

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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April 2010 – NEWSLETTER

2010 Ride Schedule & Other Important Dates

May 7, 8-9.....Work Bee.....Luzerne (clean up camp, need lots of helpers!)
May 15 – May 23Blossom Ride.....Luzerne to Mullett Lake.....Pre-register by Apr 15
May 27-31.....Work Bee at South Branch Trail Camp (clean up camp & trails).....noon on 27th
June 3 – 13.....1st June Ride (trophy).....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....Pre-register by May 5
June 18 – July 3.... 2nd June Ride (trophy)..Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....Pre-register by May 15
June 26.....Board of Director Meeting at 4-Mile Truck Stop in Grayling.....3:30 pm
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

Horse Expos Well Attended ☺ ☺ ☺



The Northern Michigan 3rd Annual Horse Expo and Tack Sale in Cadillac, which was held in late February, was very well attended. The MTRA booth was heavily visited with lots of hits on the candy dish. The booth was graciously manned by **Joe Burrill, Chuck Fanslow, Joan Gibbs, Pat & Kate Galloup** and **Kathy Kruch**. Many thanks go to these folks for donating their time and efforts. Several memberships have already been received through this activity.

The Michigan Horse Council 2010 Horse Expo at MSU in East Lansing was attended by record crowds this past March. In their 27th year, MHC has generously added to the horse industry with exposure and educational activities at this annual event. Many thanks go to **Dave & Therese Kline** for organizing our MTRA booth and the following volunteers for their unselfish donation of time and efforts in our behalf: **Carrie Barr, Judy Beissel, Marydale Casey, Chanda Donnan, Belinda Esterline, Charles Hardaker, Gail Hilbrand, Justin Lenhart, Randy Mayhew, Polly Moore, Connie Nelson, Pam Paris, Lucy Smith, Nancy & Terry Swearingin, and Nancy Trupiano**. Also thanks to **Carol Clute** and **Gail Currell** for relieving volunteers for necessary breaks. The Trails exhibit area is always a popular place!

2010 Annual Banquet & Elections

Congratulations to the following Board Members who were elected at the 2010 Annual Meeting: **Al Davis, Chuck Fanslow, Kelly Graham, Jack Heaton and Garry Randall**. A special thank you goes to the members of our group who graciously ran for the Board but were not elected this time. Their dedication to this organization and their countless hours of volunteer time do not go unnoticed. This year there were 1145 votes cast with 129 Absentee Ballots which shows a great interest in our leadership. Thanks to all who took the time to express their wishes and exercise their rights.

The Banquet at the Doherty was a great success. We served 230 banquet meals which were greatly enjoyed by all in attendance. DJ **Wally Pike** was well attended with lots of folks "breakin' it down" on the dance floor both Friday and Saturday nights. Many thanks to all of the folks who made this such a wonderful weekend. **Betty Randall & Deanna Lucas** from B & D Classic Sewn and **Terry & Nancy Swearingin** from Muddy Creek Rain Gear were busy all day Saturday. Thanks so much for "working" on our celebration day.

Our historian, **Sue Stickle**, had some new photograph albums from the historic 45th annual rides and would like

to request pictures from the 2009 Blossom Ride, 1st June Ride and Color Ride. These pictures may be sent to the MTRA office. Please include names and dates on those photos. Thanks, Sue, for all you do!

A big **Thank You** goes to the Silent Auction participants. The coat-rack made by **Joe Burrill** sold for \$100 and was purchased by **Berna Mathews**. The beautiful drawing was created by **Kathy Kruch** and sold for \$50. It was purchased by **Garry Randall**. Thanks so much for the generous donations of time and effort and in so doing, supporting the Youth Riders' Fund!!!

Special thanks goes out to all of the members who counted votes: **Patricia Brown, Tracy Evans, Raymond Fisher, Wendy Kemmer, Gene Langschied, Lettie Lundman, Wayne Mears, Barb Orefice, Terry Swearingin and Helen Walters** who were supervised by Board Members: **Joe Burrill, Dale Peterson, Jeff Sawyer and Ginger Vanderkelen**.

And I can't express how much I appreciate the assistance of **Patty Brown, Diana Davis and Ginger Vanderkelen** for their help at the Ballot/Ticket table. Their assistance was invaluable!!!

Secretarial Notes

1. Enclosed with this newsletter mailing is a label which includes some amendments which need to be added to the last page of the Guide Book. This information was inadvertently missed in the last printing. Please insert this label at your earliest convenience. If you need more just give me a call.
2. You can now register for Trail Rides using PayPal and/or credit cards through the mtra.org website. Many members have already chosen this option. There is a link from the Forum Page for this service.
3. Usage of PayPal has been responsible for \$2,400 in revenue for the '09-'10 Fiscal year. Thanks to all who use it!!
4. The Youth Riders' Fund has increased \$3,600 over last year's balance. Let's get those kids on rides!!!
5. Included with this mailing is the list of Emergency Phone Numbers and the Trail Assignments with Board of Director phone numbers. Please keep these handy.
6. Please don't hesitate to make suggestions for the newsletter and/or anything else that comes from this office. I'm always looking for improvements.

Happy Trails – chris

2011 Annual Banquet

Plan ahead and get your room reservations now for next year's Annual Banquet to be held at the Doherty Hotel in Clare on March 5, 2011. We all had such a great time, enjoying super food and wonderful friends this year at the Doherty. Since it will be a bit earlier next year, be sure to put it on your calendars early so that you don't miss all the fun.

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. A compromise at the Smith Bridge watering hole has been reached for this year. We will be allowed to tie our horses to a specified location and water them with buckets. This issue is still being discussed for future rides.
2. A resolution in support of the spirit and intent of the "Right to Ride" legislation here in Michigan was passed at the March 21, 2010 meeting. If you would like a copy it has been posted on the website or you can get a copy from Rayner at the MTRA office.
3. The Mud Lake Work Bee has been put on hold until the logging is completed.
4. **Burrill, Davis, Peterson and Vanderkelen** are the Trail Ride Committee for 2011. Please contact them for input on the rides for next year. We need to finalize the dates of these rides by the June 2010 Board Meeting so that we can submit them for approval by the DNRE and USFS.
5. The Board of Director Officers for the 2010-11 year are as follows: **President – Garry Randall, 1st Vice President – Chuck Fanslow, 2nd Vice President – Al Davis, Recording Secretary – Kathy Moss.**

"Until one has loved an animal, part of their soul remains unawakened."

How to get to know your fellow MTRA members!

There's an activity early in the year when you can really get to know many of the Board of Directors as well as fellow trail riders. It's called a Work Bee (WB) and we try to accomplish a great deal of work in a short amount of time. How much gets accomplished depends on how many volunteers arrive on those given days. This year we will be clearing the drive-thrus and camp sites at Luzerne Trail Camp. We'll have a wood chipper to grind lots of "tree branches" which can then be spread and used appropriately in the camp. We'll need lots of people to haul wood, fill in holes, flatten areas which have been torn up over the winter and generally clean the camp to make it ready for us on the rides. Since this camp is open all the time for anyone wanting to rustic camp (with or without horses), we welcome all volunteers who would like to help.

All of the WB weekends enjoy lunch provided by the MTRA on Saturday. The Luzerne Lunch will be served on May 8th to be enjoyed by all helpers. Fat Jack and his crew will have all kinds of goodies including pop, water, condiments, chips, hotdogs, tacos, salads and don't forget desserts. Bill Zettel will probably share some of his horse-radish!!! We'll be inviting other groups to join us on these fun weekends so you might meet some new friends and riding buddies. Come early – Friday afternoon/evening and stay late – Saturday night for the leftovers from Saturday's lunch. And don't forget to visit Ma Deeters when you get a few minutes.

So – bring your shovels, rakes, loppers, wheelbarrows, elbow grease, friends and neighbors and have a great time in Luzerne the weekend of May 7, 8 and 9, 2010. See you there!!!

The trail ride season is rapidly approaching – **Don't forget those Coggins tests!!!!**

THIRSTY HORSES FIND RELIEF

The watering dilemma along the trail between Luzerne and 4-Mile Camp has been resolved. If the days in June and September are extremely hot, you may choose to water your horse at the Smith Bridge location where we have watered for years. However, you may only use a bucket in the water so your horse will need to be picketed or tied away from the river or a friend may hold both horses while you fetch the water to them.

Another solution has presented itself in the form of a generous homeowner who has offered to put a watering trough behind his place (where the trail goes right by) so those thirsty horses will have another opportunity for some respite. Our own Carol Hyzer stopped by to introduce herself and present our dilemma and he generously offered to assist in resolution to the problem. He mentioned that he loves seeing the horses during our rides so now we have a chance to stop and say “Hey” and offer our horses some water when we are in the area. This location is roughly 4-5 miles from 4-Mile Camp.

Thanks to Carol for her initiative in our quest for watering spots. If we all work together, we can do anything!!

TRAIL RIDE REMINDERS

1. Theresa Gunders will be back as Trail Boss! Whoohoo!!
2. Barb Crampton will be back as Bus Driver! Whoohoo!! (again)
3. Don't forget to check in with the Trail Boss as soon as you arrive in camp. She will have the generator ready for anyone who wants to fill water tanks in their rigs.
4. Be sure to ask questions before, during and after the nightly pre-ride meetings. Everyone has been a “newbie” and we all want to help make this an enjoyable and stress-free adventure. If you don't ask, we can't help.
5. Don't be afraid to come to a ride alone. There are lots of us who travel alone and love to find new riding buddies. Some of us even ride the trails alone preferring solitude and quiet with our horses.
6. If you have to leave before your scheduled departure, be sure to turn in your “rig tag” so that we know that we won't have to search the trails for you and your horse.
7. If you need **anything** – ask Barbie the bus driver! If she doesn't have it she will know who does. Last year we found nail polish (in trail camp) to fix someone's glasses!!!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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