

Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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April 2014 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates for 2014

May 10-11.....Work Bee....Mullett Lake Trail Camp (picket poles, mark trails, etc.).....Cheboygan
May 29-June 8..... 1st June Ride (trophy)..... Mackinaw to Oscoda
June 7.....Board of Directors' Meeting.....River Road Trail Camp 3:00 PM
June 11-26, 2014.....2ND June Ride (trophy).....Oscoda to Empire
JUNE 21, 2014.....RE-DEDICATION of the SHORE-TO-SHORE TRAIL..KALKASKA.....TIME 9:30 AM
August 9-16.....August Family Ride.....Goose Creek to Hopkins Creek
August 23-24.....Work Bee....Garey Lake Trail Camp (picket poles, etc.).....Empire
September 4-25.....September Double Cross (trophies).....Lake Huron to Lake Huron
October 4.....Board of Directors' Meeting.....4-Mile Truck Stop 2:00 PM
October 4-12.....Color Ride.....Goose Creek to Cadillac

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Congratulations to the following Board of Directors who were re-elected and elected at the recent Annual Banquet: Pat Galloup, Ed Godzinski, Carol Hyzer, Terry Meier and Steve Ross. Special thanks to all who ran for the Board. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.
2. Officers for 2014 are: President- Chuck Fanslow; 1st VP- Al Davis; 2nd VP – Jimmy Corlew; Secretary – Kathy Moss. Congratulations officers and thanks for doing such a great job in 2013.
3. Please notice that the August Work Bee location has been changed to Garey Lake Trail Camp. Bring your horses to ride after working. Free lunch will be provided on Saturday.
4. Our Re-Dedication of the Shore-to-Shore Trail is rapidly approaching with lots of activities planned. A flyer will be included with this newsletter. Please share with friends and/or post in local feed stores, etc. If you need more copies, call the MTRA Office.
5. The MHC Horse Expo was a huge success with 30 renewal memberships, 12 new memberships and lots of maps sold. Thanks to all of the visitors! It's great to see all your smiling faces and make plans for the rides this summer!!!
6. We are having "neckerchiefs" made with the Shore-to-Shore trail on them to be sold at rides, etc. They will be for sale for \$5.00. Keep posted for more details and pictures.

MICHIGAN HORSE COUNCIL CATALYST AWARD WINNERS

This prestigious award has been in existence since 1995 and is awarded to people "who dare to step forward and make a difference." Four deserving people received this award at the Horse Expo in March and three of them have ties to the MTRA. Sandra Batie and Al Dennis are current MTRA members and Mark Mandenburg of the MDNR has been instrumental in helping the MTRA in countless ways. As an association, we greatly appreciate the work that these three have done thru the years and especially appreciate their commitment and dedication. Thanks so much and CONGRATULATIONS!!!

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

As our re-dedication approaches, here is some history of the dedication 50 years ago. **From the Record-Eagle Newspaper;** "... Michigan Riding and Hiking Trail was officially in being today after snipping of the ceremonial ribbon" by a white horse-mounted Gov. George Romney." "Campsites are being developed and work is moving ahead on a network of tie-in trails covering much of northern lower Michigan. It has been emphasized that the attractions is for both riders and hikers."

We also celebrate the first shore-to-shore ride 50 years ago, from Empire to Tawas, here is some history, again from news articles: Riding into Tawas - "... a big crowd was on hand to greet the riders when they arrived at Tawas City, through which they paraded and where they were guests at a roast beef dinner & were blessed by an Indian Chief." President Fitch Williams told the press, "...that the trail calls for stamina, fords of the Manistee and AuSable rivers... the AuSable is about 150 yards wide and up to four feet deep at the crossing place."

BE A PART OF HISTORY THIS YEAR & JOIN THE 50th CELEBRATIONS OF THESE EVENTS!

HISTORY TRIVIA

On the first shore-to-shore ride, they rode as one group. Fitch Williams insisted that the horses walk. Some riders rebelled and they split into 2 groups; slow riders & fast riders. They gave each group a name. What was the name of each group? Answer on page 4.

Special Thanks to the Expo Volunteers

The Michigan Horse Council's 2014 Horse Expo was a resounding success as always. Thousands of people traveled to East Lansing to participate and many of those wandered thru the Trails Room where the MTRA booth was displayed. Special thanks goes out to the MTRA volunteers who donated their time and efforts to "spread the word" about the MTRA and the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail. Carol Hyzer and Joe Burrill were the Board of Directors members who organized the workers and set-up the booth. Dave Schroeder and Brenda Nesbitt worked on Friday. Al Davis, Kim and Steve Ross, Deb and Rob Tune, Jenny Duvall, Wendy Harris and Deb Rouiller worked on Saturday. Working Sunday were Justin Lehnert, Vicki Johnson, Charlotte Gauthier and Gail Hilbrand. Many new memberships were gained as well as many 2013 members renewed their memberships. In addition to all of the help of the volunteers, this Expo has always been such a great place to meet and greet!! Thanks again!!!

SECRETARIAL NOTES...

1. Don't forget to bring muck buckets and/or wheelbarrows to Elk Hill to be able to dispose of horse manure in the bunkers provided. Special notice to all 1st June Ride participants!!!!
2. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates so that you can be "legal" on our rides. Rumor has it that the DNR will be checking those tabs more closely this year. Out of state members can purchase the Recreation Passport here or at any state campground: <http://media.state.mi.us/michiganestore/public/categorydisplay.aspx?categoryId=5>
3. The Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail has been "created" on the **www.everytrail.com** website. Come on down and check us out. You'll find the trail and the "rig routes" listed with key words MTRA and Shore-to-Shore Trail. The trail sections that are finished have pictures. You do not need to have an account to access these files. Thanks again to all of our "gps"ers!!!! This is a **work in progress** so please be patient with us.
4. The Shore-to-Shore Trail is also listed on **www.opentrail.us** which is a new website designed specifically for horseback riders. You can find us in the Michigan section.
5. Plan to bring your horses to the Work Bees to enjoy the trails around the camps. We can't work ALL the time!!

6. Just to clarify – after you register and pay for a ride, you can **cancel** 24 hours prior to the beginning of the ride to receive a “cancellation check”. In order to receive a **refund** after the ride has begun, you must make a formal request to the Board of Directors which will be addressed at their next regularly scheduled meeting. Questions??? – call the MTRA Office!!
7. The 2014 Trail Rides are filling fast. Please check out the Ride Calendars and the Ride Registration form which are posted on the www.mtra.org website under 2014 Trail Rides. You can register online or print out a form and send it in. If you need a copy in the mail, please give us a call and we’ll get it right out to you.
8. Since the potluck dinners were such a roaring success on all the trophy rides in 2013, Joe Burrill has graciously volunteered to again sponsor the potluck dinners on Arrival Days prior to the first day’s ride on all 2014 trophy rides. Don’t forget to bring a dish to pass and your own table service and drink. There is also the possibility of a lunch wagon for the Trail Rides this year. Jan Wolfen is working hard to make arrangements. Thanks, Joe and Jan!!!! More information to follow...
9. The Board of Directors has approved the option to earn one ride day per one Work Bee day to become policy. This policy originated in 2011 and will continue inclusive of the past two years. In order to earn “Credit” for days worked, you must sign-in at a **regularly scheduled MTRA Work Bee** and work all day. Call the MTRA Office if you have questions.
10. Included with this newsletter is the list of **Trail Assignments for 2014**. This list includes all of the Board of Directors with their trail and camp responsibilities as well as their phone numbers and email addresses. They will all be working hard to clear and mark trails before the rides begin. If you have time and opportunity, please contact them to volunteer some time and effort for the trails we all love.
11. Also included with this newsletter is the list of **Emergency Phone Numbers** in case your folks at home need to contact you when you are on a ride and the cell phones aren’t working. The police agencies are listed with phone numbers organized by trail camp. Please leave this list at home so your loved ones can find you “on the trail” or in camp. The Trail Boss emergency phone number will be posted at the rides.
12. If you would like to receive the “approved” minutes from the Board of Director Meetings, please contact the MTRA Office and they will be sent “free” via email to any members’ email address. If you would like them via US mail, please submit \$5.00 to cover printing and mailing costs for the year.
13. Don’t forget those **Coggins** tests for this summer’s rides. Coggins tests are “current” for a full year after the date the blood is drawn and tested so be sure that your Coggins tests are “up to date” before the rides on which you plan to participate. These tests, along with “travel papers” or health certificates are also required of all out-of-state horses. Bring these “papers” with you when you check in with the Trail Boss on the rides.
14. 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!!
15. Special thanks goes out to the vote-counters who helped out with the Board of Director ballots at the recent Annual Banquet. These members donate their time and effort to make accurate tabulations of the votes to insure the integrity of the election. Board Members monitoring the counting were: Al Davis and Jimmy Corlew. Counters were: Connie Maynard, Dawn Rutkowski, Laurie Engleman, Penny Curtis, Tracy Evans, Barb Orefice, Wendy Kemmer, Carol Breed, Chanda Donnan, Julie Parliament, Jane Hill, Ron Walker, Ray Rendon and Wayne Mears. You all did a wonderful job!!!!

With the Re-Dedication of the Shore-to-Shore Trail this June, we anticipate LOTS of riders and participants on the 2nd June Ride. With only 44 seats on the bus, it is critical that you request which bus you would prefer on all rides – Early or Late. This is just a reminder of the **Bus Ticket Criteria** as determined by the Board of Directors:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work Bee Attendance 2. Double Cross – Criss/Cross Trophy 3. Trophy Rider 4. Full payment of ride/date signed up 5. Group Riders | <p>PS – the Early Bus on the 2nd June Ride is already FULL!!</p> |
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Answer: The slow riders were the “Turtles” and the fast riders were called “Speed Association”.

Camping with your horse clinic... Don't forget about this informative and useful clinic which will be held between the June Rides on June 9 & 10 at River Road Trail Camp. All members and friends are welcome to attend and learn some good ideas about camping, traveling, riding, etc. with horses. Day 1 will instruct “newbies” in picketing, hay bags, and all things related to “in the campground” areas. Day 2 will cover trail etiquette, first aid, saddle bags and much, much more. We will share ideas, view demonstrations and do circle rides each day. The generator and well will be available to all campers. Come on down and join the fun – everyone has good ideas to share!!! No camping fees will be charged but we will accept donations to the MTRA. Questions??? – call Chris at the MTRA office.

CARLEE BALZER, TROPHY WINNER, PUBLISHED WRITER AND MICHIGAN HORSE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT FOR 2014

Many of you have seen this young woman grow up on horseback on the Shore-to-Shore trails riding along with family and friends. With several Trophies to her credit, she has expanded her horizons. For one of her assignments at school, Carlee wrote a fantastic article about her friends and their Shore-to-Shore ride in 2012 entitled “**Five girls, one trail, hundreds of miles**”. She graciously shared this article with the MTRA and I have used it in installments in the magazine Horsemen's Corral in our monthly news section. She shared her pictures with us which were also published with the article and have been shared on Facebook on the MTRA page. And to continue her education, she applied for one of the Michigan Horse Council Scholarships for 2014 and was awarded \$1000 at the Expo in March. Congratulations, Carlee!!! You are a credit to the MTRA, the horse enthusiasts and all the young people of Michigan. We are proud to call you part of our association and wish you luck in your educational endeavors!! See you on the trail...when you get a break from college!!

The Back Country Horsemen – Pigeon River & Beyond association is also sponsoring an Annual Scholarship of \$500. This award is being offered to “any member or qualified dependent for purposes of education in the area of Equine Trails and Campgrounds.” Location of educational facility does NOT have to be in Michigan but is strongly encouraged. Deadline for submissions is no later than two weeks prior to the summer meeting – typically June/July. For more information, contact BCH-PR&B, Marieta Davis, Secretary/Treasurer, 9642 Long Lake Rd., Montgomery, MI 49255, marietad@frontiernet.net.

MTRA Gear was on display and for sale at the Annual Banquet and will be available to purchase on the rides thru **GEAR UP** which is run by members Craig Hatch and Dawn Rutkowski. If you would like to contact them regarding an order you placed at the banquet or would like to order something, please call Dawn at 810-444-7318 or their office at 810-230-0233. They are working on a website for your convenience. See you on the rides....

Special notice to September Ride participants - - -

It will be possible for the “East-West” trophy winners to ride all the way to Lake Michigan on Sunday, Sept. 14. They will receive their trophies on that day or they can wait until Monday, Sept. 15 and ride to/from the lake and finish the ride then. The cost of the ride will be the same – 11 days = \$110 per person. The Double-Crossers may also ride to Lake Michigan and back to Garey Lake on Sunday and then use Monday as a layover day. For details and specifics, please talk to the Trail Boss and attend nightly pre-ride meetings!!!

Youth Riders' Fund well supported at Annual Banquet

Many items were donated for the Silent Auction at the Annual Banquet in March. Special thanks goes out to all who donated and especially those creative "grandkids" of Ernie Marsh who made jam, stockings and other goodies for the benefit of the Youth Riders' Fund. Check out the pictures on Facebook to see some of the items auctioned which include a quilt, afghan, assorted tack, etc. In all, over \$1200 was raised for the Youth Riders' Fund which will again provide "free" rides for the youth participants on the rides. Our future depends on those youth riders!!!! Thanks again!!

Included with this newsletter is a flyer about the **50th Celebration of the Re-Dedication of the Shore-to-Shore Trail** which will be held in Kalkaska on June 21, 2014. Please share this flyer with your friends, horse acquaintances and local feed stores, etc. If you need more copies, call the MTRA Office. The parade will be lots of fun and the rest of the day just gets better with the "fun show", mounted shooting, chicken barbecue and other things to do. We'll all ride over from the Rapid River Trail Camp on that layover day of the 2nd June Ride and celebrate the trail that we all hold near and dear to our hearts. Come join in on the fun!!!!

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