



# Let's Drive !



February, 2023

Delmarva Driving Club,  
Inc

## The Maturation of the DDC

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Since its beginning in 1983, remarkable changes have occurred in the Delmarva Driving Club and its members. At first we were dependent upon our farm-born-and bred experts for leadership and information, as well as being limited to farm-oriented vehicles and horses and mules. Then we became aware of the existence of the Carriage Association of America and the American Driving Society, and the finer points of driving, harness, and vehicle types broadened our horizons. We were exposed to top-notch drivers through films, videos, horse shows, and literature, and we continued to grow. We learned about pleasure driving as a sport while we carried on our own backyard version of the same. We were astounded to learn there are folks who compete in three-day eventing with their horses and carriages, and that there are some pretty exotic horses and ponies bred just for driving.

Although we always will reserve a special place in our hearts for our first cart or sleigh and driving the work horse or outgrown pet pony, our members have experienced a collective and joyful evolution. There is obvious care now given to the types of vehicles used and the appointments chosen, with a learned eye directed toward authenticity and appropriateness. Vehicle finishes and colors are judiciously picked out; no more leftover auto body paint or International red or 'go to hell green' (a joke between several DDC Members). The effort is now made toward doing it right, and the pinstriping is done tastefully and correctly. We now instinctively shun the garish, slop-the fresh-paint-on-and-sell—it buggy, and turn to the elegant, but perhaps sad original condition phaeton, rescuing it from distinction or extinction. Here's where restoration comes in—that painstaking care and attention to detail given to truly special vehicles to preserve a past way of life—and what the average, motivated owner attempts to achieve within his skill (and pocketbook) level. We've learned more about our vehicles. If we know the history of each, including former owners and makers, this can provide a special link with our past. Acknowledging that the true 'horse and buggy' era was fairly short lived, from 1880 to 1920 more or less, most of our rigs represent the turn of the century period, and some are new reproductions. There are those members who do possess some older vehicles and we share their pride when they are put on display or driven. Whenever possible, we try to draw a parallel, tying our past with our present—we explain

### Attention!!

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

## Maturation of the DDC (cont.)

to folks that our derbin was the forerunner of the pickup truck, for example.

We've learned to haul those vehicles too. Some still load them in the rear of pickups, if they'll fit, but now you see those plush cinch straps and mini-versions of come-alongs with bright orange nylon webbing instead of cable or rope. Even discarded tube stocks get into the protective act. Also seen are lined canvas covers, custom fitted for the cart or carriage. At the other end of the spectrum is the large enclosed trailer designed to haul both equines and carriages easily.

Horses are horses, right? Well, maybe, but the breeds currently in use by our members provides witness to a growing awareness of many driving types—we use and show our miniature horses, mules, Shetlands, Appaloosas, Arabians, Welsh, Hackneys, Standardbreds, Quarterhorses, Morgans, Haflingers, Fjords, Percherons, Belgians, Clydesdales, and various crossbreds with pride.

Overall, our animals are well-groomed, well-mannered, and dependable. No longer is the unbrushed, chipped-hoofed backyard equine harnessed up in dull, dusty, mildewed and dry-rotted leather, complete with baling twine splices. Now we see that our horses are shod regularly, vetted on schedule, fed a nutritious mixture, and are groomed and bathed prior to public appearances. The harness, be it nylon or leather, is clean and well-fitted, and our turnouts reflect what we have learned about grooming, harness dressing, and even brass polish. We probably should have bought stock in companies which make Liquid Gold, Amorall, and Pledge. The point is, our turnouts are better turned-out!

Tied in with all this learning and evolution has been a pioneering spirit. The past forty years have marked many firsts for our members and our Club. Everything from one member opening his own museum of horse drawn vehicles and memorabilia (Dave Wilson), to hosting a 100 mile Wagon Train, fielding more entries in several driving classes than Show Organizers drew in their usual classes, sponsoring driving classes in several shows (and even a Driving Division), had nineteen vehicles out for a 'Sunday' Pleasure Drive—which is quite a large number!, had members form their own commercial carriage companies, have members showing and competing all over the East Coast and as far west as Oklahoma and Texas! and have members that enjoy restoring vehicles as well as traveling all over the world to see carriage displays and shows!

One of our stated goals when the Club began was to provide information about horses, harnessing, vehicles and their restoration, pleasure driving, and turnout appropriateness and appointments. For years the DDC was involved with Fall Harvest at Pepperbox which featured all aspects of driving (from pleasure to plowing to restoration) - it was called Real Horsepower at Work. We've also sponsored (and continue to sponsor) numerous Clinics with well-known clinicians to Fun and Plow Days as well as our own yearly Pleasure Driving Show. These activities are helping to keep the sport of driving alive as well as have it enjoyed by other generations. It appears that we have been meeting these goals and having fun while doing it!

What more can we learn? That's where YOU come in. Only by actively taking part in our Club activities—meetings, drives and other events—and by expressing your views, concerns, and interests to your Board Members and Officers, can we continue to provide the information and support needed and expected!

Let's Continue to Drive On!

## A Few 'Celebrity' DDC Members



On July 4, 1988, DDC Member Teri Williams gave 'Baby Jessica' (the 18 month old girl stuck in a well in Midland Texas for 58 hours ) and her parents a carriage ride through the Washington, DC 4th of July Parade. Her horse was Amber Jet or AJ, an Appaloosa



DDC Member John Williams, shown here with DDC Member Kay Mildon, and his oxen Star and Bright were in the 1998 Movie entitled Beloved which starred Oprah Winfrey. Parts of the movie were filmed in Fair Hill, Maryland. John and his oxen made many public appearances!



**DDC Members Ed Evans and Terry Johnson gave local well known Carriage Collector and farmer Nutter Marvel his final ride**



**DDC Members Deb Dawkins and Sherry Harris provided a carriage ride for then Senator Joe Biden in the 2006 Return Day Parade in Georgetown, DE**

## 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 now!

### 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**



**Wirt Wolfe—1st DDC President**

We're on Facebook  
and Instagram!  
Check us out

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## **Board of Directors**

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Frances Baker

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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)**