

Michigan Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.
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Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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April 2017 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

May 6 – 7, 2017.....	Work Bee (Clean Up 4-Mile Road Camp, Grayling MI).....	9:00 AM
May 12 – 21, 2017.....	Blossom Ride	Cadillac to Goose Creek
June 1 – 11, 2017.....	1 st June Ride (Trophy).....	Oscoda to Empire
June 16 – July 2, 2017.....	2 nd June Ride (Trophy).....	Empire to Oscoda
June 25, 2017, 2017.....	BOD Meeting at Charlie's Country Corner, 4 Mile Road, Grayling.....	Noon
August.....	Work Bee.....	TBA
August 5 -13, 2017.....	Family Ride.....	Luzerne to South Branch
September 7 – 28, 2017	Double Cross Ride (Trophy X 2).....	Oscoda to Empire, Empire to Oscoda
October 5 – 14, 2017.....	Color Ride.....	Mackinaw to Walsh Road

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Congratulations to the following board members on their re-elections: Ed Gosdzinski, Terry Meier and Steve Ross. Congratulations to Lynn Gosdzinski and Robert Lee for their election to the board. Many thanks to Robert Martin for his efforts in running for the board. Thanks to everyone who voted at the General Membership meeting as well as all of the absentee ballots!!!
2. Workers are in great demand this year for the May 6 – 7th work bee at 4-Mile Road Camp. This camp received a final harvest from the MDNR and will require a lot of clean up. Workers are needed to clean campsites and in picket pole areas. MTRA will have chippers and stump grinders at the workbee. We will be in need of tractors with york rakes, shovels, hand rakes, post hole diggers, nippers, loppers, chain saws. **Remember** – you can earn a **free ride day** for each Work Bee day's participation.
3. The USFS will provide MTRA with 179 picket poles for use at USFS trail camps (River Road, South Branch, McKinley, Luzerne). The board will be assessing each camp to see what they need in picket poles.
4. Work on the Luzerne Boardwalk will continue as soon as the weather permits. President Al Davis met with the USFS and the railing on the unfinished part will be modified to be safe for horses. Once the boardwalk is completed, MTRA will need to add to the railing of the completed part to make it safe and will have to address the issue of the boardwalk being slippery. Stay tuned for further updates.
5. Welcome back to our Trail Boss – Gale Gunders and our Bus Driver – Barb Crampton.
6. Youth riders on all MTRA 2017 rides will receive a youth rider T-shirt.
7. Youth rider activities on the August Family ride will include trophies for the youth to decorate, rope halter making and a canoe/kayak trip.
8. Kim Ross will attend PRCEC meetings. Chuck Fanslow will attend PRAC meetings and Al Davis will attend ETS and MTAC meetings and keep the board informed.
9. Members are sending in checks for membership and ride registrations without including paperwork so when our secretary gets them, she has to call to find out what is being paid for. This takes time. Membership forms and ride registrations form are online at www.mtra.org. If you are unable to get a form, please take a sheet of paper and write your name, address, MTRA number, phone number and what you are paying for and include it with your check.

From the President's Desk

Hello everyone, I would like to begin by apologizing for getting this notice to you so late. Often working with the government, things don't often go as quickly as one might like. As all of you may know we are having our May 6th and 7th work bee at 4 – Mile Trail Camp. As reported this camp needs a complete revamping to make it useable for the June rides. We are in need of people with rakes, shovels, post hole diggers, chain saws and other hand tools. Also a couple of tractors with York Rakes would also be helpful. But most of all people willing to help remove brush and debris from the road ways, and the camping and picket pole areas. As always lunch will be provided by the MTRA. If possible please try to schedule this work bee on your calendar. Should you have any questions please give me a call at [231-882-4212](tel:231-882-4212).

Also I would like to announce and welcome our two new Board Members. They are Lynn Gosdzinski, who's trail runs from Goose Creek to Rapid River, and Robert Lee, who's trail runs from 4-Mile to Goose Creek. I'm sure they would welcome any assistance given to them with their trail responsibilities.

Hope to see on May 6th at 4-Mile!

Our web hosts, Mindy Ellis and Samantha Lilly, are looking for photos to post on the MTRA website, facebook page and newsletter. Please email your pictures to mindyellis2424@yahoo.com.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

April 2017

By Sally Seaver, MTRA Historian

Spring is coming & once again MTRA is continuing to move forward. Another progressive Annual Meeting has passed, MTRA has a new beautiful Luzerne Boardwalk and Trail Rides are being scheduled. As all should know, at the beginning of the year, Chris Rayner resigned as Treasurer. She has been acknowledged in the newsletters for the incredible job she has done. Secretaries/Treasurers have had little recognition into MTRA history yet they are truly a backbone to our organization.

In the beginning of MTRA, many jobs often floated from one person to the next. During the very beginning, there were two members who "**did all the book work**". What I've been told by a couple of members from that era is that "**Everyone just did what needed to be done**".

These days, these jobs are very consuming of one's time & specific areas need all their "T's crossed & "I's dotted! Chris has been one of MTRA's best. Here is a picture of Chris at her best!



TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

1. **WHO WERE THE FIRST TWO MTRA MEMBERS WHO DID ALL THE "BOOK WORK"?**
2. **HOW MUCH WAS THEIR SALARY FOR THIS JOB?**

(ANSWERS

ON PAGE 4)

Equine Affaire, Columbus, Ohio ----- April 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th

The MTRA booth attended the Ohio Equine Affaire for the first time in April and it was a resounding success. MTRA renewed memberships, sold new memberships to riders from 4 different states, sold maps and made lots of friends at this show. It was amazing how many people from all over the United States were at this show. And they already knew of the Michigan Shore to Shore Trail and MTRA. Many have it on their bucket lists. It was nice to talk with them face to face and answer all their questions about how MTRA works. MTRA Board Member, Kim Ross, was a presenter at Equine Affaire with her "Camping With Your Horse" clinic. Congratulations, Kim, and thanks for putting in a "plug" or two for the MTRA!!! A big thank you goes out to MTRA members Kim Ross, Kristie Walls, Jan Wolfen and Carla Walker who took five days from their busy schedules to go to Columbus and man the MTRA booth.

RIDE REGISTRATION DEADLINES: Attention Trail Riders. Because of the distance from my house to our trail boss' house, I have to put the ride roster, window tags, hold harmless forms and other items Gale will need for the ride in the mail and get it to him a day or two before he leaves for the ride. The post office has told me it will take from 2 to 4 days to ship a package to Gale. Therefore, it is mandatory that I have your ride registration 10 days before the ride. If I receive your ride registration after the deadline date, your check will be returned to you or if you paid by pay pal, a MTRA check will be mailed to you by our treasurer, Mindy. The check will be for the ride registration amount only and will not include the pay pal fees that were charged to your card. This does not mean you can not go on the ride of your choice. You can still go on the ride, but you will have to pay Gale \$12.50 per day upon arrival. I am sorry for any inconvenience this creates. Ride deadline dates are:

May Ride-----May 1st
1st June Ride-----May 22nd
2nd June Ride-----June 5th
August Ride-----July 24th
September Ride-----August 28th
October Ride-----September 25th

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. Two of our three MTRA female founders, Sally Whilhelm and Phyllis Garn.
2. This was a non paid job.

FAQ's...

1. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates in 2017 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. Please update your membership information with your **preferred** phone number – no matter if cell or land line. Also, please make sure that the email address that you send us is updated as well.
3. 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!!
4. The MTRA Office now uses the email address: mtra.office@gmail.com. You should use that address for all official communications and that address will be used to distribute the Newsletters, send Ride Confirmations, etc.

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.