

Bay State Trail Riders Association Inc.



The Bugle March 2026

www.bstra.org

BSTRA's AGM & Awards Banquet

After enjoying a lovely lunch at Pleasant Valley Country Club, we moved into the election of our Board of Directors for 2026. We are pleased to welcome the incoming Board: Kelly Berthiaume, Valerie Clark, Sharron Cochran, Becky Kalagher, Suzanne Nicholas, Karen Parlin, Joyce Sandvik, Sue Quirk, Kelly Shaw, Mary Wood, and Rose Zariczny.

Following the membership vote, the 2026 Board convened to elect BSTRA's officers. The results are as follows:

President: Joyce Sandvik

Vice President/Clerk: Becky Kalagher

Treasurer: Karen Parlin

Recording Secretary: Rose Zariczny

We thank Joyce Sandvik for her President's address, in which she shared that she planned to follow President Woodrow Wilson's famous advice: "Be brief, be brilliant, be gone."

This year's banquet also included several special recognitions of appreciation. We were honored to have representatives from two of our Platinum Sponsors—Whitehorse Truck & Trailer and Fidelity Bank—join us in person. Each received a plaque in gratitude for their outstanding support of BSTRA.

We then had the pleasure of presenting an engraved tray to Linda Chita, thanking her for her remarkable 34 years of supporting BSTRA through her business, The Mane Place. We wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

Our final presentation honored Sharron Cochran, who received an engraved tray recognizing her extraordinary 35 years of running BSTRA's hunter paces. As she steps back and passes the reins, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for her dedication and leadership.

We were also moved by member Sue Perry, who shared deeply emotional reflections on the loss of her two horses in 2025—both within a month of each other—and how the memories of their final outings on BSTRA rides will forever hold a place in her heart. Everyone in the room could relate, and her words touched us all.

With speeches and awards concluded, we wrapped up the festivities with our raffle table—five tables full of items this year! Many thanks to everyone who donated. A few notables were Linda Chita for items from The Mane Place, to David Maenzo for a couple of fun surprise envelopes, and to Vetericyn Animal Wellnes for donating a generous assortment of their wound-healing products. One item I spied on the table was a battery operated staple gun- who knew!

Our sincere thanks to everyone who joined us for this event. It was wonderful to see familiar faces, share stories, and enjoy a break from this never-ending winter. Think spring! BK

PLEASURE RIDES

Senior Division (65+ years old)
Championship: Valerie Clark, Becky Kalagher
Reserve Championship: Angie Knott, Bill Knott, Anna-Maria Paul
3rd: Sharron Cochran
4th: Rita Ballou, Laurie Smigelski

Adult Division (18-64 years old)
Championship: Maria Allard
Reserve Championship: Kathy Rich
3rd: Stacy Hayes
4th: Denise Leonard

Junior Division (under 18 years old)
Championship: Marshall Streeter

COMPETITIVE RIDES

Senior Division
Championship: MaryEllen Coyne
Reserve Championship: Valerie Clark, Gloria Duhaime
3rd: Anna-Maria Paul, Sue Perry
4th: Mary Wood, Phil Rutledge

Adult Division
Championship: Denise Leonard

Junior Division
Championship: Marshall Streeter

ACCUMULATIVE RIDES

Senior Division
Championship: Valerie Clark
Reserve Championship: Becky Kalagher, Angie Knott, Bill Knott
3rd: Anna-Maria Paul
4th: Sharron Cochran, MaryEllen Coyne

Adult Division
Championship: Maria Allard
Reserve Championship: Kathy Rich
3rd: Stacy Hayes, Denise Leonard

Junior Division
Championship: Marshall Streeter

JOE TRAVIS MEMORIAL MOST ACTIVE SENIOR

Valerie Clark

TOP TRAIL HORSE

Jewel ridden by Sherry Perry; 1153.89 miles
(12 riders participated logging 6099.35 miles)

SAM'S CHAMP HIGH POINT HORSE

Senior Division: MacNicholas ridden by Valerie Clark
Adult Division: Swedish Stars Kid ridden by Denise Leonard
Junior Division: Spot ridden by Marshall Streeter

HIGH POINT BARN Bearfoot Farm

AMBASSADOR AWARD Joyce Sandvik



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 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.



Ryan Rudy
Owner

Whitehorse



Truck & Trailer Service & Sales

508-641-9212

"We come to you"



March 21, 2026

Time: 10 AM

Horse Trailer Towing Clinic. Offered FREE to BSTRA Members Only.

Location: Thompson Speedway, Thompson CT

GPS Address: 205 East Thompson Road, Thompson CT

Improve Your Horse Trailer Towing Skills!

Join us for a hands on clinic led by BSTRA member **Jim Shaw**, a CDL licensed driver with over 40 years of experience helping drivers feel confident behind the wheel. This session focuses on **backing up, turning, and maneuvering** your own horse trailer safely and effectively.

- **Bring your horse trailer - but please leave your horses at home.**
- **Auditors welcome** if you would like to observe rather than participate.
- **Advance registration is required**, even though the clinic is free. We need to know how many people will be attending so we can effectively plan the day.

What to Expect

- **Hands on trailer practice** with expert guidance
- **Personalized tips** for improving your driving confidence
- **Safe, controlled environment** on the Thompson Speedway grounds
- **Opportunities to watch and learn** from fellow members.

A Special Thank You to the Thompson Speedway

We are grateful to the Thompson Speedway for generously hosting this clinic. Participants may want to **enjoy lunch at the Speedway's on-site restaurant** after the session.

The Speedway also offers a variety of activities worth keeping in mind, including **golf, automobile racing events, golf and racing simulators**, and an **ice cream stand** - great options when you're looking for something fun to do in your free time.

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
	Check box at left if you are auditing.



Questions?

Contact Valerie Clark at 508-864-8432 (text or call) or valerie.clark@snet.net



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

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		



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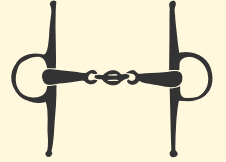
ANNUAL TACK SALE



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

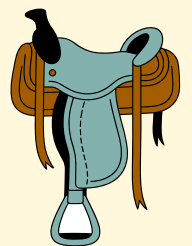
*** Space must be reserved and paid for in advance. Limited Space Available**

*** 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: _____

BSTRA 2026 Events Calendar

Date	Event/Location/Sponsor	Contact	Phone	Email
March 21	Trailer Parking Clinic, Thompson Speedway	Valerie	508-864-8432	valerie.clark@snet.net
April 18	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 Uxbridge MA</i>	Valerie	508-864-8432	valerie.clark@snet.net
April 26	Park Serve Day Upton, rain date May 3	Suzanne	508-380-2124	hc07645@gmail.com
May 2*	Nancy Maenzo Memorial Ride, Douglas MA	Kelly	774-276-0260	krshaw13@gmail.com
May 3	Tack Sale, Uxbridge MA <i>Event sponsored by Vetericyn Animal Wellness</i>	Karen	774-293-0051	kpschip@aol.com
May 9	Trail Work Day, Oxford MA	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
May 17*	Livelark Acres Ride, Thompson CT	Valerie	508-864-8432	valerie.clark@snet.net
May 23-25	Memorial Day Campout, Carver MA			
June 7*	National Trails Day, N. Brookfield MA			
June 14*	Poker Ride Oxford, MA	Kelly	508-341-8091	canderemastiffs@gmail.com
July 12*	Spirit of America Ride, Upton MA	Suzanne	508-380-2124	hc07645@gmail.com
July 18	Goddard Brunch Ride, E. Greenwich RI	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
Aug. 2*	Gallopig Gourmet Ride, Royalston MA	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
Aug. 22	Northfield Mt. Ride, Northfield MA			
Sept. 13	Sue Brainard Hunter Pace, Douglas MA			
Oct. 4	Wyndham Land Trust Ride for Open Space			
Oct. 18*	Red Rail Farm Ride, Lincoln MA			
Oct. 25*	Big Pumpkin Ride, Upton MA	Joyce	617-429-1319	bstra.org@gmail.com
Nov. 1*	Larry Underwood Classic, N. Brookfield MA			
Nov. 15*	Thompson Raceway Ride, Thompson CT	Valerie	508-864-8432	valerie.clark@snet.net

*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). (There may be exceptions on some rides)
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 and be considerate of others! Clean up your hay & manure at all rides.
6. Year end awards require a member in good standing to have a minimum of 4 hours of volunteer time completed.

Memberships

If you have not renewed your membership, this will be your last newsletter.
For those that did renew - THANK YOU!



MILL VALLEY
VETERINARY CLINIC

(413) 323-9201 270 Mill Valley Road, Belchertown MA 01007

Bits and Pieces

Opening of Reservations for the 2026 Camping Season at DCR Parks

Reservations for DCR's 25 Campgrounds Open to the Public on February 18; Campers Can Book Up to Four Months in Advance

Welcome
to our
New Members

Erin Flowers, Worcester MA
LouAnn Murphy, Thompson CT
Kileigh Holmes, S. Yarmouth MA
Karen Lajoie, Hubbardston MA
Kimberly Seaver, Granville MA



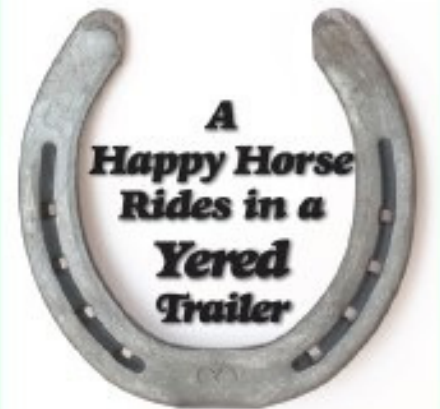
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Classifieds: Free ads are for members and their items only. Please contact the editor for advertising rates for non-member classified ads. Please submit your ad in writing (mail or e-mail) to the editor. Ads will only appear once unless you notify us to run it again. Ads must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch

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



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Mike Kelley (781) 953-9959
mkelley@massrenewables.net



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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.

Officers & Directors
bstra.org@gmail.com

President: Joyce Sandvik

VP/Clerk: Becky Kalagher

Treasurer: Karen Parlin

Rec. Secretary: Rose Zariczny

Kelly Berthiaume

Sharron Cochran

Valerie Clark

Suzanne Nicholas

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Sue Quirk

Mary Wood



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BSTRA MEMBERSHIP: Membership application or renewal is available on our website Click [Membership](#) or you can download the membership form and mail with payment. Memberships and optional insurance expire December 31st.

Excess Equine Liability Insurance is available to our **members** provided through Equisure. Once your membership is active, go to our website under Membership, choose Equisure Equine Personal Excess Liability Insurance and pay \$25 for single, \$50 for family. This has to be paid online. [Insurance Link](#)

BSTRA CLOTHING: To purchase apparel with our logo please click on this link: [BSTRA CLOTHING](#)

VOLUNTER HOURS FORM: Click this link to submit your [volunteer hours online](#). or click here to down load the [volunteer form](#).