



# Let's Drive !

January, 2023



Delmarva Driving Club,  
Inc

## The DDC is 40 Years Old!

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### Attention!!

\* **DDC General Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m** via Zoom technology—an invitation will be emailed one week prior. A DDC Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm The meeting is open to the Membership—members may speak on a subject, but they may not vote. This will be a Zoom Meeting—look for an invitation one week prior.

In 2023, the DDC celebrates its 40th anniversary—or Ruby Jubilee—and to commemorate this milestone, we are planning some extra-special surprises to showcase our past four decades. We have grown so much and want to share our history with you. The story below is how it all started in 1983 -

One July weekend in 1983, Oren Perdue and his friend John Walter White, had arranged to drive from their homes south of Salisbury, Maryland to Furnace Town, near Snow Hill Maryland, using Oren's pony mules hitched to his rubber tired flatbed wagon, and John's pair of mules hitched to a covered wagon. They planned to camp overnight. News spread, and the plans grew to include Jimmy Agnew and his sister Harriet Hammond, Otis Marine, Ed Evans, and Russell Owens.

The group met at John's place outside of Fruitland, Maryland on Friday morning, with John leading the way. Otis and his son Larry and daughter Alice were next followed by Harriett driving her horse Baby. Russell Owen brought his horse Peggy and they just drove for the day. Ed Evans and his daughter Lynn drove their pair of standardbreds named Iris and Maggie. Jimmy Agnew drove his mule Clayt hitched to a durbin and Oren with his pony/mule hitch (four of them) brought up the rear of the caravan.

This was a dedicated, outdoors camping group! They cooked a grand meal, rolled out the sleeping bags and sacked out for a night under the stars. Alice Marine and Lynn Evans slept in the Evans' durbin and John Walter, who had left his mules hitched to the wagon, slept in his wagon, which swayed him to sleep that night. The Perdue clan each chose a pew to snooze on at the Furnace Town Church.

After feeding and watering the animals (the curator would not allow the group access to the well water, so the men had to haul Pocomoke River water up to the horses!), the group prepared and enjoyed breakfast, then cleaned up and packed to return to 'civilization'. As a result of the campout fun and fellowship, folks from that drive decided driving as a group was the way to go.

On September 11, 1983, after a drive to Trap Pond from Ed Evans' home, the seven charter members officially formed the Delmarva Driving Club, choosing Wirt Wolfe as president and Lois Evans as secretary/treasurer. Dues were set at \$5 per person/family and the stated goals of the DDC were to hold monthly drives in different areas to be hosted by the member living in that area, and to provide informative presentations related to driving. Membership was open to

## The DDC is 40 (cont.)

those who drove or were interested in horse drawn vehicles. A covered dish dinner or refreshments would follow each meet.

The other charter members at this meeting were: Otis and Rachel Marine, Russell Owens, Ronnie and Sharon Phippin, Bessie Walton (she asked if owning a pair of saw horses qualified her to become a member!) Wirt Wolfe, Richard and Sylvia Calhoun, and Ed and Lois Evans. The group agreed to meet at Pemberton Hall in Salisbury, Maryland for the October, 1983 drive with Wirt and Otis planning the route and Wirt and Betsy Wolfe providing the turkey for the covered dish dinner.

In November, 1983, the Wicomico Hunt Club invited the newly formed DDC to join them as their guests at the Green Hill Yacht and Country Club for the traditional breakfast prior to the Blessing of the Hounds Ceremony at Pemberton Hall in Salisbury. The group then provided a carriage parade and "hill topped" during the Hunt. The DDC continued to be part of these festivities for years.

On December 17, 1983, Mr. Nutter Marvel of Georgetown, DE hosted the Delmarva Driving Club for the first get-together, giving those attending the opportunity to view the Nutter Marvel Museum. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ryder came as guests. (Mr. Ryder was the Editor of the Carriage Association of America's Carriage Journal publication. He addressed the Club members, urging them to become members of either the CAA or the ADS (American Driving Society) and suggested that members observe, attend, and participate in pleasure driving events in nearby Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania shows. A business meeting was held in conjunction with the Christmas dinner and Wirt Wolfe was re-elected President, Harriett Hammond was elected as Vice President, and Lois Evans was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. By this time the Club had tripled its Membership and agreed to hold monthly drives and business meeting on the second Sunday of the even numbered months.



↑  
Otis Marine and his family with  
his homemade wagonette

Russell Owens and Family  
with his horse Peggy Anne







Joe Plummer hitching with Sharon Evans supervising



Wirt Wolfe, in foreground, at Blessing of the Hounds



Mike Keatley at Blessing of the Hounds



WINDMILL HUNT CLUB  
BLESSING OF  
THE HOUNDS  
SAWSBURY, MD



Richard Calhoun with Tom and Jerry



Brooks Mears at Blessing of the Hounds

## It's Membership Renewal Time!

It's that time of year again to renew your membership in the Delmarva Driving Club! We hope you'll be back to join in and enjoy the many activities that we are working on for 2023. Once again we will offer our Pleasure Driving Show in May as well as many other educational, recreational, and social activities. Some benefits of this group are: informative monthly newsletter, active Facebook and web page, and a great way to meet and interact with other carriage driving enthusiasts. Don't forget to renew by January 31st!

### DELMARVA DRIVING CLUB, INC. 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

For continuing membership, submit this completed application each year, with a check made payable to The Delmarva Driving Club, Inc. or cash in the amount of the current annual membership dues payment to the address shown below. As a member, your signature on the line below declares that you will abide by all Club rules, regulations and by-laws. Copies of the by-laws may be downloaded from the Club website. Newsletters are distributed monthly by email. Please join in the Club activities while your membership is being processed. Your signature below shall serve as consent to allow your photographic image taken at any DDC event to be used on any and all DDC publications.

Type of memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20/individual or \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 family)

Name of member \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_

USPS address \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CHANGE from last year's Renewal Form!</b> _____ Yes          _____ No
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Newsletters will arrive via Email unless otherwise indicated:

\_\_\_\_\_ @

I do not/cannot receive my newsletter via email and thus request a hard copy be mailed (\$15 donation suggested to defray mailing costs). \_\_\_\_\_

The best number to reach me by phone is \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Delmarva Driving Club.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Please mark as many items for which you are interested in volunteering. This information will be used by the various event coordinators to reach out for your help!!

\_\_\_\_\_ Leading a Casual Drive                      \_\_\_\_\_ Horse Show Volunteer  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Clinic Volunteers                              \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative help  
 (e.g. Serving on a committee, mailing, printing and sending show information out, etc.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Serving as a member of the DDC Board or future Officer  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Hosting a clinic (on any equine related subject)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Delmarva Driving Club Inc. in the amount of \$20.00 per individual/ \$30 family. C/o Deborah Dawkins (Membership Chair) 25460 Dodd Lane Denton, MD 21629**





We're on Facebook  
and Instagram!  
Check us out

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## Board of Directors

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John Layton

**Vice President**

Frances Baker

**Treasurer**

Stan Vonasek

**Secretary**

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**Board Members:**

Michele Brauning

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Linda Thomas

**Membership Chair**

Deb Dawkins

**Sunshine Chair**

Frances Baker

**If you need to contact the Board of Directors/Officers or Committee Chairs, please use our new Club Email: [delmarvadrivingclub1983@gmail.com](mailto:delmarvadrivingclub1983@gmail.com)**