricultural fair in the U.S., has a “Smash ‘em” “Crash ‘em” Demo Derby for entertainment at 7 p.m. on Aug. 11, 14 and 18.

Organized in house and operated in house and roaring through three demo derby nights, makes fans of the sport want to mark their calendar and be there rooting for their favorite . . . Or perhaps even entering the arena.

According to Wikipedia, demolition derby is a motor sport usually presented at county fairs and festivals. Rules vary from event to event. The typical demolition derby event consists of five or more drivers competing by deliberately ramming their vehicles into one another. The last driver whose vehicle is still operational is awarded the victory. Demolition derbies originated in the U.S. and have spread to other nations.

The Skowhegan fair demolition derby usually has 40 to 50 vehicles with no driver having more than two vehicles per event.

Although serious injuries are rare, they do happen. Drivers are typically required to sign a waiver to release the promoter of an event from liability. To make the event safer, glass is removed from the vehicle, and deliberately ramming the driver’s-side door area is forbidden. Safety belts and helmets are required. Air bags must be disabled. Fire extinguishers are required in the driver’s compartment and must be secured within the driver’s reach.

The driver’s door is required to be painted white, for visibility. The part of the vehicle used to ram opponents varies. Some drivers use both the front and rear of the vehicle to ram the other competitors.

Others tend to use only the rear end of the vehicle, to help protect the engine compartment from damage.

Scrap vehicles are often purchased from junkyards and private owners, usually for less than \$500, though some select mid-1970s sedans and station wagons may go for more than \$1,000. Vehicles often are patched up and re-used for several events.

The vehicles are stripped of interior fixtures, mirrors, trim, plastic, lights and glass. They are repainted, often in loud, garish designs and on low budgets (spray paint is frequently used to mark names, slogans and identification but no obscenities).

At the Skowhegan State Fair, car numbers must be on both sides and roof of the car and must be identified on a registration form, otherwise a number may be assigned on the day of the event.

Derbies have many different sets of rules—often pertaining to how much welding can be done to the vehicle—and the

class of car. In Skowhegan “any stock hardtop automobile or station wagon is allowed. No trucks, jeeps, vans, hearses, school buses, etcetera are allowed, and no alterations, according to rules on website.

Drivers are required to be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driver’s license. They are required to have a seat belt and a helmet. An event begins with drivers circling on an oval track. Drivers are usually required to crash into another vehicle every two minutes or they are labeled as “sandbagging” and become disqualified. Hitting a driver intentionally in the driver’s door and sometimes rolling another car intentionally, are also grounds for disqualification.

No matter what, all cars must be removed from the grounds on derby night. For more information, search [skowheganstatefair.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DemolitionDerbyEntryForm.pdf](http://skowheganstatefair.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DemolitionDerbyEntryForm.pdf)

More DEMOLITION, PAGE 9



Staff photo

Demolition derby cars are typically smashed, crashed and bashed until they no longer can move and it comes down to the last car still moving. The driver’s door is required to be painted white, for visibility.

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# Battle of the Band returns to the fair stage

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

For Skowhegan State Fair music fans, the long-awaited Battle of the Bands is back! From 7 - 10 p.m. on Aug. 13, four of Maine's most popular rock bands will compete on stage for fame and fortune and the chance to get their music to the biggest audience they've ever had.

The Battle of the Bands competitions at the fair have been a long tradition that waxes and wanes in popularity, according to fair board Vice President Mel Blaisdell. He's seen all types of music genres come and go, and the ages groups of the bands and their fans change accordingly.

Bands have to buy equipment, travel and do a lot of hard work to make a name for themselves, and that dedication can cost a lot more than musicians may have. Still, he said this year's competition has drawn a lot of interest. The types of music are

**"The bands who have entered have to have written their own original music and not be straight cover bands."**

**BOB HAFFORD, STATION MANAGER, 107.9 THE MIX**

different than those competitions from the past; Blaisdell said he sees more hard rock these days than in past decades.

"We used to see a lot more country bands, but the music has changed over the years," he said.

He said the enthusiasm and attendance numbers of the Battle of the Bands dwindled sometime in the late 1980s, and the entertainment staff looked at other options for musical entertainment. Then, in 2003, the 105.1 WTOS hard rock station re-energized the effort, attracting a large number of hopeful competitors from all over the state. The Portland-based hard rock band Emptyhead took first prize at that Battle of the Bands. As many as 1,500 music

lovers showed up to cheer their favorites and enjoy the music and competition.

This year, the 107.9 The Mix radio station decided to revamp and revitalize the popular competition, inviting Maine bands to enter and audition. The contest started with more than 21 entries by original bands from all over the state, according to the station's sales manager Bob Hafford.

"They sent us their MP3 samples, and it was tough narrowing it down to 10 finalists," said Hafford.

After listening to the entries, they narrowed the semi-final list to include Loki, Acoustified, The Resistance, Marshal Marquis, Arta'sin, Dark Rain, Burning Time, Christie Ray Band, Fifth, Freedom and Break The Skin.

Haskell said they didn't limit the types of music hopeful contestants could submit, but the judges did have one requirement.

"The bands who have entered have to have written their own original music and not be straight cover bands,"

Hafford said.

That means that entries can't play only the hits that other bands have written, although they may choose to play them when they perform at other gigs. During the month of July, DJ Chris "Rushman" Rush played selections by those 10 finalists on the air each weekday, and listeners then voted on the Mix's Battle of the Band's Facebook page for their favorites.

At the fair, the final four bands will perform for the crowd and the winner will take home a \$1,000 cash prize. Second, third and fourth place finishers will take home \$500, \$250 and \$150, respectively.

## Demolition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Pre-registration is \$15. Late Registration fee is \$50. Registration does not include admission - Competitors still have to pay at the gate to get in.

Prizes range from \$400 for third place to \$600 for second place and \$1000 for first place, awarded with trophies to the last two running cars at the end of each heat. A bonus prize is awarded for drivers registered and competing in all three derbies.

- Aug. 11 Friday 7 p.m. First Derby of the Season
- Aug. 14 Monday 7 p.m. Second Derby of the Season
- Aug. 18 Friday 7 p.m. The grand finale,

The fair gates open at 7 a.m. daily Thursday, Aug. 10 through Saturday, Aug. 19. All exhibition halls open at noon, Midway opens at 1 p.m. and evening shows are usually 7-10 p.m. There is something for everyone from 4-H to horse racing and animals exhibits. Pick up a fair program or go online for a schedule at <http://skowheganstatefair.com/daily-event-schedule/>

For more information visit the fairgrounds office at 33 Constitution Avenue Skowhegan, or call 474-2947.

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# Pro wrestler owner predicts real surprises during daily shows

## *Fans should come often to catch the changes*

BY VALERIE TUCKER  
Correspondent

Larry Huntley, owner of the North Atlantic Wrestling Association, has made the sport of wrestling a favorite of New England fans for years. This August, the NAWA will appear at the Skowhegan State Fair. Huntley trains, wrestles and promotes events, and he's got a great lineup of impressive competitors.

Shows will run daily, starting at 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 3 p.m. on the weekend. The ring will be set up in front of the Bingo Hall near the Madison Avenue entrance.

"Our wrestlers really wrestle and have great techniques, and they aren't lazy," he said. "These guys are pros and really know what they're doing."

The fans tell him that his shows are fun because the wrestlers are willing to meet with them and sign autographs and talk.

"We are making our presence known as the premier wrestling promotion in the state," he said. "Our Skowhegan shows will feature some amazing performers."

Huntley, as "Scuffin' Hillbilly Cousin," will bring a lineup that includes Tommy Mack, Jason Rumble (The Era of Violence), "Flash" Nick McKenna, Cocky Kyle, Kurtis Strange, the Horror, and many more. The wrestlers will remain fresh because the lineups will be changing throughout the fair, Huntley said. Making a special appearance will be WWE Hall of Fame member "Mr. USA" Tony Atlas.

Wrestling as a sport has millions of dedicated fans around the world, according to Huntley. He has worked with professionals from all over the United States and Canada who compete with each other to put on exciting shows for all ages. Fans just love meeting their heroes in person.

"In a lot of wrestling shows, people can't meet or even see up close some of the professionals they come to see," he said. "We make sure that the wrestlers in our shows meet their fans."



"Our wrestlers really wrestle and have great techniques, and they aren't lazy. These guys are pros and really know what they're doing."

LARRY HUNTLEY, (AIRBORN LEFT) OWNER OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Wrestlers have personas and ring names. A wrestler who is known as a "bad guy" or "heel" may be booed by fans. Their opposite good guy personas are called "baby faces," and commonly compete against heels.

Huntley, who also is a wrestler, said he had a chance to see some of the greatest wrestlers in modern history. One of his

heroes is "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. Rhodes was a three-time NWA World Heavyweight Champion, and during his time in Jim Crockett Promotions, later known as WCW, he was a U.S. Heavyweight Champion, and a WCW World

More WRESTLING, PAGE 11

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# Wrestling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Television, World Tag Team and World Six-Man Tag Team Champion. He won many regional championships and was inducted into the WWE, WCW, Professional Wrestling, and Wrestling Observer Newsletter Halls of Fame.

“Dusty Rhodes was a man who would never win a bodybuilding contest, but he had the charisma,” he said. “He had the ability to hold the emotions of the entire building in the palm of his hand.”

Wrestling in the ring requires a lot of athleticism and training. Training sessions include calisthenics and stretching to build muscle tone. Being able to execute a body slam or hip

toss takes practice, he said. In the end, it’s a wrestler’s showmanship that earns him fans, and fans come out to see their favorite fighters win. However, Huntley said, sometimes the unexpected happens.

“We predict some real surprises at the Skowhegan shows,” he said. “That’s why the fans need to be at the fair as many days as possible.”

For the most current schedule on all of the fair’s shows, visit the North Atlantic Wrestling Camp’s Facebook page.

Huntley trains wrestlers at the camp in Buxton. Trainees learn technique, discipline, conditioning, showmanship and wrestling theories.

“We have classes for beginners, more advanced and juniors, for ages 12-15,” he said. “The NAWA camp offers the best training at Maine’s only permanent wrestling school.”



LARRY “SCUFFLIN’ HILLBILLY COUSIN” LARRY



“FLASH” NICK MCKENNA



“MR. USA” TONY ATLAS

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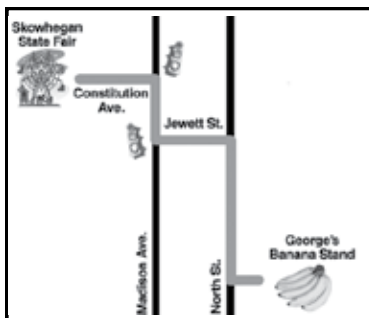


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