

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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April 2013 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates for 2013

May 4-5.....	Work Bee.....	Rapid River Trail Camp (Kalkaska).....	9:00 AM
May 10-19.....	Blossom Ride	Garey Lake (Empire) to Cadillac Trail Camp	
May 30-June 9...	1st June Ride(TROPHY)	Lake Huron to Lake Michigan	
June 15 – 30.....	2nd June Ride(TROPHY)	Lake Michigan to Lake Huron	
June 22.....	MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....	4-Mile Truck Stop, Grayling.....	10:00 AM
Aug. 10-16.....	FAMILY RIDE	New, New, New.....	Scheck's to Goose Creek
Aug. 17-18.....	Work Bee.....	South Branch/Curtisville.....	replace/repair boardwalk
Sept. 5-15.....	September Ride(TROPHY)	Lake Michigan/Mullett Lake to Lake Huron	
Sept. 14.....	MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....	Hale.....	3:00 PM
Oct. 5-12.....	Color Ride	South Branch to Goose Creek	

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

It is starting to look a little like spring. The snow is finally melting and with the annual meeting and expos all over, trail cleaning and work bees are next. The trails got hit hard again this year and with the heavy snows, a lot of trees just snapped in half and left us a lot to remove. If you have the time, contact a board member and give us a hand. It is greatly appreciated. Our spring work bee will be getting Rapid River Trail Camp (Kalkaska) and the trail into camp cleaned and trimmed and replacing some picket posts and broken marker posts along the trail in preparation for our trail re-dedication June 21, 2014 which will be held in Kalkaska. We look forward to a great weekend and camaraderie getting it back in shape. Lunch on Saturday is provided. Remember, **Recreation Passports** will be needed on your license plate this year since the Parks & Recreation have taken over the trail camps. The locations of the rides are a little different this year, so come give them a try. Our first Family Ride is planned for August. We need 75 participants to sign-up for it to happen. So if you think you might like to go, please sign-up soon so we can make it happen. Remember this is **your** association; please come use all it has to offer.

Chuck Fanslow, MTRA President (989-435-9224)
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2013 ELECTION UPDATE

Congratulations to the following Board of Directors who were elected at the Annual Meeting March 23rd. Re-elected to the Board are Ron Anderson, Al Davis and Chuck Fanslow. New members are Jenny Duvall and Bob Thornton. Special Thanks goes out to Kelly Graham and Garry Randall for their many years of service to the Board of Directors of the MTRA. They will be sorely missed and have been greatly appreciated. Congratulations are also in order to the officers for 2013 who are: Board President - Chuck Fanslow; 1st VP - Al Davis, 2nd VP - Jimmy Corlew and Secretary - Kathy Moss. We're looking forward to continued success through cooperation and good will. The "bylaws change" regarding membership vote was decidedly passed by a margin of 190 to 22. In all, 1381 votes were cast which shows tremendous support from the membership. A special thanks goes to the members who helped with counting the votes: Renee Beesley, Don Ellis, Wayne Jameson, Steve Ross, Nick Onica, Gabrielle Hume, Celeste DeLisle, Georgina Carlton, Cyndee Balzer, Carol Govitz, Pat Knight, Penny Corlew, Rod Wyman and Scott Kemmer. Board members Jeff Balzer, Joe Burrill and Carol Hyzer supervised the counting.

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. The Youth Riders' Fund is alive and well with a balance of \$16,036.23. Free rides for the youth riders again in 2013!!! Many thanks to all who support our future in this endeavor!
2. Al Davis is working hard with the DNR to ensure that the MTRA has some relief from the Recreation Passport costs, especially for the out-of-state riders. At this time he has been in contact with several members of the DNR and he is feeling hopeful that we will see some changes in the requirements. Stay tuned for more information!!
3. The Ride Feedback Forms that many of you returned with your comments from last years' rides will now have the MTRA office address on the back so that you can easily fold, tape and mail if you so choose. The box for returning forms will still be located at the Trail Boss' rig for your convenience as well. Please continue to express your opinions as it gives us ideas on improvements and reinforcement on what is working just fine.
4. The 2013 Blossom Ride may be the **last** as it is slated to not be rescheduled after this year.
5. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

For all who attended this years' Annual Meeting, **YOU** helped to make MTRA History! I had a great time with all the "Originals" from the 60's and 70's and I was amazed to meet a couple surprise guests. It was so exciting to have our most distinguished guest, Phyllis Garn, and her two sons, Myk and Jack. Four days after the event, Phyllis sent me a wonderful note of thanks that also said she was "still up in the clouds".

It was a one-of-kind celebration – what a great opportunity it was to have these "Originals" who greatly influenced MTRA all together. It was a privilege I will be forever grateful to have experienced.

I'm also grateful for all those who appreciated and enjoyed all the historical information posted – you made it worth all the efforts! It was an event to honor MTRA's 50 years as a result of members' dedication. An example of some of that dedication was acknowledged: Bill Zettel for the longest running term as a Board Member (36 years); Garry Randall for one of the longest running Presidents (8 years); and Ray Balzer for the longest running President (9 years) in addition to his 5 year term as Trail Boss.

Sally Seaver, Historian

P.S. If anyone has any better pictures of past presidents than what you saw posted at the meeting (especially of George Stump & Virginia Franklin, OR a picture of the 2000 Criss-Cross please contact me. My email is lrexsal@aol.com

HISTORY TRIVIA

When was MTRA's first Annual Meeting and where was it held and how was it different from our meetings now? (Answer on page 5)

Special Thanks goes out to...

1. All of the members who attended and worked the Great Lakes Equine Classic in Birch Run this last February. Workers were: Renee Beesley, Doug Pankratz, Jim Venable, Lynn Gosdzinski, Gwen Gerstenberger, Jennifer Johnston, Kim & Steve Ross, Pat Brown, Patricia Alexander, Wendell & Linda Brown, and Joan Gibbs.
2. All of the members who attended and worked the Michigan Horse Council Horse Expo in East Lansing at MSU this last March: Workers were: Linda & Wendell Brown, Barb Crampton, Ed & Lynn Gosdzinski, Wendy Harris, Gail Hilbrand, Kristen McBeath, Joanne Porter, Kim & Steve Ross, Deb Rouiller, Dave Schroeder and Rob & Deb Tune.
3. We can't thank enough the two Board Members who organized both Expos – Carol Hyzer arranged the workers with time slots and Joe Burrill delivered, set-up and tore-down the booth. Both of them put in many hours working both venues as well as the behind the scenes jobs.

DNR seeks public input on draft land management plan at regional open houses

A series of informational open houses is planned to give Michiganders an opportunity to provide input on a draft land management plan developed by the Department of Natural Resources with the assistance of an advisory group.

The plan, which outlines a strategy for DNR-managed public lands, is a requirement under a law signed by Gov. Rick Snyder last year that capped how much land the DNR can acquire for public use.

The draft land use strategy calls for improved access on DNR-managed public lands and, for the first time, sets a standard for public access to the Great Lakes and rivers. The draft plan also includes a new strategy for the possible disposal of approximately 250,000 acres of DNR-managed public lands and promotes increased opportunities in southern Michigan. The plan also discusses objectives to grow Michigan's natural resources-based economy through the use of DNR-managed public lands. The DNR will seek additional regional input during the plan review process.

"The use and enjoyment of public land for not only recreation, but for natural resources-based businesses, is the focus of this land strategy," said DNR Director Keith Creagh. "This draft plan lays out a coherent and complete strategy with an eye to the immediate future, but also remains adaptable to meet emerging trends and shifts in land use and ownership. We welcome further public input on the plan."

The regional meetings (which will be held from 6-8 p.m. in all locations) are planned for:

- Tuesday, April 9, at Lookout Lodge, 1712 Scott Lake Road, **Waterford**
- Wednesday, April 10, at Burnham Brook Community Center, 200 W Michigan Ave., **Battle Creek**
- Thursday, April 11, at Redding Township Hall, 8391 W. Temple Drive, **Harrison**
- Monday, April 15, at East Bay Township Hall, 1965 3 Mile Road North, **Traverse City**
- Tuesday, April 16, at Livingston Township Hall, 3218 N. Old 27, **Gaylord**
- Wednesday, April 17, Peter White Room in the Don H. Bortum University Center, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Ave., **Marquette**
- Thursday, April 18, Little Bear East Arena, 275 Marquette St., **St. Ignace**
- Monday, April 22, Michigan Department of Transportation's Grand Rapids Transportation Service Center, 2660 Leonard St. NE, **Grand Rapids**
- Thursday, April 25, Delta College Planetarium and Learning Center, 100 Center Ave., **Bay City**

At the meetings, DNR staff will give a brief overview of the plan and then ask the public to join them in small group discussions on various aspects of the plan to gather feedback. Other options for public feedback will also be made available at the meeting, including sending comments via email to DNRLandplan@michigan.gov.

The draft plan and supporting documents will be available on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnr in early April for public review and comment.

August Family Ride in Jeopardy

As you all know, the rides last year lost a considerable amount of money. In lieu of this information, our new "Family Ride" in August needs to be well attended to make it a viable option. This ride was designed to give the families and kids another chance to experience the MTRA adventures when the school year is not in session. It was created to let people "ease" into the camp-to-camp riding and be able to enjoy the camps where there is water nearby and lots of circle riding opportunities. At the Board of Director meeting March 24th it was determined that there needs to be at least **75** participants on this ride or else it will be canceled. Please give it a chance and enjoy the summertime weather, trail camaraderie, evening campfires and general fun on this MTRA Family Ride. Sign-up by June 15, 2013 to **SAVE** this ride.

TRAIL RIDE REMINDERS!!!!

1. Don't forget those **Coggins** tests – all horses on MTRA rides are required to have a "current" negative Coggins test which means within the prior 12 months of the beginning of the ride.
2. Don't forget that **Recreation Passport** for your vehicle as it is required by the Department of Natural Resources for all campers to be able to camp in any of the State Forest Campgrounds.
3. Don't forget those **Electrolytes** for your horses when the weather becomes warmer and the horses sweat more.
4. Don't forget your **rain slicker** attached to your saddle – it's the easiest way to insure nice weather!
5. Don't forget the **bug spray** for both you and your horse – after all, it is Michigan!!!!
6. Don't forget your **trail etiquette** – let's be safe out there and all have fun!!
7. Don't forget the **Potluck dinners** on all trophy rides after the pre-ride meeting on arrival nights! YUM!
8. Don't forget **extra equipment** like saddle pads, bridles, bits, reins, horseshoes, girths/cinches, etc. so that you always have an extra if something breaks, gets lost, or your neighbor needs one.
9. Don't forget to post your **MTRA number** on the front and back of your rig! It's a safety measure so that the Trail Boss can find you in an emergency!!!

History Trivia Answer: MTRA's first Annual Meeting was April 16, 1966 at Lost Creek Sky Ranch and members brought their horses to ride during the weekend.

Calling all Geeks!!!

We are attempting to put the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail on the "map" with GPS coordinates. Thanks to Garry Randall's work, we have a list of the coordinates of the trail camp wells but we would like to expand that to include the entire trail. If you are technologically adept with your GPS and ride "the trail", please contact the MTRA office and we'll work out the details of downloading the information and sharing with the MDNR.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to Dale Peterson and Al Davis for creating, producing, and getting permission for this permanent sign which will be posted at busy road crossings. Notice the flasher on the top of the sign.

SECRETARIAL NOTES...

1. There will be updated copies of the MTRA Camp and Trail Rules posted at the Trail Boss' rig and available to all members on the rides. Some of the rules have changed.
2. Pre-ride meetings are mandatory for at least 1 person from each group.
3. Bus times and number of runs are subject to change on all rides.
4. Cancellations of rides are refundable if made with the secretary prior to the start of the ride. Refunds after the rides are subject to approval at the following Board Meeting.
5. Don't forget to get your Coggins tests done before the Trail Ride season! The MTRA requires Coggins tests for all horses and travel papers/interstate health certificates for out of state horses.
6. The name(s) on your membership reflect the information that you send in with your membership renewals. If they are incorrect, please let me know and you'll get a new one!!
7. Check out the March issue of TrailBlazer magazine for a super article of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the MTRA. There was also a great article in the Oakland Press on March 17th by Sharon Greene.

8. Our Facebook page has gone viral!! Please feel free to copy any of the pictures that we post and post the pictures from your collections. It is a great way to sell items, communicate with other riders and just catch up on what's happening with the MTRA. We are looking at expanding our "social media" exposure to Twitter and Pinterest. If you have any expertise in these areas, please contact the MTRA office – I need all the help I can get!!!
9. I will be posting a "print friendly" copy of the newsletters on the website for those of you with "dial-up" internet and those who want to save ink by not having to print pictures. Thanks to Helen Meier for her suggestion!! Hope this works for many of you!!
10. Here's hoping for a wonderful and safe 2013 Ride Season!!!
- chris (989-473-3205) raynechris@gmail.com

MTRA Receives Community Service Award

In March, 2013, the Michigan

Recreation and Park Association honored the Michigan Trail Riders with one of their Community Service Awards.

Mark Mandenberg of the Michigan DNR nominated the MTRA for this prestigious award which was graciously received by President Chuck Fanslow and Vice-President Al Davis. It was noted that the MTRA is the oldest recreation oriented non-profit group in the state of Michigan. In the picture are from the left – Mandenberg, Fanslow, Davis and Vic Chiasson, MRPA President.

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