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## April 2016 – NEWSLETTER

### 2016 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

May 13-22.....	Blossom Ride.....	Garey Lake to Cadillac
May 27-30.....	Work Bee(need LOTS of help)...South Branch Trail Camp.....	Thurs eve to Mon noon
June 2-13.....	1 <sup>st</sup> June Ride (trophy).....	Empire - Lake Michigan to Oscoda - Lake Huron
June 17-July 2.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> June Ride (trophy).....	Oscoda - Lake Huron to Empire - Lake Michigan
June 26.....	Board of Director Meeting.....	Goose Creek Trail Camp.....Noon
August 27-28.....	Work Bee.....	4-Mile Trail Camp (planting picket poles, etc).....Times TBA
August 6-13.....	August Family Ride.....	Scheck's and Goose Creek
September 8-19.....	September Ride (trophy).....	Oscoda - Lake Huron to Lake Michigan (Mackinaw)
October 1-9.....	Color Ride.....	Goose Creek to Cadillac

### BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Congratulations to board members who were re-elected: Ron Anderson, Al Davis, Jenny Duvall, Chuck Fanslow and Bob Thornton. Congratulations also to new board member, Kim Ross. Many thanks to the other MTRA members who ran for the board and were all well supported by the membership.
2. The Board of Directors officers for 2017 are: President – Al Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Chuck Fanslow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Ed Gosdzinski and Recording Secretary – Kathy Moss. Congratulations to all of these folks and thanks so much to Chuck Fanslow for your years as President. Also, big thanks to Jimmy Corlew for serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for the past few years.
3. The USFS will be working on the replacement of the Luzerne boardwalk. This is a number one priority due to the disrepair from many years of use. The MTRA responsibility will be removal of the old boardwalk and repair of the east end of the bridge. Much work and many man-hours will be involved. Many of you have expressed interest in helping out. The specifics of work days and times are still to be defined. Please stay tuned for further updates. There will be notices on the Facebook page and the MTRA Forum.
4. At this time there are twenty (20) LIFE memberships which were purchased since the option was offered by the Board in 2010. The Board felt that a 10% increase in the cost of LIFE memberships would be appropriate. It was approved to offer LIFE memberships for \$440 to be implemented immediately.
5. Kim Ross will offer another “Camping With Your Horse” Clinic at the August Family Ride this summer. If you are new to horse camping or just want to get some new ideas, please be at Scheck’s Trail Camp at 1 PM on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Check with the Trail Boss for the location.
6. This year the September Ride will be in the Pigeon River area when the elk hunting will be in full swing. Our Event Permit states: “Hunter Orange” clothing/apparel shall be worn by all participants during the September Ride. Please be prepared to adhere to this rule!!!!
7. The next Board of Director meeting is going to be held at Goose Creek Trail Camp on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Please feel free to attend and see your Board of Directors in action!

## Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting 2016 Evergreen Resort, Cadillac

The MTRA invaded the Evergreen Resort on Friday enjoying the karaoke that evening as well as the pool and just "catching up" with friends. Saturday was a great success with lots of items donated for the Silent Auction to benefit the Youth Riders' Fund. The vendors in attendance were Gear Up and Muddy Creek Rain Gear as well as member Will Swartz promoting his book, maps and goodies. Terry Meier provided lots of fudge and cookies for sale to benefit the YRF with a total of \$735 collected. Dinner was superb and we greatly enjoyed the company of Director Bill Moritz of the DNR as our honored guest. Elections went well with the General Membership meeting continuing with a super speech by retiring President, Chuck Fanslow, and Silent Auction high bidders announced by Diana Davis. The Silent Auction brought in \$609!!! After the announcement of election results and congratulations all around, the fun began with DJ McCarn Entertainment in the Wexford Room. Thanks to everyone for participating and having such a great time. Special thanks goes out to Kate Galloup for taking pictures for us during the General Membership meeting!!!

At the Board of Director meeting Sunday morning it was decided to return to Cadillac and the Evergreen Resort for 2017 with dates chosen as March 24-26 as the weekend for the banquet and meetings. More information will be available in the next newsletter so please do not book your rooms until we confirm all of the details. Since some folks would prefer to stay in the main building, please request this for 2017 and book early. Since the hotel has been doing renovations, there will be many more rooms available in the main building. For questions - call the MTRA Office at 989-723-1425.

## Sticking Your Head in the Sand.....is NOT a Management Strategy!!! HISTORY HAPPENINGS

By Sally Seaver, MTRA Historian

Here is some history over the past 37 years for the Luzerne Boardwalk. The Luzerne Camp was built in 1978 and that is when the Boardwalk was first built, Virginia Franklin was MTRA President. In 1987, the Boardwalk was rebuilt. President Otr Lynch stated "...was our biggest undertaking in the history of this organization". It is documented that it was 1295 feet of bridge and was installed in 4 1/2 days. Total cost of the construction was approx. \$30,000.00! A plaque was given to MTRA from USFS on June 23 in appreciation for MTRA's assistance in the construction. The presentation was filmed by TV Channel 9/10.

In 1997, after a severe storm on July 2nd, the Boardwalk was closed for the rest of the riding year by President Ray Balzer, due to damages said to be "beyond belief". It was closed because repairs couldn't begin until winter when the ground was frozen enough to accommodate heavy equipment. Now President Chuck Fanslow announced in the 2015 December Newsletter that the USFS will be replacing the Luzerne Boardwalk in 2016 and MTRA will have a supporting hand in this project. The Boardwalk has lasted many years but now this will again be a huge undertaking. I encourage MTRA members to give their support and to **BE A PART OF HISTORY** in this history making project so the Boardwalk can last another many more years!

### TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. When the Luzerne Boardwalk was initially built, what name did the MTRA members call this bridge?
2. The Boardwalk is built over a large swamp. Was the original Boardwalk in 1978 split into two separate bridges?

Answers on page 3

## FAQ's...

1. Just to remind members and prospective members, it is not a requirement to sign-up for an entire MTRA ride. Many people jump in and out of rides due to work commitments, athletic team practices, family activities, 4-H fairs, etc. It is just recommended that you sign-up for at least one (or more) day(s) of the ride that you intend to attend so that your name is on the roster and your daily fee will be reserved at the \$10.00 per day rate. You can always “drop in” on a ride – as long as your membership is current (2016) – but the daily rate becomes \$12.50 per day due to the late fee. If you are already signed-up for that one day, you can then extend your ride to include more days and/or transfer that fee to a later ride which may be more convenient for you. The Trail Boss will handle all of the details at the ride or you can call the MTRA Office for more clarification. Check out details on the 2016 Ride Registration Form is posted on the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website. Ride Registrations Forms are sent to all members who receive their newsletters via US mail with the February newsletter.
2. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates in 2016 so that you can be “legal” on our rides. This issue is even more important since we have been given permission to use the DNR boat launch next to the Lake Huron access point and they will be checking those passports. Out-of-state members can purchase the Recreation Passport at the following web address or at any state campground – even at the boat launch:  
<http://media.state.mi.us/michiganestore/public/categorydisplay.aspx?categoryId=5>
3. 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!!
4. The MTRA Office now uses the email address: [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com). You should use that address for all official communications and that address will be used to distribute the Newsletters, send Ride Confirmations, etc.
5. The “In Memorium” section of the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website is up and running. Please check it out and help us out with more pictures, information and thoughts you would like to share.
6. Rig Routes are now on the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website linked to the 2016 Trail Rides page.
7. You can still get renewals or new subscriptions to Horsemen's Corral. Send \$10.00 to the office in Hale.
8. When you are riding along paved roads – wear BRIGHT shirts so that drivers will notice you!
9. We will have a Lunch Wagon on the east side of the state beginning at Smith Bridge on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Patty Alexander will meet riders on the Shore-to-Shore trail with water, pop, chips, hot dogs and grilled ham and cheese sandwiches (just like on the August Ride last year!!). Cookies will also be available!!

**Free Ride Days** earned from Work Bee credits can be used on any MTRA Ride. When you fill out your Ride Registration, either in paper or online, just pay for the days that you will need to pay for deducting your “free ride days” from the total number of days on the ride. For instance, if you will attend the Color Ride which is 9 days total and you have earned 4 free ride days from Work Bees in May and August, just pay for 5 days of the Color Ride and be sure to let us know that you are using your “free ride days” to cover the cost of the rest. Just be sure to sign-in at the Work Bees so that you get the credit for the days that you worked. The MTRA Office maintains a database of who attends the Work Bees and when those days are credited to rides. Don't forget – your “free ride days” will carry over from 2011 when this policy was begun so if you have questions as to whether you have any days still available for use on a ride of your choice, just give us a call at 989-723-1425.

### Trivia Answers:

1. "Whatta Bridge"
2. Yes, it was always 2 bridges.

**FYI** – Jan Wolfin will be holding a **Camping With Your Horse Clinic** on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at Levi's Training and Boarding Center in West Branch. Come on down, share ideas and get some tips.

## From the Presidents' desks:

Thanks everyone for allowing me to serve you as your President these past three years. Due to my health and time restraints I had to give it up. However, I will still be on the board and your new 1st Vice-President. I hope to help your new President, Al Davis, and 2nd Vice-President, Ed Gosdzinski keep things moving ahead and congratulate them both.

Sincerely, Chuck Fanslow

Hi All,

I would like to begin by thanking Chuck Fanslow for his three years of guidance as President of the MTRA. It is my hope and desire that I will be able to serve the membership of the MTRA in cooperation with the MDNR and Federal Forest Service as well as did Chuck.

It is hopeful "Old Man Winter" is willing to close his impact, and allow the MTRA to get busy with the 2016 season. This season is already presenting obstacles in which help from the membership is greatly needed. South Branch Trail Camp will be our kick-off project. Due to extensive logging this spring, the camp is basically in need of rebuilding. Man/woman power is greatly needed to rake, cut, and dispose of all debris left from the tree cutting. Many picket poles will need to be installed. Memorial Day weekend has been slotted for South Branch due to the intensity of this project. Other projects such as the removal of the Boardwalk in Luzerne, cleaning and updating the Luzerne and 4 Mile Camps lie ahead. Unfortunately, we are unable to inform you of the dates of these projects. We are awaiting the MDNR and Federal Forest Service to provide us with dates when we can do the work. We will do our best to communicate with the membership as soon as possible when dates and locations are determined. We hope many MTRA members will have the time to help us complete these projects. We have demonstrated many times what the MTRA members can accomplish when working for a common goal.

I am looking forward to working with everyone this season. Think "NO MORE SNOW!", and hope to see you soon.

Al Davis

***MTRA Employment Opportunities...*** If you would like to share your skills with the association we all know and love, please submit a resume and/or letter of interest to: MTRA Employment Director, 13877 Homestead Rd., Beulah, MI 49617, 231-882-4212.

The MTRA offers employment in the following areas:

**Trail Boss** - responsibilities include management of the trail rides including safety of persons and horses on those rides

**Bus Driver** - responsibilities include all aspects of bus management and transport of riders between trail camps

**Secretary** - responsibilities include management of the office of the MTRA including all communications, ride management duties and maintenance of files

**Treasurer** - responsibilities include assistance to the Secretary, financial duties and reports.

All of these positions are part-time/seasonal jobs.

## MICHIGAN TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION - GENEROSITY AT ITS BEST!!

As you read in the information about the 2016 Annual Banquet, the donations for the Youth Riders' Fund exceeded \$1300.00. At the end of the 2015-16 Fiscal Year (Feb. 29, 2016) the Youth Riders' Fund balance was \$14,129.77. ALL of this money for the YRF has been donated thru membership renewals, Silent Auctions and generous support from the members in general. Each of the vendors who attend rides and other activities sponsored by the MTRA donate

5% of their sales profit. Whenever there is a need for support, the MTRA has gone above and beyond the limits to sustain the organization and what it stands for. With this in mind, we would like to express heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their generous donations: all of the 2015 Blossom Riders who donated over \$300.00 in support of continuing that ride, Candy Wagner who donated \$145.00 collected from the Hardy Memorial Ride, Kim Ross who donated \$850.00 collected from her 2015 South Branch Ride, Brittany Nault who donated \$160.00 in memory of Clay Sauve and Tiffany Weaver (both former MTRA members) and so many more members who donated funds when renewing their memberships or donate change back for sales of maps, etc. on the rides. This is not to mention the glow sticks that are sold on the trail rides (purchased by Kim and Steve Ross) in support of the YRF. And we can all appreciate the can and bottle returns from the rides. Time is another critical factor when considering donations and with that in mind, "thanks so much" goes out to Joe Burrill and Diana Davis for their tireless work with the YRF. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the members of the MTRA and please forgive me if I have overlooked mentioning the many generous members who remain anonymous.

**For Sale – 292 posts, 4' X 4' X 70" located at Al Dennis's house in Fairview. Please contact Al Davis at 231-882-4212 or Chuck Fanslow at 989-435-9224 with an offer. They need to be moved ASAP.**

### ***Jan's ramblings –***

My first 90 days have been hectic. My first task the first week was to help Chris get the February newsletter out. And then there were the new and renewal memberships to process, preparing for the annual meeting and processing the ride registrations! It is now time for the April newsletter and things are making much more sense to me and going smoother. I would like to thank Chris for all her help. My thanks goes out to the MTRA membership, too. Your patience and understanding when I don't know the answer to your question and your forgiveness when I have made an error makes me want to do not just a good job but a great job for this Association. If you want to talk with me, office hours will be from 6:00 to 11:00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Monday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. I will be available other times because the phone/office is in my home, so give me a call. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you. My MTRA Office phone number is 989-723-1425. I am planning to be on several rides this season, so stop by my rig for a visit. I would love to be able to put a face with the names. Happy Trails and have a safe riding season.

### **South Branch Trail Camp Work Bee – Memorial Day Weekend – May 27 thru May 30th**

The South Branch Trail Camp has been logged due to the oak wilt and there is much work to be done to get it ready for the ride season. Please put it on your calendars to attend this critical Work Bee. We will camp on-site but it will be difficult to picket horses due to the debris left when the oak logs came down. The USFS has been working to clear the camping sites and roads but there is always work needed to be done to "fine tune" the picket areas. We will need to place many picket poles to replace the missing trees. Lunch will be provided by the MTRA on Saturday and possibly Sunday depending on the time needed for the work to be done. Questions? – call Bob Thornton at 734-476-4759 or Al Davis at 231-882-4212.

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.