Michigan Trail Riders Association, Inc.

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August 2009 – NEWSLETTER

2009 RIDE SCHEDULE & Work Bees – Ride registration forms on webpage & by request!

May 1 - 3....*Work Bee* at McKinley Camp.....28 people worked 214 hours to replace boardwalk along trail to SB

May 2-3.....*Work Bee* at Cadillac Camp.....4 people worked 32 hours to install Fire Ring

May 9 – 17.....*Blossom Ride*..... Mullett Lake to Luzerne.....28-53 riders enjoyed the great weather

May 29 – June 7..... *Oscoda to Empire*..... 65 trophies awarded.....88-103 riders braved the cold & wet

June 13 – 28.....*Garey Lake to Oscoda* ...75 trophies awarded..... 108-153 participants celebrated 45 years

August 7, 8 & 9 (changed dates)....*Work Bee*.....South Branch Trail Camp.....Trail work, etc.

Sept 11 - 20 ..... *Oscoda to Empire*..... (Trophy ride).....Pre-register by August 12

October 3 – 11 ..... *Color Ride* .....Goose Creek to Cadillac..... Pre-register by September 4

This year we celebrated our 45th Anniversary of the June Rides. There were special activities, special t-shirts, and special trophies!!!

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New Fire Ring in Cadillac Trail Camp

For all of the riders who enjoy the Cadillac Trail Camp during the October/Color Rides and Kris-cross Rides, don't forget to express your appreciation to the members who made this addition to the Trail Camp a reality. In recognition for all the work that Dave Thomas has done through the years both as a Board Member and "regular" member of the MTRA; Jack Heaton, Jeff Sawyer, Pat Galloup and Gene Langschied met at the Cadillac Trail Camp the first weekend of May to install the new Fire Ring which had been ordered by Al Davis. This camp has always been one of Dave's favorites. Thanks to all for your time and effort! Please enjoy the campfire camaraderie when in Cadillac and remember that a great organization comes from great members!

NOTICE ---------- Don't forget to get those Coggins tests on any horses you bring to a ride!!!!----------

Youth Riders' Fund Well Supported

With only one year under its "belt" the Youth Riders' Fund has become a standard by which donations are measured. Many members chose to donate money to this worthy cause including an extra $5-50 with their membership renewals for 2009. Others have chosen to donate sizeable amounts in memory of past members who held the MTRA in high esteem, especially the young riders. We hate to lose our treasured "older" members but we appreciate all of the support of the youth through generous donations. One of those members who recently passed is remembered as follows:

"One of the biggest loves of my father's life was the MTRA with 40 years of so many, many friends, trails and campfire laughter. He loved to dance so much that he was nicknamed 'Dancing Stan'. He would go to the trail ride with stress and come back all smiles. A true cowboy! I don't think I can watch 'Lonesome Dove' again because he reminded me of Gus. When it was time to say where we wanted the extra money to go, there was no doubt – the MTRA Youth Riders' Fund. My kids grew up with the MTRA as part of their lives, as did I. A Memorial service was held at Scheck's Trail Camp in June. Thanks for everyone being the best part of my dad's life." (From the family of Stan Osborne #238)

Note: The Memorial was held on June 17th beside the Boardman River with many riders attending including friends and family.

August Work Bee to be held at South Branch

Please be aware that the dates have changed for this Work Bee, from Aug 15-16 to Aug 7, 8 & 9. We will be working on trails that need "shoring" up due to wet conditions. Most of the workers will be clearing up around picket areas and leveling the holes left by anxious steeds. Bring your boots, shovels, rakes, gloves, bug spray and friends to help as we meet again and have a great time working on the trails that we enjoy so much. Lunch on Saturday will be provided. If you have any questions, contact Garry Randall for details.

AuSable River Expo

Special thanks goes out to Sue Seifert and Carol Hyzer for their assistance in manning the booth at the first "annual" AuSable River Expo held in Grayling this past April. We spent two days and were visited by many curious anglers who wanted to know what it was we rode and where we rode it. Many people stopped to enjoy Carol's cookies which were a **big** hit! We had a great time talking horses, camping and trail riding with all of the folks. Many visitors picked up membership information so maybe we'll have some more "Newbies".

Board Briefs:

1. The Ride Calendars for 2010 have been presented to the Board by the Ride Committee. After much discussion the calendars have been finalized and will be presented to the MDNR for approval. A new idea has been presented called the "Flip Flop Ride" which will be introduced for October 2010. We'll keep you posted!
2. There is not a Kris-Cross ride scheduled for 2010 due to time constraints as well as MDNR constraints regarding the number of rigs allowed in some of the North Spur camps. These latter regulations are dependent on the DEQ limitations on "facility" usage. The Board is pursuing waivers for these regulations.
3. There are new "horse crossing" signs on M-37 and US-31 where the Shore-to-Shore Trail crosses those busy roads. Many thanks to M-DOT for hearing our pleas for safety at those dangerous intersections.
4. The MTRA Booth will be on display at the Shiawassee County Fair August 9-15th. Dave Kline and Dale Peterson have done a great job in presenting our association with this picturesque display. Please stop in and check it out if you are in the area.
5. PayPal is now an option for paying membership dues thru the website. C. Fanslow was instrumental in getting this opportunity available to former and new members and map purchases. The membership fee is a bit more for PayPal to cover operational costs. Mail-in membership will always by available. For questions, contact Rayner.

Secretarial Notes

1. **Special thanks goes to all of you who aren't afraid to call or email with questions. If you did not receive your membership card, ride confirmation, maps, etc. please call or email to follow up with me. I usually can turn around membership applications in 1-2 days so you should receive your membership packet within a week. Ride confirmation cards or emails go out the same day I receive your registration form. PLEASE follow up with me if you don't receive notice of payment, etc. I'm not perfect – yet!**
2. **We have received many compliments on how clean the trail and Trail Camps have been both before and after we've been through on a ride. It's rewarding to hear the appreciation from our members as well as the MDNR and USFS. Keep up the good work! (and) Thanks for the support!**
3. **A BIG Thank You needs to be extended to Helen Meier and Diana Davis for updating the Veterinary/Farrier List. They put in a lot of time checking with the interested practitioners and compiling the list to be distributed to our members. You can get a copy from the Trail Boss or let me know and I can mail/email you a copy. It's a great resource to have in your rig in case of emergencies.**
4. **Please be sure to let me know if you change email addresses or carriers. We have about 400 members now who receive the Newsletter by email or print from the website. With only four Newsletters each year, I don't want to miss anyone with the important communications. Congratulations in helping us to cut costs!!!**
5. **We've acquired a few copies of the Rhoda Ritter book <u>Shore to Shore on the Michigan Riding & Hiking Trail: True Stories of the First Crossing and Further Adventures.</u> If you would like a copy just email or call and I'll put it in the mail for you. The cost will be $7.00 per book.**

Happy Trails - chris

Trail Etiquette

All of us enjoy the trails or we wouldn't be in this organization. However, sometimes we forget our responsibilities while we are having so much fun and other riders may be endangered due to young and/or inexperienced horses. Remember that we all share the trail (and the love of horses and riding) and safety of all involved needs to be a priority. Please review the "Rules" in our Guide Book on pages 12 thru 14. The rules are there to protect you and your horses so that everyone can have a great time safely.

No Worries!

Have you wondered what those "glowing" circles are around and/or hanging from the horses' halters at night? No, they aren't aliens, just glow sticks (which bend to become bracelets) to illuminate your horse so you can check on them during the night from the comfort of your camper. If you aren't aware of the "glow sticks" that are available through several people on the Rides, please inquire with the Trail Boss. You can get some of those neon circles for just a quarter each. In addition, with each purchase you will be supporting the Youth Riders' Fund since Kim & Steve Ross so generously donated all of the glow sticks in support of the kids. When you see the glowing bracelets in camp, think about the kids and thank Kim & Steve for helping to make horse camping a bit easier and more fun as well. And don't forget to rest easy since you can see your horse readily in the dark – or has he gone to visit the neighbors whose horses are also sporting neon green? Just a thought!

Old minds are like old horses;
you must exercise them if you wish
to keep them in working order!!!

John Adams

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This institution is operated under special use permit with the Huron-Manistee Nation Forest and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Please forgive the following errors in the April Newsletter -
Phone number corrections: Joe Burrill – 989-205-4745, Kathy Moss – 989-872-4712

45 YEARS OF JUNE RIDES – FUN FOR ONE AND ALL

If you couldn't make this year's 2nd June Ride, it's too bad you missed all of the excitement. The 45th Anniversary of the MTRA Shore-to-Shore crossings was celebrated in Goose Creek on the layover day, June 20th with more activities on "awards" night in South Branch on June 27th. With lots of activities for young and "old" we must appreciate the family we've become. We laughed, hooted, cried, clapped and thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship we all shared. Here are some pictures for you to enjoy if you missed the real thing. More pictures can be found on the Forum page of the www.mtra.org website or contact Therese Kline at theresekline@gmail.com.

Explain that "Sheet Game" one more time!

Is that Iron Buns Bos?
Wow – 60 crossings!!!!
Way to go Rose!!!

Anybody hungry for breakfast?

Are we ready for the stick-horse races?

Is that Al on a horse? Ommmmmm!!!

Thanks Therese and Kelly for making all these fun and games possible!!!! ☺☺☺☺