

# Long Lines



December, 2009

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**DUE DATE FOR  
SUBMISSIONS TO THE  
NEXT LONG LINES:  
DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>.**

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[secretary@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:secretary@cvdrivingclub.com)

## CVDC Holiday Party

**Saturday December 5, 2009; 7:00 pm**

Hosted by Marguerite Hayber and Bob Dean  
109 Chittenden Road, Amston, CT 06231  
(860) 267-6552



A table full of member potluck at the 2008 Holiday Party at Cynthia Bliven's house in Old Lyme, CT.

Connecticut Valley Driving Club's Holiday Party will take place this year at Marguerite and Bob's home in Amston. It's a time when members take a break from driving, and come together to celebrate the holidays. The food is always amazing, as each person goes beyond the pale to create a special potluck appetizer, side dish, or dessert. Our hosts will be providing the main course of turkey and ham. The high point of the evening is the Yankee Swap! (gift limit \$15) Members who want to participate bring a gift and take a number. As their number is called, they get to choose an unopened gift. They can either keep it, or swap it with one of the gifts that has already been opened. It's the one time when going last is to your advantage! Upon arriving, please park in the cul-de-sac area because the driveway will not fit enough cars. Also, RSVP online. Email invitations have been sent to all members on the email list. There are directions, a potluck sign-up list, and more on this invitation. If you're a member and you have not received your invitation please send an email to [info@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:info@cvdrivingclub.com).

Hope you can make it! The night will be full of great food, horse friends and holiday fun!

## Calendar of Events 2009

### **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.

### **2010 Events**

**Jan 9 CVDC 6:30 PM Potluck/Meeting @ Grange-Ann Guptill ‘ Ridden Musical Freestyle’. Please be prompt. See page 6 for details!**

Feb 6 CVDC 6:30 PM Potluck/Meeting @Grange-Dianne Ciano-Connecticut Horse Council

Mar 6 CVDC 6:30 PM Potluck/Meeting-Clipping your horse- location TBA

Mar 21 Jeff Morse Clinic @ High Hopes Therapeutic Center

April 10- 6:30 PM Potluck/Meeting @ Laurie and John Allegra’s Farm- “Restoration/Antique carriages”

May 1- 6:30 PM Dr. Chip Becket- “Equine Acupuncture” Location TBA

June 5 – 6:30 PM @ Grange Potluck/CVDC Elections and Final CVDC Trial planner meeting

June 12 CVDC Driving Trial

June 13 CVDC Fun Day/Lessons

July 10 CVDC 6:30 PM-Potluck/Meeting-Geoff Goodson Round Pen Demonstration @ Cow Hill (or Grange on July 17- TBA)

Aug 7- CVDC 6:30 PM Location TBA- Fran Hornick-“Awl for the Horse”

Sept 11- CVDC 6:30PM Location TBA- Safety Panel

Our meetings in Oct and Nov are not finalized yet.

Dec 4- Christmas Holiday Party

### **Minutes for Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> CVDC meeting** Taken by Jaye Winkler

-Meeting called to order at approx. 7:50

-Thanks given to Kathy Gregory for putting Lord’s Creek pace event together.

-Secretary’s report was read for Oct. meeting. Correction was offered that Dick Mangino was not part of the subcommittee of members and newsletters.

-Treasurer’s report: Savings \$5,933.02, Checking: \$809.56.

-Old Business – Macamoodus trip was enjoyed by members and a suggestion was made the club continue to use it. Erica Robb gave the membership and newsletter subcommittee report. Twenty members have not kept current with dues. Proposal – send current newsletter to current members only. And then the newsletter would be posted after 30 days onto the website. Recommendation is based on the fact that the newsletter is a marketing tool. The way to deal with members who are not current is to contact them. Motion made to accept subcommittee report recommendation that the current newsletter be sent only to current members was made by Lynn and seconded. Discussion included whether the advertisers suffer if all the members do not receive the newsletter.

Subcommittee also felt there should be a standing committee on membership to clarify the benefits of membership and to reach out to participants at our events, as well as a new membership welcoming committee. Suggestions made to include materials in a welcome packet and to include copy of the renewal form in the newsletter. Packets had been done in the past. No motion was needed but membership committee was to be formed and additional members solicited in upcoming meetings. Erica to be on this committee.

-Planning committee has filled all dates for meetings but Oct. and Nov. dates. Any proposals for meetings should be referred to Randy Sabatino. Programs will be held at some members barns.

-Dana Bright to judge our driving show and Craig Kellogg to be there as TD.

-No new business / Meeting adjourned at 8:11.

**Email News****The Driving Forum Returns!**

Hello! Just thought that I would share some initial "good news" with you...

I have reserved the Courtyard Hotel Marriot, Nashua NH for March 13 & 14, 2010!  
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mhtnc-courtyard-nashua/>

This will be a "recession friendly" event with room for 18 vendors on the exhibit floor - plus 20 table-tops for organizations and smaller vendors. The room rate is \$79 and the hotel is clean, very open large space with terrific parking just off of exit 8 on route 3 in Southern NH.

Some initial news worth mentioning for 2010:

- \* The conference sessions will take place right in the expo area
- \* A low entry fee for all attendees will include both the conference sessions and expo
- \* Vendor booths and table fees have been significantly reduced
- \* Conference content will focus on "driving on a shoestring and local opportunities" theme

Our website will be up in a few weeks time and a more formal notice will be sent. I am confident that the event will be as successful as in year's past and excited to be seeing you again!

Very Best Regards,  
 Linda Roth  
 603-673-8039  
 508-344-1529

The CVDC Program planning committee met on October 14<sup>th</sup> with 7 members present and WOW! did they have lots of good ideas! With multi e-mails back and forth these folks have just about filled our 2010 programs calendar. There will be lots of interesting topics discussed, clinics and trips coming up- so stay tuned.

**The Machimoodus Park CVDC Drives**

A very rainy Sat., Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> forced our First Machimoodus State Park Drive to the Sunday Oct.25<sup>th</sup> rain date. The weather was perfect. We had four carriages and many riders. The riders were all carriage drivers who wanted to check out the new trails before committing to drive on them—safety first- always a good idea. There were many dogs (accompanied by their obedient owners) walking in the park that day. There were no incidents and everyone had smiles. We gathered for lunch and good conversation after the drive. Everyone enjoyed the new park.

Our Second Machimoodus Drive took place on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This time it was just my pair and carriage with Nancy Franklin on Buddy riding along. We had another nice time on another beautiful day.

I am hoping those of you who came to see this park will consider riding or driving there often. Please- if you do decide to drive a carriage in Machimoodus State Park- call The DEP Eastern District Manager, Scott Dawley. He has requested that we let him know. He is at the Eastern Headquarters, in Marlborough phone # 860-295-9523. He is a very nice man who WANTS Equestrians and Carriage Drivers, TO USE THE PARK! You will need to open the gate (it's easy) to go in from the old Sunrise Resort lawn. Don't forget to close it again before your leave. If you have any questions please call me at 860-873-3894.

Submitted by Randy Sabatino

**Email News: Carriage Driving Safety**

Hello Connecticut Valley Driving Club Members:

I have volunteered to organize a Club meeting around the topic of safety education. We all know the old saying that you are not a horseman until you have been kicked, thrown, bitten and dragged.

Everyone has accidents, some good will come if we learn from each other.

Accordingly, I am asking for a few volunteers to speak on a panel.

You may describe an accident you have had (with a horse in harness, hitching or unhitching, at a show, or going to a show - something to do with trailer safety would be good as well), and what you learned from this event. If you have photos of the wreck that is always impressive. The goal is to shorten our runaways and help demystify things like why people with overturned carriages shout, "Don't cut the harness".

So, please email me if you are willing to talk about an accident and/or how to stop a runaway.

Yours for driving, Jaye Winkler  
 vp@cvdrivingclub.com

## Holiday Driving Trials at Mary Gray Driving Center

Mary Gray Driving Center,  
Danville, NH 03819

Arena Driving Trails  
ADT #3 Sunday – December 6<sup>th</sup>  
(Holiday Party as well!)

These ADT's are very low key, informal and absolutely no pressure. It is a wonderful place to start your horse or pony or to continue your training. Every participant who comes to the facility is in awe of its beautiful layout, grounds and friendliness.

If you are interested in participating in the upcoming ADT's please email Mary for an entry form at [mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net](mailto:mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net) or give Mary a call at 603-974-2357 for further information going on at the Mary Gray Driving Center.

Everyone is welcome; please RSVP so we can have enough food and CARROT CAKE! Feel free to come to watch if you are unable to compete, the more the MERRIER.....

Members, please send in your stories, events, photographs, and other news for the January newsletter! Send in anything about the club, horses, driving or members! If you have an idea for a mini series or something else, let the editor know. Don't be shy! All submissions can be sent to

[editor@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:editor@cvdrivingclub.com).

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

## New Driving Locations: We Need Your Feedback

Dick Mangino

At our recent program committee meeting, I proposed two locations for picnic drives for next year. These are two extraordinary places to drive; places you have to try at least once. They are farther than most members may be used to traveling and the committee was not sure of the club's response. So, I would like to describe both locations and then ask for your feedback, either positive or negative, including any questions you may have. Feel free to call me (203-272-5257) if, like me, the phone works better for you. For the techies, my email is [richardmangino@att.net](mailto:richardmangino@att.net).

### Wethersfield Farm, 214 Pugsley Hill Rd., Amenia, NY.

This is a working farm that has been left in trust by its previous owner. ADS used to hold CDE's here, and some hazards are still standing. There are open hay fields and trails in the woods, with no paved roads or traffic. Members who have driven there include Randy Sabatino, Herb DiMeola and the Lawsons, so you could ask them about their experience. There are gorgeous views everywhere and the only noise is your own. The special treat lies in the clearings along the wooded trails. The owner must have been an art lover because the clearings are decorated with small and large stone statues and columns. They are always a pleasant surprise to the drivers and sometimes are just a "surprise" to the more attentive horses. The Litchfield club has driven at Wethersfield for many years and because of the large amount of land, drives could easily last an hour or two. If we go there as a group on an official club drive under club insurance, there is no cost. Individuals can ride or drive there for \$5 per day, after making arrangements with the farm manager and signing a yearly waiver.

### Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Sleepy Hollow, NY

The Rockefeller Preserve was once owned by the Rockefeller family and was given to the State of New York. Details can be found on [www.friendsrock.org](http://www.friendsrock.org). There are 1100 acres of woods and fields and over 20 miles of roads. And these are not just dirt roads, but are carriage roads constructed by David Rockefeller to drive his four-in-hand coaches. This is the same David Rockefeller that built the well-known Acadia driving area. People who have been to both locals describe them as very similar. The preserve has those beautiful stone bridges that make it so much more than just a road through the woods. There is great scenery everywhere, with some high spots overlooking the Hudson River. The preserve is truly for horse people while allowing hikers and bikers and dogs on leashes, but they always make the horse people feel special. There are maps available, with the trails along the way marked with their names. The map shows all the Rockefeller land, but private landowners have made some of their roads available too. So, the good news is, there are even more miles to drive. The bad news is, the extra miles are not on the map, so pay attention. CVDC members who have visited here are Randy Sabatino, the Lawsons and, most recently, Kathie Gregory. There is water available and staff is always helpful. Unlike Wethersfield Farm, the Rockefeller Preserve has some expense. There is a daily turnout fee of \$15, plus a new parking fee of \$6 per trailer. There is no consideration for clubs and/or large groups. For frequent visitors, there is a \$60 season pass.

So, in closing, these are two places that all of us should visit at least once. And I think if you go once you will want to go again. The Litchfield club has driven both many times and it's always a thrill. The bottom line is, if members want to go to either of these locals, we can consider them for next year. If they aren't interested, well, we will know that too. So, please look this over, check your MapQuest and speak to the members who have been there. Please **communicate** back to me, whether you are **interested or not**. I will be looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

## THE PEPPER PROJECT - 7

### Training the young horse to harness

By Erica Robb



#### Final Thoughts

I wanted to end our series of articles about training to drive with a summary of key points and things that I think made a difference in our success. These are in no particular order, just as they came to mind:

**Hurry up and wait:** Sometimes you really should put off until tomorrow what you could do today. Pepper is not yet two-and-a-half, so she is still growing. We got her hitched – and YES, that was a big smile on my face! And then she had a growth spurt. She got so high behind that she was clearly uncomfortable. Since I expect to drive her for many, many years, I can afford to wait, so we are giving her time off to grow.

**Take the time it takes:** Don't let your plan for the day put pressure on your horse, or you. When we were ready to start the last "Big Ten" days of hitching, Pepper had a "mountain lion morning." While that was sort of extreme, there were plenty of other days that didn't quite go the way we planned. And we sure did have a lot of rain in the spring and early summer. Being flexible made the process less stressful.

**Have an idea where you are going:** I mean both for the day's training "plan" and for when you are in the ring. Having a general plan for training kept us moving in the right direction. And aiming for a real spot on the rail (I love dressage letters) make it easy to be clear in my aids when I am at the reins.

**Work with someone you trust and respect:** It made a ton of difference to have Cynthia Bliven training Pepper. I might have muddled through on my own, but we would still be figuring it out, and my results would have been very different. With Cynthia's help, I have a young horse with a good preliminary work ethic, an excellent mouth, and no holes in our training.

**Watch and learn:** I have become a lesson addict, a clinic groupie, a rail bird. Wow, have I learned a lot! Whenever you have a chance to watch other drivers – at shows, in lessons, in clinics – go, go, go. It doesn't take the place of doing it yourself, but to be able to see how a horse responds as a driver changes technique or posture will enhance your own driving.

**Quit while you're ahead:** It is way too easy to go "just once more around" when things are going nicely. We gained so much more goodwill from Pepper by stopping when everyone was happy.

**Safety first:** helmet, gloves, proper equipment, good work environment. We set ourselves up to succeed as much as possible.

**Layer on each new piece:** I think of it as "spiraling" the training. Every time we added a new piece of equipment or a new skill, we started the session with something Pepper knew how to do. This kept her calm and built her confidence, which led to success.

**Commit to the process:** there are no shortcuts. It takes time and patience to train a horse. I expected my horse to show up for lessons, that meant that I had to show up too. I expected her to learn, that meant I had to learn too. If you don't want to attend your horse's training sessions, at least commit to following up with the trainer, taking lessons yourself, and getting involved in the training as and when appropriate.

**Learning is life-long:** While I think we will drive her a few times over the winter, I look forward to really starting back up again in the spring with Pepper, and with Cynthia. I plan to drive regularly through the year, and hope to bring Pepper to an event or two when we are ready. Keep an eye out for us!

## THE FUNERAL OF WESLEY IRVING NOWSCH

For Marlborough Horseman, A Fitting Funeral Procession  
 Story By BRIAN CARLO | Photos By BETTINA HANSEN |  
 November 23, 2009  
 MARLBOROUGH —

In the end, it was as he had always pictured.

Wesley Irving Newsch, a member of the Governor's Horse Guards for more than 60 years, was buried Nov. 7 after a horse-drawn funeral procession to Marlborough Center Cemetery following his death Nov. 5 at age 84.

Newsch was no stranger to such processions. He participated in many with his friend and longtime colleague John Allegra, owner of the Allegra Farm horse and carriage service in East Haddam.

Allegra said that Newsch, a horseman who "could drive anything," often spoke about having a horse-drawn funeral procession for himself.

"He had this all planned out," Allegra said. "This is what he wanted. We talked about it quite a bit."

Newsch's daughter, Karen Currier, said that planning for the funeral procession was one of the first things the family thought of when her father became ill.

"We were all very proud of it," Currier said. "To go out that way with a horse-drawn hearse was what he wanted to do."

A lifelong wrangler, Newsch joined the Governor's Horse Guards, — a mounted state militia unit first chartered in 1788 — during World War II at age 18 while his five brothers were all off at war. He participated in the guard's various ceremonies, parades, camps and horse shows for the rest of his life.

After the war, all six brothers built houses next to each other on Parker Road, on land given to them by their parents.

Wesley Newsch then raised a family, working as a truck driver, carpenter, insurance adjuster and a coach for a youth football club.

He raised horses and ran a riding stable on the family farm, Rockledge Ranch, and organized a 4-H program, horse shows and polo clubs.

"All the kids on the street rode," Currier said. "He thought bikes were dangerous and thought we should ride horses, instead."

Later in life, Newsch met Allegra and spent 20 years as his right-hand man for jobs at Mystic Seaport, Gillette Castle and horse-drawn wedding ceremonies and funeral services throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

"To think that somebody at that age could start another career," Currier said. "He just kept going until he couldn't go anymore."

Newsch also worked horses and carriages with Allegra for several television shows, documentaries and films, including "The Time Machine" and "Kate & Leopold." He served as Morgan Freeman's carriage driver in the movie "Amistad."

"Anybody he met, he always made them feel like they were the best," Allegra said. "He never put people down. He was always telling you that you were the best."



Visit [courant.com/wesleynowsch](http://courant.com/wesleynowsch) to view more photos of Wesley Newsch's funeral.  
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CVDC member Carrie Wind at the Machimoodus club drive on her Morgan Peppy. Fantastic vistas!

## January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Grange

Ann Guptill has accepted our invitation to talk with the CVDC about 'ridden musical freestyle'. We will start our usual pot luck at 6:30PM PROMPTLY because Ann will present her power point demonstration at 7 PM sharp. Interest in the application of music to Driven Dressage is rapidly gaining momentum in this country. I have seen CVDC member Bunny Joseph perform her musical freestyle on her ridden (driving) horse and it took my breath away. If our membership shows interest in Driven Musical Freestyle after seeing Ann's presentation, we may plan a DMF clinic later in 2010. Our meeting will be open to other driving clubs so feel free to extend an invite to other drivers. Let's hope for good weather so all will come to this very, very special meeting.

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**JEFF MORSE**  
**CVDC Spring Tune-Up**  
**CARRIAGE DRIVING CLINIC**

Sun., March 21, 2010

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 potluck 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](mailto: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!

Official Veterinarian of the  
Connecticut Valley Driving Trial



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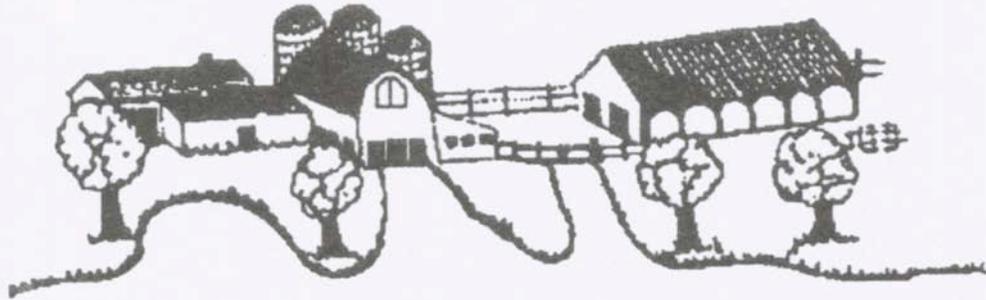
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~Andy M. Marcoux  
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**June 6th, 2009**

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A large logo for Cranberry Pond Farm LLC. The logo is a red, rounded rectangular shape with a white border. Inside the red shape is a white circle containing a black silhouette of a horse and rider. Below the circle, the text 'Cranberry Pond Farm' is written in a white serif font. Underneath that, '— LLC —' is written in a smaller white serif font. At the bottom of the red shape, the phone number '860-204-9314' is written in a white sans-serif font.

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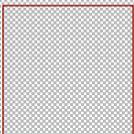
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