



The Bugle



May 2025

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bstra.org@gmail.com

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Fort Hill Farms Ride sponsored by Hope Botanicals & Crothers Tire Co.

Spring has indeed sprung, and it sure has been a wet spring so far. April 19th even gave us a touch of summer with humidity and temperatures above 80.

The trails were not too bad when they were marked on Friday, but by Saturday the 50% humidity and the winds/low pressure system worked against us to pull the water UP out of the ground, making the fields muddy.

Despite the mushy footing, there were areas to move out, but a slower pace allowed the 55 riders to enjoy Fort Hill Farms' spectacular views and explore the interesting features of the farm.

The white VOR (Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Range) that overlooks the field where we parked, is used by aircraft to help determine their direction and compass heading. Nearly all flights to our region pass over or at least "ping" this tower.

The Red barn with the cows is a robotic milking parlor. The farm oversees 200 milking cows. The Parlor is automated, and cows can select when they wish to be fed and milked. Robots clean the facility 24 hours a day and ensure they are in optimal health.

Our route passed by the farm's biodigester. Manure from the cows, and restaurant food waste (from as far away as Newport and Cape Cod), is processed in the pits to extract the methane, which is converted to electricity to fuel the farm. Excess electricity is supplied to the electric grid.

Our generous hosts - the Orr-LaVack family - were so gracious to allow our club to use their farm and their corn maze area to host this trail ride. We were fortunate to ride on their 1200 plus acre property. This is only the second time in fifteen years that horses have traversed these trails at an event like ours

Four generations of the Fort Hill Farms family joined us at lunchtime - from great-grandmother, Norma, two of her daughters, Kathy and Kristen, granddaughter, Kies, to two-year-old great granddaughter, Adelaide.

The menu included a great pasta salad donated by Karen Parlin and followed by delicious desserts donated by many BSTRAs members. Additional desserts included were Echo Farm puddings in maple and vanilla flavors, donated by Kies Orr-LaVack. Fort Hill Farms sells these puddings and other locally produced items in their store, The Farmer's Porch, located on O'Leary Road.

Stop by for gifts, treats, honey and dairy products - this is a self-serve stand operating on the honor system, open 24 hours a day.



And of course, an event like this cannot be held without our crew of volunteers,

Joyce Sandvik Suzanne Nicholas

Becky Kalagher Deb Deschenes

Sam Ericson Kies Orr-LaVack

Jared LaVack Valerie Clark

Samantha Gardner Melissa Hunter-Ensor

What a wonderful way to start the 2025 ride season!

By Valerie Clark & Anna-Maria Paul



Mark your Calendars for our upcoming Trail Work Days!

May 10th: Hodges Village Dam, Oxford MA

Time: check in 8:30. Working 9am to 1pm.

Location: Greenbriar Recreation Area Rt. 12 Oxford MA. Entrance is right next to the 581 Main St. house.

Tools: hand saws, lopes, pole saws.

Objective: We will be cutting & brushing back, trimming up and cleaning up winter debris.

Please wear appropriate clothing like long pants, heavy duty sturdy work boots and wear gloves. Ticks are out, so use your tick spray.

Water will be available and lunch will be provided for our volunteers.

If you can join us please register via our website

(www.bstra.org) or send an email to

bstra@charter.net so we have a head count and can plan accordingly.

May 11th: Thompson CT

Time: check in 8:30. Working 9am to 1pm.

Location: Parking in the field we use for rides. For GPS use 165 Baker Road, Thompson CT. Follow signs to parking field.

Tools: hand saws, lopes, pole saws, chainsaws, etc.

Objective: we will be cleaning up winter storm damage to reopen the trails.

Please wear appropriate clothing like long pants, heavy duty sturdy work boots and wear gloves. Ticks are out, so use your tick spray.

Water will be available and lunch will be provided for our volunteers.

If you can join us please register via our website

(www.bstra.org) or send an email to

bstra@charter.net so we have a head count and can plan accordingly.

Welcome New Members

Eliza Morrison, Woodstock CT
Tara Whiting-Wells, W. Tisbury MA
Donna & Ed Fultz, Littleton MA

Ryan Rudy
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Livelark Acres Pleasure Ride Thompson CT

MAY 18, 2025



Check in time: 9am Ride out: 9:30am

Length: 5 miles +/- , repeat for 10 miles +/- NEHT affiliated.

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: \$30 for BSTRA members, \$35 for non-members. Juniors (17 and under) ride and eat free (to eat free they need to be pre-registered).

Pre-registration deadline is May 14th.

*Ride Sponsored by
EquidDoc Veterinary Services*

For more information please contact Valerie at 508-864-8432 or Valerie.clark@snet.net

Make checks payable to BSTRA & mail to Suzanne Nicholas, 96 Mountain Gate Road, Ashland MA 01721

Livelark Acres Pleasure Ride	Rider #1	Rider #2
Rider's Name		
Horse's Name		
Rider's Year of Birth		
Street Address		
Town, State, Zip		
Phone Number		
Email Address		
Coggins # and Date (with in a year)		
Are you a BSTRA Member? Yes/No		

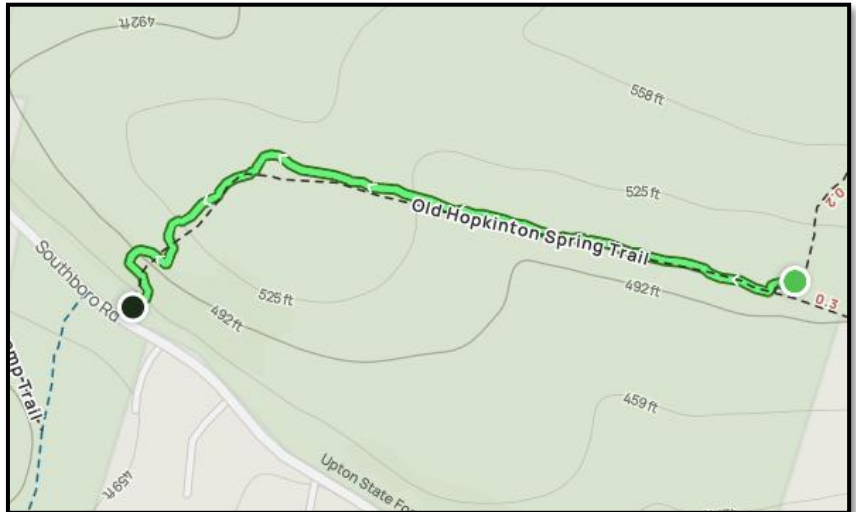
Park Serve Day Upton State Forest

Well, April 27 for Upton turned out better than the 26th for Douglas which had to be cancelled. (We will work on rescheduling that!)

We had a total of 15 volunteers and 3 DCR staff members for a total of 42 hours of service work.

The trail crew consisted of Anna-Maria Paul, Becky Kalagher, Sheila Shafer and Sylvia Stewart. Our goal was to tackle the Old Hopkinton Spring Trail.

Where the trail heads in from Southboro Road, it's pretty much straight up the hill



and we know that is not a good layout for a trail. With a meeting before the trail work day with DCR Upton supervisor Ray Longvall, we discovered someone beat us to the punch with laying out a more friendly track going up the hill which incorporated switchbacks. With Ray's approval, we were good to clear that up some.

Not only did we get that cleared up, we also cleared and cut back Old Hopkinton Spring Trail down to where it turns left up the hill. All totaled we improved .48 of a mile for our total of 14 hours.

The rest of the volunteers worked at the headquarters building raking, picking up tons of branches and spreading mulch. Those hard workers were Charlotte Canning, Cameron Ostiguy, Suzanne Nicholas, Ellen Arnold, Angie Knott, Bill Taylor, Deb Deschenes, Brian Gallagher and the Perry Family. Park staff working with us and the Friends of Upton State Forest were Ray Longvall, Amber Drummond, Chris Hollenbeck. The volunteers put in 28 hours of service.

Using the 2024 Independent Sector Volunteer rate for Massachusetts (\$42) our volunteer work was worth **\$1,764 BK**

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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Poker Run June 1st Oxford, MA



We are all about trails!

Location: Greenbriar Recreation Area, Hodges Village Dam, Rt. 12 Oxford MA. GPS: 581 Main St., Oxford is house right by entrance

Check-in Time: 9:30 am
Ride out Time: 10:00 am

Price: BSTRA Members \$30 Non-members \$35 Juniors 17 and under free. If pre-registered they eat free too!

Pre-registration must be received by May 28th to receive meal

NEHT Affiliated Between 7 and 8 miles.

For more information contact
Kelly at 508-341-8091 or canderemastiffs@gmail.com

Make check payable to BSTRA and mail with this form to: BSTRA c/o S. Nicholas, 96 Mountain Gate Road, Ashland MA 01721

Here is your chance to give Lady Luck a try on a trail ride. Playing cards are in sealed envelopes and numbered. Your #1 card is the first card you get when you sign in. Numbers 2-4 you pick up on the trail, and #5 you get at turn in. You will be disqualified if you have a duplicate envelope number or not enough cards (as this means you went off course). All envelopes must be turned in unopened. Ribbons will be awarded to those that have winning hands with a prize going to the best hand of the day.

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EquidDoc Veterinary Services

Entry Information Poker Run	Rider #1	Rider #2
Rider's Name		
Horse's Name		
Rider's Year of Birth		
Street Address		
Town, State, Zip		
BSTRA member Yes or No		
Optional Trails Donation		
Phone Number		
E-Mail Address		
Coggins # and date (has to be within a year)		

Ride for the Future: National Trails Day Fundraiser on June 8th

The trails we love don't maintain themselves—but together, we can ensure they thrive for years to come!

Join us for the National Trails Day Fundraiser on June 8th, where horseback riders, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts come together for a day of fun, community, and commitment to preserving our cherished trails.

Why Your Support Matters

Every ride we take depends on well-kept trails—clear pathways, safe footing, and access to breathtaking landscapes. Your participation helps fund vital projects such as trail repairs, new signage, and expanding access to ensure these spaces remain open and inviting for all.



How You Can Make a Difference

Donate – Every contribution fuels essential trail projects. Whether big or small, your generosity keeps the paths clear for future generations.

Fundraise – Rally your friends, family, and businesses to sponsor your ride. Every dollar raised strengthens the trails we cherish.

Volunteer – Lend a hand during the event or support ongoing trail maintenance efforts throughout the season.

Spread the Word – Encourage fellow riders and outdoor lovers to attend, support, and make a lasting impact!

Event Highlights

A day filled with adventure awaits: Scenic trail ride - Exciting raffle prizes - Delicious food - Community camaraderie

Be a steward of the land. Be a voice for our trails. Whether you ride, hike, or simply love the outdoors, your participation in the fundraiser makes all the difference.

Let's make June 8th a celebration of our trails and an investment in their future. Mark your calendar and saddle up—our trails are counting on us. **BK**



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(address)

Submit completed form and collections by 11 am at the NTD Registration Table or mail to Karen Parlin, 92 Old Westboro Road, N. Grafton MA 01536 to be received by June 5th.

Name	Address	Contribution
		\$
TOTAL COLLECTED		\$

Businesses donating \$100 or more receive business sponsor benefits such as a free listing in business directory with a link to their website and free advertising dependent upon amount of contribution – please refer to and complete Sponsorship Form on reverse.

NTD RIDE JUNE 8, 2025 BUSINESS SPONSORS SPONSORSHIP FORM

Some things you should know regarding business sponsors are:

- * All donations are tax-deductible because BSTRA is a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and 100% of ALL donations are used for local trail programs
- * BSTRA has a sponsor rewards program to say thank you for donations of \$50 or more. It gives those sponsors various benefits.
- * Business sponsors donating \$99 or less are listed in our newsletter and NTD handout.
- * Business sponsors donating \$100 or more get one free business card sized ad in our newsletter in addition to being listed in Business Sponsor Directory on our website.
- * Business sponsors donating \$250 or more receive "Blue Ribbon" designation, a free Banner Ad on the home page of our website, a listing in the Business Sponsor Directory, and three free business card sized ads in our newsletter, and are eligible to be named as an Event Co-Sponsor (1 of 2 sponsors).
- * Deluxe Blue Ribbon business sponsors donating \$500 or more receive 6 business card sized ads in the newsletter, as well as the free website Banner Ad and listings in the Business Sponsor Directory, and are eligible to be named as an exclusive Event Sponsor for one of our events.
- * Platinum business sponsors donating \$1,000 or more receive 12 business card sized ads in the newsletter, as well as the website Platinum Banner Ad and listings in the Business Sponsor Directory, and are eligible to be named as an exclusive Event Sponsor for two of our events.

***NOTE:** Listings in Business Sponsor Directory will expire as of June 2026

PLEASE ATTACH business card and/or ad copy to be used for free advertising as outlined above for each business

Business Name	
Address	
Tagline	
Website	
Telephone	
Contact Person	
E-mail Address	
Amount of Donation	

Business Name	
Address	
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Contact Person	
E-mail Address	
Amount of Donation	

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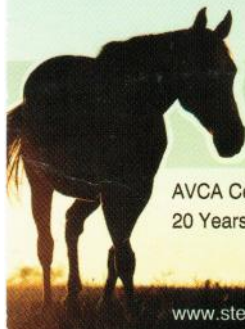
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June 8, 2025

Location:

Hay field across from
49 Root Road,
Hubbardston MA

Check in 9:30 am

Lunch at noon

Awards & raffle follow

NEHT affiliated 7 +/- miles

Registration Fees:

BSTRA members \$40

Non-members \$50

Juniors 17 and under free

Lunch only \$20

Pre-registration deadline
to get lunch: **MAY 25th.**

Post entries welcome but
no lunch provided.

NTD gift bag for the first
50 registrants!

HUGE RAFFLE

To register online go to:

<https://bstra.org/national-trails-day/>



BSTRA National Trails Day Ride and Fundraiser

Event Sponsored by: **Whitehorse Truck & Trailer Service & Sales**

**Help raise funds for trail
projects that benefit you!**



Choose How to Participate in National
Trails Day:

1. Ride or Attend (Pre-Registration Required to receive lunch):

Pay the registration fee and complete the form below.

2. Free Ride and Food (Pre-Registration Required to receive lunch):

Pay the registration fee and complete the form below. If you help with this year's NTD Fundraiser by collecting \$100 or more in contributions you can elect to have your registration fee refunded.

3. Collect donations and unable to attend:

We would love to have you support trails and our NTD event even if you can't attend. Please fill out the form below and check off collecting sponsors only.

Download "NTD Sponsor Collection Papers" at www.bstra.org under National Trails Day to participate.

BIG PRIZE PACKAGES awarded to five participants bringing in the highest amount of donations with their NTD Sponsor Papers. You do not need to ride to participate. (Deadline to turn in sponsor papers: 11am the day of the ride.)

REGISTRATION: Please make check payable to BSTRA and mail with this form to: Joyce Sandvik, 103 Ariel Circle, Sutton MA 01590

Participant's Name	Rider #1	Rider #2
Horse's Name		
Rider's Year of Birth		
Street Address		
Town, State, Zip		
Phone Number		
Email Address		
Coggins # and Date (within a year)		
Are you a BSTRA Member?		
Collecting Sponsors Only- not riding		

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When you buy Poulin grain for your animals, make sure to tell the clerk that you are a BSTRA member. That's all you have to do! We get .25 for each bag you buy. The collected bag amounts are remitted to Poulin and they send us a check. Participating dealers: Mane Place (Uxbridge).

EXCESS PERSONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

A \$1 million Excess Personal Liability Insurance policy is an optional member benefit. Become an individual or family member of BSTRA and choose this valuable protection. This service is provided by Equisure, Inc. in cooperation with BSTRA. This program is not a source of revenue for BSTRA. Association Resource Group Purchasing Group (the Mater Policy holder) has arranged coverage with Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's London using Equisure Inc. as the agent. For details, please visit our website at www.bstra.org or email rzariczny@verizon.net

BSTRA CLOTHING

Please use this QR code to access our site to purchase BSTRA clothing. Or go to our website, click on the Support tab in the top header, then click on Merchandise Sales. There will be a link on that page that takes you to the "store". **NEW ITEMS ADDED**



SHOP iGIVE

When you log in & shop their 2,000+ stores (think Chewy, Walmart, Expedia and so many more), we'll earn donations at least TWICE what we earned through AmazonSmile. The average donation through an iGive store is about 3%, with some offering 25% or higher! Make it all automatic. Download the iGive Button & turn your browser into an automatic donation generating machine! Use the handy link on our website under the Support tab.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

You can now submit your volunteer hours online from our website. Please make use of this throughout the year so you don't forget what you did.



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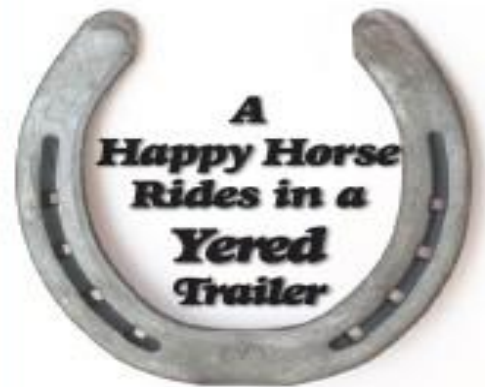
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Classifieds

Free ads are for members and their items only. Please contact the editor for advertising rates for non-member classified ads.

Please submit your ad in writing (mail or e-mail) to the editor. Ads will only appear once unless you notify us to run it again. Ads must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

For Sale: Orange Loop reins 8 feet long. Black & White Loop, and Red Loop reins 10 feet long. All are made from heavy yacht rope. 9/16". Won't get slippery and are adjustable for the desired length. Each end is spliced with a small leather popper. They attach to the bit with slobber straps. The reins are washable. \$15 each. Black & red lead rope. 11.5' long. \$10. Saddle Ups Olde Time brand cantle roll holds lots of stuff from extra clothing or to pack away a medical kit, rope, lead & halter. Attaches in back of your cantle with string ties and footman's loops Has zippered top. Made from soft full grain leather with solid stainless steel hardware. Measures 18"L x 5"D expanding to a circumference of 20". Lined with Cordura water resistant leather. Retail for \$145. \$50. Leather Grab strap/night latch. Attaches easily to your saddle adding security and safety. Black \$10. Email Suzanne @ HC07645@gmail.com

Wintex Isabella Dressage Saddle: Black, 17" seat, has interchangeable gullets (comes with medium and wide). Girth, irons, working diamond wool pad, and saddle cleaner. \$550. Email Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch

Saddle for Sale: Custom Circle Y. Older, but in great shape. The fully hand tooled saddle leather is a mahogany color. It is accented with a rope edge with silver lacing. The horn is braided rawhide with silver lacing. The gullet is 6-3/4" wide which is considered semi-quarter horse bars. Set up for double rigging. The sheepskin is really good. 15" seat. Floral engraved conchos and matching pieces on saddle. One of a kind saddle. \$1,000. Pictures available. Email Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch

Business Classifieds

Short Term/Vacation Boarding: Walking High Farm has two run in sheds with separate fencing available for your short term needs. Going on vacation? We can take care of your horse, or both if you have two of them. Please call Becky for details at 508-476-3960 or bstra@charter.net

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"The Adventures of BB, the Wonder Pony" is an illustrated, first chapter children's book that will be enjoyed by readers of all ages. My Connemara Pony "BB" tells his life story in his own pony voice. BB talks about life as a foal, learning to be ridden, going to a variety of shows and having adventures with his big brother Cody. The illustrations are by a 12-year-old artist – really cute, on every few pages. You can contact me at sue.perry@charter.net to purchase a book, \$5.00 each plus shipping. You can also order the book on-line from Amazon at \$7.99.



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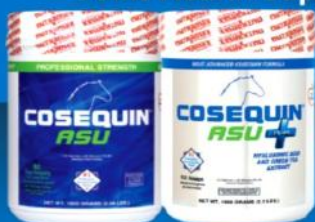


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Bridlepathtackllc.com or Facebook.com/bridlepathtack -Live Mondays @ 7PM

Date (raindate)	Event/Location/Sponsor	Contact	Phone#	Email address
May 3*	Nancy Maenzo Ride, Douglas MA <i>Ride sponsored by Cove Insurance Agency</i>	Kelly	774-276-0260	krshaw13@gmail.com
May 10	Trail Work Day Hodges Village Dam Oxford MA	Becky	508-476-3960	becky.bstra@protonmail.ch
May 11	Trail Work Day Thompson CT	Becky	508-76-3960	becky.bstra@protonmail.ch
May 18*	Live Lark Acres Ride, Thompson CT <i>Ride sponsored by EquidDoc Veterinary Services</i>	Becky	508-476-3960	becky.bstra@protonmail.ch
May 24-26	Memorial Day Campout, Carver MA	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
June 1*	Poker Run, Oxford MA <i>Ride sponsored by EquidDoc Veterinary Services</i>			
June 8*	National Trails Day, Hubbardston MA <i>Ride sponsored by Whitehorse Truck & Trailer Sales</i>			
July 3-6	4th of July Campout, Douglas MA	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
July 19	Goddard Brunch Ride, E. Greenwich RI	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
July 27*	Galloping Gourmet Ride, Royalston MA	Becky	508-476-3960	becky.bstra@protonmail.ch
Aug. 24	Northfield Mt. Ride, Northfield MA <i>Ride sponsored by Williams Restaurant</i>	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
Sept. 14*	Wild West Ride, Upton MA	Suzanne	508-380-2124	hc07645@gmail.com
Sept. 21	Sue Brainard Memorial Hunter Pace, Douglas MA	Sharron	413-668-7606	hiddenhollowacres@comcast.net
Oct. 5	Ride for Open Space Wyndham Land Trust			
Oct. 12	Tack Sale, Oxford MA	Karen		
Oct. 19*	Lea MacInnis Ride, Lincoln MA			
Oct. 26*	Big Pumpkin Ride, Upton MA	Joyce	617-429-1319	bstra.org@gmail.com
Nov. 2*	Turkey Trot, Carver MA	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
Nov. 16*	Thompson Raceway Ride, Thomson CT	Becky	508-476-3960	becky.bstra@protonmail.ch

*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.
4. Riders 17 years old and under, accompanied by a guardian, ride **free** (includes lunch if pre-registered). (May be exceptions on some rides)
5. Alcohol is prohibited on State property. No smoking allowed while riding.
6. A current Coggins within a year of the ride date is required.
7. Please leave the trails and parking areas better than you found them and be considerate of others! Clean up your hay & manure at all rides!
8. Year end awards require a member in good standing to have a minimum of 4 hours of volunteer time completed.
Divisions: Pleasure, Competitive, Accumulative. Age as of January 1st: Junior (17 and under), Adult (18-64), Senior (65 or older).
9. For more Information, visit our website at www.bstra.org
9. PayPal payments for rides will no longer be transferred to another ride. Refunds will be made.

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Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc.

c/o Joyce Sandvik
103 Ariel Circle
Sutton, MA



MAY 2025

We are on the web!
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** ☐ Family **\$35** ☐ Junior (17 and under) **\$12** ☐ Individual Lifetime Membership **\$400** ☐

Printed Bugle **\$25** ☐

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 **Community Horse**, published Spring & Fall, at no cost to me ☐

I can help

- 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 or 401-487-3190

Thank you for your support. Happy Trails!