

THE REINBOARD

President's address at the 2003 Annual Meeting at the Oatlands

As I retire as President of your PRDA Board, I look back at the long and challenging road we have come over these past 5 years. I appreciate the hard work of all the board members who have served and the committees who have made our events happen and our association function. Especially important is our 501(c)(3) tax status, which enables you to make a tax-deductible donation to the PRDA.

There have been many meetings and untold hours of hard work to put on these PRDA events. I would like to thank all of you, personally, who have worked and given of your time.

The Board sincerely hopes to see more of its' 100+ members at our functions this year. Please let us know what your interests are and whether we are presently providing your driving and social needs. A questionnaire will soon be sent to you via email or in The Reinboard. Please respond.

Of course, all events require volunteers to assist the Board and Committees. Please remember, you are needed! Volunteering is educational, social, and gratifying. After all, you are where the action is and can appreciate the driving equines and competitors at their best. You can also help in the planning and pre-event work to be done. So, please do not sit on the fence, but assist where you can. We are all volunteers, working towards great driving experiences.

Support your new President and Board. I thank you for your support and look forward to PRDA 2004 and its' future.

Respectfully, Nancy G. Bedford

2004 and What's New?

The club is going high tech. We have the talents of member Carole Pivarnik as our Webmaster. Carole designed a great website for the club and started a PRDA member's only board on Yahoo. Members can post photographs, place ads, messages and even announce you're looking for people to fill an empty seat on your drives. *Remember, it's always preferable to drive with a friend along.* It's our version of the CDL & Recreational Driving boards. Individual members can choose if they want to receive postings from this board. To access these sites, go to:

For the website: <http://www.prda-inc.org>

For the Yahoo PRDA Board: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PRDA>

From the Editor

You'll notice The Reinboard has a simpler and different look (and the type is larger). The newsletter will change to reflect the needs and wants of the club members. The newsletter will be published monthly as long as there are interesting things for the members. If members have anything driving-related to sell, if you have a spot for a passenger on your drives or an informal driving get-together, please let me know and it'll be in The Reinboard. We need to get the members together and this is one facet in addition to the website and Yahoo PRDA site.

A Challenge

One of the biggest challenges of our organization is two-fold, increasing the membership and providing a fun and challenging experience for our members. This is a challenge for our members, too! What do you want from your club? What are we doing well and not so well? We need members to be an active part of the club. The Too Hot to Trot series needs a leader this year (commercial: I did it last year and it was fun and a great way to meet members) and so does the Trace Pace. You don't need to be a board member to head up a function. If you have a driving passion, bring it to the board and let's see if the club can benefit. There is no lack of support in the club for good ideas.

ACHENBACH (Part II) -- LEARN THEM IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN BARN

Adapted from article written by Kathy Hansen, Arabian Horse World - Aug 1984

The Dressage Grips

Sometimes a whip needs to use two hands on the lines. Sitting in low-slung road wagons, the lines drag across the horse's hindquarters; a snaffle bit has too much play in the jointed mouthpiece, and with a green horse, you often need a line in each hand. The Achenbach method provides a series of training or dressage grips which meet these needs.

The working grip: Separate the lines by grasping the lower (off-side) line with your knuckles up (fig. 7a). To keep track of the amount of line pulled out, touch your right thumb to your left hand. Then when you return the line (by reversing this process), the lines will both be even. Now, pull the line out about six inches. Keep a hold on the line in the left hand, creating a bridge. Pull enough slack out so your right hand can move independently off the left, but not so much you can't return the line easily to the left hand. The near line will enter the top of the left hand; the off line enters the bottom of the right hand. To keep the right hand relaxed, you will have to hold the line with your thumb. To put both lines back in the left hand, reverse the process sliding the off rein back into its original position. Note: always halt or use the whip with the lines in the left hand. Practice transferring the lines from one hand to two. Keep the weights still. They must not swing sideways or move up and down. You only want to change the position of your hands, not signal your horse.

Left turn: Tip both thumbs backwards - toward your body. This action shortens the left line and lengthens the right. Watch your whip. This is where I always take my passenger's hat off. Right turn: Press your thumbs forward. Notice that the weights don't shift much. For the dressage grips to be effective, the horse must be in contact with the driver's hands.

Half-Halt: The left thumb comes back, the right forward. This shortens both reins, checking the horse for an instant, balancing and collecting him. This aid is quick - move, return. It takes practice to do it smoothly, without making the weights swing. Take care you don't poke your horse in his rear with your whip tip.

The halt: To stop, put both lines in the left hand by reversing the above procedure. Be sure they're of equal length from the bit; otherwise the horse will slide sideways. Then reach forward with the right hand, slip two fingers between the lines and halt, as in the single-handed grip.

Handling the whip: It's impossible to drive a horse well without a whip in your hand. To control a horse, you must be able to send him forward instantly. Without a whip, voice commands become only empty noises. Picking up a whip as you collect the lines must become as ingrained as brushing your teeth. If you have to hit a horse, transfer the off line to the left hand. Otherwise you can bang him in the mouth, and horses feel everything. Hit horse near the back-pad, especially if they have a

tendency to kick. But, from modern, low-slung vehicles, that's not easy. I usually pop a horse high on his rump, but I never hit a horse that I don't know there.

Practice: As you practice with your "reinboard," try to keep the weights from swinging. Still weights reflect good, smooth hands. When you feel comfortable with a couple of pounds in each hand, increase the weights. Morly Knight in his Hints On Driving (1884 - reprinted 1976, A.J. Allen, London) notes that an average team puts 10 to 12 pounds into the whip's hand, and those pressures "not infrequently exceed 35 pounds." Once you feel comfortable handling the lines, start using the Achenbach grips on your horse. Experiment - move your hands and see how the horse responds. (ARABIAN HORSE WORLD - AUGUST 1984)

Comments from a new member of the Board of Directors

Cat Bercier – I want a slew of Trace Paces, but I also would LOVE for us to have some clinics or more educational info on driving that goes a little higher than beginner, perhaps a practice demonstration of bending the driving horse or some other hands-on demonstrations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Reinhard Hepper
Takaro Farm
Welbourn Road
P.O. Box 2043
Middleburg, VA 20118
(h) 540-687-6071
(barn) 540-687-5221
horseklaus@earthlink.net

Frank Kraemer
Meriden Farm
2801 New Mexico Avenue, NW, #609
Washington, DC 20007
(h) 202-339-9777

Joan & Jay McGurren
correct zip code to 20197
add phone 540-882-9752

Changes to the 2004 Membership Directory:

Dana Bright
correct email to cdeponyz@suscom.net

Vito DelVento
delete (h) number

Louisa Emerick
change email to louisaem@comcast.net

Paige Horine
new email paige.r.horine@gsu.com

Lane & Cheryl Jennings
add email cheryljen@aol.com

Kathy Kelly
new email kathy.kelly505@comcast.net

Doug & Queenie Kemmerer
add email Q4NHAND@aol.com

Sharon Myers
correct address to 10335 Tim Road
correct email to trinmar@zoomlynx.com

Margie Richmond
*Since I'm now RETIRED...YEAH!!!...
please delete the work and fax phone
numbers from my membership listing!*

Susu Shoemaker-Dale
correct Farm name: Mimosa
change office phone 703-973-0506
delete fax number

Glenn & Melanie Smith
add office phone 703-246-2332

Membership Renewal

**If your mailing label has a red dot,
you need to send in your renewal
form and payment. This will be your
last Reinboard.**

Classified Ads *

Boarding – Full care/field board on 25 acres in Lovettsville, VA. Lots of dirt roads, retirement/lay-ups, we have a small quiet farm with carriage storage available. Also have a 16.2, 8 y.o. TB gelding for sale. Call Sunny at (540) 882-4121. (VA)

Carriage & Horse Detailing – Get ready for spring or the show. I do trimming, cleaning, clipping and polishing of both horse and carriage. Also available for veterinary & farrier appointments. Call Sunny at (540) 882-4121 (VA)

*PRDA does not guarantee the accuracy of information nor warranty the condition of any item listed in the classified ads. Classified ads are FREE to members with a limit of 3 ads per issue. Non-members may place ads at \$10 per ad per issue.

Virginia Is For Driving

You say you're bored and there is nothing for you to do on the weekends? Virginia is a hotbed of driving shows and clubs. Here is a good start to keep you busy:

Virginia Driving Clubs and contacts:

James River Driving Club, Central VA, cchildre@collegiate-va.org 804-784-0001

Potomac River Driving Assoc., Northern VA: smithforge@juno.com

Piedmont Driving Club, Northern VA: wgallen@vcmails.com 540-829-0118

Shenandoah Valley Driving Club, Western VA: dondero@ntelos.net

Upcoming Driving Activities (some may be for club members only)

Mar 27: PRDA Carriage Dust, Lectures and Pot-Luck Picnic at the Morven Park Carriage Museum, Get together with driving friends and have fun at this annual get-together. The big cleaning is done, come for the dusting and the good company. Contact: Nancy Bedford, nbedford@erols.com or 540-364-7620.

Apr 8: Multiple Hitches Driving School, Bundoran Farm, North Garden, VA contact Fred Scott 434-295-4188 or www.bundoranfarm.com

May 7-9: Women Only Driving Weekend at Nemaquin Resort in PA, contact Sheryl Jordan at 724-329-6961 x 3.

May 8: The Old Dominion Morgan Association is offering a spring show, near Fredricksburg, with two carriage classes as well as dressage and hunter classes. Entries are open to all breeds. Contact Karen Samson, Kkareid@aol.com, for more information.

May 12-15: The Bonnie Blue National will be held from the 12th to 15th, with various driving classes. On Friday night, Hackney horses will perform, in addition to pleasure driving classes for single horses and ponies. Saturday evening brings Friesian driving classes, and a multiple pleasure driving class. To receive a prize list, contact the Virginia Horse Center at info@horsecenter.org or 540-464-2950.

May 23: The new Potomac River Driving Club's Horse and Pony Trials to be held at Morven Park. More information can be provided by Glenn Smith at smithforge@juno.com.

Jun 4-6: Singles & Pairs Driving School, Bundoran Farm, North Garden, VA contact Fred Scott 434-295-4188 or www.bundoranfarm.com

June 12: Summer offerings include the Catalyst Combined Tests (dressage and cones) in Powhatan, with Training, Preliminary and Open Preliminary divisions, with classes for horses and ponies. Shelly Temple is the contact, 804-598-0059 or www.catalystdriving.com will have details closer to the date.

July 28-31: The Rockbridge Regional Fair has a variety of driving activities, with an Arena Trial, a Pleasure Show, and a clinic offered on the grounds of the Virginia Horse Center. This fair was a very enjoyable activity last year, and should be well attended this year. Pete Hecht at dondero@ntelos.net can give you more information. There is a Draft Horse show here as well.

September 4 - 5: A very exciting addition to an existing show is the expansion of the Old Dominion Carriage Show held on Labor Day weekend. On September 4, an American Driving Society recognized Pleasure Driving Show will be held, and on the following day, September 5, an ADS recognized Arena Driving Trial will take place. Both are open to all breeds, and run along side the Old Dominion Morgan Horse Show, all held at the VA Horse Center in Lexington. Byran Childress is your contact, 804-769-3721 or Shelly Temple at shelly@catalystdriving.com. After June 1, the prize list will be on www.odmhamorgans.com. This is a very fun, well organized show with a nice competitor party on Saturday night open to all at no charge, with great judges, don't miss it!

September 18-19: The Piedmont Driving Clubs' 22nd Annual Show at the Foxcroft School, Middleburg, VA An American Driving Society Approved Competition. Contact the Show Secretary at mcoachorse@aol.com.

Oct 1-3: Driving Weekend at Nemaocolin Resort in PA, contact Sheryl Jordan at 724-329-6961 x 3

October 7-10: The Oak Hill Combined Driving Event has changed from their June date to October 7-10. Hopefully this will bring better weather to this top level event. International level drivers, horses and ponies will be on hand, and this show needs lots of volunteers to make it happen. Contact the VA Horse Center to find out more, at www.horsecenter.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2/4/04

Beginning Balance as of 12/10/03: \$3,220.46

Income:

Membership Dues	\$1,650.00
Donation	200.00
Video Sale	35.00
Total Income	\$1,885.00

Expenses:

Oatlands [rent carriage house]	\$ 200.00
Printing Directories	155.79
Postage	61.90
Whip Case (Gift for Candy Smith)	68.70
Food for Annual Meeting	215.99
Postage [mailing, annual meeting]	40.70
Labels	21.71
Total Expenses	\$ 764.79
Ending Balance	\$4,340.67

Potomac River Driving Association, Inc. Current Board of Directors

President:	Glenn Smith smithforge@juno.com
Vice President:	Craig Miron cmmiron@msn.com
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Moore memoore2@opm.gov
Leo Rocca:	leorocca@mindspring.com
Hollie Satterfield:	vawhip@crosslink.net
Cat Bercier:	foxhunter@earthlink.net
Queenie Kemmerer:	KDougk@aol.com
Nancy Bedford:	nbedford@erols.com

MRS. ASEFETIDA WEARYBOTTOM MISSING FOUL PLAY FEARED

She was last seen driving her matched set of Appaloosa Shetlands last Tuesday. The ponies returned to the barn and a maroon hat with aqua ribbon, a green shoe and a freshly lit cheroot of her favorite cigar brand were found on her route. Her husband is concerned, and through tears asked, "Do you know anyone looking to buy a pony-sized gig?"