



Hoof Prints



Barre Riding and Driving Club

Jan - Feb 2024

In This Newsletter:

- Trail Crossing Safety Support Letter
- Bridge Over the Ware River?
- Trail Maintenance of Route 62 Loop
- New Member of BRDC Board of Directors
- Horse Show Banquet Dec 1 Highlights
- BRDC History Article – BRDC in the 1960s – Part 1
- 2024 Calendar
- Barre Christmas Parade Highlights
- Christmas Adopt a Family for Quabbin students

Barre Riding & Driving Club is a 501(c) 3 non-profit club run by volunteers. We provide academic assistance with annual scholarships, promote community events, and bring together the horse community with funds raised through trail rides, camping weekends, clinics and other events.

2023 Officers

Lynne Goodnow, President
Jane Lynds, Vice-president
Kat Marsh, Treasurer
Gail Lent, Membership Chair
Dave Marsh, Corresponding Secretary
Jill Poulin, Horse Show Series Chair

2023 Directors

Rob Lynds
Steve Theran
Marianne Wojcicki
Stacy Hayes

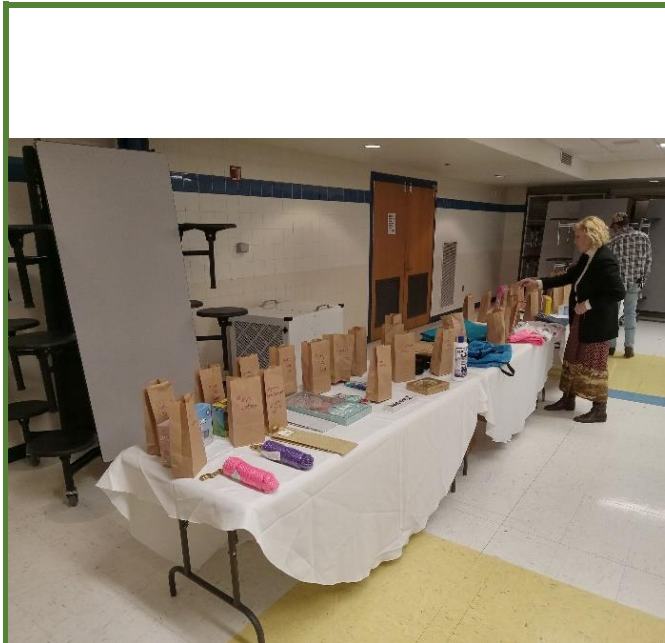
2023 Horse Show Banquet Highlights

What could be more delightful than a fabulous, catered buffet, long, silky strands of brightly colored ribbons, and a table full of enticing raffle prizes? Over 120 guests gathered in the cafeteria of the Quabbin Regional Middle High School in Barre, Massachusetts on the evening of Friday, December 1, 2023 to attend the annual Barre Horse Show Series Banquet and Awards Night.

The banquet table was set with salad, spinach and artichoke dip with crusty bread, a vegetable tray with dip, a fruit and cheese tray, and meatballs in tomato sauce along with other hot foods. Guests had multiple choices of drinks including coffee, tea, water, soda, and juice. Delicious desserts (brownies and blondies) from Wholesome Farmer's Market in Barre were wiped out by the end of the festivities.



As guests served themselves food and drink and had a chance to chat, they strolled past the copious offerings of raffle items including brand new lead ropes, colorful attire, certificates for horse blanket washing, small items of tack and supplies, as well as treats and trinkets for equines and humans alike.



After everyone had a chance to eat and decide about their raffle choices, Jill Poulin led the presentation of awards for champion and reserve champions and announced the winners of the raffle items with the customary flair and warmth that all attendees thoroughly enjoyed.



BRDC would like to thank Jill Poulin, Chair of the Barre Horse Show Series, and her entire family for their unwavering support for the horse shows this year. BRDC would also like to thank NEECA and CNEER for participating in the horse show series, which is geared toward offering a pleasant, competitive yet supportive show environment for horse enthusiasts of all ages and disciplines. Please see our calendar in this newsletter to mark the dates for the 2024 Barre Horse Show Series shows!



Holiday Spirit – It's a Wrap!

For the first time, the Barre Riding and Driving Club participated in the Adopt a Family program at Quabbin Regional Middle High School for their December 2023 drive. Board member and Barre Horse Show Series Chair, Jill Poulin, alerted the Barre Riding and Driving Club's Board of Directors that the Quabbin Regional Middle High School was looking for sponsors to "adopt" families for Christmas. The adoption works by having adoptee families from the five Quabbin Regional towns (Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, and Oakham) provide the ages and wish lists of their children. Sponsors shop and wrap appropriate gifts to be delivered to the adoptee families in time for Christmas. After receiving an enthusiastic response from the Board, Jill "adopted" 4 - 6 students from the district towns on behalf of BRDC, purchased up to \$100 of gifts per student, and wrapped the gifts (examples in the photos). She also mentioned that the school's honor society had a fundraising campaign to buy gift cards for the families for food and related items so that the families could enjoy their holiday to the fullest. The Barre Riding and Driving Club would like to thank Jill Poulin for taking on this endeavor. We sincerely hope that the adoptee families enjoyed a lovely holiday! BRDC looks forward to making the Adopt a Family for Christmas an annual occurrence for the club.



History Spotlight – BRDC Roots – 1960s – Part 1

The 1960s witnessed much activity (new and old) with the Barre Riding and Driving Club. Leaning heavily on the "History of the Barre Riding and Driving Club" speech given before the club's birthday buffet on August 7th, 1970, and doing additional research through newspapers.com, we learned that the Club continued to grow and change as new ideas materialized and older members moved on.

Horse Show In Barre June 19

The 23rd annual Barre Horse Show will be held at Felton Field in Barre, Sunday afternoon, June 19, at 12 noon. Over 100 horses from all the New England states will take part.

Seven divisions of competition will be conducted as follows: three-gaited saddle horses, equitation classes, Morgan horses, pet ponies, open jumpers, road hacks and pleasure horses.

Spectators will be able to see the show from a spacious covered grandstand. The program of events will run continuously in a large ring from noon until 7 p.m.

The show is sponsored by the Barre Riding and Driving Club and is affiliated with the New England Horseman's Council (Class B) and the American Horse Show Association (Class C).

The following officials have been announced for the show: Dayton W. Sumner of Haddonfield, N.J., and James A. Rooney of Loudonville, N. Y., judges; Leonard Army of Marblehead, announcer; Ralph Robbins of Barre and William Albin of Uxbridge, ringmasters; Emile Casavant of Gardner, farrier, and Albert Taylor of Shrewsbury, steward.

Athol Daily News June 11, 1960

In 1960, the Club appointed a Liaison Committee from the Club to work with the Felton Field Commissioners. The Club took on the food concession at the horse show and donated \$25 to the Barre Ambulance Rescue Fund. In preparation for the June show, they painted the secretary's stand, ticket office, top rails, and toilets at Felton Field. This was at a time when Felton Field contained a large grandstand overlooking the show rings. An article from the Athol Daily News dated June 11, 1960, names quite a variety of show divisions that drew competitors from all over New England. The June 11, 1962 item from the Athol Daily News indicates a shifting emphasis toward Western style riding for the horse show. It also indicates that the show offered cash prizes and trophies in addition to ribbons. The Lady Alice Challenge Trophy was named after a 3-gaited Saddlebred mare who competed in the 1940s. The Club experimented with offering horse and pony rides to the general public during the horse show. Perhaps that is an idea the current Club should consider as a fund-raising venture. Taking over the food concession became (and still is) a steady source of income for the Club. 1961 saw the Club buying

a new coffee maker for \$35, having the old one repaired, purchasing a grill for use at horse shows, and looking to build a new food tent stand at Felton Field.

Annual Barre Horse Show Sunday

The 25th annual Barre Horse Show will be held Sunday at Felton Field under the sponsorship of the Barre Riding and Driving Club.

The show rates a New England Horsemen's Council Class B, and Massachusetts Horsemen's Council Class A. Two rings will be used, and there will be 64 cash prizes, 17 trophies and 162 ribbons. The Lady Alice Challenge Trophy will be in competition for the sixth year. Last year's winner was Jubilee's Dark Temptation owned by Jimmy Fenton.

There will be more emphasis this year on the Western Division than there has been in the past. In addition to pole bending competition, there will be a stock horse reining class, western trail class, a New England Horsemen's Council open western pleasure class and a western pleasure horse stake class.

Twenty-eight classes in eight other divisions will also be held, including jumpers, Morgans, ponies and pleasure horses. There will be classes for the real young ones too, plus an event for Barre riders only.

An innovation this year will be horse and pony rides for youngsters. Gentle horses in full western regalia and ponies with competent grooms will afford children a chance to ride western style.

A food stand will be in operation throughout the day.

Athol Daily News June 11, 1962

to build a new food tent stand at Felton Field.

In 1961, letters from the Club were written to the Natural Resources Division of Forests and Parks regarding trails in and around the proposed Barre Falls Dam area. The Dam was completed in 1958. Presumably, the Club wanted to ensure that trails were properly designated and maintained for horse riding. If you are interested in learning more about the Dam, follow this link to an in-depth article posted by the Barre Historical Society on December 6, 2023 (includes photos and maps): <https://www.facebook.com/barrehistoricalsociety/posts/739599334868952/>

Margaret Cabell Self and companion were hosted by Club members again that year. Self presented the program "Riding in Mexico" at the Barre Town Hall to a full house. She was a riding instructor who had a strong interest in educating youth in horsemanship and in community outreach. Between 1935 and 1977 she self-published over 40 books on horses and horsemanship including several novels. The Barre Riding and Driving Club was fortunate to be able to host her in town on multiple occasions. Self founded the New Canaan Mounted Troop (New Canaan, CT) to teach youngsters about horses and horsemanship. The Troop carries on her work and is still in existence today. If you get a chance, visit them at

<https://newcanaanmountedtroop.org/> to learn more about this wonderful non-profit organization. You can learn more about the remarkable woman who was Margaret Cabell Self through this University of Virginia link: <https://small.library.virginia.edu/collecti ons/featured/the-cabell-family-papers-2/biographies/additional-biographies/margaret-cabell-self/>



MARGARET CABELL SELF is a recognized expert in the field of horsemanship. Brought up in Virginia, she has worked with horses ever since childhood and is an experienced rider, trainer, and teacher of this sport.

Mrs. Self's first book, *TEACHING THE YOUNG TO RIDE* (1934), was based on her own teaching methods with her four children and other riding pupils. Four years later, she formed the New Canaan (Connecticut) Mounted Troop, which has continued to flourish ever since.

Through the years, Mrs. Self has been actively involved in riding activities, and has written many successful books on horsemanship and horses. Among these are *HORSES, THEIR SELECTION, CARE AND HANDLING*; *THE HORSEMAN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA*; *JUMPING SIMPLIFIED*; *THE COMPLETE BOOK OF HORSES AND PONIES*; *THE HORSEMAN'S COMPANION*; and *A TREASURY OF HORSE STORIES*. She is also a favorite author in the juvenile field, with such books as *PONIES ON PARADE* and *THE HAPPY YEAR*.

1961 was also the year that the Club recognized the value of the horse shows as a means to support local students. They voted to put the proceeds from the Junior Horse Show into a scholarship fund and a committee was chosen to draw up particulars. The next two photos provide some background on three women whose influence is still felt today in the areas served by the Barre Riding and Driving Club.

These women shared a love of horses and/or a love of their community and ensured that a legacy of education could continue for years to come. BRDC continues scholarship giving as one of its main missions today. We will continue this rich and fascinating series of BRDC history in the 1960s in our next newsletter!

Historical Data on the:

JENNY BLAISDELL, HELEN CONNINGTON, and MILDRED SIMENSON
SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded by: Barre Riding and Driving Club since 1962

Caroline (Robertson) Griswald was the manager of the Junior Barre Horse Show that was conducted at Felton Field for many years. This Junior Horse Show was for young people below the age of 18 with the purpose of helping the youth to share in horsemanship and skill. It was Caroline's idea to use the profits from the horse show to establish a scholarship for students of the high school or higher learning who were graduates of Barre High School (Quabbin High School). The first scholarship was awarded in June 1962 to Frank Patterson.

Caroline interest in Barre stems to the years when she came to Barre with her mother during the summer and lived in a boarding house (which stands at the corner of Christian Hill Road and Dana Road) known as Cherry Hill Farm. Caroline's mother, Anna, contracted encephalitis, and after Anna's death Caroline spent her summers with Jenny Blaisdell.

Jenny B Blaisdell (1920-1964) lived in Barre Plains as a child. Having been raised on a farm known as Cherry Hill, she had learned to know and understand horses in her youth. As a devoted 4-H leader, her influence in horsemanship and sportsmanship was felt by many who were part of and the "Gallop Hooves Club"

Her stable on School Street was constantly abounded with youth and horses. Interest in this field extended beyond Barre as she managed and stewarded horse shows throughout New England and was active in the promotion of the U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team.

Helen G. Webber Connington (1916-1984) came to Barre in 1941 from Rutland when her family property was consumed by the MDC. Her uncle owned a farm on James Street and at his death Helen bought the property and moved to Barre in 1941. Helen and Jenny's friendship began with horses. Both women had a great love for horses so their interest bonded them with horsemanship in the community and for many years they were the backbone of the Barre Riding and Driving Club.

At Jenny's death the Barre Youth Horse Show was renamed in her honor as the Jenny Blaisdell Scholarship Horse Show. It was only fitting that at Helen's death that the Scholarship Show share the name of two women who shared so many hours preparing and conducting a show for the Youth of Barre.

Mildred Simenson (19 -1990) had no direct contact with the horsemanship of the community. She was born in Barre, her father-in-law owned an old country store in the community, and she worked

all of her life in Barre. She had been on the staff of the "Barre Gazette" when it was owned by Mr. Johnson and was the bookkeeper for the Stetson Home for 37 years. She had known the Conningtons and would often speak with Charlie Connington about various aspect of business in the community including the Riding Club. Upon Mildred's death she bequeath to four organizations in the community the sum of \$25,000.00. The bequest to the Riding Club was to the Scholarship Fund in which investments were made so as the interest on the investment would be used to enhance the Riding and Driving Club Scholarship Funds.

Thus, the names of three women in the community, who respected the desires of youth who wished to further their lives through education, have been linked in an endeavor to continue to provide scholarships for students.

BRDC Supports Installation of Street Crossing Safety Lights

In late November of 2023, BRDC President Lynne Goodnow responded to a request from Mark Kresge of the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee's Trails Sub-Committee for a letter of support from BRDC for the installation of a safety feature at 196 Williamsville Road in Hubbardston, MA where the Ware River Rail Trail crosses Williamsville Road. Kresge requested the letter of support to include in a MassTrails grant application being prepared by the Hubbardston Open Space Committee for the fiscal year 2024 funding round (due February 1). As currently formulated, the cash match for the grant application is being provided by the Town of Hubbardston, so the application is focused only on the Williamsville Road trail crossing located in Hubbardston. The specific configuration described would include three solar-powered rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) sign locations, with all signs simultaneously activated by motion sensors pointing down the trail looking for approaching trail users. Learn more about RRFBs at this Federal Department of Transportation webpage:

<https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/rectangular-rapid-flashing-beacons-rrfb>

The Board Members and Officers approved the letter that Lynne prepared and they voted via email to send the letter to Mark who indicated the possibility for a similar setup for the Route 62 crossing in Barre, MA (adjacent to Gilbert and Granger roads) to be added to the application at the last minute in January, if funding and approval from the Town of Barre could be obtained. The intention is to create a future grant application for Route 62 in Barre if funding and town approval are delayed. These features would do a great deal to increase the safety of hikers, bikers, and horses and riders making use of the trails. Many thanks to Mark Kresge for pursuing this grant and to Lynne for drafting the letter of support and bringing it to the BRDC Board's attention in a timely way.



New Life for Old Bridge?

The pristine beauty of the Ware River Watershed is a bounty for the members of BRDC. With 53 miles of designated horse trails on 28,000 acres of protected land, the watershed can provide nearly unlimited enjoyment for all. However, for BRDC riders starting out at Felton Field, much of this access is blocked by the Ware River itself. Every year, BRDC arranges for a paid police detail so that our riders who cross using Route 122 will be safe. Still, many riders are intimidated by this treacherous crossing and are unable to enjoy the best the watershed has to offer. The old Cemetery Bridge at Covered Bridge Road would be the perfect crossing point for horse riders. However, the 1938 Hurricane swept away the old,

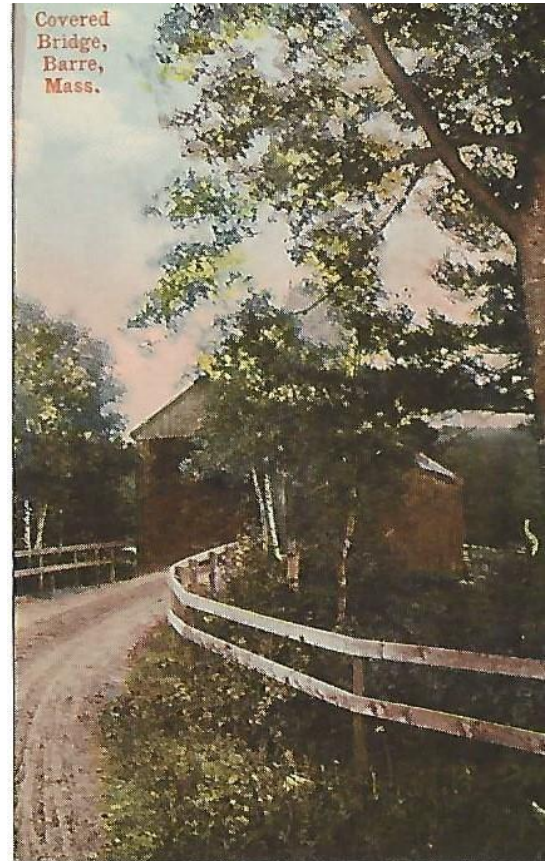


covered bridge, leaving only the remnants of its stone abutments.

The area is now owned by the Department of Water Supply Protection. To investigate a proposal to replace the old, covered bridge, the Trails Sub-Committee of the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee organized a meeting at the old, covered bridge site with DWSP, headed by Dan Clark.

Present at the meeting from the BRDC Board were Marianne Wojcicki, Lynne Goodnow, and Dave Marsh. The late fall 2023 meeting went very well with Dan Clark giving a nod to proceed to the planning phase of the project.

Since the bridge is upstream of the water supply intake, care must be taken for the construction not to touch the water or the abutments. Instead, the bridge anchor points will need to be set back from the Ware River. This would increase the bridge span from the original 60 feet to about 100 feet. The sub-committee is now investigating bridge types, including fiberglass, welded steel, and fabricated steel. An engineering company needs to be identified and sources for grant money contacted. This won't be an easy project, but BRDC and the Trails Sub-Committee are hard-working people who can make this happen.



Trails Access Work

On a cold, frosty Saturday in November 2023, a small group of dedicated trail maintenance workers made up of folks from the Barre Riding and Driving Club, New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA), and the Trails Sub-Committee of the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee, met near the Fisher Road Bridge to continue the work of grooming and doing maintenance on the recently-approved and designated horse trails.

Armed with loppers, clippers, pole saws, and rakes, the group worked their way along the route, meeting up with those who began at another access point. The main focus was a loop beginning and ending at Route 62 and weaving through parts of the properties known as the Riis Farm and the Rice Farm that lie between the Canesto Brook and the Burnshirt River. Work involved trimming back branches overhanging into the trail and cutting out small saplings that sprang up along the width of the trail itself. Along with that many fallen branches and logs were dragged or rolled to the side of the trail to provide safe footing for trail users. The work spanned about 4-5 hours and the group enjoyed the views through leafless trees and across rolling, stone-walled hillsides along the trail. A few stopped to investigate some farm building ruins left behind from 100+ years ago when the Riis's and Rice's farmed in the valley. BRDC would like to thank these folks for their efforts to clear and maintain these trails for the future use and enjoyment of all.



2024 Calendar

March 2nd (Sat) Annual Meeting & Cabin Fever at Barre American Legion Post #2 Pot Luck Dinner at 6 pm Election of Board of Directors. Auction Speaker – Bettyann Cernese –Equine Health & Emergency First Aid

April TBD Members Trail Ride – weather permitting

May 11th (Sat) Spring Trail Ride at Felton Field – One day ride (camping for the weekend available)

May TBD Clinic – Parade Ready your horse. For members and non-members, price TBD

May 27th (Mon) Memorial Day Parade

June TBD Members Ride TBD Clinic – for members and non-members, price TBD

June 23rd (Sun) Horse Show Series (1) – BRDC

July 4th (Thur) Petersham July Fourth Parade

July 14th (Sun) Horse Show Series (2) - CNEER

July TBD Members Trail Ride

August 4th (Sun) Horse Show Series (3) - CNEER

September TBD Members Trail Ride – Trail ride

September 15th (Sun) Horse Show Series (4) - BRDC

September 21 (Sat) Barre 250th Anniversary Grand Parade 1pm

October 12th & 13th Fall Trail Ride Weekend at Felton Field (optional overnight Fri & Sat) Sat & Sun

October TBD (Sun) Northfield Mountain Foliage Ride with Hampshire County Riding Club

December 7th (Sat) Christmas Parade in Barre



Barre Christmas Parade 2023



Save the date for upcoming parades:

Monday, May 27 Memorial Day Parade Barre

Thursday July 4th Petersham

Saturday, September 21 2024 Barre's 250th

Saturday, December 7th Barre Christmas Parade



Upcoming Calendar Events for 2024

Mar	2 nd	Cabin Fever
May	11 th	Spring Trail Ride
June	16 th	Horse Show
July	7 th	CNEER Show
Aug	4 th	CNEER Show
Sept	15 th	Horse Show
Oct	12 th & 13 th	Fall Trail Ride



New Board Member

The Barre Riding and Driving Club is pleased to welcome our newest Board Member: Stacy Hayes!

Photo: Stacy with her TWH Dalton at the Equine Affaire in November of 2023.

Interested in joining our Board of Directors? Contact BRDC President, Lynne Goodnow

lgoodnow@yahoo.com



Sponsors and Resources

Barre Riding and Driving Club would like to thank the following businesses for their support this year! All donations are tax-deductible and go directly toward the six \$600 scholarships we offer to local students pursuing higher education goals. In addition, EquidDoc Veterinarians sponsor five \$200 scholarships for children and adults who attend a camp or clinic, or who participate in intercollegiate or interscholastic programs (IEA, IHSA, Pony Club, 4H). For Equi-Ships you do not need to own your own horse or pony.

EquidDoc generously sponsors five \$200 scholarships for children and adults involved with horses. Get reimbursed for the cost of a camp or clinic. **August 31th, 2024, is the deadline for Equi-ship applications.** More info on the Barre

Riding and Driving Club website: barreridingdrivingclub.com/scholarships

EquidDoc Veterinarians in Worcester, MA is the premiere ambulatory veterinary practice treating horses, goats, alpacas, sheep and llamas throughout Worcester county, central Massachusetts and beyond. We provide you and your athlete or companion with comprehensive on-

the-farm care for peak health and performance. Our Vets in Worcester, MA provide that care in a collaborative setting, providing you with options from which you select what best meets your animal's unique needs. We are enthusiastic about education and make each visit informative, so you fully understand your animal's condition. Visit EquidDoc at <https://equiddocvet.com/>





CHRIS PIRNER

CELL 978-270-9916
OFFICE 978-928-4736
FAX 978-928-4038

PIRNERLOGGING@MSN.COM

WWW.PIRNERLOGGING.COM

152 WILLIAMSVILLE ROAD
HUBBARDSTON, MA 01452

**COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL LOGGING SERVICES
SERVING MASS & SURROUNDING AREAS**

Grand Champion Sponsors



higginspowersports.com



Creating Cozy Homes for Over 45 Years higginsenergy.com



<https://www.hardwickfarmers.net/>

Triple Crown Sponsors

dharma.org



wrrobinsonlumber.com



Phone: (978) 355-2827
FAX: (978) 355-6899

Richard N. Glidden, Owner
www.rnglidden.com

LANDSCAPING SERVICES
1750 Hardwick Road
New Braintree, MA 01531
Shrub & Lawn Plantings • Walkways and Retaining Walls
Loam • Power Stone Raking • Bark Mulches

Bruce Coffin Jr.

Certified Public Accountant

Email: Bruce@brucecoffincpa.com

BRUCE COFFIN C.P.A. INC.

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 60

Oakham, MA 01068

Main Office Tel: 508-882-3394

Fax: 508-882-9515

www.brucecoffincpa.com

Division Sponsors



rjmenergy.com



healybros.com



landryandmeiluslaw.com

White Valley Motors, Inc.
Auto Sales Repairs Mass Inspection



843 Worcester Road
Barre, MA 01005
978-355-2200(ph)
978-355-2212 (fx)
david@whitevalleymotors.com

whitevalleymotors.com

BARRE RIDING AND DRIVING CLUB
2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Street _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone/Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____

**As most of our club notifications are sent by-email, please note here if you need notifications mailed to you.

Indicate Your Areas of Interest

Show _____ Trail _____ Dressage _____ Gymkhana _____ Driving _____ Other _____

DUES: _____ \$25.00 Individual _____ \$30.00 Family

_____ \$10.00 juniors (under 18)

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

(Add a \$5 late fee if renewing after March 31st)

Please return completed form and check made payable to: Barre Riding & Driving Club (BRDC) to Lynne Goodnow, PO Box 25, Barre MA 01005

Questions regarding membership contact: Lynne Goodnow – lgoodnow@yahoo.com

VISIT US AT – www.barreridingdrivingclub.com

BRDC Membership Includes:

- **BRDC Newsletters**
- **Subscription to Community Horse**
- **Discounts on Club Clinics**
- **Free Member Trail Rides (excluding Spring and Fall Trail Rides)**
- **Discounts on Spring and Fall Trail Rides**
- **3% Discount Hardwick Farmer's Co-op**