

Long Lines



May 1, 2008

Visit us on the web at
www.cvdrivingclub.com
NEW Newsletter Archive

CVDC Photo Album!
www.flickr.com/cvdc
Login: **ctvalleydrivingclub**
password: **driveon**

CVDC is looking for new places to drive!

The Drive Committee needs your suggestions! If you know of any new, fun, safe places to drive, let us know! Please remember that places should have enough parking for trailers of all sizes. Trails should be wide enough for pair carriages and long enough to last at least 45 minutes (or longer if desired). Contact: Randy Sabatino (860) 873-3894 or cowhill@hughes.net

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Celebrate the 1st National Carriage Driving Month! Northeast Recreational Drive & Campout May 17-18

Reynolds Horse Area,
Escoheag
260 Arcadia Rd
Exeter, RI

In order to celebrate May as National Carriage Driving Month CVDC encourages members to participate in a Ride/Drive Campout at Escoheag. Participants can arrive Saturday morning anytime after 9am and utilize the great dirt roads and trails all day if you wish. Riders and drivers are both welcome, and if you don't want to camp, pack up and go home after a long day of horse activities!

Saturday night features a fun "fireside" potluck supper, so bring some of your favorite camping recipes to share with the group. Sunday morning breakfast will also be a group potluck. For lunch though, you are on your own, so either pack yourself a picnic for "on the road", or giddy-up back to the campsite to picnic with the other drivers.

At Reynolds Horse Area, Escoheag the horse campsite includes fireplaces, picnic tables, water, pit toilets, horse show ring, and trails/dirt roads.

One thing to remember though is that this event is very low key! There will be nothing more available to you! So, please remember to pack everything you need, because this will be some primitive camping! For example, don't forget your own camping gear, and electric fencing, portable stalls, or picket line for your horse. Please remember that dogs are welcome, but they must be on a leash.

If this sounds like something that interests you, make sure you join the fun, even if it is just for the day! Help to celebrate the first National Carriage Month! All drivers are invited to come, but you must be a member of CVDC or of another regional driving club for insurance reasons. For more info on this event contact catprints2@aol.com



Above: A campsite at Escoheag-- Below: picket line camping



At a Glance... CVDC Spring Calendar of Events

May 17-18: Northeast Region Campout and Ride/Drive Reynolds Horse Area, Escoheag (260 Arcadia Rd: Exeter, RI)
Contact: catprints2@aol.com

May 17: CVDC pre-event meeting and potluck, 6:30pm. East Haddam Grange.

June 7: Connecticut Valley Driving Trial, Haddam Meadows (Prizelist and Entry form on our website www.cvdrivingclub.com)

June 8: CVDC Fun Day and Clinic with Craig Kellogg and Marc Johnson – Contact Marguerite Hayber 860-267-6552 (Info and Entry form on our website www.cvdrivingclub.com)

June 14: CVDC Potluck Meeting at Dan and Joan Abbate's High Point Farm, 364 Marlborough Rd., Glastonbury, CT. CVDC Member and Driving Instructor Cynthia Bliven will be giving a demonstration of her choice at that meeting. **Do not miss this meeting!** Cynthia Bliven, a founding member of the CVDC, is a very accomplished carriage driver. She has agreed to hold a lesson clinic for CVDC members in August at her farm in Old Lyme, Ct. Please read about her in the next issue of the Long Lines. We will NOT be meeting at the Grange on Sat. 21st. Our meeting date has been changed to Saturday June 14th because we did not want to conflict with the Orleton Farm driving show, which will be held on Saturday June 21st.

CVDC Driving Trial Saturday, June 7th

Connecticut Valley Driving Trial **entries close May 15th (postmark date)**. There are still several spots open as of the printing of this newsletter. This is a beginner friendly event with loads of pre- and day-of support. Training and Preliminary levels offered for minis, ponies, horses and multiples. Come and experience the fastest growing equine sport in the US! Spectators welcome. We also have several volunteer positions still available (contact andree@betterdaysalliance.org). The Driving Trial will be held rain or shine on June 7 at Haddam Meadow State Park (route 154, Haddam, CT).

More information and the entry forms go to www.cvdrivingclub.com

CVDC Fun Day and Clinic Sunday, June 8th

Don't miss out on the fun! After Saturday's Driving Trial at Haddam Meadow State Park, on Sunday CVDC will open up the dressage ring, cones course, and marathon with obstacles for a day of clinics, free play, and pleasure driving. Special rates for Driving Trial volunteers, but any member can participate. Clinicians: **Craig Kellogg** is an American Driving Society Recognized judge and technical delegate for combined driving, pleasure driving, and dressage. He is a Recognized combined driving judge with the USEF, and a Certified Large Animal Rescue Technician. Mr. Kellogg has been a carriage driving trainer, instructor and clinician for over thirty years. **Marc Johnson** has been involved in Combined Driving for almost thirty years. Starting as a navigator in the late seventies, he has competed with pairs and four-in-hands internationally. Last year, Marc went to Italy with his old friend, Sterling Graburn, to navigate around the Single Driving World Championship marathon course for a fourth place finish. Other than training and teaching, Marc spends much of his time building courses and is a Director of the American Driving Society.

More information and the entry forms go to www.cvdrivingclub.com

Spring-Summer Events throughout the Northeast

May

4 ~ GSCA Newbie/Green Horse Drive, Canterbury (NH). All are welcome on this drive, emphasis on giving new drivers the chance to ride & practice with experienced drivers & matching those driving green driving horses with helpers. Contact: Ginger & John Laplante 603-783-4702

8 ~ Andy Marcoux Lesson Day, Black Horse Equestrian Center, Bethlehem (CT). Contact: Brad Bertele 516-449-9610.

9-10 ~ GMHA Two Phase Driving Clinic, So. Woodstock (VT). Clinicians: Jeff Morse and Scott Monroe. Contact: Karey Manner 802-457-1509 www.gmhainc.org

10 ~ "Plowing the Garden" 10:00 AM Eastern (CT) Draft Horse Association. Wilbraham, MA. Contact: Elaine Keeley 860-376-8110

11 ~ GMHA Two-Phase Driving Event, So. Woodstock (VT) Contact: Karey Manner 802-457-1509

15-17 ~ Carriage Division, Vermont Morgan Horse Show. Big E Fairgrounds, W. Springfield (MA). Contact: Hayes Sogoloff 802-425-7211

16~ LHDC meeting 7:00 p.m. at Don & Jan Rogers' Chestnut Hill Farm in Plymouth with a guest speaker. Hostesses: Josephine Barker and Nancy Mangino.

17~ CVDC pre-event meeting for volunteers, 6:30pm. East Haddam Grange.

17 ~ Maine Driving Club Introduction to Carriage Driving at Skyline Farm, 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth (ME). 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Educational and informative for beginner drivers, equine enthusiasts, and anyone who loves horses! \$3 per person/\$5 per car (suggested donation). Contact: Elizabeth Tewksbury, Maine Driving Club President 207-625-4616 / moonstonefarm@msn.com or Pam Ames, Skyline Farm President 207-829-9203 / info@skylinefarm.org

17 ~ GSCA Driving/Riding/Mini Pace, Auburn (NH). Contact: Jim Burnham 603-588-6119; Laurie Goodwin 603- 483-8797; Nancy Slombo 603-382-9767. Check website for updates on this new event: www.equinesite.net/gsca

17 & 18 ~ ADS Northeast Region Recreational Drive and Campover, LeGrand Reynolds Horsemen's Area, Escoheag (RI). Open to ADS member clubs in the NE Region. Contact: Cat Luce 508-384-5190

May 18: Litchfield Hills Driving Club celebrates National Carriage Driving Month at White Memorial in Litchfield. The drive will depart at 11 a.m. led by Don Rogers 860-589-6293.

18 ~ Evaluation/Maintenance/Appraisal of Antique & Modern Carriages. Carriage Barn Equestrian Center, Newton (NH). Do your wheels need attention, your brakes work properly, or is that antique vehicle safe to drive? Bring your vehicle and learn how to check all the trouble spots for safety and wear. Contact: 603-378-0140 or carriage-barn@comcast.net

18 ~ Litchfield Hills Driving Club Picnic Drive at White Memorial (CT).). Contact: Dick Mangino at richard_mangino@netzero.net

21-26 ~ Sterling Graburn driving clinic. Rough Terrain Farm in Randolph Center (VT). Contact: Leslie Haynes 802-728-5945 or 802-279-5945 or lesliehaynes@verizon.net

24 & 25 ~ Robin Groves Driving Clinic & Get Away Weekend. Penfrydd Horse Farm, Colrain (MA). Contact: Ceacy Henderson at 413-624-8969 or info@prosperitypaperworks.com

30-31 and June 1 – Benefit Drive at Acadia (ME) to help send Mary Gray and her horse Legacy to the IPC World Carriage Driving Championship for Drivers with Disabilities in Greven, Germany on June 27-29, 2008. Contact: Mary at mgskyline@aol.com

Continued on page 3...

Spring-Summer Events throughout the Northeast**Continued...****June**

5-7 ~ Connecticut Morgan Show Carriage Division. Contact: Laurence & Gail Williamson
603-835-2662

6-7 ~ Driving/Long-lining Clinic with Clay Maier, Seacoast Farm, Sabattus (ME). With enough entries, this clinic will be expanded to include June 8. Contact Jenny at seacoastfarm@hughes.net

7 ~ Connecticut Valley Driving Trial, Haddam (CT). Contact: Marguerite Hayber 860-267-6552 or www.cvdridingclub.com

8~ CVDC Fun Day and Clinic with Craig Kellogg and Marc Johnson – Contact Marguerite Hayber 860-267-6552 (Info and Entry form on our website www.cvdridingclub.com)

8 ~ Maine Driving Club Pleasure Clinic/Show at Hollis Equestrian Park. Clinician/Judge Susan Koso. Divisions: Novice, Junior, and Open. \$60 for MDC members, \$70 for non-MDC members. Contact: Elizabeth Tewksbury 207-625-4616 or moonstonefarm@msn.com

8~ LHDC drive... The "Ed Schleich Memorial Drive" at a location to be determined. Contact is Don Rogers 860-589-6293 and Mark Borkoski 860-585-9018.

8 ~ Andy Marcoux driving clinic, Tunbridge (VT). Stabling and camping available, auditors welcome. Contact: Jacky Marston 802-747-3488/468-5031 or JBode@aol.com or download sign up form at www.vtmorganhorse.com

14: CVDC Potluck meeting at Dan and Joan Abbate's High Point Farm, 364 Marlborough Road, Glastonbury. We will NOT be meeting at the Grange on the 21st. CVDC Member and Driving Instructor Cynthia Bliven will be giving a demonstration.

14 ~ 10 a.m. RIDC Clinic Foster (RI). Harness fitting, ground driving, general questions.
www.ridridingclub.org

14 ~ 12:00 Noon. RIDC General Meeting & Cookout Lunch, Foster (RI). www.ridridingclub.org

14 ~ GSCA Bear Brook State Park Drive/Ride. Allenstown (NH). Contact: Claudia Libis
603-463-9812

14-15 ~ Jeff Morse Clinic Series at Absolute Morgans, Vergennes (VT). Contact: Janet Yager
802-545-2457 or morgans@madriver.com

21 ~ North Country Riding Club Carriage Day, Piscataquis Valley Fair Grounds, Dover-Foxcroft (ME). Pleasure, obstacles, dressage. Contact: Angela Coy 207-343-0033 or angie@infinityfarm.us

21-22 ~ Orleton Farm, Eden Hill 10th Annual Pleasure Driving Show, Stockbridge (MA) Contact: Laurence Williamson
603-835-2662 or www.colonialcarriage.org

21-29 (Sat/Sun) ~ GSCA Acadia National Park Drive/Ride Week-Weekend, Bar Harbor (ME)
Contact: Laurie Goodwin 603-483-8797

27-29 ~ Bromont International Driving CAI-A CDE, Bromont, Quebec, Canada

CVDC Club Ads:

Call Anne (860-365-0295 or cell 860-416-3392) One brand new Ovation white on white stripe, short sleeve, ratcatcher shirt, size 12. \$22. One pair brand new blue denim cotton/lycra stretch riding jeans, PHD classics, size 32. \$40 (Nice! Sell for much more!) One pair black Geo. Schumacher breeches, size 32R, new, but tried on once. Elastic foot straps. \$65. One pair new Tuff Rider blue denim cotton/lycra riding jeans, size 30R. \$30.

Therapeutic Program Starting in Middletown

April's meeting featured CVDC member Debbie Boutwell of Hackney's Hope Farm in Middletown. Debbie is hearing impaired and was accompanied by an interpreter/ signer. She presented to the club about her new therapeutic riding and related equine assisted activities program for the hearing impaired, physically, emotionally, or speech impaired, and/or developmentally challenged. Debbie is NAHRA certified therapeutic riding instructor. Her staff uses sign language to communicate with hearing impaired or the special rider who uses sign language. Hackney's Hope Farm offers a challenging and compassionate environment. Debbie's program is a non-profit venture and she is accepting donations which will help her acquire equipment and build a ramp. For more information contact: Debbie Boutwell, thehackneyshope@aol.com, or call 860-632-7117.

Connecticut Horse Cremation

(Courtesy of Dick Mangino and LHDC)

Written by, Jeff Blaschke/ Dominic Gambardell

Presently there is no alternative when a horse dies but to bury them in a hole in the ground which contaminates ground water and causes environmental issues. Not to mention the emotional stress of having to put your pet in a muddy grave.

We are proposing a much better alternative for horse owners and an agricultural community such as yours with such a large horse population. We as horse owners, who ourselves have suffered through this ordeal, feel that we can offer a service to benefit owners as well as the environment.

A brief overview of how our service will work:

We receive a call from the horse owner that their horse has passed away and immediately we will go to the site of the horse with the proper equipment needed to gently load the horse onto a covered trailer to be transported by us to our facility. At the site the horse will be tagged with a number for identification purposes.

Once at the facility we will back the covered vehicle into the building, the doors will then be closed so no horse will be visible and the horse will be taken out of the vehicle and moved onto a prep table. The only prep needed is to remove steel shoes (if any). The horse will then be loaded into the crematory whole, never to be dismembered in any way. If the machine is currently occupied, the horse will be placed in a cooler, which also has a generator back-up.

The cremation process will take approximately three hours and will be constantly monitored until completed.

We will then remove the ashes from the crematory and place them in an urn of the owners choosing (approx. 13" x 13") in size. The urn will then be returned to the customer with a sympathy card.

Our equipment will be propane fueled state of the art technology with a secondary burn chamber that burns off all odor and smoke. This machine emits fewer emissions than a diesel truck or wood stove. There is a key required to start the machine for security purposes.

We anticipate making one to two trips to the facility each day using only our trucks. The traffic impact on the town will be minimal. We will not accept live animal deliveries to the site. Our business will be based on us doing pick-ups only

Contacts: Jeff Blaschke, email: jeff@jdbcc.com any questions feel free to email.

Young Driver Opportunities!

ADS Young drivers have several opportunities this summer here in the Northeast and beyond:

- 1) For the third year, young drivers have an opportunity to work with top U.S. competitive drivers at the **Young Driver's Training Camp at Southern Pines NC**, July 18, 19, and 20. Selection of participants will be through your ADS Regional Director. Along with the selection there are \$500 grants, as determined by financial need, to be used towards the camp fee and travel expenses. Interested youth need to send a resume to the regional director and this will serve as an application. See the April 2008 Wheelhorse for more specific information. Information will also soon be available on the ADS web site on the Young Driver's page. My email is catprints2@aol.com, 508-384-5190. My address is: Wrenfield Farm 135 East Street Wrentham, MA 02093
- 2) **ADS Annual Youth Championship**: see The Whip, March 2008 for all the information. This is a great opportunity to compete on paper with other youth around the country. Here is the link to the ADS web page with all the championship information: http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/YD_championships.asp
- 3) At the Carriage Barn Equestrian Center in Newton NH the following two opportunities are available for young drivers:
 - **July 14th – 18th – Kids Driving Clinic Week #1** – For Young Beginner students (ages 10 and under) who need to know “everything” there is to know about ponies, horses, and carts. No previous experience required. Students will be introduced to harnessing, the history of carriages, and receive driving instruction each day. Space is limited. Parental supervision is not required.
 - **July 21st – 25th – Kids Driving Clinic Week #2** – For Advanced students ages 10 and up that are ready for competition level. Dana Bright will instruct this week's clinic. Mrs. Bright's carriage driving experiences include competing at Advanced Combined Driving Event Level with single and pair, and at pleasure shows with singles, pairs, and unicorn. She holds “R” cards for pleasure and combined driving, pleasure TD, and dressage with The American Driving Society. She also judges United States Equestrian Federation pleasure and combined driving shows. Space is limited. Parent supervision is not required.

Connecticut Valley Driving Trial Memories -- Join the Fun in 2008!



Dear CVDC Members,

The organizers of the CT Valley Driving Trial are hoping to find club members willing to:

-- Lend their golf cart, Cub Cadet or ATV to the organizers. We are short this year on field vehicles for the judges and set up crew. Your vehicle will be well cared for, driven only by an organizer or judge, and will be locked up in the trailer every evening. Dates of use are June 5 - June 8th. Pick and delivery needed as well.

-- Provide a free, clean stall and a place for a competitor to park their trailer and camp out the night before the show. They pay for shavings and strip stall when done.

If you can provide either of these, please send an email to Nancy Lawson at wlawson@sbcglobal.net or Andree Duggan at andree@betterdaysalliance.org.

Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

May is National Carriage Driving Month! What is going on?

Litchfield Hills Driving Club and Connecticut Valley Driving Club Observe First Annual National Carriage Driving Month!

The Carriage Association of America and the American Driving Society, both national organizations for the promotion and preservation of horses and carriage driving, have designated this May as the first annual observance of National Carriage Driving Month.

For their part, The Litchfield Hills Driving Club will be holding their May picnic drive at The White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield, Connecticut. The Litchfield Hills Driving Club is a carriage driving club headquartered in Litchfield County but drawing members from all over the state and from as far away as New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The club has been in existence for over 30 years with over 80 members ranging in age from teens to 90's. Interests range from national competition to local pleasure driving, with the overriding attention to the love of horses and the perpetuation of carriage driving. The picnic drive will be held on May 18th with the carriages leaving at 11:00 AM. On their return members will be gathering for a picnic lunch. Interested drivers or horseback riders must become members before participating (\$25/year/family) so please contact Dick Mangino, President @ 203-272-5257 for event details and membership.

As part of this observance, Connecticut Valley Driving Club will be participating in a weekend camping trip... Northeast Recreational Drive & Campout: May 17-18, Reynolds Horse Area, Escoheag (260 Arcadia Rd: Exeter, RI) (details on front page of newsletter)

FUN TIP FOR CAMPING WITH HORSES

in reference to a past Escoheag Campout/drive... (shown above and on page 1)

"It is very dark there at night so bring flashlights! **We used duct tape and glow sticks on our mare's blanket last year so that we could find her in the dark if she got loose!**"
says organizer Cat Luce, NE ADS Rep.

Carriage Show and Tell!

The Carriage Association of America has declared May National Carriage Month. In celebration of carriages, the Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum of Canandaigua, New York is hosting a Carriage Show on May 17, 2008 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Similar to an automobile show, this is a static display event.

Exhibition is free. To manage this event, exhibitors must pre-register. Registration information, maps, etc will be available via our web site. To receive more information, please visit the Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum web site at www.grangerhomestead.org.

contacts: main Office: 585-394-1472, info@grangerhomestead.org or Denett Pimkowski at dpimkowski@rochester.rr.com

Celebrate Horses & Carriage Driving

May 17, 2008 at Skyline Farm, 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth, ME
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Spend a spring afternoon at the beautiful and historic Skyline Farm to learn the basics of carriage driving. Enjoy a "hands-on" learning experience with both Maine Driving Club members and Skyline Farm volunteers. See a live driving demonstration in the outdoor arena, try your hand at "driving" a reinboard "horse", explore the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum, and learn how to harness a horse! There will also be carriage rides available for \$10 per person.

This event is designed to be educational and informative for anyone who loves horses and carriages, equine enthusiasts, and beginner drivers alike!

Admission is \$5 per car or \$3 per person (suggested donation).

For more info... please contact:

Elizabeth Tewksbury, Maine Driving Club President, (207) 625-4616, moonstonefarm@msn.com

Pam Ames, Skyline Farm President, (207) 829-5708, info@skylinefarm.org

Clinics, Shows and Other Events in the Region!

Driving Clinic with Robin Groves

May 24 & 25 Memorial Day Weekend

Get away for the weekend at Penfrydd Horse Farm in beautiful Colrain, Ma. There will be two days of driving instruction including dressage, cones, and hazards with advanced driver, judge, and extremely knowledgeable clinician Robin Groves of Brownsville, VT.

Cost: \$220 (includes two lessons each day)/ Accommodations and stabling available on site at additional cost/ Lunch and Dinner provided at additional cost/ Limited Number of spaces available/ \$75 Non- refundable deposit required to hold space/ Auditors welcome \$25 per day/ Bring your horse or use one of our well-trained Norwegian Fjords.

For More Information Contact Ceacy Henderson at 413-624-8969 or e-mail info@prosperitypaperworks.com

Mail Deposit to: Ceacy Henderson, 107 Hillman Rd, Colrain, Ma 01340

Sterling Graburn Clinic at Rough Terrain Farm

A clinic with Sterling Graburn will be held at Rough Terrain Farm in Randolph Center, VT on May 21-26. Sterling is a wonderful clinician and provides excellent help and guidance for both driver and horse. Please call Leslie Haynes at (802) 728-5945 or (802) 279-5945 or email lesliehaynes@verizon.net for more info.

Sterling D. B. Graburn is the owner of Kingsforth Hall Training Center in Bonifay, Florida. He was the highest ranking North American at the 2006 Singles World Driving Championships in Prato, Italy, and is the 2004 FEI Top Driver North American Challenge Single Horse Champion. He drives single, pair, tandem, unicorn, and four-in-hand, and is one of the few whips in North America who competes in combined driving with a tandem turnout.

Sterling offers private lessons for competitive and recreational drivers and is an excellent clinician for both singles and multiples. Beginner and advanced levels are welcome for one or more days. Individual lessons address issues specific to the horse and driver or team and can be conducted in the indoor arena, outdoor track, or on the public road. A limited number of stalls and/or paddocks are available for out-of town horses, and there is plenty of room to camp on the grounds. Participants are invited to gather together at night to share a meal, compare notes, and watch event videos. The clinic concludes with a potluck dinner with lots of good food, wine, and interesting conversation.

Fee: An hour with Sterling is \$100. Auditors are welcome for \$25 a day. A 50% deposit is required to reserve your spot and is non-refundable after April 15, if you do not participate.

Driving Show at Hollis Equestrian Park

There will be a Driving Show at Hollis Equestrian Park in Hollis, Maine on July 20th. Pleasure classes, Dressage, Cones and Hazards will be offered. Novice, Open and Junior classes available. Great facility, plenty of room for warm-up and parking and food available for purchase. Do all the classes you want for only \$60 for the day or pay for individual classes. Great show for beginners !! Located in Southern Maine and an easy drive from eastern MA and southern NH.

Please email for class list anewton@maine.rr.co

Vermont Morgan Horse Association clinic

We are delighted to have Andy Marcoux present a carriage driving clinic on Sunday, June 8 in beautiful Tunbridge, Vermont. The clinic format will consist of small groups, with skill levels appropriately matched. We will focus on ring work and will have a "practice show" in the morning, followed by lunch. Afternoon sessions will focus on cones and obstacles, according to drivers' needs. Stabling and camping are available, and auditors are welcome.

For further information, contact: Jacky Marston; JBode@aol.com; 802 747 3488/ 468 5031 or download a sign up form from the Vermont Morgan website: vtmorganhorse.com

Volunteers Needed for 2010 FEI Games!

The World Games 2010 Foundation announced it is launching a volunteer recruitment Web Site.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can log on to www.feigames2010.org for entry forms and more information.

For more information, contact Cathy Rutter at crutter@feigames2010.org,

or call the World Games 2010 Foundation at 859-255-2010.

President's Letter...

Hi

I've been communicating with one of our driving club members from Fairfield County, CT, where I grew up. Growing up, the driving club there was very active and there were 80 miles of Bridal Trail Association (BTA) trails that a team of dedicated volunteers worked to create for a few decades and which I personally enjoyed throughout my youth.

She wrote to me to lament the fact that there was not only no driving club anymore, but the trails were disappearing. I couldn't believe it. The BTA worked with attorneys to ensure any land sold along the bridal trail needed to maintain a deeded right of way to ensure the trails would be there forever. I suspect this is the case, but people in their mini mansions are not aware of these pre-existing right of ways and have planted grass or erected rock walls along the paths. There clearly isn't the demand for the trails anymore as more and more people down there are into Hunter Jumpers and never leave the Hunt Club grounds. They forgot their origins -- that the main reason for the trails was to hunt! And of course they were lovely and wide enough for drivers in many parts.

I just mention this to get a discussion going in our club about how we, in a less dense part of Connecticut, can ensure the trails we take for granted are there for future generations after we're gone. How can we do a better job of passing the torch? I have to believe there are plenty in Fairfield who don't know the history, and perhaps it is not too late for a dedicated group to reclaim what is rightfully theirs. But for the rest of us, it might be easier to exercise our right of way muscles continually. How can we best do that? Our club covers half the State and trails are often locally based.

I know of one horse club in our area that has adopted one trail system in particular and is very involved in partnership with the State and private land owners to preserve it. But they dedicate 1/3 of their time to trail preservation: attending town planning meetings, training members to be on Horse Patrol for the State, clearing new trails, documenting the system on maps, inviting other users to join them on trail appreciation days (bikers, walkers, fishermen and hunters), applying for grants for trail improvement projects. They even set up a non-profit to receive land and financial donations. So enjoying the sport is part of what they do, but they also give a tremendous amount of energy to that one trail system.

Are there any in our club who would be interested in suggesting a trail system that is particularly well suited for driving in our half of the State? A system that is centrally located and where we could volunteer our time and energy to ensure it remains as is for our children and their children? Maybe we as a club could adopt that trail system. Is there anyone who would like to explore what would be involved? Please write to me or bring it up at the next meeting. Thanks!

Andree Duggan
President, CT Valley Driving Club

In the Next Issue...

- Love of the Horse –Thelma Nelson
- Member Spotlight
- How I started Driving
- Updated Calendar/Drives
- CT Horse Cremation Updates
- And much more!



Above: Driving, camping picket line, and picnicking at Reynolds Horse Area, Escoheag



Long Lines

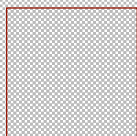
May 2008

www.cvdrivingclub.com

CVDC Photo Album!

www.flickr.com/cvdc

Be sure to add your photos. Password on front page of newsletter.



Connecticut Valley
Driving Club
c/o Krista Labella
370 Westchester Road
Colchester, CT 06415