

Long Lines



December 2010

CVDC Holiday Party & Yankee Swap Saturday December 4, 2010: 7:00pm

PLEASE RSVP!

Hosted by Marguerite Hayber and Bob Dean
109 Chittenden Road, Amston, Ct. 06231
(860) 267-6552 ~ secretary@cvdrivingclub.com



Gingerbread Turnout made by Sandy Rabinowitz

Connecticut Valley Driving Club's **Holiday Party** is a time when members take a break from driving, and come together to celebrate the holidays. The food is always amazing, as each person goes beyond the pale to create a special **potluck** appetizer, side dish, or dessert. Our hosts, Marguerite Hayber and Bob Dean, will provide the main course of turkey and ham.

The high point of the evening is the **Yankee Swap!** (gift limit \$15) Members who want to participate bring a gift and take a number. As their number is called, they get to choose an unopened gift. They can either keep it, or swap it with one of the gifts that has already been opened. It's the one time when going last is to your advantage!

Upon arriving at the Hayber/Dean home, please park in the cul-de-sac area because the driveway will not fit enough cars. Please RSVP to Marguerite (email and phone numbers above) so we can plan accordingly.

Hope you can make it! The night will be full of great food, good "horsey" friends and holiday fun! (Directions appear on the back page.)

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www.cvdrivingclub.com

Club Photo Album:
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**DUE DATE FOR
SUBMISSIONS TO THE
NEXT LONG LINES:
December 15th.**

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Presidents Letter

On Wednesday November 10th, a good sized group of CVDC members met at Randy Sabatino's farm to discuss program ideas for 2011. I'm happy to report that the group came up with lots of wonderful ideas for not only programs, but also some drives and even field trips, always favorites with club members. If you couldn't make the planning meeting, but still have suggestions, then please send me your ideas (email President@cvdrivingclub.com or call 860-659-3991). Many thanks to Randy for hosting the planning meeting and to everyone who brought all the delicious desserts.

Our first program of the new year will be on Saturday, January 8th at the Grange. Our guest "host" that evening will be Maureen Pach, a prior President of CVDC. She's planning to show us segments from the DVDs of the 2010 World Equestrian Games. Don't know about you, but can't wait to see the incredible obstacles and the fearless competitors. Sure it'll bring back exciting memories for several of our members who travelled to the WEG. Hopefully, some of them will be there to add their own stories about the driving competitions at the WEG.

To close out 2010, our traditional end of the year pot luck party, which will be on Saturday December 4th, will be hosted once again by Marguerite and Bob Hayber. They were our wonderful hosts last year, so this is very generous of them to open up their home again to all of us. Invitations have been emailed/mailed out. Directions are included with the invitation and are also elsewhere in this newsletter. Look forward to seeing you there, and please be sure to RSVP at your earliest convenience.

Happy Holidays to all, and as my horse Sheza would say, may the carrots always be plentiful!!
Jan Frick, CVDC President

Our condolences go out to CVDC member Jackie Smakula, whose partner, Charles "Al" Kingsley, passed away on Mon. November 15th. CVDC member Terry Joseph of Cedar Knoll did the honors of a final farewell by horse and wagon.



Condolences also to CVDC member Henry Tarryk whose mother passed away on November 23rd.

CVDC Members: Out and About



Machimoodus Drive:

11/6/2010: CVDC members showed up to enjoy the beautiful fall weather at Machimoodus State Park.

Charlotte Gelston's newly adopted Standardbred "Double Blessing" was out for only his 2nd drive ever. A testament to this amazing breed.

October 31st: From CVDC members **Jeff and Jennifer Marshall**: "A beautiful fall day so Jeff and I for the first time hitched four of our Gypsies and had a ball! We have the best horses! They were so good while we figured out which line went where. Even trotted around the field. No one should have this much fun!!"



The ECDHA knows how to put BIG fun in their "Fun Day"! Anything you could wish to try with a Draft horse, there's a ECDHA member willing to lend you their horse and show you how. CVDC members **Cynthia Bliven** and **Henry Tarryk** drove a 4 Up for the first time, courtesy of Terry Joseph of Cedar Knoll Farm. **Rita Bellinger** drove Dale and Patty Nageli's Percheron all around the farm. The Nageli's say, "Mary can go all day and never seem to tire, she loves it"! **Rita** then moved right on to trying her hand driving Terry Joseph's pair, not just driving them but plowing, too! (Draft horses are work horses, ya know!)

Terry walked right beside the whole time, helping as needed, but mostly just kept reassuring everyone "yes, you CAN do it." CVDC member **Henry Tarryk** also gave many rides to ECDHA members interested in a ride on the back of a Marathon Vehicle. Some described it as "the ride of their life"! It is worth a trip on the backstep just to listen to how proud Henry is of his horse and the thrills and sense of accomplishment that competing gives. After listening to Henry's stories of competing, several ECDHA members expressed interest in competing in our CVDC trial this year!

CVDC Members: Out and About (cont'd).....

November 11-14: Several CVDC members attended the Equine Affaire in Springfield, whether their goal was some “retail therapy”, driving clinics with Muffy Seaton or spending some time “giving back” at the ADS booth. **Nancy and Bill Lawson** are constant fixtures at the ADS booth, they literally have their camper on the grounds. Cat Luce and Marc Johnson are also on hand, from there, CVDC members come and go but most try to spend time answering questions, giving information and encouraging visitors to explore driving clubs in their areas. CVDC members that volunteer seem to enjoy talking about driving just as much (or more!) than the visitors. The booth always seems to be busy with an endless stream of people curious about driving or drivers wanting more information. CVDC members **Randy Sabatino, Dick and Nancy Mangino, Krista LaBella, Rita Bellinger, Henry Tarryk and Cynthia Bliven** were just a few spotted at the booth.



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Tis' the season..... Hunting season that is!
Be sure you and your horse are visible.

(Some clever CVDC members even use their jingle bells early !)

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Letter from the Editor: Giving Thanks.....to CVDC

At this time every year when I think of the Equine Affaire, I think of how thankful I am to have joined the CVDC. It was at the Equine Affaire just a few years ago that I met Randy Sabatino and Dick Mangino who encouraged me to come check out a meeting, enjoy the food and meet some great people. That all turned out to be an understatement. What started out as a mission to help a friend who had become paralyzed turned into my finding a true passion in driving. That led to founding Free Wheelers, which offers miniature horses for Therapeutic driving. In turn, that has further evolved by word of mouth and as a reflection of the economy, into a rescue to find forever homes for minis in need. I've met a wonderful trainer, Cynthia Bliven - without her, I wouldn't be doing any of this (at least not correctly and safely). And I've made countless friends. CVDC members are a source of networking on so many levels, finding horses, equipment, experiencing drives, competitions, tips and endless support. I encourage CVDC members to reach out and network for any reason, whether you need help at an event, have a training question or equipment need or just for support. It is really more like an extended family.

After unexpectedly adopting a Standardbred this year, I again looked to CVDC members as a networking source for a cart. I've learned that cart shopping is not as easy as I expected in regards to the correct size. Once again, CVDC members stepped up and not only let me try several carts but we had a bit of a Running Brook Spinner cart rally at Cynthia's farm. Several CVDC members were generous enough to bring their carts for a lineup for us to determine the exact size we needed. Not only did we find just the right size, we were also fortunate enough that the cart was for sale, and I bought it!

I'd also like to thank the CVDC members that I think of as the "backbone" of the club. Not everyone goes to shows, not everyone takes their horses to club drives, but there are several members that volunteer regularly at events, meetings, shows or just helping other members. I, for one, couldn't do what I do without *everyone* in the CVDC.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
From Rita Bellinger and Con Sealed

DRIVING CALENDAR 2010

Dec 3- Greener Pastures Rescue Silent Auction 6-10pm St.Joseph's Polish Club, Colchester, Ct. (860)886-8510 free food and music

Dec 4 - CVDC Holiday Party at Marguerite Hayber and Bob Dean's home.

Dec 10 - LHDC Holiday Party.

Dec 14 - ECDHA: Christmas Party & Meeting, 6 pm, Blue Slope. www.easternctdraffhorse.com

2011 Events (preliminary list to whet your appetite! Subject to revision.)

Jan.8 - Movie Night! World Equestrian Games on DVD, East Haddam Grange, 6:30 pm.

Feb 5 - Navigator Training, East Haddam Grange

Mar 5 - Pleasure Shows from the Judge's Perspective, East Haddam Grange

March - Spring Driving Clinic - details to be announced soon!

April 2 - Driving Multiples, Peter Von Halem's farm.

May 7 - Combined Driving Explained - Tips & Key Thoughts, East Haddam Grange

June 4 - CVDC Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, East Haddam Grange

June 11 &12 - CVDC Horse Driving Trial & Fun Day at Haddam Neck

July 9 - Visit at LaSalle's Harness Making, Rhode Island

Aug 6 - CVDC 6:30 potluck, program TBD

Sept 10 - Bits & Bitting with Dale Mylar, East Haddam Grange

Oct 1 - CVDC 6:30 potluck, program TBD

Nov 5 - The ADS - Past, Present, Future, East Haddam Grange

Dec3 - CVDC Holiday Party, location TBD



Lynn Warren and her Fjord, BFF Yngvar, enjoying a drive in the fall.

SO, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO? SEND YOUR NEWS & PHOTOS TO EDITOR@CVDRIVINGCLUB.COM!

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Look for more details on page 1 of this newsletter.

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November 2010

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newsletter for login
and password!

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c/o Rita Bellingher
218 Cranberry Pond Rd.
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