



The Bugle



November 2025

Red Rail Farm Pleasure Ride sponsored by Yered Trailers

Again we had some glorious weather with nice trails laden with fallen leaves. We are very fortunate that the owner of Red Rail Farm was so very gracious to let us park on his property again this year with direct access to the local conservation trails with views of the Sudbury River and Walden Pond.

Thanks to some of the riders that helped put up extra ribbons to make the course a bit clearer. Rest assured that we have another volunteer for next year that will mark the trails.



This place is such a gem to ride that we really do want to do it again next year.

Everyone did arrive back to home base safely. Though during the ride many people including myself had to dismount to get past the herd of Red Angus that were quite feisty and my horse wanted nothing to do with them.

With lunch waiting for us we all gathered our chairs around as we all chatted with fellow riders. As usual

the lunch with the bevy of homemade desserts was quite appreciated.

Mary Wood thanked everyone for coming and let everyone know that Patrice Anderson of YERED TRAILERS was here to answer any questions and to check out the trailer that she brought along.

To our priceless volunteers who made this possible: Mary Wood, Suzanne Nicholas, Deb Deschenes, and Karen Parlin.

Thanks to Ann Marie Allaire, I had my first cider donut of the season! All is good. **BK**





Trail Work Day Douglas

On Oct. 23rd Rita Ballou, Phil Rutledge and Becky Kalagher met up to do some more trail trimming on the trails behind the Douglas Schools. Once we walked in to where we needed to start we did a total of .37 of a mile of trail clearing.

We did get the small loop done below the top of the hill and while working on that meet a neighbor to the property and chatted with him for a bit. After that we headed to the top



of the hill and just got started up there. That section will entail some more trail work days to get it completed. All totaled we put in 9 hours worth \$378. **BK**

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Welcome New Members

Traci Fleischman, Northbridge MA
Leslie Roy, Westport MA
Laurie Casavant, Webster 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.

Betsey MacDonald

Portraits in Oil
and
Watercolor

betseymacdonald@gmail.com
www.bmacdonald.net

Cashel

MOVE AHEAD



The Thompson Raceway Ride

November 16, 2025

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 opens at 9 am Ride out at 9:30

Length: 5 to 7 miles, repeat for double miles.

NEHT Affiliated Hot lunch served after the ride.

Location: A field on 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, \$40 for non-members, Juniors (17 and under) ride free. Lunch included free is pre-registered.

Registration deadline for lunch Nov. 12th.

Ride Sponsored by

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

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



Raceway 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		



Hunting Dates: An informed rider is a safer rider. Listed below are the seasons for Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Most of the year we can ride on land that hunters use, now

it is our turn to let them enjoy themselves safely.

Massachusetts: NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY

Deer: Archery Oct. 6 to Nov. 29.

Deer: Shotgun Dec. 1 to 13.

Deer: Muzzle Loader Dec. 15 to 31

Bear: Nov. 3 to 22 & Dec. 1 to 13.

Connecticut: NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY, hunting is now allowed on **private land** on Sunday. Hunting on Sunday is not allowed within 40 feet of blazed public trails.

Deer: Archery Sept. 15 to Dec. 31.

Deer: Shotgun Nov. 19 to Dec. 9.

Deer: Muzzle Loader State Lands: Dec. 10-23. Private Lands: Dec. 10 to 31.

Rhode Island: HUNTING ALLOW ON SUNDAY

Deer: Archery Sept. 15 to Jan. 31, 2026.

Deer: Muzzle Loader Nov. 1-30, Dec. 26 to Jan. 2, 2026

Deer: Shotgun Dec. 6-21. Dec. 26 to Jan. 2, 2026.

Rhode Island regulations require all other users of State Management Areas and designated undeveloped State Parks, including but not limited to: hikers, bikers, and horseback riders are required to wear two hundred (200) square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange from the second Saturday in September to the last day of February (September 13, 2025 - February 28, 2026) and the third Saturday in April to the last day in May, annually (April 18, 2026 - May 31, 2026). During the shotgun deer season, five hundred (500) square inches are required to be worn by all users.

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.

Help Us Carry the Torch: Volunteer Organizer Needed for the Sue Brainard Memorial Hunter Pace

For 36 years, the Sue Brainard Memorial Hunter Pace has been a cherished tradition—bringing riders together in celebration of community, open space, and the joy of the trail. Thanks to the tireless dedication of one remarkable volunteer, this event has thrived year after year.

Now, as life brings new challenges—be it health, family, or simply the passage of time—we're seeking someone new to step forward and help carry the torch.

If you're organized, enjoy working with others, and want to make a meaningful impact, we'd love to welcome you as the next lead volunteer. The Board will support you in spreading the word and rallying helpers. You won't be alone—we just need someone to take the reins and you will be mentored.

This is more than an event. It's a legacy. And with your help, it can continue to inspire for years to come.

Interested or want to learn more? Reach out—we'd be happy to talk. bstra.org@gmail.com

The Big Pumpkin Ride sponsored by Fidelity Bank

An Eerie Adventure Under the Sun

It's Halloween season with the magic of autumn, the thrill of costumes, and the allure of the supernatural. Our annual pumpkin ride began with a frosty morning and ended with sunshine and the perfect fall day.



Riders were donned in costumes from fantasy to traditional. Twenty-six horses followed the orange ribbons through Upton State Forest with twigs snapping and leaves crunching underfoot. Eerie sights were spotted throughout the forest with skeletons, spiders, and eyeballs causing a brief moment of excitement for some of the horses.

What has become a lunch tradition, riders emerged from the woods to enjoy lasagna from the Upton Country Club Sooper, salad, and bread from the Framingham Baking Company (thank you Kathy Rich). There was a buffet of Halloween desserts including pumpkin pie, pumpkin cakes, a variety of cupcakes and cookies, and Hal-


loween rice crispy treats to name a few.

Legend says that because of the help from our volunteers Kelly Berthiaume, Deb Deschenes, Suzanne Nicholas, Karen Parlin, Annamaria Paul, Sue Perry, Sue Quirk, and Kathy Rich, they will be spared from Halloween evil spirits. *Joyce Sandvik*





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From Mass Parks for All

On Thursday, Oct. 23, the state Senate voted 37-1, to override the Healey-Driscoll Administration's veto of \$400,000 in funding from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) operations account (Line # 2810-0100), from which the agency funds most of its day-to-day operations.

The action follows the House's override earlier this month and restores the \$113,820,049 the Legislature approved for this account on June 30. Ultimately, it gives DCR a \$1.2 million increase in the account for FY2026, which started July 1. This represents a 3.5

percent increase above FY2025 funding, and accomplishes Mass Parks for All's (MPA) modest goal to keep the account above the calendar 2024 state inflation rate of three percent.

If you are a regular reader of our blog, you know that MPA asked Sen. Jamie Eldridge to file a budget amendment when the Senate took up the budget. The original amendment sought a \$1.0 million increase in the operations account. During the process, it was trimmed to \$500,000 and passed via a unanimous roll call vote. But other Senators' amendments for DCR projects totaling some \$700,000 also passed, making the total increase \$1.2 million.

Freetown Fall River State Forest Trail Master Plan Public Meeting Oct. 15th.

I attended the Zoom public meeting for this state forest as horseback riding is allowed.

They spent quite a bit of time explaining the process for gathering the information, guidelines (a lot of those) and the goals and outcomes.

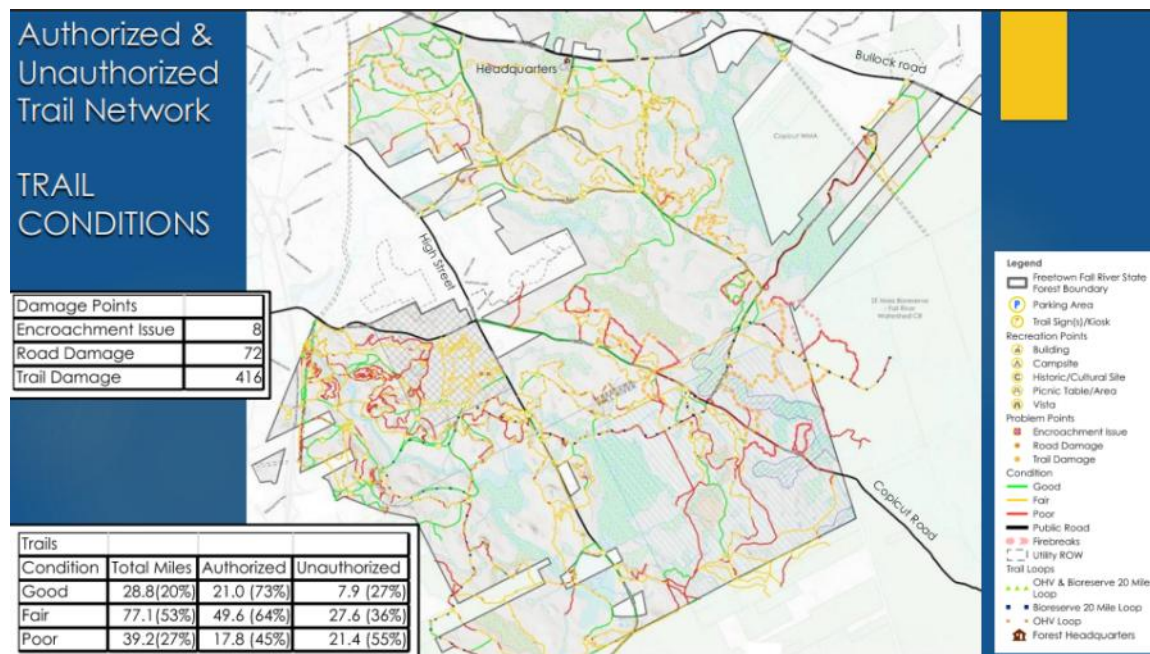
There are 145 miles of trails, 88.3 of them are author-

ized trails and 56.9 miles of Unauthorized trails. That is not a good scenario. They will be closing some of these trails to meet the trail density guidelines for the designation of the forest, ie; parklands, reserve or woodland.

Noted that there is motorized use at this state forest.

I asked them to include parking room for horseback riders with their truck and trailer rigs. And to please

note on the map where horseback riders can park. If the trails are open for horseback riders, they should be providing parking otherwise it is not accessible for us and saves us from having to call each state forest to find out if we can park to ride there.



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

This Giving Tuesday, **December 2, 2025**, we invite you to make a meaningful impact by supporting the Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA). For over four decades, BSTRA has been a driving force in preserving and improving trail access across Massachusetts, ensuring that horseback riders—and all trail users—can enjoy

safe, scenic, and sustainable outdoor experiences. From building new trails to maintaining existing routes, our work is powered by volunteers, vision, and the generosity of donors like you.

Your donation helps us continue vital projects that protect open space, enhance trail infrastructure, and advocate for equestrian access in a rapidly changing landscape. Whether it's installing signage, securing easements, or partnering with local communities, every dollar fuels our mission. This Giving Tuesday, let's ride forward together. Please consider making a gift to BSTRA and help keep the trails open for generations to come.

Please go to our website at <https://bstra.org/donate/> and scroll down to the Giving Tuesday donation form.

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Join us in preserving and enhancing our beloved trail network by entering our Quilt Raffle Fundraiser! This stunning 59" x 61" quilt—handcrafted and generously donated by longtime trail supporter *Kathy Rich*—is a true work of art, stitched with care and community spirit. Whether you're a rider, hiker, or nature enthusiast, this is your chance to take home a beautiful keepsake while helping fund vital trail improvements.

The winning ticket will be drawn on November 16th at the Thompson Raceway Ride. All proceeds go directly toward trail maintenance and access projects. Let's keep our trails safe, scenic, and open for all—one stitch at a time! Ticket Pricing: 1 Ticket – \$5, 3 Tickets – \$10, 10 Tickets – \$20, NEW: 20 Tickets – \$35!



Purchase online at www.bstra.org or mail in form below. Make check payable to BSTR and mail to Karen Parlin, 92 Old Westboro Road, North Grafton MA 01536

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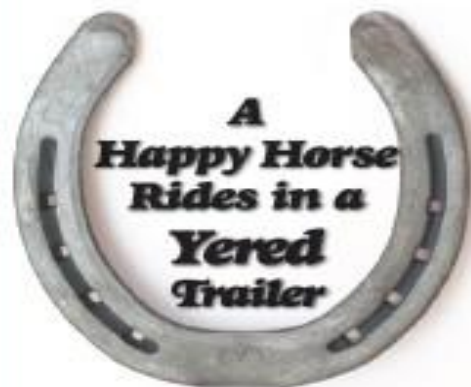
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Saddle for Sale: Custom Circle Y. Older, but in great shape. The fully hand tooled saddle leather is a mahogany color. It is accented with a rope edge with silver lacing. The horn is braided rawhide with silver lacing. The gullet is 6-3/4" wide which 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

Trailer for Sale: One owner, 2004 all aluminum bumper pull x-large 2 horse trailer w/dressing room. Last serviced in 2023, replaced 4 tires as well. Roof re-sealed in 2022. Title in hand. Asking \$10,000 For more info and pictures text 401-527-1950.

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 HC07645@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



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.

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Date (raindate)	Event/Location/Sponsor	Contact	Phone#	Email address
Nov. 8 (9th)	Trail Work Day Thompson CT <i>Event sponsored by Liv Salon & Bob Clark Dog Training</i>	Becky	508-476-3960	becky.bstra@protonmail.ch
Nov. 16*	Thompson Raceway Ride, Thomson CT <i>Ride sponsored by Unibank</i>	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).
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

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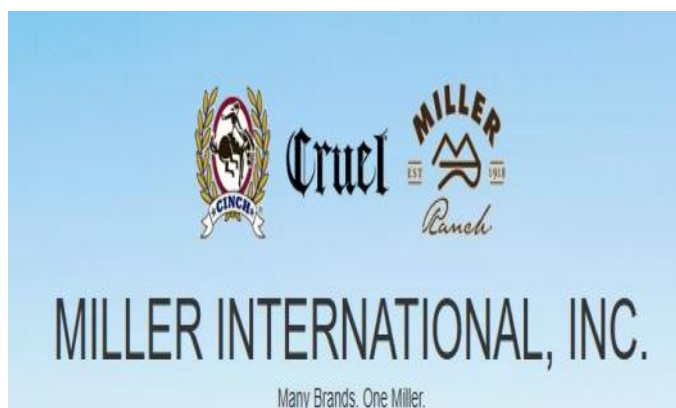
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Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc.

c/o Joyce Sandvik
103 Ariel Circle
Sutton, MA 01590



November 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

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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!