

Long Lines



October, 2009

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

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

**DUE DATE FOR
SUBMISSIONS TO THE
NEXT LONG LINES:
OCTOBER 5th**

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OCTOBER 3RD MEETING CANCELLED

Due to the Lord Creek Pace being the day after our scheduled meeting, the club has decided to cancel the monthly meeting scheduled on October 4. Instead, the club will have a fall trip to see the Whippoorwill Morgans at McCulloch Farm on October 11, 2009.

This is a CVDC club adventure to McCulloch Farm's annual "Open Barn" days to enjoy the horses. This is an annual farm event which allows the public to view the stallions, mares and foals up close, and to learn about the Morgan Horse. There may even be some carriages on display. Club members will meet at the farm at 1p and leisurely browse around the farm. Bring your chairs and a bagged lunch.

For directions see Page 2 of newsletter

Krista LaBella with passenger Anna Dubiel. Krista is driving her Morgan in the rain at last year's CVDC Ride/ Drive Pace. Despite the weather, it was a lot of fun! To join the fun this year, be sure to send in your entry forms ASAP! You might be surprised like Krista was and win second place (combined score)!!

Photo by Randy Sabatino



CVDC Drive / Ride Pace at the lovely Lord Creek, Lyme, CT - Sunday, Oct 4, 2009

The most beautiful horse estate along the CT River! The course will be approximately 5-6 miles of dirt trails and a short bit of tar road. There will be different routes for riders, drivers, and minis. Riders will ride with a partner or group of three. Drivers a navigator is welcome, but not required. Jumps will be optional for riders. The route will cross a bridge (width 10 feet). Hard Hats are required for all participants.

A trophy and six ribbons will be awarded for drivers, riders, and for completing both sections with the same horse, whip, and rider. Paid entries MUST be received by September 30, 2009. A copy of COGGINS and RABIES are REQUIRED with entries. Entry form and Directions on website.

Calendar of Events 2009

October 3- CVDC MEETING CANCELLED

October 4 -- CVDC Ride / Drive Pace at the lovely Lord Creek! Info on website and in the newsletter.

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 Open Barn Club Trip at McCullough Farm, Lyme. Meet at 1:00pm. Morgan babies!

October 11- Colonial Carriage Driving Society- New Marlboro, Traditional Day of Driving, www.colonialcarriage.org call Harvey Waller 413-298- 3119

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 18- – Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center Fall carriage Show- LHDC- Bristol, Ct. call Jan Rogers 860-589-6293

October 20- ECDHA Meeting, 7:00 PM at Blue Slope Farm, Franklin, CT.

October 24- SATURDAY- CVDC Machimoodus Picnic Drive (Drive at 11 AM) Call Randy Sabatino 860-873-3894 for directions.

October 25- LHDC Drive at Amenia with Mark Borkoski. Contact richardmangino@att.net

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

November 1- CVDC club drive possible- TBA

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

November 7 -- CVDC Mtg. Potluck Mtg at East Haddam Grange, 6:30p, no program

November 8- CVDC club drive possible- TBA

November 12-15 EQUINE AFFAIRE! For more info go to www.equineaffaire.com

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.

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

December 11- LHDC Holiday Party 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, corner of North Street and Route 6, Plymouth, CT. Hosts & Hostess, Dave Breakell & Sue Vaill

December 15- ECDHA Christmas Party, Blue Slope Country Museum, 138 Blue Hill Road, Franklin, CT. For more info: Sandy Staebner (860) 642-7084.

Directions for CVDC Fall Adventure

(Continued from Page 1)

McCulloch Farm, Whippoorwill Morgans
100 Whippoorwill Rd, Old Lyme, CT 06371

FROM THE SOUTH and WEST:

Take Exit 70 off I-95 North (immediately after the Baldwin Bridge). At bottom of ramp, take left onto Rt 156, passing under the highway. At second light, take right onto Hall Road (Rt 1 North). At third light (stone bridge to your right), take left onto Boston Post Road (Rt 1 North). Follow for 1.5 miles to Whippoorwill Road on your right. Follow Whippoorwill for 1.5 miles. McCulloch Farm is on the left, blue sign at end of driveway.

FROM THE NORTH and EAST:

Take Exit 70 off I-95 South. At bottom of ramp, take right onto Boston Post Road (Rt 1 North) (stone bridge to your left). Follow for 1.5 miles to Whippoorwill Road on your right. Follow Whippoorwill for 1.5 miles. McCulloch Farm is on the left, blue sign at end of driveway.

Westfield Whip at Sept. Meeting

Carol Martin of Westfield Whip presented a truly enjoyable and informative program at our September CVDC meeting. She explained the evolution of whip making using some very unique antique whips. They were made with whalebone and rattan way back when. Carol also brought with her some modern day whips. It was interesting to 'try on' these whips. Some were very light and some were heavier, but relied on balance to make them work well. A few of these beautiful whips went with some very lucky members that evening.

A big THANK YOU to you Carol for taking time out of your busy schedule to share your story with us.

Club News and Advertisements

President's Letter

Planning for 2010

As fall is starting to descend upon us with cooler nights and more temperate days, some of us are getting ready to head South for the winter, while others will hunker down here in New England. No matter what your plans might be, be sure to visit the CVDC web site often and keep in touch. Randy Sabatino's planning team will be getting together in October to talk about drives, programs, clinics, and meetings for 2010. We welcome any suggestions and always love invitations to visit our member's barns. Please forward your ideas to Randy or myself. We'll provide an update at the November 7th CVDC meeting at the East Haddam Grange.

Walk on, be safe, and enjoy the drive!

Jan Frick
CVDC President

Volunteers Needed for ADS Booth at Equine Affaire

It's that time of year again! The Equine Affaire makes its way to the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. This year the event will be held November 12-15, 2009. The Equine Affaire promises to have the foremost exhibitors, retailers and trainers of the horse industry. Come to shop, learn, network and have fun! (See www.equineaffaire.com for more information).

The American Driving Society will once again be represented at this year's Equine Affaire thanks to the volunteer efforts of members like you. Please consider joining Northeast Regional Director, Marc Johnson at the ADS booth in the Stroh Building on November 12-15, 2009, to meet and greet and talk about your driving club with drivers from across the region. Equine Affaire's *Ride With the Best* clinician, Sterling Graburn will also be at the ADS booth between sessions. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to share your love of driving with others please contact either Marc Johnson at obstacle21@aol.com or Cat Luce at catprints2@aol.com. Your help is needed on Thursday through Sunday, morning or afternoon, just let us know what day and time you have available.

Thank you!

FOR SALE: Great RIDE & DRIVE mare!! Good home a MUST. Thoroughbred/ Percheron cross - 13 years old - 15.3 - black. Kind and sensible. Good "husband" horse. Asking \$1200.00 Equipment available for additional monies. Please call MIKE 860-643-8088

FOR SALE: Black with brass leather harness, older but serviceable, buckle in traces. Asking \$300 or b/r/o. Fits 15 hand Morgan, but adjusts up and down. Please call **860-742-9668** or 250-7150 cell and leave message or email ritakess@sbcglobal.net Andover, CT



Rita Bellinger taking a lesson with Pam Pruitt!

Submitted by Rita:

Sometimes Pam physically *shows* us what the heck she's trying to explain

Rita (and the rest of the club) wants to say THANK YOU to Pam for giving lessons for CVDC members and other driving clubs in the area!

The Carriage Barn Fall Driving Events

The Carriage Barn Equestrian Center (Newton, NH) has a limited number of openings available for our upcoming Fall events.

Beginner Group Carriage Driving Course – September 25th, October 4th, 11th & 25th - This course covers all aspects of horse harness, carriage styles and functions as well as ground driving, hitching and carriage driving. Classes will be held Sundays 1 to 4pm. No prior horse experience is needed.

Lisa Singer Driving Clinic – October 17th & 18th –Ms. Singer's accomplishments include being multiple Triple Crown of Driving and "FEI national pair challenge" winner, seven-time National Pairs Driving Champion, eight times on the US team for the World Pairs Driving Competition, and Coach of three World Singles and two Pony Team World Championships.

Perhaps Ms. Singer's most lasting achievement has been in connecting this sometimes – thought – elitist sport with a wider world of horse people. The first woman to win a National Pairs Championship is modest, humorous, easy to talk to, and a wealth of information.

The clinic will consist of a limited number of 45-minute private "hands on" lessons with Ms. Singer. The day's activities will run from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Saturday and Sunday only. Auditors may observe for one or two days. Limited overnight accommodations and stall spaces are available. Even if you cannot take a lesson or audit for the day, you are welcome to join us with Ms. Singer Saturday evening for dinner and roundtable discussions as part of our clinic season finale. Unlike years past, there will be no addition of a 3rd day to this clinic, so get your registration in early to reserve a lesson time.

Halloween Carriage Classic – November 1st – Fun show with a Halloween theme. Driving classes to include Open, Novice, Junior & Small Pony. Proceeds from this event will benefit The Carriage Barn's Therapeutic Riding & Driving Program, a 501(c)3 Not for Profit Organization. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event.

For more information please contact The Carriage Barn at carriage-barn@comcast.net, call 603-378-0140, or see our website at www.carriage-barn.com.

Lisa Singer gives a driven dressage lesson on foot after the 2009 CVDC driving Trial. After seeing mistakes competitors made, she decided to help the drivers learn by showing them what judges look for. Craig Kellogg stands behind her watching and listening.

Photo by Randy Sabatino



New Driving Event in Maine

There's a new driving event coming to Skyline Farm, 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth, Maine during the height of foliage season that may pique your interest: "Carriages in Motion" Exhibition.

On Saturday, October 17th from 10-2, there will be a parade and demonstration of horses, ponies and their carriages. A wide representation of horse drawn vehicles ranging from antique to modern will be featured. During the demonstration section there will be a narration discussing the history and use of each vehicle and its horse pulling it. There will also be a lovely parade through Skyline Farm's grounds and surrounding property.

Spectator admission is \$5 each, free for Skyline Farm members and kids 5 and under. An equine-related organization will be providing lunch for purchase as a fundraiser. The carriage museum will be open during this event for further viewing of antique carriages, as well as fine art and crafts showcased in the exhibit "Maine Harvest: Land and Sea." For more information about the "Carriages in Motion" exhibition or to volunteer to help with this event, call Mary Fowler (207) 865-2047.

Another fall event you won't want to miss is the 4th annual Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive at Kennebec Morgan Horse Farm. Take advantage of this wonderful time of year for trail riding and driving by coming to mid-coast Maine to enjoy the scenic views along the trails of this horse farm located at 236 Phipps Point Road, Woolwich, Maine.

The Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive to benefit Skyline Farm will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8. This event has historically drawn a large field of entries each year, and has received rave reviews for both the bayside trails and tasty lunch. The event will start at 10:00 a.m. \$20 pre-entry, \$25 day of event - Ride or Drive. Hot food will be available for purchase. FMI or to get an entry form, please call Becky Totten (207) 522-9668 (cell) or refer to: www.skylinefarm.org in October.

THE PEPPER PROJECT – 5

Training the young horse to harness

By Erica Robb

DISTRACTIONS AND CHALLENGES

In the course of training my young Morgan, Bekland Lady Pepper, we have had some distractions and challenges. Some we orchestrated ourselves as training opportunities. And some we had to deal with a little unexpectedly.

In addition to weather issues (ie, RAIN), there are the normal “growing baby” type of challenges. Pepper grew-stopped-grew, was uphill-downhill. She was lethargic when she came in heat. She had sore feet once after a trim. Teeth are coming in. All of these have to be taken into consideration. When some days were not conducive to one kind of work (such as long-lining), they were good for something else (going for a walk up the road). Better to be flexible than frustrated.



July 2009 – Pepper getting bumped with the cart.

PLANNED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

During our long-lining and ground-driving sessions, we wanted to get Pepper used to a number of different experiences and events. We wanted to get the willies out while we're still with our feet on the ground. For instance, we worked at different times of day, sometimes bringing her up from pasture with no other horses for company. Harness horses are often out on the trails alone, even at group drives when everyone spreads out, so it's important to get her used to leaving the group and working quietly. Early in the training, we ground-drove her part of the way up the road toward the state forest. Cynthia walked at her head while I drove. This was a good way to get her used to road traffic, mailboxes and lawnmowers while also getting her out on her own.

We also wanted her to get used to having other horses working around her, since that will someday be the case when she is in a show. We worked Pepper in long-lines while a steady older mare was ridden quietly nearby and eventually had several horses working in the ring with her. Later, after we had introduced the cart, Cynthia drove one of her horses in the ring while I ground-drove Pepper. This was a great way to really get her used to being passed by a rattling cart at a faster pace. Note that we worked up to each of these and introduced them in a way and at a time that was geared toward success. The goal is to help them get used to things in a comfortable way. The more successes you can arrange the more confidence and trust your horse will have when the unexpected occurs.

OTHER CHALLENGES

And we did have unexpected events. In addition to our planned “training opportunities,” there were a few challenges that came from the surroundings. The ring is passed every day by bicyclists and the occasional gathering of motorcycles, so Pepper has gotten used to sunlight on spinning tires and the sound of traffic. The street sweeper and the local oil delivery truck each made an appearance during training sessions. That sudden “PSSSSssshhhht” sound isn't a favorite of the horses at the barn. It's a good thing to find out before you're hitched how your horse tends to react when startled. I was reassured to find that Pepper's M.O. is to spook about a step and a half before settling back down – I can't complain about that.

However, one morning I arrived to find Cynthia long-lining a Pepper I had never seen before. We were supposed to be starting the final steps to hitching, but the horse in the ring was bolting and spinning as if she had just been run in off the range. Whose horse it *that*, I thought. So much for preparing and challenging. No, we did not proceed with the planned lesson that day, but Cynthia did continue to work Pepper until she was paying attention and in control of herself. The next day, after a brief overnight rain, in the sand of the ring, we saw coyote tracks alongside those of nearby deer. And we have had reports of mountain lion sightings which we are starting to think are more fact than fiction.

Continued on Page 6...

THE PEPPER PROJECT Continued from Page 5

While you can't "practice" for mountain lions, you can practice getting your horse calm and listening. The day after this incident, we again put Pepper to work in the ring. As expected, she thought she might try that racing around thing that worked so well the day before (she's a Morgan, remember). Cynthia was ready and just closed her hands on the reins to set her in place. Cynthia worked with her for a bit to get her rhythmic and relaxed, stopping crisply, and listening well. While I perfectly well understand that Pepper's instinct will be to flee if there is a mountain lion, I think we have done our best to make her manageable if we ever come across one on a drive.

Lastly, we began our introductions with the cart itself. Since she is at a barn with several harness horses, Pepper had already seen the carts in the normal course of her day. Now we dragged the cart around the ring while Cynthia ground-drove Pepper behind it. This allowed her to see it and hear it without worrying about what was going on behind her blinkers. Then Cynthia drove Pepper next to the cart and, after a turn or two, drove her in front with me rattling along behind. The next time, I roped a young friend into dragging the cart and we ended that session by standing Pepper in the center with the cart behind her. From there, we dropped the shafts several times a short distance to the ground so that she could hear it. Then Cynthia brought the shafts on one side of her body and bumped her on the barrel and hip, then the other side. While we weren't rough or abrupt, we weren't quiet and cautious either, since she will probably get knocked into at some point in the future. Finally, we put the shafts on either side of her and rocked her side to side to see how she reacted - sometimes a horse will feel trapped or claustrophobic. So far so good.

Next: Final steps to hitching

You can see more pictures at <http://picasaweb.google.com/erobb62/PepperProject>

Litchfield Hills Driving Club Fall Carriage Show

For the benefit of Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center

Intersection of Hill Street and Marsh Road
Bristol, CT 06010

Sunday October 18, 2009
10:00 am Sharp, rain or shine

Judge: Andy Marcoux

Classes include: obstacles, turnout, working, and reinsmanship for single pony, single horse and single or multiple draft, along with some novice classes.

For more information, prize list and entry form contact: Jan Rogers
(860) 589- 6293
P.O. Box 175, Plymouth, CT 06782

Photos from Newport Coaching 2009

Taken by Krista LaBella

The November Issue of the Long Lines will include a recap of Newport Coaching along with more photos, in case you missed it! Stay tuned!



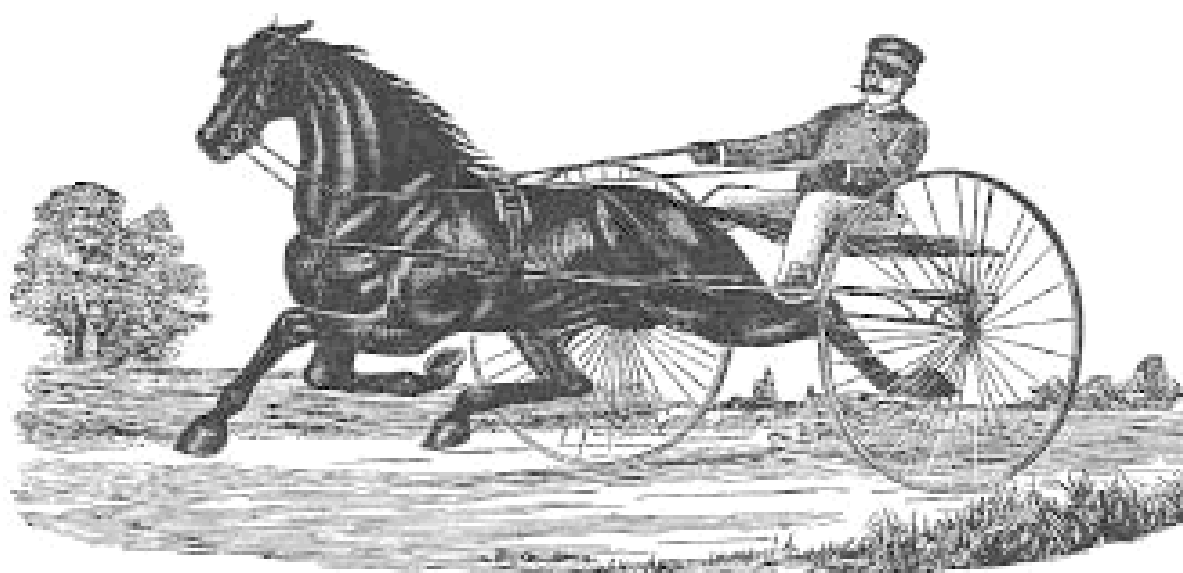
Top: View from the road as coaches roll into The Elms, Below: Once in The Elms the demonstration begins, showing off horses and coaches.



Connecticut Valley Driving Club Driving/Riding Pace

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Lord's Creek Farm, Route 156, Old Lyme, CT.



Like a Hunter Pace

Open to Drivers and Riders

approximately 5 miles of dirt roads and trails

For information/ entries call:

Kathie Gregory at 228-3801
or visit www.cvdriivingclub.com



Long Lines

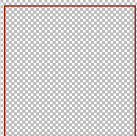
October 2009

www.cvdrivingclub.com

CVDC Photo Album!

www.flickr.com/cvdc

See front page of
newsletter for login
and password!



c/o Krista LaBella
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