

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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APRIL 2009 – NEWSLETTER

2009 RIDE SCHEDULE & Work Bees – Ride registration forms included here!

May 1 - 3.... *Work Bee* at McKinley Camp.....Need to replace one more boardwalk along the trail to South Branch
May 9 – 17.....*Blossom Ride* Mullett Lake to Luzerne.....Pre-register by April 10
May 22 - 24..... *Work Bee*South Branch Camp(Call Bill Zettel for details)
May 29 – June 7..... *Oscoda to Empire*..... (Trophy ride)..... Pre-register by April 29
June 13 – 28..... *Garey Lake to Oscoda* (Trophy ride)..... Pre-register by May 14
August 14 - 16..... *Work Bee*.....to be determinedMore info to come
Sept 11 - 20 *Oscoda to Empire*..... (Trophy ride).....Pre-register by August 12
October 3 – 11 *Color Ride*Goose Creek to Cadillac..... Pre-register by September 4

This year we will be celebrating our 45th Anniversary of the June Rides. There will be special activities, special t-shirts, and special trophies so let's make it a year to remember!!!



Catalyst Award Winner Ernie Marsh

A **BIG** Congratulation goes to our own former Board Member and friend to one and all Ernie Marsh as a recipient of the 2009 Catalyst Award which was awarded by the Michigan Horse Council on March 14th at the annual Michigan Horse Expo in East Lansing. Ernie was one of five members of the horse community to be honored. Here is Ernie posing in front of the Wheels Unlimited stagecoach with two of the six leopard Appaloosas visible which carried all of the recipients into the arena. We can't thank Ernie enough for all of his time and efforts dedicated to the MTRA through the years. We can only hope that he'll have many more years on the trail so that we can enjoy his company. Wow - what a ride!!!

NOTICE ----- Don't forget to get those Coggins tests on any horses you bring to a ride!!!!-----

Congratulations to 2009 Board Members

With close numbers, the following members were elected to the 2009 Board of Director seats. Joe Burrill and Chuck Fanslow are the newbies with Kathleen Moss, Ron Pouncey, Ginger Vanderkelen and Bill Zettel being re-elected. Joe was elected to a 3-year term with Chuck Fanslow filling in for Dave Thomas for the one year remaining on his term. Ernie Marsh gave notice of his resignation at the January 2009 Board Meeting. Dave Thomas submitted his formal resignation effective at the March 2009 meeting. We will miss both Ernie and Dave on the Board and wish to graciously thank them for all of their time and efforts in our behalf. Welcome aboard Joe and Chuck! The work is only beginning☺☺☺

May 2009 Work Bee to be held at McKinley

We have another boardwalk to construct and a watering hole at the AuSable to work on so we'll need lots of help with shovels, tampers, rakes, hammers, etc. We'll have a couple of tractors to haul the heavy stuff. However, many hands make light work so we hope to see lots of members who can just help out in any way possible. If you would like to camp, we'll be staying along the power lines to be close to the work area. A great lunch will be provided on Saturday. If you have any questions, contact Garry Randall at 989-539-6838. Don't miss out on a super opportunity to get to know more members and have a great time to boot! And - you get to assist in the maintenance of our great trail!!!



The MHC Horse Expo was a GREAT success, again!

The MTRA was well represented at the Horse Expo in East Lansing again this year. Our booth was situated in the "Trails Room" and was open for the duration of the Expo. Therese and Dave Kline graciously organized our display and would like to thank the following volunteers for donating their time and efforts. **Marydale Casey, Wendy Harris, Ken & Jan Hartwig, Jennifer Edgell, Amy Helgren, Renee Rivard, Betty & Garry Randall, Polly Moore, Connie Nelson, Pat & Kate Galloup, Gail Hilbrand, Joe Burrill, Cyndi Snyder, Dawn Mannor and, of course, Dave & Therese Kline.** Thanks guys!!! Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the whole membership and all of those Newbies who were awakened to our great organization.

With all of Dave Kline's hard work constructing our beautiful display booth, we will probably be participating in other Expos, County Fairs and other activities where we would like some positive exposure. If you know of any such activities, please contact Dave at 989-289-2334 or Chris at 989-473-3205.

Board Briefs:

1. With over 120 votes cast choosing the location of the Annual Banquet, it was decidedly in favor of the Atrium Plaza. Thus the Board has made arrangements with the Atrium for the following dates March 20, 2010, March 19, 2011 and March 17, 2012. We will contract with the Atrium for one year at a time but those are the dates for your calendars.
2. The Board of Director Officers for 2009 will remain the same as for 2008 with Garry Randall as President, Jeff Sawyer as 1st VP, Al Davis as 2nd VP, and Kathleen Moss as Recording Secretary.
3. All of the Trail Assignments were defined at their meeting on March 7th and will be included (with all of the Board members' phone numbers) with this newsletter. Keep this list handy for future reference.
4. The next Board Meeting will be Saturday afternoon, June 20, 2009, at the 4-Mile Truck Stop at 3:30 PM. All of the Board Meetings are open to the membership if you would like to attend and watch your elected representatives at work.
5. On recommendation from the Employee Committee, the Board hired Patty Brown as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. She will be working closely with Chris Rayner in that capacity. Special Thanks go to Betty Randall for all of her support and hard work this past 18 months! And a BIG Thank You to all the applicants for that position.
6. The Ride Committee will be working on the 2010 Ride Calendar which needs to be finalized by the June Board Meeting and ready for DNR Event application in August. The Ride Committee consists of Joe Burrill, Al Davis, Dale Peterson and Ginger Vanderkelen.

Secretarial Notes

1. Please be sure to let me know if you are unable to attend/complete a ride or the banquet so that you can request a refund. Unless you REQUEST that refund within 30 days of the end of the ride/banquet I will assume you want to donate the money to the association. I cannot just issue a check if you don't attend or leave early from a ride. Help me keep my files straight and send those requests by email, phone call or US mail.
2. Included with this newsletter are the 2009 Ride Calendars and Ride Registration forms. Please read the Registration form and call or email if you have any questions. The format is a bit different.
3. Big change – you may send in your registrations for all of the rides you wish to attend at the same time. You do not need to write separate checks or use different ride registration forms unless you prefer to do it that way.
4. If you need to leave a ride earlier than planned, please check-out with the Trail Boss. They need to know who is or is not in camp to record numbers on the ride. Again, help us to keep our files accurate.
5. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with questions or concerns! I'm here to serve this organization and keep things running smoothly. Let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can best work together to accomplish this task.
6. Thank you Board for hiring Patty Brown to assist me. Betty – thanks so much (and you are still on my speed dial!)
Happy Trails - chris

Ride Buddies

Did you ever wonder who those great people were who gave you assistance in camp or on the trail? Who was that guy who rode that super buckskin and was always there to help you out? What was the name of that couple we rode across the state with in 2008 on the September Ride? Well, memory salvation is in the works! Barb, AKA "Barbie the bus driver - watch out for the green finger", will have some name-tag labels for us to wear until we get to know each other's names. Please, please, please – go that extra 30 feet and exchange your name, address, phone number and/or email address with those friends you hold dear so that you can contact them in the "off" (non-riding) season.

Goose Creek Classics

Many of the participants in the Shore-to-Shore rides are putting their heads together to re-create that wonderful day of fun and games fondly referred to as the Goose Creek Classics. During the "lay-over" day at Goose Creek in the middle of the 2nd June Ride, lots of activities are being planned to entertain one and all. A revival of sorts of this memorable event will be celebrating 45 years of Shore-to-Shore rides. Please join us for all of the fun on June 20, 2009. If you have any fond memories and/or would like to be involved in the organization of this good time, please contact Therese Kline at 989-634-9948.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

This institution is operated under special use permit with the Huron-Manistee Nation Forest and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Trail Assignments for 2009

Lake Michigan to <u>Garey Lake</u> to Lake Dubonnet (<u>Mud Lake</u>)	Dale Peterson – 231-861-4408
Luzerne to <u>McKinley</u>	Kathleen Moss – 989-872-4712
Scheck's to <u>Kalkaska</u>	Ron Pouncey – 810-629-0733
Kalkaska to <u>Goose Creek</u>	Jeff Sawyer – 989-869-8570
Goose Creek to <u>4-Mile</u>	Joe Burrill – 989-386-6076
4-Mile to <u>Luzerne</u>	Jack Heaton – 517-423-3951
Lake Dubonnet to <u>Scheck's</u>	Al Davis – 231-882-4212
McKinley to <u>South Branch</u>	Bill Zettel – 989-345-1393
South Branch to <u>River Road</u> to Lake Huron	Kelly Graham – 989-305-0745
<u>Cadillac</u> to Hopkins Creek	Ginger Vanderkelen – 616-636-5694
<u>Hopkins Creek</u> to Scheck's	Tom Smith – 231-825-0094
Luzerne to <u>Walsh Road</u>	Terry Meier – 989-330-6021
<u>Elk Hill</u> to Johnson's Crossing	Garry Randall – 989-539-6838
Stoney Creek to <u>Mullett Lake</u>	Terry Swearingin - 734-428-8442
<u>Johnson's Crossing</u> to Walsh Road	Al Dennis – 989-848-5606
Elk Hill to <u>Stoney Creek</u>	Chuck Fanslow – 989-435-3800
MDNR – Liasion	Garry Randall
UFSF – Liasion	Kelly Graham
NORTH section: Luzerne – Mullett Lake	Al Dennis
WEST section: Empire – Kalkaska	Al Davis
SOUTH section: Kalkaska – Cadillac	Ginger Vanderkelen
CENTRAL section: Kalkaska – Luzerne	Al Davis
EAST section: Luzerne	Kelly Graham

Trail Camps are designated in **Bold and underlined**.