Michigan Trail Riders Association, Inc.

Chuck Fanslow, Pres.
clf222@yahoo.com
989-435-9224

5806 E. State Rd., Hale, MI 48739
989-473-3205
www.mtra.org

Chris Rayner, Sec/Treas
raynechris@gmail.com

April 2012 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

May 4,5-6……Work Bee……..Walsh Road Trail Camp & North Spur Trail
May 12-20.....**Blossom Ride**……Luzerne to Mullett Lake
May 31-June 10….**1st June Ride (Trophy Ride)**……..……..Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
June 15 – 30……...**2nd June Ride (Trophy Ride)**…..……Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
June 23……MTRA Board of Director Meeting……..…4-Mile Truck Stop, Grayling……...3:30 PM
Aug. 18-19……..…Work Bee……..……..Mayhem Swamp……repair surface of trail
Sept. 7-30...**September Ride/Criss-Cross (Trophy)**..Mackinaw to Cadillac/Lake Michigan to Lake Huron
Oct. 6 – 14……..**Color Ride**…….....Cadillac to Lake Michigan
Oct. 13……..MTRA Board of Director Meeting……..……Garey Lake Trail Camp…..3:30 PM
Jan. 5, 2013…….MTRA Board of Director Meeting……..…..Location, Time & Date TBA
March 24, 2013……Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting……Ramada Inn, Grayling

WORK BEES IN NEED OF MANY HELPERS!!!

With all of the heavy snow and windy weather in early March, the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail has been overwhelmed with debris. Our spring Work Bee will be centered around Walsh Road Trail Camp and there will be lots of "crews" heading out from there May 4,5-6, 2012. With the upcoming Blossom Ride, the entire North Spur of the Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail will need to be addressed. You can arrive on Friday to begin work in the camp. Saturday morning we will be blessed with breakfast by the BCH Pigeon River & Beyond club with lunch at noon provided by the MTRA. Bring a dish to pass if you would like. Included with this newsletter is the listing of all Board of Directors with the trails and trail camps for which they are responsible. This list will also be posted on the www.mtra.org webpage and Facebook. Please contact any of these directors to volunteer your services and check to see what may be needed in the way of equipment. Call Chris at the MTRA office if you have questions.

Board of Directors Update

Congratulations to the following Board of Directors who were elected at the Annual Meeting March 24th. Re-elected to the Board are Joe Burrill and Kathy Moss with new members Jeff Balzer, Jimmy Corlew and Jan Wolfin (who has had experience on the Board previously). Special Thanks goes out to Ron Pouncey, Ginger Vanderkelen and Bill Zettel for their 77 combined years of service to the Board of Directors of the MTRA. They will be sorely missed and have been greatly appreciated. Also, Special Thanks goes out to Garry Randall who has stepped down as President but will remain on the Board. His dedication to this organization is commendable!! Congratulations to the new Board President, Chuck Fanslow, 1st VP Al Kendall, 2nd VP Al Davis and Secretary Kathy Moss. We're looking forward to continued success through cooperation and good will.

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. The Trail Boss will have a new MTRA cell phone with the number available to all members on the rides. Your copy of "Emergency Phone Numbers" for contacts when not in cell phone range is included with this newsletter. Safety is always our priority!
2. The Board would like a list of prospective employees which could be used in case of emergencies or vacancies. If you would be interested in working as the Secretary/Treasurer, Bus Driver, Trail Boss or Asst. Sec/Treas, please call or email the MTRA office for a complete job description and/or send a resume.
3. The Trail from Mullett Lake to Mackinaw City and Lake Michigan is again a reality thanks to the many hours of work by Jan & Ron Wolfin. Our Criss-Cross ride in September will be the first use of this "new" trail. Thanks guys, let's make this the biggest Criss-Cross ever!!
4. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.

History Happenings

It has bothered me that the MTRA doesn't have a particular place to show "things about us" (other than the internet) because we are mobile and don't have an office or building. I came up with a way to satisfy that desire. After investigating and making contacts, while I was up north, I met with Dave Tahoon. Dave owned the corner gas station in Empire, is in charge of the Empire Historical Museum and a great fan of MTRA. Together we arranged a spot for MTRA in the Historical Museum. Dave was happy to do so since the very first ride started in Empire and continues to come there. I have the boards to work with which will be 2-sided and in a glass case. He's also allowed me space to put tangible items, which I have ideas for.

Also in 1995 Empire put on their Centennial celebration. To assist in that celebration, MTRA's June riders, plus a few more, totaling 103 riders, paraded down Empire's streets on horseback. Dave gave me a copy of the video that was taken.

Having these experiences, and responding to the statement Phyllis Garn said about those who "worked so hard" in the beginning, I would like to express my gratitude to the many who have and those who continue to "work so hard" for the MTRA.

Sally Seaver, Historian

SECOND JUNE RIDE – FUN & GAMES

Please put a note on your calendars for the fun and games that will be included for all of the kids on the 2nd June Ride which runs from June 15-30, 2012. There will be an Auction of all kinds of donated goodies in support of the Youth Riders' Fund, games for the kids including Cheeto Warriors, quarters, etc. and an auction of the kids in camp to help out members in their daily grind of keeping horses clean, watering horses, washing trucks, and pitching poo just to name a few. Don't forget to bring your stick horses for the race (date TBA), goodies for the scavenger hunt and costumes for the parade. Plans are in the works for a great time in June!!!!! Don't forget – kids ride fees are waived again for 2012, thanks to the generosity of all of the members and the Youth Riders' Fund!!!

Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy!!!
Guillaume Apollinaire

The MTRA **1st June Ride** has been included as a **National Trail Ride** for the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association. Points will be awarded for this ride to get prizes such as a belt buckle, jacket or horse blanket cooler/sheet for folks riding fox trotters who sign up thru the MFTHBA.

SECRETARIAL NOTES:

1. **Check out the March issue of TrailBlazer Magazine where you can find Ginger Vanderkelen as the Trail Warrior for this month. With 21 years of serving this association on the Board of Directors and being a member of the MTRA since 1972, she is well deserving of this award.**
2. **When you renew your membership after March 31st (any year) you must register as a "new" member whether online or with the mail-in forms. After this date, any membership not paid for the current year will automatically "cease and terminate." Thus, if you choose to reapply for membership, you will owe $35.00 at that time. You may retain your former number but your membership will be "conditional" until Board approval at the next Board of Director meeting. Please refer to pages 28-29 of the Guide Book for more information. Questions???? – call me!**
3. **Don't forget to sign-up for your bus pass on the Trophy rides. The criteria for Bus Passes was posted in the December 2011 Newsletter and states: Priority is determined by the following – 1. Work Bee Attendance, 2. Double Cross/Criss-Cross Trophy Rider, 3. Single Cross Trophy Rider, 4. Full Payment of Ride/Date Signed-up, 5. Group Riders. If you have questions, call Chris at the MTRA office.**
4. **The new and improved www.mtra.org website is now up and running. Please check it out and let me know if you have any suggestions. It is very simple and informative so that people with dial-up internet connections can access this valuable tool easily. The "Michigan Trail Riders Assoc., Inc." Facebook page is also easily accessible. This page was designed to allow members to post and share pictures from the rides, Work Bees, etc. If you have any questions/concerns about either page, please contact me.**
5. **Travel notes – road work will be ongoing along US-23 south of Oscoda and I-75 Bus. Loop/M-55 thru West Branch for most of the summer. Seek alternate routes or call me for suggestions.**

Hope to see you all on the trails this summer - chris

Horse Expos a Plus for MTRA Membership

The Northern Michigan 5th Annual Horse Expo & Tack Sale 2012 in Cadillac February 25th was well attended again this year. Our booth was visited by many horse-people present with two current MTRA members renewing their memberships, two former MTRA members renewing their memberships and two totally new members joining us. Special thanks goes out to the following MTRA members who graciously donated their time and expertise in manning the booth: Theresa & Gale Gunders, Joe Burrill, Chuck Fanslow, Pat & Kate Galloup, Kathy Kruch and Jimmy Corlew.

The Michigan Horse Council 2012 Stallion & Horse Expo was also well attended at the MSU Livestock Pavillion the weekend of March 9,10 & 11. Special thanks go to Dave & Therese Kline for setting up, tearing down, and managing the MTRA Booth. And big thank you's go to the following volunteers who manned the booth over three days: Rex Battestilli, Patty Brown, Al & Diana Davis, Tracy Evans, Wendy Harris, Gail Hilbrand, Vicki Johnson, Justin Lehnert, Laurie Lucas, Barb & Taylor Orefice and Dave Richmond. Thanks to all for sharing your MTRA experience and wonderful memories!!

Some special awards were presented to three of our own MTRA members at the MHC event. Of only four Catalyst Awards presented each year by the MHC, Joan Spindler was honored with this prestigious award for her 35 years of devotion to young equestrians and 4-H in Shiawassee County. Bill Zettel, recently retired MTRA Board member, was also awarded the "Catalyst Award" for his 35 years of service on MTRA's Board and his years of devotion to the horse industry in Michigan. Therese Kline was awarded the "Volunteer of the Year" award for her service as MHC's Trail Chairperson and dedication to the Michigan Horse Council and its members. Congratulations Joan, Bill & Therese from all of us in the MTRA – we know how much you deserve these awards!!!!

RIDE REMINDERS

1. ***Theresa Gunders*** - our 2012 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. Also make a note of her new cell phone number for your "emergencies".
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. If you request a refund, the Trail Boss's roster is the bottom line for attendance.
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 is part of their responsibility to help you.

When you approach a road to cross and you see a sign that designates the name of that road which tells you where you are and how much further you need to ride (4 more miles????) please think about MTRA members Mark & Lisa Preger and all of their hard work in making those signs! They have truly gone the "extra mile" to make our trail a bit better!! Also thank the Board Members who make their own signs and those who posted the signs made by the Pregers. Thanks so much!!! We'll try to continue the tradition.

Rail-trail to Mackinaw – north of Mullett Lake Trail Camp!
See you on the Criss-Cross in September!!!

Natural Resources Commission Meeting Dates for 2012

April 5 – Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health – Lansing
May 17 – Black Lake UAW Education Center – Onaway
June 14 – Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health – Lansing
July 12 – Harsens Island Lions Club – Harsens Island
August 9 – Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health – Lansing
(for specific addresses, call Chris at the MTRA office)

To have a good friend is one of the greatest delights of life.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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 and Environment