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## *February 2017 – NEWSLETTER*

### **2017 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates**

March 25, 2017.....	Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting.....	Evergreen Resort, Cadillac – 6:00 PM
March 26, 2017.....	Board of Director’s Meeting.....	Evergreen Resort, Cadillac – 9:30 AM
May 6 – 7, 2017.....	Work Bee.....	4-Mile Trail Camp, Grayling
May 12-21, 2017.....	Proposed Blossom Ride.....	Cadillac to Goose Creek
June 1-11, 2017.....	Proposed 1 <sup>st</sup> June Ride (Trophy).....	Oscoda to Empire
June 16-July 2, 2017.....	Proposed 2 <sup>nd</sup> June Ride (trophy).....	Empire to Oscoda
August, 2017.....	Work Bee.....	Location TBA
August 5-15, 2017.....	Proposed August Family Ride.....	Luzerne to South Branch
September 7 – 28, 2017....	Proposed Double Cross (Trophy X 2).....	Oscoda to Empire, Empire to Oscoda
October 5 – 13, 2017.....	Proposed Color Ride.....	Mackinaw to Walsh Road

## ***Board Brief***

1. Workers are in great demand for this year's work bee at 4-Mile Road Camp the weekend of May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The dead and dying trees have been removed by the MDNR and now the camp is in need of a major clean up. REMEMBER – you can earn a free ride day for each day you work on this work bee.
2. Coming work projects – The bridge over the dam south of Stoney Creek needs to be repaired or replaced. The Board will be taking a serious look at this project as soon as the weather in that part of the State allows someone to get back to it. Once the Board knows what will be needed to fix or replace the bridge, a work project will be planned.
3. MDNR plans to fix the roads in the Goose Creek Camp. They have committed to 800 tons of gravel and ground covering material. As of yet, the Board is unsure of how much and what kind of help MDNR will be looking for from MTRA on this project.
4. The Luzerne boardwalk is scheduled to be finished by our first June ride. Al Davis has been in contact with the USFS and they have assured him that all the cleanup work is the responsibility of the contractor on the project so all MTRA has to do is enjoy the new boardwalk. Thank you USFS for your commitment to this project.
5. Luzerne will be getting a new double outhouse in the group camp. This outhouse will be provided by the USFS. The Luzerne camp needs a major clean up and more picket poles. The board is working on plans for a work bee at this camp.
6. At the January 7, 2017 Board meeting, Mindy Ellis was hired as the MTRA treasurer. Welcome aboard, Mindy! Thank you Chris Rayner for your years of service.
7. The Board voted at the January meeting to not require a negative coggins test.
8. The MTRA Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who supported the Youth Rider Fund in 2016 with their generous donations. A big MTRA thank you goes out to Joe Burrill, Kim and Steve Ross and Al and Diana Davis for all their hard work to support MTRA youth riders.
9. In an effort to encourage people to bring children on the August Family Ride, the Board voted in January to enact a special program for the August 2017 Family Ride. Any adult who brings a child to the ride will not only receive free daily fees for the child, but the adult's daily fee will be cut in half (\$5.00 off for pre-registered riders and \$6.25 off for drop in riders). Remember Grandparents, Youth riders are not covered under your membership. The parent of the youth rider must carry a current MTRA membership.
10. The next Board of Director meeting is going to be held at the Evergreen Resort on March 26, 2017 at 9:30 AM. Please feel free to attend and see your Board of Directors in action!

## **Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting 2017 – March 25<sup>th</sup> - Evergreen Resort, Cadillac**

Don't forget to make arrangements for your room at the Evergreen Resort and purchase your tickets for the Annual Banquet. We will be held to a maximum number of 150 for the banquet so if you do not have reservations for the dinner you may not get a ticket. The ticket order form is posted on the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website as well as attached to the 2017 Membership Renewal form. You do not have to attend the banquet to attend the General Membership Meeting directly following the banquet. Please vote at the meeting or return your absentee ballots for your choices of board members. You will receive a list of candidates as well as a ballot with your membership card for 2017. If you have any questions, please call the MTRA Office at 989-723-1425. FYI, those who pay for dinner or dance tickets, you will pick up your tickets at the resort on March 25, 2017. A banquet information sheet will be mailed to you next month with all the facts you will need to have a great weekend. See you there!!!

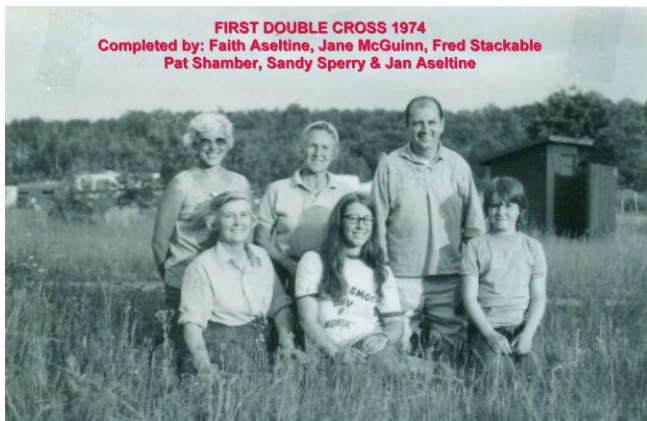
## HISTORY HAPPENINGS

By Sally Seaver, MTRA Historian

Looking back at the great year MTRA has had, I would like to acknowledge a member who you'll see in MTRA's Memoriam for December 2016 - Faith Aseltine. Faith & her husband Jim joined MTRA in 1970 (MTRA #71). They had an interesting way as a couple. Jim's love in life was cars - old cars & trucks. Faith's love in life was animals, especially horses. I call it interesting because of the way they strongly supported each other. Faith didn't like cars but was always at shows & with Jim for his work & interests in them. Jim states, **"I'm not a horse person"** but was always there to help Faith be on a trail ride AND to the extent of being so involved, he was an MTRA Board Member & President!

Faith loved to ride the May & October rides. She was able to ride well into her later years. She was full of stories of the past including when she wedged her camper into trees and when done, there were no mirrors left on the vehicle, all side lights gone, one tail light left and ONE bolt left holding the camper on the truck!

Faith will be missed and I am grateful for her contribution as she donated 2 of her buckles to the MTRA display in the Empire Museum. She donated the **"female-size" MTRA Buckle** and the **FIRST DOUBLE CROSS BUCKLE** that she earned.



### TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

1. I asked 3yrs ago in the Trivia question the First Double Cross year & riders, so to keep on the subject I will ask, which MTRA member came up with the idea for the First Double Cross during a board meeting?
2. What direction did they ride & what camp did they ride from to then back to?

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Hello Trail riders! It won't be long now and all of us will be getting the riding itch. This year will present the opportunity for many of you to get involved with several work bees. We will do our best to keep you informed as to where and when these work bees will occur. We are also working hard with the MDNR to develop a new camp north of Mullet Lake. This will make the ride from Lake Michigan to Cheboygan a lot more pleasant. The Board Walk in Luzerne is under way, and should be usable in June.

The Board of Directors at our last meeting approved a discount for adults who bring a youth rider on the Family Ride in August. The discount being an adult bringing a youth will only pay half of the daily rate for each day they attend. This will hopefully improve our family participants. This discount is only for the Family Ride 2017.

Lastly, don't forget to make your reservation for the Annual Meeting in March at the Evergreen Terrace in Cadillac. We have two seats on the board needing to be filled. Your vote is very much needed! Help us kick off the 2017 MTRA season.

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Fred Stackable was on the MTRA Board & made the motion which was carried.
2. They rode west to east - from Empire to Tawas to Empire.

## FAQ's...

1. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates in 2017 so that you can be "legal" on our rides. This issue is even more important since we have been given permission to use the DNR boat launch next to the Lake Huron access point and they will be checking those passports. Out-of-state members can purchase the Recreation Passport at the following web address or at any state campground – even at the boat launch:  
<http://media.state.mi.us/michiganestore/public/categorydisplay.aspx?categoryId=5>
2. Please update your membership information with your **preferred** phone number – no matter if cell or land line. Also, please make sure that the email address that you send us is updated as well.
3. Just a reminder – the MTRA does **NOT** share, sell or in any way distribute email addresses or phone numbers with anyone!! If someone contacts the MTRA office for information about a member, we contact that particular member and have them make contact with the inquirer. Our goal is to protect the privacy of our members!!
4. The MTRA Office now uses the email address: [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com). You should use that address for all official communications and that address will be used to distribute the Newsletters, send Ride Confirmations, etc.

## **MTRA is going to equine affaire in Columbus Ohio April 6 – 9, 2017**

Kim Ross will be a guest speaker at Equine Affaire this year. She will be presenting her “Camping With Your Horse” clinic at two different times during the weekend. Days and times will be announced later. Keep an eye on the MTRA face book page for details. The MTRA booth is also going to Equine Affaire. It will be set up from Thursday through Sunday. If you will be attending Equine Affaire and would like to help man the booth, please contact Kim at (248) 721-3189 or Jan at the MTRA office, (989) 723-1425 or [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com). We hope to see lots of MTRA members at this event along with making lots and lots of new friends for MTRA.

**Thank you to all the MTRA members** who gave their time, equipment and labor to keep the Michigan Riding and Hiking Trail and its campgrounds clear and useable. In 2016, 503 volunteer man-hours were reported to the United States Forest Service. Along with these hours of labor, MTRA donated the use of our members’ equipment; tractors, york rakes, post hole diggers, pole driver, stump grinder, chain saws, loppers, nippers, shovel, rakes, 4-wheelers, trucks and trailers. Volunteer hours to the MDNR for 2016 are still being compiled. **BOARD MEMBERS, who have trail sections on state land**, please report the hours for your section of trail to the MTRA office as soon as possible. We need to close the books for 2016 and start looking forward to 2017.

**Pat Galloup and Carol Hyzer** have decided not to run for another 3 year term on the MTRA Board of Directors. MTRA wishes to thank them for their years of service. Both of them are continuing to be members of MTRA. When you see them at a work bee, in trail camp or out on the trail, remember to say “Thank You” to them. They have contributed so much to this Association.

**Free Ride Days** earned from Work Bee credits can be used on any MTRA Ride. When you fill out your Ride Registration, either in paper or online, just pay for the days that you will need to pay for deducting your “free ride days” from the total number of days on the ride. For instance, if you will attend the Color Ride which is 9 days total and you have earned 4 free ride days from Work Bees in May and August, just pay for 5 days of the Color Ride and be sure to let us know that you are using your “work bee free ride days” to cover the cost of the rest. Be sure to sign-in at the Work Bees so that you get the credit for the days that you worked. The MTRA Office maintains a database of who attends the Work Bees and when those days are credited to rides. If you have questions as to whether you have any days still available for use on a ride of your choice, just contact the MTRA office at (989) 723-1425 or [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com).

Photos on first page courtesy of Kim and Steve Ross. Luzerne Boardwalk and Logging at McKinley Trail Camp. Photos taken January 2017.

### ***MTRA Employment Opportunities...***

If you would like to share your skills with the Association we all know and love, please submit a resume and/or letter of interest to: MTRA Employment Director, 13877 Homestead Road, Beulah, Michigan 49617, (231) 882-4212.

The MTRA offers employment in the following areas:

**Trail Boss** - responsibilities include management of the trail rides including safety of persons and horses on those rides.

**Bus Driver** - responsibilities include all aspects of bus management and transport of riders between trail camps.

**Secretary** - responsibilities include management of the office of the MTRA including all communications, ride management duties and maintenance of files.

**Treasurer** - responsibilities include assistance to the Secretary, financial duties and reports.

All of these positions are part-time/seasonal jobs.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

This institution is operated under special use permit with the Huron-Manistee National Forest and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.