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February 2015 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

March 13-15, 2015.....	Michigan Horse Council Horse Expo...MTRA Booth...East Lansing, MI times TBA
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.....	Blossom RideCadillac to Garey Lake
May 28-June 7, 2015.....	1 st June Ride (Trophy).....Oscoda to Empire
June 11-26, 2015.....	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.....	Family Ride.....South Branch to 4-Mile
September 5-28, 2015... ..	Criss-Cross Ride (Trophy+).....Mackinaw to Cadillac, Empire to Oscoda
October 3-11, 2015.....	Color Ride.....Stoney Creek to Walsh Rd.

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. The MTRA will be offering “certificates of accomplishment” for members who have successfully finished 10 and 25 Shore-to-Shore crossings. If you have earned 10 or 25 trophies and wish to receive a certificate, please contact the MTRA Office. After 50 Crossings, you will receive an MTRA silver belt buckle and a special trophy hand made by Al Davis!!!!
2. Workers are in great demand for this year due to the projects planned. We will be planting picket poles and spreading gravel at Hopkins Creek, replacing the Wilbur Creek Bridge and making plans to replace the Luzerne boardwalk. Check out the “Important Dates” schedule for specifics. **Remember** – you can earn a **free ride day** for each Work Bee day’s participation.
3. The MTRA is working on becoming a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization as opposed to the 501(c)(7) classification that currently exists. After much discussion on the pros and cons of this change, Pat Galloup has been encouraged to begin the paperwork that needs to be filed. If you have questions or concerns, contact Pat or the MTRA Office.
4. The Board would like to thank everyone who supported the Youth Riders’ Fund this year with their generous donations. Special thanks goes to Kim & Steve Ross who donate the glow-sticks and money collected at their annual South Branch Camp-Out, Tractor Supply of Tawas City, Al & Diana Davis whose organizational skills benefit us all, Joe Burrill for returning all of those cans and bottles, the silent auction participants at the Annual Banquet which raised almost \$2000 and Candy Wagner for the donation from the Annual Hardy Ride and many more members too numerous to mention. The YRF is only down \$133.39 from last year’s balance with the total available for Youth Riders at \$10,863.68 as of 1/1/15.
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 the Doherty Hotel on March 22, 2015 beginning at 9:30 AM. Please feel free to attend see your Board of Directors in action!

If anyone is interested in subscribing to or continuing their subscription with *Horsemen's Corral*, please send your \$10.00 to the MTRA Office by March 1, 2015. This is an equine centered magazine which is published in Ohio serving all of the surrounding states. 2015 will be our third year of participation in the Corral Club which offers a monthly magazine for our members at \$10.00 per year and they publish our "news" and "views" each month as well as our Ride Calendars and a membership form. Questions....call the Office!!!

DOHERTY HOTEL - HERE WE COME!!

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. This year's menu will consist of: carved beef, oven roasted chicken, Swedish meatballs, herb-roasted red potatoes, brown rice, green beans, California blend veggies, salad bar, breads, muffins and rolls, soft drink/coffee/tea and "cookie bar" for dessert. 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. McCarn Entertainment will be the DJ at this banquet. Tickets to the banquet this year will be \$30.00 per person with Dance Only tickets being \$10.00 again. You can order banquet tickets and dance only tickets online thru the www.mtra.org website. Gear Up will be available on Saturday with lots of MTRA clothing and goodies for sale. Don't miss the fun, food and friends!!!

Job Postings: If anyone is interested in the jobs available with the MTRA please contact the Employment Committee at clf222@yahoo.com or mail a resume to: MTRA Employment Director, 2475 McNamara Rd., Gladwin, MI 48624, [989-435-9224](tel:989-435-9224). Please apply for Secretary/Treasurer or Assistant Secretary/Treasurer as soon as possible as these open positions will be filled by annual meeting. Bus Driver and Trail Boss applications also being accepted for file.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE!!

This will be the last newsletter for those of you whose memberships expired on December 21, 2014. 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 a 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.

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.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

We begin another year of trail riding. I'd like to remind all members that I need your help with History Projects. During this season of riding, get out your cameras and don't forget to take individual pictures or family pictures for the Membership Book. [I cannot put pics in with friends because I put them in by your names in alphabetical order.] You can be off or on your horse or with no horse at all - your choice. I've also been gathering pics of the youngest trophy crossers and the oldest trophy crossers. Please keep me informed of those riders. If you're 80 years old or older, let me know. I have knowledge of some youngest trophy crossers and I'm still waiting for pictures!

Fifty years ago this year, there were a couple of MTRA "firsts". **"Big Red"** came to the rescue. Too many cars were being used for rig jumping so Rex Garn brought his red stake truck from his ranch. 50-60 people crammed in the back riding to camp in the early morning. Some trail riders still around remember riding the power line and becoming **completely** engulfed in the sand's dust. Secondly, MTRA got its first Guide Book. It was purchased for \$5.00 and sold out of Tony Wilhelm's store in Traverse City. Sally Seaver, Historian

HISTORY TRIVIA QUESTIONS

- 1.) Who was responsible for drawing up most of the first Guide Book?
- 2.) Membership 50 years ago had grown to what number?
(answers on page 4)

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/michiganstore/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. 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.
6. Don't forget – fellow members who assist you in "rescues" whether they be horse or vehicle related, would appreciate your consideration with a donation to their "fuel fund". We are all on vacation during the rides and would always be there to help out when needed. But, sometimes we appreciate the offer of monetary assistance when our rigs/trucks are being used.
7. 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!!
8. 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.....

9. And last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude for all of the support and cooperation that I have received as your Secretary/Treasurer. I still love my job but I need to step down as the Sec/Treas at this time and would greatly appreciate your continued support/cooperation for the new person. I am not abandoning you and hope to continue to serve the association but in a lesser capacity. See you on the trails!!!
- chris (989)473-3205 raynechris@gmail.com

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

With the location of the Expo at 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...

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and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Trivia Answers:

1.) Fitch Williams

*Note all 3 of the founding couples (Rex, Tony & Fitch) were mentioned in this month's history information.

2.) Membership had grown to 50 families!