

August 2010

DELMARVA



DRIVING CLUB INC.

DDC Meeting Schedule

Aug 4-BOD meeting

Sept 1-BOD meeting

Oct-6- BOD meeting

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

Inside This Issue:

Out and About news from members

Carriage Association of America Practitioner Certification testing and lessons at Hollyville Farm in Lewes, DE on August 6-8

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Lessons Learned from Jane Bailey

All DDC BOD meetings can be joined by teleconference; just call ahead to get the dial-in number from Jane Ramsey—877-216-1555 password #290535 Questions? Jane.B.Ramsey@usa.dupont.com

Big Thanks

"To the Organizers and Volunteers of the Delmarva Driving Club Spring Show:

Thank you for all the hard work and dedication necessary to make the May 8th Spring Driving Show a success. I know I speak for all when I say that this show was once again a day to be remembered. The weather, of course, was cooperative. The food, terrific. The volunteers, kind and obliging. The show officials had plenty to keep them busy yet were knowledgeable and helpful. The competitors were all friendly and amenable. A good time was had by all!

The Little Family"

August 2010 Newsletter Contributors

Contributors: Jane Ramsey, Jane Bailey, Pao Lin Hatch, Martie Bolinski, Sharon Little, Michael Lawrence, Martha Duchnowski, Carol Seiler, Donna Hurst, Lois Evans.

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**Delmarva Driving Club Board of Directors'
Meeting Minutes June 7, 2010**

Delmarva Driving Club Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Meeting held but no minutes submitted in
time for publication

Delmarva Driving Club Treasurer's Report

July-Beginning Balance		447.34
Expenses		
(Clinician air)		<577.40>
Website expenses		< 29.81>
Deposits	(membership dues)	20.00
CD Balances @		
Artisans' Bank	#1	2,245.65
	#2	7,500.00
Total CD Balance as of July 23		9745.65
Balance in checking		1,408.18

**For a detailed accounting, please write or call Donna Hurst,
Club Treasurer**

Wee Willy Sez



The sometimes skewed view of a paranoid pony

Sunshine:



There is \$55.53 remaining in the Sunshine fund.

Three cards were sent this month. One congratulatory card to Kim Stover of Smyrna DE on her participation at the Singles World Championships 2010, one retirement cake & ice cream for George and Liz Parris and to Dave and Sandy Wilkins in sympathy for their loss.

REMINDER TO ALL DDC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Delmarva Driving Club is organizing a weekend with Muffy Seaton for CAA evaluation and individual instruction. All driving enthusiasts are invited to participate. Non members of the Delmarva Driving Club will be asked to join the club at a fee of \$20. Private lesson with Muffy is \$75 per hour. Please contact Jane Ramsey at ramseyjb@yahoo.com 302-645 6164 or Frances Baker at franbak@aol.com for more information.

News Flash!!! Membership of the DDC is growing and we need volunteers to help keep activities at a happy 'bubbling boil' level.. Do you have some ideas? Drive suggestions? Call one of the BOD members or email Martie Bolinski @ bolinsm@myshorelink.com

Out and About—Members' News

DDC members Jane Ramsey, Anna Klumpp, Pao Lin Hatch, Bill Venditta and Francis Baker participated at the CAA evaluation clinic offered by the DDC, instructed by Muffy Seaton and graciously hosted by Francis and Wayne Baker.

Martha Duchnowskis' mare Stormy and her team made the front cover of a new Equine book entitled Second Careers... see more on this page.

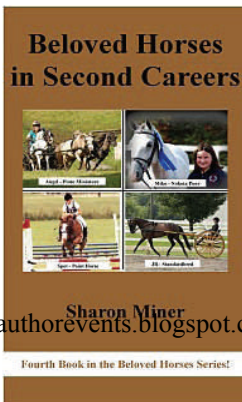
DDC member Michael Lawrence hosted a gorgeous but HOT event at his Grassymeade farm in Chestertown. More than 6 carriages and 30 guests attended. Private Lessons were offered by Samea Baker and a DDC cones course was set up for folks to enjoy along with very well groomed trails. Most importantly, a surprise Retirement Party was held on behalf of George and Liz Parris. Best of Luck to George and Liz from all the members of the DDC! Thanks to all who attended this fun event.

2011 DDC CALENDAR NEWS

All DDC members.... Martie Bolinski is currently working on sketches and paintings for the 2011 DDC calendar while on the roadtrip. If you have special photos you would like her to try to do for the calendar, please email them to: bolinsm@myshorelink.com with info about the subject matter. For new members who have not seen the calendars, Martie paints or sketches at least 14 pieces for the calendar - mostly from event photos during the calendar year. Calendars are 8.5 x 11 on heavy card stock and paintings are a full page for each month. All profits from the sale of the calendar go to the DDC. A few paintings and sketches have already been loaded to the webshots album: <http://www.webshots.com/user/bolinsj>.

The scanner involved is not particularly good, making shadows and blurs on the pictures but all paintings will be rescanned after the long trip west and made available online before the calendar is finalized.

Martha Duchnowski was been selected with three other lucky winners to be on the cover of Sharon Miner's newest book,



<http://authorevents.blogspot.com/>

Fourth Book in the Beloved Horses Series!

Lesson's Learned by Jane Bailey

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 beautiful 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 Meadowbrook 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.

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 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.

Calendar of Events—DDC Items are in Bold

240-274 6180 (tentative date)

- May– DDC Pleasure Show

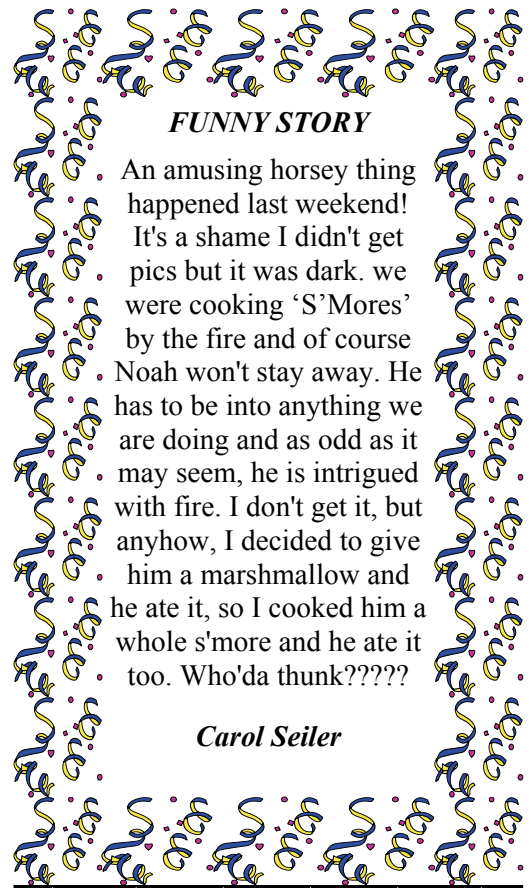
More information about activities will be available in future issues. Check for changes and additions. If you plan to attend a DDC sponsored event, PLEASE contact the host before the event.

- 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.
- **August 6-8—CAA Driver Proficiency Testing for Level 1 & II; driving lessons with Muffy Seaton. The DDC will be hosting Muffy Seaton at Hollyville Farm in Lewis DE for testing and lessons. Space is limited! Please contact either Jane Ramsey, ramseyjb@yahoo.com or Frances Baker, franbak@aol.com 302-645 6164 for more information.**
- August Adult Driving Camp, days of intensive driving and fun. Contact Samea Baker to register and for more details (610) 310-0962
- August 22nd—BVDC Schooling Driving Trial: Spring Valley Park, Wintertown PA; open to non-members. Coverdish \$35/turnout. 9am-4pm. Anne Council, 717-993-8956, birchhol-low_anne@verizon.net
- August 22
- Sept 11-JRDA first Annual ADT The James River Driving Association is hosting its first annual Arena Driving Trial. Doswell Virginia. Training and Preliminary level for horse and mini/pony/multiples. Cutoff date for entries is September 5, 2010. Camping/stabling available. For more information contact Sally Sutherland 804-784-3168 ssutherland.ppp@juno.com or

- www.jamesriverdrivingassociation.com
- September 11 & 12th—Tuckahoe Outlaw Days. Themed event, old west shows, arena demos, training techniques. Equestrian vendors wanted! Contact Pao Lin Hatch, paoball2000@yahoo.com or 240-274-6180.
- **Sept 18– DDC Pleasure Drive at Blackbird State Park sponsored by Donna Hurst and Sherry Harris. More details to follow.**
- October 7-9th—ADS Annual Members' Mtg. Gayla Driving Center, KY.
- Oct 15-16 Martin's Carriage Auction, Lebanon Fairgrounds, Lebanon, PA
- **Oct 24 DDC-TEC Carriage Games Day- sponsored by Martha MacDonald. More details to follow.**
- **Oct 31 DDC Halloween Pleasure Drive sponsored by Francis and Wayne Baker at Hollyville Farm in Lewes, DE. More details and flyer to follow.**
- Nov 4– Return Day, Georgetown, DE. Interested volunteers please Rosalee Walls @ 302-855-9660
- **Nov 28 DDC Pleasure Drive at Redden, details to follow. Sponsored by Pao Lin Hatch and Karen Mack.**
- Dec 11– DDC Holiday Party– Nutter Marvel Museum, Georgetown, DE

2011 events

- April 2nd—rain date April 9th; Mt. Hermon Plow Days, Salisbury MD. Contact Oren Perdue 410-749-1723
- April 10 Sunday- Bunny Fun Ride & Drive at TEC. Pao Lin @



FUNNY STORY

An amusing horsey thing happened last weekend! It's a shame I didn't get pics but it was dark. we were cooking 'S'Mores' by the fire and of course Noah won't stay away. He has to be into anything we are doing and as odd as it may seem, he is intrigued with fire. I don't get it, but anyhow, I decided to give him a marshmallow and he ate it, so I cooked him a whole s'more and he ate it too. Who'da thunk?????

Carol Seiler



Good Idea Corner

During this hot time of year when it seems too hot to drive, bring your horse into the barn, give him/her a good brushing and then practice putting on and taking off your harness way the correct and same way each time. The more often you do it, the less difficult it becomes and your less likely to forget something important!

Please have items for the August 2010 Delmarva Driving Lines to Pao Lin paoball2000@yahoo.com or 240 274 6180 or Martie Bolinski, 410-398-0257;

DDC Classified

Sale: 1984 2-horse tagalong trailer. New frame & floor. Needs body-work. Have been using as is. Contact Jim or Peggy @ 302-238-7235

Free Lease: 4 yr old Belgian TB Green broke to ride, not trained to drive, good home only. Contact Anna Klumpp montalmax@hotmail.com

Sale: Like new Parade Draft Harness for 16+ 1800 lb draft. Contact Brianna 302 448-9060 or brianna6@hotmail.com. Asking \$750 obo. See picture. Call or email for more pictures. Located in Smyrna.

Sale: 1995 Colt Mini horse trailer \$2000. But very negotiable. Call Elaine @ 3023872500 or email MiniHeeHaw@aol.com

To Approved home only
13 yr old 14.1 hand Standardbred mare, rides and Drives, color: all black. Little rusty; 12 yr old 16.2 hand TB gelding-drives, color: all black. Dick Posey 410 673-2073

Sale: Harness for above horses for

sale, custom made for large TB \$300; Leather harness for small horse, large pony \$250 obo Dick Posey 410 673 2073; or Sherry Harris at 410 482 2402

Lg Pony/Small Horse Pairs 4 Wheel Sporting Trappe for sale- Really elegant. Just too small for my pair. Asking \$3,500. Pao Lin (240) 274 6180



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.

Do you have items you want sell or need? Did you know that you can advertise FOR FREE on our website or in our Newsletter. Email either John/Martha bolinsj@myshorelink.com 410-398-0257

NEXT DDC EVENT

September 18, 2010 Saturday

Blackbird State Forest

502 Blackbird Forest Road, Smyrna, DE

Our hosts: Donna Hurst (302) 492-3932 and

Sherry Harris (410) 482-2402



Come drive through the beautiful Blackbird State Forest with your fellow DDC members. These well maintained trails/roads have good firm footing. The drive distance will be approximately 5 miles and a leisurely pace will be set. Drive off is around 1:00 pm. Bring your own picnic lunch, club will provide beverages.

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**Your Ad Could be Here!
Contact Martie Bolinski,**

From the Diary of a Driving Novice...
By Martha MacDonald

After competing against only one person at Brandywine, I was thrilled to learn there would be 7VSE's at this event. It would be an Open division with many different experience levels and I was eager to compete. However, the weekend had a rocky start Friday morning when I discovered a critically ill house cat and had to stop at the vet and have the cat put to sleep. Back to the house to finish loading the car and managed to leave home without sleeping gear, towel, coffee maker and cell phone charger. Fortunately Pao Lin had extra stuff so we loaded up her rig and headed to Anna Klumpp's to pick up the mini.

Thanks to DDC member Pete Bigelow's brilliant idea, a divider was created to keep the mini out from under 17.2 hand tall Rascal's feet on the 4 hour drive to Hughesville. Anna had all the gear gathered up so we were able to load up easily. The instructions given were to load the horse in the barn. No horse in the barn! So we went to the field, found the dark horse with the roached mane, tossed it on the trailer and headed to PA. You can imagine our surprise when Anna called us two hours later in hysterical laughter, accusing us of not knowing the difference between a gelding and a mare! We had the wrong horse! After laughing until we cried, we voted to carry on.

We arrived at the fairgrounds tired but with many chores ahead before it got dark. I tackled getting Ditey ready get some experience on the grounds so we hitched her up and I drove around the arena, the race track and around the grounds. I'd never driven her before and it became obvious to me that 'less is more' with this lovely mare. The lovely stalls available had Ditey next to Rascal on one side and our friends Tanya and Scott MacKeand's horses on the other side. We learned the next morning that their 17+hand ClydesdaleX mare Isabelle was terrorized by the little mini and refused to eat her dinner until their friend Scott moved the food it to an opposite wall.

My goals were to show three clear trots, clear transitions and make it all look easy. First class was turnout and we didn't do very well. But the top 3 had leather harness and brass polished to a blinding sheen to say nothing of the loveliness of their carts and outfits so I wasn't upset. Next class was Working and now I really focused. Ditey was brilliant and we took Second. Wooohooo. The Pick Your Own Route was obviously the wrong route as we came in 4th. After lunch we tackled cones and earned a Second and took First in Reinsmanship, finishing the day as Reserve Champion VSE! Anna was suitably impressed with her little mare and reassured that she'd done a nice job training this little horse from the very beginning. It was a long and very, very hot day but we all survived.

Dinner was a party at Pao Lin's tent. We did a potluck and this group knows the good life. Asian noodles, crudities, shrimp, stir fried chicken, steak with whiskey sauce and plenty of beverages led to a wild and laughter filled night. Tanya brought her parents Mary Anne and Crawford, Scott and Paul and eventually other parties came over to join us as we obviously were having too much fun....and stayed up much too late.

The next day was the Traditional Day of Driving...our whole reason for making the trip. First there was a check of spares and then a turnout/work class. This time we were divided into three divisions: Novice, Pony and Horse. Pao Lin opted for Novice so we all three from DDC were in the same group. But most importantly, the teams were divided by wheel width so the big rigs went out first for the drive around the race track, around the fair grounds, past the tractor pull, beside a corn field and then through town. Anna and I had the smallest carts so we were the last of the parade. That was fine as we were able to talk to folks, took some time for photos and a leisurely trot back to the grounds. Little girls were especially captivated by the mini's!

Back on the grounds, a challenging Task Drive....which included a pass over a bridge, a stop for a railroad crossing, route through a set of cones, in and out of a maze, and finally a figure 8 around barrels with a halt and salute to the judge. This was not timed so you could focus on doing a good job. Then on to Progressive Cones. Again Ditey proved to be a brilliant partner. We took two seconds and a third, took Second Novice Driver and Reserve Grand Champion VSE driver for the weekend. Wow! Not bad with a horse I'd never driven.

Now home and working on getting my very own mini from Martha Duchnowski later this summer when her 4Her's are finished with their shows. I can't wait to start the next phase of my driving education.

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