

Long Lines



August, 2009

Visit us on the web at:
www.cvdrivingclub.com

Club Photo Album:
www.flickr.com/cvdc

**Remember to renew
your membership if you
haven't already!**

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August Club Drive Set For August 15th

The CVDC Gardner's Drive in Rocky Hill will take place on August 15th, 2009. We will try to drive out between 10 and 10:30 AM. Please bring water for your horses, chairs and your lunch. We are trying to gain permission to use the west side of the farm. Gardner's owns the land East of their driveway only. (That means that last year we trespassed!) This is a nice level sandy area to drive and there are several loops. **Directions to Gardner's Nursery can be found on Page 5** of this issue. Questions? Please call Randy Sabatino 1-860-873-3894.

August 1st CVDC Meeting & Elections Part II

A Nutrena Representative / Equine Nutrition Consultant will be on hand to give an overview of feeding the driving horse. Let's get your horse on the right feeding program for YOUR INDIVIDUAL HORSE. Please come join us. Bring your potluck and bring your questions. Held at the East Haddam Grange at 6:30 PM. WE WILL BE VOTING for President and Vice-President. Directions to the grange are on our website: www.cvdrivingclub.com

Newport Coaching Weekend August 20-23

On Saturday, August 22 the Coaches line up on the grounds of the Elms in Newport, Rhode Island for a beautiful Coaching Demonstration. It starts somewhere around 10AM. The whips are introduced, and we are given a description of each coach and team. Many of our members try to attend this spectacular event. They bring cameras, chairs, blankets and picnic baskets. Some folks even dress up for the occasion. At the end of the demonstration we will gather on the steps of the Elms and decide on a place to have lunch. The Atlantic Beach Club worked well for us in the past. Transportation is on your own. Questions? I'll do my best. Randy Sabatino at 860-873-3894 or Cell 860-301-8662 or <http://www.newportmansions.org>



Newport Coaching. An elegant and exciting spectacle that only comes around every four years.

Directions are on Page 6 this issue.

Stonybrook Museum Trip - July 25th

- 👉 Bus leaves at **8:30 am on July 25th** from commuter parking lot on Route 372 at the I-91 intersection in Cromwell
- 👉 Bring your lunch or money to purchase one
- 👉 Seats still available!! Make check out to CVDC for \$38 per person

Contact Randy cowhill@hughes.net or 860-873-3894 ASAP to come, or for more info. Send payment to: Randy Sabatino, 23 Daniels Road, East Haddam, Ct. 06423

Calendar of Events 2009

August 1 – CVDC Mtg., 6:30p at the East Haddam Grange. Summer Potluck with Nutrena Representative / Equine Nutrition Consultant will be on hand to give an overview of feeding the driving horse.

August 1-2 -- Saratoga Classic Pleasure Show in Richmond, MA / more info at <http://www.saratogadriving.com/>

August 9- Summer Series Arena Driving Trial #2 – Divisions for Training, Preliminary, and Advanced levels will be offered. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. www.carriage-barn.com

August 9 – LHDC Sunday at John and Monica Ray's Rocky Pastures Farm at 11 a.m., richard_mangino@netzero.net

August 10-14- Kids Driving Clinic Week #3 – For Beginner & Intermediate Drivers ages 10 and up. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. www.carriage-barn.com

August 12-16- Walnut Hill Pleasure Driving Show, Pittsford, NY

August Lessons with Pam Pruitt! See Page 6

August 15 – CVDC Gardner's Nursery Picnic Drive, Cromwell, CT. Drive out 10 to 10:30. Bring picnics!

Directions on website: www.cvdrivingclub.com and on Page 5.

August 15- LHDC Clinic with Pam Pruitt at Lotta-Rock Farm, starting at 8a.m. richard_mangino@netzero.net

August 15- Trinity Stables Trace Pace www.trinitystable.com

August 20-23 – Newport Coaching Weekend (<http://www.newportmansions.org>) colorful, triennial celebration of horsemanship and elegance returns to Newport Rhode Island. **CVDC club members wishing to, will meet on Saturday August 22nd for carriage viewing (10:00 am) with happy hour & lunch to follow. Meet after viewing on steps of The Elms. Directions on Page 6**

August 26- Colonial Carriage Driving Society Meeting, Orleton Farm 6:45 pm, www.colonialcarriage.org

August 29 – 30 -- Rhode Island Carriage Days Pleasure Driving Show, Celtic Cross Farm, Dudley, MA. Labor Day Weekend. More info www.ridridingclub.org

September 12 – CVDC Potluck Mtg and Program, East Haddam, Grange. 6:30 pm. Carol Martin of Westfield Whip will come and talk to us about these magnificent and their fascinating history, and she will bring whips for people to buy following the talk.

September 12- Trinity Stables CDE www.trinitystable.com

September 16- Colonial Carriage Driving Society Meeting, Orleton Farm 6:45 pm www.colonialcarriage.org

September 18- Litchfield Hills Driving Club (LHDC) meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church with guest speaker Scott Monroe who will speak about walking a cones course and discussing the theory and technique behind driving a clear round.

September 20- Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club Driving Show, Genesee NY

September 20 – CVDC Cones Memorial Drive, East Haddam with lovely picnic on the hill. A favorite!

September 27- Introduction to Carriage Driving – Group Lessons Sundays from 1 to 4pm. carriage-barn@comcast.net

September 27 - LHDC Dirty Harness Drive, Lotta Rock Farm, richard_mangino@netzero.net

October 3-- -- CVDC Potluck Mtg. and Program at McCullough Farm, Lyme. Morgan babies!

October 4- Introduction to Carriage Driving – Group Lessons Sundays from 1 to 4pm. Space is limited so register early. Beginners welcome. Use our trained horses or bring your own. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. www.carriage-barn.com

October 11 -- CVDC Ride / Drive Pace at the lovely Lord Creek! Mark your calendars!

October 11- LHDC Drive at Amenia with Mark Borkoski. Contact richard_mangino@netzero.net

October 11- Colonial Carriage Driving Society- New Marlboro, Traditional Day of Driving, www.colonialcarriage.org

October 11- Introduction to Carriage Driving – Group Lessons Sundays from 1 to 4pm. Space is limited so register early. Beginners welcome. Use our trained horses or bring your own. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. www.carriage-barn.com

October 16- Litchfield Hills Driving Club (LHDC) meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, corner of North Street and Route 6, Plymouth, CT.

October 31 – Carriage Barn's Halloween Horse Show Fun show for The Carriage Barn's Riding & Therapeutic students with a Fall / Halloween theme. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. www.carriage-barn.com

October - LHDC drive TBA, richard_mangino@netzero.net

November 1- Halloween Carriage Classic – Open Fun show with a Fall / Halloween theme. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. www.carriage-barn.com

Nov 7 -- CVDC Mtg. Potluck Mtg at East Haddam Grange, 6:30p, with special guest – Dick Lahey Quiz Bowl

November 13- Litchfield Hills Driving Club (LHDC) meeting potluck and election, 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, corner of North Street and Route 6, Plymouth, CT.

November 15 – CVDC Drive, weather permitting

December 5 – CVDC Holiday Party at Marquerite Havber and Bob Dean's home.

June Election to be Continued at August Meeting

The nominating committee had made an extra effort to bring more information and availability to the members for this year's election, including communicating a slate some months before the election date and making absentee ballots available to those people unable to attend the June meeting. The committee did not want to lose sight of that goal in spite of last minute changes. We therefore decided to hold the election for the two positions we had candidates for and that the membership was aware. So, Marguerite Hayber was reelected secretary and Erica Robb was elected to replace Kathie Gregory as treasurer. We all wish Marguerite and Erica well and know they will make us proud.

The committee also decided to put off the **election of President and Vice President** until the **August meeting** so the slate could be announced to the members and absentee ballots could be made available. Jan Frick has put her hat in the president's ring while Jaye Winkler moved her hat from the treasurer's to the vice president's ring. At the moment, the slate is then Jan Frick for president and Jaye Winkler for vice president. Keep in mind that we are not only giving the members this time to know what is going on but to also allow them to nominate themselves or another member for these two posts. Below is the amended absentee ballot for those who want to exercise their right to vote but cannot attend the next meeting. If, for either position, you have a proposed candidate, not on the ballot, please ask them if they are willing to run and then contact Dick Mangino at 203-272-5257 to have their name added to the ballot.

If you cannot make the meeting fill out the **absentee ballot below** by circling your choices and mail it ASAP to Dick Mangino, 357 So. Brooksvale Rd., Cheshire, Ct. 06410 to be sure to be counted. For any questions, feel free to call Dick at 203-272-5257.

Submitter's Name: _____

Offices:

President: Committee's nomination- Jan Frick
Your suggested nomination- _____

Vice President: Committee's nomination- Jaye Winkler
Your suggested nomination- _____

GMHA CDE Volunteers Needed

Contact phone number correction 800-253-3030 or email rickfallon@wavecomm.com This is a three day event on August 20-23. So many shows are going by the wayside and we need volunteers to make this show a success in order to keep it on the calendar for years to come. So if you have ever wanted to visit Vermont plan a trip and come volunteer for a day or more.

Rick & Kathleen Fallon
Running Brook Farm Carriage Barn
1525 Bloodhill Rd
West Windsor, Vermont 05089
Largest selection of carts,
carriages and sleighs in the east!
www.runningbrookfarm.com



FOR SALE: 4yr old miniature Buckskin gelding.
Excellent companion, ride or drive. Healthy and sound.
\$1,000 or \$1,500 includes cart and harness. Contact:
rita66_2000@yahoo.com

THE PEPPER PROJECT – 3

Training the young horse to harness

Due to the change in publishing schedule for the newsletter, and because of the vast quantities of rain we've had, this is a "sidebar" episode, covering bits and teeth.

Last month, I attended, with several others, a nearby Myler biting seminar. This was a good way to learn about a horse's mouth, how different bits work, and how horses will try to work around a bit that is uncomfortable. The Mylers have created a robust line of bits to choose from, but the seminar is in no way a sell job; their goal is to educate, then let you decide what works best for you and your horse. I mention it here because the point is that your horse depends on YOU to get educated if you want the best performance from him. (Jeff Morse also has a good brief article about bits at www.green.meads.com.)

I've also learned a lot by watching several horses as they worked through bit issues. Several people at a recent clinic had a chance to try a "locking French link", and at an earlier clinic, others were urged to try a bit with less moving parts to reduce confusion. Different style, different shapes, different metals – the array is dizzying. As far as I can tell, finding the right bit is a matter of trial and error, art not science. Frustrating and fascinating at the same time. On the other hand, you can probably over-analyze the bit thing. The bit isn't what makes a horse perform better, it's better communication and training.

In addition to considering the bit, horses, especially growing youngsters, have teeth issues. Their teeth come in and fall out over a number of years, generally forming a complete set by age five (reportedly drafts and minis take longer). Horses are also unique in that their teeth wear down and continue to erupt throughout their lives. This means that their shape is constantly changing, leading to rough edges and sharp points. It is a good idea to have your horse's teeth checked and floated at least annually, and every six months for the first several years.

Some vets will float teeth, or you can locate a qualified equine dentist. The key word in either case is "qualified." Vets have to deal with a lot of topics, while an equine dentist does only teeth. A vet can sedate a horse if necessary, an equine dentist generally can't but may not need to. The one thing I have gathered, though, is that using power tools instead of files is a quick way to ruin horses' teeth, even to the point of having to put them down. So no power tools for me.

With Pepper, when we first started her on the long-lines, she was clearly more unsettled about going one direction than the other. A (careful) check with my thumb indicated that she had some sharp points on the outside of her teeth on the side opposite the turn, so she was probably objecting to the skin of her mouth coming into contact on that side. Since Cynthia has an equine dentist routinely come in the spring in any case, we looked forward to his arrival.

First off, let me tell you that I would not want Ron Ross' job. This is serious physical labor. Bad enough if you have to do one or two, but for a day's work, exhausting. And I was only watching! He had an enormous leather grooming halter, a rolling bucket of floating rasps in suds, and a mouth speculum. The goal with Pepper was really more to introduce her to the concept of having her teeth done, so I was anxious that she not be frightened by the process. No worries there. Ron went in to her stall quiet and friendly, looped the halter on her and felt her teeth. He stroked the roof of her mouth to keep her relaxed. When she took a step back, he stayed with her but let her drift, so she never felt trapped. Many horses seem to enjoy the rasping, so I wasn't surprised that she wasn't bothered by that process. Ron uses different sizes and angles of rasp so that he can appropriately handle each surface.

Then he put the speculum on her – it is a sort of mouth guard with hinges.

Continued on page 5...



The Pepper Project (Continued from Page 4)

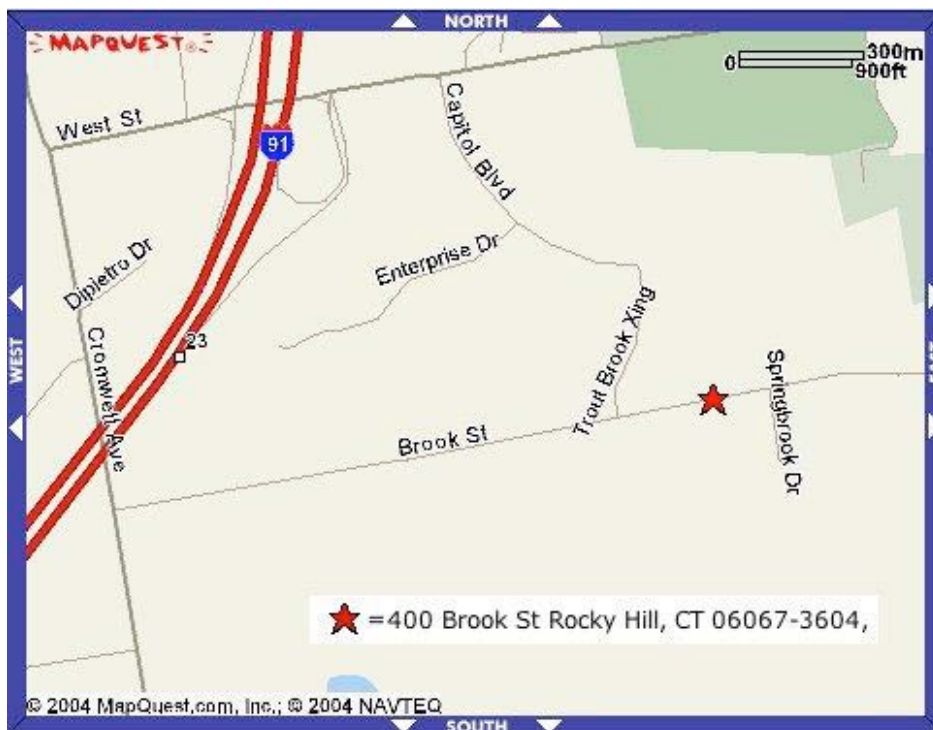
It is not intended to wrench open a horse's mouth, it is meant to provide support while keeping the mouth open so the dentist can see and feel the insides of the teeth all the way to the back (and that's a long way in). I was very impressed with how quietly and considerately Ron used the speculum. He slowly opened the hinge one click on each side, rest, one click, until Pepper's mouth was open just enough for his hand and arm to slip in. At first, she lowered her head and sagged a little bit, not sure what she should do with this new development. She blinked a lot, thinking, then seemed to decide it wasn't too bad. A few more rasps and she was done. There were a hundred places that this could have turned into an anxiety-ridden event, but careful and confident handling have probably set her up for a lifetime of easy floating.

Next month, we'll get back to our regular training program, including "making a mouth" (which is where all this talk of bits and teeth is headed).

Gardner's Nursery Directions

From Middletown going North on Route 9, get on 91 North and take Exit 23 (West Street) in Rocky Hill. Go **LEFT** at the end of the exit. If you are coming **from Hartford** on Route 91 South, take Exit 23 (West Street) in Rocky Hill. Go **RIGHT** at the end of the exit.

Then, (for both) Go **LEFT** at the stoplight onto Cromwell Avenue (Route 3). Pass over (under?) Route 91 and take a **LEFT** onto Brook Street. Gardner's Nursery will be down about 1/4 mile on your **RIGHT** at 400 Brook Street. Some of the Nursery has been sold for development so wait until John Miller explains our driving routes before you drive out. Bring your picnic lunch and water. Drive out will be at 10:30AM. Here is a map.



FOR SALE -

Zilco Pair Harness for 14.2-15.2 hand horses. Synthetic black with brass. It has all of the pieces to make a single harness too. It is not pretty, but it is just as strong and useable as day one. \$700.
860-873-3894

Directions to The Elms in Newport, RI.
NEWPORT COACHING – August 22nd, 10 am
 367 Bellevue Ave., Newport, RI 02840

From 395 in Connecticut

Take Exit # 85 to the stop sign. Go straight through that intersection to the next stop sign. Turn right onto Route 138 East. This is the Route that goes all the way to Newport so FOLLOW THE SIGNS. (take Route 138 through Voluntown, passing over Route 95, through Kingston, RI. Go to the light where Route 138 meets Route 1. You and Route 138 East will then turn left on Route 1 North. Go 3 miles until you see Route 138 East turning off to go to the Jamestown and Newport Bridges. Take that turn and go over the 2 BIG Bridges. (You will be required to pay a toll). At the end of the Newport bridge, get on 138A. Go through Newport until you see Bellevue Avenue. Turn right onto Bellevue, and look for The Elms on your right.

From Route 95 North in Connecticut, go into Rhode Island and take exit # 3. Turn onto Route 138 East and pick up the directions above from that point.

Directions from the Elms to the Atlantic Beach Club

It is on Memorial Blvd.

From the Elms, go North on Belluvue to Memorial Blvd. Go Right on Memorial Blvd. and go down towards the water. It will be just past the first beach you come to (Easton Beach) on the right. There is lots of parking there.



Krista LaBella driving Neal at CVDC Fun Day '09 with Craig Kellogg (THANKS to CVDC for sponsoring this lesson!!!)

Pam Pruitt Lessons in August

Pam Pruitt will once again be coming in August to give lessons. Don't miss the opportunity to have a lesson with Pam! They are \$65/1 hour each and will start at 8 a.m. and go until 4 p.m. Days available are August 9th, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22. All lessons will take place at Milestone Farm, 119 West St. in Hebron. In case of heavy rain, they will be held indoors at Iron Horse Farm in Colchester. Please call Anne Albee at 860-365-0295 at home or 860-416-3392 cell to set up your lesson with Pam.



Pam Pruitt is a past CVDC president, and among her many accomplishments, Pam, driving Cristal Belle Joy, won the 2000 AHSA National Single Horse Driving Championship held at the Fair Hill International CDE in Elkton, MD.

Sad Carriage Accident

Hi Driving Friends,

I am sad to pass the news that Rick Fallon has had a driving accident. Rick and Kathleen are OK, but Rick's beautiful team is dead. After Rick returned from a drive and was starting to unhitch, one horse rubbed the bridle off the other, which caused a run-away before Rick could react. The team ran through fences and down the road. When they were crossing a grassy dyke by a large pond the carriage fell into the pond and horses were pulled in after it. Both horses drowned.

A memorial fund is being collected to let Rick know how many friends in the driving world are thinking of him. Send your contribution to:

Martha Hunt
 251 Cowshed Trail Road
 West Windsor, VT 05089
 (802) 484-3780.
 mhunt4@gmail.com

Send your cards to:
 Rick and Kathleen Fallon
 1525 Blood Hill Rd
 West Windsor, VT 05089-9763



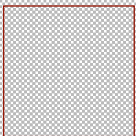
Long Lines

August 2009

www.cvdrivingclub.com

CVDC Photo Album!
www.flickr.com/cvdc

See front page of
newsletter for login
and password!



c/o Krista Labelia
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