

Annual Membership meeting

February 24, 2018

Welcome everyone

How fitting it is to have our annual membership meeting here at the Morgan house. This was the site of the first meeting of the club and the organizing meetings that followed. I believe the club started in the late eighties with more heavy horse owners and drivers than light horse owners and drivers. Back then we had plow days and clinics at Undermountain Farm. The early members and founding members please raise a hand, a tribute that our club is a club of friends who get together with a common interest of carriage driving.

The Tub Parade was the signature event of the club. We would typically have 15 to 20 entries, as the heavy horse owners faded to less numbers, the number of light horses increased in the club. Early on in the transition we had 28 entries in the Tub Parade. This year we had 14 entries with a little different mix of horses and vehicles. The fire engine and the calliope were great and leaving from the Winthrope estate was pleasant and an easier drive to town. The calendar was a nice addition to the tub parade as who does not want to be admired in a calendar after all your work in getting your turnout together. The town's people really enjoyed the parade this year and the calendar. A well done to Maureen Gamelli, and her volunteers for organizing the Tub Parade for us.

All things will come to an end some day, I must report that after 47 years Trish Remly and family have decided to end the Walnut Hill Driving show. Bill started the show as a small event and it grew to be one of the finest pleasure driving shows in the US. It was the show we competed in and admired. I say with some sadness that it's over, but a tribute to the Remly family to do such a great job for so long. That it brought the traditions of pleasure driving back to life for us all to see and enjoy. A salute to Walnut Hill and the Remly Family for a job well done.

This year will be the 20th year for our June driving show. I always like to tell the story how we started out at the Daniel Chester French Site in Stockbridge with 8 entries. Over the 20 years the show has grown and it is known for being many exhibitors' favorite show. Our volunteers are known for being helpful in making the show pleasant for them. Our volunteers are known for the smooth running of the show. We could not do it without you. A well done to our volunteers.

Our format of 2 days combined test and two days pleasure driving show is being copied throughout the United States. Our Pleasure pace we started this year is being suggested for consideration to the ADS to be added to their rulebook. Our show has come a long way. The exhibitors of the Northeast are feeling that our show is the show to go to. We, The Colonial Carriage and Driving Society are making history in the carriage-driving World. I look forward to the future of our show