

# Long Lines



December 1, 2007

## CVDC Holiday Party December 15<sup>th</sup>!!!

### New Web Address!

Visit us on the web at  
[www.cvdrivingclub.com](http://www.cvdrivingclub.com)

### CVDC Photo Album!

[www.flickr.com/cvdc](http://www.flickr.com/cvdc)  
Login: **ctvalleydrivingclub**  
password: **driveon**

### January Assignment:

Send me your driving learning experiences! See "New Driver Learning for a Friend" on page 3

### Notice:

Please submit any photos, articles, or news for January's newsletter by Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>!

### Long Lines Editor

Krista LaBella  
[deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net)

### CVDC Officers:

Pres., Andrée Duggan  
860-395-7283

VP, Herbert Dimeola  
860-875-9474

Treasurer, Kathie Gregory  
860-228-3801

Secretary, Jan Frick  
860-659-3991

The Red Mane Farm -- 6:30 p.m.

As the song goes, "it's that time of year...." so get ready and plan to attend a great evening of good cheer, good food, and the ever hilarious gift exchange.

Ray and Jan Frick of The Red Mane Farm will host this year's CVDC December holiday party for club members and guests. The festivities kick off with a scrumptious holiday pot luck supper starting at 6:30 pm. The main entree and beverages will be provided. Everyone should bring a dish to share, such as appetizers, salads, vegetables, desserts, or whatever your favorite holiday dish might be.



If you would like to get in on the fun with the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped item of approximately \$15 value. In the past, gifts have ranged from horse goodies to helpful things for around the barn, and everything else in between. This is also a great opportunity to recycle or re-gift something that you've just never quite figured out what to do with it! It makes the exchange more fun and exciting.

Please RSVP by December 14th by calling 860-659-3991 or email [raymond\\_n\\_frick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:raymond_n_frick@sbcglobal.net)

### Directions on next page

### Remembering 2007...

If you want to remember the past year, send Krista your driving photos from 2007 events! They will be put in the January Long Lines!

Here is Kathie Gregory driving her beautiful horse Dazzle with instructor Craig Kellogg- by James Duggan. (right)



## Winter-Spring Calendar of Events

### **December 15: 6:30 CVDC Holiday Party at Ray and Jan Frick's 860-659-3991**

December 16: Winter Soup Ride -Pachaug State Forest- Voluntown, Ct - Contact MaryAnn 860-885-1094 Cost \$10

January 5: GMHA Winter Sleigh Driving Series -South Woodstock, VT- Call ahead - Karey Manner, 802-457-1509

January 12: "Digestive Health Care" talk - Fox Ledge Farm, East Haddam, Ct. - at 3PM \$5 at door. Riding demos, door prizes and Vendors – questions? Contact Ann 860-873-8108

### **January 19: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30 pm, East Haddam Grange - details TBA**

January 19: GMHA Winter Sleigh Driving Series, South Woodstock, VT- Call ahead - Karey Manner, 802-457-1509

January 20: Winter Soup Ride- location TBA - Contact MaryAnn 860-885-1094. Cost \$10

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

### **February 16: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30 pm, East Haddam Grange - details TBA**

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

### **March 15: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30pm - details TBA**

### **April 19: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30pm - details TBA**

### **April 20: CVDC first drive at Wimler's in Guilford – details TBA**

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

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

### **May 18: CVDC drive TBA**

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

### **June 7: Connecticut Valley Driving Trial, Haddam Meadows; Contact Marguerite Hayber 860-267-6552**

### **June 8: CVDC Fun Day- details TBA**

## *CVDC Holiday Party Continued: Directions to The Red Mane Farm*

Jan and Ray Frick's Home

58 Main Street, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

Call 860-659-3991 if you get lost

Please note that Main Street in South Glastonbury is Route 17.

### **From the South:**

Take Route 17 north from Portland

58 Main is about 200 yards on the right after the sign that indicates "Glastonbury Town Line".

Turn right just before the white mailbox and follow the driveway all the way back through the woods until you see the red ranch house.

There is a circular drive and you can park in front.

There will be a CVDC sign with balloons to mark the driveway.

You will have gone too far if you start to pass by Draghi's Farm Stand on the right [low white and red buildings with lots of wreaths and trees].

Turn around in the parking lot and head back South.

The driveway will now be on the left [see directions from North].

### **From the North:**

Take Route 2 East and exit left onto Route 17 to Portland [just before exit 8 on Route 2]

Initially, Route 17 is a divided highway, but then becomes two lanes.

Continue through four traffic lights as you follow Route 17 south.

The Red Mane Farm is two miles past the fourth light.

58 Main is on the left immediately after Draghi's Farm Stand [low white and red buildings with lots of wreaths and trees].

There will be a CVDC sign with balloons to mark the driveway.

Turn left at the white mailbox and follow the driveway all the way back through the woods until you see the red ranch house.

There is a circular drive and you can park in front.

You will have gone too far if you see the welcome sign on Route 17 for "Portland".

Turn around safely at the next street or home and head back North. The driveway will now be on your right [see directions from South].

## Anne's Loong Ride...

Well, I lived to tell about it! My first 25 mile Competitive Trail Ride was November 4th, a longer and tougher ride than I've ever done. We arrived around 7 a.m. and waited for everyone to be vetted in. We had gone the day before for that as we only live 5 miles away. Some people came from Vermont and had quite a drive that morning.

When it was our turn, we tacked up and started out. We had been paired with a young woman from Colebrook, CT. Within the first mile, we missed a marker and got off course for a couple of minutes. We soon found the ribbons and were back on our way. Not too long after that, the other woman's horse lost a boot and had to stop. I continued on. She did catch up a few miles later. We came into the hold together, but that was the last I saw of her.

After our 20 minute hold and vet check, a bathroom break, and some nourishment, we were on our way again. I'll spare you the gory details, (too much information!) but suffice to say that, after a slip on the rocks and a tumble off, after remounting, and crossing the river four times (once almost losing my seat and grabbing leather so I wouldn't be swimming-not a talent of mine!) we finished our 25 miles!

After taking care of business, the horse and me, we scooted down to the awards ceremony, in the dark by lantern light! I was happy to find I won Rookie Rider AND 4th overall. We found out 14 or 15 riders had dropped out due to conditions. So thanking my crew, Pat Gilbert and Jack, and friend/mentor, Robin Malkasian, I retired at 7:30 pm, tired to the bone, but a happy camper- er, rider!

-Anne Albee

## New Driver Learning for a Friend



New member Rita Bellinger gained an interest in driving when her friend Brenda, an active rider, was injured in an accident. Brenda cannot ride anymore, but she can drive! Rita plans on harness training her miniature horse for her friend, but she needs guidance from experienced members of the club. Here is what Rita has to say...

"I've attached a photo of my mini Bucky and my friend Brenda who I'm going to train him [to drive] for. Maybe members can track and/or coach my progress. I'm sure I need all the help I can get.

Bucky's 5 years old (gelded at 4). He's 36" tall about 44" long and 50" around (he needs to lose that belly). He's currently a therapy animal and has gone into schools and nursing homes. He looks just like a mini Fjord-doesn't he?

I would enjoy hearing stories of how people got started in driving and any recommendations they'd have for someone starting out. Maybe so I could learn from their experience and avoid some common mistakes."



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 driver Rita, but for the benefit of the entire club! As we all know, safety is very important when driving! (email Krista: [deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net) with submissions)

**Top left:** Rita Bellinger's mini "Bucky" with friend Brenda  
**Bottom Left:** Krista LaBella driving her Morgan gelding Fauinox Cornealius "Neal" bitless

## Pam Pruitt Recovering

By Anne Albee

I wanted to let all members know that my dear friend Pam is recuperating from her accident. So many people have called me, I have hardly been able to keep up and thought this might be the way to let everyone know.

Well known and respected carriage driver and trainer, Pam Pruitt, was seriously injured in an accident November 11th. She is now recuperating at home. In addition to our prayers for a speedy recovery, a fund is being set up for donations to help with medical and everyday expenses until Pam is back on her feet. Donations in any amount are welcome and may be sent payable to Pam Pruitt, c/o Anne Albee, 28 Starr Road, Colchester, CT 06415." Any other questions, please email me privately. Thank you all. -Anne [storytella@comcast.net](mailto:storytella@comcast.net)

From Durham, CT originally and recently Aiken, (Wagener) SC, most of us know Pam as the petite woman with the big personality (and good humor!) who gives generously of her time and knowledge to help others with their horse problems or just give a hand at a show to anyone in need.



Lord Creek 2007 Winners

## Who Was Halloween Really for in 2007?

By Art and Pat Bishel

For most of the year we live in Steeplechase, a 2000 acre former cattle ranch divided in the early 1990's into 5 acre lots in north central Florida (near Ocala and Gainesville). This area has turned into a friendly and interesting equine community. Most of the residents ride and/or drive horses, ponies, minis and even a donkey or two, within the limerock trails in the 53,000 acre Goethe State Forest which abuts Steeplechase.

We often drive and ride together informally, and in the week before Halloween it was suggested that we celebrate by driving or riding around the neighborhood starting at 4 pm on Sunday, October 28th. We formed our own groups and set out at the same time, doing our own tour. Whoever wanted to give out treats would put a pumpkin on the mailbox. Since we all wanted to participate in riding or driving, we just left two containers of treats at our mailboxes on the road. One was full of candy and the other was full of apples, carrots and horse treats.

Off we went at 4 pm, out the driveway. We started at one end of the street with our Standardbred, Cinder and joined two riders and two other drivers, one of which was in costume. We hit the mailboxes for about five miles around the neighborhood. Since our little group was either mounted or keeping the horse or pony under control, Art volunteered to jump out of the carriage at every stop and gather enough loot for everyone. This took some added time and Cinder learned to hang around calmly after about 2 hours and five plus miles.

We each headed home after our loop around the neighborhood. Having tucked in the equines with their bellies full of treats, we headed for a neighborhood supper gathering at one of the homes (where even the "Grim Reaper" had passed out treats) for good conversation and a most interesting spooky meal. So! Who was Halloween really for this year?



## Synopsis of November's Meeting...

Our November meeting was well attended and our pot luck dinner varied - delicious! Sandy Rabinowitz entertained us with stories of how her life has revolved around horses and art and how she successfully combined the two. She showed us some of her art, and even created a couple of "sandyhorses" right before our eyes (which will be auctioned off at the holiday party as donations for Pam Pruitt). [photo right] She brought excellent cards and posters of her designs to sell. Also available for purchase were copies of her book "Driven Dressage with the Single Horse". Thank you Sandy for a wonderful presentation!

Herb Dimeola, masterfully presided over the CVDC meeting as Andrée was under the weather. (He told me that he does meetings all of the time.) We had a few guests present so we all introduced ourselves.

Jan Frick read us the September minutes. (There was no October meeting.) Kathie Gregory gave us expense breakdowns of the CVDT and the Lord Creek Drive/Ride.

I reported that our Hammonasset Drive had a lower turnout than usual, but those present enjoyed an unexpectedly beautiful day. Our lunch included hot soup by Bunny Joseph and Ann and Ed Sullivan's barbequed delights.

Jan and Ray Frick have once again graciously extended an invitation to the CVDC membership to hold their CVDC Holiday Party at the Frick's house.

Bill Lawson reported on the activity on the American Driving Society booth at the 2007 Equine Affair. He said that they signed up 10 new ADS members, and that our own Marguerite Hayber won the ADS membership raffle! Bill explained that the ADS is interested in recreational drivers as well as competitive drivers.

Nancy Lawson told us that the 2008 Connecticut Valley Driving Trial will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling advertising space and finding sponsors to help finance the Trial. Anne Albee and Pat Gilbert volunteered to head up a sponsorship committee.

If you know any organization, or individual, who may want to sponsor a class or an obstacle, that can supply flowers, or would like to post a banner on the grounds, please let Anne or Pat know ASAP.

Anne Albee told us that member Pam Pruitt was injured in a carriage accident. With major injuries to her arm, head and jaw she will probably be out of work for awhile. The CVDC membership voted to send Pam \$500.00 to help her meet expenses. Richard Mangino told us that the Litchfield Hills Driving Club also donated \$500 for Pam.

Anne told us that the Connecticut Horse Council is planning to purchase land that would connect the Quinnebaugh and W. Thompson trail systems. Please let your politicians know that you support this very important land acquisition.

We all cheered on editor Krista LaBella for an excellent Long Lines newsletter. Way to go Krista! If you have any news that you would like to share, PLEASE contact Krista. As Anne always said, "No one ever sends me Long Lines food."

## CVDC Sends Maggie Sullivan to Attend a Lisa Singer Clinic

Dear CVDC,

Thank you so much for sending me to the Lisa Singer Clinic held by the Carriage Barn. My mom and I had a great time.

When we arrived, late on Friday night, it was freezing. We quickly put Riena in her stall and parked near the house. Because I was sent by the club, Ann Miles, the owner of the Carriage Barn, let us stay in one of the guest rooms of her home. (The Carriage Barn has camp for kids in the summer and those kids stay at the house- because of this the upstairs of has 5 rooms set up like a dorm.)



Maggie driving Riena with Lisa

The next day we got up early to unhook and unload the carriage. My time was 9:15. We harnessed and warmed up before entering the arena. I drove for a little, and then Lisa asked to drive her. So she drove for a bit and then we had my mom move the bit. Lisa had her change the left side from rough cheek to the first slot, whilst leaving the right side on rough cheek. Then we drove more working on collecting and our frame. Then I drove her. We continued to work on our frame and collections. Then we drove lengthenings and extensions. And then our time was up. We watched most of the other lessons and I worked on homework. That night we had dinner at one of the condos in Jacob's Village. Ann Miles builds housing and equine communities, and Jacob's Village is her current project. The dinner was with the participants of the clinic, some of the auditors, and Lisa. Some questions were asked and there was much discussion.

On Sunday morning, I got up to feed and then went back to bed until the lessons started. My time wasn't until 2:45. My mom and I watched lessons for awhile and then I rode Riena. Because she had been inside for a while, we decided it would be good for her to work a little beforehand- there was a cute cross rail course in the outdoor arena and we hadn't jumped in awhile. Then we harnessed up and went to our lesson. We warmed up and then worked with cones. Lisa set up a 20 meter circle with 4 sets of cones. She had us drive it like a square. Then we made circles in the circle of cones, outside the circle of cones, changing through the circle and changes of direction though other means. Then we worked on a line of cones getting through them by looking at the right cone, or if on a circle the outside cone. I was told after that the line of cones shrunk so the last one was the width of my carriage. And then the day was over. We put Riena away and loaded the carriage. Then we packed up and loaded Riena. We said goodbye to Ann and Lisa and left for the three hour drive home.

I know that I am fortunate to have the support of my local club and I want to thank you all again for making it possible for me to go.

You can learn more about Carriage Barn and see future clinics at <http://www.carriage-barn.com>

Sincerely,  
Maggie Sullivan and Riena

## Lyme Program Being Planned

By Andrée Duggan

If you're around horses in Connecticut for any length of time you're going to become very familiar with tick-borne illnesses. Many in our club have either contracted an illness themselves (sometimes more than once) or have had someone close get Lyme Disease or watch a close equine friend get sick or even die. Pam Pruitt lost her beloved Chrissy to Ehrlichia seemingly overnight. It's a very scary thing. In the last month I have witnessed three friends treating their horses with Doxy and my vet treated my pony with a short course as a preventative. When we moved to our new home she was covered with Deer Ticks before we knew what was happening.

So what to do? I'm working with Randy Sabatino so that one of our winter programs can bring us the latest news in prevention and treatment of tick-borne illnesses. Reported cases of Lyme have doubled since the 90's, and most cases are concentrated in 10 States, Connecticut being one of them.

If you have a Lyme experience you would like to share, or a promising method of prevention that's working for you, please send me an e-mail: [andree@betterdaysalliance.org](mailto:andree@betterdaysalliance.org)

## President's Letter: Wish List for 2008

Winter Greetings,

Do you have a wish you'd like to add to the CVDC Wish List for 2008? Maybe you have an idea for a great clinic. Or perhaps you would like to learn more about something and want to plan a special program. Maybe you have an idea that could add greatly to one of our events.

Bring your idea to the January club meeting and introduce it during New Business. If there's one thing I've learned about this club, wishes can come true. There's a lot of freedom here to try new things – and always a willing membership to support and encourage you along the way.

Happy Holidays Everyone – and I hope to see you at the upcoming party at Ray and Jan's on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

See you soon,

Andrée Duggan



Anne Albee w Britty, Ride for the Cure  
Thanks to all who donated!



Randy Sabatino & Daughter team win!



Dig those socks and matching boots  
We know who you belong to!

## Club Advertisements ...

## Coming in 2008....

**For Sale:** Metal gates: 2-12ft., 1-8ft. Reasonable. Call Dick Mangino @203-272-5257

**Wanted:** harness and cart for 36" mini. Contact Rita Bellinger (860) 204-9314/ rita66\_2000@yahoo.com

[www.northeastcarriagedriving.com](http://www.northeastcarriagedriving.com)

The regional website for driving!

- Driving Calendar - Resource Page -
- Driving Club Links - Classifieds -
- Competition Sources - Newsletter -



**For Sale:** 2 sleigh blankets. One is a tagged Chase the other one looks very much like a Chase but has no tag. \$75 each. Contact Carolyn Lemoine @ 508-278-5170



### Notes about November's Meeting...

It was a pleasant surprise to see Mary Jean Vasiloff at our November meeting. She is the owner of McCulloch-Whippoorwill Morgan Farm in Old Lyme, Ct. and a founding member of the Connecticut Valley Driving Club. It is special to have a founding member in attendance. Thank you for coming Mary Jean.

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

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

### Tails at the end of the Long Lines...

Wow! I have so much to say this month! First I want to say thank you to all of the members! I received so many emails with "food" for the newsletter. Keep this up everyone, without you there is no news. Also, please take notice to your next assignment (page 3!) I think it would be very helpful for all drivers to learn from other's experiences. (Finally I am giving the assignments instead of having professors assign them to me!) Also, other members suggested that we start "How I started Driving?" stories, so if anyone is interested in participating in this, please email me.

As for driving this month, I was fortunate enough to drive "new" horses for a change of pace. First, I helped Randy with her pair of pinto horses. She let me take the reins a couple of times. This was an exciting experience for me. Driving two horses is definitely different than driving one! (And it's more work!) Then, because my boy threw a shoe, I drove an off-the-track standardbred in a bitless AND open bridle. Yup, that's right he didn't wear blinkers or a bit. Crazy? Maybe, but I trusted the "trainer's" judgment. I was a little unsure what to expect of this horse because I never had driven him before- but he was an angel. He was actually quite boring. He was better behaved and calmer than my Morgan. I was so surprised! Basically, the point I am trying to make is that some horses are smarter and better behaved than we think. I'm not saying that all horses should be driven bitless and in an open bridle because obviously that would not work in most cases, but for this horse- it works!

It is good to get out and drive other horses once and awhile, take some lessons, and drive with other people to learn new things. But, in the end, it all makes me appreciate my own horse even more. There is only one of him and he isn't boring. - Krista LaBella, Editor





# Long Lines

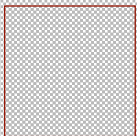
December 2007

[www.cvdrivingclub.com](http://www.cvdrivingclub.com)

**CVDC Photo Album!**

[www.flickr.com/cvdc](http://www.flickr.com/cvdc)

Login: ctvalleydrivingclub  
password: driveon



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