FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

If you missed our 70th Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia you missed a very informative and fun filled time. Many THANKS to Karen Smith for coordinating this event. We had a number of new members and some members we have not seen for a long time in attendance plus the largest number of children and young adults that I have ever seen at a meeting.

Dr. Phil Sponenberg spoke to us and answered questions. He presented some recommendations for us to consider as part of our upgrading program. The Board of Directors have taken his proposals and are working on By Law changes for the 2015 meeting. Dr. Sponenberg is also going to update the information that was presented in 1997 on the cream percentage in our animals.

We also had a nice presentation by Clair Rierson, grandson of founder C T Rierson. Clair spoke about his remembrances of his Grandfathers early involvement with the Cream breed.

Congratulations to Kerrie Beckett of Poland Springs, Maine and John Schwartzler of Greenwood, California on their election to the Board of Directors. I would like to also like to THANK Michael Bradford, of Lebanon, Tenn. for submitting his name for your consideration as a Board member. If you are interested in running for a Board position or know of someone who is, please contact a member of the nominating committee.

The possibility of making micro chipping available to our members is being worked on by member Kerrie Beckett. Clair Rierson made a generous donation to this project.

As usual I ask everyone to send in their stallion, breeding, foaling reports and names of deceased registered animals and transfer papers.

Hope to see you next year at our annual meeting in or near Shipshewana, Indiana.

Frank Tremel
President
A. I. Revisited. Part 2

Basically what I can report at this time is that the project is on hold until Spring of 2015. Our crazy Spring weather of being cool then extremely hot made it impossible to A. I. the 2 mares. One thing is for sure you have no real control over the weather or the mares.

The following is the time line of our attempt since the last column:
May 16; both mares given a shot to bring in season at the same time. They are kept together at all times
May 20; both observed teasing a gelding
May 21; checked by Vet, both have one developing follicle
May23; both rechecked, both out of season

Then the weather changed to extremely hot as those that were at the meeting in Williamsburg can attest. The mares cycled very quickly which did not allow enough time to have the semen collected and shipped. Then the Annual meeting came along with Wendell and I both basically gone for over a week. I wanted to have had this done before the meeting. Of course they came in season while we were all gone.

In the early part of July with hot weather the mares continued to cycle quickly. At that time after consulting with my Vet it was decided to wait until next Spring.
Cost associated with this attempt:
Vet visits and shots. $420.00
Stallion deposit. $500.00

As a side note, there is an equine facility within 10 miles of me that specializes in A. I. Of 7 mares they only settled 1. They did live coverage on one mare and she settled. There was one other Cream mare that was A. I. ed. She did settle on the first breeding but unfortunately had twins and lost both.

Now on a positive note I have talked with three members who used a stallion. They have 6 mares total in foal.

Remember, while I have access to a very nice Stallion within a few miles of my farm that I have used a number of times, the reason for this project was to try to bring in new unrelated blood to our area.

As you can see, as the cost mounts, it might be cheaper to buy an unrelated stallion and pay the shipping cost. But for those of you that do not want to deal with a stallion year round and do not have a stallion within a reasonable distance, I think that A. I. is still something to think about.

Frank Tremel
Rose Hill Farm
Owensville, MD
Key Points

1. The Livestock Conservancy has dropped several breeds from their program due to breeds not keeping to their standards, and outcrossing to other breeds which dilutes breed purity.

2. Dr. Sponenberg does not want to see any out crossing to other draft breeds, which will lead to the dilution of the genetics of the breed or the potential of letting in a disease.

3. If breeding to another draft breed it should be one of quality and registered, the foal will be a half cream and go through the upgrade system.

4. Horses of unknown heritage should not be allowed in unless they are DNA tested positive for the cream (champagne) gene, and also have DNA consistent with the breed. In such rare cases the animal can be registered as full creams. Also should be tested for JEB once the cream (champagne) gene is confirmed, and the DNA is proven consistent with Cream Draft Horse background.

5. Type or conformation is the number one thing for the creams. You must be able to line up all draft breeds the same color and be able to pick out a cream from the group. Color is important but not the main concern of The Livestock Conservancy.

6. Off color female foals out of full creams (red/chestnut) should be registered as full creams not tracking.

7. Off color male foals out of full cream parents should only be registered if that line is in danger of extinction.

8. Off color gelded males can be tracking animals for show purposes.

9. The tracking registry should be reevaluated and maybe eliminated, but only if “off color” foals from Cream parents are allowed full registration.

10. Mares that are of unknown ancestry or Foundation mares should not be registered since we now can do DNA testing to see if the animal carries the cream (champagne) gene and has DNA consistent with the breed. Those would then get a full registration.

The Tracking registry was set up for off color foals as was the Foundation registry, both were set up before we could do DNA testing. Now we have this test to use and know for certain if the horse carries the cream gene and has DNA consistent with the breed.
Jr. Members
by Maggie Lupkes

How I got started in Creams

I’m a third generation member. I’m a Jr. Member, my Dad is a Member, and my Grandfather was a Member, too.

After retiring from his career of farming, Grandpa decided he needed a hobby and having read about creams in a couple of different magazines, he decided that was what he was going to do. Then he bought two horses from Mr. Arnold Hockett and another one from a farm sale ending up with two mares and a stallion, and he continued to grow with the Cream breed. Then after my parents got married, my Dad started acquiring Creams and later when my Grandpa passed away in 2007, Dad took the responsibility of placing all of Grandpa’s horses (once again Superman).

Then I came into the picture in 2001, but being only a baby, I don’t remember anything, but I do know that Creams were a big part of my life and always around for as long as I can remember. With a park across the street, and showing pictures of adorable new little babies at school, I was always proud of the Creams and having such beautiful, elegant, rare horses and being a kid, showing them off.
How Jr. Members came to be

At meetings, my parents would always urge me to talk to other kids there but I was too shy and never wanted to. But seeing that other kids also had creams and the interest of other kids who didn’t, I thought, “How can I help the Creams? How can young kids help the association grow?”. Then the idea of Jr. Members popped into my head, but at that time it was just an empty shell. So then I presented it to my Dad and he said that we should make by-laws for it so then I could present it at the next meeting but with both of us being busy, we never got it done and it passed out of our minds and years flew by.

Then at the 2014 meeting, my Dad, seeing the many kids there, told me to go and tell them my idea. First I told it to Connie Purchase and she thought it was a great idea and thought the other girls there would think it was a great idea, too. So that is just what I did and the output was just what Connie said it would be. Then with all the positive feedback, Connie encouraged me to share Jr. Members at the meeting the next day. So that night I came up with the few rules of Jr. Members. The next day, being very nervous I presented my idea at the meeting and they sent back a few people to a table in the back to tweak the rules. Then I presented the new and improved rules and to my surprise they were passed. The fee being five dollars and remembering I had six dollars left of my vacation money I asked to run back to the hotel room to grab my money, but Dad said, “No,” and pulled five dollars from his own wallet and handed it to me and said, “Here. I’ll pay the fee for you because I’m very proud of what you did here today, and I know your Grandpa would be too.” And with that, I became the first Jr. Member.

by Maggie Lupkes
A photo montage of members celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the ACDHA in June 2014 at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia

Dr. Phil

"The book signing"

Thursday eve at the CW
2014 Meeting
70th Anniversary

Karen welcomes us

Superman fans

Clair Rierson

Dr. Phil Sponenberg
American Cream lovers, I have big, exciting news to share!
Our beautiful stallion, Lincoln, is making history. He’s going to Germany!! His new owner, Katharina Böttcher, is starting a breeding program. Let’s celebrate with our first European member who is ready to join our association and help promote and preserve our breed!

by Cheryl Martin

Farewell to Lincoln
“going to Texas for quarantine”
Lincoln's Journey

First ACDH in Germany

Rose Hill ADBJ463 Lincoln no. 675

New Owners: Dominik & Katharina Böttcher

Congratulations and Welcome to our American Association

http://www.americancreamdraft.de/
2015 Meeting

As Frank mentioned in his President's letter, the 2015 meeting will be in and around Shipshewana, Indiana. This area of Indiana has a large settlement of Amish and with that there are all types of craftsmen involved with the horse industry.

We plan on attending the Topeka Carriage Auction in Topeka, Indiana. There will definately be a lot of good food and time for sightseeing. The dates we are planning for our meeting and other activities are highlighted in the calendar below.

The closest airport is South Bend, Indiana. There are also Amtrak lines traveling across northern Indiana. More details will be included in the next newsletter.

I will be your host with help from Sheila Johnson & Nancy McBride. We look forward to welcoming you to a very interesting part of our nation. Hope to see you there.