



NEWPORT MANSIONS

The Preservation Society
of Newport County

For Immediate Release
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A Weekend of Coaching Returns to Newport August 15-17

NEWPORT, R.I. – Eleven historic 19th-century coaches drawn by highly-trained teams of horses will return to Newport from August 15-17 for the triennial Weekend of Coaching, hosted by The Preservation Society of Newport County in conjunction with the Coaching Club of America.



Each day of the Coaching Weekend, there will be opportunities for the public to see these colorful and historic coaches as they are driven through the streets of Newport and the grounds of the Newport Mansions, evoking memories of a century-old sporting tradition rooted in Europe and embraced by America's Gilded Age elite.

In addition, there will be a free-to-the-public driving exhibition on the grounds of The Elms starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 16. To learn more and see maps of the daily routes, visit www.newportmansions.org/events/a-weekend-of-coaching-2025.

"Every three years, we look forward to the return of Coaching Weekend," Preservation Society CEO and Executive Director Trudy Coxe said. "It is a true spectacle, and I hope everyone takes advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and grandeur of this vanishing tradition. We are pleased to host the members of the Coaching Club, and we appreciate their support for our mission."

The "Whips" (as drivers are referred to in the sport of coaching) who are expected to attend the weekend are: Mr. S. Tucker S. Johnson, President of the Coaching Club; Frances Baker; Dr. Timothy Butterfield; Mr. Walter F.

Eayrs; Mr. James Fairclough; Mr. James Houston; Mr. John Frazier Hunt; Mr. Joseph Jennings; Mr. James Mather Miller; Misdee Wrigley Miller; Mr. William R. Staples; Mr. Allen C. Tucci; Mr. Harvey W. Waller; Mr. John P. White.

The Co-Chairs of a Weekend of Coaching are Mr. Kenneth M.P. Lindh and Mr. and Mrs. David J. Little. The Chair of Coaching for the Weekend is Mr. Walter F. Eayrs.

The Weekend Hosts are Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Hull, Mrs. Frederick H. Prince IV, Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Szápáry and Mrs. Eugene B. Roberts, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wilson.

The Chair of the Coaching Weekend Dinner Dance is Mrs. David J. Little. The Vice-Chairs are Mrs. Mark D. Hull, Mrs. Kenneth M.P. Lindh, Mrs. Brian Ross Owens and Ms. Daisy Prince.

Before the weekend starts, the Preservation Society will host a panel discussion, "Coaching Weekend: Behind the Scenes," on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 4-5 p.m. at Rosecliff and via Zoom. The panel will include World Equestrian Games Gold Medalist Misdee Wrigley Miller, Walter Eayrs, Coaching Chair of the Weekend; and Melissa Warner, Driving Manager and Coachman for Tucker Johnson, President of the Coaching Club. The conversation will be moderated by Brian Owens, Coaching Club member and Newport resident. Learn more at <https://www.newportmansions.org/events/coaching-weekend-behind-the-scenes/>

Rooted in European tradition that grew out of mail runs in England in the 18th and 19th centuries, coaching was embraced long ago by America's Gilded Age elite, evolving into a sport after horse-drawn mail coaches were replaced by railroads. The Coaching Club of New York was formed in the latter part of the 19th century, eventually becoming part of the social fabric of Newport summers. The Wetmores, Bells, Vanderbilts and Belmonts were all active members, bringing their coaches to the races, the polo games and the Casino.

The two types of open-air vehicles used in the sport of coaching — the Road Coach and the slightly smaller Park Drag — employ a team of four horses. All seating is outside, with the Whip, sitting in the slightly elevated right front seat, and the Whip's wife or female relative taking up the "box seat" on the left. The rear bench of the coach holds two specialized footmen called grooms. The two center benches can hold up to eight passengers.

The Preservation Society of Newport County, Rhode Island, is a nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the area's historic architecture, landscapes, decorative arts and social history. Its 11 historic properties – seven of them National Historic Landmarks – span more than 250 years of American architectural and social development.

For more information, please visit www.NewportMansions.org.

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EDITORS: Dropbox link for press release and images:

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Contact:

Bill Tavares, Communications Manager

Office: (401) 847-1000, Ext. 131

Cell: (401) 662-2222

BTavares@NewportMansions.org

Gary Ruff, Associate Communications Manager

Office: (401) 847-1000, Ext. 128

Cell: (401) 439-7804

GRuff@NewportMansions.org