

Michigan Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.

PO Box 72

Ovid, MI 48866



Beach at Lake Huron



Beach at Lake Michigan

Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

Al Davis, President
alanddidavis@gmail.com

www.mtra.org
PO Box 72
Ovid, MI 48866
989-723-1425

Jan Wolfin, Secretary
mtra.office@gmail.com

December 2017 – NEWSLETTER

2018 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

January 7, 2018.....	Board of Director Meeting.....	Jay's Sporting Goods, Clare - noon
March 24.....	Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting...	Evergreen Resort/Cadillac....Times TBA
March 25.....	Board of Director Meeting.....	Evergreen Resort/Cadillac.....Time TBA
May 17 – 21.....	PROPOSED Blossom Ride.....	5 days at the Luzerne Trail Camp
May 31 – June 10.....	PROPOSED 1 st June Ride (trophy ride).....	Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
June 15 - 30.....	PROPOSED 2 nd June Ride (trophy ride)	Lake Michigan to Lake Huron
August 11 - 19.....	PROPOSED August Family Ride.....	Scheck's to Goose Creek
September 7-30....	PROPOSED September Ride (Criss Cross / Trophy X 2)	Direction of ride TBA
October 6 -14.....	PROPOSED October Color Ride.....	Goose Creek to Hopkin's Creek

Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting 2018 **March 24th - Evergreen Resort, Cadillac**

MTRA is headed back to Cadillac for the Annual Banquet in 2018 and the plans for a wonderful weekend are in the works. There will be a few changes this year such as the 3rd floor is complete so more rooms are available in the main building. We will have eleven (11) pet-friendly rooms available so if you are bringing your pets, book ASAP. It will cost an additional \$25.00 per room per night to bring your pets. Be sure to call 231-775-9947 to book your room(s) since the web-based hotel booking sites will not be aware of our rates. The few problems that occurred last year have been discussed with Evergreen management and have been corrected to insure MTRA has a wonderful weekend. We will have McCarn Entertainment once again as our DJ. The banquet on Saturday evening will cost \$30.00 per person with Dance Only tickets being \$10.00 each person. There will be two buffet entrees, one carved entrée, two starches, one vegetable, tossed garden salad with choice of house dressings, fresh baked dinner rolls with butter, fountain soft drinks, hot or iced tea, and decaf or regular coffee. You can order banquet tickets or Dance Only tickets when you renew your membership (form included with this newsletter) or go online to the www.mtra.org website. There will be a silent auction the day of the banquet so begin collecting your donations to share with fellow members to benefit the Youth Riders' Fund. If anyone is interested in being a vendor to sell items the day of the banquet, please remember to request permission from the Board of Directors so that you can be approved. Tables will be available for your use. Questions? - call the MTRA Office at 989-723-1425. See you there!!!

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Work bees are on the minds of our MTRA Board of Directors. Until we get to spring and can take an inventory of winter damage, the Board can not set a destination and project. However, they have set the date for our spring work bee. Please put May 4, 5 and 6, 2018 on your calendar in ink and plan to attend our spring work bee. Details will be announced when available.
2. At the PRCAC meeting in October, the conservation officer for the Elk Hill Trail Camp area said the equestrians did a very good job of staying on the marked trails during the 2017 riding season – the best it has been in at least three years. MTRA would like to thank all the hard working equestrians and MDNR officials who spent hours clearing trails, clearing the new connector trails, marking the trails and making the new maps. Let's keep up the good job for the 2018 riding season.
3. New look for the May Blossom Ride. BOD voted to change the format of the 2018 May Blossom Ride. The Board has listened to our members and have changed the format of this ride for 2018. It is not going to be a destination ride (camp to camp). Instead, MTRA has proposed that we spend 5 days (May 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, 2018) at the Luzerne Trail Camp. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE RIDE DATES HAVE BEEN PROPOSED TO THE MDNR AND USFS BUT HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED YET. RIDE DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL APPROVED. APPROVAL USUALLY COMES AFTER MID MARCH**
4. **SEPTEMBER CRISS CROSS:** Please be patient with the MTRA Board of Directors. They are still working on the direction the September 2018 criss cross will take. Final calendar will be set at the January BOD meeting and the ride dates and camp schedule will be published in the January newsletter.
5. If you are interested in running for Board of Director's at the March Annual Meeting, please contact President, Al Davis, or the MTRA office by January 5, 2018.

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. If you sign up for only one day, you can extend your ride for as many days as you wish at the \$10.00 per day rate. You can always “drop in” on a ride without pre-registering – as long as your membership is current (2018) – but the daily rate increases to \$12.50 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 2018 Ride Registration Form which is posted on the www.mtra.org website. Ride Registrations Forms are sent to all members who receive their newsletters via US mail with the February newsletter.
2. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates in 2018 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>
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. It is time to renew or purchase a new subscription to Horsemen's Corral. MTRA has an article in this magazine each month. If you are looking for a Christmas present for an MTRA member, a subscription to this “horsey” magazine would be a great gift. Send \$10.00 to the MTRA office in Ovid with the name and address of the person to receive the magazine.
5. When you are riding along paved roads – wear BRIGHT shirts so that drivers will notice you!
6. 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 Christmas gifts for grandchildren who love our rides.
7. The MTRA Office email address is: mtra.office@gmail.com and the mailing address is: Post Office Box 72, Ovid, Michigan 48866. The office phone number is (989) 723-1425. Do not hesitate to contact the office if you have a question.
8. The MDNR is requesting that MTRA riders wear orange on our fall rides. If you are planning on a September or October ride in 2018, 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.
9. **Free Ride Days** earned from Work Bee credits can be used on any MTRA Ride. When you fill out your Ride Registration, either in paper or online, just pay for the days that you will need to pay for deducting your “free ride days” from the total number of days on the ride. For instance, if you will attend the Color Ride which is 9 days total and you have earned 4 free ride days from Work Bees in May and August, just pay for 5 days of the Color Ride and be sure to let us know that you are using your “free ride days” to cover the cost of the rest. Just be sure to sign-in at the Work Bees so that you get the credit for the days that you worked. The MTRA Office maintains a database of who attends the Work Bees and when those days are credited to rides. If you have questions just give us a call at 989-723-1425.

THANK YOU, SALLY SEAVER. Due to other commitments, Sally Seaver has decided to resign as our historian. Thank you, Sally, for your years of service. If any other member is interested in MTRA history and preserving it for the years to come, please contact President, Al Davis, or the MTRA office.

From the Presidents' desk

Hello MTRA members,

The riding season has come to an end, but has left us with an abundance of memories to share and save forever. Even though our numbers have been low on our rides this year, I feel we have had a successful year. I'm pleased to say we have had more "Newbies" than we normally have, which is very good. We have had riders from many states who have expressed the ride was the most demanding, exhausting, but most rewarding ride they have experienced. The question I ask each "newbie" is; will you be returning, and are you willing to share the experience with your friends back home. The overwhelming response is "yes" for both questions.

This year has provided us with some challenges and several memorable experiences. This spring 4 Mile Trail Camp had a total rebirth. Thru the efforts of many people the camp was redesigned with new layout. Some roads were changed to create a better flow in the camp. A total of 137 picket poles were installed. New bathrooms were installed in the rear of the camp with the assurance new bathrooms would be installed in the front of the camp in the near future. The Luzerne Trail Camp received a thorough clean up and creation of a few new camp sites. Picket poles were purchased by the Federal Forest Service, which will be planted by us next spring. Work has transpired to replace the old bathrooms with new ones. Again, it is proposed for the installation to be completed next spring. The Boardwalk is now finished and open. If you haven't seen the rebuilt Boardwalk you will be very impressed. The trail through the Mayhem Swamp was not passable on the first June Ride due to flooding. Through the work of many individuals and the MDNR, the trail was usable for the remainder of our rides. These challenges along with many more are only resolved by the MTRA and the volunteers that step up. Thank you!

Memorable experiences vary from person to person. One I shall never forget was watching a "newbie" on her horse in Lake Michigan. She was told her horse was going to lie down, which she denied, but the horse promptly did. What a "Kodak" moment, that will never be forgotten. Another memorable item was, being told by the "newbie's", how welcomed they were by the MTRA members and the grand feeling of being part of an MTRA ride. Let us not forget the accomplishment of Connie Peterson and Renee Beesley who completed their 50th MTRA Trophy Ride. These are only a small sample of items that make the MTRA.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. Please make sure to make plans to attend our annual meeting in March, and we hope see you next year.

Best Wishes,

Al Davis, President

August Family Ride 2017 (By Chris Rayner)

This year's Family Ride was blessed with great weather, fun activities and lots of great food. Beginning at Luzerne Trail Camp, folks arrived on the first day and kids could make leather arrowhead shaped name tags with Sherri Jacobs. They used yarn to thread beads on their necklaces as well as made "bear bells" for their horses to wear around their necks. And that was just the beginning. Some more activities at Luzerne Trail Camp were campfire cooking with Sherri including "walking" tacos, fruit filled crepes, and apple pies by Chris Rayner. Al Davis taught everyone how to make string halters for their horses and Chris and Al did a talk about safety and first aid on the trail, how to pony a horse and things to carry while riding. Many folks went kayaking/canoeing on the AuSable River having tons of fun!! After riding around Luzerne for a few days, the riders moved on to McKinley where Sherri Jacobs made campfire soup with Indian fry bread including another apple pie. The swimming at the bridge in McKinley was superb!

Moving to South Branch on the next day brought more adventures around the campfire including bacon, egg and cheese muffins, ice cream which became shakes, and another apple pie! Riding around the South Branch area was more fun with activities in the afternoons including "fly" whisks for the horses made with dowels, yarn and beads. It is safe to say that all of the kids had a wonderful time along with the parents and grandparents. Sherri and Chris want to thank all of the participants for all of their help with the activities!! More fun is planned for 2018! Special thanks goes out to Vicki Swainston for sharing these pictures!!



MTRA Employment Opportunities... If you would like to share your skills with the association we all know and love, please submit a resume and/or letter of interest to: MTRA Employment Director, 13877 Homestead Rd., Beulah, MI 49617, 231-882-4212. The MTRA offers employment in the following areas:

Trail Boss - responsibilities include management of the trail rides including safety of persons and horses on those rides.....**Bus Driver** - responsibilities include all aspects of bus management and transport of riders between trail camps.....**Secretary** - responsibilities include management of the office of the MTRA including all communications, ride management duties and maintenance of files.....**Treasurer** - responsibilities include assistance to the Secretary, website, Forum and Facebook page management, financial duties and reports. All of these positions are part-time/seasonal jobs.

Facebook is one of the best ways to share ideas and activities as well as pictures about all of the Trail Rides, Work Bees and Annual Banquet. It is a wonderful medium of communication but there are times when I cannot attend Work Bees or Rides so we are at a loss for pictures. Here's where the membership comes in ... many members have shared many pictures of MTRA events and we have all thoroughly enjoyed those pictures and the comments we've shared. However, sometimes we cannot "share" pictures due to the specifics of your individual "privacy settings" on your Facebook posts. If you don't mind sharing your MTRA adventures, please go to "settings" and "privacy" and mark "Who can see my stuff?" as **PUBLIC** and then we can share your pictures, comments, etc. This setting does not need to be permanent as you can specify **PUBLIC** on individual posts. Please be advised that the only "official" MTRA Facebook page is called "**Michigan Trail Riders Association, Inc.**" which can be accessed from the www.mtra.org website if you do not have a Facebook page and just want to look at the pictures, etc. Thanks so much for allowing us to share your pictures and please let us know if we have missed something that you would like to share with the group!!!!



← 1st June Ride, 2017

Riders at Lake Michigan, 2017 →



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