

# 2015 Events

## 02/07/15 – Monthly Club Meeting: Tack and Talk

**Where** East Haddam Grange ([map](#))  
488 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423

**Other Info** Meeting 6:30 pm at the grange. Includes potluck, bring a dish to share. Bring your dirty harness and cleaning supplies, spin a few yarns, dream a few dreams, enjoy your friends.

## 03/07/15 – Monthly Club Meeting: Horse Crematorium

**Where** East Haddam Grange ([map](#))  
488 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423

**Other Info** Meeting 6:30 pm at the grange. Program: Horse Crematorium. NO potluck.

## 04/11/15 – Monthly Club Meeting

**Where** East Haddam Grange ([map](#))  
488 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423

**Other Info** Meeting 6:30 pm at the grange. Program: Adopt-A-Park: Machimoodus State Park & Sunrise Resort. Discussion with State Representative Melissa Ziobron (34 district) and DEEP Coordinator Wanda Torres. Includes potluck, bring a dish to share.

## 4/18/15 - SPRING CLINIC: CYNTHIA BLIVEN

High Hopes Therapeutic Riding  
36 Town Woods Road, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

**Cynthia Bliven**, one of the founding members of the CT Valley Driving Club, has been riding/driving, training and instructing for over 40 years. She has successfully competed in Pleasure Shows and Combined Driving Events (including when they still had all 5 sections), won championships at breed shows, and trained numerous horses and ponies to happy careers both in the show-ring and for recreational pursuits. She is a talented

clinician, clearly explaining basics to beginners and challenging more experienced whips to improve their performance in logical ways.

Cynthia is highly skilled in the use of longlining as a training and performance-enhancing tool. She will also offer longlining sessions, and is available for ridden instruction as well.

Clinic Details:

§ Format: Individual 50-minute sessions, beginning at 8 am.

§ Fee: \$90, first come, first served.

§ Auditors: \$20. Excellent sound system, you won't miss a thing. (Drivers: one groom free of charge.)

High Hopes has a spacious indoor arena with non-dusty footing and a heated viewing lounge with seating. Bathrooms, vending machines, and wide barn aisles. Easy in-and-out and parking for trailers. Stalls available @ \$35/day if needed.

## 04/25/15 – Club Drive: Machimoodus

**Where** Machimoodus/Sunrise State Park ([map](#))

142 Leesville Road  
Moodus, CT 06469

\*\* NEW IN 2015: With the addition of the old Sunrise Resort, there are now more driving trails. Some of the trails have been cleared and improved with the help of CVDC club members. This is a local venue with easy access and will be a benefit to \*all\* horse people, drivers and riders, now and well into the future. We want to make our presence and interest apparent to the State through frequent and respectful use and encourage you to join us on our club outings.

Machimoodus is a state park located in village of Moodus, which is part of the town of East Haddam, Connecticut. It consists of the former Echo Farm and the former Sunrise Resort, purchased in late 2008. Machimoodus has trails that follow old roads and pathways in a scenic area with great views of the Salmon and Moodus Rivers, quarries and swamps. Its a great location for bird watching, fishing, hiking and horseback riding and driving.

**Other Info** First drive of the season! 11 am start. Contact Kathie Rindge to let her know you are coming (860-573-6359).

## 05/02/15 – Monthly Club Meeting: Harness Styles, Fit and Adjustment

**Where** Cynthia Bliven - Woodland Farm ([map](#))

194 Beaver Brook Rd  
Lyme, CT, USA 06371

On Beaver Brook halfway between Rt 156 and Gungy/Grassy Hill Rd, barn with silo. One mile to Nehantic State Forest. Barn phone: 860-434-3213. Cynthia: 860-333-4055

**Other Info** Meeting 6:30 pm. BRING A CHAIR PLEASE. No potluck, table available for those who want to bring something. Plenty of room.

## 05/16/15 – Club Drive: Pachaug

**Where** [Pachaug State Forest](#) ([map](#))

219 Ekonk Hill Rd  
Voluntown, CT 06384

Pachaug is a great place to drive. In the Chapman area is the Frog Hollow Horse Camp -- a large circular road with 18 horse camp sites for parking, a center green with picnic camp fire area. Nice non-paved woods roads.

DIRECTIONS from Route 395 heading north. Take Exit 85, and continue straight past the first intersection (164) to Route 138 and turn RIGHT> Drive 6.5 miles and turn LEFT onto Route 49, and continue .6 of a mile just past the river, and turn LEFT into Pachaug State Forest on the LEFT. Follow that road in until you get to the intersection and stay towards the left. Don't go towards the office. Then simply follow the signs for the Frog Hollow Horse Camp in the Chapman area.

DIRECTIONS from Route 395 heading south. Take Exit 85, turn LEFT onto Route 138 and follow directions above.

**Other Info** Start at 11 am. Raindate 5/17. Contact: Kathie Rindge @ 860-228-3801 or [kathierindge@att.net](mailto:kathierindge@att.net) to let her know you are coming.

## **6/6/15 - 2015 HORSE DRIVING TRIAL**

**The Connecticut Valley Driving Trial** is gearing up for JUNE 6, 2015 – we are still accepting entries! This eagerly awaited event will once again take place at the beautiful Haddam Meadows State Park in Haddam, CT. **Larry Poulin** will serve as President of the Jury and **Craig Kellogg** will join us as Technical Delegate.

### **Also Clinic and Fun Day Slots Available for Sunday Fun Day!**

- Enjoy a lesson with one of the officials the day after the event -
- Or just come and play on the course for your enjoyment and practice!
- Dressage ring, cones and hazards available most of the day (through early afternoon).
- Competitors: send your clinic request along with your entry – we make it easy for you!
- Event Volunteers: remember, you get a nice discount for lessons – take this opportunity to sign up!

Some refreshments (coffee, etc.) will be provided. Please bring a light lunch for yourself. Send check made out to CVDC, Coggins and Rabies Certificate to Kathie Rindge, 36 Hoadly Rd, Amston CT 06231 / 860-228-3801 / [kathierindge@att.net](mailto:kathierindge@att.net) — mention preference for AM or PM slot. Please indicate when registering whether you would like an additional session, if they are available.

**Photos to be taken by Shoot That Horse! Photography (Lisa Cenis). To view proofs and order prints, [send Lisa an email](#).**

**Sunday Fun Day** – sign up for a clinic session with our event officials: Larry Poulin or Craig Kellogg. Remember: the course is open for driving and riding most of the day on Sunday, until approximately 3 pm. Volunteers play for free, others pay a small \$10 fee. **CALL MARGUERITE HAYBER AT 860-817-3181 TO SCHEDULE A LESSON OR FOR QUESTIONS**

## **Horse Driving Trials: What's It All About?**

For those who want just a little more information.... here is a (very) brief summary of what happens during our Horse Driving Trials. There are also many exciting videos on YouTube, search for "driving trials" or "combined driving events" – enjoy!

## HORSE DRIVING TRIALS: FOLLOWING THE ACTION



**Welcome!** This is a one-day "horse driving trial" which has three phases: dressage, cones, and marathon. These are described in greater detail below. Combined Driving is the fastest growing equine sport in the United States. Over the years, this event alone has attracted competitors from New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Maine and of course, Connecticut. You will notice the wide range of turnouts, from "VSE" (Very Small Equine, or mini) to large draft horses. You will also see 2 and 4 wheel vehicles. This is largely a competitor preference, as carts and carriages come in all shapes and sizes – similar to cars or boats!

### **DRESSAGE & CONES: 8:30 – 12:00 pm**

**The Dressage** phase of the driving trial is a test comprised of several movements performed within an arena. Dressage is turned out formally. The judge is primarily looking for a relaxed and forward motion, obedience, accuracy of movements and figures, correctness of gaits and transitions, freedom, regularity, harmony, impulsion, suppleness and lightness of movement. **Spectators are asked to stay back from the ring at least 20 feet during the dressage tests.** Both the drivers and horses are a bit nervous at this stage of the game, and need our help to do their best.

**The Cones** phase directly follows Dressage. The teams negotiate their way through a course marked with cones, each topped by a ball. You can watch the cones competition from any spot, but be sure to stay off the course, as there is no perimeter fence. The course is made up of approximately 18 pairs of cones. Penalties are incurred for going over the time allowed and for knocking down balls from the tops of the cones. There is a set width between all the cones, and they must be reset for each competitor as each vehicle varies slightly in the width of its wheels.

### **MARATHON: 1:30 – 4:00, followed by AWARDS**

The marathon course today is around 5 kilometers (3 miles), and must be completed within the time allowed or penalty points accrue for each second over or under the ideal time. It is not a race; it is paced at a comfortable trot. There are four "Obstacles" along the way to approximate situations in the real world – with an entry and exit gate, and the competitors are timed inside each Obstacle. The equine must trot on course, except they can walk, trot or canter in the Obstacles, and they are allowed to walk for the final stretch. There are penalty points for going under time too, so the drivers have a navigator on back to help them know where to go, and how they are doing on their time. They can tell how they are doing because there are kilometer markers along the way, and they know how fast they need to be going. The driver must complete each Obstacle in A, B, C order for Training Level, and A,B,C,D order for Preliminary Level. There are also a series of Compulsory Turning Flags on the course (1-20) that the competitors must go through to prevent anyone from taking a short cut to the end! A new horse or pony will appear on course every 5 minutes or so to prevent drivers from crossing each other's paths.

## **2015 Setup Volunteers**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015**

**PREP AND PLACEMENT (meet at Haddam Meadows at 5:30 pm)**

Bill Lawson  
Lynn Warren  
Tom Wilcox  
Richard Hayber  
Peter Von Halem

**THURSDAY, June 4, 2015**  
**COURSE & HAZARD BUILDING DAY**

**8:30 am start** BRING SCREW GUNS, TAPE MEASURES & FENCE POUNDERS IF YOU HAVE THEM!

Bill & Nancy Lawson, Steve Mazeau – Organizers  
Todd Gelston – Volunteer Coordinator  
Ginny Sutherland, Jill Vaccaro – Volunteer Refreshments

Marguerite Hayber – Obstacle 1 lead (2 obstacles, incl VSE)  
Ray Frick – Obstacle 3 lead  
Peter VonHalem, Nancy Lawson – Obstacles 2 & 4 lead (at will)  
East Haddam Agricultural Science Students (12) – obstacle crews

Tom Wilcox – general crew  
Reva Seybolt – general crew (midday – course)  
Erica Robb – general crew (midday – course)  
Cynthia Bliven – general crew (midday – course)

Carrie Wind, Steve Mazeau – dressage arena

**FRIDAY, June 5, 2015**  
**DECORATING, ROADS & DETAILS DAY**

**9:30 until ... ~ Come when you can!!** BRING SCREW GUNS IF YOU HAVE THEM!

Bill & Nancy Lawson, Steve Mazeau – Organizers  
Todd Gelston – Volunteer Coordinator  
Ginny Sutherland, Jill Vaccaro – Volunteer Refreshments

Linda Pershaec – general crew  
Alexis Wainwright – general crew  
Steve Mazeau – general crew  
Stephanie Naples – general crew  
Tom Wilcox – general crew  
Andrew Nanaa – general crew

Kathie Rindge, Dana Rindge – cones setup  
Charlotte Gelston – dressage arena decor  
Marguerite Hayber – secretary's area setup  
Randy Sabatino – Judge & TD steward  
Jan Frick – scorekeeper setup

**And anyone else who wants to stop by and help!!** PIZZA & COURSE OPEN FOR WALKING\*: 6:30p  
on the grounds (\* course is not final until declared such by officials!)

**2015 Event Day Volunteers--Saturday, June 6, 2015**

Organizers: Bill & Nancy Lawson, Steven Mazeau  
Volunteer Coordinator: Todd Gelston  
Secretary: Marguerite Hayber  
Judge Steward: Randy Sabatino

**AM Crew: 8:00am (Meet at Dressage/Cones as assigned)**

5:45 AM Parking: Todd Gelston  
Trailer Safety Steward: Dick Mangino

Dressage Chair: Carrie Wind  
Dressage Gate Steward: Carrie Wind  
Dressage Scribe: Rita Bellinger

Cones Chair: Kathie Rindge  
Cones Scribe: Kathie Rindge  
Cones Gate Steward: Dana Rindge  
Cones Radio Relay 1: Hebron 4-H Leader  
Cones Radio Relay 2: Hebron 4-H #1  
Cones Wheel Measurers (2): Hebron 4-H #2 and #3  
Cones Setters: Hebron 4-H #4 through 10

Runners (scores & refreshments): Jennifer Onofrio, Laura Razowski

Scorekeeper: Jan Frick  
Scorekeeper's asst: Jaye Winkler

**PM Crew: 12pm Mandatory Briefing for all pm crew at Center Tent**

Radios Assistant/Runner: Nancy Franklin

Start Timers: Mary Adams, Robert Coates  
Start Asst: Randy Sabatino, Reva Seybolt  
End Timer: Ray Frick

Obstacles – team groupings and locations are flexible:  
Team A: Kathie Rindge, Dana Rindge, Steve Mazeau  
Team B: Jessica Axelson, Jennifer Onofrio, Laura Razowski  
Team C: Tom Wilcox, Claire Muskus, Carrie Wind  
Team D: Stephanie Naples, Andrew Nanaa, Sue Morton  
Spare Obstacle Judge: (Andrew Nanaa, if needed)  
Spare Obstacle Crew: Stephanie Rypsysc

Crossing Guards: Charlotte Gelston & Susan Nichols  
Vet: Twin Pines Equine / Dr. Matt Kornatowski  
Vet Box Asst: Linda Pershaec & Alexis Wainwright

## **06/20/15 – Monthly Club Meeting: HDT Event Review**

**Where** East Haddam Grange ([map](#))  
488 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423

**Other Info** 6:30 pm. Potluck at the Grange.

## 06/27/15 – Club Drive: Escoheag

**Where** Escoheag, LeGrand Reynolds Horsemen's Area ([map](#))

200 Escoheag Hill Road  
West Greenwich, RI 02832

### **Directions:**

#### **From Route 395 heading Northbound**

Get off at Exit 85. Continue through stop sign (crossing Route 164) and stay straight to next intersection. Turn right onto Route 138 (South and East direction) and travel 7.5 miles. and bear onto Beach Pond Road/ CT-Route 165. Travel around 4.5 miles and turn LEFT onto Escoheag Hill Road and travel 1.5 to 2 miles to to LaGrande Reynolds Horsemen's Area on the left. We will be having lunch in the pavillion, so park with walking distance of that. (Once you're on Route 165 and cross the RI border, you will go up a hill, and then level out, and then go down a hill. Escoheag Hill Road comes up fast on the left -- so know that you'll see a horse farm on the right, and then a sign for Stepping Stone Farm and then the road will be there on the left).

#### **From Route 395 heading southbound:**

Route 395 to Exit 85. Turn left onto Route 138 (South and East direction) and travel 7.5 miles. and bear onto Beach Pond Road/ CT-Route 165. Travel around 4.5 miles and turn LEFT onto Escoheag Hill Road and travel 1.5 to 2 miles to to LaGrande Reynolds Horsemen's Area on the left. We will be having lunch in the pavillion, so park with walking distance of that. (Once you're on Route 165 and cross the RI border, you will go up a hill, and then level out, and then go down a hill. Escoheag Hill Road comes up fast on the left -- so know that you'll see a horse farm on the right, and then a sign for Stepping Stone Farm and then the road will be there on the left).

**Other Info** Club drive - starts at 10 am. Raindate: June 28. Contact: Kathie Rindge @ 860-228-3801 or [kathierindge@att.net](mailto:kathierindge@att.net) to let her know you are coming.

## 07/18/15 – Monthly Club Meeting

**Where** East Haddam Grange ([map](#))

488 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423

**Other Info** 6:30 pm. Program: Ron Ross, Equine Dentist. No potluck. Meeting to discuss next year's driving trial.

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## 07/25/15 – Club Drive: Machimoodus

**Where** Machimoodus/Sunrise State Park ([map](#))

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Moodus, CT 06469

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### Other Info

Start at 11 am. Contact: Kathie Rindge @ 860-228-3801 or [kathierindge@att.net](mailto:kathierindge@att.net).

## 08/15/15 – Club Drive: Machimoodus

**Where** Machimoodus/Sunrise State Park ([map](#))142 Leesville Road  
Moodus, CT 06469

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### Other Info

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## 09/19/15 – Monthly Club Meeting

**Where** East Haddam Grange ([map](#))  
488 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423

**Other Info** Program TBA.

## 09/26/15 – CVDC Scurry and Fun Day

**Where** [Mitchell Farm](#) ([map](#))  
300 East Haddam Road (Rt. 82)  
Salem, CT, USA 06420

Equine Retirement facility located in Salem CT, easy access. Large outdoor ring just right for carriage driving.

From Hartford: Take CT Rte 2 East toward Norwich/New London. Merge onto CT Rte 11 at Exit 19, toward New London. Take Exit 4 off Rte 11. At bottom of ramp go Right onto Rte 82 West. Go .2 mile to first driveway on the right.

From the South (New Haven): Take I-95 North to Exit 70. Go left at the bottom of the ramp onto Rte 156. Go 8 miles to the “T” at Rte 82 (East Haddam Rd.) Turn right onto Rte 82. Mitchell Farm is 3.5 miles on the left, just before Rte 11.

From the North (Boston) (I-95): Take I-95 South to Exit 82. Right at bottom of ramp onto Rte 85 North. Go 10 miles to the Roundabout at Rte 82. Go left (East) onto Rte 82 (East Haddam Road). Mitchell Farm is 1.5 miles on the right just after the Rt. 11 underpass.

**Other Info** Starts at 10 am. (Rain date: Sun, Sept 27.) Contact Peter VonHalem @ 860-889-6467. More info to come.

## 10/03/15 – Monthly Club Meeting

**Where** East Haddam Grange ([map](#)) 488 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423 Program: TBA

## 10/17/15 – Club Drive: Lord Creek

**Where** Lord Creek ([map](#))

373 Hamburg Rd (Rt 156)  
Lyme, CT 06371

Lovely private estate with rollings vistas down to the CT River, and open to equestrians through club activities.

Directions: From I-95 north, exit 70, end of ramp go left onto 156N, go 2.6 miles to Lord Creek Farm on left. From I-95 south, exit 70, at end of ramp go straight onto Halls Rd. 1/4 mile to light, turn right onto 156N, go 2.6 miles to Lord Creek Farm on left. From RT 11, south to Rt. 82W, go south on 156 for 6 miles to Lord Creek Farm on right.

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**Other Info** Start at 11 am. Raindate: 10/18. Contact: Kathie Rindge @ 860-228-3801 or [kathierindge@att.net](mailto:kathierindge@att.net)

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## 11/07/15 – Monthly Club Meeting & Potluck

**Where** East Haddam Grange ([map](#))

488 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423

**Other Info** program TBA

## 11/22/15 – Annual Nehantic Forest Turkey Trot Club Drive

**Host: Cynthia Bliven Held at Woodland Farm 194 Beaver Brook Rd, Lyme, CT**

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. For directions, click on the Nehantic Drive link in the right sidebar. For more information, please call this drive's sponsor, Cynthia Bliven, at 860-434-3213.

## 12/06/15 – 2015 HOLIDAY PARTY

**Where** [Town Tavern \(map\)](#)

381 Town Street  
East Haddam, CT 06423

Good down-home food, reasonable prices and friendly atmosphere. At the intersection of Rt 82 and Rt 151, near Shagbark.

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**Other Info** We look forward to enjoying a seasonal gathering for our annual Holiday party and dinner. SUNDAY DEC 6 AT 6:30 PM at the Town Tavern, about a mile from the Grange down the street at the intersection of Rt. 151 and Rt. 82. Come one, come all, bring your family and friends.

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