

NDS NEWSLETTER



Promoting the Equine Sport of Carriage Driving

December 2021

Minutes of the NDS Board Meeting Dec. 8, 2021 via Zoom

Jerry Lechner opened the meeting at 7:00.

Members present: Jerry Lechner, Jim, Knauer, Bob Brunson, Erika Martin, Laurie Neubauer, Jessica Martin, Reenie Romeo, Audrey Cooper

Old Business

Banquet/Annual Mtg/Auction

Reenie secured the date of Jan 29, 2022 for the banquet at Barnard Exempt.

Discussion was had around printing hard copies of the Directory to give to everyone at the banquet. That is what we normally do. We will continue to do that this year. If you do not want your name, address, phone, and/or email distributed to club members, let Reenie Romeo know ASAP.

We are intending to have both a silent and a live auction this year to make the banquet/annual meeting go a little faster. Generally, the auction goes on a bit too long with many, many small items – some that are repetitive. The thought is to have many things in a silent auction that people bid on by writing their bids on paper (can bid as many times as you want for the same item) before the live auction.

- The final bids on the silent auction will be ended before the live auction begins. This will cut a lot of time off the auction.
- People will be asked to write an estimated retail value of the item on the bid card when they check in items they donate to the auction.
- Bids will be made in minimal increments of \$1 and silent auction bidding will start at \$1.

Congratulations to Sue Knauer President of the



**New York State
Horse Council**

We are so proud of you!!!!

- We will have a section of the room where items for the live auction will be placed, so people know those are not to be bid on in the silent auction. There will be a sign that says "For Live Auction."

We promise the live auction will still be a lot of fun. It just won't go on for that extra half hour. If you have experience with silent auctions and want to offer ideas, contact Reenie Romeo at (585)469-0128 or mromeo@rochester.rr.com. Reenie will announce the two types of auctions in the invitation to the annual meeting/banquet/auction. The invitation is expected to be sent out the first week of January.

New Business

Anyone interested in serving on the NDS Board or becoming an Officer of the club, please let us know. It helps the club to have people with new ideas join in the decision-making end of things. Please reach out if you're interested. We heartily welcome you to join the Board or to run for office. Contact Jerry Lechner if interested: (585)354-9551 or jer2251@gmail.com. Audrey suggested we start scheduling things for 2022 now.

A tentative date for the 2022 NDS Pleasure Show is June 19, 2022.

Jerry suggested buying a new wireless mic to go with out amp. It would cost about \$300. Laurie made a motion for Jerry to buy the mic, and Audrey seconded. Motion passed.

Audrey moved to adjourn. Reenie seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Clinic with Jeff LaDue – former Lipizzan herd manager and driving trainer.

The NDS gathered on the chilly afternoon of November 14 at Jerry Lechner's farm. Jim and Sue brought doughnuts while Jerry and Grace provided coffee, tea, and cider. The indoor facility provided ample room for spectators to view the clinician working with Jerry's horse. We were able to hear sufficiently without the help of the speaker/mic system that still needs a bit of work to get the crackles out. Jerry's 12-year-old Morgan, Cooper, had not been worked much in a year and a half, so he needed some fine tuning, so to speak. We watched and listened as Jeff started Cooper at the lunge. He gave the horse his head to get him comfortable. Jeff said he was going to ask the Morgan for three things:

1. go forward when asked
2. stop
3. walk relaxed on the lunge line.

Jeff doesn't want a horse to turn into him. He wants him to stand when asked to stop. Jeff repeatedly emphasized the MOST important thing is for the horse to understand, "Whoa" - AKA "Stop."

He also said the first step in training a horse to drive is to assess a horse's suitability to driving. Not all horses are suited.

Jeff offered many, many tips during the session. The following is a small sample of them:

- When introducing a horse to the crupper, put it on and let him eat his hay in the stall with it on for a while to get used to it.
- Leave about an inch of space under the tail to the crupper. Loose is worse.
- Take your time. Nothing in a hurry.
- The person heading the horse should hold the horse's head to the same side as the person behind the horse doing the training.
- Tie one end of a leg wrap to a top terret on the saddle of the surcingle and snugly around the chest (front) of the horse. Tie the other end to a terret on the opposite side of the saddle. This will keep the surcingle from slipping backward during training.
- Jeff is not an advocate of side reins and prefers a 3-piece snaffle – but admits that the same style bit does not fit every horse. Use what works with the least severity. He says the horse is more sensitive with a snaffle. With a one-piece bit, the horse gets the same command on each side of the mouth. With a snaffle, each side gets a separate message.
- #1 – make sure the horse stops at, "WHOA!"
- He does not teach backing up until the horse learns to stand.
- Stick with cotton rather than nylon for long lines and lunge line.

Mr. LaDue's many years of training and showing were evident in his calm, easy manner with the horse and with his wealth of knowledge and expertise. We are so fortunate that Jeff is now residing near Spencerport, NY and offers lessons on any type of horse training, maintenance, harnessing, loading, introducing clippers, riding, driving, problems, etc. Jeff can be reached at. **(779) 771-1640**

Future Events

January

29 NDS Annual Meeting/Banquet/Auction

More info to be sent in invitations early Jan.

June

19 Possible date for NDS Pleasure Show

July

30 Sue Zuber's Breed Show

NDS Fun in 2021

2021 was a busy year for the Northampton Driving. Despite the menacing Covid 19, we were able to accomplish a respectable calendar of events.

This summer the club held a carriage driving show at Silver Shoe Farm in Batavia with Jeff Morse as judge. Mr. Morse is the head of the Pleasure Driving Committee of the American Driving Society with many years of experience as a competitor, judge, and breeder and training of Morgan horses at his Massachusetts farm, so we were thrilled to have him in western New York. There were seventeen competitors, including three entries in the multiples division, and the lovely venue, high caliber of turnouts, free admission for spectators, vendors and a food truck made it an enjoyable show.

The club also hosted a Carriage Association of America (CAA) Level One carriage driving certification evaluation. Jerry Trapani traveled from Long Island to Hilton in late July to evaluate eight participants over two days on basic horse care and stable management, harness and vehicle knowledge, harnessing, putting to and driving. Level One is the foundation for certification, and is required to qualify for evaluation at Levels Two and Three which are increasingly complex and include driving multiples. The evaluation process was rigorous but very educational.

This fall, Tara Defendorf presented a clinic which featured a full turnout with a life-sized fiberglass horse. She demonstrated rein and whip handling and the effects of correct and incorrect practices. Having an equine substitute allowed the attendees to take the seat as whips and practice their techniques under Tara's guidance without adverse consequences!

The club wound up the year's events with a clinic on ground work for driving horses with Jeff Ladue, former herd manager and driving trainer at Tempel Lipizzans in Illinois.

