

# *Michigan* **Trail Riders** ASSOCIATION, INC.

**5806 E. State Rd., Hale, MI 48739**

**989-473-3205**

[www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org)

**Garry Randall, Pres.**  
989-539-6838

**Chris Rayner, Sec/Treas**  
raynechris@gmail.com

## *August 2010 – NEWSLETTER*

### **2010 Ride Schedule & Other Important Dates**

**May 15 – May 23...Blossom Ride....Luzerne to Mullett Lake....39 to 54 people enjoyed the weather**  
**June 3 – 13.....1<sup>st</sup> June Ride (trophy).....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....88 trophies earned**  
**June 18 – July 3.... 2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride (trophy)...Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....57 trophies earned**  
 Aug 20-22.....Work Bee.....Elk Hill (set picket poles, clean up camp)  
**Sept 9 – 19.....September Ride (trophy) .....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....Pre-register by Aug 10**  
**Oct 2 – 10...Color Ride (Flip Flop Ride)....Cadillac to Scheck's to Cadillac.....Pre-register by Sept 2**  
 October 3....Board of Director Meeting at Sharon Brazee's (9042 E. 30 Rd., Cadillac).....3:30 pm  
 Jan. 8, 2011..... Board of Director Meeting at Valley Plaza Resort in Midland.....1:00 pm  
 Mar. 5, 2011.....46<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet – Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI.....times TBA

### **Changes, changes and more changes!**

As the “rumor mill” runs wildly through any organization, we try our best to keep the information highway as clear as we can. In keeping with this endeavor, the following facts can be shared with the total membership. Due to family and work obligations Jeff Sawyer has resigned his position as a Board of Director effective June 30, 2010. Jack Heaton has also resigned his position effective July 9, 2010. The remaining Board Members will meet and come to a decision about replacement of those two Board seats. As soon as that decision has been made, there will be an announcement on the website ([www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org): Forum Page) as well as a blurb in the next Newsletter.

Much to our chagrin, our Historian, Sue Stickle, has also resigned her position. This position has never been a part of the by-laws but is an integral member of our family. Hopefully someone will come forward with the expertise and skills to fill this job. If you have any questions regarding the historian position, please call Chris at the MTRA office – 989-473-3205.



Fond memories  
from 2009! ►

◀ Are those  
Texans?



## *Work Bees Busy as Always* ☺ ☺ ☺

Thus far this year we've had three Work Bees with more to follow. The first session was held at Luzerne with 45 people working almost 300 hours in the snow and rain clearing the pull-throughs, chipping brush and generally cleaning the whole camp. The tacos for lunch on Saturday were awesome as was all of the food. We even got introduced to the "Grub Wagon" crew of Lynn and Dave Grice who provided spectacular baked beans – one of Dave's specialties!!! Thanks to all of the members who braved the weather to work hard all weekend.

The second Work Bee was held at Mud Lake (Lake Dubonnet) where the DNRE had to remove many of the oak trees infested with oak wilt. Al Davis and Dale Peterson worked extremely hard with over 30 volunteers totaling 206 hours of labor, not counting the numerous trips to camp to determine what needed to be done. After clearing the camp, many picket poles were hastily installed to make ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> June Ride. New signs were posted and all looked wonderful after all the work. Thanks so much for Diana's great lunch and the hard workers who did a wonderful job.

The Work Bee at South Branch Trail Camp over Memorial Day Weekend was well attended by more than just MTRA members, some of whom have since joined our happy crew. Bill Zettel and his family spent much time cleaning up the camp and working on the trail to be ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> June Ride. The food was great, lots of work was accomplished and we greatly appreciate the efforts.

Now we are ready to focus on the work to be done at Elk Hill in August. Please be ready to work hard to replace all of the picket poles in the group camp. We need lots of help cleaning up the whole camp, tamping gravel in pole holes, setting-up signs for the manure bunkers as well as helping the cooks provide a healthy and hearty meal on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. And that's just a short list of the things that need to be accomplished. Camping is free so come on up to Elk Hill and enjoy the fun of working with friends and feeling a great sense of accomplishment. See you there!!

### ***Board Briefs:***

1. The Smith Bridge issue is still being addressed. This year's June Rides went very well with DNRE personnel helping to bucket-water our horses. We'll keep you up-to-date as best we can.
2. We are still considering leasing four trail camps from the MDNRE. The wheels of government grind slowly but there have been surveys done on some of the camps. If you have any suggestions for improvements or repairs on the following trail camps, please contact **Al Davis**: Walsh Rd. Trail Camp, Johnson's Crossing Trail Camp, 4-Mile Trail Camp and Stoney Creek Trail Camp.
3. **Joe Burrill, Al Davis, Dale Peterson and Ginger Vanderkelen** presented the Ride Calendars for 2011. After much discussion the Board voted to switch the Blossom and Color Rides in reference to the sections of trail that they cover. Thus, next year (2011) the Blossom Ride will be held on the South Spur and the Color Ride will cover the North Spur of the trail system. Also, there will be a Double Cross in September!!! Stay tuned for dates to be defined.

#### **Just a thought!! – From Sandiland Langschied**

After watching many horses scratch their heads with their hind feet, Sandiland observed how many of the horses seemed to be more "itchy" around their ears and on their faces after a hot and sweaty day. Then, on the picket line, they start scratching and get their legs caught in the tie-rope. Since we all feel "icky" after a long, hot, sweaty ride, we're able to shower but our horses sometimes don't get the opportunity to wash "behind their ears". So it might be worth our while to be sure to wash or at least brush our horses' heads, especially around the halter/bridle areas after a long ride. We all hate to see a horse caught in the tie-rope! Perhaps **this** ounce of prevention may indeed be **the** pound of cure!!! Thanks, Sandiland, for sharing your thoughts!

## *Secretarial Notes*

1. Just a few “housekeeping” items about the Trail Rides: rig jumpers need to be members and have to sign the hold-harmless form as well as pay each day’s fee. All visitors have to sign the hold-harmless agreement when in camp – even if they do not spend the night!! If they spend the night, they need to be members and pay the fee. Always check-in with the Trail Boss as soon as you get your horse settled in camp. Let’s help the Trail Boss keep her sanity!!!
2. Please be advised that if you do not follow the trail, you will not see any markers and/or get help as other members pass by. We love this trail – let’s keep it well-used!!
3. If you have any comments or suggestions for any of the Board of Directors, please refer to the Trail Assignments document for each of their phone numbers. Or give me a call/email and I’ll share.
4. There’s another equine test that out-of-state riders must request if they are from one of the states that has an occurrence of piroplasmiasis which is a tick-borne disease. This can be a serious disease for your seemingly healthy horses and can remain dormant for extended periods of time. Please check with your vet when you get “travel papers” to see if this test is required from your state.
5. Don’t forget to REQUEST refunds. As you’ll see printed on the bottom of the Ride Registration form, you need to request refunds within 30 days of the end of the ride.
6. Refunds can be applied to other rides, next year’s membership, purchase of the Rhoda Ritter book, etc. but I don’t read minds. You need to let me know ASAP!!!

Happy Trails – chris



Only horse people engage in a hobby that is more work than their day job.



*Overlooking Stoney Creek Flooding –  
breathtaking!!*

*Blossom Ride 2010*

## Campfires & Music – Does it get any better than that?

With camping comes campfires. With campfires comes music. That's the logical progression and we all love the campfires in horse camp. For many years we've been blessed with different instruments played by different members of the MTRA. We all remember Vickie Smith with her lovely voice. Rex Battestilli blessed us with his guitar playing joining Danny Crampton and Bob Batie on the Blossom Ride with lots of entertaining songs. But, how can we forget Lowell and his "snot song"?

Since we haven't seen Lowell around a campfire in a long time, we requested this memorable song from the singers in May finding that it is a relatively unknown commodity in the present company. However, had we known the REAL title perhaps we would have had better luck. After discussion with Batie, I've been researching the song entitled "*If my nose was running money, I'd blow it all on you*" which I found on YouTube by Aaron Wilbur and several others. This song was originally written by Mike Hammond and Mike Carr, more commonly referred to as "The Moron Brothers" – go figure!

Bob Batie is willing to do the song for us but needs the chords for guitar. Since I haven't run across this information at this time I'm begging for help. I'm sure there is someone in our vast membership who is much more musically inclined than me and can help us out in this endeavor. If anyone can find any sheet music, lyrics, etc. for this song, please forward to me and I'll pass it along to our wonderful entertainers. Then I'll make "no-bakes" for the whole camp.

To be continued. . .

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## Trail Ride Reminders

1. Don't forget those electrolytes!!!!
2. A dry saddle blanket is sheer bliss to your horse.
3. Your horse comes first, tack second and you – LAST! Then you get to relax in your lounge chair!
4. No hoof, no horse....no horse, no ride!
5. If you are confused about something, ask your neighbor, Trail Boss or "seasoned" riders. We are all in this together and you'll get more help than you can ever use.
6. Please be considerate using good trail etiquette. Not all of our horses are "steady Eddie" and not all of us have Velcro on our butts/saddles.
7. On the marked trail you'll get to visit the "Grub Wagon" with Lynn and Dave. They'll be there with yummy stuff to eat and cold drinks at a reasonable price. We love those lunch breaks – horses and riders alike!!
8. Your MTRA membership number is your "rig" number!! Don't forget to post it on the front and back of your rig.
9. Don't forget to attend the "pre-ride" meetings held the night before a ride day. These meetings are critical to those who want to know what time the bus is leaving in the morning, if there are one or two busses, where the lunch wagon will be or if there isn't going to be one on the trail that day. Please be courteous to the Trail Boss and pay attention during the meetings. We have them for your benefit and safety. Remember – no horses or dogs at these meetings. We're supposed to pay attention!