Long Lines

Connecticut Valley Driving Club

January 1, 2007

New Web Address!
Visit us on the web at
www.cvdrivingclub.com

CVDC Photo Album!
www.flickr.com/cvdc
Login: **ctvalleydrivingclub**
password: **driveon**

February Assignments:
Send in your stories…
"How I started driving"
And "beginner learning experiences (which also pertain to experienced drivers)"…

Notice:
Please submit any photos, articles, or news for February's newsletter by Jan. 27th!

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2008 Driving Forum in Massachusetts…

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.

The Driving Forum's Linda Roth with CVDC's Andree Duggan at GMHA's Summer CDE.

The Driving Forum is the number one event for carriage drivers! There will be conferences with experts, a trade show, and people who share the same interest in driving.

This event is a good place to learn more about driving, harness fitting, and general equine knowledge- whether you are a beginner or expert driver. It is also an excuse to go shopping for that new cart or harness you need but have been putting off since last year!

There are approximately 18 different trainers and carriage drivers who will be speaking at the event this year including: Jeff Morse on elementary driving, Scott Monroe the US singles driving champion, and Heike Bean, a trainer who once taught at Xenophon farm in Hampton, Connecticut. Also, some of the exhibitors include Running Brook Farm Carriage Barn, Griffenbrook Ltd, DD Rapps, Driving Digest, New England Carriage Imports, and the American Driving Society.

There is a group of dedicated individuals who make this event happen for the carriage driving public. These people are… Barbara Adelman the Driving Forum's editor and writer. LoLisa Windover is in charge of finding guest speakers and helps with organizational management. Gale Hepfinger makes the schedules and assists with general show issues. Gail and Laurence Williamson are volunteers. And the administrators are Linda Jacoba Roth and her husband David Trubey. All of the organizers are dedicated horse people who ride and/or drive their horses.

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

In this Long Lines…

- Farming with Horses
- Kicking Straps
- Sleighing News
- President's Letter
- Winter- Spring Calendar

Winter-Spring Calendar of Events

January 18: Litchfield Hills Driving Club meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church – Program features a Horse Appraiser. Contact richard_mangino@netzero.net

January 19: CVDC Potluck meeting with program, 6:30 pm, East Haddam Grange – 2008 Planning

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

January 20: Colonial Carriage & Driving Society Sleigh Rally, Orleton Farm, Stockbridge, MA Contact: Harvey Waller (413) 298-3119 hwaller562@aol.com

January 24 – 26: CAA/Colonial Williamsburg Carriage Symposium The Carriage Association of America (CAA) and Colonial Williamsburg are proud to join forces in presenting a symposium on carriage building. The event will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia.

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 Verdoy 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.easternctdrafthorse.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 18: Litchfield Hills Picnic Drive- White Memorial, Contact richard_mangino@netzero.net

May 25-26: 2nd Annual Northeast Campout and Drive at Escoheag over Memorial Day weekend with Rhode Island Driving Club and CT Valley Driving Club (to be confirmed)

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

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 @ deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net

Dear Members, is there anyone our 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. –Randv

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

Book Review: Farming with Horses: An informative book on how to use your harness horse around the farm or in the garden…

Farming with Horses by Steve Bowers and Marlen Steward

This is a great book for those in our club who have ever thought about using their driving horse around the farm or in the garden. But as it turns out, it's also a really great read for the general driver. Here are some reviews:

"First look - I THOUGHT I wasn't interested - but a look through - a WEALTH of information for singles - pairs - three abreast - tandems - fours---collar fit - rein handling (great photos) - harness types etc, etc. This is book is done by the guy (who we all just recently lost) who has the bicycles all hitched together - so you get the effect of driving a four in hand! Lots of thought and information went into this - and there is something for everyone - even those who think they know it all! How do you measure for collars? (He shows you!) - harness tips - safety – it's a great read." Review by Carole Wallace in ice and snow covered Mid-Missouri.

"[It's] the first book I have read of any kind that is so thorough in its presentation and easy to understand. Once I started reading it, I had a hard time putting it down … One day I hope to have the pleasure of meeting the two gentlemen responsible for such an interesting and informative book." -- Rural Heritage

"If seeing is believing, this lavishly illustrated book will make a believer out of you. Every page is packed with professionally composed color photographs illustrating every point of instruction. Very useful information and well presented. If you're considering farming with horses spend some time studying up with this book." -- Farm Collector

This book is available through amazon.com or via special order from your local book store.

The Kicking Strap – A Cheap Insurance Policy…

A Discussion Stream Courtesy CD-L: Carriage Driving Listserv

Along with your helmet, a kicking strap is the cheapest insurance you can buy! How long you'll need it? Well, I drive with one- every horse, every drive at home. Doesn't matter which horse, even the older tried and true. Just like my helmet: every horse, every time.

To look at kicking straps go here: http://snipr.com/1vle3
This is the best one on the market @ $36 + $5 shipping

Jeff Morse
Carriage Training & Morgan Horses
Green Meads Farm: Richmond, MA
www.green.meads.com

Left: A Kicking Strap discourages a horse from bucking while between shafts. In the event of a buck, it keeps downward pressure on the horse's hind end and helps prevent a leg from hitting the cart of coming up over the shaft. It should pass over the rump just behind the highest point of the rump and be tight enough to allow no more than one hand width (3 to 4 inches) of slack above the hip. It should have freedom to move from side to side without pulling on the crupper.

Sleighing News in New England

Randy Sabatino and Marguerite Hayber sleighing (with Randy's pinto horse) on a cool winter day.

Sleigh Rally in Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Harvey Waller is having a sleigh rally at his farm in Stockbridge, Mass. on 1/20/08 (pending snow) For details go to
CANCELLED

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 their lovely indoor arena. Taste the thrill of timed events, gallop to the frozen finish line. Spectators encouraged.

http://www.carriage-barn.com

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 sleighing 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 Jan. 19, 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 Sleighing & Mock Sleigh Rally at the Carriage Barn, NH

"Join other sleighing enthusiasts for an afternoon of fun in the sun and snow. We will have an introduction to Sleighing and mock "sleighing" 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 "sleighing" 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

February 17th & 24th – A Day of Sleighing at the Carriage Barn (New Hampshire)

Noon to 3pm. Join other sleighing 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 sleighing. Private lessons available. If you would like to attend, please contact to The Carriage Barn at 603-378-0140 or by email at carriage-barn@comcast.net

President's Letter…

Dear CVDC Members,

I hope you can make it to our mid-winter January 19th meeting at the East Haddam Grange. We will be discussing the upcoming year of possibilities.

We have some interesting options:

- Spring clinic at High Hopes
- Spring camping trip with RI Driving Club
- Monthly Drives & Programs
- CT Valley Driving Trial & Fun Day
- CVDC Parade of Carriages in Essex
- Sherwood Cone Memorial Drive
- Fall Drive Ride Pace

Please come to help prioritize, imagine, and suggest what the club should be doing in 2008.

Three confirmed programs we have on tap beginning next month include:

- Barefoot Trimming the Driving Horse with Judy Reiss and Sarah Block
- Large Animal Rescue with Donna and Jeff Lord
- Lyme Panel on Treatment and Prevention

So bring your best mid-winter meal, pack your hot chocolate, and don't forget your ideas and open mind!

See you soon,

Andree Duggan

December Meeting
2007 Holiday Party Synopsis

Thank you to Ray and Jan Frick who hosted the 2007 holiday party! It was a fun time! The annual CVDC holiday party was held in place of December's meeting. It was a cold Saturday night and a serious snow storm was predicted for the evening. This kept some, but not all members at home. Despite the storm warning there were enough members attending to keep the tradition alive and participate in the holiday festivities of a pot luck supper and gift exchange. And fortunately, the snow held off until late in the evening so members were able to drive home well before a storm.

Coming in 2008….

www.northeastcarriagedriving.com

The regional website for driving!
- Driving Calendar -
- Resource Page -
- Driving Club Links - Classifieds -
- Competition Sources -
- Newsletter -

Tails at the end of the Long Lines…

First I would like to say sorry for the newsletter being late this month! I was away and unable to use my computer, in combination with Andree being busy! Later though, while I was looking up information for this newsletter I became very interested in sleighing. There are numerous sleigh rallies happening in the northeast- and I have never been to one or even heard of one until recently. I have never been in a sleigh. I know nothing about sleighs, or how to drive a horse that is hitched to a sleigh. It seems so much more dangerous than carriage driving because of the runners, sliding and ice. And what if it's the wrong kind of snow? Is there a wrong kind of snow? Basically, I am clueless, especially about sleigh rallies. (If anyone would like to shoot me an email with information, I would definitely read it and print it in the next newsletter. I could just look things up online- but I would rather here from "real" people.)

Also, I am very interested in the Driving Forum that is going to be taking place. This too is new to me; I have never heard of the Driving Forum before, but it sounds to me like a small Equine Affaire just for carriage drivers… which has to be a wonderful thing!

Anyway, Happy New Year all! And don't forget to send me stories for the newsletter or anything else that you would like to include!

Krista LaBella

Long Lines

January 2008

www.cvdrivingclub.com

CVDC Photo Album!
www.flickr.com/cvdc

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

c/o Krista LaBella
370 Westchester Road
Colchester, CT 06415