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## 50 Years - Pieces from the Past

*From May 1995 Bugle*

### F.E. Morse Enterprise Update

About ten years ago when Pen Central was getting ride of what we now call the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) it was offered to the state. B law the state has first refusal. At that time a developer (Morse) expressed a desire to develop his property. A part of this rail-bed would give him easy access to his property. His proposal to DEM was for them to refuse buying that section (1,500 ft.) so he could acquire it for the right of way access. In return DEM could have an easement across the property for trail continuity. There would be sufficient width for access and the trail. In return he would also develop the trail for the 1,500 ft. involved. If it worked the way it was supposed to, DEM - for no money - would have a developed section of the trail.

An agreement was signed that stipulated this would be done within one year of the signed agreement. That was **10 years ago!** So for 9 years Morse has not fulfilled his agreement.

Bill Perry started chasing this one down to get it resolved. He spoke with DEM's legal counsel. He said at this point it needed to be referred to the Attorney General's Office. I then wrote a letter to Commissioner Peter Webber with a copy to Rep. Paul Kujawski, asking that he please refer this to the Attorney General's Office with

a high priority.

Rep. Paul Kujawski gave me a call after he received the letter. Between Bill and myself, we explained the situation to him. He then sent a letter to Peter Webber requesting the matter be sent to the Attorney General's Office with a high priority and he also sent a letter to the Attorney General's Office seeking action on this matter. John O'Leary (Paul Kujawski's aide) sent me a copy of the letter from the Attorney General's Office. The following is what was in the letter.

Dear Representative Kujawski,

Attorney General Harshbarger has forwarded your letter of Jan. 23, 1995 to me and asked that I respond.

On Jan. 12, 1995, this office received a request from DM for assistance in attempting to resolve a dispute with F.E. Morse, Inc. over its failure to convey certain land to the Commonwealth in connection with the Southern New England Trunkline Trail. At the same time the Department provided us various background materials pertinent to the dispute.

We agree that this matter affects important Commonwealth interests and have assigned it for review and evaluation in the Trial Division of the Government Bureau. We plan to work closely with DEM to determine the appropriate course of action.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

Very truly yours, William Porter

Assistant Attorney General Coordinator

Bill Perry called Mr. Porter and talked with him. Mr. Porter feels we have a good chance of getting this resolved favorably. It involves public access and taxpayers' assets. Mr. Porter said we should follow up in 4 months. The length of time for this whole thing is 1 year, maybe 2.

To help this along, I think it's very important for you,

BSTRA members, to send letters of support that this agreement with Morse needs to be honored. The SNETT is an important part of the Commonwealth's trail system used by the public and this problem needs to be taken care of.

Your letters can only help when this finally gets before a judge. Write a letter and save a trail! I would also request that you send me a copy of your letter so we know how things are progressing. Send your letters of support to: Office of the Attorney General, William W. Porter. One Ashburton Place, Boston MA 02108

**BK**



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### ***Volunteer Hours - Submit Online***

We have set up a volunteer form on our website to submit your volunteer hours.

On the top menu bar, click on membership, then volunteer and you will see in that drop down menu, submit volunteer hours. Click on that to pull up the form.

You have room to submit up to three volunteer events at one time.

We are trying to set this up so we can gather all the data into spreadsheets with the capability of pulling out the information that we might need.

Please try to make us of this, it would be greatly appreciated. **BK**



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## *Domnarski Farm Pleasure Ride sponsored by Equid Doc Veterinary Services*

Many thanks to Matt for again letting us use his property to hold this ride. We didn't have this ride last year, so it was nice to get back up to Ware MA! We also have to thank Sharron Cochran & Christine Barch for taking care of the ride details. Maps, lunch and treats for the horses!

The current trend of is it going to rain the day of the ride continues. We were again lucky that it rained the day before and was clear for the ride. Interesting enough the field we park in did have puddles (to be expected with all the rain we just had) but I didn't expect the



"floating" soil in parts of the field. It's like part of the field was a water bed. You could push on it and see the grass moving, these are called grass or lawn bubbles. The water gets trapped underneath with no place to drain.

We all headed out to the trails with our choice of mileage, short, medium, or long. Rita and I opted for the medium but a missed turn gave us almost the same mileage as the long route. It certainly didn't seem we were out for that long - to much laughing and chatting!

After our jaunt in the woods we settled in for lunch and chatting with all the other riders. Good horses, good friends, toss in a meal and you have a great day! **BK**



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## *Mt. Jefferson Ride sponsored by Dean Bank & Xact Property Management*

A special thanks to Bob & Stephanie of Burnshirt Hills Farm for marking the trails for us. I heard they had some help from the kids! Plus they spent over six hours of trail trimming. Our grateful thanks for that.

Tom & Jassy Bratko took care of the registration table. Sheila King took over that job when they had to head home because of a puppy situation. Tom & Jassy have a new puppy. So thanks to Tom, Jassy and Sheila!



This was another one, are we going to change the ride to Saturday because of the weather? It finally held in our favor, but again, we had a ton of rain before the ride. The amount of rain we have had this year has not been kind to the trails. Some of them are getting seriously washed out. I noticed there was one section of the trail we did not do this year and I suspect there were some issues with that section because of too much water. We still had a nice 7.7 mile ride.

Lunch was from Giacomo's Gourmet Foods. We had a variety of sandwich wraps, my favorite is the Turkey BAM (bacon, avocado, mayonnaise). Desserts were supplied by some of the riders which is always a great variety. **BK**

### *Notes from members.*

I am just writing to say that the list of trail projects, improvements and acquisitions is extremely impressive. I want all to know how thankful I am that BSTRA executive, board and members have been so driven and dedicated in all the trail projects that have been completed or in the process of being completed. THANK YOU TO ALL!!!! (Article in Sept. issue)

Janice Key

### *Welcome New Members*

Jeffrey Demoura, Carver MA

Tammy Lund, Belchertown MA

Susan & Joe Bonofiglio, Douglas MA

BSTRA board meetings are usually on the first Thursday of the month. If you wish to attend one of our meetings, drop us an email and we will send you the meeting link.

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## *Lea MacInnis Judged Pleasure Ride sponsored by Yered Trailers*

Having this ride out of Valerie's place in Thompson CT turned out to be the perfect place for the judge pleasure. We had 30 riders and 19 volunteers - it takes a lot of volunteers to run a ride like this. Plus the hours that Valerie and Dave Clark put in to mow and clear the trails. Nothing to take for granted!

Those that chose to ride judged had obstacles in the field like bridge, gate, and others. Out on the trail they had water crossing, riding down the road (should be single file!), and negotiating going up a hill.

Valerie road the ride and when she got to the state forest trails there was a young man on a dirt bike. He promptly told Valerie that he was not an obstacle. As this was a judged pleasure ride, I guess the riders that encountered him thought he just might be one of the obstacles out on the trails! I wonder how many riders told him their numbers and asked what to do? I do hope he had a good sense of humor.

The main course for lunch, grilled chicken, baked potatoes and veggies were provided by Ray Williams & Ron Auger who donated their time to cook and deliver the food. We had enough food to feed everyone, post entries included!

While everyone was eating lunch the team spent that time getting the scoring done. Once the scoring was done we pulled tickets for the raffle table then awarded the judged pleasure winners.

Our winners for the Lea MacInnis Judged Pleasure were as follows: (Nancie Jarvis will get the Lea MacInnis award at our banquet as she was the highest scoring BSTRA member.)

### **Senior Division**

1st: Nancie Jarvis (highest score)  
2nd: Gloria Duhaime  
3rd: Patty McElligott  
4th: Mary Wood  
5th: Pam Lindblom  
6th: Marilyn Allatin

### **Adult Division**

1st: Valerie Clark  
2nd: Kerianne Foley  
3rd: Rose Blomgren  
4th: Jeanne Zirolli  
5th: Kelly Berthiaume  
6th: Denise Leonard on Tal

### **Junior Division**

1st: Bobbie Enman  
2nd: Marshall Streeter



A huge thanks to Carolyn Weeks for offering to do the ride this year. You can bet every rider their was very grateful that you did! I know I heard Mariola say, these are such fun, we should have more of them. And as an aside, if you ever get hurt out on the trail, you need to have Mariola there. You wouldn't believe the supplies she had in her saddle bags.



And to the rest of our volunteers another round of thanks as this would not have happened without your help. Scott Ruskin, Rose Zariczny, Janeen Rose, Linda Horanzy, Valerie Clark, Caila Hansen, LouAnn Murphy, Annamaria Paul, Bethany Chadbourne, Becky Kalagher, Deb Deschenes, Theresa McGuire, Crysanda Boisvert, Lida Roman, David Clark, and Sharron Cochran.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

Thank you to all that made desserts for the ride and donated items like butter & sour cream.

One final note, below you will see an article on proper helmet fit. I was the first judge that checked tack, proper attire and safety items. There were only about 5 riders that had their helmets properly adjusted. That was the catalyst for printing that as I deemed it necessary after doing the judging. We want to keep those pretty heads intact! **BK**



## ***Helmet Fit***

The helmet should sit level on your head so that the visor (or where the visor would be, in the case of a skull cap helmet) is parallel to the floor. If the helmet is perched on top of your head, it is too small; if the helmet is unbalanced and falling down over your eyebrows, it is too large.

Consider how easy it is to place the helmet on your head. If it is very easy to slip the helmet on, it might be too big. New helmets will start quite snug, then conform to your head as they break in. However, they should not be so snug that they will cause discomfort or give you a headache.

Run your fingertips around the edge of the helmet to make sure it fits evenly around your head. It should feel like a rubber band: snug, but without pressure points.

If you wiggle the helmet forward and backward, it should make your eyebrows move. If it does not, it may be too loose. You can also gently shake your head with the harness strap undone. If it feels like the helmet may shift or fall off, it is likely too big or not the right shape for your head.

Place the chin strap and latch the harness. Make sure the chin strap is adjusted to the point where you can fit about one finger underneath your chin or just touching the skin. If you can slip the chin strap forward and over your chin, it is too loose and can cause your helmet to pop off in the case of a fall. The chin strap should not feel restrictive, but it is designed to keep your helmet in place and provide adequate protection for your noggin.

For helmets with adjustable straps, the triangle where the straps go around your ear, should sit at or just under the ear lobe. This adjustment should be done first, sliding the tabs to just below your ear lobes before adjusting the chin strap.

The harness and chinstrap are two important components of how well a helmet fits.

The purpose of the chinstrap is not to hold the helmet on the wearer's head during normal use. Its job is to hold the helmet to the head during a fall.

From the © 2021 Snell Foundation – 2021 Equestrian Helmet Standard – Final – July 21, 2021

There are at least four critical elements affecting a helmet's protective properties: 1. Impact management - how well the helmet protects against collisions with large objects. 2. Helmet positional stability - whether the helmet will be in place, on the head, when it's needed. 3. Retention system strength - whether the chinstraps are sufficiently strong to hold the helmet throughout an incident involving head impact. 4. Extent of Protection - the area of the head protected by the helmet.

The quality of the fit and the care taken with the adjustments are ***absolutely critical elements in these tests.*** The manufacturer must provide suitable guidance so that the wearer will be able to select and adjust headgear to obtain the necessary quality of fit and positional stability.

The retention system holds the headgear in position throughout normal usage and especially during falls and accidents. This Standard applies two different tests to the retention system. The first of these tests for stability by

fitting the headgear to a standard head form and then attempting to displace it by applying tangential shock loadings. The second tests retention system strength by applying a shock load to the system components through a simulated chin.

The protective capability may diminish over time. Some helmets are made of materials which deteriorate with age and therefore have a limited life span. At the present time, the Foundation recommends that equestrian helmets be replaced after five (5) years, or less if the manufacturer so recommends. © 2021 Snell Foundation



Slides/tabs should be just below the ear

Chin strap should be just touching the skin or no more than one finger space under the chin.

So, the reason for the proper fit is the engineering and testing that went into these helmets to make them as safe and effective as possible. It's your job to take advantage of the full safety of your helmet by making sure you have it adjusted correctly.

And I know that they slip and loosen up as many of you mentioned that to me. Your life is worth you taking the 5 minutes to readjust the slides and chin strap. At least I think your life is worth the 5 minutes! Check you riding partners helmet, be each others safety partners! **BK**




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## The Thompson Raceway Ride

**November 12, 2023**

The ride is mostly on private property which has parts of the former Thompson Raceway, located near, but not related in any way to the Speedway.

**Check in** 10 am **Length:** 5 to 7 miles, repeat for double miles. Rest assured, the route planned for this ride avoids deep mud!

NEHT Affiliated Hot lunch served after the ride.

**Location:** Baker Road, Thompson CT. From route 193S (coming from Massachusetts), take the sharp, hairpin left downhill onto East Thompson road, heading toward the Speedway.

After about 1/2 mile, take the first paved right onto Alm Road. If you pass the Speedway, you've gone too far. Follow Alm Road to the end. Take a left onto Baker Road. There will be a BSTRA sign to direct you to the left turn into the field. For GPS use: 165 Baker Road Thompson, CT. That will get you close. Watch for signs!

If you're coming from the Douglas end of East Thompson Road, please swing wide when you are taking that left onto Alm Road so you don't have any issues with your trailer.

**Registration fees:** \$20 for BSTRA members, \$25 for non-members, Juniors (17 and under) ride and eat free

**Registration deadline for lunch** Nov. 8th.

We are going to have people register for the ride so we have a head count. We want you to pay the day of the ride or pay online Nov. 9, 10, or 11th. That way we have an idea of what the weather is going to be, so if we have to cancel because of the weather we don't have to deal with refunds.

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Raceway Ride	Rider #1	Rider #2
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Are you a BSTRA Member? Yes/No		

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NOV. 28TH.

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BSTRA's 50 year history of what we have put back into trails has only been possible by you our members and donors - with that amount being \$718,315!

Please consider make a donation to BSTRA for Giving Tuesday (Nov. 28th) this year to continue the work that we are doing on preserving & maintaining trails.

You can donate through our website or mail a check (made out to BSTRA) to Karen Parlin, 92 Old Westboro Road, N. Grafton MA 01536. Please put Giving Tuesday in the memo line. Just remember, every donation no matter the amount makes a difference!




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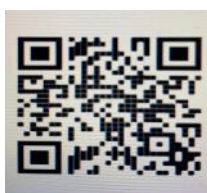
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### VOLUNTEER AWARD PROGRAM

In addition to BSTRA's Volunteerism Program, record your volunteer hours for BSTRA within 7 days at <https://rewardsvolunteer.coop> for chances to win rewards in cash or prizes for your volunteer contributions. Or you can use the direct link on our website to enter your volunteer hours. This secondary volunteer reward program is offered by Cabot Creamery.

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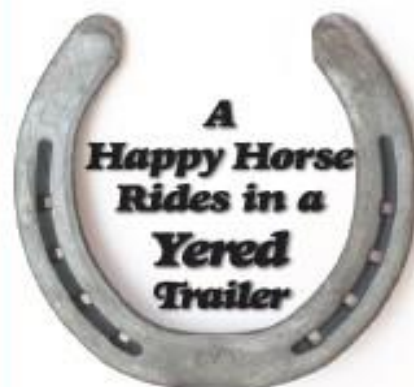
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**Horses/Trailer for Sale-Help Wanted:** Reg. Quarter horse gelding, 10 yr, 15'2" - safe sane, no vices, great trail horse UTD, Summer Indian Dream \$7,500.00 - english, western, jumps

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Date (raindate)	Event/Location/Sponsor	Contact	Phone #	email address
Nov. 5*	Turkey Trot, Carver MA <i>Ride Sponsored by New England Drywall &amp; From the Horses Mouth</i>	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
Nov. 12*	Thompson Raceway Ride, Thompson CT <i>Ride Sponsored by Yered Trailers</i>	Becky	508-476-3960	bstra@charter.net
Feb. 18	AGM & Awards Banquet, Sutton MA			

**\*NEHT affiliated rides**

1. Unless otherwise noted, all rides start at 10 am and trail work days at 9 am
2. In case of questionable weather, call before leaving home. You will NOT be called if the event is cancelled.
3. Most rides require advance registration and payment to receive lunch.
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6. A current Coggins within a year of the ride date is required.
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## Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc.

24 Glen Street  
Douglas MA 01516



NOVEMBER 2023

We are on the web!

[www.bstra.org](http://www.bstra.org)

### Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc. Membership Application (expires December 31st)

Mail this form with check payable to **BSTRA, Inc.** to: Rose Zariczny, 216 Grand Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Do NOT release my name for discounts or coupons to benefit BSTRA [ ]

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

(# & street)

(town/city)

(state/zip)

Please check all that apply:

Single \$25 [ ] \$1m excess liability insurance (single), additional \$20 [ ] Individual Lifetime Membership \$400 [ ]

Family \$35 [ ] \$1m excess liability insurance (family), additional \$40 [ ]

Additional Barn Membership \$35 [ ] Barn Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation to this 501(c)(3) corporation \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Your tax exempt donation will be acknowledged.

I'd like to receive your free monthly bulletin *The Bugle* via email [ ] or printed copy in black & white [ ]

I'd like to receive **Community Horse**, published Spring & Fall, at no cost to me [ ]

I can help

I was referred to BSTRA by \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of member)

- by volunteering for trail work days [ ]
- by sponsoring a trail ride (\$) [ ]
- by hosting/running a trail ride [ ]
- with other projects that might be needed [ ]
- by serving on the Board of Directors [ ] committee [ ]
- with \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? [rzariczny@verizon.net](mailto:rzariczny@verizon.net) or 401-487-3190

**Thank you for your support. Happy Trails!**