

# Long Lines



June, 2009

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

## Reminders

- ✓ Membership Dues (were due May 31)
- ✓ Volunteer Dinner, June 5<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Our Show, June 6<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Fun Day, June 7<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Deadline to send check for bus trip
- ✓ Green Barn Potluck Mtg, June 27<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ 2009 Election (Held during our June meeting or absentee ballot can be found in newsletter)

## Long Lines Editor

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## CVDC Officers

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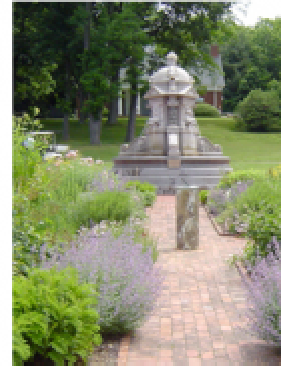
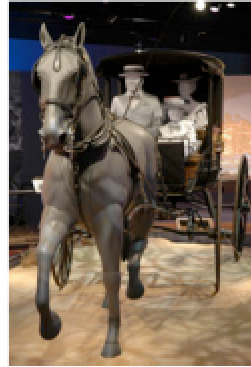
### Secretary,

**Marguerite Hayber**

[secretary@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:secretary@cvdrivingclub.com)  
860-267-6552

## June 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for Carriage Museum Bus Trip

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Connecticut Valley Driving Club will be taking a tour of the 'Long Island Museum of American Art, History and Carriages' (formerly known as the 'Stony Brook Carriage Museum'). This trip is open to both members and non members so please, anyone come! This museum, if you have never been there, is just about the best carriage museum anywhere in the world. And it is really in our own back yard!



We will be meeting the luxury Coach in Middletown at 8:30am and will be driven to the Bridgeport Ferry. The ferry ride itself is a lot of fun. There is food and beverage on board. You will enjoy beautiful views of the sound and shores, and the comradery of other driving enthusiasts. We will be eating our home made lunches ( or our- bought on the ferry- lunch) on the boat. On arrival at Port Jeff, Long island, the coach will take 10 minutes to reach the Museum.

We will have a guided tour of the Museum's main building with its beautifully displayed carriages, coaches, carts and sleighs. Mr. Jerry Trapani and Mr. John Sciacchitano have graciously offered to guide us through the collections. These two gentlemen will then take us back across the street and into the CARRIAGE STORAGE BARNs. This is a unique opportunity because these barns are not normally open to the public. They are just filled with vehicles, many unique or special in some way. You may never see this variety of carriages again. Our tour will prove to be an education for even the most knowledgeable among us.

At the end of our guided tour we can spend more time on our own in the Carriage museum or visit any other museum exhibition. There is also an extensive carriage library on the premises. We will then proceed via Coach and Ferry back home to our starting point to arrive home in the early evening.

**This should be are really fun trip! We will have 47 seats at \$38 per seat, and you must get your check to Randy postmarked by June 15<sup>th</sup>.** This is a very reasonable cost. This fare includes round trip fees for the luxury coach and ferry, and your ticket into the museums. We have yet to decide whether we want to go to the sandwich shop or to just bring our own lunches. Either way, the food cost will NOT BE included in the fare.

**If we don't have thirty participants by June 20<sup>th</sup>, this trip will be cancelled. So sign up today!!** The fare is NON REFUNDABLE because of the fixed costs involved. BUT WE WANT ALL OF YOU TO COME, so please circle the date on your calendar, let me know how many there will be in your party and send your check to me (postmarked by June 15) – **Make check out to CVDC and send to:**

**Randy Z. Sabatino, 23 Daniels Road, East Haddam, Ct. 06423. Please include in your email.** Questions?-- Contact Randy -- [cowhill@hughes.net](mailto:cowhill@hughes.net) or 860-873-3894

## Calendar of Events 2009

**June 5 – CVDC Volunteer Dinner. Haddam Meadows, 6:30 p Potluck. Members and family welcome. On the show grounds under the Blue and White tent. RSVP by email invite to choose potluck to bring, or email or call Andrée at [info@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:info@cvdrivingclub.com) or 860.452.4133.**

**June 6 – CT Valley Driving Trial, Haddam Meadows, Haddam, CT. 8:30 – 5pm. Come and Enjoy!!**

**June 7 – CT Valley Driving Club Fun Day, Haddam Meadows. Clinic Full. Come and play if you like. See flyer for entry details.**

June 13-14- Eden Hill Pleasure Driving Show, Stockbridge, MA [www.colonialcarriage.org](http://www.colonialcarriage.org)

**June 15<sup>th</sup> – DEADLINE FOR CVDC CARRIAGE MUSEUM BUS TRIP!! See Page 1.**

June 17-20- Carriage Association of America Conference, Morven Park, Leesburg, VA [www.caaonline.com](http://www.caaonline.com)

June 20-21- RIDC Two-Day Carriage Driving Clinic with Craig Kellogg, Mitchell Farm, 300 East Haddam Road (Route 82), Salem, CT. [www.ridridingclub.org](http://www.ridridingclub.org) for details.

June 22-26 Beginner Horsemanship Clinic (Riding) – Introduction to Care & Handling of Horses – For beginners. No horse experience needed. For ages 10 to 15. Space is limited. Parental supervision is not required. [carriage-barn@comcast.net](mailto:carriage-barn@comcast.net) or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

June 26-28- Bromont Combined Driving Event, Bromont, Quebec, Canada

**June 27 – CVDC Potluck Meeting at the HEAP award-winning Milestone Farm in Hebron – tour and program with HEAP expert on setting up and running a green farm. Horse Environmental Awareness Program. Page 4!!**

June 29-July 3- Horsemanship Clinic (Independent Riders) – Care & Handling of Horses & daily riding. For ages 10 to 15. Space is limited. Parental supervision is not required. [carriage-barn@comcast.net](mailto:carriage-barn@comcast.net) or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

June - LHDC drive TBA- Platts Hills State Park (site of the old Winchester drive) led by Dave Godding

July 1- Training Level Introduction to Arena Driving Trial #2 – These Training Level only events are intended for first time driving trials drivers. [carriage-barn@comcast.net](mailto:carriage-barn@comcast.net) or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

July 12- Murdock's farm LHDC Drive, [richard\\_mangino@netzero.net](mailto:richard_mangino@netzero.net)

July 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – 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. [carriage-barn@comcast.net](mailto:carriage-barn@comcast.net) or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

**July 25 – CVDC Bus Trip Planned to Stonybrook Carriage Museum! See Page 1 for Details!**

July 18-19- Lorenzo Carriage Driving Competition, Cazenovia, NY

July 26- Colonial Carriage & Driving Society Fun Day at Orelton Farm, Stockbridge MA

July 27-28- East Aurora Driving Show, East Aurora NY [www.eastauroRADrivingSociety.org](http://www.eastauroRADrivingSociety.org)

July 27 – 31 – 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. [carriage-barn@comcast.net](mailto:carriage-barn@comcast.net) or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

July - TBA VT Morgan Heritage Days, Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, MA, Open Carriage Show on Sunday

July - TBA New England Morgan Horse Show, MA

**August 1 – CVDC Mtg., 6:30p and Program at Bill and Nancy Lawson's Farm, Durham. Barn Safety program with Center Aisle potluck dinner!**

August 1-2 -- Saratoga Classic Pleasure Show in Richmond, MA / more info at <http://www.saratogadriving.com/>

**August 8 – CVDC Gardner's Nursery Picnic Drive, Cromwell, CT.**

August 9- Summer Series Arena Driving Trial #2 – Divisions for Training, Preliminary, and Advanced levels will be offered. [carriage-barn@comcast.net](mailto:carriage-barn@comcast.net) or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

August 10-14- Kids Driving Clinic Week #3 – For Beginner & Intermediate Drivers ages 10 and up. [carriage-barn@comcast.net](mailto:carriage-barn@comcast.net) or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

August 12-16- Walnut Hill Pleasure Driving Show, Pittsford, NY

August 15- Trinity Stables Trace Pace [www.trinitystable.com](http://www.trinitystable.com)

**August 20-23 – Newport Coaching Weekend (<http://www.newportmansions.org>) colorful, triennial celebration of horsemanship and elegance returns to Newport Rhode Island. CVDC club members wishing to, will meet on Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup> for carriage viewing. Details being planned.**

August 26- Colonial Carriage Driving Society Meeting, Orelton Farm 6:45 pm, [www.colonialcarriage.org](http://www.colonialcarriage.org)

August - LHDC drive TBA, [richard\\_mangino@netzero.net](mailto:richard_mangino@netzero.net)

August 29 – 30 -- Rhode Island Carriage Days Pleasure Driving Show, Celtic Cross Farm, Dudley, MA. Labor Day Weekend. Save the date! More info [www.ridridingclub.org](http://www.ridridingclub.org)

## Calendar of Events Continued...

**September 12 – CVDC Potluck Mtg and Program, East Haddam, Grange. 6:30 pm. Carol Martin of Westfield Whip will come and talk to us about these magnificent whips and their fascinating history, and she will bring whips for people to buy following the talk.**

September 12- Trinity Stables CDE [www.trinitystable.com](http://www.trinitystable.com)

September 16- Colonial Carriage Driving Society Meeting, Orleton Farm 6:45 pm [www.colonialcarriage.org](http://www.colonialcarriage.org)

September 18- Litchfield Hills Driving Club (LHDC) meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church

September 20- Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club Driving Show, Genesee NY

**September 20 – CVDC Cones Memorial Drive, East Haddam with lovely picnic on the hill. A favorite!**

September 27- Introduction to Carriage Driving – Group Lessons Sundays from 1 to 4pm. carriage-barn@comcast.net

September - LHDC drive TBA, richard\_mangino@netzero.net

**October 3-- -- CVDC Potluck Mtg. and Program at McCullough Farm, Lyme. Morgan babies!**

October 4- Introduction to Carriage Driving – Group Lessons Sundays from 1 to 4pm. Space is limited so register early. Beginners welcome. Use our trained horses or bring your own. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

**October 11 -- CVDC Ride / Drive Pace at the lovely Lord Creek! Mark your calendars!**

October 11- Colonial Carriage Driving Society- New Marlboro, Traditional Day of Driving, [www.colonialcarriage.org](http://www.colonialcarriage.org)

October 11- Introduction to Carriage Driving – Group Lessons Sundays from 1 to 4pm. Space is limited so register early. Beginners welcome. Use our trained horses or bring your own. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

October 16- Litchfield Hills Driving Club (LHDC) meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, corner of North Street and Route 6, Plymouth, CT.

October 31 – Carriage Barn's Halloween Horse Show Fun show for The Carriage Barn's Riding & Therapeutic students with a Fall / Halloween theme. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

October - LHDC drive TBA, richard\_mangino@netzero.net

November 1- Halloween Carriage Classic – Open Fun show with a Fall / Halloween theme. carriage-barn@comcast.net or call 603-378-0140. [www.carriage-barn.com](http://www.carriage-barn.com)

**Nov 7 -- CVDC Mtg. Potluck Mtg at East Haddam Grange, 6:30p, with special guest – Dick Lahey Quiz Bowl**

November 13- Litchfield Hills Driving Club (LHDC) meeting potluck and election, 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, corner of North Street and Route 6, Plymouth, CT.

**November 15 – CVDC Drive, weather permitting**

**December 5 – CVDC Holiday Party at Marguerite Hayber and Bob Dean's home.**

December 11- Litchfield Hills Driving Club (LHDC) Christmas Party

## Newsletter Changes

The newsletter will be published earlier due to the changes in the monthly meetings!

Because CVDC meetings have been moved to the first Saturday of the month, information about programs and events does not have enough time to reach the members before the meeting when the newsletter is published on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Sometimes the first Saturday ends up on the first weekend of the month, leaving members with little, to no time to plan ahead. So, in order to try and fix this problem, I will be publishing the newsletter on (about) the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. So, for the month of July, you should be seeing the newsletter somewhere around June 15<sup>th</sup>! I hope this helps people with planning and gets the news out in a timely manner!

This also means that I need to set a new "deadline" for stories, photos, events, etc. for the newsletter, even though I never really had a set deadline. I would appreciate it if you email or regular mail me anything you would like in the Long Lines at least 10 days in advance, so by the 5<sup>th</sup>. For the July newsletter the due date will be June 5<sup>th</sup>. Many times I can squeeze in things last minute so don't worry if you're running late, but this is just so I can get an idea of what I have for the month. Thanks members for all of your help, without your "stuff" the newsletter would not be possible! Keep sending me your news!

~ Krista editor@cvdrivingclub.com

## ATTENTION SHOW VOLUNTEERS!!

Here is the schedule, most of you know your shift.

Haddam Meadows, Route 154, Haddam, CT (directions on our website)

**Volunteers PLEASE PARK AT FAR END of field just outside trailer area.**

### Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> (rain or shine)

Marathon Obstacle Set up Crew – 9:30 am

Sign pounders and sign screwers – Noon

Tents Crew

### Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> (rain or shine)

Cones and Dressage Set Up Crews – 9 am

Road Signage Crew – 9 am

Volunteer Dinner Set up Crew – 3 pm

**Volunteers' Dinner – 6:30 pm**

**RSVP online, or call Andree 960-452-4133**

### Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> (rain or shine)

5:30 am – AM Parking Volunteers

7:15 am – AM Volunteers, Blue and White Tent

12:00 pm – PM Volunteers **(this is a change)**



**The New Volunteer Tshirts!**

### Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> (rain or shine) – 4 ish -- Breakdown – please come and help us!!

We still need a few volunteers here and there, so if you're interested, please call Andree at 860-452-4133, [info@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:info@cvdrivingclub.com) **THANK YOU!! You're the best volunteers ever. You will get a new tshirt with the new logo and a free lunch on us to show you our appreciation.**

## Learn How to Make Your Barn and Farm Green!

CVDC Potluck Mtg and Green Farm Program

Saturday, June 27, 2009

6:30pm

### Milestone Farm

119 West Street

Hebron, CT 06248

CVDC will hold its June meeting at the lovely Milestone Farm, home of members Robin Malkasian and Kate Burr. An expert on greening your farm from CT's HEAP program (Horse Environmental Awareness Program), will be on hand to give us guidance on how we can do simple things to make our barns and farms more environmentally friendly.

Milestone is a HEAP award-winning farm set in Hebron, with acres of lovely green pastures and an amazing barn with a wide variety of equines. You won't want to miss this meeting. Robin and Kate always make us feel very welcome. Plus, you can learn how to become a HEAP award-winning farm yourself. The Horse Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP) is a coalition of federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in educating horse people on Best Management Practices to protect the environment. The efforts of the group are funded by educational funds available through the United States Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

### Absentee Ballot: 2009 CVDC Election of Officers

The following are submitted by the nominating committee, for the election of officers at the Saturday , June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

You are invited to nominate members for the four offices. For Treasurer, the committee has submitted the names of two interested members since Kathie Gregory is stepping down. If, for any position, you have a proposed candidate, not on the ballot, please ask them if they are willing to run and then contact Dick Mangino at 203-272-5257 to have their name added to the ballot.

If you cannot make the meeting, fill out the absentee ballot below by circling your choices, and mail it by June 20<sup>th</sup> to Dick Mangino, 357 So. Brooksvale Rd., Cheshire, Ct. 06410 to be sure to be counted. For any questions, feel free to call Dick at 203-272-5257.

Submitter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Offices:

President: Committee's nomination- Andrée Duggan  
Your suggested nomination- \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President: Committee's nomination- Jan Frick  
Your suggested nomination- \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: Committee's nomination- Erica Robb or Jaye Winkler  
Your suggested nomination- \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Committee's nomination- Marguerite Hayber  
Your suggested nomination- \_\_\_\_\_

Photos by Robin Malkasian of the CVDC "Mother's Day Drive" at Escoheg!  
To see more photos go to [www.cvdrivingclub.com](http://www.cvdrivingclub.com) !



Andree Duggan and Katie



Dave Bomster and Sue Morton



Carry Wind and Nancy Franklin



Kathie Gregory & Marguerite Hayber with Dazzle



New member Samantha Allard and family

## Postcards from the Wedge

### How I Started Driving

Anne Albee

It was early March 1996 when I attended a UCONN Horse Symposium with some trail riding buddies. We were always looking for another "HRA" (Horse Related Activity) to do. We were sitting in the stands of the old arena, before the nice new one they have now, when Pam Pruitt put on a driving demonstration with her Morgan mare, Cristal Belle Joy.

Until that day I was a happy backyard horse owner and trail rider. Well, not so backyard, because I boarded my horse at a local stable at the time. My quest began from that day, first for a house with a little more land than the acre and a third we had. I only wanted enough to put my horse in the back. And I told Jack I wanted a pony to drive. A pony.

Now let this be a lesson to you all- a passion can start so innocently, so benignly! A day out with friends and boom!

I looked at houses for 3 years. Nice house, no land. Nice land, bad house. Good house, bad location...it went on and on. Finally, late spring of '99, the agent called me and said, "Anne, I keep searching and one place keeps coming up." And so I found a place. Nice house, great location. No barn though. All in good time, I thought. We bought it and moved in. Unfortunately, we hadn't sold our old house and didn't for six more months.

I'll skip the story of my first driving experience: hitching my trail horse that knew nothing of driving but went placidly down the road with me behind her in a too small cart, harnessed incorrectly, and barely able to see where I was going over her rump. When I think of it I cringe. She's 31 now and been taking care of me for 17 years. But I digress...

One day, with the barn, er...stable built but no stalls yet, my dear friend Randy came over to the house waving a piece of paper, raving about ponies for sale. She had already made an appointment to go see them! Off we went. That was the day Jack lost his mind and bought a 4-in-hand of bay ponies, even though I stood by his side repeating, "I only want **one** pony to drive!" Neither one of us knew how to drive, but the ponies did! That was our saving grace. We rushed home and built the stalls. It was January and very cold. We only had a small 2 horse trailer so it took 2 trailers to get them home. They moved in, 2 to a stall. Gosh, I finally had my pony! Times four!

We joined the driving club, listened, read everything, asked questions and started to drive. I had a pony to fit my cart, at last. They were wonderful and took turns teaching me how to drive. In fact, one weekend Jack took a pair to our CVDC show at Allegra's and I took a single. We knew how to hook, that was about it. We had no help and did the show. Darned if we didn't get blue ribbons that day! I'm still flabbergasted when I think of it.

On it went this way for about a year. One day my phone rang and it was Pam Pruitt. She said she'd heard from a friend that I was trying to reach her. And my real training began.

Later, I bought my Morgan mare and sold the "girls" who are still happily driving and teaching new owners. I'm still taking lessons and learning and Pam has become my dear friend. But that is a story for another time.

## Rhode Island Driving Club Clinic with Craig Kellogg

JUNE 21 – 22, 2009  
MITCHELL FARM, 300 EAST  
HADDAM ROAD (ROUTE 82),  
SALEM, CT

Drivers will enjoy these 50-minute lessons with Craig Kellogg of Southern Pines, NC. One of the premier carriage driving clinicians in the United States, Craig Kellogg has been driving since he was a child and can instruct single, pair and four-in-hand drivers. His lessons are both informative and entertaining and will be enjoyed both by the beginner and the advanced carriage driver.

There will be eight lessons offered each day (for a total of 16) beginning at 8:00 AM. Each lesson costs \$50 for RIDC members and \$60 for non-members. Please bring your own lunch and auditors are welcome. There may be no sound system for this clinic, but questions may be answered during the noon lunch break.

For more information contact: Dottie Billington (401) 647-2262 or [dottiebillington@gmail.com](mailto:dottiebillington@gmail.com)

## Eden Hill/Orleton Farm Pleasure Driving Show

The Eleventh Annual Eden Hill/Orleton Farm Pleasure Driving Show takes place in Stockbridge, Mass. on June 13 & 14. Classes include dressage and obstacles on Saturday; ring classes, cross country obstacle course, and cones are on Sunday. The beautiful Berkshires at this time of year and the show's hospitality are well worth the trip! Entries close June 1st, so be sure to mail yours soon. Vendors may set up at no charge. General admission for spectators is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 11-5, free for children under 5.

A complete prize list is available at [www.colonialcarriage.org](http://www.colonialcarriage.org) or contact [hwaller562@aol.com](mailto:hwaller562@aol.com)

## THE PEPPER PROJECT - 2

### Training the young horse to harness -by Erica Robb

*Disclaimer: There are many ways to train a horse to harness. What works for one may not work for others. Please use common sense, have a plan and a knowledgeable helper. Stay safe!*

**WHERE WERE WE:** Last month, we had Pepper lunging in a surcingle and crupper, and I was starting to gain some skills myself. We were learning trot, walk, and whoa, at the end of the line and in a nice circle. Now, we needed to aim toward gaining some steering.

**BITTING:** During the winter months, Pepper had gotten a little mouthy. Not that she bites, but she will lip and lick you to death. So we had started hanging a simple mullen-mouth snaffle in her mouth for brief periods. Pepper quickly became eager to have the bit since it was followed by a sugar cube. Yum! This is the only time she gets a sugar cube, and since she is now a little TOO eager to grab the bit, I have had to start "forgetting" to give it to her. The end result should be a young horse who is easy to bridle. We didn't do anything in particular with the bit, just let her wear it in her stall while I brushed her. She played in her water bucket, learning to drink around it, pretended to eat some hay, and generally spent some time getting used to the overall concept.

Now we progressed to adding the bit to her training "attire," but still lunging off the halter. We started playing around with big circles/little circles, moving from one end of the ring to the other (the "scary" end where the boogie monster lives in the rocks). We added some ground poles to keep her focused on what we were doing, to teach her to look ahead and down, and to practice changing her stride to suit the terrain. Pepper and I were working well together, except those days when I had twelve thumbs.

**LONGLINES:** (Just to be clear in my definitions: by "long-lining" I mean working with two lines from the side, mostly in a circle to start. By "ground-driving" I mean working with two lines from the rear, as if driving.) One day, Cynthia attached the long-lines after I had worked Pepper briefly on the lunge. The goal was to get her going comfortably on the same circle she had already been doing, just with a different set of reins, and now off the bit rather than the halter. There was little real steering involved, just getting her used to a little contact with the bit. Her focus, which had begun to stray, snapped back to the job at hand. Cynthia encouraged her to make turns by putting a little more pressure on the outside rein, then driving her forward into the turn. Pepper clearly was not sure what to do, but was concentrating very hard, trying to understand this new development.

Then it rained. We took a few days off. I think it definitely goes smoother if we keep up with new concepts for a couple of days in a row. The second session was like a first time all over again. Pepper sat back once or twice, trying to figure out what to do about the bit, even though Cynthia had only very light contact. These early days are so important both for learning the skill of responding to the bit and for learning good work ethic. Her mistakes are largely ignored for now and silly stuff worked through

By the third time, Cynthia had Pepper beginning to make consistent turns, doing several in a row to each side. She tried briefly getting behind her to ground-drive, but Pepper came to a halt, clearly not sure what that was about. So we ended on a positive note with a couple more turns on the long-lines.

**TURNING:** Then it rained. Again, our training was interrupted, but we did manage to get a couple of days in a row. We kept to our routine of a short lunging session with me, followed by a long-lining session with Cynthia, who has more skill and better hands than I do. Pepper was doing very well, starting to respond to the bit when asked to turn, and even occasionally tipping her nose to the inside in a proper bend



Pepper: on the top, still trying to figure out what to do with the bit, in spite of the lines being fairly loose; on the bottom, two weeks later, clearly much more comfortable.



**THE PEPPER PROJECT** continued from page 7...

We also had some interesting miscues. Pepper, ever the good student, started “guessing” when she was supposed to turn. I’m sure she thought she was being extra smart, but Cynthia just gently brought her back into the circle, slowly teaching her that a turn comes when she is asked, not when she volunteers. The next day, Pepper went one step further. To avoid the contact on the inside rein, she tried falling into the circle. When Cynthia held steady with the outside rein to keep her out, Pepper decided that meant turn to the outside. Inside-outside-inside-outside. There was a funny little wobble back and forth for a circle or two.

**KNOW WHEN TO STOP:** I am lucky in that Pepper’s temperament is fairly easy-going. She does have her momentary spurts, but overall, her responses have been appropriate, even when misguided. She demonstrates how hard horses will try to understand what we are asking of them, and how sympathetic we need to be to recognize a “good guess.” The most important thing, and sometimes the hardest thing, is to stop just when they are going nicely. When you want to do “just a little more” is precisely when you should stop. That moment of satisfaction will carry over to the next lesson and serve you and the horse much better than “just a little more.” *Next month: more long-lining (and less rain).* You can see more pictures at <http://picasaweb.google.com/erobb62/PepperProject>



Our new logo!! Approved at the May Member Meeting. It incorporates Anne Albee's original oval logo and lettering, with silhouette artwork by member Eleanore Rhodes. Thank you!

Also a special thanks to Peter and Marissa Von Halem for hosting the May Meeting at their farm, and for giving us a grand tour of the latest and greatest marathon vehicles. Everyone had a great time.





If you're not volunteering or competing this year,  
**Come and Watch!**

**Bring your family and enjoy the day.**

**Dressage and Cones**

**8:30 – 12:30**

**Marathon with Obstacles**

**2:00 – 5ish, followed by Awards**

**Dogs on leashes please. No smoking near the rings.**

The Connecticut Valley Driving Trial, now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, features members of our club and attracts drivers from across the Northeast. The three-phase competition tests the skill of the driver and navigator, and tests the level of training, obedience and fitness of the equine.

Combined driving is one of the fastest growing equine sports in the U.S. Winners in each division are those with the best-combined score from the Dressage, Cones, and Marathon phase.

You will see competitors at Training level (the entry division) and Preliminary (the next level up). Within each level are several divisions, such a horse, pony, VSE (very small equine), horse pair and pony pair.

Breeds at our show will include:

Gypsy Vanner, Morgan, Miniature Horse, Cheval Canadian, Quarter Horse, the rare Dales Pony, Canadian Crossbred, Hackney/Clyde, Haflinger, Warmblood, Percheron, Oldenberg, Belgian, Welsh, and Fjord.

This event is recognized by the American Driving Society and is organized by members Nancy and Bill Lawson. A portion of the proceeds go to benefit the therapeutic driving program at High Hopes in Lyme.

**PROGRAM and FOOD AVAILABLE AT THE SHOW!!**



## **CONNECTICUT VALLEY DRIVING TRIAL**

**Saturday, June 6, 2009**

*Rain or Shine*

*With Judge and Technical Delegate*

**Lisa Singer and Craig Kellogg**

*at*

**Haddam Meadow State Park**

Rt. 154, Haddam, CT

Organized by

**The Connecticut Valley Driving Club**

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

Recognized by

**American Driving Society**

With the Support of

**Connecticut State Parks & Forests**



# Fun Day and Clinic

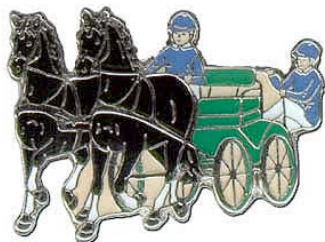
Sunday, June 7, 2009

## Haddam Meadows State Park

The combined driving course will be in place including: Dressage Ring, Cones and Marathon Course with Hazards.

**Just come and play!**

Clinic is **Full**. Auditing is Free.



**Lisa Singer** has been a driving instructor, trainer and clinician for over 30 years and has coached and competed successfully in the U.S. and overseas. Lisa is an eight-time National Pairs Champion and has attended seven World Pair Championships. She is an organizer for many driving events, serves on numerous USEF committees and was on the USET board. Lisa likes many breeds that you see in driving but she most enjoys driving Morgans. She has lived on her farm, Chateau Log in Chadds Ford, PA, for more than 30 years.



**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.

Please fill out and send in to come and play on the course on Fun Day. Thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- I am a volunteer for the 2009 CT Valley Driving Trial
- I want to be a volunteer, please contact me by email or phone
- I am not a volunteer
- I want to come and play on course

**Come and Play Fee: Free for Volunteers.** \$10 (no clinic, full access but yield to lesson horses)

Make **check payable to CVDC**. Please send check and send (or bring day of) Neg. Coggins and Rabies

Certificate to: **CVDC c/o Marguerite Hayber, 109 Chittenden Road, Amston, CT 06231**

**Contact for questions:** Nancy and Bill Lawson (860) 349-8745. **Helmets strongly recommended.**



# Long Lines

Coming in July...

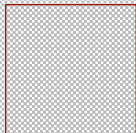
- Our Bus Trip to LI Carriage Museum!!
- Have you Noticed Our New Logo?
- Show Results and Fun Day Coverage
- Pepper Project – Part 3
- Election Results
- And much more...

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

**June 2009**

**CVDC Photo Album!**

Now on our Website!



c/o Krista Labella  
370 Westchester Road  
Colchester, CT 06415

