



Let's Drive !



February, 2020

Bits and Pieces—Club Information

Delmarva Driving Club, Inc

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Planning for the 2020 Spring Pleasure Driving Show is now in high gear! Look for updates in the Newsletter, on our Facebook page, and on the DDC webpage. The Class List and Prize List, as well as Advertising and Sponsorship forms, are located on the DDC webpage as well. This year's show will feature a new division entitled Informal Pleasure Driving Division. It's designed to allow newcomers to showing the chance to experience

a pleasure show in a relaxed environment. Classes will include: a Working Class, a Reinsmanship Class, and a Cones Class. There will also be a Super Reinsmanship Class where competitors enter the ring individually and drive a short course of defined elements in order at certain paces. ADS Super Reinsmanship Test 2 will be utilized. The winner will receive a Winchester Pottery Trophy. If you have any questions or need additional information,

please call our Show Manager Pam Gray at 410-819-6113. Everyone is encouraged to solicit advertising or sponsor a Class or Division. Volunteers are always needed and spectators are welcome!

A 2020 Membership Roster will be distributed to all members by the end of February. Use this list to contact fellow carriage enthusiasts and go driving!!!!

The Acadia Experience

Thanks go to Frances and Wayne Baker for hosting the Acadia Experience at their home on January 11th. Acadia National Park is located in Maine and Frances and Wayne have had the opportunity to visit and carriage drive at this Park several times, most recently in August, 2019. This is one of the nation's most beloved and beautiful parks and some neat facts about Acadia are: there are 58 miles of groomed and graded carriage roads and 17 unique stone bridges made from native stone. Frances and Wayne shared their experiences via a video presentation and discussion. During their last visit, which was for two weeks, they drove a total of a hundred miles! Frances kept a journal which detailed their daily drives and she was able to share highlights which would help fellow carriage enthusiasts plan a trip to Acadia. Things discussed included the use of the carriage brake, dealing with bicyclists, hikers, and tourists, planning a daily drive, how to make reservations for the Park, and the availability of lobster! Everyone was in awe of the beauty of the Park - this is definitely a Bucket List idea.

Attention!!

* DDC Board Meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2020 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#

Members Out and About



Maddy Zacharkow and Starlight facing the 'water hazard'



Shannon Gandee driving Beau



Frances Baker's Kenny and Echo driving on the farm



Don Stewart, Jr.'s view while working in Florida

John Layton and Miss Cora at Crystal Lake Park



10 Items to Check BEFORE You Tow a Trailer

Since the weather really seems to be cooperating this year, many folks will want to be out and about carriage driving. Before you go, make sure your trailer is ready.

Can you see me now?

Check your lights. All of your lights. Properly operating lights on your truck and trailer not only help you see what's coming up but also let others know what you're doing or going to be doing as you slow down, stop, and turn. Confirm that your towing vehicle's lights (headlights, high beams, turn signals, brake, and running lights) are operating properly then check the trailer lights as well. If your lights are not operating properly, have them repaired or replaced before you load and go. Also check your wiring harnesses, especially the connections from truck to trailer, as they tend to fail as they age. The standard 7 blade plugs can wear and become loose. When this happens not only can your electrical connections fail, the plug can even fall out of the socket. Not a good thing to happen when you're on the road.

Are your tires ready for the journey?

Heavily worn tread will prevent a tire from performing as designed and can lead to unsafe driving conditions. Frequent checks, and tire replacements when needed, can prevent a hazardous blow-out during a trip. One of the simplest ways to check tread depth requires nothing more than a penny and a few moments of your time. Check tread depth with the penny test: The idea of the penny test is to check whether you've hit the $2/32$ " threshold. In the US, tire tread depth is measured in 32nds of an inch. New tires typically come with $11/32$ " tread depths or deeper. The U.S. Department of Transportation recommends replacing tires when they reach $2/32$ ", and many states require tires to be replaced at this depth. Here's how it works:

- Place a penny between the tread ribs on your tire. A "rib" refers to the raised portion of tread that spans the circumference of your tire. Tire tread is composed of several ribs.
- Turn the penny so that Lincoln's head points down into the tread.
- See how much of his head disappears between the ribs. If you can see his entire head, it may be time to replace the tire because your tread is no longer deep enough.

Blowouts are doubly dangerous when they occur during towing. If this happens, stay calm and get off the road as quickly as possible. Always be sure to carry a spare vehicle and trailer tires with you. Check that all your truck and trailer tires are properly inflated by following the guidelines in your vehicle's user manual.

Your Mirrors – a Crucial Tool!

Visibility can be a challenge when you're towing. When you're hauling horses you'll often only have use of your side-view mirrors, making them a crucial driving tool. Your mirrors require proper adjustment to ensure a full spectrum of vision and prevent blind spots as much as possible. Knowing how to set these outside mirrors to eliminate blind spots is a crucial part of being a defensive driver.

Positioning Your Mirrors

- To adjust the driver's side-view mirror, place your head against the left side window and set the mirror so you can just barely see the side of the car in the mirror's right side.
- To adjust the passenger's side-view mirror, position your head so that it is just above the center console. Set the mirror so you can just barely see the side of the car in the left side of the mirror. If the vehicle is not equipped with remote mirror-adjustment controls, you may need assistance when properly positioning the mirror.
- With these settings, you will have nearly seamless visual contact around your vehicle, which can help you detect the presence of nearby drivers. For example, when being passed by a vehicle in the lane to your left, you will see it progress from the left side mirror and then to your side vision.
- Before driving with these updated mirror settings, see how they work while your vehicle is parked. For example, you can parallel park along a street, then see how passing vehicles move through your mirrors and peripheral vision. This can help you become oriented to the new settings before heading out into traffic.

10 Items to Check BEFORE You Tow a Trailer (cont.)

Is your tow vehicle ready for your load?

If you tow a trailer, it's a good idea to make sure your tow vehicle can handle the load. Unfortunately, it's common for drivers to use inadequate vehicles or hitches, which result in unsafe driving situations. It can be easy to hit the payload limit on many trucks if you're towing heavy loads. Especially with the crew cabs that are so prevalent, it's tempting to load up the crew, all their gear, and not have enough payload left over to handle the tongue weight on a big trailer.

Check your fluids and transmission.

When you're towing trailers, you should be following the severe maintenance plan from your vehicle's owner's manual. The added weight inherent in towing adds stress to the towing vehicle, causing it to run hotter than normal. Since your truck will be working much harder you'll want to check and replace fluids more often, including motor oil. Consider using both synthetic motor oil and transmission fluid for added protection. Also check and change your oil filters often for optimal performance. Also make sure that your transmission is in good shape.

Are your brakes ready?

When you're hauling, you'll need more stopping distance and so having brakes that are worn could be a hazard. So, make sure your brakes are in good working order so that the extra weight that you're hauling behind you can be stopped safely. Have your truck and trailer brakes been checked recently?

Towing Tips

- Don't ride the brakes; if you do, you might overheat them. When driving downhill, drive at a reduced speed using a lower truck gear if necessary. Use your brakes to slow enough to catch that lower gear.
- Most horse trailers come with their own braking systems that need to be connected to your vehicle to operate properly. Although it takes a little skill to coordinate the brake controller, trailer brake systems equal less stress on the towing vehicle's brakes.

The main thing to keep in mind is, with a trailer, your stopping distance is longer. You want to maintain a larger than normal distance between you and the vehicle in front of you, so that you have plenty of time to stop. Give yourself more plenty room than you would normally allow and don't trust the intuition you developed when driving a smaller and lighter vehicle.

Have you checked your balls lately?

Check your hitch ball regularly to make sure that it hasn't loosened and is still firmly attached to the draw bar. Make sure that the coupler and hitch ball fit together snugly. Each piece of towing gear comes with towing capacity limits. Double check that the equipment you have is suitable for what you plan to tow.

Are your chains safe?

- Make sure that the chains you use are sufficiently strong for the weight that you're towing.
- When choosing chains, make that they are long enough to allow the trailer to turn easily with your towing vehicle, but short enough to not drag. For bumper pull trailers, when you attach the safety chains to the vehicle, criss-cross them underneath the trailer's tongue. That way, if the trailer comes unhitched, the tongue will be cradled on the chains instead of hitting the ground.

Is your fuel enough for your route?

Your towing vehicle is going to use more fuel when you tow. This means that you're most likely going to be pulling into gas stations more often. Plan ahead to find truck stations that are designed for larger vehicles to get into and out of easily. Also try to avoid stop and go traffic since that makes your truck work harder and use more fuel.

How tall are you?

It's important to know how tall your trailer is. The last thing you want to do is have an accident by trying to drive under a bridge that is too low. Find out your height, then add a foot just to be sure, and avoid any passage marked with a lower clearance than that value.

DELMARVA DRIVING CLUB, INC. 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

To be considered for membership, submit this completed application each year, with a check made payable to The Delmarva Driving Club, Inc. or cash in the amount of the current annual membership dues payment to the address shown below. As an applicant, your signature on the line below declares that you will abide by all Club rules, regulations and by-laws. You will be notified of your acceptance, at which time you will receive your copy of the by-laws, a membership roster and newsletter. Feel free to join in the Club activities while your membership is being processed. Your signature below shall serve as consent to allow your photographic image taken at any DDC event to be used on any and all DDC publications.

Type of memberships: _____ (\$20/individual or _____ \$30 family)

Name of member _____

Farm Name _____

USPS address _____

CHANGE from last year's Renewal Form! _____yes _____ No

Newsletters will arrive via Email unless otherwise indicated:

_____ @

I do not/cannot receive my newsletter via email and thus request a hard copy be mailed (donation suggested to defray mailing costs). _____

The best number to reach me by phone is _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the Delmarva Driving Club.

VOLUNTEERS: Please mark as many items for which you are interested in volunteering. This information will be used by the various event coordinators to reach out for your help!!

- _____ Leading a Casual Drive
 - _____ Clinic Volunteers
 - _____ Serving as a member of the DDC Board or future Officer
 - _____ Hosting a clinic (on any equine related subject)
 - _____ Horse Show Volunteer
 - _____ Administrative help
- (e.g. Serving on a committee, mailing, printing and sending show information out, etc.)

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Make check payable to Delmarva Driving Club Inc. in the amount of \$20.00 per individual/ \$30 family. C/o Deborah Dawkins (Membership Chair) 25460 Dodd Lane Denton, MD 21629

Upcoming Events

- 2/8/2020 Fun Day to Drive at Holly Ridge Equestrian Center 36609 Purnell Crossing Rd. Willards, MD 21874 Come join your fellow drivers and DDC Members for a fun day of driving at the Holly Ridge Equestrian Center in Willards, MD. This facility has both an indoor and outdoor arena, as well as trails for cross country driving. There will be individuals with advanced driving knowledge available to offer assistance as needed. Lunch will be served in the Club House and all participants are asked to bring a covered dish to share. There is ample parking for any size trailer!!!! If you need more information, please call George Parris at 302-846-2189, Hope to see you there!
- 2/27—3/1/20 PA Horse World Expo at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA. In this year's Theatre Equus, Dave Rohrbach will be demonstrating some extremely unique hitches as well as doing driving demonstrations.
- 3/14/20 VSE and Pony Measuring Clinic beginning at 10:30 am at Fair Hill Saddlery 5930 Telegraph Road in Elkton, MD. This clinic is designed to learn about the new ADS rule that requires all ponies and VSEs to have measurement cards prior to competing in any ADS recognized event as of July 1, 2020.
- 4/24/20 Martins Spring Auction 80 Rocherty Rd, Lebanon, Pa 17042. Website: [http:// www.martinauctioneers.com/auctions/views](http://www.martinauctioneers.com/auctions/views)
- 5/9/20 DDC Pleasure Driving Show at Caroline Co. 4-H Park. Look at the Class List and Prize List on the DDC website—www.delmarvadivingclub.com. Call Pam Gray at 410-819-6113 for more information. Volunteers are needed and spectators are welcome.

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.



We're on
Facebook!
Check us out

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