

Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

5806 E. State Rd., Hale, MI 48739

989-473-3205

www.mtra.org

Garry Randall, Pres.
989-539-6838

Chris Rayner, Sec/Treas
raynechris@gmail.com

April 2011 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedule & Other Important Dates for 2011

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|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| May 5-6 th | Work Bee..... | Goose Creek (place picket poles)..... | 9:00 AM |
| May 7-8 th | Work Bee..... | Goose Creek (clean- up camp)..... | 9:00 AM |
| May 14-22 nd | Blossom Ride | Garey Lake to Cadillac..... | Pre-register by April 14 |
| May 27-29 th | Work Bee..... | South Branch Trail Camp (clean-up)..... | TBA in camp |
| June 2-12 th | Trophy Ride - 1st June Ride | Lake Huron to Lake Michigan..... | Pre-register by May 2 |
| June 17-July 2 nd | Trophy Ride - 2nd June Ride | Lake Michigan to Lake Huron..... | Pre-register by May 17 |
| June 25 th | Board of Directors Meeting @ 4-Mile Truck Stop, Grayling..... | | 3:30 PM |
| July 9-10 th | Work Bee..... | Mayhem Swamp (trail surface, boardwalk, etc.)..... | 9:00 AM |
| Aug. 20-21 st | Work Bee..... | 4-Mile Trail Camp (picket poles, clear brush, connector trails)..... | 9:00 AM |
| Sept. 8-29 th | Trophy Ride...September Ride - Double Cross | Lake Huron & back..... | Pre-reg. by Aug 8 |
| October 1 st -9 th | Color Ride | Mullett Lake to Luzerne..... | Pre-register by Sept 1 |
| October 8th..... | Board of Director Meeting (Walsh Rd.)..... | | Location & Time TBA |

Work Bees – let’s all help out!!

With four Work Bees this coming riding season, we need all the help we can get. Since the February newsletter we’ve had a few date changes that you need to be aware of. First of all, the **Goose Creek Work Bee** to plant picket poles will be held on **May 5-6th** due to scheduling conflicts. The camp clean-up will follow during the weekend where we’ll need lots of volunteers to use hand tools, rakes, shovels, loppers, etc. Secondly, the Work Bee thru the **Mayhem Swamp** is now scheduled for **July 9-10th** (also due to scheduling conflicts). Much gravel will need to be moved as well as geotech fabric laid. Hand tools, loaders, tractors, four-wheelers, etc. will be needed. The **4-Mile Work Bee** date has remained the same (**Aug 20-21st**) with similar equipment needed to work on clean-up of the camp, picket poles, brush moved and connector trails made. Please call Garry Randall (number above) if you have equipment that would be useful or with any questions related to these Work Bees. Directions to the Mayhem Swamp Work Bee are as follows: north on US-131 to the CAT dealer, turn right on Seeley Rd. (East), 2-2.5 miles to the trail. Lunches will be provided on the Saturdays of the Work Bees. Don’t forget that you can “earn” ride days by volunteering for an equal number of days on Work Bees. And don’t forget the Work Bee **Memorial Day Weekend** at **South Branch!!!** Bring your hand tools, your horses and your friends to clean-up the camp and ride after work.



HELP WANTED: Creative members to organize and run the “Goose Creek Classics” on the 2nd June Ride 2011. Must love kids, horses, laughter, etc. Must attend 2nd June Ride. All prizes will be subsidized by the MTRA. Call 989-473-3205 if interested.

He knows when you're happy
He knows when you're comfortable
He knows when you're confident
And he *always* knows when you have carrots.
~Author Unknown



BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Congratulations to Al Dennis, Pat Galloup, Carol Hyzer and Terry Meier who were all re-elected to the Board. Congratulations and a big Welcome go out to Ron Anderson and Al Kendall as newly elected members of the Board. Also many thanks to those members who ran for the Board of Director seats this year.
2. All horses attending MTRA rides this year are required to have current Coggins tests. Although the law in Michigan requiring the test has expired, the Michigan Department of Agriculture recommends that all events where horses are in attendance retain the requirement until further notice. Out of state horses still need to have health certificate travel papers to enter Michigan as well as the **piroplasmiasis test** if there have been any reported cases in their home state/province.
3. The Ride Committee consisting of Joe Burrill, Al Davis, Pat Galloup, Carol Hyzer and Ginger Vanderkelen will be meeting to consider dates for the 2012 MTRA Rides. The Criss-Cross will be a definite possibility. Their findings will be presented at the June Board Meeting. For input please contact one of the members of the committee.
4. Your 2011-12 Board of Director Officers will remain the same as last year: **President – Garry Randall, 1st VP – Chuck Fanslow, 2nd VP – Al Davis, Recording Secretary – Kathy Moss.**

Bus Passes reinstated!!!!

Please notice that (once again) rig jumpers can choose to ride the early bus or the late bus on the MTRA Trail Rides. There's a box on the bottom of the Ride Registration Form where you can specify your choice. If you pre-register online, please make a note of your preference in the "instructions from buyer" section. Priority will be given to pre-registered members who intend to complete the entire ride and win trophies. Passes will be distributed when you check-in with the Trail Boss. Don't forget to attend the nightly pre-ride meetings to see if there will be one or two bus trips. On the smaller rides, one bus trip is sufficient saving both money and time. Barbie the bus driver will be back to grace us with her blue finger!!!! (and keep us on time!!)

INFORMATION PLEASE

Many members have requested that we include information relating to legislation which impacts our trails and horses here in Michigan, especially since many of you do not have internet access. Frankly, I'm not sure just what to convey to you all since there isn't enough time or space to cover that subject adequately. We all need to be aware of what is happening with our beloved pastime but we also need to accept some responsibility for acquiring that information. Many of you wrote to your legislators regarding the "Right to Ride" legislation which was crucial to its being made into law. Those letters and emails also allowed you to become members of lists for communications from those legislators either by email or US mail. A phone call or a letter can do wonders. My best recommendation is for the "internet" savvy members to check out the Michigan Horse Council website (www.michiganhorsecouncil.com) and go to the Legislative section for updates. They do a wonderful job of presenting the issues before us including links to search for further information. Many of you post informational links to websites on our Forum Page and we greatly appreciate your time and efforts. Some upcoming important dates are as follows:

April 2 – Michigan Horse Council Meeting for Elections & Trails Grant information

April 19 – Michigan Equine Partnership Conference call

April 27 – Michigan Equine Partnership/Legislative meeting (discussion of bridle tags & tariff on grain)

Secretarial Notes

1. Thanks to all the voters in the 2011 Board election. There were over 1500 votes cast for 6 Board seats and the choice of Band or DJ for the 2012 Annual Banquet. Welcome to all of the elected Board Members. The DJ won decidedly with a vote of 88-33.
2. The Rhoda Ritter books about the history of the Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail are almost gone. Send \$7.00 to the MTRA office to get your copy today! Any copies that we have left will be available for purchase on the rides. See the Trail Boss or me for your copy.
3. Your membership renewal is your responsibility! Please check your label (if you receive the newsletter via US mail) because the year your membership expires will follow your membership number – for example 2252 2011. All email or website printers should have received a renewal notice with the February newsletter. If you didn't receive any notice, please contact the office ASAP since all memberships 2010 and older will not receive newsletters after March 31st.
4. If you would like a refund for Banquet tickets, Ride days, etc. please REQUEST by phone or email. I do NOT automatically send refund checks!!
5. Don't forget your Emergency Contact name and phone number on your Ride Registration Form!!!
6. Included with this newsletter is the "Trail Assignments for 2011" which contains the phone numbers and email addresses of all of our Board of Directors and more. Please save this sheet for reference.
7. Also included (on the back of the Trail Assignments 2011) is the Emergency Phone Numbers sheet which contains all of the police agency phone numbers along the trail so that your loved ones can contact you if there is an emergency at home. Please be aware that you should use these numbers wisely and only if there is a true emergency.
8. We now have a database of all of the MTRA Trophy Winners which is near completion. If you have any questions about your inclusion in that list or would like to know names of people who crossed the state with you, just give us a call or email and we'll help you out.

Happy Trails – chris

Spring is sprung and the Expos are happening!



We've been swamped here in the office with new and renewal memberships thanks to the folks who man the MTRA booth at the Cadillac and East Lansing Horse Expos. The Northern Michigan 4th Annual Horse Expo & Tack Sale 2011 was held in Cadillac at the Wexford County Civic Arena on Saturday, February 26th. This year's attendance was even bigger than last year with more vendors and lots more horsey folks wandering the booths. "Special Thanks" goes out to **Joe Burrill, Chuck Fanslow, Kate Galloup and Gale & Theresa Gunders** for their time and efforts to support the MTRA at the booth. The Michigan Horse Council 2011 Horse Expo was held Friday thru Sunday, March 12-14, in East Lansing at the MSU Livestock Pavilion. This was the 28th year for the Horse Expo which is always well attended. Our booth organizers, Dave & Therese Kline, did an excellent job covering all of the time slots available and making sure there were enough supplies to keep the booth visitors well informed. Dave also worked his magic by updating many of the pictures on the table of the booth. "Special Thanks" goes out to **Brenda & Bob Ricksgers, Barbie Crampton, Joann Porter, Bob Martin, Joe Burrill, Al & Diana Davis, Gail Hilbrand, Randy Mayhew, Judy Beissel, Lucy Smith, Nancy Trupiano, Justin Lehnert (& friend), Marydale Casey and especially Dave & Therese Kline**. All of the volunteers are greatly appreciated by the entire association. We just hope you had a good time!!



Did you see that snake swim by?

Stoney Creek Flooding - Blossom Ride 2010

RIDE REMINDERS

1. **Theresa Gunders** - our 2011 Trail Boss. Welcome back!!!! Be sure to check in as soon as you get settled in camp so that you can sign the Hold Harmless Form and get your window tag. She'll have the generator hooked-up to the well for anyone who needs water.
2. **MTRA Numbers** – be sure to put them (3-4" size) on the front and back of your rig so that the Trail Boss can find you in an emergency.
3. **Electrolytes** – your horses get thirsty and can dehydrate fast on the trail. Be sure that you have some electrolytes with you in camp and/or on the trail for emergencies.
4. **Etiquette** – on the trail this is essential to a safe and enjoyable ride. Do NOT ride up behind or by another horse while you are moving fast. Please slow down so that all of us can be safe.
5. **Read your Guidebook** – all of the rules and regulations are in there for your benefit. Please read it thoroughly so that you know what's expected of you in camp and on the trail.
6. **Pack your lunch** – we do NOT have a lunch wagon scheduled for rides this year (yet)!
7. **Window tags** – if you need to leave the ride before your scheduled departure, please leave your window tag with the Trail Boss. If she's not at her rig, stick it in the back of her trailer or give it to a friend to deliver for you.
8. **Questions???** – don't forget to ask at the meetings, afterward and any time. All Board of Directors have a **white** window tag with their MTRA number on it and it's part of their responsibility to help you.

New Signs along the Trail?

Please take the time to thank Mark & Lisa Preger for all of their time and hard work in providing the "road" signs along the Shore-to-Shore Trail. They have been working with the Board of Directors to provide a little bit of reassurance that you have really gone that far and it isn't too much farther to the next camp. These signs are wooden with the road names routed and painted blue – the same blue as the tops of our posts and other markers. Hopefully others who use the trail will respect the signs and enjoy the fact that someone was willing to volunteer a lot of time and effort in keeping us informed.



Equine Trails Subcommittee

If you had the opportunity and pleasure of attending any of the Horse Expos and/or other horse-related gathering (like our Annual Banquet & Meeting) around the state of Michigan, you may have completed one of the Equine Trail Surveys that were readily available. These surveys will be compiled and used by the Equine Trails Subcommittee to formulate plans for the state of Michigan's equine trails and make recommendations to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. We are very pleased to announce that two of our MTRA members are also members of this committee: **Sandra Batie**, who is the **Chair**, and **Richard Kleinhardt**. Through their hard work and perseverance, all of the members of the committee have made an impact in the State of Michigan for all equestrians. Much appreciation is extended to them!!! If you would like to attend one of the meetings there will be one on Thursday, April 7th at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon and June 9th at the Super 8 on South Mission in Mount Pleasant. The meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and attendees may speak if they choose. If you would like to speak before this committee "all persons wishing to address the ETS must declare their intent by completing a Public Appearance Card prior to, or during the Public Appearance portion of the meeting. Persons addressing the ETS will be requested to identify their name, address and the organization they belong to, if any. In those instances in which a person is representing an organization, the presenter should indicate whether their comments represent the official views of the organization. Persons contacting the staff assistant on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons signing up after the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes at the discretion of the Chairperson. The Public Appearance segment of the meeting will last until closed by the Chairperson or by vote of the ETS." For questions please contact Andrea Turner, MDNR, 517-373-2891 or turnera7@michigan.gov.

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