



April, 2026
Volume 2, Issue 2



Paumanok Driving Club Newsletter



Calendar

- Sunday, April 19 at Hallockville State Park @ 11:00am
- Sunday, May 17 at Connetquot State Park @ 11:00am
- Saturday, May 30 in Muttontown (*additional information to follow*)
(PDC participating in the LI Horseman's Assoc. Equestrian Festival)
- June - TBD
- Sept 10-13 MARD @ Fair Hill MD (*additional information to follow*)
- Late September we'll try to schedule a drive at Rockefeller State Park
- Sunday, October 18 at Brookhaven State Park
- Sunday, November 1 at Heckscher State Park

PLEASE NOTE:

The following State Parks are now charging fees for equestrian use **in addition** to the regular \$8.00 parking fee or use of NYS Empire Pass:

Hallockville State Park: Annual Bridle Path Permit: \$60 or \$15/Day Riding Permit

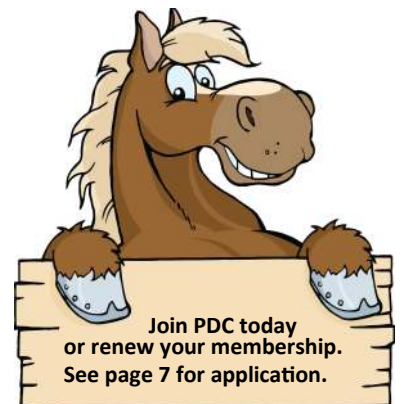
Connetquot State Park: Annual Bridle Path Permit: \$60 or \$15/Day Riding Permit

Rockefeller State Park Preserve: Contact Park Office at: (914) 631-1470 or visit:

<https://parks.ny.gov/visit/state-parks/rockefeller-state-park-preserve>

Inside this issue

2026 Calendar	1
President's Letter	2
Equestrian Safety	2
ADS Driving Safety Information ...	3/4
Annual Luncheon Photos	5/6
Member Application/Renewal	7





President's Letter

Hello all,

Thanks go out to all who attended the annual meeting and lunch in February. We had a variety of nice raffle items donated by members and local businesses. This is our main fundraiser for the club and, as usual, the members, donors and ticket buyers stepped up... resulting in good money for the club. Members who attended helped to organize the donated raffle items making the event very engaging for everyone. Along with the good food at Digger's Ales N' Eats, the meeting was overall a success.

The March Board meeting was very productive with encouraging input from the members present. We had plenty of time and a clear agenda with focused discussion and decision making for PDC moving forward. Again, I would like to thank the BOD for their participation.

Jerry Trapani has agreed to continue his valuable role as CAA chapter liaison. This keeps the CAA informed about PDC, and us updated on CAA events.

On an exciting note, Bob Weissman will be looking into organizing a day to visit the Allegra Farm & Horse- Drawn Carriages & Sleigh Rides in Haddam, Connecticut

We are also working on being exhibitors at the Long Island Horseman's Equestrian Festival on May 30th. Gail and I met with Bob Weissman in Muttontown to put our eyes on and get a feel for the festival grounds. They have two adequate-sized rings, one larger than the other, and a large grass area where trailers can park. We felt the setting was comfortable enough to let the Long Island Horseman's Association know that we are willing to join them as one of the equine exhibitors in the festival.

We will keep you posted on the progress as things move along and plan to discuss this further at our upcoming Hallockville Drive on April 19th. I look forward to seeing you at the April drive.

Thank you,
Gene

Equestrian Safety

Share the Road NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law §1146 (Failure to Exercise Due Care) - which includes equines and domestic animals. NYS has increased penalties under this law effective 2026, violations now carry 5 points (up from 2 points) Drivers are required to: slow down when approaching horses, pass at a safe distance and any avoid actions that may startle a horse. If injury occurs, drivers may face fines and possible jail time. The law has strengthened protections for equestrians. However, many drivers may remain uninformed of this change. Please continue to exercise caution when on the road.



General Driving Safety List Best Practices

Teach your horse to “whoa” and “stand” before attempting a drive away from home.

Vehicle and harness should be in sound condition and adjusted to fit the horse properly, and be suitable for the type of terrain to be covered.

Never remove the horse’s bridle while the horse is put to a carriage.

Never leave a horse unattended while it is put to a vehicle.

Never tie a horse to a fixed object (wall, trailer, hitch post) while it is put to a vehicle.

Never tie a turnout to another turnout, or tie another horse to a turnout.

Do not lead the horse from the ground while it is put to a vehicle.

When the horse is put to the vehicle, a knowledgeable driver needs to be in the vehicle with the reins and whip in hand.

The driver is the first person in the vehicle and the last one out. Do not leave a passenger in the vehicle unless he is capable and takes control of the reins.

Do not get out of your vehicle once the horse is put to, except for minor adjustments and unhitching. A loose horse with a vehicle attached is very dangerous.

Reins must be attached to the bit and passed through the saddle terrets while the horse is put to the vehicle. one rein at a time may be adjusted.

Sit on bight (end) of reins or use the finger loop. Do not let loose end dangle and risk getting caught in legs or wheels.

Do not snap the reins for a forward cue. Use your voice and the whip.

Leave at least one turnout’s length between turnouts at all times.

Call out to another driver to ask to pass. Do not blow past another turnout.

If a driver meets a rider, stop the carriage. Riding horses are often afraid of moving wheels. Allow the riders to determine how to safely pass.

Most states require a Slow Moving Vehicle sign if you drive on public roads. It must be visible and three feet above the ground.

If driving on the road, drive in the middle of the lane. Look for places to get off the road safely.

If driving a pair, you need a groom. Do not drive two or more horses by yourself.

Additional Recommendations

Use a full noseband/cavesson for a bridle with blinkers to keep the cheeks from gaping away from the sides of the horse's head.

Consider using a gullet strap, or braid your horse's mane into your bridle to prevent your small-eared equine from rubbing their bridle off.

Wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy footwear, driving gloves and well-fitted equestrian helmet.

Carry a fully charged cell phone on your person. Know the drive manager's number.

Consider a safety vest, leg reflectors and/or a bicycle flag and lights for better visibility.

Have a Spares Kit including halter(s) and lead(s) for each horse, and a First Aid kit for horses and humans.

Consider having, at minimum, the driver wearing an up to date medical armband.

Stay on marked trails. Watch the trail ahead for turkeys, deer, and other animals.

Avoid being out during hunting seasons.

Do not let your horse nibble on plants along the trail. Some may be poisonous.

Go from light to dark areas slowly so horse's eyes can adjust.

Cross roadways as quickly as reasonably possible. Cross perpendicular to railroad tracks.

Cross bridges with care. Observe the condition of the bridge before you cross.

Descend steep grades slowly. Balance your horse, especially with metal shoes on pavement.

Driving Safety Best Practices List, compiled by 23/24 ADS Education Committee

*PDC Annual Luncheon
February 8, 2026
Digger's Ales N' Eats, Riverhead*



*PDC Annual Luncheon
February 8, 2026
Digger's Ales N' Eats, Riverhead*



Paumanok Driving Club Membership Application



New _____
Renewal _____
Chg address _____

Name _____
*Mailing Address _____
*City, State, Zip _____
Phone # Home _____ Cell _____
E-mail address _____

Date: _____

horses _____ Breed(s) _____
Level of driving experience: _____

Please check one: I learned about PDC from:

Personal referral _____ Name (optional) _____
Website _____
Another equine club _____
Other _____

Interested in serving on any committees? Y N Can you assist with events? Y N
Are you currently a member of the American Driving Society (ADS)? Y N
or Carriage Association of America (CAA)? Y N

Membership Levels

Pricing as of March 1, 2024

Individual \$25

Named member at least 18 yrs. old

Family \$40

Named members of household, including children under 18 yrs. old

Sustaining \$55

Named members of household, including children under 18 yrs old

Membership questions? Contact: pdrivingclub@yahoo.com

PDC OFFICE USE ONLY

Check Number _____

Member Type _____

Date Received _____

Amount _____

Membership Cards sent on _____

Please fill out this form and send it along with your membership fee to:

**PDC Membership
c/o Valerie Frederick
22 Heather Drive, Center Moriches, NY 11934**

THANK YOU for your support and WELCOME to PDC!