

editor's copy

Newsletter of The Delmarva Driving Club, Inc.
Martie Bolinski, editor

January 2010

DELMARVA



DRIVING CLUB INC.

DDC Meeting Schedule

January 6th BOD
mtg. will be held via
conference call. If
you wish to partici-
pate, please contact
Jane Ramsey at 302-
659-2827 or
Jane.B.Ramsey@usa.
dupont.com

February 6th—
Membership Meeting
and 'Turnout Event'
Bring your driving
turnout and a photo
of your horse hitched
for a talk and covered
dish lunch.



Inside This Issue:

**Christmas Party Highlights—this year's most coveted Bandit's
gift was a vibrator! Read more on page 2**

December 12th DDC Board of Directors Election

New directors are Jane Ramsey and Pao Lin Hatch—Meeting Minutes
on page 2

Upcoming Events:

Don't miss the January 10th Pleasure Drive at Wye Island

Sponsored by Frances Baker start 12 noon. Bring a picnic if you like. Not a 'line
drive'; folks are free to drive as they wish. Dress warmly! **RSVP to Frances**

Baker at 302-645-6164 or franbak@aol.com

More events in the Calendar of Events on page 5

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Health Update/West Nile Vaccines—page 7

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January 2010 Newsletter Contributors

Contributors: John Bolinski—BOD minutes and Treasurer's report; Anna Klump, Out and About, Martha MacDonald, Out and About; Paula Barto/Peg Koster—DEC News, Health Update; Donna Hurst—Justa Country Girl; Special Thank-you to Carol Seiler for allowing me to use her camera for the photos of the Tuckahoe Drive & Tack Swap and for making me the disk for easy transfer.

Sunshine: Lois Evans, Web Page Updates: Pao Lin Hatch; Wee Willy Sez: Wee Willy

**DDC Membership Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2009
Meeting Time: 8:15 p.m.
to 8:35 p.m.**

Present: Entire 2009 Board of Directors and Christmas Party attendees at the Nutter Marvel Museum
The following subjects were discussed:

Conference Call Board Meetings – A suggestion was made for holding (at least some of) the board

meeting via conference call (Jane Ramsey). This would allow members to serve on the board who would not normally be available for face-to-face meetings and also help save travel time and gas expenses for board members. It was decided to gather more information and do a trial meeting using this method.

Nominations for Open BOD Positions: The floor was opened for nominations for all 4 of the officer

positions and for 2 of the director slots (Kim Buell & Martie Bolinski). Jane Ramsey and Pao Lin Hatch both accepted nomination for director if they could use the conference call concept. Donna Hurst, Frances Baker and John Bolinski agreed to serve in their current positions (president, vice president, secretary/treasurer) in the absence of other candidates. With no one running in opposition in any of the positions, no vote was necessary.

**Delmarva Driving Club
Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2009
Submitted by John Bolinski, treasurer/secretary**

Beginning Balance (Checking)	\$1,113.12
Receipts:	
Dues	\$260.00
Calendars	\$220.00
Christmas Party Guests	\$40.00
Advertising	\$50.00
Payments:	
Dec '09 Newsletter	\$30.00
Postage	\$90.00
Sunshine	\$50.00
Trailer Tags	\$80.00
Insurance	\$54.88
Stationary	\$5.48
Christmas Party	\$138.17
Ending Balance (Checking)	\$1,264.82
CD#1	\$8,839.02
CD#2	\$2,183.43
Grand Total:	\$12,287.04

Christmas Party Highlights

This year, over 40 folks and guests met at the beautifully decorated Nutter Marvel Museum to celebrate our annual Christmas Party.

Food was excellent as always. This year's elections took place after the meal and we followed up with the Bandit's Gift Exchange.

Hotly contested gift items included a vibrating foot massage cushion, a wrench set, a beautiful porcelain rocking horse music box and a stuffed hedgehog. As always, the gift-exchange was a hoot and everyone had a great time.

Great time with great friends at this wonderful time of year.

Let's do it all again next year!



Out and About— Members' News

Carriage Proficiency Testing—part II/level 1

Anna Klumpp

So what are the requirements for level I? It is suggested that you get a syllabus for all the possible questions that could be asked. However, if you know someone with a syllabus, it is ok to just check that out, as it is not a good idea to go uninformed about what might be expected. The syllabus will have an application for the testing but you can also get the application on line. There is a fee for the test.

Each level has various units.

Level I has three units, all of which can be done in one testing day or done separately. It takes about 1 1/2 hours to complete all three units. Someone must be able to demonstrate practical driving and stable management for the single horse. It is not necessary to be taking lessons or to be actively showing in any way.

The three units of level I are Preparing to Drive, Practical Driving, and Horse knowledge and Care. It is overwhelming to look at all the requirements and possible things that an evaluator can ask, but what I found to be the typical experience is that if you present your horse clean and groomed, can talk about the tools that you use, have a clean harness and can also talk about the typical materials used for cleaning harness, you are set for most

of Unit I (preparing the horse to drive) as well as some of Unit III. As long as you have a reasonable explanation for why you choose to do something different for your horse, the evaluator will accept your knowledge. For instance, my minis are not shod; their hoof wall is so thin that there is no nail thin enough to keep on a shoe and there are no farriers in my area who do the glue-ons. And for those who love easyboots, they don't come in mini size, a good enough answer for why I did not have shoes on my minis. I was expected to know something about shoeing and using studs for road driving. The evaluator usually asks questions about the horse that you present, so feeding and pasturing and health care issues should be answered about what is typical for your horse. Evaluators seem particularly concerned about colic and founder, as it seems that they believe that many owners would not recognize the signs of these illnesses in their horse. Many of these questions about horse care are basic. One of the basic questions is about what kind of watering system you use in your pasture. What they want to hear is that you keep the trough filled and cleaned

and how you go about doing it and how often. Anyone who cares about their horse most likely cleans the trough and keeps it filled and free of ice in the winter. Perhaps the most difficult questions are those about poisonous pasture plants, but go to your ag center and get a list of the most common plants for your area if you do not already know. When you have one evaluator, there is no clear beginning or end of the three units, so some of the questions could be asked while waiting to hitch or even when driving to the arena.

The driving unit (Unit II) is also more-or-less basic for someone with some experience. You must demonstrate that you can put-to, using an assistant to head the horse and do it safely. The assistant cannot give you any clues or help you in any way. It is the driver who must give them direction as well as tell the evaluator how to properly get into the carriage. You may have to name parts of the harness as you hitch. While assisting with one person's test, Andy kept asking for the special name for the bearing rein terret, which so far, I have not found in any of my books. He says it is called the "C Hook?". Then there is the issue of keeping the reins safe while putting to, and unhitching. I found that having tested with two different people at this time, there are different methods for tying up reins. Remember, you have some one heading the horse. If an evaluator suggests another method than what you

(Continued on page 4)

Delaware Equine Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Harrington, DE Public Library. Special meeting locations may vary. For more information check <http://www.delawareequinecouncil.com>
Or phone Stan 302-684-3966

(Continued from page 3)

use, take the information graciously and try to demonstrate that method when you return and start to unhitch.

The driving itself is done in an arena. Your horse must be at least 5 years old and have had two years of any kind of driving experience. You must drive a serpentine, a 20 meter circle and halt (reins in one hand). The circle and serpentine, as well as all the driving, can be done two handed—no particular method required. This must be done both directions and the 20 meter circle is not precisely measured. There will also be a few cones set out and the driver will be expected to negotiate those. There is no requirement for the length of time the driver has been driving but this is not a test for a new driver. On return to the barn, again, unhitch safely using your assistant TO HEAD THE HORSE. Make certain that you undo your traces last (this is what they are watching for).

With this part finished, the evaluator will typically give you feed-back as to whether or not you passed the test. If you do not pass one of the units you do not have to repeat the passed units, only the one not passed. Also, the syllabus says there can be three different evaluators, but what I have seen is that one person does all three parts.

I did the level I in Kentucky, found it a challenge, but interesting and fun. When asked a question, I could give more than enough information and did not find anything that

I could not answer. Having been driving for over 10 years and keeping horses for over 25, I found that most of the test was just about things that I do routinely. So—with this under my belt, I decided that getting another Level would be easy as could be.

In the next installments, this easy, "stroll-in-the-park" starts to become more of a driving stress test.

If anyone is interested in taking Level 1 at an ADS event, I would be willing to spend some time going over the information and try to help you prepare for the test. Again, you do not have to be a CAA member to test at Level I.

Next month: Road testing and Level II.

Teddy Bear's Picnic Martha MacDonald

"If you go down to the woods today, you better not go alone.

If you go down in the woods today, you better be in disguise.

For every bear that ever there was has gathered there for certain, because

Today's the day the Teddy Bears have their picnic!"

Thanks to my connection with Martha Duchnowski, I got invited to be Betty Steele's navigator (gator) at the Brandywine Valley Driving Club's members-only Teddy Bear's Picnic CDE... with a twist. Having seen the videos of the gator hanging off the back of the marathon cart, I thought this would be a wild adventure. Little did I know.

We met early at Fair Hill and Betty had already walked the cones course three times. She

was driving her 12h Dartmoor, Beetle Bailey. Because he's so small, we agreed that she should drive the dressage and cones solo and I got to watch her work. I watched her Preliminary dressage test with my 'ridden' dressage eye and thought she'd done a brilliant job except for her last extended trot and what started as a final trot to halt where Beetle was dead straight until the halt when he 'fell off' to the left. Imagine our glee when her test came back with all 7's and 8's with the occasional 9 and only 2 6's...the second lengthening and the halt. Betty's cones run was brilliant and all her dressage training helped Beetle make terrific bending turns and a fast time. When the 2 competition scores were combined...Betty and Beetle took First Place. I was so excited. For the rest of the day, I was hugging Betty and jumping up and down for the joy of seeing such a great pair working so well together.

But now we were heading out for the marathon and I wasn't sure what we were facing. Turns out we had a 4 km drive with hazards, but the hazards had cleverly described tasks to accomplish. In addition, we could accumulate additional points if we noticed Teddy Bears doing Summertime or Bear type activities.

Off we went and our first hazard had a muck bucket filled with small bags of chips. The task was to grab a bag without putting our feet on the ground. Betty pulled the cart up to the point I could lean over and reach into the bucket...successfully grabbing a bag. Then we headed out on a beautiful Autumn after-

(Continued on page 7)

Calendar of Events—DDC Items are in Bold

More information about activities will be available in future issues. Check for changes and additions. If you plan to attend a DDC sponsored event, PLEASE contact the host before the event.

All members are welcome to attend the monthly BOD meetings, but we would appreciate a heads-up if you plan to attend so that we can phone in case of any change in time or location.

- **January 10th Wye Island Drive sponsored by Frances Baker. Drive off at 12 noon. Bring a picnic lunch if you'd like. This will not be a line-drive. Please RSVP 302-645-6164 franbak@aol.com.**
- **January 18th DE Equine Council mtg at the Harrington Public Library.**
- **January 31st—deadline for inclusion in the DE Equine Council Directory.** hopeland3@cs.com
- **January 27-30 2010—** Highways and Horses: Travel and Transport by Horse-drawn Vehicles at Colonial Williamsburg. \$325 includes all talks, presentations, demonstrations, breakfast, breaks and refreshments, welcome reception on Wednesday, dinner on Saturday, admittance to Trade Fair etc. Questions? 859-231-0971 or info@caaonline.com
- **February 6th—Chestertown MD. Membership meeting and 'Turnout Social', Pao Lin paoball2000@yahoo.com or 301-887-1397 for more info**
- **February 14th—Iron Furnace**

Please have items for the February 2010 Delmarva Driving Lines to Martie Bolinski,
410-398-0257; bolinism@dol.net before January 27th

Sunshine:



There is \$31.32 left in the Sunshine fund.

Cards were sent to:

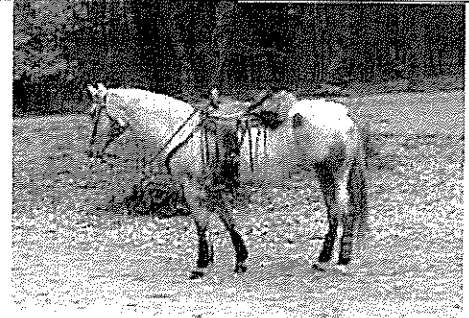
Donna Hurst: passing of beloved horse, Justa Country Girl

Chris Bailey—surgery

Terry Johnson—Nutter Marvel's right-hand-man who took care of and drove the horses—retirement from Delaware Tech.

Drive sponsored by George Parris. 302-846-2189

- **March 1st—last date for membership renewals.**
- **March 20th—DE Equine Council Scholarship Fund-raiser at the Agriculture Museum Dover, DE. Dancing, dining, silent auction, live auction, cash bar, door prizes. Tickets go on sail in February for \$30 per person. Donations and sponsorships being accepted now. Contact: Stan 302-684-3966 or Pam 240-994-2220**
- **March 27th—EXPO at the Harrington DE State Fairgrounds. Contact 302398-4630 or www.DelawareHorseExpocom**
- **March 27th—Easter Bunny Drive at Tuckahoe near Ridgely MD. Noon drive off. Planned course with optimal times for VSE, ponies, horses and pairs. If you prefer to just come and drive, that's ok too. Volunteers needed for the obstacles. Tail gate party to follow. Contact Pao Lin Hatch 240-274-6180 or paoball2000@yahoo.com**
- **April 17th—Continuous Drive. Themed drive including dressage, cones and cross country with a couple of simple hazards. \$10 for members who drive all three phases. Ribbons or prizes will be awarded. Lunch for competitors and drivers is 'on your own' but there is a local deli. Contact Anna Klumpp montalmax@hotmail.com or 410-348-5350 for more info**
- **May 8, 2010—DDC Pleasure Driving Show. More info to follow.—NOTE—this date is changed from the originally planned date of May 1st.**
- **June 26-27th—Susquehanna Valley Whips & Wheels Pleasure Driving show and Traditional Day of Driving. Lycoming County Fairgrounds, Hughesville, PA. Tina Cornell 570-784-4793 or 570-204-5536**
- **October 7-9th—ADS Annual Members' Mtg. Gayla Driving Center, KY.**



"My horse has a hoof of striped agate; Her fetlock is like fine eagle plume. Her legs are like quick lightening. My horse has a tail like a trailing cloud. Her mane is made of short rainbows. My horses eyes are made of big stars." Navajo horse song

DDC Classified

Sale/Wanted: Looking to sell 3 young, untrained Haflingers remaining at the University of Delaware farm from the previous teaching program and replace them with a team of broke to drive Haflingers, or perhaps a nice quiet team of Belgians. We have only about \$2,000 to spend per horse, so connecting with a farm or individual who is interested in donating a team of older well-broke geldings would be an option. Carissa Wickens cwickens@anr.udel.edu

Free to good home: Great mare being retired from competitive pony club circuit. Draft mix, solid, calm and healthy. Great trail horse. Darby, hewes3d@hughes.net

Need to find Homes: 3 wonderful thoroughbreds. Blues Prospector 16+h gelding needs experienced rider. Arrearment 16 h g, toes out slightly. Very eager learner. Coaxed 16" h, black with star. All are easy to handle. Located in Sparks MD right off I-83.

Must place as I am losing the farm to the bank. Will give everything in the barn to take care of them. Contact Bob 443-934-0768 or carbst7@comcast.net.

Free to good home: 3 Standard-bred broodmares plus a few other Standardbreds who were not fast enough for the track. All drive and would be easy to turn into pleasure mounts/driving horses. Contact Mary Ann Lowery in Linglestown PA. Phone 717-418-2329.



The sometimes skewed view of a paranoid pony

Wee Willy Sez



I don't know what happened! I heard this loud rushing sound and the snow slid off the barn roof. Now I can't find Kilar ANYWHERE!

Note: Classified items will run for two months unless requested otherwise. Please let us know if your article has sold or if you want to continue the ad after 2 months.

Delaware Equine Council News:

DEC offers advertisings and listings in their 2010 Equine Directory. Distribution to begin in March at the Annual Dinner Dance, the Delaware Equine EXPO, the Visitor Center, the DE State Fair, Lewes Ferry Terminal, various Chambers, Real-estate agencies and other equine related businesses throughout the year.

Listings are free and must contain all information. Advertisements are: 1/4 p \$35, 1/2 p \$50, full page \$90. .jpgs can be emailed to arabs@zenithfarms.com, attn Jennifer. All listings and advertisements must be received before January 31st. questions—Paula Barto 302-629-5233.

Election Results: President, Stan Vonasek; Treasurer, Kim Schwartz; Director, Pam Nebel.

Magazine Recycle Program: Drop off copies of equine publications (less than 1 year old) at: Rainbow's End Tack, C-Line Stables, Hudson's Farm Supply, Bunny Junction, Milford Southern States and Chick's. Info—302-629-5233

5th Annual Dinner Dance Scholarship Fundraiser: March 20th, 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m. At the Delaware Agricultural Museum, 866 N. DuPont Highway, Dover, DE (tour the museum for free). \$30 per person; checks payable to DEC). Contact Stan 302-684-3966 or Pam 240-994-2220

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM DE STATE PARKS

- 1) check the website for trail information:
- 2) <http://www.destateparks.com/activities/horseback/index.asp> . Beach riding season opened in November for Cape Henlopen and Fenwick Island State Parks. Contact parks in advance to be sure there are no closures.
- 3) Trails Forum Feb 25th, Sands Hotel, Rehoboth Beach. Purpose is to present opportunities for education, networking and strategy development for planning, funding, designing, constructing and managing recreational trails in DE.

noon that was so wonderful we considered just not returning but continuing to drive! Along the way, we saw a bear with a baseball bat, then a bear with a pot of honey and a couple of bees. Another task was to grab a ball from a muck bucket, drive on to a picnic area where there was a wooden panel painted with a bear who had a hole in his belly. The task was to toss the ball through the hole and have it land in the muck bucket.

We were doing great and Beetle had no problem with water, ghosts and waving things, held a halt, backed straight and kept racking up all the points we could get, including going in and out of water, around a tree and back through the water. In the end we had accumulated all the

points we possibly could but...our time was so far over the projected time that we came in 3rd of 3. But we had a wild time and Beetle came through the vet check with flying colors...a compliment to Betty's training and care in her driving.

After the drive, a potluck luncheon was available to everyone and there is no denying it, horse folks love to eat. It was a great opportunity to chat with all the competitors and volunteers. It took a massive group of volunteers and more Teddy Bears than FAO Schwarz sells in 5 years! Thanks to Martha D for passing my name on and giving me a chance to see just a little bit of what a gator does on the marathon portion of a CDE. Even if this one had some serious twists.

2009, The Year in Review Martie Bolinski

Through the efforts of many volunteers, we were able to accomplish a Pleasure Driving Show, beginners clinics, 5 drives (although at least that many were rained out) and the annual Christmas Party. DDC members attended other drives, shows, draft horse events, CDE's and parades as well as participating in the CAA's Driving Evaluations.

Jane Ramsey took a first place at Devon in the Single Horse, Two Wheel Class, a wonderful accomplishment. Christie Little won a Morgan horse in the Youth Morgan Essay contest and her sister, Claudia, won an award for producing a video on a schooling show.

The weather was uncooperative on several drive/show/clinic days, but we still got out and drove or improved our skills in spite of it.

On behalf of the DDC Board of Directors, I'd like to thank ALL of you for your participation and support this past year!

A-la-Cart Editor's Ramblings

American Horse Council Washington Update

Congress is due to take up two tax bills that deal with 'estate taxes' and 'other tax provisions which expire at year-end, including extension of the tax incentive for "conservation easements."

Estate taxes are scheduled to go to zero on estates of people dying in 2010. HOWEVER, the taxes WILL COME BACK in 2011 on estates over \$1 million with a top tax rate of 55%. This will affect many 'small' farmers whose total property values will exceed the \$1 million figure (including land value, equipment, livestock and more). While the \$1 million figure sounds like a LOT of money, many

farmers, including horse farmers, will be caught in this change. Many will be forced to sell their farms just to pay the taxes. So much for saving the farm industry. The current tax applies to estates over \$3.5 (\$7 million for couples) with a top tax rate of 45%

A second tax bill working its way through Congress, but not yet finalized or introduced, would extend over 40 tax provisions which are due to expire at the end of 2009, commonly called the "extender" bill. Currently, certain farm machinery and equipment can be depreciated over five years. This will now expire at the end of 2009.

More information can be found at the Horse Council Website: www.horsecouncil.org.

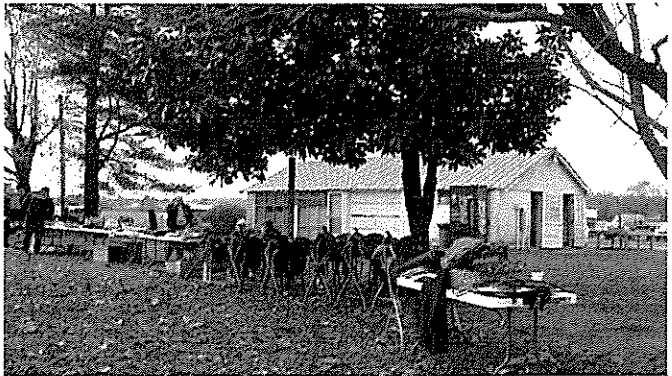
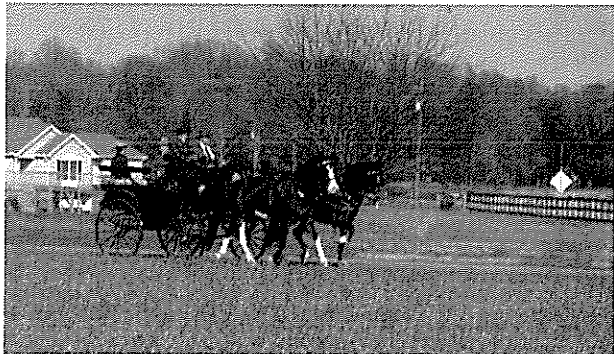
Contact your local politicians and let them know that the tax increases are unacceptable!

Health Update: New West Nile Virus Vaccines for Horses Approved—

TheHorse.com November 23, 2009 Article #15334

New equine WN virus vaccines have been approved by USDA. Called 'Vetera' it is manufactured by Boehringer-Ingelheim and is "the first new approach to a killed West Nile virus vaccine since 2001". There are 3 new vaccines in the Vetera WN line. 1st is a monovalent containing only a vaccine against WN. 2nd combines WN with Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) and tetanus. 3rd combines all the above plus Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE).

Photos of DDC members at the Tuckahoe Tack Swap and Drive

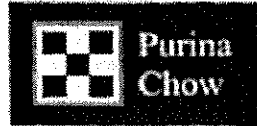


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"As a horse runs, think of it as a game of tag with the wind." - Tre Tuberville

Delmarva Driving Club
c/o John Bolinski
986 Irishtown Rd.
North East, MD 21901

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