

DDC Driving Lines

April 2015



DDC Meeting Schedule

DDC Board meetings are open to all members, and members may request to speak on a subject, but can not vote.

April 2
Conference Call
7:00pm
Call in 877-216-1555
Password
290535#

May 7
Conference Call
7:00pm
Call in 877-216-1555
Password
290535#

DDC General Members Meeting
May 23
Georgetown DE – Noon at the

UPCOMING DDC Events

April 12 Fair Hill Pleasure Drive– Gallagher Parking lot at Big Elk Road. Meet at 10; drive at will or can follow; Leaving parking area around 11; back at trailers by 2; tail gate picnic.



Bill Venditta's pair, Zach and Beau.. A beautiful pic!

May 23 DDC Fun Show– Nutter Marvel Museum Grounds Georgetown, DE –Contact George Parris for more details– (302) 846-2189

April Newsletter Contributors

Contributors: Pao Lin Hatch, Jane Bailey, Carol Seiler, Jane Bailey, Bill Venditta,

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arena driving trial.

Carol reported that progress is being made in getting signatures changed on bank accounts. Michelle was not present to talk to us about the insurance policy revision.

On motion made by George and seconded by Joan. It was passed to give Jane Bailey \$50.00 towards her expenses for the Penna Horse Expo. Linda Thomas, long time member of the DDC was appointed to fill the Board of Directors term of Noble Cahall.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted
 George Parris

February DDC Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Pao Lin Hatch. Board members present : George Parris, Joan Smith, Carol Seiler, Pao Lin Hatch and Anna Klumpp. Member Linda Thomas was also present.

Treasurer's report: presented by Carol. Approved on motion by Anna and seconded by Carol. The Board approved \$100.00 for thank you gifts for Sherry, Donna, John and Martie for their service to the club over the years. Also approved was \$50.00 to be given to the Delaware Equine Council for their Scholarship Fund.

There will be a general membership meeting on Feb. 14, 2015 at the home of Annie Renzetti. Annie is going to present a talk on equine health.

George gave a report on the Jan. newbie clinic at Donna Hurst's farm and also talked about the Part 1 clinic at Charlene Thomas's farm on Feb. 21, 2015.

The Board will meet on Feb. 12, 2015 to discuss the club trailer. Jane will report on progress. New Business: Debbie Morris, Mary Everhart, Michelle Brauning were accepted into membership.

Anna discussed the possibility of having an

DDC Treasurer's Report 2/27-3/26/15

Opening Balance 4197.77

Deposits— dues 70.00

Payments 250.00

**Chicks gift cert
 ADS, DEC, CAA, DECF
 dues renewal donation**

Total 4014.77

**Checking Account
 Balance
 CD (07/28/2014) ma-
 tures 7/23/15 8,022.53**

Grand Total 12,037.30

BEGINNER DRIVER CLINIC P. II by Pao Lin Hatch

Winter just wouldn't let loose upon the mid- Atlantic region on March 28, but despite the cold and flurries, 7 participants attended the Beginner Driver Clinic Part II conducted by Anna Klumpp at the beau-

tiful Little farm in Harrington, DE. Most of the attendees were auditors and so she divided the session into morning talk, hands on with the trusty minis and then afternoon with

those participants who brought their own equines. They had a safety talk, did some nifty 'games' which showed contact and lack thereof and worked on the rein board. Almost all the attendees were new members who although have horse experience, are new



Out and About News by Pao Lin Hatch

Any news to share with your DDC members? Email or call Pao Lin, DDC Newsletter Editor.

DDC members Donna Hurst and Mary Everett have been riding their horses all over the US. We look forward to some good stories over the next few months.

DDC member Yvette Harris, former member Martha MacDonald and friends enjoyed volunteering at the 1st ever Windsor Trace CDT in Aiken.

Above left and middle: Attendees at the DDC Beginners Clinic
Above Right: Donna and Mary having fun out west!

*Are you on **Facebook**? Did you know that DDC has a Facebook page? Just ask to be added and voila. Magic!*

Calendar of Events—DDC Items are in **Bold**

DATE	EVENT NAME	CONTACT/RSVP	WHERE
April 12	Fair Hill Pleasure Drive	Come join Pao Lin and her pair at one of the prettiest places around the mid-Atlantic. Not a line drive but you can follow others and see Fair Hill Natural Management Resource Area. Park at Big Elk Road and Gallagher. Parking is limited. Meet at 10; Drive off at 11, gather back at the trailers around 2:30 for tailgate picnic. (240) 274 6180 paoball2000@yahoo.com.	Fair Hill, MD
April 18	CANCELED Arena Driving Trial	Cancelled Cair Paravelle Farm and Anna Klumpp are hosting this fun event. Details to follow	Still Pond, MD
April 24-25	Martin's Carriage Auction	Semi Annual Carriage and Appointment Auction (717) 354-6671. Note: Auction in different location than Martin's Auction House Office. Two glorious days of Horse STUFF!	Lebanon Fairgrounds, Lebanon, PA
May 23 Saturday	DDC Fun Show	Once again after a several year hiatus returns the DDC Fun Show at the beautiful Nutter Marvel Museum show grounds. Family fun, reasonable fees and a good time for all levels. Details to come. Contact: George Parris to volunteer (302) 846-2189	Georgetown DE
May 24	Devon Horse Marathon	Oldest Horse Show in America and established Driving Event	Devon PA
June 7	Elk Creek CDE	Established and nationally recognized Combined Driving Event	Fair Hill, MD
June 28	Fair Hill Pleasure Drive	Come join Pao Lin and her pair at one of the prettiest places around the mid-Atlantic.. Fair Hill Natural Management Resource Area. Drive off around 11, gather back at the trailers around 2:00 for tailgate picnic. (240) 274 6180 paoball2000@yahoo.com	Fair Hill, MD
July 12	Hassan Carriage Collection Talk and Luncheon	This is a repeat event at the beautiful Hassan Farm in Easton, MD. Harry and Anne will host DDC members and invited guests to an informative and entertaining talk about their collection of carriages, followed by a hosted lunch. Details to Follow	Easton, MD
August	Talk and Social Event	Diane and Rick Savage have graciously offered their house for a DDC Talk and Social. This will also be a scheduled general meeting for members to attend and participate in this great club! Details to follow	Berlin, MD
Sept tbd	Arena Driving Trial	Cair Paravelle Farm and Anna Klumpp are hosting this fun event. Details to follow	Still Pond, MD
Oct 17	Darby and Donald Hewes Comegy Farm Drive	What a great place to drive! Put this date on your calendar for sure! Details to follow	Chestertown, MD
Nov	Sassafrass NMRA	Pretty short (3-5 miles drive) near Kennedyville, MD email paoball2000@yahoo.com or call 240 274 6180	Kennedyville, MD
Dec 5	DDC Annual Party and General Meeting	Our Annual General Meeting, election of Officers and Holiday Party	Tuckahoe Equestrian Cntr
Dec ?	Drive	Would you like to host a drive at your favorite driving spot? Its easy! Just email paoball2000@yahoo.com	

Upcoming DDC Events

Spring Fair Hill Pleasure Drive on April 12 Sunday, leaving Gallagher and Big Elk Parking lot around 11, returning to the trailers around 2pm. This is a drive at will event. Some members are very familiar with Fair Hill NMRA and won't be needing any leaders and or want to go longer than other members. Others are not so familiar with such a magnificent park and need a leader or want a shorter course. Through the efforts and hard work of a few dedicated trail managers, Fair Hill has wonderful 'carriage suitable' trail markers. This carriage and horse silhouettes makes it easy for the carriage drivers to know that the trail they are following is double tracked and wide enough for carriages. Many of the trails at Fair Hill are only for horseback and or bicycles and so this information is critical to enjoying the park by yourself. In the past, without these trail markers, woe to the stranger who wandered into Fair Hill without a guide, friend or map! The parking lot at Big Elk Rd. and Gallagher is directly outside the gates of the Gallaher entrance and does not have a porta potty nor water but does lead us off to more carriage suitable trails. Once inside the park, there are various rest rooms accessible. Please remember to park carefully and conserve space for other users (in the am there tends to be lots of bicyclists and walkers) Please remember to pay for a day pass if you do not have an annual pass. Please remember to pick up your poop from the parking lots and Please remember to have fun!



Left: Stan Vonasek
and Domino

Right: Sherman and
Barb Belden



Lesson's Learned *by Jane Bailey (from the past)*

There are things one learns in life. Some of these come by word of mouth in the form of advice, sometimes taken to heart, and sometimes filed in the dark deep drawer of our brains...and other lessons we engrave in stone from our own experiences. Chris and I had such an experience while driving a few years ago, and I thought some of you might enjoy reading about it.

Like many of our fellow club members, we are fortunate to have miles and miles of flat and quiet roads around our farm, to provide an unending choice of routes for pleasure driving. During enjoyable weather - it would be a familiar visual to see Chris, myself, or both together driving any number of our horses on the surrounding roads. During an average 5-10 mile drive, we might on average encounter 2-3 vehicles and for the most part, they pass with care and present no issues. Our roads have ditches on both sides, some so small you can hardly notice them when the grass is taller than 2" - and others a certain death trap for horse and carriage if one ever drove over the edge. Through the years of driving here, I know where all the deep ones are, and keep myself on red alert in these areas, as I almost always have 'escape' routes planned in my head should an unexpected incident occur. Fortunately, I have had no reason to explore the bottom of any of those ditches!

One cool fall evening, Chris and I did a quick hitch in the Meadowbrook to give his Haflinger mare Sandy a few mile workout. Sandy is a rock solid mare - and has a sound mind to go with her physique. I can not recall in the years we have owned her, issues with spooking at anything. Having come from an Amish breeder in PA as a 3 year old, she is also dead broke to the road and the sites and sounds of pick up truck pipes and farm equipment.

We chose a route not unfamiliar, that we had not been down in weeks. A typical flat, quiet road with only a few homes, most set far back from the road and a landscape predominately in crops...now harvested. There is one property along the route that has dogs. My horses are all pretty well desensitized to dogs and barking, as we raise Labrador Retrievers and they are exposed to them daily. The dogs that live at this house, although not fenced or chained pretty much have a routine of running about half way towards the road from the house barking and carrying on, only to be called back to the front porch or yard by the owner who waives as we merrily trot on unaffected. On this particular evening, we trotted on by this homestead as usual, noting the dogs came a little closer to the road than previously, but did not affect Sandy and onward we went. After going out a few miles, we turned around to head home as this was suppose to be a quick hitch....and there were still chores to do etc.

As we approached the homestead with the dogs, I noticed more dogs than usual in the run for the road. My gosh it was an entire pack of dogs, I believe there were six total, ranging from a Dachshund to some rather large Labradors. This time was different. They were coming in mass straight for our carriage in full stride with no one on the front porch calling them back. In seconds it became clear that they were not going to stop this time, and Sandy was the target. As our rig and the dogs got closer to intersecting, Chris was talking to Sandy saying "easy girl - easy"..... and I was hollering "no no" at the dogs swinging the carriage whip hoping to intimidate them to back off. The dogs kept coming, and now were on both sides of the Meadowbrook and barking and going at Sandy's legs.

Lesson 1 - They do not make a whip long enough to whack at mad dogs attacking your horse at ground level, that you can manipulate from a Meadowbrook!

Within a fraction of a second, Sandy who was trotting along at a carriage pace and totally unaffected to this point, was suddenly attacked in her back legs by two of the dogs who lunged biting at her. Off

to the races we went! In two lunges we went from a working trot to a full blown gallop. The next group of events probably in reality only took seconds....but from the drivers seat, it felt more like hours! In a full panic gallop, right down the center of the road, with all six dogs still barking and biting at her heels, Sandi kicked with both feet sending portions of beautifully stained and lacquered oak flying by my head.

The road at this point had a slight decline which lead to a culvert that ran underneath. Yep that's right - one of those deep, really deep ditches on both sides filled with water! Since I wasn't convince she would stay on a straight line with the pack of dogs still on attack, I pulled as hard as I could to the left hoping to steer the rig off the road with a wide open cut soybean field which stretched a half mile as a better and safe option to get control and/or run out the dogs or have Sandy run out of steam. Great plans come with a price to pay though - as she veered left off the road and into the field, we first had to navigate the newly planted 3 ft Leland cypress trees the little house on the left had put in parallel to the road. I am happy to report we only 'took out' one of those - and slight relief at now a large wide open field to get this train slowed down..... or not!

Sandy remained in a full out, get the hell out of here gallop, while both Chris and I hollered "Whoa - Whoa" and I pulled on the lines as hard as I could. We were covering some ground, and I mean covering it quickly. I recall now seeing occasional wads of soil go flying past me, being kicked up from her hooves, and now a huge hole in the front of the Meadow brook allowing debris to cover out laps. The dogs had started to peel off at this point, not able to keep up with either the distance or speed of Sandy. I took an instant to look at what might be in front of me as we were now 1/4 mile into the middle of this soybean field, and my heart sunk....there is was, the monster of all drainage ditches, and boy was it approaching fast! This was no ordinary ditch - it was more like the county line ditches. I would say 3-4 feet wide and every bit as deep, and here we were headed straight for it in a full blown runaway. At this point I abandoned all hopes to slowing down the train, or bringing it to a halt. All I could think of was 'how the hell can I get out of here before she gets to that ditch?"

Lesson number 2 - there is NO way out of a Meadowbrook in this situation!

Ok my mind moved on to other things, such as, how bad this was going to hurt when we hit that ditch! Suddenly, Chris leaned forward and with both hands grabbed the one line on his side of the carriage and pulled with everything he had. At first we were still moving forward only now with Sandy's head turned to the left. Then like script of a movie, the hitch began to turn left more and more until we were now headed back sort of towards the road. I might remind the reader, this was still at hell on wheels galloping pace. The site of that ditch moving from the directly in front of me to beside me, to behind me was one of the best visuals of my lifetime!

You will note when I described the turn left, I used the word 'sort of' back toward the road. Sort of because there was one exception - the house ! Still hollering alternating 'Whoa Whoa' and galloping back across this field, the rambler with a nice pressure treated deck across the back and a man standing on it watching us came into focus. Sandy was headed right for it. Oh my gosh, I thought the ditch was going to hurt, this was even worse. So full gallop right towards the intersection of the house and deck we go..... and to help you visualize how positive all were of the sudden impact about to take place, the man on the deck dropped his drink and ran through the sliding glass doors.

Continued on page 9

WANTED: CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER/ARCHIVIST

Are you handy with your camera? Take awesome digital photos and without nary a worry or thought, upload them, catalogue them, organize them on one of those on line photo storage sites like Shutterbug, photobucket, etc. Do you have time to upload DDC Photos and maintain our DDC archives?

IF SO ... WE WANT YOU

Our long time archivist, Martie Bolinski is retiring from the DDC and we need someone to update and maintain our archives.



If interested, please contact any member of the board to volunteer!

Classified Ads

Birds Eye Maple Spider Phaeton - Single or Pair Horse

Will fit 16 hand+ horse. I used this carriage for Dressage, Cones and the Devon Marathon. I always received 10's on presentation. It is at the Advanced Single Horse width.

Manufactured by Weavertown Coach and is in Excellent condition. Antique lamps included in price. Photo's upon request. Located in Smyrna, Delaware.
\$7500 Jane Ramsey 302-659-2827

Continued from p. 7

Bam. I opened my eyes. I wasn't dead! There was no blood. I didn't even hurt. Sandy came to sudden and complete halt right at the edge of the deck. I recall seeing her sides heaving, but I wasted no time getting the hell out of that cart. Chris went right to Sandy to calm her down and I had a sudden rush of adrenaline causing me to loose touch with sanity at that moment and started running towards the house where the dogs came from. Chris was hollering to me "what the heck are you doing" - and I remember hollering back over my shoulder "going to kill something or someone!"

I crossed the road, up the land to the house and front door where the pack of dogs originated. All now safely hidden away. I banged and banged on the door - and all I could hear was more dogs barking from inside. Starting to calm down a tad, I looked around and it

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MEMBERS

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE AND SEND YOUR PROOFS OF PURCHASE FOR ALL TRIPLE CROWN LEGEND PRODUCTS.. DDC earns \$.25 for each proof of purchase submitted

became obvious that no one was home (no cars etc) and an entire bag of dog food had been dumped in a huge planter for a free for all feeding system. Clearly the owners were not planning on coming home anytime soon. I walked back to the road to meet Chris and Sandy. She was fine now but for the blood trickling down her rear ankles - and the poor Meadowbrook looked terrible. Chris had gathered up the oak boards that flew by us in the initial kick phase of the runaway, and was rationalizing something about how he could fix it etc..... me, I still had murder on my mind - which I quickly stuffed to the back so I could focus on getting Sandy home and check out her wounds. We limped home at a snails pace. Later, after unhitching and washing we discovered where she had actually been bitten by one of the dogs.

Lesson number 3. Those rabies shots the vet said our horses needed to have, that I concluded was stupid and simply padding of the bill are so totally worth it! I involved the county animal control and upon investigation, none of the dogs had their rabies shots in years. The owner had gone out of town for the weekend and simply left the dogs to guard the property and justified that she left food out for them. The dog that did the biting was put into quarantine for several weeks until she cleared the rabies watch - and as a negotiated settlement with animal control not to loose her dogs, the owner agreed to and did in fact pay for all the repairs to the Meadowbrook.

THANK YOU JANE FOR YOUR STORY!

(republished from a 2010 DDC newsletter)

Farewell to Hette

Recently, Anne and I put our beautiful Friesian Gelding Hette, down. He had been struggling with a degenerative rear leg condition for some time and had reached the point where there was no hope of recovery. He was 21 and we were fortunate to have him for 12 years along with his partner Bert. Prior to coming to us they had an outstanding career including winning their class three years in a row at the Devon Horse Show and retiring the Witteveen Trophy.



We drove them for pleasure and one of the high points of our year was leading the Xmas in St Michaels Parade for the last 9 years.

We consider the love and care we were able to give them as one of our great accomplishments in the driving world. We consider the joy they gave us in return as one of our greatest rewards.

Though our hearts are broken, knowing that Hette is now at peace makes the pain somewhat less. We can only hope that he is in Heaven enjoying orchard grass and clover. He certainly deserves it.

Editors note: Our sincere condolences to the Hassan on the loss of their family member.



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