

# Long Lines



August 2011

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**DUE DATE FOR  
SUBMISSIONS TO THE  
NEXT LONG LINES:  
August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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**REMINDER: NEXT CLUB MEETING  
AUGUST 6 ~ 6:30 PM**  
POTLUCK & FINAL WRAP-UP OF OUR HDT  
We want to hear your comments and suggestions  
for future improvements.



*John Henry at Walnut Hill*

## **A Fond Farewell..... John Henry 1991-2011**

*Written by Jeff Morse*

Kathleen Conklin, "John Henry's human", knew she had to be part of his life the moment she laid eyes on him in an Amish mule dealer's barn in Lancaster County, PA. on a cold winter night in 1994. The impressive force of his charisma is rare among equines. He usually wasn't hard to notice. 1200 pounds of 16.2 hand, black shiny Percheron Mule with 12" ears. Hard to be a wallflower. Plus he had the uncanny ability to launch a loud, clear, friendly bellow at the precise moment that doing so would have the most powerful effect in a crowd of people and horses. We smiled. Everyone knew who it was and they were glad to have met John Henry. He even gave the lucky ones a kiss.

John Henry began educating Kathleen about mules as a 3 year old. He knew only how to be tied and to be lead. He would not let anyone touch him. What an education he would provide! And what a fortunate mule he was to have Kathleen to work his magic on. She was receptive. Dedicated. Horse smart. Kind and fair. She always did everything the right way for John Henry.

## John Henry...cont'd

His competition championships stretch from Shelbyville to Saratoga to Gladstone to GMHA to Lorenzo....and to Walnut Hill. The prestigious summit of carriage driving ... Walnut Hill! A Mule at Walnut Hill!?! Imagine that. **Invited** there, even. A barrier broken. John Henry was a champion or reserve champion at Walnut Hill 6 of the last 7 years. Few that saw him will forget the turnout: the restored royal blue butcher's cart with bright yellow trim and Kathleen absolutely correctly appointed in her blue and white striped apron. Every detail meticulously researched and executed. But the joke was on Walnut Hill. A mule would never have been used to pull a butcher's cart! Only fast horses like hackneys' would be able to make the rounds before the meat spoiled. But still he won and won and won. Always loved that joke. It was impossible not to smile at John Henry.

Few know that it was John Henry that caused the United States Equine Federation to overturn a 50 year ban on mules in competition. Mules were banned because their exceptional skills beat society's horses. They were reinstated because of the skillful ambassadorship of John Henry and Kathleen. It was hard to say no to John Henry. A barrier broken with a smile.

I taught John Henry and Kathleen to dance in preparation for an invitational musical Kur at a meeting of the American Driving Society in Fair Hill, Maryland. How could I say no? But what music to use? This had to be special. The choice? I knew it the second I heard it. Canned Heat's "Too Much Giddyup (Not Enough Whoa)". Look it up. It was perfect. And of course John Henry was his usual superlative self and made everyone smile again.

John Henry's legend is larger than space allows to tell it all here. His magic broke down barriers too numerous to list, but.... and I speak for the horsemen that knew him... in a lifetime, we count on the fingers of one hand the good horses by whom we measure all the rest. John Henry will always be at the top of our list. A mule on the top of the list? Imagine that! We are truly privileged to have known the magnificent John Henry.

*"Take this hammer, and carry it to the captain,  
Tell him I'm gone, tell him I'm gone".  
~ prison work song about John Henry attributed to Leadbelly*



*John Henry greets CVDC member Carrie Wind's Ink Spot*

## Presidents Letter

I hope you are all enjoying your summer, I know I am. I just got back from Cody, Wyoming where I was visiting my cousin. That is beautiful country out there - there are horses everywhere. I went to Yellowstone and went on a 3 hour trail ride. My horse's name was, of all things, "Gator." The ride took us up switch backs that gave us a beautiful view of the valley below. When we got to the top, it opened on a meadow covered in wild flowers with a hidden lake. We then rode down into the valley passing a petrified tree. They also give carriage rides and you can go and have an old fashioned barbecue dinner. When the wrangler found out I could ride and drive, he wanted to hire me. Tempting for sure.

I also saw the wild horses and attended a rodeo. When I went shopping who did I meet? Marguerite Hayber, who was out visiting her daughter who also lives in Cody. She was waiting for Kathie and Dana Rindge to join her and they were going on a pack trip. It was CT Valley West.

Now that we are back home, it is time to turn our attention to the club. For the August meeting, we would like to focus on our HDT. It was a real success and we want to make it even better. Please come and bring your comments, positive and negative both are welcome. We need our volunteers' input to make it a success. Bill and Nancy Lawson, our chairs for the event, will be there and they will share with us the comments they have received. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Cynthia Bliven  
CVDC President

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**MEMBERS, PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**  
**Application can be found on the CVDC website under "join"**

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## 2011 CVDC HDT Recap

The 2011 Horse Driving Trial is in the can and by all measures was very successful. As hard as it is to believe, it's time to think about 2012. Bill says that maybe he should just leave the show in the trailer to save some work. Somehow that doesn't seem like such a good idea, but it does have its merits. Hmm.....

On the other hand, being practical, we do have to talk over this 2011 HDT at the August CVDC meeting and then approach the subject of a 2012 HDT. The tough part of this is that the Omnibus listing for next year has to be into the ADS office for Sept. 1. So we have decisions to make now for then, specifically "will the CVDC HDT run in 2012." The driving trial ran like clockwork this year thanks to all of the members who have done this for multiple years and gained the knowledge and timing to get the job done. Competitors and officials alike were impressed with the volunteers, venue, general organization, and warm hospitality.

The CVDC volunteers must give themselves a warm "pat on the back" and "good job done" for this show. Please come to the August CVDC meeting and be part of the discussion about the driving trial. Give your input, suggestions, questions. It's important for the future.

Bill and Nancy Lawson

## Mt. Washington Auto Road Closed to Cars for the First Time in More Than 100 Years For First Ever Horse & Carriage Day

Posted on July 23, 2011 by (<http://www.mtwashingtonautoroad.com/news/>)

**PINKHAM NOTCH, NH** – The Mt. Washington Auto Road became the Mt. Washington Carriage Road for the first time in more than a century, as part of a history making event that took place here on Sunday, July 17th. The first ever Horse & Carriage weekend found several two, three and four horse hitches making their way up the eight mile road to the summit of the Northeast's highest Peak.

More than 30 riders on horseback, several in vintage attire joined the cavalcade of horse drawn vehicles to create a scene that brought Mt. Washington's history to life. Riders and carriages came from around the Northeast and spent Saturday riding and driving at the base of the Auto Road and Great Glen Trails.

The youngest rider was 9 and the oldest was 73, with many families riding and driving together. The event also brought together some of New England's most noted horsemen and drivers, including Lee Sawyer of Jaffrey, NH.

“It was a truly delightful vision of the Auto Road's past history that came to life. The sights, sounds and even the smells all added to a feeling of real time travel,” noted Howie Wemyss, General Manager of the Mt. Washington Auto Road and Great Glen Trails.

This event took place as part of the Mt. Washington Auto Road's 150th season long birthday celebration, which includes ongoing events and reenactments of the Auto Road's early history. Abraham Lincoln was president when the Mt. Washington Carriage Road opened to the public on August 8th 1861. The Auto Road is America's first manmade attraction.

For More information about this or other events taking place on Mt. Washington this season call 603-466-3988 or on the web at [www.mtwashingtonautoroad.com](http://www.mtwashingtonautoroad.com)



*CVDC member Peter VonHalem and his Unicorn of Hackney/Clydesdales*

**DRIVING CALENDAR 2011** (always verify information before leaving home!)**Aug 6 - CVDC meeting, East Haddam Grange. 6:30 pm, potluck. Program TBD.**

Aug 7 - Saratoga Classic Pleasure Show & Continuous Driving Event, [www.saratogadriving.com](http://www.saratogadriving.com)

Aug 7 - Mary Gray Driving Center HDT, Danville, NH. Call 603-974-2357.

Aug 10-14 - Walnut Hill Carriage Driving Competition, Pittsford, NY. [www.walnuthillfarm.com](http://www.walnuthillfarm.com)

Aug 13-14 - Muffy Seaton Clinic, Wales, ME. [www.seacoastfarm.com](http://www.seacoastfarm.com)

Aug 20 - LHDC: Shepard Meadows Pleasure Driving Show, Bristol, CT. Raindate Aug 21.

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

Aug 26 - RIDC: Rhode Island Carriage Days, Celtic Cross Farm, Dudley, MA. [www.ridridingclub.com](http://www.ridridingclub.com)

Aug 26-28 - GMHA Combined Driving Event, incl Advanced level. So. Woodstock, VT. [www.gmhainc.org](http://www.gmhainc.org)

Aug 27-28 - RIDC: Rhode Island Carriage Days, Dudley, MA. [www.ridridingclub.org](http://www.ridridingclub.org)

Aug 28 - LHDC: Litchfield Drive, 11 am. [www.litchfieldhillsdrivingclub.com](http://www.litchfieldhillsdrivingclub.com)

Aug - The Carriage Barn: Driving Camp for adults and for kids, Merrimack, MA. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

Sep 3 - SDA: Larry Poulin Clinic, Valatie, NY. [www.saratogadriving.com](http://www.saratogadriving.com)

Sep 9-11 - 25th Anniv at The Laurels, West Grove, PA. [www.laurelscde.org](http://www.laurelscde.org)

Sep 10- Colonial Carriage: Lenox Tub Parade, [www.colonialcarriage.org](http://www.colonialcarriage.org)

Sep 10-11 - GMHA Fall Driving Classic, So. Woodstock, VT. [www.gmhainc.org](http://www.gmhainc.org)

**Sep 17 - CVDC: Bits & Biting, East Haddam Grange. 6:30 pm, potluck.**

Sep 21-25 - World Pony Championships, Lipica, Slovenia

Sep 23-25 - Mary Gray Driving Ctr Intensive Driving Weekend & Fall Harvest ADT #1. Danville, NH.

Email [mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net](mailto:mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net) or call 603-974-2357.

Sep 24-25 - Maine Carriage Days, Topsham, ME. [www.maine-carriagedays.com](http://www.maine-carriagedays.com)

Sep 25 - CHSA: St Peter's Horse Show, incl driving division. [www.chsaonline.com](http://www.chsaonline.com)

Sept TBD - LHDC: Drive at Loon Meadow. [www.litchfieldhillsdrivingclub.com](http://www.litchfieldhillsdrivingclub.com)

**THREE LOVELY DRIVING VEHICLES FOR SALE** - more details listed at [www.cvdrivingclub.com](http://www.cvdrivingclub.com):

		
Glinkowski Hartland II Marathon Carriage	Bennington Wagonette for Pair or Single	Bennington Buccaneer
Single horse, brakes, wedge	28" wheels, extending axle	37" wheels, removable back step
Asking \$5800	Asking \$8500	Asking \$3000

Contact Robin Malkasian at [MStoneFarm@aol.com](mailto:MStoneFarm@aol.com).

Classified ads: members may list ads for free by sending information to [editor@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:editor@cvdrivingclub.com).  
Non-member ad fee: \$15



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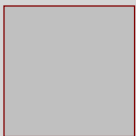
**August 2011**

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**CVDC Photo Album!**

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See front page of  
newsletter for login  
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