

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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August 2008 – NEWSLETTER

2008 RIDE SCHEDULE & Work Bees

May 2, 3 & 4..... *Work Bee* at McKinley Camp.....31 members worked hard to replace boardwalk along trail!!!
May 9 – 18.....*Blossom Ride* from Luzerne to River Rd.....19-51 riders participated for a great ride!!!
May 24 – 26 *Work Bee*South Branch Camp(Call Bill Zettel for details)
May 30 – June 8..... *Oscoda to Empire*..... (Trophy ride)..... 80 riders received trophies
June 14 – 29..... *Oscoda to Empire* (Trophy ride)..... 76 riders received trophies
August 22, 23 & 24 ..*Work Bee*.....South Branch Camp.....fences to build, firm up trails
Sept 6 – 26 *Oscoda to Oscoda(Double Cross)*..... (Trophy ride)..... pre-register by Aug 6
October 3 – 12 *Color Ride*..... Cadillac to Goose Creek..... pre-register by Sept 3



These happy campers are some of the 2008 2nd June Ride Newbies!!!



Youth Riders' Patches

The new Youth Riders' Patches have been distributed to all youth riders who have attended any of the 2008 MTRA trail rides. Thus far we have seen 50 riders receive their patches. Hopefully they will wear their patches with pride because we sure are proud that they are a part of our rides. Let's see who can get the most patches?

Great Success at McKinley Work Bee

The McKinley Work Bee was attended by over 30 members who worked hard to remove the old boardwalk and replace it with a new one just east of the McKinley Trail Camp. Due to terrain constraints, much manpower was needed to move the big logs into place. We were able to get some small tractors to help out with the “hauling” of needed materials but most of the construction work was done by the many volunteers. A big thank you goes out to all of the members present, especially Tom Pouncey with his expertise in boardwalk building, and Betty Randall and her crew for a great luncheon on Saturday. Be sure to plan on attending a Work Bee to get to know other members better and feel like you’ve helped out with the maintenance of our trail.



Horseback Rider Signs on M-33

If you’ve been traveling in the north country along M-33, just south of Mio, you should notice new Horseback Rider Signs denoting the Shore-to-Shore Trail crossing in that area. When there was reconstruction of the M-33 highway, widening for a passing lane and resurfacing done last year, the Michigan Department of Transportation put signs up to let drivers know that there would be riders crossing the road. We would like to extend a hearty Thank You to all engineers, MDOT personnel, construction workers and anyone else involved who are responsible for the placement of those signs. Now, this is possibly the safest busy road crossing for the MTRA in the whole state of Michigan.

If you would like to see more of these signs at busy road crossings, please contact Chris Rayner at the MTRA Office for a form letter requesting such signs. Perhaps we can make another plea for the safety of our riders and horses.

Secretarial Notes

1. Please take note of the new address and phone number for the MTRA Office. Many members, both old and new, are still using the Stockbridge and Munith addresses. I would hate to see any important communication with members lost due to wrong mailing. If you have any concerns in this regard please contact me at raynechris@gmail.com or call 989-473-3205.
2. At this time there are over 300 members receiving their newsletters by email. Congratulations! We are helping to save the environment by conserving resources. If you are interested in joining the email group, please contact me.
3. If you are a web-user, please notice that the “Newbie” Booklet is now on our website. If you haven’t had a chance to read it, please check it out! We are always looking for better ways to inform our members and this one is a treat.
4. Don’t forget to send in your ride registration forms for the September Double-Cross and Color Ride in October. The forms are available on the mtra.org website (on the Forum Page) or can be requested by phone. Yes, it is possible to receive a trophy for a single crossing during the Double-Cross Ride. For questions please call or email!

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.

August Work Bee in South Branch

The next Work Bee is scheduled for August 22, 23 & 24 to be held at the South Branch Trail Camp. The USFS has requested our assistance in building some fencing and repairing trails to firm up the footing around some of the wet areas. We will be needing lots of helpers with hand tools like shovels, rakes, tampers, sledge hammers, etc. Please contact Garry Randall for any details if you have something that can be used at that Work Bee. We will begin work around noon on Friday, Aug. 22nd, and lunch on Saturday will be provided. Come on out and camp to enjoy the camaraderie. Many hands make light work!

Anyone Ready for Popcorn?

The tradition of camp Popcorn started in the early 80's with a man that brought a huge pot and a propane burner to Mud Lake. He would make Popcorn in the huge pot and stir it with a large stick. When it was done he would dump it into a garbage can for all to enjoy.

Ginger Vanderkelen wanted to do the same thing at trail camps along the Shore-to-Shore Trail. She knew this would be a good way to meet the new people. Her husband, Bill, went to a garage sale and bought the pot that we still use today for fifty cents. He welded chains to the sides and attached binder twine so it could be "shaken" over the fire; this developed the need for *Shakers*. The pot did not have a lid so a flat one was used. A stick with a hook on the end of it was needed to remove the lid; this developed the need for a *Hooker*. When the popcorn was done the *Bag Lady* came in mighty handy. Many campfires and camp Popcorn have been shared in horse camps throughout the years.

At the MTRA 2nd June Ride the famous and beloved pot was passed down to Dave and Therese Kline. They did a fine job of carrying out the tradition of camp Popcorn. Thanks to Ginger for all the wonderful memories in the past and giving all of us who have ever been a *Shaker*, *Hooker* or *Bag Lady* a **GREAT** experience.



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North Spur Camps Open

As of May 12, 2008, all of the camps along the North Spur of the Shore-to-Shore Trail system are open. Walsh Rd. Trail Camp, Johnson's Crossing Trail Camp and Stoney Creek Trail Camp are all open for business and waiting for riders in those areas. If you are looking for a nice ride through the Pigeon River Country on the Shore-to-Shore Trail, these camps are now available for use. Maybe next spring we will be able to have the Blossom Ride along the North Spur as it has been in the past.

Trail Assignments for 2008

Empire to Lake Dubonnet (Mud Lake)	Dale Peterson	231-861-4408
Luzerne to McKinley	Jeff Sawyer	989-850-7053
Scheck's to Kalkaska	Ron Pouncey	810-629-0733
Kalkaska to Goose Creek	Dave Thomas	734-675-3785
Goose Creek to 4-Mile	Kathy Moss	989-872-4712
4-Mile to Luzerne	Jack Heaton	517-423-3951
Lake Dubonnet to Scheck's	Al Davis	231-882-4212
McKinley to South Branch	Bill Zettel	989-345-1393
South Branch to AuSable/Oscoda	Kelly Graham	989-305-0745
Cadillac to Hopkins Creek	Ginger Vanderkelen	616-636-5694
Hopkins Creek to Scheck's	Tom Smith	231-825-8077
Luzerne to Walsh Road.....	Ernest Marsh	989-345-0482
Elk Hill to Johnson's Crossing	Garry Randall	989-539-6838
Stoney Creek to Mullet Lake	Terry Swearingin	734-428-8442
Johnson's Crossings to Walsh Road.....	Al Dennis	989-848-5606
Elk Hill to Stoney Creek.....	Terry Meier	989-433-2077
MDNR - Liasion	Garry Randall	989-539-6838
UFSF - Liasion	Kelly Graham	989-305-0745

NORTH section: Luzerne – Mullet Lake
WEST section: Empire – Kalkaska
SOUTH section: Kalkaska - Cadillac
CENTRAL section: Kalkaska - Luzerne
EAST section: Oscoda

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A BIG Thank you to Board Members



All of the Michigan Trail Riders should stand up and be counted in the BIG Thank You to all of the MTRA Board Members who took so much of their own personal time and cleaned and marked the trails. Many members commented on how well marked and well kept the trails were this spring and early summer. It is with our deepest gratitude that all of the Board Members make the extra effort to make our rides more enjoyable by making the trail easy to follow. If any of you feel so inclined, please feel free to call any of the Board Members and express your appreciation of their commitment. Great Job!!!!



Congratulations to all the Trophy recipients from the 2008 2nd June Shore-to-Shore Ride!