

# THE RHODE ISLAND DRIVING CLUB, INC

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

March 5, 2008

Written by Dottie Billington.

Spring is finally in the air, at least I hope! The club has grown a bit and we are back up to 64 members. Attached to this newsletter you will find a copy of the current membership list and the calendar for 2008. Please check the website for calendar updates.

Due to home remodeling out of her control, Pat Musser will not be able to host the March meeting. The March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at Cat Luce's, 135 East Street, Wrentham, MA (508) 384-5190 at 7:00 PM, business meeting at 7:30. Please bring a dish for a potluck meal and RSVP Cat.

Our last meeting was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Andy Marcoux's retail store for Coachman's Delight. If you missed the meeting, you missed a great opportunity to browse Coachman's Delight, not to mention the great sandwiches Andy provided. Thanks Andy! There were 17 members present for the meeting. Treasurer Beverly Willard reported a balance in the treasury of \$6,871.68. After an accounting of the general account and the show account, the 2007 Rhode Island Carriage Days Pleasure Show showed a profit of \$159.02.

The club voted to purchase a table at the Rhode Island Federation of Riding Clubs' Flea Market on March 30 at the Metcalf School on Route 102 in Exeter, RI. Club members are welcome to bring their items to the Flea Market to sell from the RIDC table. Contact Dottie Billington (401) 647-2262. If you are interested in a table of your own, contact Marilyn Graf (401) 397-7329.

Beverly Willard and Dottie Billington will be going to the accountant on March 13 to have the club's income tax done. It doesn't appear we will have to pay much, but we do need to file. Nothing was decided on whether to have the RIDC continue as a for-profit corporation or to file for 501(c)7 status. 501(c)7 status will probably be the direction to go in the future, but it does require a \$300 initial investment for the application fee.

There was also discussion about how to hold joint events with Mass Carriage & Driving Society. It was voted to allow Mass Carriage members to join the RIDC for a reduced cost of \$15. That would not include a subscription to the Horsemen's Yankee Pedlar. After the meeting, Karen Bogan got back to both MC&DS and the RIDC with word that because Equisure covers both clubs we can hold joint events and still be covered by insurance as long as both clubs have the event listed on their applications which they do. Mug Tomany and Kate Bushman will be organizing the Halloween Drive in October.

Andy Marcoux has taken over as organizer for the Rhode Island Carriage Days Pleasure Show. He asked for another month to put together a presentation package for the club to consider at the next meeting on March 14. At this stage, a date has been set, stalls reserved and officials hired, but other than that, the show is not organized and an organization must be in place for the show to continue. A core group of people is needed to run this show and at the moment this core group does not exist. A straw vote of the membership at the February meeting showed 2 people in favor of continuing the show and 15 opposed. This show also needs to pay for itself. If you are interested in the show continuing or are interested in working on the show, contact Janice Meszoely or Andy Marcoux before the next meeting and/or come to the meeting itself. I couple of members have expressed the idea of either going back to a smaller show or having a one day driving trial in place of a two day pleasure show. Come and share your ideas and thoughts.