

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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December 2012 – NEWSLETTER

Proposed Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates for 2013

January 5.....	Board of Director Meeting.....	Ramada Inn, Grayling.....	10:30 AM
March 23.....	MTRA Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting...	Ramada Inn, Grayling...	6:00 PM
March 24.....	MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....	Ramada Inn, Grayling.....	9:30 AM
May 4-5.....	Work Bee.....	Kalkaska Trail Camp	9:00 AM---
May 10-19.....	PROPOSED	Blossom Ride.....	Garey Lake to Cadillac
May 30-June 9.....	PROPOSED	1 st June Ride(trophy).....	Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
June 15 – 30.....	PROPOSED	2 nd June Ride(trophy).....	Lake Michigan to Lake Huron
June 22.....	MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....	4-Mile Truck Stop, Grayling.....	3:30 PM
Aug. 10-16.....	PROPOSED	Family Ride.....	Scheck's to Goose Creek
Aug. 17-18.....	Work Bee.....	South Branch/Curtisville.....	replace/repair boardwalk
Sept. 5-15.....	PROPOSED	September Ride(trophy)...	Lake Michigan/Mullett Lake to Lake Huron
Oct. 5-12.....	PROPOSED	Color Ride.....	South Branch to Goose Creek

Memories & More from 2012

It's been a great year with new friends, fun times and special memories made. Just check out some of the pictures taken by our many members and posted on the Facebook Page linked to the www.mtra.org website and you'll see the wonder of the MTRA. Here are just a few of the facts: daily count of participants on rides ran from 19 (Blossom & Color Ride) to 111 (1st June Ride). Trophy winner numbers ran from 42 (1st June Ride) to 76 (September Ride) with 29 of those riders accomplishing the Criss Cross!!! Wow – over 520 miles in 23 straight days – **CONGRATULATIONS!!!** Trophy winners totaled 186 for 2012. As of November 1, 2012 the highest membership number is 6753 with 900 active memberships and between 2000-3000 members. With each mailing of the newsletter, over 400 members receive their newsletter via email or website printing. And on the working end – over 1055 hours with 108 volunteers worked the work bees with 1105+ hours and 98+ volunteers just clearing and marking the Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail. What a great (and busy) year it's been – looking forward to 2013!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

It's that time of year for membership renewals to start rolling in. All memberships **EXPIRE** on January 1st!!! As a reminder, if your membership is current through 2012 it will only cost \$25 to renew if paid by March 31st. If you wish to vote in the Annual Election for Board Members and Bylaws Changes you need to renew your membership before the voting date. If you've forgotten to renew recently and wish to "re-join" it will cost \$35 and you will be able to keep your former MTRA number. Please check on page 28 of the Guidebook (7th edition) for all the details concerning membership. Refer to page 30 for the March 18, 2007 amendment to the bylaws regarding dues. Enclosed with this newsletter is the renewal form. Email folks will receive a separate email with the form attached and details. If you print your newsletters from the website and have not submitted your email address, you will not receive a notice. Yes, you can still renew and/or join using PayPal or credit cards but only thru the website: www.mtra.org. If you have any questions, please call 989-473-3205 or email the office at raynechris@gmail.com.

"Kindness gives birth to kindness"
Sophocles



BOARD BRIEFS:

1. The new trail to Lake Michigan at Mackinaw was a great success. Jan Wolfen will continue to make it a permanent reality. Mackinaw City was thrilled to see us again!!
2. Thanks to all of the riders who submitted Ride Feedback Forms. We greatly appreciate your efforts and will consider your suggestions for the coming ride season.
3. Joe Burrill has volunteered to sponsor the "Pot-luck" dinner at the beginning of each of the "trophy" rides in 2013. It was a wonderful beginning on the September Ride!!
4. The Recreation Passports will be required for all campers in 2013. Though we didn't need them this year, we are investigating options for 2013. You can find more information here: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_55798---,00.html.
5. Pat Galloup would like to hear from all members about "why you ride" and "why you don't ride" with our organized trail rides. Her email address is: patgalloup@gmail.com, cell phone #231-920-5680.
6. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.

Special Thanks goes out to...

1. **Pat Galloup, Kate Galloup, Ty Townsend, Jane Miller, Sharon Brazee, Joe Burrill & Renee Beesley for the organization and implementation of the "Poker Ride" between Goose Creek and Kalkaska on the September Ride – both times thru! What a great time was had by all.**
2. **The Chicago guys (Chuck Carlson, Dan Goodman & Jeff Lee) for providing the generous meal and drinks at Ranch Rudolf during the Color Ride. The food was great, drinks plentiful and friendship heartwarming! The whole camp was invited and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. (We hope you did, too!!)**

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Annual Elections will be held in March at the Annual Meeting with the following present Board Members interested in re-running. Ron Anderson, Al Davis and Chuck Fanslow will be running for re-election of their Board seats. There are five openings to fill on the Board in 2012. If any other MTRA members are interested in running for Board seats, please send in a picture and a short (~100 words) explanation of your Michigan Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.

intentions including what you've done and wish to accomplish. Please submit your picture and information to Chris at the MTRA Office by January 1st so that the ballots and information sheet will be ready for the February newsletter. E-mail submissions are acceptable.

Proposed Bylaws change

The following change to the Bylaws has been proposed and accepted by the Board of Directors to be presented to the General Membership at the **March 2013 Annual Meeting** for adoption. Please refer to page 28 of the Guide Book, Article IX – Membership and Dues. Then read the following and ask any questions for clarification since you will be voting in March. (**changes are highlighted**)

SECTION I. MEMBERSHIP. Any person may be elected to a **membership (individual/family)** in this corporation by a majority vote of the directors present at any regular or special meeting of the board of directors. All applications for membership shall be submitted to the secretary for a conditional membership until the applications can be submitted for **approval or denial** by the board of directors at the next board of directors meeting. **A conditional membership is a probationary period entitling said conditional member all rights of the MTRA, excluding voting rights, as stated in the By Laws.** Note: A family membership is defined as family members living in the same household, and be comprised of father/mother/son/daughter, and excludes children over the age of eighteen or married.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

I would like to remind all MTRA members about my "All Members Picture Project". I have been working on getting a picture of every member into the history books. If you're a rider, I prefer the picture to be on or near your horse but it is your choice. If you do have your horse in the picture, make sure when you give it to me with your horse's name. I will remind you that to make it easier to find people in the book, I'm putting it in alphabetical order. Therefore group pics of 2 or more will only work if it is a family with all the same last names. Group pics of friends will not work.

I would also like to request some pictures. If anyone has a "face forward" picture of Sharon Day, Doc Lannen or Phyllis Garn, and/or a picture of the 1996 Double Crossers, **PLEASE** send me a copy. The 1996 Double Cross is the only double that we don't have a picture of the crossers. Pictures were taken after it got dark but I would be grateful for even a dark picture!

HISTORY TRIVIA

Since our 50th celebration is coming up, can you answer this?

What are the names of the 3 couples who were the original "idea people" from which MTRA was conceived?

The answer can be found on page 4.

YOU MAKE MTRA HISTORY, so help me document it!! *Sally Seaver, Historian*

2013 ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD IN GRAYLING



We will be celebrating our 50th year as an organization at the Ramada Inn – Grayling for the 2013 Annual Banquet. This wonderful facility has lots of room, a large pool and game area, workout area, full service restaurant, and a handy bar with their own DJ both Friday & Saturday nights. Our festivities will begin on March 23rd with B & D Classic Sewn, our historical displays and other vendors available in the pool/dome area for your perusal. Dinner, consisting of carved roast beef, chicken, vegetarian tortellini, baby redskin potatoes, vegetable medley, salad bar, assorted desserts, dinner rolls and non-

alcoholic beverage, will begin at 6:00 PM with the General Membership meeting to begin around 7:30 with dancing to follow. If you would like to reserve a room, we've been offered a special rate of \$65 per room for either 2 queen beds or 1 king. Reservations can be made at: 989-348-7611. Be sure to mention that you are with the MTRA. Hope to see you all there!!! (If you would like to be a vendor on Saturday prior to the banquet, you must request permission from the board of directors at their January 5, 2013 meeting.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Well, here we are almost through another year. As the cool weather is upon us and snow is around the corner, I am thinking already about next year and the warmth and fun it will bring with our "shore to shore" riding. We have had two Work Bees this year greatly improving Walsh Road Trail Camp and the Mayhem Swamp section of trail between Rapid River Trail Camp and Goose Creek Trail Camp. Thanks to all who come to those Work Bees and make our trail and camping better for everyone.

The state has a new DNR Director, Keith Creagh, who wants to make Michigan a "trail state". Recently he rode horseback with the Back Country Horseman, Pigeon River & Beyond, at Elk Hill along with Senators Casperson and Moolenaar and Representatives MacMaster and Johnson. They got to see, first hand, the PRC and some of the Shore-to-Shore Trail. Thanks BCH for helping them to see our lands on horseback. With some new grant money, Elk Hill will sport some new fire rings and picnic tables and we are expecting a revamp of the destination and group camps.

As we look forward, we must reflect. Think back a few years when we had up to 200-400 riders on a ride in the horse heyday and had to add rides to get the numbers down. The last few rides have totaled around 100 riders. Since we have had costs that have risen like camping fees, mileage, wages, fuel costs, etc. we are coming up short at keeping our coffers full and maintaining the status quo. It is time to adjust and tighten our belts as most of the rest of world has had to do. We have formed a Finance Committee to look into what we can do to prevent the MTRA from continuing to lose money over the next few years. This committee will be looking at what cuts will need to be made and what increases might need to be implemented for us to remain solvent. This is our fiduciary responsibility as board members.

We are also celebrating a big event to be very proud of as 2013 will be our 50th year as an organization. This is a proud moment for all who started this great organization and I am sure all would be very happy to see it still thriving after 50 years. We are planning a super celebration at our annual meeting in March so make sure to attend as you should not miss this once in a lifetime occurrence. In 2014 we will be having our trail re-dedicated as Governor George Romney did in June of 1964 in Kalkaska. This is a huge milestone and we are all very proud maintaining this "shore-to-shore" trail system.

Chuck Fanslow, MTRA President

"You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream"
CS Lewis

Thank you, thank you, thank you for another wonderful year! It's been a pleasure to work for such a positive and supportive organization. I hope I've exceeded your expectations!chris

Here's wishing all a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!!

*Trivia Answer: May MTRA always remember our founding couples:
Fitch & Louise Williams
Tony & Sally Whilhelm
Rex & Phyllis Garn*

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