



# Piedmont Driving Club Newsletter

*Dedicated to the sport of carriage driving in Northern Virginia*

February 2007



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Advertising, articles, show reports, and information relating to driving and carriages are welcome for inclusion in the newsletter free of charge. Please use e-mail contact above and on the PDC website on the "Newsletter" webpage to send information. Photographs of members are welcome.

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## **ADS Super Clinic, 8-11 Feb** **By Maryalice Matheson**

A requirement to renew ADS judging license took me down to Dallas, Texas, during what turned out to be the perfect time weather-wise! The theme of the Super Clinic (besides board and committee meetings, and license requirements) was safety.

A very informative safety clinic (eight mandatory hours) was given by a professional fire and rescue husband and wife team. People rescue basics and equine issues were covered, as well as organizational subjects for competitions. I will definitely bring this up with the show committee at our next meeting on the 4th of March.

Another very important topic that was present throughout the clinic was the compatibility of the USEF and the ADS. Two "diplomats" were sent by USEF to really try to get the ADS to meld peacefully with the USEF regarding rules and requirements. The push for the various breeds to have a Pleasure Carriage Driving division for their shows was a huge topic, as some of us know "pleasure driving" is taken in a whole other context when we are talking saddlebreds, morgans and arabs. That is all changing and the USEF is encouraging ADS officials to get their USEF licenses, which is not diffi-

cult since the ADS clinic is used for their required continuing education.

The other hot topic was the ADS budget. Want to know why your dues are so much higher these days? In short, the group needs to reorganize as they have been running in the red for some time due to mismanagement of funds. I'm sure it all can be found on the website if you are interested.

I won't name names, but there is a large salary and other compensation being paid to a fund raiser, that I feel may be a conflict of interest.

Other than that it was about meeting new faces and old friends and mentors. Rule changes abound. Hopefully this will slow a bit as they are trying to follow our Canadian friends with their practice of having a three-year rule book, rather than what seems to be weekly changes.

Great party, Jack Pembroke guest speaker, a legend in his own time. He also spoke for the coaching judges part of the clinic. He has forgotten more than I will ever know! Lots of dancing and camaraderie, after all we were all cooped up for three days (not to mention some of us from the colder regions who have been cooped up for a while!)

All in all a very productive venture!

## ***Show Committees Needed!***

We need members for the following committees — NOW PLEASE!!!

- ~ Volunteers
- ~ Publicity
- ~ Donations
- ~ Prizes
- ~ Setup
- ~ Breakdown

Please contact Marcia West (the show secretary) at 434-971-8272 to discuss how you can help.



## ***Next meeting 4 March 2007 ~ 11:00 a.m.***

During last month's meeting we decided we were having too much fun and couldn't wait to have another one. The next meeting is scheduled for the 4th of March, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at the Page

Turner Community Center in The Plains (same place as last time.)

One of the primary items on the agenda will be the confirmation of our officers.

*If you don't know where you're going, the horse will decide for you.*

*~ Anonymous*

## ***Don't forget ~ Dues are Due!***



As discussed at last month's meeting, dues are.... well, not to put too fine a point on it, due.

Also, all renewing members, as well as new members, must sign a re-

lease form. Both a membership application and the release form can be downloaded at:

<http://piedmontdrivingclub.8mcom/NewMemberApplication.pdf>

# Meeting Minutes ~ January 2007



President Maryalice Matheson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Page Turner Community Center in The Plains as snow began to fall.

The following 15 members were present: Anne and Bill Watkins, Carl and Caroline Cox, Mary Jo Beckman, Sam Davis, Wayne Porter, Elizabeth Moore, Ben Cox, Elizabeth Cummings, Dianna Blackmer, Nancy Salak, Peggy Pence, Maryalice Matheson, and Pat McCann. Introductions were made.

Treasurer Ben Cox presented his report reflecting a bright outlook for the fiscal health of our club. Conversion of newsletter operations from paper to e-mail and website has resulted in significant savings in production and postage costs. Our newsletter costs are now minimal.

Final budget figures from the PDC Driving Show have been provided to Maryalice by Marcia West. The results were very positive and the Club was given \$234 from the Show fund, with Marcia maintaining a \$3800 balance in the Show account.

Ben reported that the Christmas Party at Hunter's Head once again lost money. Estimated attendance and prepayment to Hunter's Head was based on 30 people and only 24 people actually showed up. Ben suggested that we take measures to enhance interest in social gatherings; he knows of other driving clubs that have huge turnouts for parties and events.

All agreed that Hunter's Head continues to be a good venue for the Christmas party. Mary Jo Beckman moved that the 2007 Christmas Party be held at Hunter's Head and the cost be \$20.00/ person. Anne Watkins seconded the motion and the membership voted unanimously to approve this proposal.

Ben closed the Treasurer's report by announcing a healthy grand total of \$6,892, which includes \$3,092 in the general fund and \$3,800 in the Driving Show fund.

Six members renewed their memberships at the meeting by giving Ben their checks. A boldly written reminder will go out in the next newsletter that **dues are due**. It was also mentioned that all renewing members, as well as new members, must sign a release form. Information on this will also be addressed in the next newsletter.

Maryalice announced that Florence Hillman has been happy to fill in as newsletter editor but would like to relinquish that responsibility to another eager member as soon as possible. Maryalice explained that this volunteer must be extremely dedicated to prepare a quality newsletter on a monthly basis. Peggy Pence volunteered for the job as newsletter editor and was given a round of applause by the membership. Comments were also made on the outstanding job Florence had done on the newsletters in 2006.

Discussion continued on the future of the newsletter. Maryalice suggested that it continue to feature member profiles as Flora had done and also include interesting information on member activities. Anne Watkins mentioned that the Carriage Association of America (CAA) puts out some very interesting information that could be incorporated into the newsletter. Anne also suggested that an e-mail be sent to all members to let them know when the newsletter is available. .. and possibly send the newsletter to them as an attachment as Bill Allan had done a few times. Carl Cox suggested that someone be designated to take pictures at every PDC event so they could be included in the newsletter.

There are lots of possibilities that will be considered by Peggy during the next few months as she assumes the role of Editor-in-chief. Peggy will talk to Flora as she transitions into this responsibility. It is hoped that Flora will maintain responsibility for the website. Maryalice will confirm this with Flora. Peggy asked that all newsletter input be sent to her by the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month and she will complete the newsletter by the 15<sup>th</sup>. All information should be sent

to her at [lpence@wildblue.net](mailto:lpence@wildblue.net)

Tom Wolfe is stepping down as chairman of the Picnic Drive Committee. Anne Watkins volunteered to take this position. A Picnic Drive Committee was appointed to include Maryalice Matheson, Wayne Porter and Pat McCann. Anne would like to plan 6 picnic drives in the spring and send out the schedule the first of March.

Maryalice proposed creating a "fixture" card for 2007 with dates and locations for PDC drives. Anne seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Anne also graciously offered to send a hard copy of the fixture card to all members at her own expense.

Some possible drive locations were discussed such as Blandy, Ayrshire, Patrickswell, Oxbow, Dr Seegar's, Kentfields, and Lovettsville. It was tentatively decided that the first drive be Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Watkins.

Maryalice would like to plan PDC events for the year and get dates in the newsletter so members can plan ahead. She is hoping to establish the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in January as the date for the annual membership meetings. The by-laws will be checked before this is established. Maryalice would also like to conduct meetings each quarter, possibly having a speaker of interest to the driving community. She suggested that the Page Turner House be considered the best location for future meetings. The members agreed. Maryalice will also set up a PDC Show Committee and will schedule a separate meeting for that.

All current officers of PDC will continue in their positions and be confirmed at the next membership meeting. That meeting will be on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Page Turner Community Center in The Plains. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and everyone slid home safely amid the ice and snow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia McCann  
Secretary

# Newsletter News

If that's not a redundant sounding headline, I don't know what is. Nevertheless, this is about what's new with the Newsletter. I've offered to try (with an emphasis on 'try') to provide you with a useful and interesting newsletter each month. It appears I'm following a real pro, so it's going to be a challenge to give you the quality you're used to.

As I'm a relatively unknown quantity to most of you, I'll give you a brief rundown on where I came from.

I was horse-crazy from the moment I was born. I think I came by it naturally from my mother who could "hitch a team of horses in the dark", according to my grandfather.

I had sporadic access to horses as a kid, then almost

none as an adult until 12 years ago when I started riding again at the stables at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

Eleven years ago, I bought my first horse (Anglo-Arab) and rode him mostly in dressage. Nine years ago my husband and I acquired a 29-year-old pony from the Quantico Riding program (she'd been a lesson pony for about 20 years) and shortly thereafter bought our small farm on the Stafford County/Fauquier County line.

Both the Anglo-Arab (Sonny) and the pony (Lacey) are still with us, and we've added a Haflinger (Mickey) who led me to driving. He was trained by Maryalice a few years ago and, as that was my first exposure to driving, I'm definitely a novice.

I have never shown, although Mickey and I did a driving demonstration at Maryalice's barn for the Barn Tour last year. Showing may be in our future, but at present I'm happy driving (and riding) for pleasure.

I want to make sure you get the info you want from your newsletter, so please, feel free to tell me what you want to see.

You can provide whatever guidance you have, news for the newsletter, classified ads, etc. to me at:  
lppence@wildblue.net.

I'd like to have all your input by the 10th of each month, and I'll try to get the newsletter out by the 15th. If we need to adjust fire, we will.

~ Peggy Pence



*Mickey, me, and neighbor, making the turn at the top of our drive.*

## In next month's newsletter ~

- ...Picnic drive schedule
- ...Preparing for that first drive of spring
- ...Another member profile?
- ...Whatever you want!

## *Do you have a tip or trick...*

...for making that never-ending job of harness cleaning easier? For example, after getting that brass nice and shiny using Brasso, Flora Hillman suggests using paste wax to keep it that way. If you have a nifty idea (or two) that'll save your fellow drivers time and effort, send it to me at lppence@wildblue.net for inclusion in next month's newsletter.