

Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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December 2014 – NEWSLETTER

Proposed Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates for 2015

January 3, 2015.....	Board of Directors' Meeting.....	Jay's Sporting Goods, Clare 10:00 AM
March 21, 2015.....	Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare 6:00 PM
March 22, 2015.....	Board of Directors' Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare 9:30 AM
May 9-10, 2015....	Work Bee (set picket poles, clean-up camp, etc.)....	Hopkins Creek Trail Camp, 9:00 AM
May 8-17, 2015.....	Proposed Blossom Ride	Cadillac to Garey Lake
May 28-June 7, 2015.....	Proposed 1 st June Ride (Trophy).....	Oscoda to Empire
June 11-26, 2015.....	Proposed 2 nd June Ride (Trophy).....	Oscoda to Empire
August 8-9, 2015.....	Work Bee (replace Wilbur Creek Bridge, camp work).....	South Branch Trail Camp
August 8-15, 2015.....	Proposed Family Ride.....	South Branch to 4-Mile
September 5-28, 2015...	Proposed Criss-Cross Ride (Trophy+)...Mackinaw to Cadillac, Empire to Oscoda	
October 3-11, 2015.....	Proposed Color Ride.....	Stoney Creek to Walsh Rd.

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. The original Big Blue has been sold. The new Bigger Blue has been greatly appreciated and liked by all.
2. Both the May and August Work Bees have been scheduled to accommodate participants on the Blossom Ride and August Family Ride to be able to help out earning free ride days for every Work Bee day worked. Check out the "Important Dates" schedule for specifics.
3. The Proposed Trail Ride calendar dates for 2015 have been tentatively approved by the DNR with final approval coming soon. We've had to tweak a couple of days here and there but the dates posted on the schedule are inclusive of those changes. The final 2015 Ride Calendars will be posted on the www.mtra.org website as soon as possible. Ride Registration Forms will be included with the February newsletter or posted online after January 1, 2015.
4. Al Davis shared the generosity of the September Ride participants with a check for \$972.03 which included donations, water bucket and Boardman River challenges and glow stick sales in support of the Youth Riders' Fund.
5. Bus times for both June Rides in 2015 will be changed to 5:30 and 7:30 AM. After much discussion, it was decided to try this option for one year. Input from ride participants is encouraged and appreciated.
6. The next Board of Director meeting is going to be held in Clare at Jay's Sporting Goods on January 3, 2015 beginning at 10:00 AM. Please feel free to attend and join in on making this the best year yet for MTRA.

ANNUAL BANQUET RETURNING TO CLARE!!!

Get your calendars out and be sure to block off the weekend of March 21-22, 2015 for the Annual Banquet and General Membership Meeting of the MTRA. The Doherty Hotel will be the headquarters this coming year and we all look forward to their gracious hospitality and wonderful food. Call the Doherty at 989-386-1562 to make your reservations. Be sure to mention that you are with the MTRA to get the special group rate. Special thanks goes out to all of the members who returned their paper surveys regarding the Annual Banquet and those who went online for the Survey Monkey form. Basically, most members who attend the Annual Banquet are happy with the time of year and

the location, especially the Doherty Hotel. The most important factor in attendance is to renew friendships!!! McCarn Entertainment will be the DJ at this banquet. Included with this newsletter is a Banquet Ticket Order Form which is part of the Membership Renewal Form. Tickets to the banquet this year will be \$30.00 per person with Dance Only tickets being \$10.00 again. You can also order banquet tickets and dance only tickets online thru the www.mtra.org website. Don't miss the fun, food and friends!!!

Watch **Michigan Magazine TV** on RFD-TV at 3:00 pm on Fridays and 3:30 am on Wednesdays – Dish Ch: 231, DirecTV Ch: 345, Charter Cable MI Ch: 122, just to name a few. You can also go to: www.michiganmagazine.com to view the YouTube show #1939 which is the Re-Dedication of the Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail celebration in Kalkaska last June. This program was broadcast on October 1, 2014 with more programs in the works about the MTRA. We've been promised a DVD of the broadcasts with lots of raw footage to be available at a later date. Stay tuned for more information.

Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.....Guillaume Apollinaire

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE!!

It's that time of year for membership renewals to start rolling in. All memberships **EXPIRE** on January 1st except for those "LIFE" memberships. As a reminder, if your membership is current through 2014 it will only cost \$25 to renew if paid by March 31, 2015. If you wish to vote in the Annual Election for Board Members, you need to renew your membership before the voting date which is March 21, 2015. If you've forgotten to renew recently and wish to "re-join" it will cost \$35 and you may 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 including details. If you print your newsletters from the website and have not submitted your email address, you will receive a notice thru the US mail. 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. **PS – memberships make a wonderful Christmas present!!!!**

Work Bees are scheduled for the 1st weekend of the Blossom Ride and Family Ride so that members on the rides can easily help out and earn free ride days. The May Work Bee will be held at Hopkins Creek Trail Camp May 9th-10th to install picket poles and generally clean up the trail camp. We will also be working on replacing gravel at the Hopkins Creek water crossing. The August Work Bee will be held at South Branch Trail Camp on August 8th-9th where we will need to work on the Wilbur Creek Bridge as well as haul gravel to re-enforce the trail at various locations. There's a lot to do and the lunch on Saturdays will be provided by the MTRA. Don't forget to sign in at the Work Bee so that your time will be counted toward "Free Ride Days"!!! If you have any questions about Free Ride Days that you may have earned on previous Work Bees, please call or email the MTRA Office and we'll check it out for you!! If you cannot attend the Blossom Ride or Family Ride, bring your horses and ride after working – camping is free during the Work Bee days.

Calling All Prospective Board Members!!!

It's that time of year when we need to look at annual elections of Board Members rapidly approaching in March 2015. Just to put it in perspective, when elected, the Board Members serve a term of three years and are responsible for clearing and marking a section of the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail as well as one of the Trail Camps located at one end of their section. Check out "Trail Assignments for 2014" for the current assignments. There are four Board Meetings each year in the months of January, March, June and September or October. Depending on Work Bee locations, the Board Member whose camp is closest to the Work Bee is responsible for the Saturday lunch for the workers. Of course, there is lots of help in that regard and all costs for lunch are covered by the MTRA. On

the positive side, all Board Members and their spouses are able to camp free on all the rides they choose to attend. They get to know the membership (many on a first name basis) and they get to represent their fellow riders in one of the best organizations around!!!! The terms for the following current Board Members will expire in 2015: Jeff Balzer, Joe Burrill, Jimmy Corlew, Kathleen Moss and Jan Wolfen. If anyone is interested in running for a Board of Director position, please submit a short (100 word) paragraph and a picture to be shared with the membership in the next newsletter. Deadline for your submission is January 1, 2015 and you can send or email that information to the MTRA office. For questions, contact any of your current Board Members or the MTRA office.

SECRETARIAL NOTES...

1. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates in 2015 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>
2. The Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail has been "created" on the www.everytrail.com website. Come on down and check us out. You'll find the trail and the "rig routes" listed with key words MTRA and Shore-to-Shore Trail. The trail sections that are finished have pictures. You do not need to have an account to access these files.
3. The Shore-to-Shore Trail is also listed on www.opentrail.us which is a website designed specifically for horseback riders. You can find us in the Michigan section.
4. Plan to bring your horses to the Work Bees to enjoy the trails around the camps. We can't work ALL the time and the areas around Hopkins Creek and South Branch are spectacular!!
5. Just to clarify – after you register and pay for a ride, you can **cancel** 24 hours prior to the beginning of the ride to receive a "cancellation check". You can also apply those "days" to another ride or pay for your next year's membership. In order to receive a **refund** *after* the ride has begun, you must make a formal request to the Board of Directors which will be addressed at their next regularly scheduled meeting. Questions??? – call the MTRA Office!!
6. If you cannot get the time off or just want to "drop in" for a few days on any of the rides, please pre-register for at least one day to lock in the \$10.00 per day rate. You can then continue with the ride for as many days as you want and pay the Trail Boss for any additional days. If you do not pre-register, you will be charged \$12.50 per person per day to join the ride.
7. If you would like to receive the "approved" minutes from the Board of Director Meetings, please contact the MTRA Office and they will be sent "free" via email to any members' email address. If you would like them via US mail, please submit \$5.00 to cover printing and mailing costs for the year.
8. 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!!
9. If you have any questions and/or concerns about your membership, the association, the workings of the MTRA Office or anything regarding the rides, etc., please do not hesitate to call or email the office. We'll do our best to help you..... chris (989)473-3205 raynechris@gmail.com

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

What a year for history making. First, congratulations to Doc Wilson and Rex LaLonde for completing 50 trophy rides! This year most know, many members participated in celebrating MTRA's trail dedication of 50 years ago along with the first shore-to-shore ride of 50 years ago. The celebrated activities in River Road Camp and into Kalkaska this year were extremely successful due to the efforts of MTRA Board Members. Speaking for those of us who were able to participate, we are very grateful, it was impressive. In addition to all these "50th" celebrations, this year MTRA's

itinerary included a Double Cross Ride in September. The **FIRST** Double Cross Ride was 40 years ago in June of 1974. The 2014 September Double Cross was the 12th MTRA Double Cross. For the members who completed the **FIRST** Double Cross, MTRA gave them belt buckles. I would like to thank Faith Aseltine, who donated her FIRST Double Cross Buckle to MTRA's history along with her husband Jim who donated his President's Buckle. Both buckles are now in the Empire Historical Museum.

Sally Seaver, Historian

HISTORY TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. How many members have completed 50 trophy rides?
2. How many members completed the **FIRST** Double Cross, how many guys and how many gals?
(answers on page 5)

Michigan Horse Council Horse Expo – March 13 – 15, 2015

With the location of the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing remaining the same as previous years, there will be some changes in the location of the Trails Exhibitors this year. We will be on display on the main floor of the exhibition area so we'll be more visible to the equestrian community. The schedule for working the MTRA booth at the Expo is not finalized at this time but we will keep you posted so that workers will be able to sign-up in plenty of time to make arrangements. Booth workers receive free admission to the Expo on the day(s) that they work. Steve Ross is now in charge of the booth and will be updating some of the pictures as well as getting ready to display our plans for 2015. So, put these dates on your calendars so that you can help out or just stop in to say "Hey" while you are enjoying the Expo this spring!! Stay tuned for more info...

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK –

The rides have come to a close for another year. Things went well this year. Our new trail boss, Gale Gunders, has done an excellent job and looks to return next year. Barb Crampton, the bus driver, got some new wheels with the new bus and it is working out well with less fuel being used as we now have a diesel. We started our spring with a work bee at Mullet Lake Trail Camp, our only private campground, planting new picket poles and got some brushing done. Then our second work bee went well at Garey Lake Trail Camp with more picket poles and brushing done there, also. Thanks to all of the people volunteering at the work bees, making these activities fun and accomplishing a lot of needed work. Several people brought horses this year and many got to get some riding in as well. This next year will be busier than normal with work to be done at Hopkins Creek Trail Camp and South Branch Trail Camp with input and repairs at Stoney Creek Trail Camp, Elk Hill Trail Camp, and the Luzerne boardwalk. We can't do these jobs without your continued support and 2015 will see work bees incorporated into the rides in May and August. As requested by many members, the Blossom Ride will be reinstated in May 2015 and will need your attendance to continue it as it will be a trial to see if we get enough people to help it pay for itself. Over all, it has been a good year for the MTRA and we look forward to our annual meeting in March back at the Doherty Hotel in Clare including a new DJ for entertainment. Make your plans and reservations soon. Thanks again for your support over this past year.

President Chuck Fanslow

Michigan Horse Council Scholarship Applications due soon!!!

The Michigan Horse Council offers 3 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to students who are members of the Michigan Horse Council or a MHC member organization. These awards are not limited to students pursuing equine fields of study.

Purpose: The purpose of these scholarships is to support the equine industry by providing educational assistance to outstanding men and women within the Michigan Horse Council and its member organizations.

Eligibility: Application for these scholarships is open to any individual who is a full or part-time student of a college or university, and who is a current individual member or member of the Michigan Horse Council Organization. Children of MHC members (as described above) who are 18 years or younger are eligible to apply if they are completing high school and have been accepted to a college or university. If a person is not a member at the time they apply, they may include an individual membership application and fee to join the MHC. For those who meet the eligibility criteria above, the scholarships will be available on an equal opportunity basis; the MHC will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, gender, religion or physical disability.

Selection of recipients: Applicants will be evaluated according to these criteria: Scholastic achievement, Duration and extent of involvement with equines and in equine organizations, Volunteer activities, Potential for success in chosen field of study, Potential for contribution to the horse industry, and Financial need.

Applicants will provide: Completed official 2015 MHC Scholarship Application form, Transcript (Official) from last school attended, through October of 2014, including GPA, a statement of 250 words or less explaining your involvement in the horse industry and your reasons for pursuing your chosen field, and three character reference letters, not from a family member, to include 1 from each of 3 of the following categories: Scholastic/Academic; Volunteer; and Equine.

You will need to print out each of the following to ensure your application process is complete!

- [2015 MHC Scholarship Application Instruction Sheet](#)
- [2015 MHC Scholarship Tips](#)
Fill These Next 2 Forms out online, print them, sign them and mail them to the address on the forms
- [2015 MHC Scholarship Check List](#)
- [2015 MHC Scholarship Application Form](#)

HAND WRITTEN FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Scholarships must be postmarked by 1/3/15

If you would like help with any part of this process, please call the MTRA office and we'll do our best.

Trivia Answers:

1. **Six** members have completed 50 trophy rides to date.
2. **Six** members completed the Double Cross in 1974, **one** guy & **five** gals,
[Including current members (Past President) Fred Stackable, Faith Aseltine & her daughter Janet Aseltine Allen]
*Note that as only 6 made the Double Cross, there are *only* 6 MTRA First Double Cross buckles – again thanking Faith for her donation!

Don't Forget....

Renew your membership if it expires in 2014!!!!

Purchase the "Recreation Passport" when you renew your truck/rig license plates for 2015...

Coggins tests will be required for all horses attending 2015 Trail Rides – don't forget to get them done within the previous 12 months of the Ride you plan to attend...

Winterize your rig if you plan on staying in Michigan for the winter – it might be like last year...

Make your reservations for the Annual Banquet – purchase tickets and book rooms...

Plan to attend the MHC Horse Expo or even help out at the MTRA booth and get free admission...

Put the Work Bees on your personal calendar so you can earn "free ride days" for helping out...

Take good care of those horses – without them we wouldn't be here...

Special thanks to everyone who made 2014 such a fun and eventful year...

And last but not least – have a **WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON** – see you in 2015!!!!

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.