

# Long Lines



October 2011

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**DUE DATE FOR  
SUBMISSIONS TO THE  
NEXT LONG LINES:  
October 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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**Oct.1<sup>st</sup> CVDC Meeting ~ 6 PM  
Driving Multiples with Peter Von Halem**  
279 Bozrah St. Bozrah, Ct. 06334  
program followed by potluck & meeting



Join our October meeting at Peter Von Halem's Happy Landings Farm (directions below). We will discuss various hitches of multiple horses, and Peter will give us a demonstration with his foursome.

## PLEASE NOTE EARLIER TIME!!!

Due to the fading daylight, we want to get started a little earlier than usual. If you can't make it early, COME WHEN YOU CAN! We always have a great time at Peter's and we want to see you there.

### *Directions:*

*From West: Rt 82 E to Rt 163N / Bozrah St. Continue 5 miles to Happy Landings, on your left.*

*From North: Rt 2E to Rt 163S / Bozrah St. Continue 7.3 miles to Happy Landings, on your right.*

*From 395: Exit 81W (Northbound) or 82 (Southbound) onto Rt 2W / Rt 32N. Exit 23, left at bottom of ramp, then right to follow Rt 163S / Bozrah St. Happy Landings will be on your right.*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Beautiful weather and good food made for a great time at the annual **Cones Memorial Drive and Picnic Meeting**. It was great to see such a good turnout of members, ponies & horses, in-state and out-, even a handful of riders joining in the fun. We were very fortunate to be able to go on East Haddam Fish and Game Property, and were happy that George Corbiel, who coordinated our route with Pat McNamee, stayed long enough to enjoy some of the famous Cones' Clam Chowder. If you didn't make this drive, we hope you will be able to join us at **Hammonasset** later this month (see details below).

Our **program for October**, with Peter Von Halem on the topic of driving multiples, has got me thinking about teams and pulling together toward a common goal. The club relies on teamwork to accomplish our goals. For a team to be productive, there needs to be a destination, which is communicated to the team, so all can work together to get there. The horses shouldn't decide the destination, that's what the driver is for. YOU are the driver for our club - **WE NEED YOUR INPUT**. Please contact Rita Bellinger, program committee chair ([programs@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:programs@cvdrivingclub.com) or 860-460-3603) to tell us what you would like to do next year.

Even better, JOIN US for the **planning meeting** (details on page 6). Just as more horses can pull more weight, so can we accomplish more with less effort as we add people to our teams. Please lend a hand to our committees so we can provide even better programs, workshops, drives and events. It doesn't have to be a major commitment, just coordinating a drive or arranging a speaker for a program would be helpful. If we all pull together, we can get rolling!

Enjoy the fall weather (whenever it gets here!)  
Cynthia Bliven

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### UPCOMING CLUB DRIVE: HAMMONASSET BEACH STATE PARK 1288 Boston Post Rd, Madison, CT 06443 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 ~ 11 AM



Join fellow drivers at our October drive.  
Plenty of room to park. Good flat roads for driving.  
Bring a lunch for yourself.

This drive sponsored by  
Randy Sabatino ~ 860-873-3894

## The Art of Driving Tandem

Elaine Juska Joseph

*Excerpts from an article published in the August 2011 edition of The Horsemen's Yankee Pedlar*

Although many historians may differ on exactly when, why and where the art of driving tandem originated, it is certain that it became popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England as a means of getting out in to the country side for an organized hunt. The traditional style of cart used was called a *going-to-cover cart*, “which is similar to a dog cart, with the lead horse in an open bridle and saddle, ready to ride once they arrive,” says Marc Johnson. [...] Sometimes oddly referred to as a “poor man’s team”, driving horses in a tandem hitch is far from easy, and certainly not traditionally associated with the lower class on a social level. Indeed, high society gents and ladies could regularly be seen taking Sunday drives through the parks of some of the larger cities both in Europe and in the United States. [...]

### An Elite Horse

“The horse out front really, really needs to be a well trained driving horse,” says Peter von Halem of New England Carriage Imports in Bozrah, CT. Peter is not only well known for his beautiful carriages, but for his Hackney/Clyde crosses that he shows and events with all over the Northeast. “The lead horse needs to be a reasonably independent and forward horse. It is very difficult to drive a tandem if the lead horse is insecure out front”, he says.

[...] A tandem hitch is where two horses are driven — but one in front of the other, not side by side as with a pair. The unicorn hitch is where a pair of horses is at the wheel and a single horse is in the lead. A unicorn, although similar in nature to tandem, is actually an easier hitch to drive. “Driving a unicorn,” says Marc “is not much different from driving a four in hand. This style of hitch, however,” he says, “wasn’t necessarily used for going to the hunt, like tandem was. It was used when, quite honestly, the driver only had three horses instead of four!” He continues, “Then there are ‘random hitches’, where three horses are driven in a row. In my opinion,” says Marc, “such a hitch is only necessary for showing off! It is immensely difficult to drive this way! [...]

### The Technicalities of Tandem

“In a tandem hitch,” says Peter, “there is no load on the lead horse, unless going uphill. It is the wheel horse that does all the work. The way a lead horse is hitched to the cart is through long traces that are hooked to the traces or breastplate of the wheel horse, so that both can pull in the same direction. Another way,” says Peter, “is to use a small single tree attached to the D ring on the breast plate of the wheel horse. In this instance, you would be using standard length traces, of course.” He goes on to explain a unicorn hitch. “Naturally, in a unicorn you have a pole attached to the wagon for the wheel horses. At the end of the pole is the crab, and from the crab you would attach a single tree for the leader. In either instance, the reins are held just as you would when driving a four in hand. The reins from the lead horse pass through a roger ring on each side of the bridle (at the rosette) of the wheel horse, then through the upper turret rings on its saddle, when driving tandem. In a unicorn hitch, the leader’s reins naturally go through the inside roger-rings of each of the wheeler’s bridles.”

Peter explains that the two handed method of driving is of course easier than driving single-handed. “The single-handed method”, says Peter, “is where the left hand holds all four reins. This method works well when driving in a ring or on the flat. The right hand is thus free to tip your hat, for using the hand brake, or, most importantly, for handling the whip.” [...]

### The Whip

When driving a horse, whether single, pairs, multiples or tandem, the whip is one of the most important aids a driver has for communicating with his horse. Each style, however, has a specific type of whip the driver should use. “A tandem whip has a very long thong,” explains Marc. “Like a four in hand whip, you must be able to reach the leader with your whip. It takes a tremendous amount of skill to cast your whip,

and then catch the thong on its return and keeping it on the whip stock. It takes a long time to learn how to do this properly. [...]

### Training for Tandem Driving

When training a horse to be a lead horse in a tandem hitch, Marc likes to start with ground driving, then he "adds the wheels", once he is confident that the lead horse is also confident. "I like to see if the leader will be compatible to the role before adding anything as complicated as a vehicle with wheels," he says. He has seen a lot of trainers ride the wheeler and drive the lead out front, and comments, "it is impressive to see!" [...] Peter's method of training leaders has been to start them within the confines of an indoor arena, with a lead rope on the leader and help on the ground. Peter says that the harnesses used on leaders in most tandems, as well as unicorn hitches, are ½ pair harnesses. "No breaching," he says. "The lighter the harness for the lead horse, the better. In the show ring," he says, "a light harness helps to emphasize both the leader *and* the wheeler so nicely. And of course, breaching just isn't necessary on a technical level when put to a cart like this."

### Enjoying the Cones Memorial Drive and Picnic Meeting



*Kathie Rindge & Dazzle*



*Cathy Camp, Dawn & Willy*



*Randy Sabatino & Lacey*



*Charlotte Gelston & Blessing*

**Outstanding Performance Recognition for CVDC members!**



Congrats to our own **Henry Tarryk & Whippoorwill King Jubilee** for winning the Preliminary Single Horse division at the 2011 Laurels Combined Driving Event!

Third in dressage. second in cones and first in marathon, for the win!

Last year's Laurels was their first time out in the Prelim Division

**Rachel Petersen** 1<sup>st</sup> in a turnout of 15 in Reinsmanship at Walnut Hill!

Walnut Hill is considered the best of the best! This was only Rachel's 2<sup>nd</sup> time competing at Walnut Hill.



PLUS:

**Carrie Wind:** VSE/Pony Pairs champion at Rhode Island Carriage Days

**Linda Petersen:** Champion VSE Division at Shephard Meadows

**Hebron Fair**

Several CVDC members participated in the ECDHA Draft Horse Demo at the Hebron Fair. Highlights included a moment of silence for 9/11 with Beth Holland riding the Kincaid's Shire, Edward; a parade of breeds with over 30 horses; a driven freestyle showing differences and similarities from draft to mini with Beth Holland and Rita Bellinger; and a finale demo of Horses for Heroes, a therapeutic program, which featured Veterans at the reins.



*Tribute to 9/11*



*The large and small of it all!*



*Horses for Heroes*

SO, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO? SEND YOUR NEWS & PHOTOS TO [EDITOR@CVDRIVINGCLUB.COM!](mailto:EDITOR@CVDRIVINGCLUB.COM)

**DRIVING CALENDAR 2011**

(always verify information before leaving home!)

**Oct 1 – CVDC meeting: Driving Multiples. Peter Von Halem's Happy Landings Farm, Bozrah, CT. 6 pm, program followed by potluck.**

Oct 2 – Saratoga HDT, Valatie, NY. [www.saratogadriving.com](http://www.saratogadriving.com)

Oct 4-9 – The National Drive, Kentucky Horse Park. [www.nationaldrive.net](http://www.nationaldrive.net)

Oct 8-9 – CANCELLED: Tunbridge CDE, Tunbridge, VT. [www.hooved.org](http://www.hooved.org)

Oct 8-9 – Garden State CDE, Allentown, NJ. [www.horseparkofnewjersey.com](http://www.horseparkofnewjersey.com)

Oct 14-15 - Martins Fall Auction, Lebanon PA. [www.martinauctioneers.com](http://www.martinauctioneers.com)

Oct 16 – LHDC: Drive at Amenia, NY. 11 am. Contact Mark Borkoski: 860-585-9018.

**Oct 22 - CVDC Club Drive at Hammonasset, see details on page 2!**

Oct 22 - Myopia Combined Test, Georgetown, MA. Email Pam Bigge at [whodriver@gmail.com](mailto:whodriver@gmail.com)

Oct 29 – NEW: Colonial Carriage Cones & Scones informal driving day, 11-3, Stockbridge MA

Oct 30 – Mary Gray Driving Ctr Fall Harvest ADT #2, Danville, NH. Email

[mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net](mailto:mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net) or call 603-974-2357.

**Nov 5 – CVDC: Holly Pulsifer, speaker. East Haddam Grange. 6:30 pm, potluck.**

Nov 10-13 – Equine Affaire, W Springfield, MA. [www.equineaffaire.com](http://www.equineaffaire.com)

Nov 13 – Mary Gray Driving Ctr Fall Harvest ADT #2, Danville, NH. Email

[mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net](mailto:mgdrivingcenter@comcast.net) or call 603-974-2357.

**Dec 3 – CVDC Holiday Party, location to be determined.**

**PLANNING MEETING FOR 2012!!**

**Sunday, October 16 ~ Pat McNamee's House ~ 2:30 pm**

**ALL WELCOME !**

Below are just a few ideas mentioned in the past - please bring additional suggestions to the meeting, or send them to RITA BELLINGER at [programs@cvdrivingclub.com](mailto:programs@cvdrivingclub.com) or call her at 860-460-3603.

- Getting your horse ready to drive on the road, in company, or at a show
- Harness care & repair session
- Visit carriage collections/museums, discuss restoration of antiques
- Getting the most out of your trainer and instructor
- Driving destinations near and far
- Making and using a reinboard
- Becoming a Judge or Technical Delegate
- Making light-weight but safe hazards for practice at home
- Sleighs: types, how to drive one safely, accessories, attending rallies
- Styles of harness, show & tell
- Desensitizing / "spook-proofing" clinic
- Driving games day
- CAA Proficiency Tests: discussion, possible study group
- Loading carriages on the truck/trailer - what works, what doesn't
- PLUS: Pleasure drives, events, and get-togethers

*Meeting location: 29 Wickham Rd, East Haddam, CT 06423. Call 860-877-0808 for directions.*



# Long Lines

**October 2011**

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

**CVDC Photo Album!**  
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See front page of  
newsletter for login  
and password!



c/o Rita Bellingher  
218 Cranberry Pond Rd.  
Norwich, CT 06360 USA

