



Dekalb County Horsemen Association

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Club's Christmas Parades

Club Officers

**Denis
Oster
President**

**Jeff
LaRowe
Vice President**

**Mark
Carunchia
Sec/Treas**

Board Members

**Bill
Knott**

**Dick
Griffis**

**Clayton
Hursh Jr.**

The Club attended two Christmas Parades, with in a one week period. These two parades were both lighted and horse drawn. The first parade was scheduled for a Saturday night in Garrett, IN. It rained all day with about 5 inches of rain, the wind was blowing so the parade was rescheduled for Sunday evening. The weather was better but was still cold and windy, but the rain had stopped. There were 22 entries in this parade, all entries were from the Draft Horse Club.

After the parade there was a dinner for all the members who were at the parade. Special thanks to the DePew family for preparing the dinner and opening the middle school cafeteria, where it was warm. The following Saturday the club was at Hamilton IN, for their annual lighted parade. The club had 19



entries in this parade. The weather was cold and the wind coming off the lake went right through the drivers and guests riding in the parade. After the parade and wagons were undecorated and tongues changed and horses taken care of, the club set down too a great meal at the Harvest House in Hamilton. A special thanks to all the club members who transported the wagons to the Garrett and Hamilton Parades. We had no accidents with wagons this year.

Club Activities

.If you thought that the month of October was busy, you have not seen anything yet. The club owns 13 wagons that are set up for giving rides. When you see 22 wagons at one parade and 19 at the other parades, we have to give special thanks to the club members that have wagons that are set up to give rides. They had to transport their wagons as well as their teams to these events. After being in the parade, they had to load their teams and wagons for the journey home. Without their support the club could not have had the number of wagons and teams in these parades. As always the spirit from the club members was great with everybody helping out where and when needed. Special thanks to Mark for supplying the batteries and inverters where needed.

Club Activities

Bill Knott, Dick Griffis and Mark Carunchia were the parade organizers for these two parades, they did a great job with these two parades. On Tuesday evening the club was scheduled for the Auburn Christmas Parade. There were 4 wagons and 4 teams at this parade. This was a lighted parade but was not all horse drawn like the Garrett and Hamilton Parades. The Hamilton parade was on Saturday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon was the Christ Child Festival at Franke Park in Ft, Wayne. There were three teams scheduled for this ride with the three wagons. At 2 PM the teams had to leave Ft. Wayne and head to Hamilton for the parade. This year we only had to transport one wagon to Hamilton for the parade. With the wagon loaded and the teams loaded, off to Hamilton IN for their lighted Parade. Our staging area was at the Hamilton High School parking lot, we had lights to hook and unhook, what a treat. After the parade the wagon was loaded and would go back to Ft. Wayne for the Sunday addition of the Christ Child Festival. The scheduled time was from 10 AM until 5 PM. With 8 teams, 3 wagons, and a carriage the club was giving rides through the Festival of Lights at Franke Park. The following weekend was one of our busiest ride weekends. On Friday evening the club was at the Allen County Fair Grounds giving rides, the club was also scheduled to give rides at the Fair Grounds on Saturday evening. The Club had a Christmas Ride at Albion IN and the club was requested to use our handicap wagon of this ride. Also on Friday evening the club gave rides at Angola IN to help bring Santa to Angola. The club had 2 wagons and teams at this event. On Saturday afternoon the club was scheduled to give ride at Salomon Farms, this ride was scheduled for 6 wagons from 1pm till 5 pm. Then the club went back to Allen County Fair Grounds for the Saturday evening ride. Also on Saturday evening the club was at Freemont IN for their Christmas Parade and gave rides after the parade, we had 2 wagons and teams at this event. On Sunday the club was at the Gene Stratton Porter near Rome City, IN for their annual Christmas Celebrations, the club had 1 wagon and 2 teams at this event. This event is around the Gene Stratton Porter's home near the lake. This is very hilly and hard on the horses. Pulling up and down the hills so close to the water's edge makes for tough pulling and the teamsters have to keep excellent control over their teams. Good breaks on this ride is a must. There is also part of the ride that goes through the woods and at night driving through the woods can be exciting. The following week did not give much relief to the club. On Thursday at Kendallville, IN the club had 3 wagons with 3 teams for their annual Christmas Ride. On Friday, New Haven IN had their Christmas ride, the club had two wagons and teams at this ride. The club was once again at the Allen County Fair Grounds giving rides with 3 wagons and teams, On Saturday Meta Park had its Christmas ride with one wagon and one team. Sunday, the Gingerbread Ride sponsored by DABA of Auburn was held with 2 wagons and teams. All these rides and parades the Draft Horse Club held its Annual Christmas Party at the farm Sunday evening. Over 90 members and guests attended the party with a potluck carry-in with the meat and drinks furnished by the club. The meeting room was decorated in the Christmas Spirit. The entertainment was by the Sweet Adeline musical group of Ft, Wayne and the student from Ellie Paige Dance Academy of Garrett IN. There was a spirited auction following the entertainment. We also celebrated Mason DePew's birthday, he turned 10 years of age. He decided not to share any of his cake with the members. With all the activities, a special thanks to all teamsters and wagon haulers and battery suppliers for a job well done, getting all the wagons to the proper ride at the proper time. This is truly an all club event to give all the rides and parades in this very short amount of time. To all the new members of the club who worked so hard during these past two weeks, we could not have done it without you. As you can see we have traveled all over Northeastern Indiana, without all of our members doing their parts we could not have completed these rides. All the wagons are back at the fair grounds safe and sound. To all the members who supplies wagons for our different events thank you. With all this, we started the new barn at the farm, the barn is up and trusses are set. It looks like we will soon have a place for our ride wagon to call home and no more storage outside in the weather. We did have lights at the entrance of our drive coming back to our museum. Special thanks to Mark for making sure we have lights at the drive way so that nobody would miss their turn into the farm.

Club Pictures





Up Coming Events

Our next scheduled meeting is January 8, starting at 7 pm at the farm. This is an important meeting because we are electing officers and we will start collecting dues. Dues should be the same as last year, \$10.00. If there is a ride that you would like to add, we would like that information, date, time, where, how many wagons, number of teams, and contact information. Also we are working on the new brochure for next year. We are looking for the information, dates and times, to bring our brochure up to date with the most accurate information as possible. There will be some dates that we will not get correctly, but we will try and keep them to a minimum. We should start bringing in the wagons for preventive maintenance getting them ready for the upcoming ride season. We have a heated work area and the wagons should be at farm. There is always room for one more pair of hands to help on our wagons. This past year has been a good year for our club, let's keep all the good work going forward during this upcoming year.

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year