Bay State Trail Riders Association Inc.



The Bugle November 2026 **www.bstra.org**

Mt. Jefferson Pleasure Ride

Sponsored by Webster First Federal Credit Union & Castle Plastics

OK, it wasn't sunny, but it also wasn't raining, and for that we were grateful.
We are also extremely grateful to Bob Hatch and Stephanie Frend at Burnshirt Hills, as well as what I fondly refer to as the Burnshirt Hills gang (all the young riders), for marking the trails and setting everything up for this ride.
Our surprise of the day was the abundance of desserts made by some of the young riders. All I can say is that they were of the Galloping Gourmet caliber. Nicely done, girls! They were thoroughly enjoyed by all.
Twenty-three riders took in the lovely fall scenery while enjoying the trails in Hubbardston.
After a great ride, there is nothing better than a delicious lunch, an assortment of desserts, and everyone enjoying the lively banter. These are the memories that last a lifetime!
Many thanks to Joyce Sandvik, Suzanne Nicholas, and Becky Kalagher for handling the registration table and taking pictures.










"Live now. Make now always the most precious time. Now will never come again." - Captain Jean Luc Picard

Trail Work Day Thompson CT

Sponsored by Azrael Acres & Heavy Press Graphics

It's amazing how productive four ladies can be when it comes to trail work! I think the 40-degree weather helped keep us moving just to stay warm.

We opened up 0.3 miles of new trail and cleaned up 0.1 miles of an old cart road, for a total of 14.67 volunteer hours.

Armed with a chainsaw, hedge trimmers, and loppers, we got the job done. I did run out of gas for the chainsaw, so I met up with Valerie again on October 21 to finish clearing the remaining downed trees, adding another 3.33 hours. We still have some brush to clean up because the battery on the hedge trimmers ran out before we could finish.

A huge thank you to our all-ladies trail crew: Valerie Clark, Becky Kalagher, Joyce Sandvik, and Sue Sanders. Together, we contributed 18 hours of trail work valued at $756. Lunch, generously paid for by BSTRA, came to $104.44.

Not a bad day's work for four determined women! *BK*

Valerie Clark, Becky Kalagher,
Sue Sanders, Joyce Sandvik







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Red Rail Farm Pleasure Ride

Ride Sponsored by Yered Trailers

Cool, crisp, sunny weather made the October 18 ride at Red Rail Farm in Lincoln sparkle. Trailers began arriving at 9 a.m., with Deb Deschenes directing drivers into the parking area. Thirty-six riders saddled up for the seven-mile route.

Ride host Mary Wood attended to every detail. She traveled from the Cape and boarded her horse, Rocky, at the farm so she could mark the trails on Saturday with Maria Heskes-Allard and Marshall Streeter. Early Sunday, Mary prepared for the ride while Rocky grazed in his new surroundings.

Suzanne Nicholas staffed the registration table and made sure everyone understood the trail markings, helping keep riders on course. Karen Parlin sold "Year of the Fire Horse" 250th anniversary T-shirts and tickets for the multi-item raffle, which will be drawn at the Thompson Raceway ride on November 15.

After the ride, everyone enjoyed sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, macaroni salad, tossed salad, and a specially requested gorgonzola salad. Red Rail Farm is a wonderful place to ride, so if you missed this ride, be sure to join us next time. *Joyce Sandvik*







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Lets Talk Reflective Tape

At the Big Pumpkin Ride I noticed that the trailer in front of me had no reflective tape at all on the back. I only noticed this because I am in the process of replacing some of the tape on my trailer because it's chipping off and faded as the trailer is over 20 years old.

After lunch, I took a quick walk around the trailers that were still parked there. A few of them looked brand new. I was quite surprised to find 6 trailers that had no reflective tape at all on them.

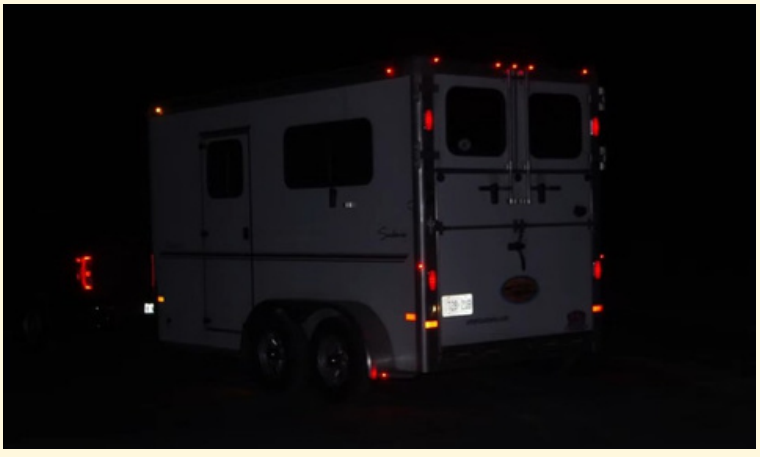
Headed back to the lunch area and did a bit of a PSA on my findings. One of the comments was that it is not required in Massachusetts. That is true to a point. Here are the requirements in Massachusetts: In Massachusetts, trailers that are over 80 inches wide and have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of over 10,000 pounds must have DOT-C2 certified reflective tape. This tape must be two inches wide with alternating red and white patterns, covering at least 50% of the trailer's sides and all of the lower rear bar.
Next comment: we have lights. Someone else noted, what happens if your lights go out?

After I came home I did a bit of research. Here is what I found.
To properly mark any trailer, we recommend creating an outline so that other drivers can both see the trailer, and make out what it is quickly. Most horse trailers are both lighter and smaller than this, so the requirement is not applicable. However, marking is not a matter of what is required, it is more a matter of what is needed for safety. So following the guidelines for larger trailers, and adding additional reflectivity, is the best way to keep you, your horses or livestock, and your trailer safe.

For the bottom of the trailer, we recommend red and white DOT tape that covers at least 50% of each side. On the back, use a solid section of white and red tape. For the top corners of the back of the horse trailer, use white reflective tape to create an inverted L. Keep any red reflective tape away from your brake lights to avoid confusion for drivers behind you. For the top of the side of the trailer, use either the same DOT tape, or solid red reflective tape.

It's also recommended to put some reflective tape on the inside of your back doors. If you have a problem at night and you need to have your trailer doors open, that reflective tape will show up so traffic behind you will notice something is going on and that it's not just a big black hole and drive right into the back of the trailer. *BK*

Same trailer below. First picture taken before reflective tape installed. Second picture with tape. Which trailer would you feel safer pulling at night?





BSTRA'S BIG PUMPKIN RIDE

Ride Sponsored by EquidDoc Veterinary Services



We held our annual Pumpkin Ride at Upton State Forest on October 25th. Although the morning began a little chilly, we enjoyed another beautiful fall day. Twenty-six riders completed the approximately eight-mile route through the main part of the forest. We usually cross the street to ride on both sides, but busy beavers had built dams that left our bridges underwater.

Costumes become more imaginative each year, increasingly blurring the lines among the scary, funny, and most creative categories. With so many inventive entries, prizes were awarded to several standout costumes. Emma Cadden appeared as a bald eagle riding the Budweiser Clydesdale from the Super Bowl commercial; Kylie Richard and Norma Fay were underworld prom queens; Joe Hattabuagh portrayed a tactical SWAT operator; and Jennifer Hoyt dressed as a magician, with her horse as a rabbit.

Lunch featured our traditional meat and vegetarian lasagnas from the Upton Country Souper, accompanied by side salads. Riders also brought their favorite pumpkin desserts, making it impossible to choose just one—so we sampled several.

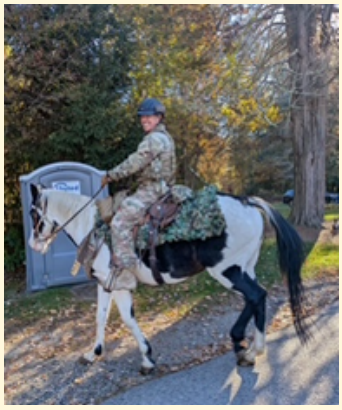
Volunteers Suzanne Nicholas, Sue Perry, Deb Deschenes, Rose Zariczny, Karen Parlin, Cici Hoyt, Gloria Duhaime, and Joyce Sandvik kept everything running smoothly, from directing trailer parking to seeing everyone safely on their way after the ride. *Joyce Sandvik*



Underworld Prom Queens



Superbowl Clydesdale



Tactical SWAT Operator



Magician & her magic rabbit

Welcom New Members

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Elizabeth Faxon, Pepperell MA
Diane Geggis, Carlisle MA

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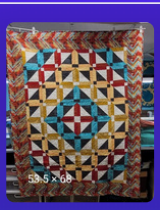
BAY STATE TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
2026 TRAIL SUPPORT & THANK YOU DRAWING

10 DRAWINGS - 15 CHANCES TO WIN WITH EACH $25 DONATION YOU MAKE

CHOOSE WHICH DRAWINGS YOUR ENTRIES GO INTO

DRAWINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE THOMPSON RACEWAY RIDE NOV. 15TH . WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP PRIZES

DRAWING #1



ARROWPOINT HARMONY QUILT 53.5 X 68 BY KATHY RICH A STITCH'N GOOD TIME
$400 VALUE

DRAWING #2



ANNIE'S MESSAGE CHILDREN'S BOOK WITH ORIGINAL WATER COLOR ILLUSTRATION BY BETSEY MACDONALD
$300 VALUE

DRAWING #3



SWEETIE ORIGINAL WATER COLOR ISSLUSTRATION BY BETSEY MACDONALD
$300 VALUE

DRAWING #4



COSEQUIN GIFT BUCKET
$160 VALUE

DRAWING #5



CANDLE LOVERS BASKET
$132 VALUE

DRAWING #6



KERRITS ARENA K-PRO KNEE PATCH BREECHES XL
$119 VALUE

DRAWING #7



5/A BAKER FLY SHEET SIZE 80"
$110 VALUE

DRAWING #8



BROKE SUPPLY COMPANY GIFT CERTIFICATE
$100 VALUE

DRAWING #9



PRI CONTINENTAL SWALLOWTAIL DRESSAGE PAD AND CASHEL COMFORT EARS SIZE L
$100 VALUE

DRAWING #10



CHESHIRE HORSE GIFT CARD
$50 VALUE

All proceeds raised from this fundraiser will go to improving trails.
Bay State Trail Riders Association Inc. wish to thank the following donors for their support. Kathy Rich, Betsey MacDonald, Nutramax Labs, Becky Kalagher, Deb Cataldo, Broke Supply Co., Saddle Shed and The Cheshire Horse.

DRAWING ENTRY INFORMATION

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE:_____

ADDRESS:_____

_____

EMAIL: _____

ENTRY CHOICES: (PLEASE INCLUDE # OF ENTRIES FOR YOUR CHOICES

____ DRAWING 1 ____ DRAWING 2 ____ DRAWING 3

____ DRAWING 4 ____ DRAWING 5 ____ DRAWING 6

____ DRAWING 7 ____ DRAWING 8 ____ DRAWING 9

____ DRAWING 10

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BSTRA AND MAIL TO 92 OLD WESTBORO ROAD, NORTH GRAFTON MA 01536

ENTER ONLINE AT HTTPS://BSTRA.ORG/SUPPORT/RAFFLE/

BSTRA 2026 Events Calendar

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION/SPONSOR	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
Nov. 15*	Thompson Raceway Ride *Ride Sponsored by Dean Bank*	Valerie	508-864-8432	valerie.clark@snet.net
Feb.	AGM & Awards Banquet			

*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.

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Matching Gifts Program (Charter Oak Credit Union in CT)

We will match all qualified* charitable donations YOU make between Wednesday, August 12, 2026 and Thursday, November 19, 2026 or until our 2026 Matching Gifts funding limit is met.
We're committed to giving back to charitable entities within our field of membership, as well as charities elsewhere that are meaningful to our members.
It's simple – we give back because it is part of the foundation from which credit unions were built on… people helping people – and we're proud to offer our members the opportunity to maximize their charitable donations through our Matching Gifts Program.
We hope our program will inspire you to make a donation to your favorite 501(c)(3) charity, so they will in turn be able to further their meaningful mission to positively impact the world we live in. Donations must be at least $25 and will be matched in increments of $25. Charter Oak will match up to a maximum of $500 per member.
If you are a BSTRA member and a member of Charter Oak, we hope that you will consider making a donation and choose BSTRA as you favorite 501(c)(3)!

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Alert from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, West Hill Dam

The West Hill Dam recreation area will be closed for two months for construction...
The entrance and parking lots at West Hill Dam in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, will be closed to vehicles and pedestrians from Sept. 15 through Nov. 15.
The closure is necessary to complete a construction project. Work includes repaving the entire entrance from the street to the top of the dam and expanding the parking lot by up to 25 spaces. West Hill Dam officials ask the public to use alternative recreational areas until the project is complete.

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

Horse Trailer For Sale: 2007 Kingston livestock, asking $8000, that is negotiable. Inquiries can call 413-429-1881

HORSE TRAILER: KINGSTON WINDSOR, two-horse, bumper pull. 1998. Very good condition. Very low miles. Two private owners. Regular maintenance. Oversized. Tires very good w new spare. Dexter Axle electric braking and hydraulic system. Removable stall divider post. Added features include: aluminum, diamond -patterned gravel guard; Dig Brake box system, Draw-Tite Activator II brake control; custom made floor length, heavy-duty removable stall divider; sway bars for distance driving; extra heavy duty tie rings; padded ceiling; trailer lock. Travels very well. Recently serviced and inspected. GVW 5,900 pounds. $ 5,595 or BO. Specs and pics available. Call/text (508) 269-2600 (Rehoboth, MA)

PASSIER DRESSAGE SADDLE. G Passier & Sohn Nicole's Grand Gilbert. Light use, Very good condition. 252106. Very comfortable for trail riding also. $545 or BO. Pics available. Call/text (508) 269-2600 . (Rehoboth, MA)

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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 turn out 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

Bits & Pieces

Venmo. We can now take Venmo payments for entries, raffle tickets, and merchandise items (like t-shirts).This is our Venmo "handle": @BSTRA



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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We have 20 of these t-shirts from National Trails Day. If you would like to purchase one, price is $15, please contact Joyce at bstra.org@gmail.com

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