

Long Lines



January 1, 2009

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

Club Photo Album:
www.flickr.com/cvdc
Login: ctvalleydrivingclub
password: driveon

Do you have any member news you would like to share with the CVDC? Do you have any pictures, advertisements, events, show results, or perhaps a story you would like to submit? Help Krista keep the long lines interesting and informative. Email deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net

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Reminder: CVDC Changes Monthly Meeting Dates to First Saturday!

CVDC has voted to move its monthly meetings to the first Saturday of the month, except in the event of holidays, and its monthly drives to the second Saturday or Sunday of the month. **Please note that there will be no meeting in the month of January.** Meetings will pick up again on February 7th, details on page 2 of newsletter.

Jeff Morse Spring Carriage Driving Clinic

CVDC will be holding a Jeff Morse "Spring Tune-Up" clinic on March 15 at High Hopes in Lyme. Lesson spots are 45 minutes long and can focus on anything driving related, from harnessing and hitching, to ground driving, to regular driving in the carriage. The cost for members is \$60 and the cost for non-members is \$80. **January 20th is the deadline for "first-dibs" CVDC members** who are interested in taking a lesson. After January 20th



Jeff Morse driving SBS Risky Business
Photo by: John Miller ~ www.spectrumphotography.net

the spots will be opened up to any other clubs and non-members who are interested. So, take advantage of this great opportunity and ensure your spot with Jeff Morse before it's too late! Lesson spots are filling up quickly! For more information on this clinic, see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.



Above: CVDC Members and the holiday feast at the 2008 Party hosted by Fred and Cynthia Bliven
Photos by Marguerite Hayber

Driving Events 2009 -Mark Your Calendars

January 3 – NO CVDC MEETING in January

January 3 – GMHA Sleigh/Rally Combined Test, Dressage & Cones, So. Woodstock, VT www.gmhainc.org

January 10 – Rhode Island Driving Club 12th Night Party, 6pm Mansfield, MA www.ridivingclub.org

January 13 – North East Ski Joring Race 12:00 - 4:00 New London NH

January 14-18 – American Driving Society, Spring Board Meeting & USEF Meeting, Cincinnati Ohio Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel. www.americandrivingsociety.org

January 17 – GMHA Sleigh Rally, So Woodstock, VT

January 29-31 – Carriage Association of America Learning Weekend, Weirsdale, FL www.caaonline.com

January 31 – GMHA Sleigh Rally/Combined Test, AM Dressage & PM Cones, So. Woodstock, VT

February 7 – CVDC Mtg. 6:30, Potluck at East Haddam Grange, Program: Conditioning the driving equine

February 7 – GMHA Sleigh Rally, So. Woodstock, VT

February 14-15 – New England Region Carriage Association of America Annual Meeting VT

February 15 – Sunday 10:00 AM Brunch RIDC General Meeting and Planning Meeting for 2009 Events, Details TBA

February 21 – GMHA Sleigh Rally Combined Test, AM Dressage & PM Cones, So. Woodstock, VT

March 7 – CVDC Mtg. Program at East Haddam Grange TBA

March 7 – Frostbite Arena Driving Trial I at the Carriage Barn, Newton, NH

March 13 – RIDC 7pm Coachman's Delight, 206 East Main Street, Milford, MA RSVP Andy Marcoux (508) 782-1720 www.coachmansdelight.com

March 15 – JEFF MORSE CVDC Spring Tune-Up CARRIAGE DRIVING CLINIC, 8:00am – 5:30pm, High Hopes, Lyme, CT contact Marguerite Hayber, marguerite@hayber.us 860-267-6552. Jan 20th deadline for CVDC Members to get first dibs on clinic.

March 21 – Frostbite ADT II

April 4 – CVDC Mtg. Program at East Haddam Grange TBA

April 4 – Frostbite ADT III

April 25-26 – (Pennsylvania) Martin's Annual Spring Consignment Auction, Lebanon, PA (717)354-6671

April 12 – RIDC TENTATIVE Borderland State Park Recreational Drive 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton, MA www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/borderland/

April 18 – CVDC Spring Picnic Drive. TBA

May 2 – CVDC Potluck Mtg and Carriage Program at Peter Von Halem's Farm, Bozrah.

May 9-10 – Green Mountain Horse Association DRIVING TWO-PHASE & ADT South Woodstock, VT Contact: Karey Manner, W: 802-457-1509 kmanner@gmhainc.org

May 16-17 – Northeast Recreational Drive & Campout at Arcadia Wildlife Management Area, Escoheag Hill Road, Escoheag, RI Contact: Cat Luce (508) 384-5198

May 16 – 17 – CVDC and RIDC Camping Trip and Ride/Drive at Escoheag. Details forthcoming.

May 29-31 – Garden State CDE, New Jersey

June 6 – CT Valley Driving Trial, see ADS Omnibus for details or www.americandrivingsociety.org

June 7 – CT Valley Fun Day Clinics with Lisa Singer and Craig Kellogg. Details forthcoming.

June 7 – Northampton Driving Society 23rd annual Pleasure Driving Competition NY

June 13-14 – Eden Hill Pleasure Driving Show, Stockbridge, MA www.colonialcarriage.org

June 17-20 – Carriage Association of America Conference, Morven Park, Leesburg, VA www.caaonline.com

June 20-21 – RIDC Two-Day Carriage Driving Clinic with Craig Kellogg, Details TBA

June 26-28 – Bromont Combined Driving Event, Bromont, Quebec, Canada

June 27 – CVDC Potluck Mtg @ HEAP award-winning Milestone Farm – tour and program with HEAP expert on setting up and running a green farm. Hebron

July 11 – CVDC Fun Summer Activity

July ? – TBA VT Morgan Heritage Days, Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, MA, Open Carriage Show on Sunday

July ? – TBA New England Morgan Horse Show, MA

July 18-19 – Lorenzo Carriage Driving Competition, Cazenovia, NY

July 26 – Colonial Carriage & Driving Society Fun Day at Orelton Farm, Stockbridge MA

July 27-28 – East Aurora Driving Show, East Aurora NY www.eastaurodrivingsociety.org

Calendar of Events Continued...

August 1 – CVDC Mtg., 6:30p and Program at Bill and Nancy Lawson's Farm, Durham. Barn Safety program with Center Aisle potluck dinner!

August 8 – CVDC Drive TBA

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

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 at The Elms with CVDC happy hour & lunch.

September 5 -- CVDC Mtg. Program and location TBA

September 5-6 – Rhode Island Carriage Days Pleasure Driving Show, Celtic Cross Farm, Dudley, MA

September 20 – Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club Driving Show, Geneseo NY

September 20 – CVDC Cones Memorial Drive, East Haddam.

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

Oct 11 -- CVDC Ride / Drive Pace, location TBA

Oct 18 or 25 – CVDC Drive, TBA

Nov 15 – CVDC Drive, weather permitting

Dec 5 – CVDC Holiday Party at Marguerite Hayber and Bob Dean's home.

Response to December's: Connecticut Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

I read the Anne Albee's article in our CVDC Dec. Newsletter that requested our participation in the CT planning for statewide bike and pedestrian routes that are to be created as an alternative to cars.

I went to the website and the DOT and their team of consultants has the nerve to suggest that the plan would be drawn up for alternatives to cars, **not recreational users, such as horses!**, stating and I quote, "The primary purpose of the Plan is to promote and encourage bicycle and pedestrian activity as a means of transportation. Typically, transportation routes are considered linear in nature and used as a means to get from here-to-there." That got my blood up since we CVDC members would like nothing better than to commute to work with a horse and carriage, and I look forward to the day when gas prices again make people turn to the four legged precursor to the horseless buggy. DOT has provided a little box at <http://www.ctbikepedplan.org/contactus.html> where you are permitted to comment on the changes that you would like to see proposed to the plan. I dashed off a comment as below. Please consider adding your own thoughts on why horses need to be included as transportation in Connecticut. There will be only three more meetings of the planners before the project is complete!!! And one is coming up on Dec. 16th, which gives us a chance to get comments in for that agenda.

The Plan's revisions should recognize that horses are a means of transportation that predate and represent an improvement over bicycles for most of Connecticut's horse owning population. Connecticut is unusual in that it has one of the largest horse owning populations in the country. The horse owning population includes many people who drive their horses attached to a carriage that can hold several people at once. Carriages have functioned in the United States as a means of transportation since the 1600's. It is entirely possible for a Mother to drive her children to school or a husband to drive his wife to the train station to commute (by train) to an urban area to work. This would happen more often if the trails that are suitable for pedestrians segregated the bicyclists from pedestrians and horses.

Finally, horses are greener than motorized vehicles, cheaper to operate, and are an alternative that connects people to nature without being exclusively for the athletic and fit segment of the population that is in truth who ride bicycles now.

Thank you for including equine transportation needs in your plans.

Jaye Winkler

Mint Farm, Glastonbury, Jaye_Winkler@post.harvard.edu

New Contractor for Wildwood Stables in Acadia

Submitted by Anne Albee

The bid was won by Michael Carpenter of Houlton, Maine, and former Maine Attorney General. A quick Google search yielded this information and one news article: Carriages of Acadia, Inc., has been selected as the new concessionaire at Acadia's Wildwood Stables to provide horse-drawn carriage tours, horse boarding, day use facilities, and services for visiting equestrians under a new ten-year concession contract. The contract becomes effective January 1, 2009. Carriages of Acadia, Inc., is a newly formed corporation headed by Michael Carpenter, who owns a horse boarding facility in northern Maine. Operating dates for 2009 are June 6 to October 18, 2009. For information, contact Carriages of Acadia, P.O. Box 1406, Houlton, Maine 04730. For employment information, call 207-532-2232

Reservations for overnight stabling begin on January 1, 2009. Effective January 1, 2009, the new telephone number will be 877-276-3622.

High Medication Prices

At the last meeting, Dr. Palka spoke about Cushings Disease and other related illnesses and mentioned the high cost of some of the medications. This week I came across a business here in Cheshire that could be a good source of many different large and small animal drugs at a very reasonable cost. The information is below and I would suggest to anyone interested that they contact them and get some of their literature.

Prescription Specialties, Compounding Pharmacy, David E. Gaudio R.Ph., Pharmacy Director and President, 1-800-861-0933 / 203-250-0445 Phone, 203-272-2926 FAX, 555 Highland Ave., Rte.10, Cheshire, Ct. 06410 www.rxspecialties.com / info@rxspecialties.com

Let me know if you need any more information. Good luck, Dick Mangino 203-272-5257

Webcasts on Managing Pastures and Manure Jan 13, Feb 10, March 10

Submitted by Anne Albee

MAKE YOUR 2009 NEW YEARS RESOLUTION TO CLEAN UP YOUR HORSE'S ENVIRONMENT

Free webcast series helps equestrians manage horse pastures and manure

November 17, 2008, East Lansing, MI - Equine experts give you advice and answer your questions on how to get the most productivity from your horse pastures and manage manure in an environmentally friendly way. My Horse University and eXtension HorseQuest offer a free webcast series to help horse owners manage their farms in an environmentally friendly way. The webcasts feature Dr. Jenifer Nadeau from University of Connecticut on January 13th, Dr. Dave Freeman from Oklahoma State University on February 10th, and Dr. Ann Swinker from Penn State University on March 10th. All webcasts will be held at 7 p.m. EST. Register now for the FREE webcasts at www.myhorseuniversity.com. All webcast will be archived for future viewing.

For more information, visit www.extension.org/horses. or contact: Christine Skelly, Director of Curriculum, My Horse University, www.myhorseuniversity.com 810-338-8200, skellych@msu.edu or Karen Vignare Director, My Horse University and MSU Global 517.455.7554 vignare@msu.edu



Yankee Swap at the CVDC Holiday Party

A Weekend of Coaching in Newport, RI Thursday, August 20- Sunday August 23

Don't miss the triennial renewal of this historic tradition of horsemanship and elegance. Authentic 19th century coaches drawn by teams of four horses participate in a series of daily drives and demonstrations through the streets of Newport and the grounds of the Newport Mansions. CVDC members will meet for the **free coaching demonstration on Saturday morning, August 22**, on the grounds of The Elms. It's a chance to see the coaches up close, learn about their history, and enjoy the spirited horn-blowing competition. CVDC members will then meet for an early happy hour and lunch following the demonstration. Details are being arranged by Randy, and will be published when finalized. Be sure the **Save the Date!**

A NEW "STANDARD" IN TRAIL RIDING

Part 3 of a 3 part series on Adopted Standardbreds by member Charlotte Gelston

After I meet the horse, I spend some time making friends by talking and scratching it like another horse would when mutually grooming each other. Then I show him the saddle pad, let him sniff it if he wants, and put it on his back. Repeat with the saddle, then the girth. This is a non-issue because they are used to the "saddle" part of the harness, which sits in the same spot and is cinched the same way. Next I show him my version of a bitless bridle, which I have made by an Amish harness-maker to my specifications, and put it on. Again it is a non-issue, because they are used to wearing bridles. The big difference is the fact that there is no bit in their mouth, which I think actually makes it easier for them to transition away from the track mindset. Then I lightly pull on the left rein, which puts mild pressure on the right side of the horse's cheek, and sure enough, he yields to the pressure and turns his head to the left. I repeat with the right rein, again he yields away from the pressure and moves right. Now he is ready for the big step..... mounting.

He is still relaxed, so I take him to a mounting block in a fenced area, and ask the current owner to hold the horse. That way he knows that I have permission to be doing this and will stand quietly. I keep the horse focused on me by talking and scratching him, and slowly lean over the saddle so he can see me there. I gradually lean a little more heavily until I have my full weight on his back, but I am not upright yet. Please note that at any time during this process, if the horse acts like he is very nervous and upset, that's when I would STOP. If he is happy so far, I go to the next step, which is swinging my leg over his back. I am careful to keep his attention on me so that he does not get surprised. I slowly sit up a little higher, talking and scratching his neck all the while. As long as I do not get any negative response from the horse, I continue to slowly sit up a little higher until I am upright in the saddle. Then I ask the owner to start the horse walking forward with me. After a minute or two, the owner steps aside and I continue riding the horse. The interesting thing that I have found with all these horses is that they are so careful to balance me that they start out almost tiptoeing. When they realize that I can balance myself, they relax and start to walk normally. We make turns right and left, stop and start, and if the horse is doing well I will ask him to speed up a little. Of the twelve times that I have done this, not once have I had a STB object by bucking, rearing or bolting. At 59 years of age, I wouldn't have continued to do it if any of them had! The early harness-training makes all the difference.



You do not need to be a professional horse-person to transition a STB to saddle. However, you do need to be very experienced, calm and confident; because at the beginning the horse will gain his confidence from you. If he senses any nervousness from the rider, he will be nervous. And you cannot fool a horse, he senses exactly what you are thinking and feeling! For example, last spring I "sponsored" a six year old gelding, Cosmic Bambino, nicknamed "Comet". He was a little more high-strung than the other STBs that I have known, but he was also younger and much less experienced. He was actually more nervous when he was on his own out in pasture or in the barn than he was when I was on his back. The third time that I rode him we went out into the woods for our first trail ride, following a mature lead horse. Comet was amazing, going through a brook, a muddy stretch and fallen brush without faltering. The only thing that made him stop was a deer jumping out of the woods. When I stroked him and assured him that the deer didn't eat horses, he calmly walked on again. It wasn't even a real "spook", just a pause to study the situation. He acquired more self-confidence with each ride, and after two months I found him a new adoptive owner. The new owners of the Standardbreds that I have matched in the last few years absolutely love them and are having a wonderful time riding and driving their horses. So if you are ready to experience a new "standard" in your chosen equine activity, try a Standardbred.

From the CD-L



CVDC gifts under Cynthia and Fred's amazing tree.

ON FRIESANS:

On Thu, 11 Dec 2008

<LISTSERV@LISTSERV.DARTMOUTH.EDU> wrote:

My husband, Lew competes with a Friesian pair here in Texas very successfully. You have to condition them. The problem with most Friesians owners is they keep them in a stall so they look pretty. Ours are out 24/7 and have the run of 20 acres. We follow Mike McLennans training method, dressage & cones one day, rest the next, hit the road the next, rest and continue. You also have to feed them fat for energy, we feed flax. The terrain for the CDE's in Texas and OK are very hilly. We competed at the Lexington CDE this year and the terrain was a breeze compared to Texas, when he came into the vet check they had to look twice to make sure they were Friesians, they weren't even breathing hard. He had no problem making times. Lew competes at Prelim and Intermediate levels, not interested in advanced.

A couple of years ago at the National Drive we drove a Friesian 12 miles a day for 5 days. Lew drove him in the morning and I drove him in the afternoon. They would set out a different 3 miles course each day and we would drive 2 sets of 3 miles courses twice a day with no problem.

CONDITION, CONDITION, CONDITION.
Sandy Smith

Hi Everyone

We had a fabulous turnout for Cynthia and Fred's CVDC Holiday Party in Lyme. It had just snowed and Fred did a great job of plowing a parking lot, and he even plowed a wide path all the way to the front of their lovely home with the huge fireplace. It was a lot of fun with an amazing potluck buffet and dessert table with Cynthia's turkey as the centerpiece. Wow! If our monthly potlucks looked like that, we would have lines out the door. We missed all of you birds who flew south for the winter.

The high point of the evening was the Yankee Swap gift giving and taking ceremony! By the luck of the draw, our editor Krista LaBella had final choice and picked a secret envelope that ended up containing the best Yankee Swap – a complimentary lesson with Cynthia Bliven. She was thrilled and deserves it.

So I just wanted to say thank you to all of those who are helping to plan a fabulous 2009 for the club -- with something for everyone: clinics, great programs, drives, events, club trips and social activities. We're going to kick off the year on February 7th at the Grange with a 6:30 potluck and program on Spring Conditioning to get you in the mood!! So take a good long look at the 2009 schedule and be sure to the mark your calendar for the many driving related activities being planned. It should be a very fun year. Many details are being finalized and will be in the next Long Lines.

See you soon!

Andrée Duggan, CVDC president

JEFF MORSE
CVDC Spring Tune-Up
CARRIAGE DRIVING CLINIC

March 15, 2009
8:00am – 5:30pm
High Hopes, Lyme, CT



Photo: Denlore Photo

SBS Risky Business ~ 2006 New England Morgan Horse Show ~ Jeff Morse, whip

Jeff Morse is a nationally known competitor, trainer, clinician, author and Morgan Horse breeder, with over 30 years of experience. He specializes in training horses and their people for carriage driving. Jeff works with all levels of drivers to make driving a safe and enjoyable experience. The American Morgan Horse Association named Jeff 'Man of the Year' in 2004.

At the clinic Jeff will teach on an individual basis, one horse at a time for 45 minutes. During your clinic time you can choose what you would like to work on:

- Harness fitting and hitching to perfection
 - Ground driving and improving communication
 - Regular driving for pleasure or competition
- CVDC Members \$60, first dibs through January 20th
 - Non-members \$80 on a first come, first serve basis after January 20th
 - Auditors: CVDC members \$5 or a potluck lunch contribution, non-members \$10/day

High Hopes has a spacious indoor arena with non-dusty footing and a heated observation suite with seating. Bathrooms, vending machines, and large center aisles for grooming and harnessing are some of the features -- just a lovely facility with easy in-and-out and parking for trailers. Stalls are @ \$35/day if you would like one. A complimentary pot-luck lunch for auditors and participants will be served around noon.

We expect the sessions to fill up quickly, so reserve your spot early: Send check made out to CVDC, Coggins and Rabies Certificate to Marguerite Hayber, 109 Chittenden Rd., Amston, CT 06231 // 860-267-6552 / marguerite@hayber.us

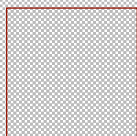
This is a non-profit educational opportunity sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Driving Club. Directions and additional instructions will be supplied upon registration. Thank you!



January 2009

CVDC Photo Album!
www.flickr.com/cvdc

See front page of
newsletter for login
and password!



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