

# THE RHODE ISLAND DRIVING CLUB, INC

## SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.ridrivingclub.org>

### Officers for 2009

President: Donald Allaire (508) 6792-1787 [dgaahg@aol.com](mailto:dgaahg@aol.com)  
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Treasurer: Beverly Willard, (508)-695-0806 [bwillard7@comcast.net](mailto:bwillard7@comcast.net)



### Past Meetings:

#### **Minutes of RIDC Meeting June 28, 2009 at the Luce home in Wrentham**

Desserts served at 7:00

Meeting called to order at 7:45 PM by Don Allaire

Treasurers Report: \$430.00 was deposited, Balance is \$5337.92

\$1090.20 in Checks written for Pedlar, Ribbons to Janice, office supplies, RI Federation, Craig Kellog Clinic, Mitchell Farm donation.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

The Activity Committee is working on an Activity Calendar including 2010 with a meeting and activity for each month, sometimes the two will be together.

Cat Luce needs volunteers for ADS Booth at Equine Affair in November in Springfield, MA.

Jane Lowell will contact Sterling Graburn for possibly an activity when he is here for the Equine Affair.

Kate Bushman reported on the Aug 22 & 23 Race of the Century at Collings Foundation in Stow, MA. Hunter Cheney is the coordinator. Look it up on Collings Foundation.com  
Grass airstrip, races between antique cars and antique planes. Looking for antique carriages for display, possibly to drive around grounds.

Dover Saddlery wants our membership list in exchange for donation to club show. Members discussed and voted that it would be o.k. since they already send us catalogs.

Will also send competitors list. Bev will send Kate the membership list, Janice will send Kate the competitors list.

Don Allaire asked for Show Committee Status. Janice reported they need a cook for the day. Breakfast will be egg, ham and cheese sandwiches and fruit cup

Lunch will be hot dogs, hamburgers and sausages.

We will provide food for the volunteers. Club will buy the food. Alison MacLeod has a contact for the cooking. She will contact them.

Ginny and Kate will bring the spreadsheet for the HDT. Kevin Smith volunteered to score the HDT. Don will check on stopwatches.

Cat Luce went over the needs for volunteers.

Motion was passed to close the meeting.

## **Minutes of the RIDC Meeting, July 31, 2009, Coachman's Delight (new location), Medway Mills, Medway, MA**

President Don Allaire called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Balance is \$5412.94  
The Sarah Schmitt Clinic made a profit of \$100.00

The Secretary's Report was read and accepted.

Bill Ostiguy reported that the RI Federation's Poop de Doop Ride at Acadia Management Area at Escoheag, RI, to support the porta potty made a profit of \$1200.00.

Cat Luce presented the RIDC Activity Calendar for the remainder of 2009 and for 2010. Some dates and places are pending reservations and permissions. It will be finalized this fall. Our dates at Goddard Park can not be requested until January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Show Committee presented their progress for our August 29&30<sup>th</sup> RIDC Carriage Days Show and remaining volunteer slots needing to be filled. The needs include a cook for both days, 2 horse trailers for the dressage ring, pop up tents, ideas for the Errands Class, a plastic easel for the in gate, and more volunteers each day.

Janice Meszoely will go out to Celtic Cross Farm to take an inventory of the equipment we have stored there to identify any equipment that needs to be provided.

Andy Marcoux now has a full set of metal course markers that were given to him.

Suggestions for the Errands Class were a bean bag toss, and moving a large stuffed animal from one milk carton to another.

There are 11 sponsors for classes and 4 or 5 Ads for the Show Program. Pat Hubbell is putting together the Show Program., Dover Saddlery sent eight \$10.00 Gift Certificates for Awards or for the Saturday night auction in return for our member and competitor address lists. There is also an equine massage coupon and a Driving Essentials coupon.

There are 5 entries so far. Janice said most competitors send in their entries closer to the closing date.

The suggestion was made for volunteers for the show on Saturday and Sunday to wear a yellow shirt if they have one.

Newport Weekend of Coaching is coming up. Bill and Lauren Ostiguy and Don and Kathy Allaire are planning to go. The Ostiguy's think Saturday is the best day to watch the coaches at the Elms. Look up the schedule at the web site of the Newport Preservation Society.

The motion was made to close the meeting at 8:15 pm

Following the meeting, Andy Marcoux gave a talk on the Carriage Association of America Proficiency Test to certify carriage drivers through a series of test to advance from basic knowledge to advanced.

Thanks to Andy Marcoux for providing the meeting place and snacks. The new location allows Andy to have a carriage or two in the retail space, in addition to the extensive collection of driving harness and equipment for sale.

Attendees included: Phyllis McLarney, Dave Mullen, Danielle Smith, Beth Francis, Bunny Hunt, John Frost, Andy Marcoux, Beverly Willard, Paula Frassica, Janice and Charles Meszoely, Sarah Norris, Jane Lowell, Cat Luce, Don and Kathy Allaire, Sheila Guimont, Pat Hubbell, Joan Dirkson, Pat Edraos, Bill and Lauren Ostiguy.

**Minutes of the RIDC Meeting, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Celtic Cross Farm, Work Day:** It was a very hot day, the volunteers were real troopers and worked hard to accomplish a lot. No meeting was held. Volunteers included Dave and Austin Bomster, Kate Bushman, Kevin Smith, Janice Meszoely, Pat Musser, Anna and Cat Luce, John and Adrienne St Cyr, Leona and John Anastasi, Alison MacLeod, Andy Marcoux, Mike and Mug Tomany. Sorry if I missed anyone. Thanks to all.

### **Past Activity: 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Rhode Island Carriage Days at Celtic Cross Farm**

Wow, what a day Saturday was!! If you needed a test of your rain gear or your “waterproof” footwear, this was the opportunity. The volunteers were fantastic. The horses looked like they were surprised they were being asked to do this in the rain. Nearly all of the drivers signed up were there and competing, hope they had synthetic harness. DD Rapps sold some fashionable rain driving hats. An unexpected challenge for the obstacle judges was the individual paper sheets for each competitor stuck together like paper maché. The clipboards had nice plastic bags over them, but just getting each sheet out to start the next in the pouring rain was difficult. Some of our umbrellas broke in the strong winds that drove the rain sideways. After a few hours of heavy rain, some areas in the fields were 6” deep ponds. My lesson learned was that a plastic trash bag over your rain gear and an inner layer of polar fleece would have been a good choice, but certainly not expected for August!

Sunday was a beautiful day. Celtic Cross Farm looked lovely now that we did not have to peer through the sheets of rain. The Mini classes were combined with the Pony classes due to few mini’s competing. The Ladies to Drive was actually a full ring! There must have been an RIDC show record set with the numbers of multiples. There were some first time competitors and seasoned pros. Most competitors left with at least one ribbon. There were very nice trophies and many championship ribbons passed out at the end of the day. Thanks to all of the competitors, volunteers and sponsors who made the show a success.

**Coaching at Newport, RI:** Bill and Lauren Ostiguy and Don and Kathy Allaire planned to attend the Coaching demonstrations at the Elms on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several other members were interested in attending and some planned to meet to hang out together. This is a “once every three years” weekend at Newport. It lasts all weekend, there is a schedule for times to view the coaches on drives throughout the weekend. Schedule is on Newport Preservation Society web pages.

### **News/Announcements:**

#### **“International” coverage on the internet chat group, the CD-L, about our recent show:**

From the CD-L on Wed, Sept 2, 2009, from Linda Wilking:

Subject: Rhode Island Carriage Days

Just wanted to give a big Thank You to everyone involved in the show-it was great. The weather made it quite interesting but the organizer club members and all the volunteers made it fun. The weather certainly improved on Sunday which made that a great day too. See you next year for more fun with the ponies.

Eric and Linda Wilking (Clydascope)

**Cheryl Cox has a new driving horse**, a Morgan from western PA. Cheryl flew out to see her and stayed with the owner. The mare was an Amish cart pony for 5 years and is so road safe, will trot forever, stops on a dime, and will stand for hours. Cheryl boards her at a stable with lots of kids, so all are having a good time working with her. She is shopping for a cart for the new addition. Cheryl’s mini would be available to the right home. Congratulations, Cheryl!

**The “Race of the Century” at the Collings Foundation in Stow, MA**, was held on August 22 and 23. Club members John Frost, Pat Hubbell and Kate Bushman participated with their spouses and VERY TRUSTY STEEDS. The Luce family manned the ADS booth and generally helped us all in organization and logistics. It was an adventure...the grass landing strip was intermittently used for the landing and taking off of the old

airplanes, the driving of antique cars, and our members driving their horses. All horses behaved very well in what must have been a strange environment for them (being buzzed by noisy planes). John raced an early automobile and won handily. The authentic stage coach pulled by a pair easily won their race, against another antique automobile. Kate and Kevin demonstrated driving an obstacle. Pat represented a lady out for a pleasure drive in an earlier era. The spectators sat on the grassy slope overlooking the landing strip, sitting on blankets and enjoying the program. They included antique car enthusiasts, antique airplane fans, and many families out for a day in the sun. On Saturday mid-afternoon, the skies opened and sheets of rain pounded the area for about a half hour. The horse trailer parking area at the edge of a field had 6 inches of standing water. The plus of the rain was that all spectators crowded into the main museum building where the ADS booth had been set up. The Luces had a lot of interested visitors to the booth. The Sunday repeat of the activities was without the rain! The clubs, MCDS and RIDC have been invited to participate again next year. I must add that I have never seen such a level, flat and long area for driving. A very level, smooth field is obviously a requirement for landing these planes, it felt as smooth as a perfect dressage arena. The museum buildings contained a fascinating array of antique vehicles and airplanes. We heard that the Foundation was started by the inventor of the bar code. Thanks, Kate and Kevin, for organizing this fun activity.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2009**

**Next Meeting: September 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm:** Handi-Kids Therapeutic Riding and Driving Center, 470 Pine Street, Bridgewater, MA. Our RIDC member, Sarah Norris, will give us a tour of their facility and tell us about their programs. Please bring a dish to share for snack/pot luck.

### **October 2009**

6-11 National Drive at Kentucky Horse Park More information at [www.nationaldrive.net](http://www.nationaldrive.net) \*Note that next year, the 2010 National Drive will be at Hoosier Horse Park near Indianapolis, IN on Sept 13-19. The change is due to the World Equestrian Games coming to Kentucky Horse Park in 2010.

11-A Sporting Day of Traditional Driving, Sunday, 9:45 am, New Marlborough, MA, put on by the Colonial Carriage and Driving Society. Entry forms due by Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. Go to [www.colonialcarriage.org/](http://www.colonialcarriage.org/) for more information.

16 - 17 [Martin Auctioneers](#) Fall Carriage Auction, Lebanon Fairgrounds, Lebanon, PA

18 Litchfield Hills Driving Club's Fall Carriage Show, Contact: Jan Rogers, PO Box 175, Plymouth CT, 860-589-6293

**10-31 RIDC Halloween Drive** with the Massachusetts Carriage and Driving Society at Celtic Cross Farm, Dudley, MA, Rain date Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Begins at 10:00 am, Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12:30. There will be a Poker drive as part of the fun. Prizes of baskets of goodies for best hand from each club, prizes for best costume. Also will have an informal cones course set up for practice. Contact Mug Tomany at 860-923-3302 for additional information.

TENATIVE RIDC drive TBD Colt State Park, Bristol, RI