

Long Lines

February 1, 2008

Come Learn About Barefoot Hoof Care! with Judy Reiss and Sarah Block- AANHCP Certified Saturday, February 16th - East Haddam Grange, 6:30 Potluck

New Web Address!

Visit us on the web at
www.cvdrivingclub.com

CVDC Photo Album!

www.flickr.com/cvdc
Login: **ctvalleydrivingclub**
password: **driveon**

March Assignments:

Send in your stories...
"How I started driving"
And "beginner learning experiences" (which can also pertain to experienced carriage drivers)...

Notice:

Please submit any photos, articles, or news for February's newsletter by Feb. 20th!

Long Lines Editor

Krista LaBella
deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net

CVDC Officers:

Pres., Andrée Duggan
andree@betterdaysalliance.org
860-395-7283

VP, Herbert Dimeola
Herbert.DiMeola@imhosp.org
860-875-9474

Treasurer, Kathie Gregory
860-228-3801

Secretary, Jan Frick
860-659-3991

CVDC will feature Judy Reiss and Sarah Block at February's meeting. This program will explain all aspects of natural hoof care. Both Judy and Sarah are certified by the American Association of Natural Hoof Care Practitioners and practice in Connecticut.

Barefoot hoof care should not be confused with pulling shoes and doing farrier trimming. Barefoot hoof care involves subtle trims to keep the hoof at an optimum health (closest to the way nature intended), and it also involves some dietary changes for maximum hoof health. Barefoot hoof care is growing in popularity, even for the driving horse. Come and find out why!



Above: Barefoot Hoof

Here are some comments we elicited from our friends on CD-L, Carriage Driving Listserv:

"We have all 3 of our horses barefoot, and I compete my Morgan barefoot. He's done a couple of CDE's as well as several 10+ m. hunter paces barefoot. [There is] a lot of gravel around here too, but he has adjusted with over 1 year barefoot and boots on occasion, but typically not. It can be done. They have to have time to adjust to going barefoot and meanwhile there are boots out there that work well. I like the Easy- boot Epic, [it's] less bulky than the rest, the new style in the yellow box has had changes made to it that are very good, in my opinion. Find a good barefoot trimmer (I pay \$50) and get advice, but also educate yourself, [there are] many good websites out there. You can learn to trim lightly in between visits! There is controversy within the barefoot community; opinions differ on style of trim, but that is ok. Find out what works for your guys. Even my very flat-footed TB-cross is barefoot, but he does need boots more often than my Morgan and Dick's Arab-cross. It is so nice not to worry about pulling a shoe at the most inopportune time. We have pastures that are fit for mountain goats, and the 1st week down here my big horse pulled a shoe! They are sure-footed and fine now, and their feet never looked better."

Sue Carrier (formerly of CT) in hilly, western NC!

Continued on page 2...

Barefoot Hoof Care...

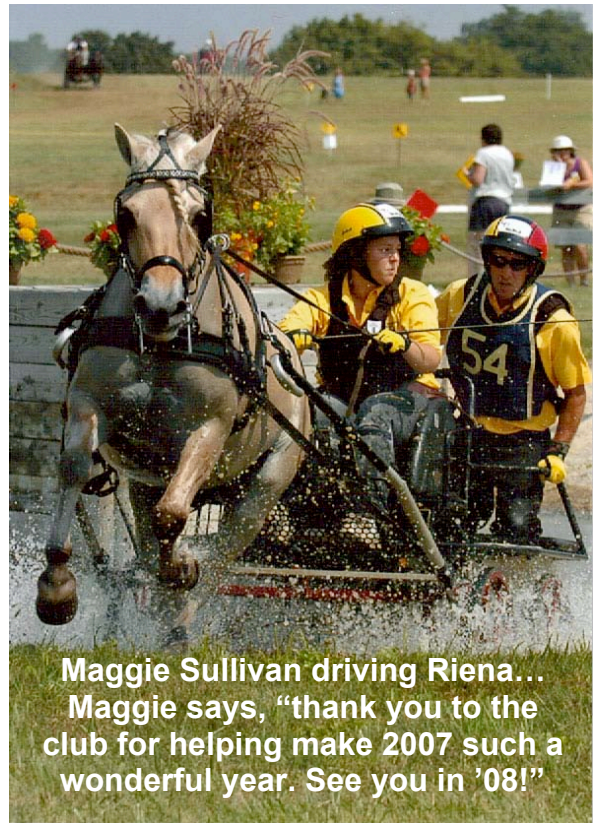
Continued from page 1

"We have had our horses barefoot for 8 years now. We tried many kinds of hoof boots and I never felt they needed studs in them - no problem with slipping on any type of surface even with a heavy carriage on a steep hill. The boots we're using now are the easy-boot epics. [We] like them very much and they last more than one season. We find that many of our horses can go barefoot w/ no boots all the time and then there are 2 that need boots every time they go out unless the surface is strictly grass. We have found that when we drive our barefoot horses regularly on asphalt, we don't wear their feet down too much, instead the hoof just grows faster. One thing though, the two farriers (hoof trimmers) we use now do a special barefoot trim that is similar to the way a wild horse would wear his feet. It is amazing how critical even the most subtle adjustments to the trim become in making the horse's hoof grow properly and be able to be comfortable for him on the various surfaces we drive on."

-Nilda, NY

"Barefoot trim has done wonders for all my horse's feet, especially since they have all had time to grow complete new hooves during the last year or so."

-Helen: Whitesboro, Texas



Maggie Sullivan driving Riena...
Maggie says, "thank you to the club for helping make 2007 such a wonderful year. See you in '08!"

What About BOOTS? Which Boots? Here are some opinions:

"I use the Marquis boots, designed by a German veterinarian. They are more expensive than others, but all parts are replaceable and I think they are much better fitting and more durable than the rest. I have had good results with them on all surfaces. You can put studs in but I have not yet. I've driven on grass, dirt, gravel, and pavement with good traction. I don't use them daily, but mainly when I do on longer drives and I know I'll be driving pavement. I have not had to replace any parts yet, it's been 2 yrs of intermittent use, a couple times a week. They also can be used in snow with studs. Haven't done that yet, my winter driving is limited due to work and school schedules. Here is the website... www.strideequus.com. I think they are well worth [the money] I am a HUGE proponent of barefoot health."

-Melanie in Dutchess County, NY

"Three years ago I had a POA that had to go barefoot for a while. I chose horse sneakers for him and he and I just loved them. Very easy to put on, durable and the vendor was great to deal with. They can be seen at www.horsesneaker.com I will be getting a pair for my new mare this spring."

-Jane Bailey from New Gloucester, Maine

"I use the Easy Boots. They wear forever. I bought a horse that had always been shod. He had thin hoof walls, and contracted heels. I took the shoes off, and used him barefoot on trails, and used the Easy Boots when on paved or gravel roads. His hoof walls strengthened, and heels became normal. He ended up with very nice feet and was always sound. My horses are always barefoot, and have very nice, healthy feet."

Best wishes, Kay

"Boots for driving on hard roads or stony surfaces are really great. My problem was with a 33 1/2 inch mini who has 3 1/2 inch feet. I have no choice but to drive her on roads on which dump trucks have left bits of gravel. This gravel was really bothering her feet. I searched and searched and finally found "Hoofwings" a boot that is custom made for each foot and they have worked perfectly. They fit snugly but not like a vice, and are easy to put on and take off (no screwdrivers or other tools necessary). The difference in my mini's stride is amazing and she is obviously very comfortable in her boots - and no rubs. As far as I know, these are the only boots that are made small enough for a mini of her size. Hoofwings has a website under that name if anyone is interested. The Hoofwings have rubber soles, so also have a certain amount of cushioning as well."

-Elizabeth Hawkins

Winter-Spring Calendar of Events

February 2: GMHA Winter Sleigh Driving Series -South Woodstock, VT- Call ahead - Karey Manner, 802-457-1509

February 15: Litchfield Hills Driving Club Program with Scott Monroe, Contact richard_mangino@netzero.net

February 16: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30 pm, East Haddam Grange – Barefoot Horse Trimming the Driving Horse with farriers Judy Reiss and Sarah Block

February 16: Saratoga Driving Association Get Ready for Spring Mid Winter Driving Conference Verdooy Fire Station, Route 7 Albany, NY www.saratogadriving.com for flyer

February - March: Frostbite Series, Newton, NH, The Carriage Barn, Ann Miles (603) 378-0140

February TBA The Eastern CT Draft Horse Association is planning to bring back the sleigh rally at the town green in Lebanon, CT. The event may happen at the last minute, weather pending. <http://www.easternctdraffhorse.com>

February 10: Carriage Barn mock sleigh rally with talks, demonstration and more. If interested contact the Carriage Barn at 603-378-0140 or by email at carriage-barn@comcast.net

February 28: GMHA Winter Sleigh Driving Series -South Woodstock, VT- Call ahead - Karey Manner, 802-457-1509

March 1 & 2: The Driving Forum, Clarion Hotel, West Springfield, MA. 603-673-3956 www.driving-forum.com

March 15: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30pm – Large Animal Rescue with Jeff and Donna Lord

April 19: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30pm – Special Panel Discussion on Lyme Disease Prevention and Treatment

April 20: CVDC first drive at Wimler's in Guilford

May 3-4: Lord Stirling Stable CDE; Basking Ridge, NJ. Contact Kay 973-285-0009 (Entries open Feb 1)

May 10: 10:00 AM "Plowing the Garden" with the Eastern CT Draft Horse Association
Wilbraham, MA Contact: Elaine Keeley (860) 376-8110

May 17: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30pm - details TBA

May 16-18: Northeast Regional campout for riders and carriage drivers at Escoheag, RI. Details forthcoming.

May 29- June 1: Garden State CDE; Allentown, NJ. Contact Heather 908-439-3171

June 7: Connecticut Valley Driving Trial, Haddam Meadows

June 8: CVDC Fun Day and Clinic -- Contact Marguerite Hayber 860-267-6552

Members: Help Make the Newsletter Fun and Informative by Contributing!

What Have You Learned?

So members, your next assignment is to send in your stories! Send in anything that you think was a good learning experience which other drivers can learn from. This is not only for the new drivers and new members, but for the benefit of the entire club! As we all know, safety is very important when driving! Please email Krista w/ stories.

Dear Members, is there anyone out there who would like to tell us, "How I Started Driving?" This could become an enjoyable and entertaining series, but we need you to step up. Please send your story to Krista. We would love to hear about you. –Randy Sabatino

Does anyone have a 'Carriage or Driving' related collection that they would like to share with our CVDC members? If so, please call Randy. 860-873-3894

Does anyone have any horse or driving related websites they would like to share with the club? Send in any websites you may find insightful, helpful, or just plain fun! There will be a list compiled and printed in one of the future newsletters! Email Krista with suggestions!

Thank you to Rita Bellinger for this great idea!

Announcing the 1st National Carriage & Driving Month: May 2008

The Carriage Association of America (CAA) is pleased to announce the first National Carriage & Driving Month, to be celebrated throughout the month of May. To celebrate our horse-drawn heritage, the CAA encourages driving clubs, museums, and historic sites throughout the United States to plan special programs and events during the month of May. These events can explore and bring to light our shared history while also promoting current interests in restoring, collecting, and driving horse-drawn vehicles. The CAA's president, Harvey Waller, said, "This is an effort to bring national attention to horse-drawn carriages and carriage driving." He continued, "To promote the event to our members and to the general public, the CAA plans to prepare and distribute press releases to national media, in order to remind the public of how horses and carriages helped settle and build the U.S. and how they contributed to our culture. We will also encourage CAA chapters and other driving clubs to prepare press releases that pertain to carriage driving and carriage history in their local areas. "The Carriage Association of America was founded in 1960 and is the oldest and largest international organization devoted to the preservation and restoration of horse-drawn carriages and sleighs. The CAA has more than 3,000 members in all 50 states and in 40 other countries.

For more information on the Carriage Association of America or to join, visit www.caaonline.com or send an e-mail to info@caaonline.com or call (859) 231-0971.

How I Learned to Drive a Horse...

Featuring: Ginger Laplante, Founder & Editor of the Granite State Carriage Assn

As a teenager from the New York suburbs I spent some time nearly every summer in the 1950's on my father's family farm in Iowa. My uncle who owned the place was old fashioned and farmed with a pair of draft cross work horses which I thought was wonderful. He also had a little 14.2 hand bay mare named Sugar who spent the greater part of the day standing in her stall saddled in case she was needed. Well I got her out of that stall, she and I spent hours and hours riding across the fields and down the gravel roads with other kids in the neighborhood. I finally persuaded my uncle to give Sugar to me and he did even writing up a certificate of gift. At last I finally had a horse of my own, even if she did live over a thousand miles away!

Then one summer my uncle told me that Sugar was getting too old for much work and he had bought me a bigger horse to ride. So it was Bendersheck and I who rode mostly with Lucille from a neighboring farm that summer. One day at her place she and I decided to try and drive him. We knew nothing about driving but they had a cart and harness and the men helped us to hitch him up. Talk about fools rushing in - it was a disaster waiting to happen! But, while we knew nothing about driving, it turned out to our great surprise that Bendersheck knew all about it!! Off we went driving him with no problems the mile or so to the home farm where we astonished everyone. I don't remember that we ever drove him again.

A couple of years later we moved to a farm in northwestern Connecticut and I bought a beautiful Quarter Horse/Saddlebred mare, at a local auction with money from my WW II war bonds. The neighbors also bought a horse for their kids and it turned out that it drove. So we messed a bit with driving her with an old harness & buggy that were in our barn. Then we tried to train Sis to drive but it was a disaster.

Some years later, after I had graduated from college, my father sent Sis' 4 year old, half Thoroughbred daughter, Babe, to be trained to ride and drive. By then I had already begun collecting vehicles and everything related to driving including a number of books written in the days when everyone drove. I absorbed everything I could from the books. We got a decent harness, hitched Babe up to the buggy and I haven't stopped driving since.

Thank you Ginger!

Remember to send in your own stories to the Long Lines!

Dear LHDC and CVDC, I am interested in buying a flask as a gift for someone, and my husband remembers seeing one in someone's hands on one of our drives with you... So at least one member has one! Does anyone have any ideas where I might get one? Please reply directly to me at esmemoti@optonline.net or call me at 203-210-5440. Thanks for your help!

Esmé Hoban, Wilton, CT

Sleighting News in New England

Green Mountain Horse Association's 2008 Sleigh Rallies

We already have 2 feet of snow here in Vermont~ this is shaping up to be the best sleighting season in a long, long time! Sleigh rallies will kick off at 11am~ weather permitting, of course. Stabling is available! No need to pre-register unless you need stabling. Prize lists are available on our website. The dates for 2008 sleight rallies are Feb. 2, and Feb. 23.

For more information visit the GMHA website www.gmhainc.org, or email kmanner@gmhainc.org

February 10 – A Day of Sleighting & Mock Sleigh Rally at the Carriage Barn (New Hampshire).

“Join other sleighting enthusiasts for an afternoon of fun in the sun and snow. We will have an introduction to Sleighting and mock "sleighting" classes in our rolled outdoor arena (weather permitting). If there is no snow, bring your carriage, dress in your best sleigh costume and bring a picture of your sleigh and we will be "sleighting" in our indoor arena. There will be discussions on sleigh bells, costumes, etc, as well as a variety of sleighs on display. Please call ahead for conditions.”

If you would like to attend, please contact to The Carriage Barn at 603-378-0140 or by email at carriage-barn@comcast.net

Frostbite Series

Arena Driving Trials at the Carriage Barn
March 8th, 22nd & April 5th –
The Frostbite Series Arena Driving Events –
Cones courses, Obstacles, and Driven
Dressage. All in our lovely indoor arena.
Taste the thrill of timed events, gallop to the
frozen finish line. Spectators encouraged.

<http://www.carriage-barn.com>

February 17th & 24th – A Day of Sleighting at the Carriage Barn

Noon to 3pm. Join other sleighting enthusiasts for an afternoon of fun in the sun and snow. Bring your own, or call ahead to reserve a horse and sleigh. Come enjoy the joy of sleighting. Private lessons available. If you would like to attend, please contact...

The Carriage Barn at 603-378-0140
or by email at carriage-barn@comcast.net

The Carriage Barn is offering two great opportunities for new competitors!

Training Level Introductory Arena Events: March 16 & April 20, 2008

Driving Forum Reminder!

The 2008 Driving Forum is on its way!
This year it will be held on Saturday March 1st and Sunday March 2nd at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in West Springfield, Massachusetts.
Show hours for Sat. are 9am to 6pm, and Sun. 9am to 5 pm.

For more information and ticketing go to www.driving-forum.com

These events are offered to give new drivers or competitors a chance to try their hand at Arena Driving Trials with the support necessary to make it a fun and enjoyable experience. The morning will start with walking the Dressage test to be sure all competitors know the test and are comfortable with the figures. Then everyone will drive the test and receive feedback from the judge. We will break for lunch, then walk our Hazards, plan the best route for each competitor, then have each competitor give it a go. We will then move to the Cones phase, where we will walk the Cones course, find all the best angles, and then drive it. As the event comes to a close, we will go over the scores so each competitor goes home with a clear understanding of how they did, what they need to improve, and a strong desire to come back and try it again!

We have a limited number of safe driving ponies you can use for the day if yours is not ready, don't waste another summer wishing you could do this – you can, we can help you make it fun!

Visit <http://www.carriage-barn.com> for more information, prices and the registration form!

The Carriage Barn: 603-378-0140

Coming Soon...

www.northeastcarriagedriving.com

The regional website for driving!

Our Vermont Weekend

by Anne Albee

Having just returned from a two-week vacation to Colorado, California and Mexico, Jack and I felt the need to get away for a little rest. Retirement is not for sissies! As we have a pony sleigh and many sleighing "accoutrements" that we no longer need, we decided to take them up to Rick Fallon's Running Brook Carriage Barn to sell. As luck would have it, the GMHA was holding the first of their winter educational series "Introduction to Sleighs and Sleigh Driving" that weekend.

The first part was to be held at the GMHA grounds on Saturday morning with Jon Woodhull and the second half with Rick at his Carriage Barn in the afternoon.



Rick and Kathleen's house

The weather report for Friday, our day of departure, was not looking good. In fact, it was quite dismal, with rain, rain and freezing rain predicted. We decided to get the sleigh cleaned up and loaded before the deluge. After I cleaned it, we covered it with my favorite, the large green flannel-lined grill cover. Then we put a new tarp over that and tied it all on. It looked like a giant Christmas gift perched on the back of the truck.

I finished loading the sleigh robes, foot warmer, sleigh seat, fur muffs, saddle chimes and our snacks and maps and early Friday morning, well, maybe not so early, we were off for Vermont.

The trip up Route 91 was uneventful. When I got to Exit 3 I called Kathleen Fallon and told her we were on our way. I said I'd call when we were a little closer. The further north we traveled the nastier the weather became. We found our friend's house where we were staying without any trouble, so unloaded our gear, turned up the heat and went back out to find the Carriage Barn. I was sure I remembered how to get there from a previous trip. Umm, well, pretty sure...

So, Barn Boy and I were nestled warm in the dually, creeping down this steep hill covered with ice, and he didn't seem to want to make much conversation. I didn't see Blood Hill Road anywhere and my cell phone had no bars. It wasn't the best day for sightseeing, either. We (Jack) got the bright idea to put Rick's address in the Garmin...DUH! Why hadn't I thought of that sooner? Soon we were creeping down their ice crusted driveway, negotiating the hairpin turns, tension apparent by our gritted teeth, hunched shoulders and grumpy expressions.

Rich greeted us with a smile which helped a lot and helped us unload everything, warmed us up by his office wood stove and sent us on our merry way with a hand drawn map of where to find fuel, groceries and a good meal that night. Well, it was supposed to be lunch, but ended up being dinner.

Off we went to the first stop, fuel. By the map, it seemed it would be just a stone's throw down the road. Several miles later we found the station, but as luck would have it, a tanker truck was filling the diesel fuel, so we had to wait about a half hour until he finished. Once we had filled up, we headed back to the grocery store to "get some grub" as we like to say when we're roughing it. We did find the store without any problem, as we had passed it on the way to the fuel. We bought more than we needed (Ah, chocolate! A necessity) and again headed out to find the restaurant. By now our stomachs were rumbling in tandem, we hadn't eaten since breakfast in Connecticut. We kept our eyes peeled for the restaurant.

Pretty soon we were in Woodstock! Again, we remembered that Garmin (Jill, as we like to call her) has a food list, so we searched and LO and BEHOLD, there was the restaurant name! After turning around, we hit the GO button and about 6 miles later were sitting in the booth having a well-deserved glass of Pinot Grigio and ordering sirloin steaks.

And now, back to the house for a little TV, reading and that comfy queen sized mattress!

Continued on page 7...

Our Vermont Weekend... Continued from page 6

The next morning I assembled the groceries and made breakfast of bacon, eggs, English muffins and coffee. Didn't I say we were roughing it? Then off we went to GMHA to the sleighing lecture.

About halfway down that same steep hill, not sure we were even going in the right direction and deciding whether to see if Jill knew "GMHA" we came upon a familiar face wrapped in a red scarf driving a lovely Morgan toward us. We had pulled over already, so rolled down the window and called out as she whipped past, "Can you tell us how to get to GMHA?" She replied, "Just keep going about 2 miles down this road!" Pretty soon her husband flew by with another pretty pony. Hardy folk, these Vermonters! (We found out later that Wilson Groves and Robin Groves were 1st and 2nd respectively in the January Thaw drive that day. So that's what they were doing when we saw them!)

At GMHA, about 30 people gathered to hear Jon Woodhull talk about the "mechanics, pitfalls, and safety issues in driving a sleigh" interlaced with plenty of humor. He also gave a demonstration with his mare, Jasmine, put to a Portland cutter. Many of the participants were new to sleighing and Jon gave everyone who wished a chance to drive. After refreshments including a hot and hearty tomato soup, we had a little time to spare before going up to Rick's so we headed to the Tack Shop, of course. What trip is complete without a visit to the local tack shop? We browsed and conversed about Standardbred cross ponies and I tried on hunt jackets in anticipation of fox hunting in Aiken. But I only bought warm socks, which I had forgotten to pack.



Above: Jon Woodhull's Demonstration

By this time we knew the way to Running Brook, so we made our way back up the hill, which was mostly ice free today with the sun shining brightly. Most of the folks had come up for the second half of the lecture and we gathered to hear Rick tell us about the different types of sleighs, their uses and the pros and cons of each. Did you know there were chains in use for sleighs? That was a first for me. We all had a chance to ask questions and browse the extensive collection of carriages there, too.

One last stop before dinner: Cow Shed Cabins to visit Marty Hunt, a Connecticut transplant, for a chance for some conversation. Marty was on her way to feed the volunteers from that day's January Thaw Ride/Drive so after a warming libation we made arrangements to return for breakfast the next morning.

As it was still early, we decided to take a drive to Quechee to Simon Pearce. Jack enjoyed watching the glass blower while I window shopped in the showroom. Then it was off to the Kedron Valley Inn for dinner in the warm, cozy and friendly bar.

Back at the house, we could hardly keep our eyes open long enough to watch the Patriots game. We hit the hay early and slept like the proverbial logs.

Next morning we packed up our belongings, tidied up the house, and went back to Marty's for the promised breakfast. The table was beautifully set, candles aglow, and we set to frying up the bacon and eggs to go with the fruit, muffins and juice. No wine this time, just good conversation then lots of good-bye hugs as we reluctantly headed south for Connecticut. Ah, Life is Good!!!



Right:
Jon Woodhull's
Demonstration

Pam Pruitt Update: January 16, 2008

From Anne Albee

Pam is making good progress. She is eating solid food now, though her jaw healed a little crookedly and she will need some dental work in the near future. Her arm and shoulder still give her a little trouble. She has to have another surgery on her arm, probably sooner rather than later (early February), to remove the pin, which is somehow impinging and causing her problems. She is getting out more, doing some light chores, but no horse handling. She still needs rest and gets occasional transient dizziness. The best thing is she sounds like her old self! What a relief!

The worst thing is the insurance company is balking at paying and she has to hire an attorney to make them pay. As you can imagine, the costs were and are astronomical for this last 10 weeks of care and rehabilitation, though she went straight from the hospital to home, so incurred no "rehab" facility fees. She has been diligent about her exercise, diet and rest. She doesn't expect to be handling horses until the arm is well healed.

The Pam Pruitt fund is still accepting donations! We would like to thank everyone who has given so generously. Pam has expressed her gratitude to me many times and I know she's written and called you when she couldn't write, thanking everyone personally. If the weather were cooperative, I would like to have a "Pam Pruitt Benefit Drive" but perhaps a Pasta Dinner or raffle would be better suited to the winter temperatures? I'm trying to organize this as to time, place, volunteers etc. so if anyone has done anything like this before can lend a hand or has an idea, don't hesitate to call me and let me know.

Thanks to everyone who has given their support, it is very much appreciated!
I'll be going to visit Pam again in March for about a month.

Meanwhile... Send your cards and donations for Pam Pruitt c/o: (checks made out to Pam Pruitt, please)
Anne Albee, 28 Starr Road, Colchester, CT 06415 storytella@comcast.net

Update from Rita Bellinger...

After the article about Rita, Brenda and the miniature horse Bucky was printed in the December Long Lines, people reached out to help Rita accomplish her goal. Here are the latest details of Rita's acquiring of equipment and learning to drive for her handicapped friend Brenda.

"I wanted to thank you so much for making our cause "famous". I just thought I was sending you our story, I didn't even know it was in the newsletter until I got a phone call from Randy Sabatino giving me the name and number of an experienced (mini) driver in my area that she had contacted on my behalf.

I also received a call from Bonnie Kreitler (<http://www.horseinfo.com/info/people/kreitler.html>) from the Litchfield Driving Club (she gave permission to use her name) who has generously offered to donate her cart and harness she had custom made for her beloved mini "Casey" she drove several years ago (who's still going strong in retirement at 43 yrs of age!!!) but could never bear to part with his tack (that she had custom made for him by an English harness maker in the US at the time. I think all horse people have things hanging around from previous horses). She said the minute she read our story and saw that my Bucky was the same exact height and build as her mini- she knew instantly that's where Casey's things were going. She told me they're not for sale, they're only to be donated to help our cause as people had been generous to her when she was starting out and also couldn't afford things. She said they are quite old and may need refurbishing, but my husband is very talented and is up for the task. He'll also make any modifications Brenda may need to keep her safely in the cart (such as an emergency release harness/seat belt).

Like donating the items weren't generous enough, as I'm scheduling when to drive from Norwich to Fairfield to pick everything up, Bonnie contacts me again with yet more help. She said her daughter in law's aunt recently moved to my area. She was previously involved in horses and missed them. She said she would be willing to come help us work with Bucky! How nice these people are! So now Bonnie's going to drive everything all this way to us and introduce us to the aunt who's willing to help out. Now I need to take some driving lessons so I learn what to do.

I'll keep you updated on our progress."

-Rita Bellinger

President's Letter...

Recently I was sent our 2008 Membership list, and we're growing! There have been a lot of new faces at our meetings, and it's exciting to see so many hands go up at the last meeting to volunteer on various activities. You are our club, and I encourage you to continue getting more and more involved however you wish. We have a busy year ahead.

This is an interesting time for CVDC because the American Driving Society and the efforts of Cat Luce and others are creating opportunities for us to co-mingle with other clubs in the Northeast. Cat, Marc Johnson, and Susan Koso have had a vision for years of us all helping one another do whatever it is we want to do to advance the sport (safely). They've always been very supportive of our club. Plus our very own Bill Lawson is the ADS Treasurer.

ADS will be at the Driving Forum in March, and Cat Luce is looking for volunteers who might wish to swing by for a few hours here or there to help her (wo)man the table. Cat is sooo helpful to us, for one thing, she and her daughter volunteer at our Driving Trial. She's just so nice, and I'm hoping you will email her to offer your support. Just a few hours. I promise you, you'll have fun and meet a lot of new people.

If anyone would like to help Cat at the ADS table, she would be most appreciative. Send an e-mail to catprints2@aol.com

Thank you!!

Andrée Duggan

ARENA DRIVING IN MA!

Just wanted to let you know that Mass Carriage & Driving is going to hold A schooling Arena Driving event @ Riverfront Farm in Concord Mass, Sun April 27th. It will be the same format as last year, driven dressage, a review from the judge & driven again, the best score counts. The obstacles will be driven as usual ,two sets driven twice and timed,cones course will be driven twice and timed best time counts towards the final score. Training, preliminary, & intermediate classes will be offered, Andy Marcoux will be judging again this year. people can contact me @ lisa@hayburners.org or my phone is 978-838-9408 Thanks ! Lisa Terrell

Tails at the end of the Long Lines...

Happy Valentines Day CVDC!

We have a jam-packed newsletter this month! I received so many letters and articles from members; it was great! For next month please send me responses to the numerous "writing prompts" that members have come up with. Those would be great to hear about! ...And I know some of you keep telling me you will submit things and you haven't yet.... You all know who you are!

Also, I have created a new website for sharing my art with friends and family! Most of my work revolves around horses and farm life so I thought it would be relevant to mention this in the newsletter! Feel free to check out my work and shoot me an email once you've visited the site!

The web address is:

<http://www.freewebs.com/kristasartwork>

~Krista LaBella



Above is a pen drawing I created in 2006 called **Faithful Companion** (approximately 22 x 30").



Long Lines

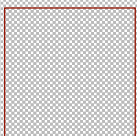
February 2008

www.cvdrivingclub.com

CVDC Photo Album!

www.flickr.com/cvdc

Be sure to add your photos. Password on front page of newsletter.



Connecticut Valley
Driving Club
c/o Krista Labella
370 Westchester Road
Colchester, CT 06415

