

# Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## August 2012 – NEWSLETTER

### Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

May 4, 5-6.....Work Bee.....Over 50 volunteers donated over 520 hours to the Walsh Rd. Trail Camp  
May 12-20.....**Blossom Ride**.....Luzerne to Mullett Lake.....19-29 members enjoyed this spring ride  
May 25-27.....Work Bee.....Over 39 people donated over 200 hours at the South Branch Trail Camp  
May 31-June 10..**1st June Ride (Trophy Ride)**...Lake Huron to Lake Michigan...68 trophies found homes  
June 15 – 30..**2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride (Trophy Ride)**....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....19 youth riders had fun  
Aug. 18-19.....Work Bee...Mayhem Swamp, east of Kalkaska.....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



### *Riders appreciate trail work done this spring!!!*

With all of the heavy snow and windy weather in early March, the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail was overwhelmed with debris. Thanks to the many volunteers who generously donated their time and efforts this past spring, the Shore-to-Shore trail was in great condition. Special thanks are extended to the Michigan Shore-to-Shore group for all of their help, the Tri-County Horsemen Club as well as the Backcountry Horsemen – Pigeon River & Beyond for their breakfast at Walsh Road Trail Camp as well as their assistance along the trails. All of the MTRA Board Members greatly appreciate all of the help in marking and clearing their sections of trail this past spring. It's such a great feeling of accomplishment to be able to work together to ensure the safety of the riders and horses who enjoy our natural wonders on the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail.

### September Criss-Cross Ride rapidly approaching!!

It's been 6 years since the last Criss-Cross from Mackinaw City to Cadillac and then Empire to Oscoda. With the opening of the new trail to Mackinaw City this fall, we all hope to establish another "regular" ride in our already busy schedule but one which is unprecedented in sense of accomplishment. Enjoy the month of September (24 days on the trail) covering over 500 miles of scenic trails. The deadline for pre-registration is coming up in early August. Don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime!!!

### ***Board Briefs:***

1. The Board would like to clarify that “layover days” locations change each year due to recommendations of the MDNR to lessen over-use of the “favorite” camps along the Shore-to-Shore Trail. The Ride Committee does their best to schedule “layover days” at the most appropriate times and locations. Please contact committee members for input.
2. The 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration is in progress. The 50<sup>th</sup> Year of the MTRA’s existence will be celebrated at the Annual Banquet in March, 2013 at the Ramada Inn in Grayling. Plans are also in the works for re-dedication of the Shore-to-Shore Trail which is tentatively scheduled in conjunction with one of the June Rides in 2014 – 50 years after the first dedication by Governor Romney. More information will be available as it unveils.
3. The Board would like to express that they do not promote driving horses on the Shore-to-Shore Trail since it was originally designed for single track usage.
4. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.

### ***History Happenings***

Rex & Phyllis Garn are one of the three couples responsible for the initial creation of the MTRA. **Their MTRA number is “0”!** Rex passed on at a young age many years ago. I met with Phyllis, who lives in Traverse City, while I was on the 2011 September Ride. During that visit, I received so much from her and it was so exciting that I had to return to get copies of pictures and MTRA documentation. I returned a few weeks later and it still was just as exciting to hear her tell many stories and to see her pictures. I made copies for our MTRA history books of which I am very grateful. One thing I would like to share with everyone is something Phyllis expressed. She told me that all those who worked so hard on MTRA’s beginnings had one great fear. ***She stated, “When we handed the club over, we were so afraid others wouldn’t work so hard to keep it going”.*** I reminded her that we were soon celebrating MTRA’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The exuberance in her smile and the excitement she expressed was absolutely precious!

***Sally Seaver, MTRA Historian***

*Only horse people...  
are banned from Laundromats.*

Don't be late!!!!

The **Criss-Cross Ride** begins on September 7<sup>th</sup> with a **Pot Luck** dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service, your chair and drink. The MTRA will provide hot dogs, buns & fixin’s. More details will be available at the Trail Boss’s rig when you check in.

Name tags are optional!!!!!! And greatly appreciated by all attendees, especially Newbies!!!

### **Mayhem Swamp Work Bee – August 18 & 19, 2012**

Please be ready to help out to resurface the trail between Kalkaska and Goose Creek called “The Mayhem Swamp”. All work will begin by 9:00 AM on Saturday (arrive on Friday if you wish) with loads of gravel all ready to be moved as well as boardwalk to construct. Bring hand tools, tractors, rakes, shovels, ½” drills, etc. Lunch with drinks will be provided on Saturday by the MTRA. The work area will be located at the west end of the “Mayhem”, along Rabourn Road. Call Chuck Fanslow and/or Al Kendall for more details.

## SEPTEMBER CRISS-CROSS TO MACKINAW

After many hours of toil and trouble, we are headed back to Mackinaw City for the beginning of the 2012 September Criss Cross Ride. Hopefully this information will give you a head start in your planning.

Friday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> is arrival day at Mullet Lake Trail Camp. Please arrive early to enjoy the excitement of meeting and greeting old friends and new!! If you would like to help out, we need some volunteers to help mark the trail as well as the parking area which is called the Mackinaw Disc Golf Course. The tees and wickets need to be marked with step-in fence posts and blue streamers. Anyone who will be at Mullet Lake Trail Camp by noon on Friday and would like to go to Mackinaw and help, please call either Jan at (989) 723-1425 or Chris at (989-473-3205) or look Jan up (look for the sheltie kennel with the blue easy up canopy) when you get to Mullet Lake.

When you check in with the Trail Boss you will receive a map of the “new” trail to Lake Michigan including the parking area. Also, there will be a pot-luck dinner at 6:00 PM at the Mullet Lake Trail Camp prior to the Trail Boss’s pre-ride meeting at 7:00 PM. Bring a dish to pass, your own table service, a chair and your drink. MTRA will provide hot dogs, buns and fixings. Name tags are optional but greatly appreciated!

There will be NO BUS on Saturday so you will need to make arrangements with some of the other riders to trade rides or have someone drop you off at the parking area just like we do on all of the trophy rides. Don’t hesitate to ask your neighbor or the Trail Boss for an explanation. Since the ride to the lake is a long one (25 miles + 2 miles to parking area) you will want to make these arrangements early. Don’t worry – it always works out. And, the pot-luck dinner may be an opportune time to meet other riders who are also looking for someone to trade rides with.

After the ride on Saturday, more help is needed to “drag” the rail-trail, clean-up the Disc Golf Course and general manure management along the trail to the lake. The trail markers will also need to be removed. The MTRA bus will haul all volunteers for this adventure then take a run thru the ice cream store for refreshments, compliments of the MTRA. Please bring buckets or trash bags and manure apple pickers or rakes and shovels to the bus about 3:00 pm. The more volunteers we get, the faster this job will go.

Ron Wolfen will go with the truck to drag the rail-trail and Jan Wolfen will go with the people on the bus. If you can volunteer for these jobs please be at the MTRA bus at 3:00 pm on Saturday.

**ATTENTION ALL RIDERS:** Please be done with your ride by 3:00 pm on Saturday because ALL of the manure has to be cleaned up in Mackinaw City. Also, please help the volunteers on Saturday by cleaning up your manure in the parking area. Put it back in your trailer and take it back to Mullet Lake Trail Camp where you can spread it in the woods or the field.

FYI: The ride from Mullet Lake Camp to the water at Lake Michigan and then back to your rig at the Disc Golf Course is approximately 27 miles. The only water along the route is from a large ditch (we hope there will be water there) in Emmet County. It is not accessible with horses. You will have to carry a collapsible bucket with you (with a sting attached) to lower the bucket into the water and pull it back up to water your horse.

If you have any questions about these two days, please call Jan Wolfen at (989) 723-1425.



## Secretarial Notes:

1. Check out the June issue of TrailBlazer Magazine where you can find the “Top Trail Picks of the Month” by the TrailMeister which highlights the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail. See page 87.
2. Please be advised that the bus departure times are “subject to change” due to various conditions. With fuel prices as they are, if there is need for only one bus, the departure time will be announced at the pre-ride meeting.
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 Facebook Page has been viewed and “liked” by many of you. Please feel free to post pictures with links so that we can all enjoy your rides and workbees. I'm running a bit behind but I'll have pictures of the 2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride posted soon.
5. Thank you so much for the cards, kind thoughts and lovely plant that was sent by the MTRA after my recent shoulder surgery. My horse and I took a tumble out near South Branch and my riding days for 2012 are done. Yes, Smokey is fine! Here's hoping for better days ahead and many years of “safe” riding to come!!

*Hope you all have a wonderful riding season - chris*

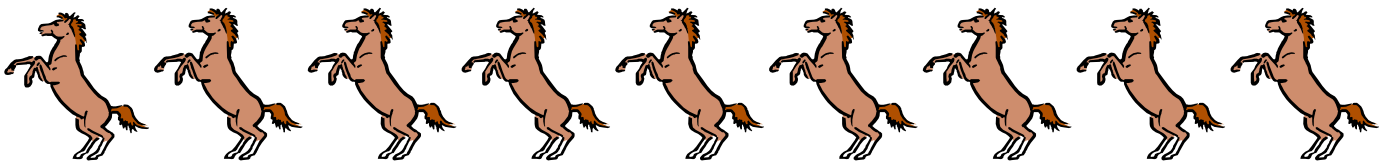
### *Just a thought:*

*We have a great “Good to Know” list that is available at the Trail Boss's rig for your use. It lists veterinarians, farriers, mechanics, places to shower and/or do laundry, restaurants and other places that it's good to know all along the Shore-to-Shore Trail but we would like to add Tack Shops to our list. If you know of any good tack shops that we could add, please send along a note with all pertinent information via email or snail mail to the MTRA Office. Thanks so much - chris*

*Whenever possible,  
land feet first*

### **Calling all Personnel:**

The Board of Directors would like to extend an invitation to all persons who would be interested in applying for the job of **Secretary/Treasurer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Bus Driver and Trail Boss**. Please contact the MTRA Office for copies of the job descriptions or send a resume with your qualifications. We are looking for individuals with these skills who might be available if we are in need in an emergency. Call any Board member for details. Thanks - **BOD**



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