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# *In Draft*

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## Newsletter of the Piedmont Driving Club

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Vol. 14, No. 4

May 2006

### You Just Never Know by Bill Allen

There's an old adage about Washington area weather that goes something like "If you don't like the weather, wait ten minutes." This proved to be sage advice for the club's first picnic drive of the year.

The drive at Anne and Bill Watkins' Kittery Point Farm had been scheduled for Saturday, 22 April, but rain most of the day (setting a record at Dulles) forced postponement until Sunday. It was cloudy as we packed up early to leave, but as we approached Ashby Gap on US 50, the darkening skies opened up and it poured all over again. By that time, we were more than half way and there was no place to turn around anyway, so we pressed on, figuring that at least we might have a nice picnic, if anyone else showed up.

It always amazes me how the weather can be *so* different on each side of the Blue Ridge, but what happened next was just jaw-dropping. As we passed through Millwood, it finally stopped raining, and by the time we pulled into the Watkins' driveway, the sun had come out. Within literally ten minutes, *mirabile dictu*, the sky had started to turn blue. Even more

amazing, we managed to park the trailer without getting stuck.

OK, we had made it, but surely no one else would be coming, as they would have had to pack up and leave in the rain. Anne must have been particularly pleased to see five other trailers coming down the driveway. Those driving included Gunilla Combs, Sam Davis, Ann Denison, Flora Hillman, and Nancy Salak. Kitty Newman brought her new pony to get him used to seeing the carriages and Tom and Barbara Wolf came for the picnic, after an unfortunate mishap with their trailer kept them from bringing their turnout, but both caught rides on the drive. Anne and Bill played the gracious hosts.

The good fortune continued with the drive route, which was all on gravel and dirt roads that were largely unaffected by the rain. As Flora has recounted before, the path takes you right down to the Shenandoah River, over some bridges, and past a waterfall. A most particularly agreeable path, especially in the spring, with the dogwoods in bloom.

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## Membership News

New membership rosters were handed out at the annual meeting and will be available at many of this spring's picnic drives.

Please welcome the following returning members:

Janet & John Bauer  
Buzzy B Acres  
18084 Cedar Hill Ln  
Gordonsville, VA 22942  
(434) 249-3665 (day)  
(434) 249-0333 (eve.)  
fiesbauer@aol.com

Lori Hancock  
PO Box 124  
Elkwood, VA 22718  
lhbenton@yahoo.com

Your Editor hopes you find this new electronic edition of the newsletter to be acceptable and that you have no trouble viewing or printing it.

### In Draft

Newsletter of the  
Piedmont Driving Club  
PO Box 1402  
Middleburg, Virginia 20118  
**[piedmontdrivingclub.8m.com](http://piedmontdrivingclub.8m.com)**  
Established 1982

Bill Allen, Editor

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## Combined Driving News

After her disappointment at Live Oak, Kate Shields bounced back admirably at the next big event in Florida, the Sunshine State CDE at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala, 7-9 April. This was the first year for this event, and it was a selection trial for the World Singles' Championship. Kate and *Pilgrim* had an acceptable go in dressage, but didn't place in their usual top three. But they more than made up the difference on marathon day, finishing fourth in a field of 14. She went clean in cones and just a few seconds over the time limit, to move up to third place overall.

Two weeks later, Kate took her new pony *Declaration* to New Jersey for the Lord Stirling CDE in Basking Ridge. This time, the duo were first in dressage, double-clean in cones, and although not so speedy as his big brother in the hazards, they finished with the blue in a field of nine in Limit Preliminary Single Pony. Well done Kate!

### Thought for Today

Your role may be thankless, but if you're willing to give it your all, you just might bring success to those who outlast you.

*Despair, Inc*

## Bits

- ADS Mid-Atlantic representative Dana Bright had a severe accident recently when her carriage was rear-ended by an inattentive driver in a van. She was scuffed up but is basically OK. Her pony suffered deep cuts on his hind end and will recover, but might not regain his top form as a driving pony.
- The PDC Annual Show needs people for the following positions: Decorations, Sunday cones scribe, Cones starter for Saturday and Sunday, Ribbon and prize presenters. If you can help, please contact Marcia West at (434) 971-8272.
- The Potomac River Driving Association is hosting the Winmill Pleasure Driving Show and Clinic on 3-4 June at Morven Park Equestrian Center in Leesburg. The judge and clinician will be Bill Long. Most of the show's classes will be held on Saturday and the Pleasure Drive and clinic will be Sunday. Stabling is available. For more information contact Hollie Satterfield at hms@crosslink.net.
- There's still time to sign up for the Delmarva Driving Club 3rd Annual Pleasure Driving Show on 13 May. The

show will be held at the Caroline County (MD) 4-H Grounds. Registration is \$7 per class until 6 May; afterwards, it's \$10. The show judge will be Dana Bright. Phone Carl Zimmerman, (410) 632-1191 for info.

- The Gladstone Equestrian Association is hosting the Third Annual Super Clinic on 2-4 June. Entry forms are available at (908) 453-3332 or [www.GladstoneDriving.org](http://www.GladstoneDriving.org).

## *Picnic Drive, continued from page 1*

The picnic was the usual excellent feast, featuring beef tenderloin, large steamed shrimp, and a cake custom-made for the occasion. We dined in front of the Watkins' barn, with a sunshade to keep us cool.

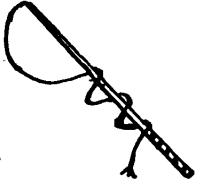

It was all a wonderful surprise, given the day's earlier weather, and made for a most special first drive of the season.

This was my first time at Kittery Point Farm. It was a two-hour trek each way, but I'm sure glad we made the trip and even more glad we didn't turn around and go back home! Sometimes you never know.

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## Mother's Day Weekend Picnic Drive

Saturday, 13 May, Singletree Farm, Warrenton



It's been a while, but we're headed to the home of Carl and Caroline Cox for the next drive. Terrain is rolling. Bring a side dish or dessert and don't forget to please call Tom Wolf at (540) 253-5430 to RSVP or for more directions.

Directions: Take US 50 to VA 626 (The Plains Rd). This becomes Halfway Rd and then Loudoun Ave. At the stop sign in The Plains, turn right onto VA 55. At the next intersection, turn left onto VA 245 (Old Tavern Rd). At the stop sign, turn left onto US 17. Go 5.6 mi and turn right on Keith Rd. Go 1.1 mi and turn right on Cannonball Gate Rd. Go 2.5 mi and turn right on Wilson Rd. Go 0.1 mi; farm is on your left.

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## The Calendar

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- May 6 - 7, Saturday - Sunday, Carriage Classic in the Pines  
Pinehurst Race Track, Pinehurst, NC (Sherry Mortenson, (910) 693-1283)
- 13, Saturday, picnic drive, drive-off at 1:00**  
Singletree Farm, Warrenton (Tom Wolf, (540) 253-5430)
- 21, Sunday, JRDA Sporting Day of Traditional Driving  
Elsing Green, VA (Sarah Churchill, [mtmedow@earthlink.net](mailto:mtmedow@earthlink.net))
- 21 Sunday, MLMDC Pleasure Driving Show  
Spring Valley Park, Winterstown, PA (Dana Bright, [cdeponyz@suscom.net](mailto:cdeponyz@suscom.net), (717) 246-2351)
- 28, Sunday, picnic drive**  
Hawks Hill Farm, Middleburg (Tom Wolf, (540) 253-5430)
- June 3 - 4, Saturday - Sunday, PRDA Pleasure Driving Show  
Morven Park, Leesburg (Nancy Bedford, (540) 364-7620)
- 11, Sunday, Brandywine Carriage Driving Show  
Willowdale Grounds, Kennett Square, PA (Kail Palmer-Miller, (610) 469-9023)
- 11, Sunday, 10 AM, Carriage Driving Grand Prix  
Upperville Show Grounds (Paul Maye, (540) 272-1134)
- July 5 - 8, Wednesday - Saturday, CAA Conference and Headquarters Grand Opening  
Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington ((859) 231-0971, [www.caaonline.com](http://www.caaonline.com))

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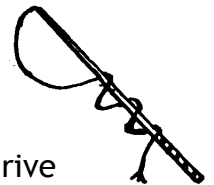
### PDC Events in bold

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## Memorial Day Weekend Picnic Drive

Sunday, 28 May

Hawks Hill Farm, Middleburg



Let's go to the Kemmerer's for a Memorial Day weekend drive. This will be a joint drive with PRDA and will be a "line drive" led by Doug and his four-in-hand. The route traverses mostly private property and is somewhat hilly. Please call Tom Wolf at (540) 253-5430 to RSVP and get the drive-off time! Bring a side dish and chair, as usual.

Directions: Take US 50 6.5 miles west of Middleburg. Turn right (north) onto Willisville Rd (Rt 623). Go 1.7 miles to the intersection with Welbourne Rd (Rt 743). Turn right, off the paved road 35 ft and then immediately turn left, to continue north on Willisville Rd (now a gravel road). Go 3 miles to Bloomfield Rd (Rt 626), at the stop sign turn right (east). Go 600 ft to the second driveway on the right, look for the farm's sign and two green mailboxes just before the driveway (34693 Bloomfield Rd).

## Board Meeting

The PDC Board met in Middleburg on 14 April. In attendance were Bill Allen, Mary Jo Beckman, Ben Cox, Sam Davis, Maryalice Matheson, Pat McCann, Kitty Newman, Anne Watkins, and Tom Wolf.

The first topic of interest was the PDC Annual Show. As always, class sponsors and prize list advertisers are still needed. Support will be sought from local businesses and the club membership. The show operates with its own checking account for the convenience of the organizers and at the end of the year, all funds in that account in excess of those needed to run the show should be returned to the PDC main account.

Many possible dates and venues were discussed for picnic drives this year. Drive organizers will make a concerted effort not to cancel any drives this year. Many drives will be scheduled on Saturday, so that

Sunday can be used as a rain date. Although the locations are not all set, members are advised to try to keep the following dates open:

- May: 13, 27/28
- June: 17, 24
- July: 15
- August: 5, 19
- October: 7

## Did You Know...?

*Japan:* A peculiar varnish prepared from asphaltum and oil, used as a drier for paints. The word originated from the fact that the use of varnish or lacquer was first learned from the Japanese. There are two distinct varieties: brown japan, a liquid drier, used to mix with paints; and black japan, a black varnish, often used on carriages as a substitute for a color coat.

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



Gunilla Combs with one of her Gotland ponies at the Kittery Point Farm drive  
(photo by Kim Allen)

Piedmont Driving Club  
PO Box 1402  
Middleburg, Virginia 20118

## Reminder of Upcoming Events

- ◇ 13 May: picnic drive at Singletree Farm
- ◇ 28 May: picnic drive at Hawks Hill Farm

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## Advertisements

**Cart:** Metal, easy-entry, two-wheel, blue with yellow wheels, suitable for 14-15.3 hh equine. Single center seat, crank to balance seat position, removable groom step. Very good condition. Reduced to \$1,400. Bill Allen, (540) 829-0118, wgallen@isp.com.

**Horse:** Hackney broodmares: two black, old line mares, 14.3 and 15.2 hh. Will be bred in March to black Morgan stallion. Can be had empty or bred.

Also: 15.2 hh trotter, bay, 20 yrs. young and very experienced. Will teach you or your horse to drive. Has done parades, carriage meets, etc. \$1,000 to good driving home. Marged Harris (540) 751-1142 (eve.) or (202) 564-6025 (day).

**Horse:** Absolutely lovely, well broke, very kind Fjord mare. 6 y.o., rides and drives, road worthy, very sound and sane, clips, loads ships. Has a mouth of butter. A wonderful family horse. Up to date on all matters. \$8,500. Maryalice Matheson, (540) 253-9896.

**Harness:** Beautiful russet for small/medium pony, gig saddle, breast collar, Smuckers super deluxe or supreme. Used maybe 1-2 times. \$1,500. Black and brass deluxe oversized breast collar harness. Used 5-10 times at most. \$1,000. Maryalice Matheson, (540) 253-9896.

**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.

**Harness:** Cob size. Cleaning out basement and it is no longer needed or wanted. Not show condition, but usable. Located in Chantilly. Free. Kay Minton, kay.minton@worldnet.att.net or (703) 378-4479.

*The deadline for the June newsletter is noon, Tuesday, 30 May.*