

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 2014 – NEWSLETTER

Proposed Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates for 2014

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
May 10-11, 2014...Work Bee....Mullett Lake Trail Camp (picket poles, mark trails, etc.).....Cheboygan
May 29-June 8, 2014.....1st June Ride (trophy)..... Mackinaw to Oscoda
June 11-26, 2014.....2ND June Ride (trophy).....Oscoda to Empire
JUNE 21, 2014.....RE-DEDICATION OF THE SHORE TO SHORE TRAIL.....KALKASKA....TIME TBA
August 9-16, 2014.....August Family Ride.....Goose Creek to Hopkins Creek
August 23-24, 2014....Work Bee....Work on boardwalk at Curtisville.....South Branch Trail Camp
September 4-25, 2014.....September Double Cross (trophies).....Lake Huron to Lake Huron
October 4-12, 2014.....Color Ride.....Goose Creek to Cadillac

NUMBERS LIMITED ON 2014 TRAIL RIDES

This coming ride season will be an extremely busy one with the Re-Dedication of the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail so it would be wise to sign-up early to make sure that you have a spot on whichever ride you choose. The Second June Ride will be exceptionally busy with all of the activities planned, but you should keep in mind that **ALL** of the trophies this year will reflect the **50th Celebration** and will be extra special. Please use your Ride Registration Form (enclosed with this newsletter) to mail a check or go online to www.mtra.org to the 2014 Trail Rides link to sign-up. Please be advised that you need to specify the **NUMBER** of days that you wish to ride – especially if you intend to earn a trophy. If you want to just join us for a few days, feel free to sign-up for only those days you can participate. Questions – call the MTRA Office at 989-473-3205.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

2014, another exciting history-making year celebrating two events that happened 50 years ago. First, the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail was dedicated by our Governor and second, MTRA riders did the very **FIRST** Shore-To-Shore Ride. Be a part of MTRA history by attending the big celebration and re-dedication you'll read about from our hardworking Board.

Sally Seaver, Historian

HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which Governor dedicated the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail 50 yrs ago and in what manner?
2. What 2 things [clue - a stop & a song] happened 50 yrs ago on the first Shore-to-Shore Ride that **STILL** is happening today? (Answer on page 3)

Special Thanks to the Gravel Shovelers

This past Color Ride we needed help leveling gravel around the well at the Luzerne Trail Camp. The Tri-County Horsemen's Association from mid-Michigan graciously donated the material and the following MTRA members on the ride shoveled it all in to place: Randy Rutkowski, Alvin Iseler, Ken Pratt, Jarrett Pratt, Levi Michigan Trail Riders Association, Inc.

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Pratt, Asher Pratt and Kaleb Pratt. Thanks so much to all of you for your assistance – especially the three youngest members of the ride – the Pratt boys!!

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.
2. Thanks to all of the prospective employees who applied for MTRA jobs. Congratulations to the following employees for 2014: Bus Driver – Barb Crampton, Trail Boss – Gale Gunders, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Patty Brown, Secretary/Treasurer – Chris Rayner.
3. Since the potluck dinners were such a roaring success on all the trophy rides in 2013, Joe Burrill has graciously volunteered to again sponsor the potluck dinners on Arrival Days prior to the first day's ride on all 2014 trophy rides. Joe is also working on a lunch wagon for the 1st ride day of the 1st June Ride (May 30th) due to the length of that day's ride. Volunteers to help are welcome and donations are appreciated. Thanks, Joe!!!!
4. The Board of Directors has approved the option to earn one ride day per one Work Bee day to become policy. This policy originated in 2011 and will continue including the past two years. In order to earn "Credit" for days worked, you must sign-in at a **regularly scheduled MTRA Work Bee** and work all day.
5. The 2014 Trail Rides are ready for registrations. Please check out the Ride Calendars and the Ride Registration form which are included with this newsletter and are already posted on the www.mtra.org website.

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 2013 it will only cost \$25 to renew if paid by March 31, 2014. 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 22, 2014. 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 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.

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.thehorsemencorral.com/>, click on "Calendar" and search for Michigan activities. Please check this out and if you are 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.

2014 Annual Banquet – Ramada Inn, Grayling

Festivities begin Saturday, March 22, 2014 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 in the banquet room at 5:00 PM with a cash bar available and dinner beginning at 6:00. Our menu will consist of roasted pork loin, stuffed chicken

breast, fettuccine Alfredo, fingerling potatoes, chef's salad with two dressings, breads, coffee, hot tea, assorted soft drinks and chocolate cake for dessert. 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 in the Birch Room 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. Hope to see you there!!!!

Answers: 1. Governor George Romney and he did it while mounted on horseback.
2. 1st thing- Riders stopped at Curtisville Store, 2nd thing - on the 3rd day they were tired and decided if they thought they only had 4 more miles, they could make it - the song and saying "Four More Miles" was created!

SECRETARIAL NOTES...

1. Don't forget to bring muck buckets and/or wheelbarrows to Elk Hill to be able to dispose of horse manure in the bunkers provided. Special notice to all 1st June Ride participants!!!!
2. The MHC Horse Expo will be held March 7-9, 2014 at Michigan State University. Our MTRA booth will be in the Trails Room and we need volunteers to help man the booth for those three days. Carol Hyzer (989)344-2550 will be managing the schedule again this year. Please call Carol if you would like to help out and get free entrance to the Expo.
3. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates so that you can be "legal" on our rides. Rumor has it that the DNR will be checking those tabs more closely this year. Out of state members can purchase the Recreation Passport here or at any state campground: <http://media.state.mi.us/michiganstore/public/categorydisplay.aspx?categoryId=5>
4. The Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail is being "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. Thanks again to all of our "gps"ers!!!! This is a **work in progress** so please be patient with us.
5. If your membership is current (2014) you will receive a Board of Director ballot with this newsletter. If you plan on attending the Annual Banquet in March you may bring your ballot with you or you can return it to the MTRA Office so that it can be counted at the banquet. Please be careful of how you return your ballot because if not done properly, it will not be counted. There will be extra ballots for those of you who forget to bring them with you.
6. If you have renewed your membership you should receive your 2014 membership card with this newsletter if it has not already been sent in December or sometime in between. Please let us know if you do/did not receive your membership card. We are human, too!
7. All Annual Banquet attendees who have paid for tickets will receive an information sheet about procedures at the banquet. You may pick up your banquet and/or dance tickets at the MTRA Office table in the Atrium area prior to the banquet. Please don't wait until the last minute!!!
8. Plan to bring your horses to the Work Bees to enjoy the trails around the camps. We can't work ALL the time!!
9. 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". 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!!

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.