



Hoof Prints



Barre Riding and Driving Club

Mar - Apr 2025

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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.

2025 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

2025 Directors

Rob Lynds
Marianne Wojcicki
Stacy Hayes

Cabin Fever Highlights

Despite a period of heavy snow squalls moving through the region on the afternoon of Saturday, March 1st, a small group of 20+ Barre Riding and Driving Club aficionados gathered at the American Legion Post #2 in Barre, MA for our Annual Meeting and Cabin Fever event. We started off with a potluck supper that included homemade focaccia bread, lasagna, mushroom pie, chili, cole slaw, shepherd's pie, vegetable stew, chicken lo mein, paella, and other delightful savory dishes. Desserts were plentiful: cakes, cupcakes (in the shape of a horse!), cookies, and brownies. The cash bar at the American Legion Post #2 did a steady business as folks sought

refreshments to relax with their food.



After giving folks a chance to eat and mingle, club president, Lynne Goodnow called the annual meeting to order. The first order of business was to elect our board members. All of our board members were present and a motion to elect

the board was made and seconded, followed by unanimous approval. Lynne highlighted our club's newsletter, Hoof Prints, and gave thanks to Dave and Kat Marsh for their work in putting together the bi-monthly newsletters to keep our membership informed. Lynne mentioned the events on this



year's calendar, which you can read about in this newsletter or check out on our website. Lynne invited Kat Marsh, our treasurer, to give a brief report. Kat highlighted the club's work in bringing in monies from the horse shows, trail rides, and also from business donations, all to sustain the club and to provide the six \$600 scholarships that the club offers to local high school seniors, college students and adults. Although the club was slightly in the red in 2023, 2024 saw the club net a healthy profit of about \$1700.

Lynne next invited Dave Marsh to speak about the club's ongoing work with DCR. Dave highlighted the on-going good relationship with DCR via the Ware River Watershed Trails Subcommittee on which BRDC Board Members sit. The subcommittee conducts major liaison work with DCR to promote the club's interest in trail rides, trail maintenance, and future trail access. This group is the only group that has a valid trails maintenance agreement with DCR, allowing the group composed of hikers, bikers, and riders to groom, improve, and maintain trails as well as to advise DCR about recreational uses of the trails while maintaining DCR's interest in the health and well-being of the watershed.



Stacy Hayes then introduced the evening's speaker: Meg Wood, a certified independent saddle fitter of Redwood Equine Services (redwoodequineservices.com) spoke to us about the basics of saddle fitting. Meg spoke about the where, when, and why of saddle fitting. She mentioned that most of us were probably familiar with that old reliable Stubben saddle that fit any size horse for any type of riding. However, the reality is that badly-fitting saddles can lead to pressure points and sore backs, and can influence horses moving strangely to compensate which can lead to lameness.



As to how often to check saddle fit, Meg recommended every 6 – 12 months if our horses do heavy work. After all, they can change weight, losing some during the summers and gaining some along with their fluffy coats during the colder months. What to expect during a saddle fitting appointment? First, the obvious static review on a flat surface, but Meg also recommends having the saddle fitter observe someone riding the horse. Of course an indoor area is ideal, but not absolutely necessary. Meg also mentioned that gaited horses can be tricky and so may need extra time.

Meg outlined five things to look for when fitting a saddle: withers size, balance, length, placement, and fit. At the withers you will want both vertical clearance and lateral clearance, otherwise as the saddle compresses during riding, it may become too tight in those areas. A good balance across the left to right and front to back will avoid the effects of ridging. A pen placed on the seat of the saddle should roll to the middle. As for length, look for the saddle not going past the last weight-bearing rib, except for the skirt of a Western saddle which may go beyond that. For placement, you will want to ensure that the saddle's tree is 3-4 fingers behind your horse's scapula so that your horse can maintain the proper range of motion needed to use muscles. Finally, the fit of the saddle should be considered as far as its age and condition and all parts of the saddle should be carefully examined for wear. After her presentation Meg took questions and discussed the pros and cons of treeless saddles, surcingles, and hoop trees vs A-trees, and what to do with both high withered and mutton withered horses. Many thanks to Meg for sharing her expertise.



Following the presentation, Rob Lynds and Lynne Goodnow ran our annual auction, giving out trivia questions to the delight of all attendees. Lynne noted that last year folks were calling out answers to help one another and she instituted a twisty restriction: folks could help with hints, but they had to be charade hints (no talking). Everyone present helped out, offering mimed hints that more often than not hit the mark, allowing the ticket holder to grab one of the prizes on the auction table including horse gear, mugs, jams, decorative items, and clothing. We also had BRDC merchandise for sale and sold a few t-shirts before we wrapped up the evening. Thanks to all who ventured out after the snow squalls ended. On a cold, windy night it was satisfying to enjoy the warmth of good company, good food, and the camaraderie of fellow horse folks!



Felton Field Work Day

BRDC is holding our annual Felton Field Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 27th. Rain date is April 28th. We will be cleaning up the grounds and secretary's booth, cleaning the Felton Field bathrooms, and preparing the two horse show rings by dragging and rock-picking. Many hands make light work. Please bring gloves.

Join us for an hour or two if you can! Contact: Barreridingclub@gmail.com for last minute details and starting time.



Liberty Horsemanship Clinic

Saturday, May 24th

Taught by

Chrissy Wzorek

Of



Sponsored by

**The Barre Riding
And Driving Club**

Held at

Hardscrabble Farm

19 Hardscrabble Rd

Sterling, MA

Classes begin at 10:00AM

CJW Horsemanship on Facebook

Call, Text, or Email Stacy to sign up!

413.668.4405

StacyHayes006@gmail.com

Clinic fee, deposit, and cancellation policy will be handed out by Stacy at signup

Auditing fees apply, contact Stacy for more information!

This clinic is for people and horses at any stage in their training looking to bring their confidence and communication to the next level! We will focus on fundamental skills to help build your horse's confidence and your own, how to work through problem solving, sequencing cues, and key concepts to starting liberty training with your horse. We will cover several topics throughout the day working towards finding a strong connection with you and your horse.

In this clinic we will cover the fundamentals to creating a language where your horse seeks to be with you, tuning into your cues and body language! This includes in depth foundation skills, relaxation, softness, body control, clarity of cues positive reinforcement training, and more!

Liberty Horsemanship Clinic—Contact Stacy for Cost—This clinic consists of an in depth round-table discussion on theory, a morning session, Lunch break, and an afternoon session.

Barre Horse Show Series 2025

We have a 4-show series this year!

To be considered a pre-entry the entry form and payment must be received before the Friday preceding the show.

June 22nd BRDC show:

Payments to: Barre Riding and Driving Club, PO Box 25, Barre, MA 01005; Checks made payable to Barre Riding and Driving Club or BRDC Venmo @BarreRidingDrivingClub

July 13th CNEER Show:

Entries to: Betsy Johnson, 1510 South Street Barre, MA 01005; Checks made payable to Central New England Equine Rescue or CNEER

August 3rd CNEER Show:

Entries to: Betsy Johnson, 1510 South Street Barre, MA 01005; Checks made payable to Central New England Equine Rescue or CNEER

September 13th BRDC Show:

Payments to: Barre Riding and Driving Club, PO Box 25, Barre, MA 01005; Checks made payable to Barre Riding and Driving Club or BRDC Venmo @BarreRidingDrivingClub

Year End Awards Banquet - Friday, December 5th - Quabbin Regional High School 6pm Start

More information at: <https://sites.google.com/view/barreshowseries/?usp=sharing>



June 22nd Show Seeking Volunteers!

We need volunteer trainees! Multiple volunteers needed as ring masters and gate keeps to open/close gates between classes and to help organize riders entering/leaving the rings. Concession Stand Volunteers needed to take food orders and process payments, and for preparing and serving food at the food booth. Volunteers are needed for the secretary's booth to collect fees from riders and to help organize show entry rosters. Ring volunteers needed to bring judge's score cards from the judges to the announcer and to hand out individual ribbons in the ring. Ring crew needed to set up jumps when they fall down or move them in height for different classes. Younger horse lovers needed to help run the ribbons from the ribbon table out to the rings. Training and guidance provided on show day! If you are available at any time during the day on Sunday, June 23rd please contact us at BarreRidingClub@gmail.com

Vouchers for Volunteers!

WE WILL BE AWARDING VOUCHERS WORTH \$25 TO EACH VOLUNTEER WHO WORKS FOUR (4) HOURS OR MORE AT OUR HORSE SHOWS. THE VOUCHER CAN BE SPENT ON HORSE SHOW CLASSES OR THE FALL OR SPRING TRAIL RIDES. EACH VOLUNTEER GETS FREE LUNCH AND BEVERAGES THROUGHOUT THE DAY OF THE SHOW FROM OUR FOOD BOOTH. VOLUNTEERS ARE IN NEED FOR MORNING OR AFTERNOON SPOTS.

Visit: <https://barreridingdrivingclub.com/volunteer-recording-form> to record your volunteer hours.

2025 Calendar

March 1 (Sat) Cabin Fever Event (snow date March 8)

May 10th (Sat) Spring Trail Ride at Felton Field – One day ride (camping for the weekend available)

May 24 (Sat) Liberty Clinic

May 26 (Mon) Memorial Day Parade Barre

June 22nd (Sun) Horse Show Series (1) – BRDC

July 4 (Fri) Parade Petersham

July 13th (Sun) Horse Show Series (2) - CNEER

August 3rd (Sun) Horse Show Series (3) - CNEER

September 14th (Sun) Horse Show Series (4) - BRDC

October 11th & 12th Fall Trail Ride Weekend at Felton Field (optional overnight Fri & Sat) Sat & Sun

December 5th (Fri) Barre Horse Show Series Banquet

December 6th (Sat) Barre Christmas Parade

While you've got your calendar out, make a note that now is a good time to renew your Barre Riding and Driving Club membership for 2025! Please see the 2025 Membership form at the end of this newsletter or visit us online at <https://barreridingdrivingclub.com/membership>

1st String Quality Merchandise with BRDC Logo

BRDC Merchandise will be for sale at all our events this year! We have a limited inventory of colors and sizes, including t-shirts (long- and short-sleeved), vests, jackets, and sweatshirts.



Men's Quarter Zip Sweatshirt



Hooded Sweatshirt



Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt



Save the dates for upcoming parades:

Monday May 26th, Barre Memorial Day Parade

Friday, July 4th Parade Petersham

Saturday, December 6th Barre Christmas Parade

Join the BRDC Board of Directors and Help Promote Horsemanship and Scholarship in Your Community!

Interested in joining our Board of Directors? Contact BRDC President, Lynne Goodnow lgoodnow@yahoo.com

We Now Take Ads in Hoof Prints

We will now accept ads in Hoof Prints for horse-related items including tack, feed, and supplies. We will also take ads for animals for sale. Please email BarreRidingClub@gmail.com to place, edit, or remove an ad. Ads are free for members and \$25 for non-members.

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 four \$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 four \$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/>

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

Grand Champion and Triple Crown Sponsors



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www.rnglidden.com



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J.C. POOLS 

50th Anniversary

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

whitevalleymotors.com



<https://www.wholesomefarmersmarket.com>

Barn Board

Looking for help getting horses ready to Show. If you can and would like showing them yourself. In-hand, Pleasure, and Trail. E-mail me if interested. Larry Underwood eregtrailride@yahoo.com

First and Second cutting Hay; picked-up or delivered. 508-867-7855 Larry or e-mail eregtrailride@yahoo.com

I have a horse who can't be ridden due to kissing spine. He's well behaved and otherwise healthy. I hate to see him without a job, especially since he loves being with people, and wonder if he'd be a candidate to learn to drive. Call 978-423-3232 or email Joy Livergood livergoodjoy@icloud.com

For Sale: A cob harness made by Yonies. It is a black biothane harness. It was only used for ground driving and never hitched to a cart. In excellent condition. Jane Lynds. janel.hfcx@gmail.com

BARRE RIDING AND DRIVING CLUB
2025 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 _____

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/membership

BRDC Membership Includes:

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

