

**Michigan Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.**  
1849 N M-18  
Gladwin, MI 48624



[www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org)

Dug Jordan, President

Cindy Greer, Secretary  
[mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com)

## ***April 2024 – NEWSLETTER***

April 1,13,14, 2024.....	Spring Work Bee.....	start at Curtisville store to River Road
May 16 – 19, 2024.....	May Blossom Ride.....	Hopkins Creek Trail Camp
May 29 – June 8, 2024.....	1 <sup>st</sup> June Ride.....	River Rd to Lake MI
June 15 – 30, 2024.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> June Ride.....	Empire –River Rd
June 22	Board of Directors Meeting- at 11 AM.....	Goose Creek Camp
August 7 – 11, 2024.....	August Family Ride.....	Schecks Camp
September 5 – 26, 2024.....	September Ride.....	River Rd access and back
October 3 – 11, 2024.....	October Color Ride.....	Stoney Creek to Walsh
October 2024.....	Board of Directors Meeting .....	TBA

1. **Cheboygan Camp still in progress.**
2. **Gosdzinki will continue the incentive program, please utilize it. If you need the form just reach out to the Secretary.**
3. **Thank you Gale Gunders for accepting the Trail Boss position again.**
4. **Welcome Jan Gould as our new secretary.**
5. **Please remember to help our newbie's and give them a good experience. We were all newbie's once.**
6. **Congratulations to Dug Jordan as our new MTRA President**
7. **Congratulations to new Board Members Jeremy Price and Jeremy Collings**
8. **Thank you Ron Anderson and Scott Kemmer for your hard work as past board members.**
9. **Thank you Jeff Balzer for your hard work as past president.**

## **FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK**

1. **SPRING WORK BEE** – The spring work bee will be April 12-14. Plans for the weekend include doing clean up of trails at river rd. Plan to start at Colinville store. Cleaning up the campsites and trimming the brush back. Groups of workers will also be sent out on the trail to clean and trim and work on clean up. We will need a lot of helpers to trim back and clear it. We know this is early in the year but because of the oak wilt, we are limited to trimming trails. We have to do them before April 15<sup>th</sup> and after July 15<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend the work bee if possible. Make sure you dress in layers for we don't know what the weather will be like. Contact Dug Jordan and Jimmy Corlew for more information.
2. **2024 RIDE CALENDAR** – See dates on the front of this newsletter.
3. **2024 ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET** – We had just under 80 members. Would like to see more members at the next one. The Doherty did a great job with the food and was very helpful during the weekend. Next Annual Meeting TBA.
4. Voice for MTRA regarding ETS will still be Dug Jordan
5. New Trail assignments have been set.
6. June ride options mean you can ride at the beginning and end of rides for members who don't have enough vacation time to take off for the extra days.

Hello Trail Riders – here we go again for another year of great trail riding. April is going to start us off with some challenges beginning with the Work Bee based at River Road Trail Camp, April 12-14. The more the merrier will be welcomed because many hands make light work. We hope to see as many workers there as possible. Bring hand tools, chain saws, loppers, shovels, rakes are examples of some of the tools needed.

Our 2024 Annual Banquet and meetings seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended.. Congratulations to the New Board member Jeremy Collings and our incumbents. The following members will be returning as employees who have served the MTRA: Gale Gunders, Trail Boss and Treasurer Cindy Lawrence

Thanks for all the support you have given me, and the Board, and we hope to see you this ride season.

Sincerely, Cindy Greer

## FAQ's...

1. Just to remind members and prospective members, it is not a requirement to sign-up for an entire MTRA ride. Many people jump in and out of rides due to other commitments. It is recommended that you sign-up for at least one (or more) day(s) of the ride that you intend to attend so that your name is on the roster. This makes it easier for the trail Boss and Secretary. If you sign up for only one day, you can extend your ride for as many days as you wish at the \$12.00 per day rate. You can always “drop in” on a ride without pre-registering – as long as your membership is current (2023) – but the daily rate increases to \$14.00 per day due to the late fee. The Trail Boss will handle all of the details at the ride or you can call the MTRA Office for more clarification. Check out details on the 2023 Ride Registration Form which is posted on the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website.
2. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates in 2023 so that you can be “legal” on our rides. Having a Recreation Passport is important since we use the MDNR boat launch next to the Lake Huron access point and they will be checking for the 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>
3. Just a reminder – the MTRA does **NOT** share, sell or in any way distribute email addresses or phone numbers with anyone including our membership!! 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!!
4. When you are riding along paved roads – wear BRIGHT shirts so that drivers will notice you!
5. Just a reminder as it is time for membership renewals. According to our bylaws, 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. If you want to bring your grandchildren on a ride, they are not covered under your membership and will need for their parents to have a membership. FYI, memberships make wonderful gifts for grandchildren who love our rides.
6. The MTRA Office email address is: [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com) and the mailing address is: 1849 N M-18 Gladwin, Michigan 48624. The office phone number is (989) 324-8549. Do not hesitate to contact the office if you have a question. Please, do not try to contact me through Facebook or texting me on my personal cell phone.
7. The MDNR is requiring that MTRA riders wear orange on our fall rides. If you are planning on a September or October ride in 2023, start planning now for an orange hat or vest or jacket or sweatshirt. It would not be a bad idea to put orange on your horse also. This is for your safety in the woods.
8. FYI, you may purchase orange apparel with the MTRA logo from our web store at [www.mtrawebstore.com](http://www.mtrawebstore.com) or click on the link on the left side of the home page on the MTRA website – [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org).

MTRA IS LOOKING FOR A BUS DRIVER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT  
Dug Jordan

**MTRA SPRING WORKBEE AT THE RIVER ROAD TRAIL CAMP .** April 12-14.  
There is a lot of work to be done and we need workers. Even if you can not make the entire weekend, come for the time that you have. All help is appreciated!

MTRA will be keeping the mileage incentive program to reward our members for miles in the saddle or cart. Logging miles from January to January will make you eligible for 1000, 2000, 3000 etc.miles rewards. For youth under 18 there will be a 500 mile start up reward. Miles will accumulate so if you ride 250 miles for 4 years you will attain a 100 mile reward. Highest mileage each year will be honored at the annual March meeting. Mileage logs will be sent to the provided address on the log sheet at the end of the year for awards and records. This will be an honor system and does not have to be on an organized ride but getting your equine ready for a ride and riding shore 2 shore is an excellent way to accumulate miles. You must be an MTRA member to be eligible. An additional award was started last year to promote our trail system. An MTRA patch (like the old rount trail sign) was given at award night to riders who rode the Blue Trail exclusively on a shore2shore ride. Let's see how many are given out next year!