

In Draft

Newsletter of the
Piedmont Driving Club

Vol. 14, No. 7

August 2006

Get Well Sam!

by Bill Allen

The Board of Directors met on Saturday, 22 July at the home of Sam Davis. As many of you know, Sam recently suffered a terrible accident while driving a new pony. She ended up with broken ribs and leg, but is otherwise pretty lucky. The views from Milldale Farm are beautiful, but it is a relatively remote location and it took quite a while after the accident for her to be able to get medical help.

Although she is in a wheelchair for four more weeks, she is in good spirits. Sam is one tough cookie and we have no doubt that she will be up and around as soon as possible, and back driving shortly after that. Although the pony remained put to the cart for some 30 hours after the incident, he seems to have come out of it relatively unscathed. Maryalice Matheson has graciously agreed to help get him back in harness. Everyone in the club looks forward to seeing Sam at a picnic drive soon, perhaps this fall.

After relaying our best wishes to Sam, the Board got down to work on the fall season. Board members present included Bill Allen, Mary Jo Beckman, Ben Cox, Sam

Davis, Maryalice Matheson, Pat McCann, Kitty Newman, Tom Wolf, and Anne Watkins. The first priority is the annual show, scheduled for 22-23 September at Foxcroft School in Middleburg. Only a handful of sponsors have kindly stepped forward so far. Many more are needed! **All** members of the club are asked to help out with this wonderful show, either by sponsoring a class or two, or volunteering a few hours of your time to help prepare or run the show, or entering and showing off your nice turnout! Please contact Marcia West at (434) 971-8272 or mwest@cvillevab.net to let her know how you can help.

Margaret White has kindly helped the club for many years, by storing the show equipment trailer at her farm. Her plans have changed and so we now need to find a new home for it, preferably as close to Foxcroft School as possible. If you can help us store the trailer, please contact Maryalice Matheson at (540) 253-9896. Also, housing for the Technical Delegate is needed. If you can help, please contact Maryalice.

continued on page 2

The Piedmont Driving Club Newsletter

Page 2

August 2006

Board Meeting, continued from page 1

Some special activities are planned for this year, as it is the 25th anniversary of the show. One idea was to take time to honor those current and past members who have contributed so much to the club's success over the years.

Ben Cox reported that distributing the newsletter by e-mail has had a very positive effect on the club's cash flow. It looks like this experiment will continue.

The club has not had fantastic luck with the spring picnic drives. Some drives were cancelled, either due to bad weather or the lack of RSVPs. Undaunted, the Picnic Drive Committee has big plans for the fall, and is hoping to schedule top-quality drives at Ayrshire and Berrywick Farm. The next drive is scheduled for Patrickswell in The Plains. This is a nice location, mostly on grassy fields with some shade and a shady area for the picnic.

The Committee is also considering a new old idea: fixture cards. Some years ago, the club mailed postcards to the members in the spring and fall, with dates and locations of drives. Maybe it is time to revive this tradition.

The Board also started to plan for the club's Christmas Party. This will again be held at the Hunter's Head in Upperville and is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 2 December. This has been a most pleasant event for the past few years – a good chance to get together and swap stories, look at photos, and talk about the next driving season. Plan to be there!

The deadline for the September newsletter is noon, Wednesday, 30 August.

Thought for Today

In hindsight, Watson, *everything* is obvious.
Sherlock Holmes

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Newsletter of the
Piedmont Driving Club
PO Box 1402
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Bill Allen, Editor

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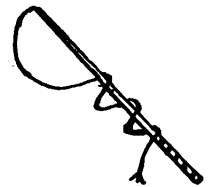
Bits

- The Mid-Atlantic Section of the American Driving Society is once again holding its weekend of pleasure driving at Fair Hill in Elkton, MD. PDC is an ADS affiliated club, so PDC members do not have to be an ADS member to attend. Featured events include catered dinners, escorted trail drives, silent auction to benefit the park, clinics with Craig Kellogg, a talk on shoeing by Jerry Trapani, and the ever-popular drive-to-breakfast organized by the Brandywine Valley club. Driving is possible early or late in order to beat the heat. Contact Dana Bright at (717) 246-2351 for more information.
- The U.S. team for the World Singles Driving Championship has been named: Scott Monroe (CT), Fred Merriam (KY), and Eleanor Gallagher (NC). Sterling Graburn (FL) is the alternate. There was some controversy attending this selection, not the least of which was that Middleburg's Kate Shields was not included. Anyway, the U.S. drivers will be off to Italy in a few weeks, to prepare for the competition in September.
- Warrenton-Fauquier Heritage Day is being celebrated on Saturday, 30 Sept. with a living history parade on Main Street in Warrenton. The organizers are seeking horses and carriages, with participants turned out in mid-19th century dress if possible. If you are interested in participating, contact Paula Johnson at (540) 341-7019.



Picnic Drive at Patrickswell The Plains

Saturday, 19 August, call for drive-off time
RSVP: Maryalice Matheson, (540) 253-9896



This drive will be held at Tom Carroll's beautiful farm in The Plains. The route will be mainly in the fields, which are relatively flat and fairly well shaded. As usual, bring a chair and a side dish to share.

Directions: From US 50 in Middleburg, take Atoka Rd south for 2-3 miles; Patrickswell will be on the left. Take the second driveway and follow signs to parking (sorry, not much shade!). From Warrenton, take Rt 17 north to Marshall. At the stop sign in Marshall, go straight, onto Rt 710. After about 4-5 miles, Atoka Rd will be the first right turn after the school. Take the first drive for Patrickswell on the right. It's a yellow and green house.

The Piedmont Driving Club Newsletter

Page 4

August 2006

The Calendar

- August 4 - 6, Friday - Sunday, Mid-Atlantic ADS Weekend of Pleasure Driving
Fair Hill Natural Resource Area, Elkton, MD (Dana Bright, (717) 246-2351)
- 5 - 6, Saturday - Sunday, Carolina Fall Classic Pleasure Driving Show
Raleigh, NC (Sheila Nelson, (252) 753-7777)
- 12, Saturday, Old Dominion Draft Horse, Mule, and Donkey Show
Warrenton Show Grounds (Martha Duchnowski, (703) 753-3291)
- 12, Saturday, Old Dominion Morgan Horse Assn. "Fix-It" Clinic
Shallowbrook Farm, Rockville, VA (Shelly Temple (804) 598-0059)
- 19, Saturday, picnic drive**
Patrickswell, The Plains (Maryalice Matheson, (540) 253-9896)
- Sept. **23 - 24, Saturday - Sunday, PDC Annual Show**
Foxcroft School, Middleburg (Marcia West, (434) 971-8272)
- 28 - 29, Thursday - Friday, Miniature Horse Show
Virginia State Fair, Richmond (www.statefairva.org)
- October 4 - 8, Friday - Sunday, Mule show, Mule/Draft pulling, Draft Horse Show
Virginia State Fair, Richmond (www.statefairva.org)
- 4 - 8, Friday - Sunday, ADS National Pleasure Drive
Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington (www.nationaldrive.net)

PDC Events in **bold**



Bill Allen and Tom Wolf at the April drive at the Watkins' (photo by Kim Allen)

The Piedmont Driving Club Newsletter

Page 5

August 2006

Dos Vidanya, Sayonara, Au Revoir
by Bill Allen

It is with mixed emotions that I have to tell you that Kim and I are leaving Virginia. We are moving to Windsor, SC, a rural community about 15 miles east of Aiken. This is the same town to which former PDCers Muffy Seaton, and Kate Ross have recently moved.

Kim and I have lived in Virginia since 1990 and we are ready for a new adventure in life. We are also looking forward to trading our muddy soil for sand (perhaps a mixed blessing) and our paved roads for Windsor's clay/sand roads that offer near-perfect footing for driving. I will be able to hack to the Katydid CDE in October. Plus, there's a *lot* less snow and even though it's warmer, less humidity than in Virginia. I plan to continue my consulting practice from down south (driving is an *expensive* hobby!).

Although our house here hasn't sold yet, we are nonetheless planning to move in mid-September. We have purchased 28 acres in Windsor, with a small house where we can live temporarily, while we arrange to have a new house and barn built, which is a long-standing dream of mine.

I have very much enjoyed serving as the PDC newsletter editor and Board member since 1997. It has been a most interesting experience. Fortunately, almost all of the feedback has been positive and that has been very gratifying. I hope you've enjoyed reading about *Seven's* exploits.

Pat McCann has kindly agreed to take over my duties as Board Secretary and Membership Chairman. Please give her your support. I will do the September newsletter, but the club will need a new

person to step forward to help with this important function. The job requires experience with word processing or desktop publishing software, a certain degree of comfort with e-mail, and dedication to deadlines. A high-speed internet connection is a plus. I will be glad to help as much as I can during the transition. If you are interested in helping the club with this, please contact me at (540) 829-0118 or wgallen@isp.com.

I wish the club the best of luck and to each of you, happy driving!

Did You Know...?

Mexican Quarter: An Americanism introduced about the year 1850, by Wood Brothers of New York, and applied to the quarter panel of a coach, where two curves intersect.

Carriage Terminology: An Historical Dictionary, by D. H. Berkebile

Piedmont Driving Club
PO Box 1402
Middleburg, Virginia 20118

Reminder of Upcoming Events

◊ 19 August: picnic drive at Patrickswell, The Plains

Advertisements

Pony: Connemara mare, 3 y.o., 14.2 hh, dun. Calm character, very quiet, nice to work with and eager to learn. Enjoys being ridden cross-country alone or with company. Just started driving, which she also enjoys. Sam Davis, (540) 837-2123.

Carriage: Bird-in-Hand Flyer, suitable for large pony/small horse. Bird's eye maple and burgundy finish; brass rein rail; whip holder; storage holder on dash; storage box/seat/step on back; drum brakes; two sets of shafts, one never used. Two sets of seats: one vinyl (or nauga) and one gray cord which also has not been used;

driver's seats are wedges. \$4,000. Kay Minton, (703) 378-4479, kay.minton@worldnet.att.net

Pony: Very nice Gotland, with all accoutrements. He is a phenomenal pony with a mouth of butter and can whip around a cones course like nobody's business. So anyone that was inspired by Upperville this year, here's your ticket for next year. He would definitely be in the money! Comes with Zilco harness and practically new easy entry cart. \$4,000 for the package. Maryalice Matheson, (540) 253-9896.