



# Let's Drive !

June, 2019



## Ahhhh England by Frances Baker

**Delmarva Driving Club,  
Inc**

Recently DDC Member Frances Baker traveled to England in order to take her CAA Driver Proficiency Level 3 Test and she passed with flying colors!!!! Below is her story.

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### Attention!!

\* DDC Board Meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2019 at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the Membership—members may speak on a subject, but they may not vote. To participate call: 1-877-216-1555 and enter 290535#

I just returned from almost two weeks in the lush, green countryside of England. I would like to share a little of what I experienced—maybe one day you can take a similar trip. Meanwhile here's a little taste of Great Britain. I called Jill Ryder of the Carriage Association of America in January to inquire about the Association's May trip to the Royal Windsor Horse Show and John Parker's Swingletree Stables. The trip was already filled, but I found that I could go on my own if I could make my own arrangements. I had been to both places before, so it was fairly easy to find a hotel close by. Since there were sixty-five (65) participants on the CAA trip, I was never lacking for someone to sit down with at lunch or dinner. As Jill does a fabulous job getting the best seats in the Grandstand as well as in the dining tent, I was also able to get the same good tickets through Jill. For five days the Windsor Horse Show went non-stop in five different arenas. In addition, there were hundreds of vendors selling everything horse related that you could imagine! In addition to all the arena jumping, driving, trick acts, entertainment, and coaching, the British Driving Society packed their classes with every type of carriage you could imagine. There was also an International Combined Driving Event (CDE) which had fourteen (14) four-in-hand teams as well as many pairs. I was privileged to watch and cheer on our USA competitors—Misdee Wrigley Miller and Chester Weber with their fours and Steve Wilson and James Miller with their pairs. Of course Gold Medal Winner Boyd Excel was competing as well. The Show added an Arena Driving Trial (they called it something else) and Boyd Excel wowed the crowd with his lightning quick turns. The culmination of the Show was all the Grand International winners were presented by the Queen herself in the Grandstand. I forgot to mention that when I walked down to the Park to observe the coaches putting to for the Coaching Marathon, I was invited to ride on Ben Turner's English Coach with fellow Americans Allan Tucci, Renee Dubyk, and Gloria Austin. This coach drive goes down the 'Long Walk', which is a very long drive looking back at Windsor Castle a fairy tale view. Following the completion of the Show, fourteen (14) of the CAA group traveled to Swingletree Stable—the home of John Parker. I was able to ride on their big, comfy bus with them, as it is a three hour ride to John Parker's. Swingletree Stable is on a single lane country road with hedges growing up and over the road! John's house dates back to the 1500's and the Church at the end of the lane goes back to 1361 (Medieval Times). Over the course of my stay, John

## Ahhhh England (continued)

shared his own personal history and the records he set. One of the neatest records was his 1996 coaching run to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the last Royal Mail Coach run from London to Norwich. He drove 139 miles, completing the journey in an incredible 21.5 hours. More stories will follow, I promise, as I have his book! After the CAA group left, I stayed on three extra days and took my Level 3 Driver Proficiency Test. Swingletree Stables is one of the few approved training centers for that final level. I highly recommend the Driver Proficiency Program for everyone. You can find out more about the Program through the CAA— the information and supporting reference materials are available through them. I got to drive John's lovely Connemara Pony Team during my testing. The hardest part of the test was remembering to stay on the left hand side of the road, especially when turning in England! More Coaching to follow soon—I promise.



**Frances Baker and Gloris Austin riding on a coach on the Long Walk**



**John Parker driving his Connemara Pony Team and a view of the Lane to Swingletree Stables**

## Long Time Dream Comes True

DDC Member Ann Sanders states that her long-time dream came true last weekend and she is truly grateful and blessed. Many know her journey with this beautiful carriage from Capon Springs and Farms Resort in West Virginia. It dates to the 1870s and was used to carry passengers from the train depot in Strasburg, VA, over the Great North Mountain to the resort - roughly a 7 -hour ride. Gifted to Ann by the resort family, she spent the last 5 years restoring it, with the goal of bringing the carriage back "home" and giving rides to resort guests nearly 108 years after it last traveled that road. The day finally arrived and it was magical! Working to restore the carriage was a labor of love (and loads of fun and quite the learning experience!), and she said she couldn't have done it without the help of her wonderful husband and dear friends (and bundles of carrots to my amazing and patient horse, Micky Finn— he's a champ!) Thank you, thank you to Troy, Kenny Parker, David Sanders, Diana Wilson (and her mom), Larry Hanvey, Melissa Hearn Clabaugh, and Aaron Nolt at A & A Carriage & Wheel. (Melissa Hearn Clabaugh took these photos.)



## Members Out and About



**Bill & Liz Venditta enjoying an evening watching Coaching at the Devon Horse Show in PA.**



**Don Stewart, Jr. handling the lines at a rest stop with Bullet & Bandit**



**Deb Dawkins in the Annual Chestertown Tea Party**



**Anna Klumpp, Lisa Shiells, and Joan Smith socializing at Elk Creek CDE at Fair Hill**

# Members Out and About



↑ Frances Baker driving Echo and Kenny

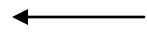


Diane Valentine driving Siri at the Devon Horse Show

Randy Davis, Linda Thomas, Sherry Harris, Diane Savage, Mary Pines, Kevin Wallis enjoying a pleasure Drive



Joan Smith driving Penelope at the Devon Horse Show with her granddaughter at the passenger



## Accidents Happen—Safety Doesn't

**How to Safely Drive With Your Horse Trailer**—Now that the weather is warmer (and drier), there are more opportunities to be out traveling with our equines. Here are a few safety tips to follow when trailering your horse.

**1. Visibility: See and Be Seen.** It's important to have full visibility while driving your horse trailer. Adjust your mirrors so you can see your trailer's back end and check regularly while on the road. You might consider buying mirror extenders or "fish-eye" mirrors for your truck so you have the best view of what's going on behind you.

Drive with your low-beams on even during the day so that other drivers can clearly see you.

**2. On the Road: Safe Horse Trailer Driving 101.** The difference between driving a zippy sports car and a truck-trailer rig is immense. Allow extra stopping distance to account for the addition weight of your trailer pushing on the tow vehicle. Also, give yourself extra time to reach full speed when merging onto highways or pulling out onto roads to account for slower acceleration. Note your trailer's tire tracking so you have an idea how closely its tire path follows that of your tow vehicle. Make wider turns to clear barriers. Next, use a lower gear to drive up and down steep hills. Avoid parking on hills, but if you must, use wheel chocks to provide extra security.

Practice good sense by traveling a safe speed for the current road conditions. Don't be bullied into going faster by traffic behind you. If a long line develops, find a safe place to pull over so cars can pass. Horse trailers are equipped with trailer tires that carry a "ST" designation which stands for "special trailer". Most of those are rated at a maximum speed of 65 MPH. Keep speeds at 55 MPH on two lane roads and no more than 65 MPH on interstate travel.

**3. Know how to deal with trailer sway.** First off, a well-engineered trailer (with axles in the proper location) behind an adequately equipped tow vehicle should not sway to the point that correction is needed. However, if you are in the unfortunate circumstance of trailer sway, lift your foot off the gas pedal to slow down to a safe speed so the sway stops. If the sway is severe (fishtailing) you need to use the hand brake/slider bar on your electronic brake control system inside your tow vehicle to slow down and bring your ride to a stop. The inertia of the tow vehicle trying to move forward against the brakes of the trailer trying to stop should help straighten the sway as you apply the brakes. Resist the urge to step on the tow vehicle's brakes....if you do this the inertia of the tow vehicle trying to stop with the trailer pushing forward will only increase the sway and could cause you to lose control.

Afterwards, immediately take action to correct the problem by finding a new trailer, sway bars, better weight distribution, larger tow vehicle, or by reconfiguring the load.



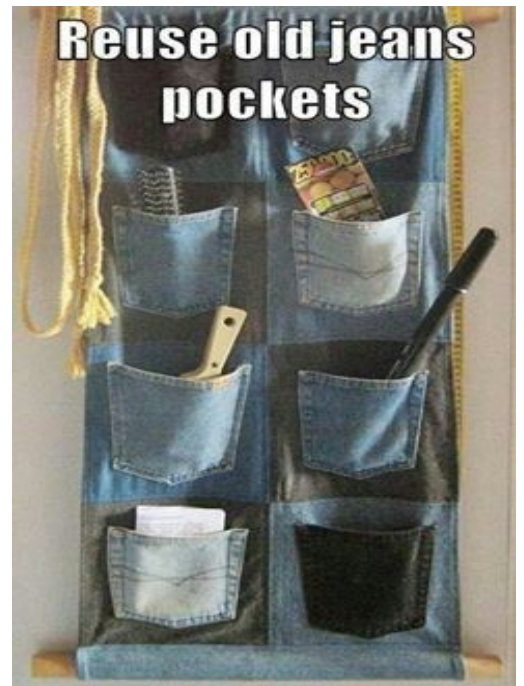
## DIY Corner

**Hot weather tip: Use Listerine mouth wash to clean water tanks/buckets. It cuts algae quickly, KILLS MOSQUITO LARVA, and leaves a pleasant smell (unlike bleach). If you buy an off brand make sure it has the same alcohol content as Listerine.**



**Outdoor Wash rack idea? Cute way to store hose and other outdoor items...**

**Plus multitask as a birdhouse**



**Don't throw away old jeans that are torn. Use them to make organizers for the tack room and/or the horse trailer!**



**Make an easy gate fastener using a wall mounted bucket hook**

## Upcoming Events

- 06/14-16/19 MORVEN PARK CARRIAGE PLEASURE SHOW, ADT & PLEASURE DRIVE - Morven Park International Equestrian Center • 41580 Sunday Morning Lane • Leesburg, VA 20176; Organizer: Laura Doyle • ldoyle@morvenpark.org • (703) 777-2890 Website: www.morvenpark.org ADS Omnibus: <https://omnibus.americandrivingsociety.org/Competitors-Omnibus-Listing/ID/411>
- 06/22/19 **Pleasure Drive at Blackbird State Forest 502 Blackbird Forest Rd., Smyrna, DE Drive off at 10:30 am for a 5 to 6 mile drive. This is a line drive, but you can also drive on your own. Bring a picnic lunch for afterwards. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sherry Harris at 410-482-2402.**
- 07/06/19 DDC Member Anna Klumpp is hosting a lesson/clinic with Kim Stover from Smyrna DE. Kim is a local intermediate level CDE driver who trains and gives lessons. Check out her webpage: [www:luckystover.com](http://www.luckystover.com) for more information. This is not a DDC sponsored event, however members are welcome to participate or audit. The date is July 6, 2019. The forty-five minute lessons are for a single hitch and the cost is \$60. There are only 3 remaining slots, so contact Anna at 410-708-3588 or email her at montalmax@hotmail.com. Remember Auditing is free. Bring your own lunch - water will be provided.
- 09/29/19 Delaware Equine Council Membership Appreciation Ride and Drive at Redden Forest—Details to follow

Please help us fill in the Upcoming Events page with things you would like to see the club participate in. All you need to do is contact any Board Member or the Editor of the Newsletter/Facebook and we can help make your idea a reality. We have club members with experience that can help you plan/host a drive or event. This is your club—so let your voice and ideas be heard.

### Ideas on the Drawing Board:

Club Drives at the Foster Tract which is part of the Pocomoke State Forest, a drive at the Demonstration Forest in Wicomico County, a drive at Fair Hill leaving from the Gallagher Road lot, and drives at Wye Island and Idylewild Wildlife Management Area. Watch for details. We are also planning a July General Membership Meeting in conjunction with an educational presentation.





We're on  
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