

# Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## February 2012 – NEWSLETTER

### Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

March 24.....	MTRA Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting...	Ramada Inn, Grayling...	6:00 PM
March 25.....	MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....	Ramada Inn, Grayling.....	9:30 AM
May 5-6.....	Work Bee.....	Location to be announced.....	
May 12-20.....	<b>Blossom Ride</b> .....	Luzerne to Mullett Lake	
May 31-June 10....	<b>1<sup>st</sup> June Ride (Trophy Ride)</b> .....	Lake Huron to Lake Michigan	
June 15 – 30.....	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride (Trophy Ride)</b> .....	Lake Huron to Lake Michigan	
June 23.....	MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....	4-Mile Truck Stop, Grayling.....	3:30 PM
Aug. 18-19.....	Work Bee.....	Mayhem Swamp.....	repair surface of trail
Sept. 7-30....	<b>September Ride/Criss-Cross(Trophy)</b> ..	Mackinaw to Cadillac/Lake Michigan to Lake Huron	
Oct. 6 – 14.....	<b>Color Ride</b> .....	Cadillac to Lake Michigan	

### 2012 ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD IN GRAYLING



The Ramada Inn – Grayling will be our location for the 2012 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 24<sup>th</sup> with B & D Classic Sewn, our historical displays and several other vendors available in the pool/dome area. Several special guests may be available for questions and answers in an Open House atmosphere from 3-5 PM. 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 with Bernie as DJ. 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!!!

***Remember – you must have renewed your 2012 membership to be able to vote on the bylaws changes and in the Board of Directors election. Absentee ballots will be mailed to all 2012 members. Please pay special attention to the details on mailing back your ballots. Banquet attendees may want to wait to vote in case nominations come from the floor.*** Call Chris at the MTRA office if you have questions.

And don't forget the Board of Director meeting to be held on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM in the Birch Room. Everyone is welcome to attend!!!

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE**

All 2011 memberships have expired. The grace period continues until March 31<sup>st</sup> to renew at the cost of \$25.00. After that date, your membership will “cease and terminate”. Please refer to pages 28-29 of the Guide Book (7<sup>th</sup> edition) as well as page 30 for the amendment regarding dues increase. If you’ve forgotten to renew recently and wish to “re-join” it will cost \$35.00 and you will be able to keep your former MTRA number. Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership 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](http://www.mtra.org). Use the Forum Page for the correct link. If you have any questions, please call 989-473-3205 or email the office at [raynechris@gmail.com](mailto:raynechris@gmail.com).

## **BOARD BRIEFS:**

1. The Board is working hard to update the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Al Kendall, Chuck Fanslow, Pat Galloup or Chris Rayner. A new “Michigan Trail Riders Association, Inc.” Facebook page has been created and we would love to see visitors, comments and especially pictures. You can link your picture albums to this page. Check it out!
2. The Trail Boss will have a new MTRA cell phone with the number available to all members on the rides. You will still receive “Emergency Phone Numbers” for contacts when not in cell phone range. Safety is always our priority!
3. The Board would like a list of prospective employees which could be used in case of emergencies or vacancies. If you would be interested in working as the Secretary/Treasurer, Bus Driver, Trail Boss or Asst. Sec/Treas, please call or email the office for a complete job description and/or send a resume.
4. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.

## ***History Happenings by Sally Seaver, MTRA Historian***

Due to this large mailing – these informational musings will continue in April ....

## **SECRETARIAL NOTES:**

1. Anyone interested in working the MTRA booth at the Horse Expo this year needs to contact Therese and Dave Kline at 517-625-3173 to volunteer. Many slots are still available. Free admission to the Expo is included. Don’t forget those dates – March 9, 10 and 11, 2012. Thanks to everyone who helps out!!!
2. Jim & Cindy Conant (MTRA #2241) will be presenting a program about their Mexico to Canada trail ride in Seminar Room A at the Horse Expo from 3:45 to 4:45 PM, Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. Check out Bob & Brenda Ricksgers on pages 10-11 in the Winter 2011-2012 issue of Rocky Mountain Horse Magazine. Nice pictures!!!
4. Congratulations to Bill Zettel who was the TrailBlazer Magazine Trail Warrior for October 2011. Way to go Bill!  
**Happy Trails - chris**

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*This institution is operated under special use permit with the Huron-Manistee National forest and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment*