Long Lines

October 2011

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DUE DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEXT LONG LINES: November 15th.

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November 5th ~ CVDC Meeting ~ 6:30 PM
Holly Pulsifer talks Driving!

East Haddam Grange
Potluck followed by Program & Meeting

An accomplished horsewoman, both in riding and driving, **Holly Pulsifer** was instrumental in the development of the ADS and running competitions from the earliest years. She has been involved with the sport since 1974, when she was one of the organizers of Myopia CDE, which spanned 25 consecutive years. She continues to organize the Waldingfield HDT, which began in 1988. Holly has an impressive list of judging qualifications, both national and international, and serves as ADS judge and TD at events. She is active in the ADS and the Carriage Museum of America, among other groups.

In addition to writing occasional articles, Holly recently co-produced two booklets, "Your First Pleasure Driving Show" and the revised "Your First Marathon" (and will be bringing copies to purchase).

Holly is a frequent speaker about a variety of topics, including coaches and coaching in the 19th century, and the history of combined driving. She will bring a slideshow to discuss the growth and evolution of international competition through the decades, and how it has affected drivers in all areas, competitive, pleasure and recreational.

There will be lots to think about and lots to laugh over (those early years were nothing like today!). **We look forward to seeing you there!**

Equine Affaire (Nov 10-13): Help spread the word about the world of driving and CVDC by helping at the ADS booth. Contact Gina Handy at keltia13@aol.com.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thank you to Peter Von Halem, October's meeting host, for giving us a good demonstration of pairs harnessing before the light faded completely from the sky. Members in attendance paid close attention and asked lots of questions - next time, we'll try to keep the daylight on!

We have started planning events for 2012 and are excited about where we are headed. Our goal is to provide more activities, more chances to learn together, and a wider variety of speakers. We're not quite ready to unveil the list, but it will include something for everyone. We plan to have our calendar established by the end of the year so everyone can make plans in advance to attend our activities. (Don't forget to put the November drive on your calendar as well - see below.)

Our next meeting is with Holly Pulsifer on November 5 at the East Haddam Grange. Holly is one of the founding members of the ADS, but that doesn't begin to explain her value to the driving world. She has experience in carriages and coaches, competitive driving, pleasure driving, you name it. She is passionate about the art and sport of driving and we are very fortunate that she will be sharing her thoughts with us. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Cynthia Bliven

UPCOMING CLUB DRIVE: NEHANTIC STATE FOREST

194 Beaver Brook Rd, Lyme, CT 06371

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 ~ 11 AM

Join November's drive for a pre-Thanksgiving "Turkey Trot"!
Nehantic State Forest has miles of good dirt roads on rolling hills. We are planning a 5-6 mile drive. Whips can do anywhere from 2 miles to 10 if they choose, mile markers will be posted. The first (and last) mile are on a lightly traveled dead end road. Plenty of parking at Cynthia Bliven's Woodland Farm, where we will also join for lunch (firepit and marshmallows if we feel ambitious!). Bring your lunch and a chair.

This drive sponsored by
Cynthia Bliven ~ 860-434-3213

Communicating with Our Members

Our monthly newsletter, the Long Lines, has been a staple of our club for more years than most can remember. While we can be justifiably proud of the end result, it requires intense commitment on the part of a handful of people, each and every month. Those people are wearing thin and, unless someone is eager to take on the burden, we need to make a change. We also believe that many people are frankly not even reading the newsletter. We all do it, click on the email, plan to get back to it and just never do. A small number of folks still get the Long Lines in paper, so we assume those are being read, but that is not the most efficient, or prompt, way to get in contact with our members. We therefore propose the following:

- ✓ Long Lines will be issued on a quarterly basis, as it is today, maybe a little more "newsy"
- ✓ Postcards with the next few upcoming events will be sent out mid-quarter - keep these by your phone or in your car, and you will be able to glance at them for a quick reminder
- ✓ Periodic e-blasts will be sent to update you, remind you of events, and tell you what's new on the website
- ✓ Our website will continue to be a full-service site, with current info, calendar, directions, etc. We want to see more photos of our members, more news, so will bring those items to the home page as well.

Does all of that sound like more work? Oddly enough, it's not. We are already regularly updating the website, we already send e-blast reminders of our events, etc. This plan will eliminate the duplication of effort in getting news out to you in a variety of ways. But more importantly, we actually think it will be easier for you to stay informed about our events, since you will receive a paper postcard to keep handy. And you sure don't want to miss what we're planning for 2012, because we are going to rock and roll!

If you have comments or concerns, or are willing to assume the role of editor & webmaster, please contact Cynthia Bliven (president@cvdrivingclub.com or 860-434-3213).

DRIVING CALENDAR 2011 (always verify information before leaving home!)

Nov 5 – CVDC: Holly Pulsifer, speaker. East Haddam Grange. 6:30 pm, potluck.
Nov 6 – Mary Gray Driving Ctr Autumn ADT, 10 am, Danville, NH. Call 603-974-2357 or email mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net.
Nov 10-13 – Equine Affaire, W Springfield, MA. www,equineaffaire.com. Driving sessions with Andy Marcoux Sat & Sun.
Nov 20 - CVDC Drive at Nehantic State Forest. See details on page 2.

Dec 3 – CVDC Holiday Party, Pat & Mike Axelrod's House. Watch for detail to come!

Just for fun: Martha Stewart gets in on the action with a drive through Acadia National Park in Maine. See photos at http://tinyurl.com/marthasblog2011. Hmm, field trip, anyone?

The CAA will hold the Third International Carriage Symposium in Colonial Willilamsburg in mid-January 2012. Go to http://tinyurl.com/caa-2012 to see the impressive lineup of topics.

October Drive @ Hammonasset Beach State Park:

Submitted by Randy Sabatino

The October drive took place on one of the most beautiful days of the year - 60 degrees, blue blue skies with light puffy fair weather clouds overhead. We had a total of seven turnouts, six carriages out on the paths and one using the opportunity to "play" in the field. The folks we met on Meg's Path seemed pleased to see us and people, dogs and horses all got along well. Dick Mangino's new driving mare "Peanut" looked happy as she traveled behind Randy Sabatino's horses "Stormy and Cloudy" (with husband Frank on the backstep). Jan and Peter Pacific joined us with their Whippoorwill Morgan, as did Jacky Smackula and her friend, Michelle Hulse and her friend, and Pat and Mike Axelrod. Carrie Wind drove her winning mini pair with Sylvia Crosby as her groom/navigator, and Pat McNamee worked with her mini, Sassy, in the field. On our return, some of us practiced dressage in the big grassy parking area while others practiced cones, driving around the picnic tables in the campground. We had lots of fun, and hope to do it again next year.

Photos by Janice O'Sullivan, who rode along with Dick Mangino. See Dick smile!

Join our next club drive at Nehantic State Forest - details on page 2

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See front page of newsletter for login and password!

c/o Rita Bellinger
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