

Long Lines



December 1, 2008

Visit us on the web at:
www.cvdrivingclub.com

Club Photo Album:
www.flickr.com/cvdc

Add your photos!

Do you have any member news you would like to share with the CVDC? Do you have any pictures, advertisements, events, show results, or perhaps a story you would like to submit? Help Krista keep the long lines interesting and informative. Email deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net

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Holiday Feast and Yankee Swap Await Thee!



Come in from the cold and toast to the Holidays and New Year with good friends. This year's CVDC Holiday Party will be held at Cynthia and Fred Bliven's home in Lyme on December 20th.

The party will feature a delicious main course, your own potluck contributions, plus wine and beer and any other holiday cheer that you choose to bring. If you give a gift, you can participate in our annual Yankee Swap – usually a hoot!

When you receive your electronic invitation be sure to go to our website to RSVP and to pick your potluck contribution. OR you can call Cynthia Bliven directly. Details on the flyer within.

CVDC Moves Monthly Meeting Dates to First Saturday!

CVDC has voted to move its monthly meetings to the first Saturday of the month, except in the event of holidays, and its monthly drives to the second Saturday or Sunday of the month. Details on the schedule can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter. Locations, programs, drives, clinics, events, etc. will continue to fill in over the course of this winter. We have established the full calendar of dates for your planning convenience. We can look forward to a very full year, with our meetings at interesting farms during the nice weather, many excellent learning clinics, our two regular events, and several new locations on tap for drives. There is also an emerging mini-horse contingent within the club that's very exciting and we hope to have several of them at this year's driving trial.

Calendar of Events

2008

December 12~ LHDC Holiday Party 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, corner of North Street and Route 6, Plymouth, CT. Host and Hostess: Dave Breakell and Rosemary Werner.

December 20 – 6:30pm, Annual Holiday Party will be at Cynthia and Fred Bliven's Woodland Farm, 194 Beaver Brook Rd., Lyme, Ct. 860-434-3213. Flyer within newsletter. Be sure to click through to RSVP and pick your Potluck item when you receive your electronic invitation, or you can always call Cynthia directly. Directions: Follow Route 156 in Lyme, and turn onto Beaver Brook Road. Go down 1 mile, and look for CVDC signs.

CVDC 2009 CALENDAR – Hold the Dates, Details Forthcoming

- January 3rd – **NO CVDC MEETING in January**
- February 7th – CVDC Mtg. 6:30, Potluck dinner at East Haddam Grange, Program TBA
- March 7th – CVDC Mtg. Program and location TBA
- March 15- JEFF MORSE CVDC Spring Tune-Up CARRIAGE DRIVING CLINIC, 8:00am – 5:30pm, High Hopes, Lyme, CT. Flyer within newsletter.
- April 4th – CVDC Mtg. Program and location TBA
- April 18th – CVDC Spring Picnic Drive. Location TBA
- May 2nd – CVDC Mtg at Peter Von Halem's Farm, Program on Carriages.
- May 16 – 17th – CVDC and RIDC Camping Trip and Ride/Drive at Escoheag
- June 6th – CT Valley Driving Trial, see ADS Omnibus for details
- June 7th – CT Valley Fun Day Clinics with Lisa Singer and Craig Kellogg
- June 27th - CVDC Mtg. Program and location TBA
- July 11th – CVDC Clinic or Drive TBA
- Aug 1st – CVDC Mtg. Program and location TBA
- Aug 8th – CVDC Drive TBA
- Sept 5th -- CVDC Mtg. Program and location TBA
- Sept 20th – CVDC Cones Memorial Drive, East Haddam.
- Oct 3rd -- CVDC Mtg. Program and location TBA
- Oct 11th -- CVDC Ride / Drive Pace TBA
- Nov 7th -- CVDC Mtg. Program and location TBA
- Nov 15th – CVDC Drive, weather permitting
- Dec 5th – CVDC Holiday Party at Marguerite Havber and Bob Dean's home.

Secretary's Desk

November 21, 2008 CVDC Meeting, At Grange Hall, East Haddam

A very well attended meeting took place on Saturday, 11/21 at the Grange Hall in East Haddam. The reason for this higher than normal attendance was surely in anticipation of our speaker, Dr. Frank Palka of Chester. Dr. Palka has been our veterinarian in residence at CVDC's June driving trial. His topic for the evening was Cushings Syndrome and variations thereof. Dr. Palka spoke generously for approximately an hour about the pituitary gland, its complicated impact of running the "engine" of the horse and the ramifications on the horse when this gland malfunctions. The discussion included **precautionary measures** that we can take and the common and only treatment that has been identified so far in horse medical science. A brief business meeting followed. There were several new members in attendance. They introduced themselves to the group. Coincidentally, they are all mini owners! The new members are Mary and Gary Adams and Cynthia Chokowski. Andree Duggan reported on the 2009 planning session that took place at Randy's house. A motion was made and passed to accept the proposed schedule of meetings. It was decided by members that there would be no January **club meeting**, and that the first official meeting of 2009 will take place on **February 7th** at the East Haddam Grange at 6:30p.m.

High Hopes will be adding a column to our newsletter on the therapeutic driving news. Randy Sabatino gave a report on our representation at the ADS Booth at the **Equine Affaire**, which went very well. Kathy Gregory gave a report on the final financial outcome of the Ride-Drive-Pace. After all expenses, including a donation to High Hope's in Janie Davison's name, the event had a net profit. Looking ahead to the June driving trial, Andree asked Anne Albee to organize the process of getting sponsors for next year's event. This was a very successful effort last year. Anne agreed to guide the process as long as other members of the club pitched in to do the ground work in seeking sponsors. She felt this would be a more efficient way to tackle the rather large task. Randy Sabatino talked about the possibility of having a new park in East Haddam opened for driving, **Machimoodus Park**. She would like the club to research what it would take to do this. A reminder about the Holiday Party on **December 20th** at the Bliven's was issued.

Marguerite Hayber

President's Letter

Dear Members & Friends,

We are heading into 2009 and I hope you are pleased with the many things on tap for the year. The member survey was very helpful and allowed us to chart out the year ahead with confidence. You asked for more clinics, you asked that we move the drives and meetings so they don't fall on the same weekend, and that they not conflict with other area and regional driving activities. You like it when our meetings are at member farms, and thought that if they were a bit more spread out we could reach more of our members. And finally, you also asked for new places to drive, and the continuation of learning programs at meetings.

I think you will see the 2009 CVDC Calendar reflects the desires of the membership and I want to thank all of those who have contributed. In 2009, we plan to have clinics with Jeff Morse, Lisa Singer, Craig Kellogg, Cynthia Bliven and Pam Pruitt. There is even talk of a youth driving clinic. It's still in the works, but sounds great.

In the warmer months, CVDC will hold meetings at the following farms:

- ◆ Robin Malkasian's Milestone Farm in Hebron, where we'll learn about what goes into running a green farm;
- ◆ Peter Von Halem's Farm in Bozrah, where he'll show us a loft full of carriages and demonstrate the marathon vehicles;
- ◆ McCulloch Farm in Lyme, home of Whippoorwill Morgans, where we'll learn about their breeding program and see babies;
- ◆ Bill and Nancy Lawson's in Durham, a lovely 60-acre farm on a hill, where we'll enjoy a center-aisle dinner and learn about barn safety;
- ◆ Jen and Jeff Marshall's Gypsy Woods Farm, North Stonington, where we'll get a tour of the lovely Gypsy Vanners.

In June, we'll hold our fifth annual CT Valley Driving Trial. The event is a wonderful learning opportunity all around, and aside from last year's heat wave, tends to fall on a lovely weather weekend in early June.

There is the hope that this will be the first year when we have enough minis to have a mini division. We also hope to have another fall Ride / Drive Pace at Jane Davison's Lord Creek Farm to benefit High Hopes, which is always a club favorite. Rhode Island Driving Club wants to go camping with us again in May at Escoheag, so that should be fun. And the Drive Committee is working on a few new places to drive, and we can look forward to some of our old favorites, such as the Cones Memorial Drive. So that about sums it up. We have a fantastic club, thanks to you. We're all super active, and that is vitally important. So keep it up!

Happy Holidays and New Year. And thank you.



Answer to Last Month's Crossword Puzzle:

Across

4. Governess, 6. Whip, 10. Omnibus, 11. Check, 13. Spok, 17. Hungarian
19. Breeching, 21. Singletree, 23. Tug, 24. Haw, 25. Felloe, 27. Meadowbrook
28. Hames, 29. Albany

Down

1. Box, 2. Brewster, 3. Leaders, 5. Shafts, 7. Traces, 8. Yoke, 9. Unicorn
12. Crab, 14. Pole, 15. Portland, 16. Liverpool, 18. Gee, 20. Crupper,
21. Shelburne, 22. Terrets, 26. CDE



Connecticut's Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Submitted by Anne Albee

The CT Department of Transportation (DOT) is in the process of updating the 1999 Bike-Ped Plan. The update will result in a plan providing Connecticut's residents and visitors with information on bicycle and pedestrian policies, facilities, and needs. The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will use millions of dollars to improve access on roads for bikes and pedestrians for safe travel. The plan will include a state map with alternate routes of transportation travel that ultimately will connect to trail systems on public lands such as open spaces, Greenways and state land. Included in the plan is an educational program "Share The Road."

Horses are Pedestrians and need safe routes to travel on roads. Equestrians use roads for carriage driving, riding point to point for long distance travel and to access trail systems as do human pedestrians. There is a need to educate motorists when encountering horses on our road ways. We need the DOT to recognize that equestrian use on our roadways is in need of recognition of safe travel also.

There were 4 public informational meetings around the state. CHC Trails put out a "Trails Alert" to equestrians to inform them and encourage attendance at the meetings to voice their comments to include equestrians in on the plan, since many of the alternate routes on our roadways will have improved travel lanes and signage. There will be 4 other meetings in the Spring of 2009, for public comment.

CHC Trails is working behind the scenes to educate the Steering Committee and by forming a Coalition of legislators and other Agricultural organizations to join in and support this effort to make travel routes safer for horse travel.

For more information on the plan, see the Trails Alert posted on the CHC website: www.cthorsecouncil.org or the project website: www.ctbikepedplan.org The project website also allows you to send in your comments, if you did not respond at the past meetings.

CHC Trails recommends that you take the time to be informed on this state Plan and submit your comments to the plan. Thank you.

HAPPY TRAILS, Diane Ciano

Club Advertisements

Contact Randy 860-873-3894 for Pairs Harness:

Zilco 1997 pair horse size harness- used- not pretty- but as strong as day one. Complete with race pads and parts to break it down to a single harness. Black with brass. Traces for snap shackles or slot ends. \$1000 or close takes it.



For Sale: TOM CAT'S JASPER – 7 yr old Shetland pony gelding- loads, ties, lunges, has been long lined, ponied, and fitted to harness (not hitched yet), shown in hand, some riding. Bred to

be driven in the show ring by adults, he is hot with a lot of flash to his gaits, tons of stamina and go, he could make a brilliant driving pony for the serious experienced competitor. He's no child's riding pony, too quick. He is priced at \$350.00 but he would be free to the right home. Call (401) 647-3486

FOR SALE: Standard Black Vinyl Pillow Wedge (from Driving Essentials) Designed to go on top of existing flat seat cushion. Attached Velcro straps. (18" x 15" x 6") Used 1-2 times, but I really don't need it on



my cart. Bought for \$65 and shipping / asking \$50 or best offer. Email Krista, deftonesfreak@sbcglobal.net / or call (860) 748-6896! ...Great- especially for Meadowbrooks, Spinners, and Road Carts...



Herb and James DiMeola at the Lord Creek Ride/Drive Pace 2008

A NEW "STANDARD" IN TRAIL RIDING

Part 2 of a 3 part series on Adopted Standardbreds by member Charlotte Gelston



Here is an example of a STB gelding, age 4, available for adoption

When people saw how wonderful Jet was I would get comments like, "Wow, if you can ride a Standardbred stallion bitless on trails and on busy roads, it must be a great breed! I want one!" Then they would add, "But I'd prefer a gelding or mare." He became a great ambassador for the breed. I tell people that what you have in a STB is the best of both breeds, the Morgan and the Thoroughbred, which were the original foundation stock. The selective breeding for harness racing, as opposed to saddle racing, eliminated the extremely high-strung disposition you can get in a Thoroughbred in favor of the calm, bold, intelligent and friendly disposition of the old-type Morgan forebears. That personality combined with the added speed, athleticism and size from the Thoroughbred makes an incredible sport horse for any discipline. An extra bonus is that since they have been accustomed to the commotion of the racetracks, they are usually not intimidated by anything you encounter on the roads or in the woods.

Since I adopted Lord John, I have introduced thirteen additional Standardbreds to new owners. Most of them had never been ridden, which causes people to hesitate to go see them, especially if you are not familiar with harness-driving. In some peoples' minds, lack of saddle-training equates to an "untrained" horse. This is far from true. A harness-trained horse has many, many more hours invested in its training than your average saddle horse! 90% of the work has been done for you; the horse already understands the concepts of yielding to pressure, steering, voice commands, stopping, standing, etc. The only truly NEW concepts are having someone on his back and leg aids. When taking a prospective new owner to meet a STB who has never been ridden, I show them how easy it is get them started. Long ago I read somewhere that "all it takes to ride a horse is confidence and balance." That is true, with emphasis on the confidence. The rest of technique comes with practice. I am not a professional, nor do I show; I am strictly a pleasure driver and trail-rider. I do, however, have about 20 years of experience with owning and boarding horses and am very calm. That is the key, staying calm.

To be continued next month...

Brenda's First Drive: Rita Bellinger's Journey to helping a handicapped horse-lover

The recap is: I've ridden my whole life, never even thought of driving. When my horse died, I met a woman online who after meeting, literally gave me her horse and said I could pay her "whenever" or never.

The next week she became paralyzed in a freak jumping accident. Over the course of the next year we became best friends. It took her a year on a waiting list to get an appt at High Hopes, where she did ride, but it was uncomfortable due to her injury.

Some friends online invited Brenda and I to drive to their home in ME to try driving their mini's. We did go up and not only Brenda (but I) was "hooked" immediately. So I joined the CVDC after meeting Dick and Randy at the Equine Affaire in 07. After joining the club I met Cynthia who's been my wonderful/generous trainer ever since.

I had 2 mini's at home and I planned on having one (Bucky) trained someday for Brenda. After reading our first story in the Long Lines a CVDC member offered me a harness and cart (and drove 2 1/2hrs) to deliver them!

Then I heard of a mini (Gabe) that was going to be put down if he didn't find a home, he came with a cart and harness. I brought him to Cynthia's where we discovered he was wonderfully trained and would be perfectly safe for Brenda. So I trained with Cynthia and practiced at home with Gabe.

Continued on page 6...

Brenda's First Drive

Continued from page 5...

Then a trainer in VT who specializes in training driving horses for handicapped drivers (Leslie Haynes) heard about our story and offered to take Bucky for 6 weeks where she accomplished the impossible- she had him completely sacked and hooked. He's since come home and is improving every day. Leslie described Bucky as "having that something special" that she recognizes the he too will be very suitable for a handicapped driver.

Recently Brenda's Dad has been diagnosed with terminal Brain Cancer so every time she's scheduled to come to my home to drive, she's had to cancel. But this past weekend it did all work out and per Brenda "it was worth the wait".

My husband modified a cart for Brenda's accessibility (she can transfer herself) and another friend that races cars, gave me a 5pt racing harness with quick release that my husband also installed in the cart that Brenda said "supports her upper body perfectly" and makes her feel very safe.

I'd like to introduce and thank the players in this effort:

Brenda: first and foremost, she reached out to me (as a stranger in my time of need) I had lost passion for horses and was always too busy taking care of anyone else to make time for myself and my horses. But because I used the reasoning that I was doing all of this for Brenda, I feel I've benefited the most. I've met wonderful people, I've discovered a passion I never knew I had-for driving and I've made time for both myself and my horses every day. Brenda is the most selfless person I've ever met. She puts the "ability" in disability.



Above: Brenda's first drive!!!

Below: To secure Brenda in the cart Rita used a 5pt race (car) harness w/ emergency release. Brenda said it kept her upper body in place perfectly.



Halide Cain (owner of CT Equine Massage): for choosing me as Bucky's new Mom

Bonnie Kreitler: CVDC member who contacted me and donated our cart and harness

CVDC: Dick/Randy for recruiting me and everyone for their networking and on going support

Cynthia Bliven: who deserves her own recognition for endless patience in training me and even phone support while I'm practicing at home thinking "I'm ruining my horse"

Joan Rotaru and Roxanna Quirno- 2 woman who have come into my life and volunteered to be an extra set of hands anytime I work with Bucky (priceless in training a green horse)

Leslie Haynes: for volunteering to take Bucky and do the impossible in an impossible amount of time! The correct start for a driving horse-priceless

JEFF MORSE
CVDC Spring Tune-Up
CARRIAGE DRIVING CLINIC

March 15, 2009
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.

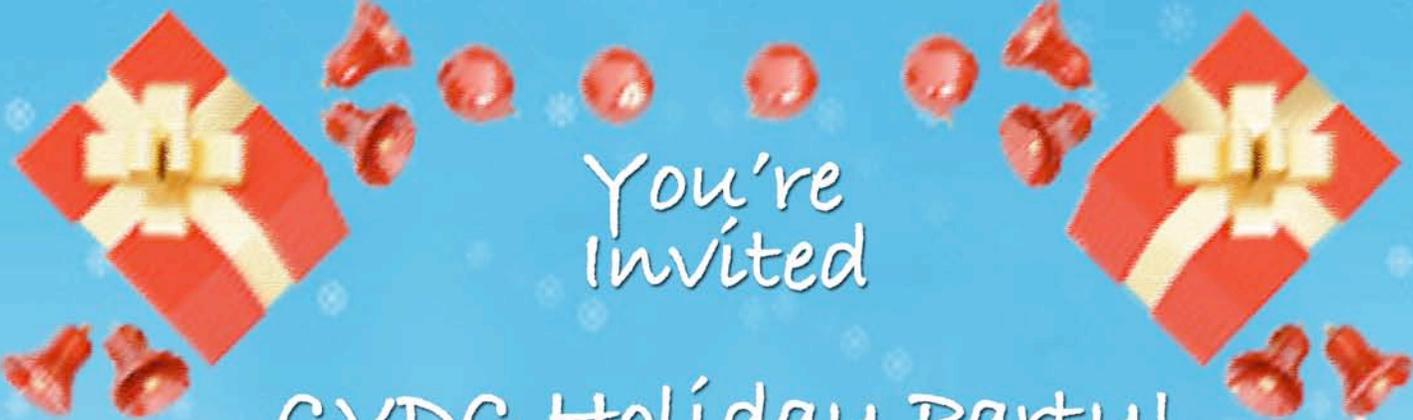
At the clinic Jeff will teach on an individual basis, one horse at a time for 45 minutes. During your clinic time you can choose what you would like to work on:

- Harness fitting and hitching to perfection
 - Ground driving and improving communication
 - Regular driving for pleasure or competition
- CVDC Members \$60, non-members \$80 on a first come, first serve basis
 - 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 pot-luck 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 -- requesting AM or PM slot.

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!



You're
Invited

CVDC Holiday Party!

With a Yankee Swap
\$15 Gift Limit
Give one, Get one



December 20th, 7pm
Cynthia & Fred Bliven's Home
Beaver Brook Road, Lyme
860-434-3213

1 mile in from Route 156, on left
(Look for CVDC Sign)

RSVP & Potluck Signup Online
www.cvdrivingclub.com



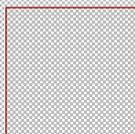


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