

Bay State Trail Riders Association Inc.



The Bugle April 2026

www.bstra.org

Trailer Safety Clinic March 21st

Our Trailer Safety Clinic was a tremendous success, with 11 trailers, 8 auditors, and 3 volunteers coming together for an afternoon of learning, confidence building, and camaraderie.

A Note of Thanks from Valerie

A huge thank-you to everyone who participated in or helped out with the clinic yesterday!

We are especially grateful to Jim Shaw, along with his sidekicks Kelly Shaw and Becky Kalagher, for the time, effort, and expertise that made this such a valuable event.

Our appreciation also goes to Thompson Speedway (205 East Thompson Road, Thompson, CT 06277) for allowing us to use their facility.

The “grid” we practiced on was absolutely perfect for honing trailer-towing skills. Scott, the track manager, was incredibly gracious—because the car club canceled their event, he didn’t need to come in, yet he put in a full day so BSTRAs could hold the clinic as planned.

And of course, thank you to all the participants. Your enthusiasm, great questions, encouragement, and teamwork created a wonderful learning environment for everyone.

Clinic Highlights (Becky’s Recap)

The three hours flew by. Jim kicked things off with essential safety reminders—simple habits that make a big difference on the road.

Safety Essentials Covered

- Chock blocks and a trailer aid are must-haves for changing a flat tire. Always place a chock block on the opposite side of the trailer before lifting the flat tire onto the trailer aid.
- If you must change a tire roadside, pull off as far as possible and set out safety triangles or collapsible cones to alert traffic.
- When removing a tire, loosen the lug nuts first before lifting the trailer onto the trailer aid. A ½” drive, 25” breaker bar (Harbor Freight sells one for under \$20) makes this much easier.
- Two weeks before you plan to use your trailer, check lights, tire pressure, brakes, and anything else that might need attention. This gives you time to fix issues before you’re on a deadline.
- For bumper-pull trailers, safety chains should be crossed underneath the hitch so they act as a cradle if the hitch fails. (Cathie’s trailer is an exception—hers came from the factory with a different setup, according to Jim.)



Backing-Up Practice

Participants worked on both straight backing and see-side backing—a term many of us hadn't heard before.

- See-side backing = driver's side
- Blind-side backing = passenger side (much harder)

Janeen and I also learned how to determine the safe limit before reaching a jack-knife angle. Janeen's trailer had warning stickers along the tongue; once she reached the third sticker, that was her cue to stop turning in that direction.

Fun Observations

- MaryEllen Coyne and Cathie Hatrick-Anderson demonstrated backing-up concepts using themselves as the "truck" and "trailer"—a memorable visual!
- Janeen nailed a blind-side back-up into a parking spot. Ask her how the see-side went afterward!



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Mark your Calendars for our upcoming Trail Work Days!

This is where we start giving back to trails. Trail maintenance is essential for creating a positive outdoor experience, safeguarding natural and cultural resources, and promoting responsible recreation. Let's all contribute to keeping our trails in great shape!

April 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 Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch so we have a head count and can plan accordingly.

April 18th: Park Serve Day Douglas State Forest

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

Location: Headquarters Building 107 Wallum Lake Road Douglas MA

Tools: hand saws, loppers, pole saws.

Objective: We will be cutting and brushing back, trimming to correct height for horseback riders, and picking 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.

Rain Date: April 19th

If you can join us please register via our website (www.bstra.org) or send an email to Becky.BSTRAF@protonmail.ch so we have a head count and can plan accordingly.

April 26th: Park Serve Day Upton State Forest

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

Location: 205 Westboro Road, Upton MA

Tools: hand saws, loppers, pole saws.

Objective: cutting and brushing back 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 hc07645@gmail.com so we have a head count and can plan accordingly.

May 9th: 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 Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch so we have a head count and can plan accordingly.





Pleasure Ride
 April 25, 2026
 Thompson CT

Check in: 10am Ride out: 10:30
Length: 6 miles +/- NEHT Affiliated
Location: 260 Quaddick Road, Thompson CT

Ride Sponosred by
Bob Clark's Doggie Day Care
 Uxbridge MA
Crothers Tire Company
 Whitinsville MA

Directions: Rt. 395 exit 50, Take Ct Rt. 200 East. At stop sign go straight onto Quaddick Road. In approximately 1 mile Fort Hill Farms will be on the left. Drive through the Wagon Wheel Gate.

Registration fees: \$30 for BSTRA members, \$35 for non-members. Juniors (17 and under) ride free. Lunch included free if pre-registered. Deadline for pre-registrations is April 22nd.

Please be aware this ride is on an active dairy farm. You will ride past cows in hutches and barns. The heifer barn is right on the road we'll be using for a portion of the ride. Please also expect to see large farm equipment as well as hear other types of noisy machinery in operation.

For more information please contact Valerie at 508-864-8432 or valerie.clark@snet.net
 To register online please go to: <https://bstra.org/events/>
 Make checks payable to BSTRA and mail to Suzanne Nicholas, 96 Mountain Gate Road, Ashland MA 01721

Fort Hill Farms 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		

Nancy Maenzo Memorial Ride

Saturday, May 2nd - 10:30 am

DCR's Douglas State Forest



Time: Check in 10am.

Location: 107 Wallum Lake Road, Douglas MA

Length: 5+/- miles

Registration Fee: \$30 BSTRA Members

\$35 Non-members \$15 Lunch only

Juniors 17 and under ride and (eat free if pre-registered).

Registration deadline for lunch is April 29th.

Post entries welcome, just no lunch included.

NEHT Affiliated

This BSTRA Ride
Sponsored by
Mill Valley Veterinary Clinic



Contact: Kelly Shaw for more information 774-276-0260 or krshaw13@gmail.com

To register online please go to: <https://bstra.org/events/>

Directions from Route 16 in Douglas: Turn onto Cedar Street opposite Wallum Lake sign. At 4-way intersection go straight onto Wallum Lake Road. Turn right onto Wallum Lake Park Road at 107 Wallum Lake Road and proceed to parking area at end.

Please make checks payable to BSTRA, Inc. and mail with registration form below to:

BSTRA Ride, 24 Glen St., Douglas, MA 01516

Nancy Maenzo 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 (within a year)		
Are you a BSTRA Member? Yes/No		

Here's a bit of interesting information.

BREAKING: Outdoor Recreation Contributes \$1.3 Trillion to the U.S. Economy

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released new annual economic data highlighting the continued strength and significant economic impact of outdoor recreation in 2024.

Key 2024 Data Highlights

- \$1.3 Trillion in Economic Output
- 5.2 Million Jobs
- 2.4% of GDP
- 2.7% Growth Over 2023 Data

State-level impact

The top five states in growth from 2023-2024 were Massachusetts (6.9%), Arizona (6.8%), Iowa (6.6%), Alaska (6.3%), and Nevada (6.1%), underscoring the diverse footprint of outdoor recreation across rural, suburban, and urban economies.

State Offices of Outdoor Recreation continue to coordinate investments and initiatives that convert participation into local jobs and small-business revenue.

2024—Massachusetts					
Value added		Employment		Compensation	
Outdoor recreation total	Share of state GDP	Outdoor recreation total	Share of state employment	Outdoor recreation total	Share of state compensation
\$14.6 billion	1.9%	107,987 jobs	2.8%	\$7.1 billion	1.7%

Value Added by Select Outdoor Recreation Activity [Thousands of dollars]				
Activity	2022	2023	2024	State rank 2024
Boating / fishing	876,382	936,969	1,011,062	14
Hunting / shooting / trapping	276,357	307,144	354,878	19
RVing	233,966	216,595	215,956	34
Climbing / hiking / tent camping	139,123	143,121	152,117	20
Motorcycling / ATVing	144,233	138,653	142,731	24
Snow activities	112,660	122,527	119,834	15
Equestrian	42,995	50,186	51,443	40
Bicycling	45,930	49,562	49,773	22
Recreational flying	18,232	18,824	23,628	29



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Jennifer M. Gosselin
AVP Branch Manager

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Welcome
to our
New Members

- Cyndi Dionne, Uxbridge MA
- Kimberly Simons, Brookfield MA
- Beth Story, Upton MA
- Penny Foisey, Pomfret Center CT
- Lisa Hresko, Belchertown MA
- Devyn O'Loughlin, Northbridge MA

BAY STATE TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION

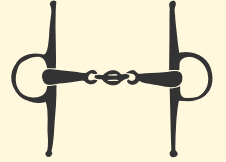
ANNUAL TACK SALE



Sponsored by: Vetericyn Animal Wellness

Sunday, May 3, 2026

8:30am to 12:30 pm



VFW Post 1385 -13 Cross Road, Uxbridge, MA 01569

New and Used Items, Food & Refreshments

Shop, Snack, and Score a Deal!

Catch up with friends, support BSTRA, and uncover your next great find.

Sell your own items— Space Available-Reserve now

Indoor Table \$15/BSTRA Member; \$20/Non-BSTRA Members

Outside- Truck/Trailer Space \$20 BSTRA; \$25 Non Members

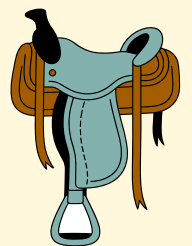
*** Space must be reserved and paid for in advance. Limited Space Available**

*** You must take home what you don't sell**



For more information contact

Karen Parlin 774-293-0051 – kpschip@aol.com



Or visit our website at www.bstra.org to register online.

Complete Reservation. Return to BSTRA, c/o Karen Parlin, 92 Old Westboro Rd, No. Grafton, MA 01536

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN, STATE. ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

May 17th

Sponsored by:

J.F. Cove
Insurance Agency
Uxbridge MA

BSTRA Live Lark



Acres Pleasure Ride

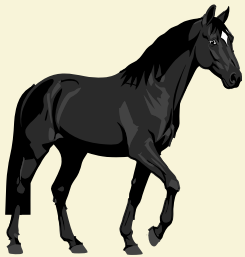
The ride is mostly on private property which has parts of the former Thompson Raceway, located near, but not related in any way to the Speedway.

Check in: 9 am 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 will get you close.**
Registration fees: \$30 for BSTRA members, \$35 for non-members, Juniors 17 and under ride and eat free (free meal if they are pre-registered).

Pre-registration deadline is MAY 13th.

Please make checks payable to BSTRA, Inc. and mail with registration form below to: BSTRA Ride, 24 Glen St., Douglas, MA 01516



Contact Valerie a
valerie.clark@snet.net
or 508-864-8432

ENTRY INFORMATION	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		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
COGGINS # and DATE (within 1 year)		

BSTRA 2026 Events Calendar

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION/SPONSOR	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
April 11th	Trail Work Day Thompson CT	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
April 18th	Douglas State Forest Trail Work rain date 19th	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
April 25*	Fort Hill Farms Ride, Thompson CT <i>Ride Sponsored by Bob Clark's Doggie Day Care & Crothers Tire Company</i>	Valerie	508-864-8432	valerie.clark@snet.net
April 26th	Park Serve Day Upton State Forest RD May 3rd	Suzanne	508-380-214	hc07645@gmail.com
May 2*	Nancy Maenzo Memorial Ride, Douglas MA <i>Ride Sponsored by Mill Valley Veterinary Clinic</i>	Kelly	774-276-0260	krshaw13@gmail.com
May 3rd	Tack Sale, Uxbridge MA <i>Event Sponsored by Vetercyin Animal Wellness</i>	Karen	774-293-0051	kpschip@aol.com
May 9th	Trail Work Day, Oxford MA	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
May 17*	Livelark Acres Ride, Thompson CT <i>Ride Sponsored by J.F. Cove Insurance Agency</i>	Valerie	508-864-8432	valerie.clark@snet.net
May 23-25	Memorial Day Campout, Carver MA	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
June 7*	National Trails Day, N. Brookfield MA	Joyce	617-429-1319	bstra.org@gmail.com
June 14*	Poker Ride, Oxford MA <i>Ride Sponsored by Yered Trailers</i>	Kelly	508-341-8091	canderemastiffs@gmail.com
July 12*	Spirit of America Ride, Upton MA	Suzanne	508-380-214	hc07645@gmail.com
July 18th	Goddard Brunch Ride, E. Greenwich RI	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
Aug. 2*	Galloping Gourmet Ride, Royalston MA	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
Aug. 22nd	Northfield Mt. Ride, Northfield MA	Suzanne	508-380-214	hc07645@gmail.com
Sept. 13th	Sue Brainard Memorial Hunter Pace, Douglas MA			
Oct. 4th	Wyndham Land Trust Ride for Open Space, CT			
Oct. 18*	Red Rail Farm Ride, Lincoln MA <i>Ride Sponsored by Yered Trailers</i>			
Oct. 25*	Big Pumpkin Ride, Upton MA	Joyce	617-429-1319	bstra.org@gmail.com
Nov. 1*	Larry Underwood Classic, N. Brookfield MA	Joyce	617-429-1319	bstra.org@gmail.com

***NEHT Affiliated Rides**

1. Unless otherwise noted, all rides start at 10:00 am and trail workdays at 9:00 am.
2. Most rides require advance registration and payment to receive lunch.
3. Riders 17 and under, accompanied by a guardian, ride **free** (lunch included if pre-registered). (Some rides exempt.)
4. Alcohol is prohibited on State property. No smoking allowed while riding. A current Coggins within a year of the ride date is required.
5. Please leave the trail & parking areas better than you found them. Clean up your hay & manure at all rides. Be considerate of others.
6. Year end awards require a member in good standing to have a minimum of 4 hours of volunteer time completed.

Save the Date: National Trails Day Ride – June 7th

Mark your calendars! On June 7th, BSTRA will host our annual National Trails Day Ride, the biggest fundraiser of the year for trail projects. This event is more than a ride—it's a celebration of the trails that connect our communities, support outdoor recreation, and give horseback riders safe, beautiful places to enjoy the outdoors.

Every dollar raised goes directly into trail maintenance, improvements, and access, ensuring that riders, hikers, dog walkers, cyclists, and families can continue to enjoy the open spaces we all depend on.

Why This Event Matters

Local trails don't maintain themselves. They require ongoing care - clearing storm damage, repairing erosion, improving drainage, replacing signage, and working with towns and state agencies to keep access open.

For horseback riders especially, well-maintained trails are essential. Horses need safe footing, adequate width, and thoughtful design to prevent injuries and protect the environment. Investing in trails means investing in the future of riding.

How You Can Help

There are several simple, meaningful ways to support this year's National Trails Day Ride:

1. Collect Sponsor Funds

Sponsorships are the backbone of this event. Whether you gather a few pledges or secure a business sponsor, every contribution directly funds trail projects. Riders who collect sponsor funds make the biggest impact.

2. Attend the Ride

Your participation alone helps support the cause—and it's a fun, social day on the trails. Bring your horse, enjoy the route, and be part of a community that cares about preserving access.

3. Bring a Friend

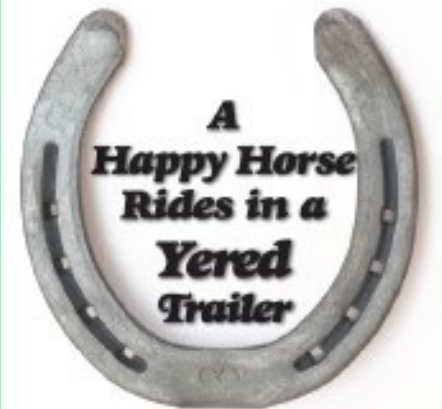
Trail advocacy grows stronger with numbers. Invite a riding buddy, a family member, or someone new to BSTRA. The more people who understand the importance of trail stewardship, the more we can accomplish.

4. Spread the Word

Share the date, talk about why trails matter, and encourage others to get involved. Awareness is one of the most powerful tools we have.



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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. Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch

Rough board stalls available . \$250.00 month. . Small private barn in Grafton with access to miles of trails . Shelters available for day and 24/7 turnout. . Large box stalls included, if you prefer to keep your horse in at night. Options include shared responsibilities with other boarders. You supply all food and supplements. Small outdoor ring available. Horses need to be up to date on Coggins and vaccines(or titers upon arrival). Contact Karen : 774-248-0587

31st Annual Equine EXPO & Sale

Sat., April 25, 9am-3pm. Arena Building, Topsfield Fairgrounds, Route 1, Topsfield, MA

Buy or sell anything related to the horse and rider/ driver. Vendor spaces available. Demonstrations all day, food truck. Admission \$5, children free. Hosted by the Essex County Trail Association ectaonline.org

For Sale: #1 SmartPak Rockin Classic medium weight waterproof turnout blanket. Navy with mint trim. 220 fill, 600 denier. Size 82. Has been cleaned. \$45. #2 Dover Saddlery lightweight blue/gray trim turnout blanket. 100 fill, 1,680 denier. Size 82. Just had it professionally cleaned. \$45. Contact Suzanne at HC07645@gmail.com

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

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



Karen Parlin
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Horse Training, Horsemanship Lessons, Riding Lessons; Do you struggle with loading your horse onto the trailer? Want him to self-load? Need assistance with keeping your horse on the lunge line, overcoming stall or food aggression, catching a hard-to-catch horse, or improving your horse's whoa command? Enhance your relationship with your horse and develop new horsemanship and riding skills with our expert training. We offer versatile and liberty training, among other services, to help you and your horse achieve your goals. Call Cathie (508-479-5266) bobcatfarm.com and check us out on Facebook @ Bobcat Farm

Looking To Sell Or Buy Horse Property: I service Central and Western MA from backyard farms to full equestrian facilities helping you to create life long memories. Why not have a Realtor that has been in the horse community for over 30 years. Sharron Cochran 413-668-7606 Sharron@equinehomes.com

"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.

