

NDS NEWSLETTER



Promoting the Equine Sport of Carriage Driving

March 2021

Minutes of the NDS General Membership Zoom Meeting February 10, 2021

Jerry opened the meeting at 7:08

Members present were Jerry, Jim, Dawn, Audrey, Sarah, Judy S., Sue Knauer, Sue Zuber, and Bob.

Treasurer's Report – Dawn said 2020 was quiet due to Covid. We did gain some new members and made money on the auction. Expenses were the mainly from the annual dinner and insurance. The end of the year balance was \$7,526.

Secretary's report- Minutes of the Feb. 6 Board meeting were sent out to the entire membership along with a flyer about this General Membership Zoom meeting with Jerry Trapanni and a letter about 2021 elections.

Clinics/Events for 2021

CAA Certification – Driver Proficiency Program-

We plan to bring in CAA certified instructor, Jerry Trapanni, to conduct the certification clinic at Jerry Lechner's farm in July.

Below is a summary of the Zoom meeting with Jerry Trapanni including notes on the Power Point presentation he offered.

Trapanni lives on Long Island – he & wife Rita been driving since '84. He is chairman of the Drivers' Proficiency Program – a master evaluator. He has also been a farrier for 58 years. Jerry has trained with John Parker in England, played polo, competed as a hunter/jumper, etc. He's learned from Steve Holm, VP CAA master evaluator, John Parker, head of the British Driving Society, etc. In the Zoom meeting he dropped a lot of names...

The program was put together by Trish Demers, another CAA certified instructor.

It is an interactive, adult oriented program based on traditional carriage driving methods. Drivers earn a Certificate of Recognition of Proficiency at end of the program. Trapanni encourages drivers to practice traditional methods daily. All the traditional practices are for the safety for the horse and

rider. Instructors like to see wooden vehicles w/wooden wheels & leather harnesses- like to see these but people can use all other kinds, too. The Driver Proficiency Program is for safety and education.

learning and teaching to a standard level:

- safety
- respect and welfare of the horse
- good horsemanship skills
- common sense and knowledge
- simplicity
- building block approach – Level 1 is a basic level of knowledge

Participants of the Program will be asked about the balancing of a 2-wheel cart (regardless of what kind of cart you use).

Level 2 & 3 takes a lot of commitment of time and travel, etc.

The British Driving Society created the original program, which is recognized around the world. What the program is not:

It does not teach you- rather it evaluates the knowledge you have at various levels of proficiency on the day you are tested.

The *Syllabus* (Guidebook) has all the questions but no answers- it is not a test- just a set of skills.

Level 1 is the Basic level

It is not for complete beginners, but for those who are ready to drive away from home, in company and on the road. It is a competence evaluation- so you know how to do things safely...

harness knowledge, harnessing and putting to, practical driving, horse care, and general knowledge.

CAA membership is NOT required for Level 1.

If the instructors don't like the way you're doing something, they may stop you or let you know at the end.

They will ask about the parts of the harness-wear parts, harnessing and putting to...

It is a practical driving evaluation- shows you have control of your horse.

You may be asked to show a walk, trot, strong trot, halt, serpentine, change directions, road simulations, left & right turns, signal with whip or hand while turning in traffic...

You may be asked about horse care including hoof care- what kind of shoes for road; stable care- how to feed horses- before and after drive in various weather conditions; spares & what you need to take with you on the road; how to correctly connect breeching; safety checks of harness & how to store it, etc.

Level 1 and Road evaluation combined: \$115 for non-CAA members or \$105 for members. Taken separately, there is an additional fee for the road evaluation.

The evaluation takes about an hour and a half for both parts together- is quicker if people are quick to answer...

Don't need a full spares kit but need to know the minimum of what you should carry and why you should carry it. Sometimes better off with a hole punch and some splice leather.

"It's a practical experience. Nothing's written in stone, but we do want it to be safe and common sense."

Level 2

If you go on to Level 2 or 3, you have to have a CAA membership and have completed Level 1. You will be asked to prepare & drive a known horse, drive one-handed, and prepare a portfolio of YOUR experience. Optional units- choose one: CDE, pleasure driving, recreational driving skills, or assisting with a disabled driving program.

Level 3

Be a CAA member & complete levels 1 & 2; keep a log book and portfolio; drive one-handed – Achenbach method; knowledge of training the driving horse; practical driving in the ring and the road; knowledge of types of vehicles; appropriate harnessing. Optional units- pick one: drive a known and unfamiliar pair, drive a 4-in-hand, etc.

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During the certification program, if they deem the participant is not ready yet, they turn it into a lesson, so the person learns from the experience. Trapanni encourages us to go through the Syllabus with a partner or with a group of other drivers.

The road test is a small, simulated road course or indoor arena where we can do the putting to and driving.

Applications for evaluation locations are available through the CAA office. Level 2 has to be in a dressage size ring for cones and for people to use unfamiliar horses. **They are trying to get more accessible locations.**

The application is in the *Syllabus* (guidebook). One can order the *Syllabus* from the CAA office or go to the website www.caaonline.com Sarah thought she may have about 7 or 8 people interested. We will look at having a joint clinic with her club.

For CAA Syllabus Book, send check for \$10 payable to NDS to Audrey Cooper 279 East Manitou Rd Hilton NY 14468 by March 1. [*This message was sent to entire membership on Feb 11.*]

Whip Clinic

We are planning a whip clinic with Tara Defendorf- hopefully in the spring (depending on the virus).

2021 Pleasure Show

Date changed, tentatively, to June 13, 2021- set up on June 12.

Gloria will not be able to judge the show. Next step is to ask Toddy Hunter. We are tentatively planning to use Nicole Cable's place for the show. Jerry suggested offering Nicole \$500 as compensation for use of her arena, sound system, etc.

If we do not have 15 entries by May 1, we cancel the show. This has to be put in big letters in the Prize List.

Audrey already asked Nancy to announce on the 20 and will call her back to see if she can announce on the 13th.

Sue Zuber is holding a mini clinic on June 12. June 26-7 is the Barneveld Show.

Pleasure Drive (at least one)

Much talk was had about the driving possibilities at Otter Creek and Brookside. Sue Knauer is a wealth of information if you're looking to take your horse somewhere!!

Election of Officers

If Jerry does not hear from anyone by March 1, positions will stay as they are.

Next NDS Board Meeting

March 6

Welcome new member, Kim Cacia! Kim has a gorgeous Arab paint pony. She is new to driving but not to horses and is anxious to learn a lot.

Adjournment

Sue Z made a motion to adjourn and Sue K seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Congratulations Audrey Cooper!
Check out the latest issue of *The Whip* magazine to see an article on Audrey Cooper.

Audrey was recognized for having completed 100 hours of driving in 2020. Most of that was

done with her beautiful Standardbred cross, Traveler's Half Moon. Those of us who were at the fall pleasure drive saw them in action together roaming the trails at Harriet Hollister Park in Springwater. Nice job, Audrey!!

Websites

The Northampton Driving Association <http://www.northamptondrivingsociety.org>

The CAA Driver Proficiency Program <https://www.carriageassociationofamerica.com/driver-proficiency-program/>

New York State Horse Council <https://nyshc.org/>



Future Events – All events subject to changes due to Covid guidelines – Stay tuned for more information.

March

6 NDS Board Meeting via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

April.

TBD Whip Clinic (could be in May)

3 NDS Board Meeting via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

23 Martin's Spring Carriage Auction- PA

May

1 NDS Pleasure Show entries due

1 NDS Board Meeting via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

June

5 NDS Board Meeting via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

12 Sue Zuber's mini clinic

13 **NDS Pleasure Show**

July

10-11 Tentative dates for NDS Sponsored CAA Certification Program.

17-18 Lorenzo Driving Competition