



The Bugle



December 2025

Season's Greetings

Expressing Gratitude

In this season of gratitude, I want to recognize and thank the many people and partners who make our mission possible. Our Board of Directors provides leadership and guidance that steers our organization toward success. Volunteers dedicate their time and energy to supporting our activities, while sponsors and donors generously contribute resources that help us achieve our goals. I am also thankful for the riders who join us and participate in our events, bringing enthusiasm and passion for equestrian trails.

Last but certainly not least, I am deeply grateful for our horses. These remarkable animals allow us to experience the beauty of nature from their backs, safely carrying us through forests, across muddy paths, through water and fields, and over bridges. Their strength, patience, and willingness make every ride possible, and they are truly amazing companions.

Reflecting on 2025

As 2025 comes to an end, it is also a time for reflection. This period provides us with an opportunity to consider our accomplishments, acknowledge what went well, and identify areas where we could improve.

Throughout the year, we actively sought feedback on our rides to understand what we did well and address aspects that could be improved. We are grateful for everyone who took the time to complete our surveys and share their thoughts.

Our rides received an impressive average rating of 4.6 out of 5, reflecting your overall satisfaction with our rides. Your input offered valuable insights on several key areas, including the food provided, the trails you loved, the trails you liked less, trail marking, and even the weather—though unfortunately, that last one is beyond our control.

Trail marking emerged as the most frequently mentioned area with both positive and constructive comments. In response, we will use your feedback to standardize trail marking best practices in 2026. A special thank you goes to Anna-Maria Paul, who created the surveys and compiled the results, and to Suzanne Nicholas, who ensured the surveys reached riders after each event. Their efforts have been instrumental in helping us gather and implement your feedback.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we look forward to 2026, we are preparing the ride schedule and organizing events for the coming year.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. I look forward to seeing you at our annual AGM meeting and awards banquet on March 1, 2026, as well as at our upcoming rides and events throughout the year.

Best Wishes for the Season

Wishing you, your family, and your friends a safe and happy holiday season. May this time be filled with joy, warmth, and memorable moments shared with loved ones.

Joyce

2025 Turkey Trot Held at Myles Standish State Forest *sponsored by Yered Trailers*

This annual ride has been repeated every November for many, many years (I think more than 30) mostly at this favorite location and date when our clocks are turned back to Standard Time. Sadly, the equestrian



parking area has not been improved and remains rutted and bumpy. Our number of participants was down this year—a sign of the times I guess as those that did come enjoyed the day!

Riders with maps had the choice of 5 or 10 mile permanently marked loops. The mounted turkey hunt took place shortly after 1pm. Always fun, but too well hidden for some. The first “turkey” was found by Becky Kalagher (on Shaylee).

Julie Grant (riding Jazzy) found the second. The third turkey was so elusive that all but two riders gave up. Finally, eagle eyed Erin Machado (riding Pixie) spotted it and joined the winners to take home a \$25 Stop & Shop gift card. Congrats! Note: when this ride originated and for a few years, frozen turkeys were given out to the winners!



We had a sunny but cold day, and everyone enjoyed sitting in the sun (though we did keep moving the chairs to chase the “sun”) during lunch and catching up. Lunch was sandwiches, homemade cranberry sauce, salad, chips, desserts, hot apple cider and cold drinks. Thank you to volunteers Karen Parlin and Deb Deschenes (great dessert!) for helping with set up, parking, registrations, lunch, and cleanup. Also, much appreciated, was the time that Mary Wood put in rid-

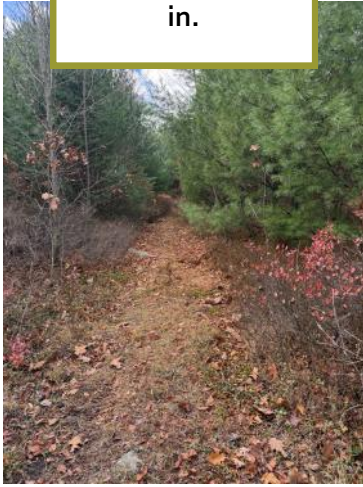
ing and checking trail markers. Thank you to our ride sponsor Yered Trailers and to all who took part and continue to support B.S.T.R.A. Check out Massachusetts DCR’s website for the history and many interesting facts about Myles Standish State Forest. *Rose Zariczny*



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.

Don’t forget to renew your membership-your support keeps our trails strong and our community thriving! And remember, a membership makes a thoughtful Christmas gift that lasts all year.

Working our way
in.



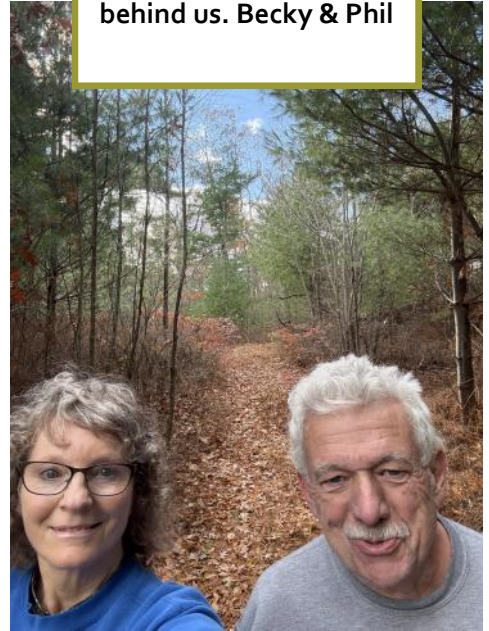
Trail Work Day Douglas

On Nov. 6th Phil Rutledge and Becky Kalagher met up to do some more trail trimming on the trails behind the Douglas Schools.

We headed right up to the top of the hill section to work on trimming up that trail. Surprisingly we finished that and did a bit of trimming around the corner that also had pine branches in the rider zone. All totaled we put in 4 hours worth \$168. A job well done!

Now that we have the trails cleaned up the next steps are to work on getting signage and to see what can be done about that one bridge on the town property that is totally unsafe for horseback riders. **BK**

Nicely trimmed up
behind us. Becky & Phil



Ryan Rudy
Owner

Whitehorse



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Carolyn Weeks

Grafton MA

Fort Hill Farms Ride sponsored by Unibank

With this being the last ride of the season it turned into a logistical frenzy due to the forecast for Sunday, Nov. 16th. No one wants to ride in the rain at this time of the year. And as the ride date got closer it was still looking dire and we had to make a call.

Actually, it was a lot of calls. Change the ride to Saturday, Nov. 15th. Can we possibly have a joint ride with Tanheath in Pomfret or can we ride out of Fort Hill Farms in Thompson? How many that registered for Sunday can ride on Saturday instead? Don't need as many volunteers, so let them know.

The good news is that we pulled it off, we rode out of Fort Hill Farms in Thompson CT. Which was a bit weird as our first ride of this season was at Fort Hill Farms and the last ride ended up in the same place and it was a good place to be! It couldn't have happened without everyone's help!

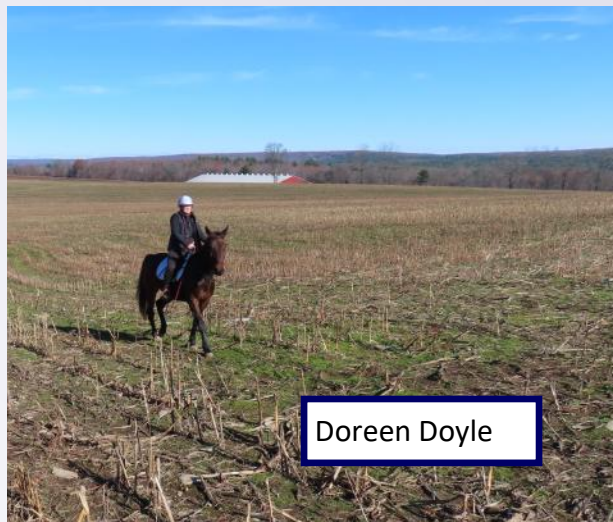


MaryEllen with her new quilt!

Ride day was clear and sunny and we were well dressed for the cooler temperatures, one smart volunteer even had a nice blanket to keep warm.

We hit the trail at 10 am and did a nice 6.2 mile ride along corn & hay fields and

the heifers. After we arrived back at home base lunch was just arriving. Quite the spread too and hot! Orange chicken on rice, roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, hot tea or cocoa, and a huge se-



Doreen Doyle

lection of homemade desserts.

Enjoying the last social lunch of the season was quite the treat and we were happy that family members of Fort Hill Farms joined us for lunch too!

At this time we also drew the winning ticket for the home made quilt donated by Kathy Rich from A Stitch n' Good Time. Actually, Kathy drew the ticket and presented the winner with the quilt special delivery as she couldn't make the Saturday ride - MaryEllen Coyne was our happy winner of the gorgeous quilt.

A huge thanks to the following volunteers that actually made this ride happen: Valerie Clark, Kelly Berthiaume, Joyce Sandvik, Suzanne Nicholas, Becky Kalagher, Rose Zariczny, Deb Deschenes, Karen Parlin, and Penny Foisey. And Fort Hill Farms for letting us ride there! **BK**



Annamaria Paul & Kathy Rich

Printed Newsletter Option

When we transitioned to the email newsletter, we thought the option of printing out the newsletter as an extra for those that wished it would be a good idea.

After a season of printing them out at home (would be way to expensive to have a print shop do a dozen of them) turns out to take longer than I thought it would.

It was a good thought, but sometimes good thoughts hit reality.

So starting in 2026 we will no longer offer the printed option. The newsletter will be emailed to members and it's also always available on our website.



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Support BSTRA on Giving Tuesday: Keep Trails Open for Horseback Riders

GIVING TUESDAY

On Tuesday, December 2, 2025, join us in making a lasting difference by supporting the Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA).

For more than 50 years, BSTRA has championed trail preservation and access across Massachusetts—ensuring that horseback riders and all outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy safe, scenic, and sustainable experiences. From creating new pathways to caring for existing routes, our progress is fueled by dedicated volunteers and the generosity of donors like you.

Your gift this Giving Tuesday directly supports projects that:

- Protect open space for recreation and conservation
- Strengthen trail infrastructure through construction and maintenance
- Advocate for equestrian access in a changing landscape
- Build community partnerships that secure easements and expand opportunities

Every dollar helps us install signage, improve trailheads, and safeguard the future of outdoor recreation. Together, we can ensure that these treasured trails remain open and welcoming for generations to come.

Let's ride forward—please consider making a gift to BSTRA this Giving Tuesday.



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Trail Work Day Thompson CT sponsored by Liv Salon & Bob Clark Dog Training



Half the leaner cut down,
other half to go.

On Nov. 8th we had six volunteers show up to work on cleaning up the trails for the ride on the 16th.

For the most part the trails were in pretty good shape. Lots of branches picked up, three trees that needed to be cleaned up with the chainsaw, and some brushing/trimming back.



Valerie Clark & Brandee Viens

With an early start at 8:30 we finished up in time for an early lunch. For those that stayed for lunch we had a nice time eating lunch in the field along with some entertaining stories.

All totaled we put in 14.5 hours worth \$609 and lunch for the volunteers was \$42.77. Thanks to everyone for their trail stewardship! **BK**

POULIN GRAIN PROGRAM

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



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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

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

For Sale: Black rope loop reins, 10' long. Red rope loop reins, 10' long, Orange rope loop reins (great for hunting season), 10' long, Black and White rope loop reins, 10' long. Each \$10

Hunter Orange-high visibility orange bands. Two for the cheekpieces of your bridle (has velcro to take on and off) and two that slip on your reins. All four have reflective strips for extra visibility. \$10 for all

Black 12 1/2ft lunge line with twist snap. \$12.

Deflecto Early Warning Triangle Kit. Kit contains three warning triangles in a compact storage box. The fluorescent orange triangles with red reflectors are visible day or night to alert drivers well in advance of potential danger.. Each triangle is made from non-flammable material and features a weighted base with grip pads that provide maximum stability. The collapsible design is perfect for easy storage and quick setup. Never used. \$20

Blue bridle bag with white trim, Green lined bridle bag with black trim and white piping, Black with red trim extra long bridle bag. Each \$10.

Please contact Suzanne at HCo7645@gmail.com

Women's Lace Up Packer Boots: Size 8 M. Oil Resistant sole. Worn once. Golden tan color. \$50. Email Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch

For Sale: #1 Black blanket storage bag with velcro closures, handle strap to pick up, and 2 velcro straps at the top to attach to stall fronts. Approximately 20" wide, 26" tall. \$15
#2 Black blanket storage bag with zippered top. Has a handle strap and 2 velcro straps to attach to stall fronts. Approximately 19-20" wide and 10" deep at the bottom. \$15
#3 Green blanket storage bag with zippered top. Has two side straps and a handle strap that has come out on one side but could be repaired. Approximately 20" wide, 10" deep at the bottom and 22" long. \$10

#4 Soaking boot size large. \$15

#5 Tredstep Ireland paddock boots. They lace up the front

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 Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch

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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.

with a rear zipper and reinforced snap keeper. Tan. Only worn a few times. Size 10. \$45

#6 Off white lined Boss cowhide leather gloves. Size M/L. Never worn. \$15

#7 Shangri-la messenger bag. Waxed canvas purse, waterproof crossbody shoulder satchel bag sling pack. Black w/ brown trim. Has a flap that snaps over the bag to close. Pocket on the back with magnetic snaps and one in the front. Zippered compartment inside with zipper pouch to keep valuables. Overall size: 13.5" x 9.7" x 3.5". I used it for trail marking and trail work. \$20

#7Tucker High Plains Two Tone (brown/black) Trail Saddle. 17 1/2 seat, extra wide saddle. Horn height 3", round skirt, 14 1/2" swell. Has tie straps in the front and back. Comes with Tucker's Santa Fe Trail Bridle, Tucker's standard 3 piece breast strap, Tucker rear cinch and round skirt wool felt saddle pad. \$800

Date (raindate)	Event/Location/Sponsor	Contact	Phone#	Email address
March 1	AGM & Awards Banquet			
May 2	Nancy Maenzo Ride			
June 7	National Trails Day Fundraiser			
June 14	Poker Run			
July 18	Goddard Park Brunch Ride			
Oct. 18	Red Rail Farm Pleasure Ride			
Oct. 25	Big Pumpkin Ride			

*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).
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.

Officer & Directors

Contact:

bstra.org@gmail.com

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Recording Secretary
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Editors
Becky Kalagher
Anna-Maria Paul

#8. Dover Saddlery light weight blue/gray trim turn out blanket. 100 fill, 1,680 denier. Size 82. Just had it professionally cleaned. \$45.

#9. SmartPak Rockin Classic medium weight waterproof turnout blanket. Navy with mint trim. 220 fill, 600 denier. Size 82. Just had it professionally cleaned. \$45

#10 Walnut/cherry dining room table with extension under the table 40"L x 60"W x 36" H. Six cloth chairs are counter stool height 21"W x 22" d x 47" h. Make an offer.

Contact Suzanne at
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December 2025

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www.bstra.org

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

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Questions? rzariczny@verizon.net or 401-487-3190

If you wish to purchase the excess liability insurance you have to go to our website and under Membership click Equisure Excess Personal Liability Insurance and you can pay there. \$25 for single, \$50 for family.

Thank you for your support. Happy Trails!