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# August 2013 – NEWSLETTER

## Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates for 2013 & 2014

Aug. 10-16.....**FAMILY RIDE**.....New, New, New.....Scheck's to Goose Creek  
Aug. 17-18-Work Bee-Johnson Crossing Trail Camp..clean up trail camp, redo Black River water access  
Sept. 5-15.....**September Ride (TROPHY)**.....Lake Michigan/Mullett Lake to Lake Huron  
Sept. 14.....MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....Desi's, (River Rd) Oscoda.....3:00 PM  
Oct. 5-12.....**Color Ride**.....South Branch to Goose Creek  
Jan 4, 2014.....MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....Ramada Inn, Grayling.....10:00 AM  
March 22, 2014...Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting.....Ramada Inn, Grayling.....6:00 PM  
March 23, 2014...MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....Ramada Inn, Grayling.....9:30 AM

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Another summer seems half-way over already. Hoping it will dry up some and people can get their hay off and get that price down so we can afford to keep our horses. It has been a busy year thus far with lots more to do. With the Work Bee at Johnson Crossing Trail Camp which includes the Black River watering area in the Pigeon River Country coming up, we will have lots of manual labor work to get done. Thanks to the DNR in the Pigeon River area for donating the gravel and rock to take care of the watering area. If you have the time, all of your efforts to help would be greatly appreciated. Remember it's hard to get something out of something if you don't put something into it.

We also are working on some other items with the DNR like getting some protection and buffer zones along our trail system so we do not have to look and ride in clear cuts and try to jockey around log piles and logging trucks and equipment which is a safety and esthetics problem.

It is nice seeing a lot of "newbies" and out-of-state riders this year. Welcome all and please come back again. Our ride numbers are improving and with the followed recommendations from our finance committee, things are looking up for us financially. Please help and come ride if you can, the more riders help cover that fixed overhead and keep the rides going. Hope to see everyone on the new August Family Ride. If you have concerns or ideas please remember that my door (email & phone) are always open.

Chuck Fanslow, MTRA President (989-435-9224)

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## **SEPTEMBER TROPHIES TO SPORT 50<sup>TH</sup> INSIGNIA**

At the Board of Director meeting in June there was mention of the confusion with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. At the 2013 Annual Banquet the MTRA celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> year as an association since it was incorporated in 1963. In 1964 the first Shore-to-Shore Ride was held and that is when the Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail was dedicated by then Governor George Romney hence the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the trail in 2014. To avoid any further confusion, the Board decided to offer the 50<sup>th</sup> Insignia on the trophies for the 2013 September Ride. All trophy winners from the June Rides can have the 50<sup>th</sup> Insignia applied to their trophies if they wish. Just send those trophies to the MTRA office with a check for \$5.00 to cover return shipping. We apologize for all the confusion but there's yet another good reason to join the September Ride and get those "first" unique trophies! Questions? – call Chris @ 989-473-3205.

### ***Horse People are Truly Amazing***

I would like to begin by thanking all of the MTRA Board Members for the time and efforts they all put forth in keeping the Shore-to-Shore Trails open, marked and maintained for the use of the public and the MTRA membership. Also, I would like to thank the Board Members who accompanied us on the 2013 Second June Ride like Jimmy Corlew, Al Davis (+ wife Diana) and especially Joe Burrill who personally took my grand-daughter, Anna, and myself under his wing. He guided us as well as others from camp to camp and trail by trail across the state. Joe looked out for Anna and I day after day. We would truly not have been able to make this trip without his expert knowledge and mentorship.

The first ride day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride fell on Father's Day. Most of us know how painful that day must have been for Joe due to the loss of his daughter, Kathy, just a few short weeks after her last MTRA ride in 2005. He and Anna became great friends and he commented to me how much she reminds him of his beloved Kathy.

When my horse was injured and it was necessary for me to pull myself and my horse from the ride, Joe stepped right in, found me, my tack and my horse a ride to the next camp and took charge of Anna so she could continue to ride. So, with Joe's help and guidance, she earned her very first MTRA trophy!!!

There are truly no words that can express the gratitude Anna and I and our other camp companions (Mary & Dani) feel for all of you at the MTRA nor is there a way to thank Joe Burrill for letting us "newbies" slow him down, keep him up late, make him get up early to drag us all along with him camp to camp and bug him with all of our personal problems and mechanical malfunctions. We didn't think "roasting" him was fitting at awards night, but we do know he needs to be recognized and that two of the things closest to his heart are his daughter, Kathy, and the MTRA Youth Riders' Fund. Joe supports the YRF by making bottle collections and actively supports the "rent-a-kid" activities as well as arranged the tubing for the kids on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride.

So – Joe, the following collection was made and is being donated to the MTRA Youth Rider Fund in special memory of you and your daughter, Kathy Burrill.

From Anna Benson - \$5.00

From Mary Goode - \$10.00  
From Shawn & Calvin Benson - \$15.00  
From Dani Miller – \$20.00  
From G-Ma and the Paso Ponies, Sam & Mattie - \$50.00

Thanks for keeping us all going and safe and we want you to know how much it meant to all of us for you to share your Father's Day, and the weeks that followed, with all of us. Please never regret the memories you made with Kathy on her last ride. Cherish them as I'm sure she did and as we will forever cherish our memories and know that people like you and Kathy are what have gotten the MTRA thru the last 50 years and hopefully the next 50!! Our family hopes that our trails will pass again in the future and until then, Happy Trails to you Joe Burrill, we hope we get to ride/camp with you again soon.

Bridget Kohlrust MTRA #791

## ***HISTORY HAPPENINGS***

This year, as we continue in our 50<sup>th</sup> MTRA year, the September Ride is going to make MTRA history. For the first time, the direction that will be ridden is from Mackinaw to Oscoda.

Jan Wolfin, along with her husband, Ron, are continuing to scout and maintain the Mullet Lake to Mackinaw ride so the trail riders can enjoy riding from the Mackinaw Bridge. It's a great trail up there, but Jan would like to improve on a few issues if she can.

I encourage trail riders to come and be a part of MTRA's history and participate in this year's September Trail Ride. It's always exciting to be a part of something that is a "First" and the direction change will be a different experience!

P.S. During this riding season, don't forget to take pictures (with your horse) for the Membership Book.

Sally Seaver, Historian (lrexal@aol.com)

### **HISTORY TRIVIA**

Members were given a questionnaire for a new 3<sup>rd</sup> ride to be in May or September. What was the result of that questionnaire? What year did the MTRA have the **first September Ride**? What direction did the first September ride go? (Answer on page 6)

## **2014 Annual Banquet – Ramada Inn, Grayling**

We are headed back to the Ramada Inn in Grayling for the 2014 Annual Banquet on March 22, 2014. Festivities begin Saturday about noon with vendors in the pool area, displays of MTRA memorabilia and the "MTRA Office" table where you can pick up your banquet tickets, purchase maps, memberships, Rhoda Ritter books, etc. We can begin seating at 5:00 PM with a cash bar available in the dining room with dinner beginning at 6:00. After dinner and the general membership meeting you can dance your boots off to Best Entertainment with Bernie until 1:00 AM. And if that's not enough excitement, there's a Board of Director meeting at 9:30 AM the next morning!!! We have a block of rooms reserved so remember to mention that you are with the MTRA to get the special rate. Reservations may be made at: 989-348-7611. See you there!!!

## **BOARD BRIEFS:**

1. The August Family Ride is going to be held August 10 – 16 as planned. After much discussion, most board members felt this ride should happen since many members from out-of-state are scheduled as well as working people have requested time off for their “vacations”. The participant numbers keep rising so it should be lots of fun.
2. The Ride Committee presented their proposal for the 2014 Ride Calendars which will not include the Blossom Ride but will include the August Family Ride as well as rides in June, September and October. Tentative calendars will be posted with the next newsletter.
3. Much discussion was held regarding the logging along the Shore-to-Shore Trail and the danger it presents to riders and horses. Several board members are investigating our options.
4. Work Bee changes were made due to circumstances beyond our control. More information below.
5. The Maps & Guide Book will be in the editing process soon and the board would like any and all input for additions, corrections, etc. to those publications. The last publication date for those items was 2007. If you have any suggestions, please submit them to the MTRA office.
6. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.

## **August Work Bee Location Changed!!!!**

Please notice that the Work Bee Location for August 17-18 has been changed from South Branch Trail Camp north of Hale to Johnson Crossing Trail Camp east of Gaylord. The boardwalk work that we hoped to accomplish just north of Curtisville has been postponed to next year due to circumstances beyond our control. The Johnson Crossing Trail Camp needs a general clean-up with several picket poles to be replaced. Needed for this activity will be tractors with loaders or forks, a chipper, brush hog, shovels, pole saws, chain saws, rakes and volunteers to handle all of the above. Just north of this camp is the Black River water access point where riders can water their horses along the trail between Johnson Crossing and Elk Hill. This access spot needs to be re-done with lots of manual labor needed. The DNR will be donating gravel used at this location but we will need to move it using wheel-barrows, shovels, rakes and volunteers to do the work – no news there!! Lunch on Saturday will be provided by the MTRA with Al & Marilyn Dennis handling the details. If you can volunteer for anything, please contact Chuck Fanslow (phone number + email address above) who will be managing the work details and Marilyn Dennis (989-848-5606) who will take care of the good food.

## **SOME READING MATERIAL!!!!**

1. In **The Trail Rider** – April 2013 – p. 78+ - Pack-and-Go Checklists
2. In **trailBlazer** – March 2013 – p. 94 – Michigan Trail Riders Association Celebrates 50 Years in 2013
3. In **trailBlazer** – March 2013 – p. 42+ - Capturing the Spirit of Horse Camping
4. In **Michigan Outdoor News** – March 15, 2013 – p. 6+ - State plans more trails in Pigeon River Country for horseback riding
5. In **trailBlazer** – May 2013 – p. 28+ - Should you carry a GPS on the Trail?
6. In **trailBlazer** – May 2013 – p. 36+ - Dehydration: Summer Peril
7. In **trailBlazer** – May 2013 – p. 96 – MTRA Receives Community Service Award

8. In **The Trail Rider** – May 2013 – p. 58-59 – Your Trail Story – The Shore-to-Shore Trail

Just to mention a few articles that I thought you might enjoy – obviously I'm way behind on my reading. Please share any or all of your horsey/camping/riding reading adventures on our Facebook page or let me know so that I can share them with others thru the newsletters - chris.

### **Last Call for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirts**

B & D Classic Sewn is offering to print the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary t-shirts that they made for the Annual Banquet just one more time. If you are interested in ordering a t-shirt, please contact them at 231-825-2628. Cost is \$20.00 per shirt which includes shipping. This is the last printing so get your orders in by August 1<sup>st</sup> or you will miss out on this piece of history!!! (gray t-shirts with black lettering)

### ***BIG THANKS TO THE MICHIGAN DNR AND US FOREST SERVICE***

We can't express enough gratitude for all of the work done by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the US Forest Service. Both entities are instrumental in working with the MTRA to maintain the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail. Just this year we have noticed a new culvert north of Stoney Creek Trail Camp where before there was a large hole in the middle of the trail. There has been lots of work done at the Luzerne Trail Camp cleaning up stumps and lots of brush as well as the installation of a new "surround" fence at the well. The MDNR has been working closely with us regarding the GPSing of the trail with their donation of event fees to help defray costs. And the personnel from both entities are always available to help out in any way they can like at the 4-Mile Trail Camp when the dumpsters were full on the 1<sup>st</sup> June Ride. And let's not forget the loggers who needed to be reminded that we have children and "newbies" on the trails and horses who are afraid of those scary trucks, logs and other logging equipment. To all of the people involved with our rides and organization thereof, thanks for all of your assistance and we hope to continue the wonderful communications that we've enjoyed for the past 50 years and hope for another 50 years in the future.

### **Generosity is Contagious**

The generosity of the MTRA continues to exceed the expectations of all the members. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride, Al and Diana Davis submitted a check for the sale of tree savers, glow sticks, can and bottle returns, the Rent-A-Kid activity and general donations to the tune of \$1035.85. Another check was included for \$60 donated to the Youth Riders' Fund by Col. Don and Jan Packard. That totals \$1095.85 for just the Youth Riders' Fund. You have already seen the information regarding donations from Bridget Kohlrust, Anna and friends and family. Just today a check for \$150.00 arrived from Candy Wagner and Forrest Rhoads in memory of Jim Hardy. They held a Memorial Ride with donations from the following: Jay & Joan Penrose, Liberty Landis, Anna Nelson, Angela & Shayna Rizzardi, Stephanie, Jim Bundoff, Stephanie & Kaylee Widenar, Harley Socia, Cassey Mousseau, Babette Manning, Ruth Schoville, Linda Smith, Dave & Julie Culp, and Lynn & Erin Robson. Another donation of \$101.00 was received from Kim Ross and all of her friends who attended her annual South Branch Trail Ride in June. This money is earmarked for the Curtisville boardwalk project which will be attempted next summer. In summary, we cannot mention everyone's name who donates money to the MTRA but it is by far an accepted fact that trail riders stick together, help each other and support their love of horses, trail riding and the Michigan Trail Riders Association. Thanks for everything!!!!

## **Horsemen's Corral Update**

The MTRA has become a member of the Corral Club thru the **Horsemen's Corral** magazine which is published in Ohio. To be a member of their Corral Club we had at least 10 members purchase subscriptions to this magazine for \$10.00 per year and that allows us to publish our membership application as well as an article each month. Our Ride Calendar has been published as well – all you need to do is go to: <http://www.thehorsemenccorral.com/>, click on "Calendar" and search for Michigan activities. Please check this out and if you might be interested in subscribing to this publication next year, just call or email the MTRA office and get on the list for 2014. For those who have subscribed in 2013, please let other members (and the MTRA office) know if you are pleased with the coverage and content of the magazine.

### **Special Thanks to our GPSers!!!**

Thus far we have accomplished GPS mapping of the South Spur and the East/West sections of the Shore-to-Shore Trail. A big THANK YOU goes out to Robert Lee who used his GPS to track the sections from Scheck's to Cadillac. A bigger THANK YOU goes out to Kim Ross and Gale Moore for completing the entire East/West trail with Kim's two GPS units. We greatly appreciate the work that you've all done and especially because you volunteered your efforts. The DNR has graciously donated our last two event fees for this work to be done. Thanks again for doing such a great job and we hope to be able to get the North Spur done during the September Ride. We'll be looking for volunteers – any interested riders please call the office?

**History Trivia Answer:** The result was a tie, half voted for May and half for September so the Board voted and 13 votes won for the September Ride. The first ride was in 1979 & the direction was from east to west.

Please keep those Ride Feedback Forms (the green ones) coming to the MTRA office. We greatly appreciate the time it takes for you to fill them out, the stamp you must use if you mail them as well as your comments to help us make these rides and the MTRA better for everyone. For the most part, the comments are positive and it is great that you all are having such good times; however, the negative/constructive comments are also useful as all of us can improve our performance. Please do not limit your comments in response to the questions on the form. Express your views openly and make suggestions. The communication lines need to always be available and this is just one avenue to accomplish that task. Please feel free to return those forms when it is convenient – you may sign them or return them anonymously. You may also send your comments via email if that is convenient. We just want to hear from you!!!!

- chris

PS – I'm hoping to post a Ride Feedback Form on the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website so that you can download, fill out and send to the office. It's on my list of things to do!!!

## **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. Special Thanks goes out to Barb Henderson and Donna Dochterman who registered for the entire August Family Ride and neither one of them can attend. They wanted to make sure that the ride succeeds this year so they can plan on attending next year! That's what I call generosity!!!
3. We have three "new" LIFE memberships. Taylor Orefice, Randy Mayhew and Linda Pouncey are not "newbies" to the organization but their commitment to the MTRA is commendable. Welcome Lifers!!
4. There are lots of updates on the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website and work continues. Please clear the history in your search engine so that you can receive the new information. Need help – call the office!
5. Don't forget to plan for the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail re-dedication to be held in Kalkaska on June 21, 2014. Let's celebrate 50 years of this great trail!!! Mark your calendars now so you can be there!!!!
6. Thanks so much to all of you June riders for sending pictures and sharing your thoughts/experiences on the Facebook Page. We are getting lots of traffic and we all love to see those great pictures! How about that eagle?
7. Please don't hesitate to call or email the office if you have any questions and/or concerns about the association, the newsletter, the rides, etc. We'll do our best to help you.
8. Here's hoping our second half of the 2013 Ride Season is as good as the first half has been!!!  
- chris (989-473-3205) raynechris@gmail.com

### **Horse Camping Basics with Kim Ross**

Many of our "newbies" and some of us "oldies" can use brushing up on our horse camping skills and we have a special opportunity to offer. Kim Ross, MTRA #4306, has graciously offered to teach us all a thing or two about horse camping incorporating the MTRA regulations and requirements along the way. She will be covering the planning stages, camp needs, trail etiquette, safety and much, much more. She will be offering her expertise to all campers on the August Family Ride so if you need to learn how to set up your first picket line, look for Kim and her helpers. We'll try to organize a workshop on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Scheck's Trail Camp to help all of us be better horse campers. We'll even have some handouts to take with you. Come join us for lots of fun!!!

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