



Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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December 2016 – NEWSLETTER

2017 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

December 2-4, 2016.....Novi Equestrian Expo (www.noviequestrianexpo.com).....Novi, MI
 January 7, 2017.....Board of Director Meeting.....Jay's Sporting Goods, Clare - noon
 March 25-26.. Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting...Evergreen Resort/Cadillac....Times TBA
 March 26.....Board of Director Meeting.....Evergreen Resort/Cadillac.....Time TBA
 May 12-21.....**PROPOSED** Blossom Ride.....Cadillac Trail Camp to Goose Creek Trail Camp
 June 1-11.....**PROPOSED** 1st June Ride (trophy ride).....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
 June 16-July 2.....**PROPOSED** 2nd June Ride (trophy ride)Lake Michigan to Lake Huron
 August 5-13.....**PROPOSED** August Family Ride...4-Mile Trail Camp to South Branch Trail Camp
 September 7-28....**PROPOSED** September Ride (Double Cross)(trophy rides)....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan & back
 October 5-14.....**PROPOSED** Color Ride.....Lake Michigan at Mackinaw City to Walsh Rd. Trail Camp

Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting 2017 **March 25th - Evergreen Resort, Cadillac**

We are headed back to Cadillac for the Annual Banquet in 2017 and the plans for a wonderful weekend are in the works. There will be a few changes this year such as renovations in all of the rooms and another whole floor of rooms 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 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 special rates. We will also have more room for the dance floor in 2017 with McCarn Entertainment back as DJ. The banquet on Saturday evening will cost \$30.00 per person with 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. The dessert will be a scoop of Chef's choice Ice Cream!! You can order banquet tickets when you renew your membership 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. The USFS has extended the start date for the Luzerne Boardwalk project to October 11, 2016 due to waiting for the large timbers for the sub-structure to be delivered.
2. A big THANK YOU goes out to MTRA members Stephanie Thorne and Ruth Willey. These two members went around the entire Elk Hill Campground on the September ride and made sure all the sites under the picket poles were clean. Good job, Girls.
3. We are still looking for a youth board member. If any MTRA youth member would be interested in having a position on the MTRA board, please contact the MTRA office at (989) 723-1425.
4. The Board has approved putting commercial ads in the newsletter. The cost would be \$25.00 for a business card sized ad, \$125.00 for a ½ page ad and \$250.00 for a full page ad per issue. If any member knows of a business that would be interested in advertising in our newsletter, please have them contact the MTRA office.
5. Pat Galloup is compiling a 5 year plan for work needed on the "Blue Trail". Please contact Pat or the MTRA office if you know of a spot on the trail that needs work.
6. It is that time of year again when MTRA is taking applications for employees. Contact Al Davis if you or someone you know is interested in being the MTRA bus driver, trail boss, secretary or treasurer.

Special thanks goes out to Gail Hilbrand and Joan Stuecken for representing the MTRA at Millbrook Tack on September 6th. They attended the Open House with lots of pictures and other goodies and spoke with many customers about the MTRA. It takes all of us to promote our organization and we greatly appreciate your time and efforts in this endeavor!!!!

Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.

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 work commitments, athletic team practices, family activities, 4-H fairs, etc. It is just 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 and your daily fee will be reserved at the \$10.00 per day rate. You can always “drop in” on a ride – as long as your membership is current (2017) – but the daily rate becomes \$12.50 per day due to the late fee. If you are already signed-up for that one day, you can then extend your ride to include more days and/or transfer that fee to a later ride which may be more convenient for you. 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 2017 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 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>
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 “In Memorium” section of the www.mtra.org website is up and running. Please check it out and help us out with more pictures, information and thoughts you would like to share.
5. Rig Routes are now on the www.mtra.org website linked to the 2017 Trail Rides page.
6. You can still get renewals or new subscriptions to Horsemen's Corral. Send \$10.00 to the office in Ovid.
7. When you are riding along paved roads – wear BRIGHT shirts so that drivers will notice you!
8. We will have a Lunch Wagon on the east side of the state for the August and all trophy rides. Patty Alexander will meet riders on the Shore-to-Shore trail with water, pop, chips, hot dogs and grilled ham and cheese sandwiches (just like last year!!). Cookies will also be available!! Remember – she is accepting donations only for these goodies with no financial support from the MTRA.
9. 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.
10. The MTRA Office is now using the email address: mtra.office@gmail.com and the mailing address of: 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.
11. The MDNR is requesting that MTRA riders wear orange on our fall rides. If you are planning on a September or October ride in 2017, start planning now for an orange hat or vest or jacket or sweatshirt. This is for your safety in the woods.



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. Don't forget – your “free ride days” will carry over from 2011 when this policy was begun so if you have questions as to whether you have any days still available for use on a ride of your choice, just give us a call at 989-723-1425.

NEW – NEW – NEW - At the June Board of Director's meeting Joe Burrill presented the idea of increasing MTRA membership by offering MTRA members a Free ride day for each new member they bring to the Association. One new member equals one ride day FREE – 10 new members equals an entire 10-day ride FREE!!! The Board voted to enact this policy for a year to see how things go. Talk to your friends. Encourage them to join MTRA and have them put your name or MTRA number on their membership application so you can be credited with a FREE ride day.

From the Presidents' desk:

Hi Everyone,

Another riding season has come to a close with hopefully many great memories of the rides sponsored by the MTRA. Many new friendships have developed with the abundance of new members, as well as the rekindling of old friendships and experiences that have been created over the years with the MTRA. Hopefully our membership will continue to grow each year with individuals and families encouraging the younger generations to become active participants in the MTRA.

During this past season there have been some hiccups we have had to deal with, and I'm sure there will be many more in the future. Many hours of work were put in at South Branch Trail Camp this spring in order to make it usable for our rides. We needed to use a detour near Luzerne due to the boardwalk not being safe. Harvesting of timber on the trail approaching Goose Creek Trail Camp made the trail almost impossible to follow, (this problem was addressed and the trail is now cleared and marked thanks to the MDNR). Yet with these problems and other obstacles we did survive. The Board of Directors, along with the help of our membership, is continually working to maintain the trail system. A lot of work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (both Parks and Recreation and Forestry) and The Federal Forest Service is continually on-going. I sincerely thank all of you who have volunteered your time and effort in assisting in the various projects of the MTRA. If you are interested in helping with the maintenance of any of the trail system, please call me or a board member. All members are provided a list of which board member is responsible for which section of trail. All board members would greatly appreciate your help. Also, if anyone is interested in running for the Board of Directors it is now the time to contact our secretary, Jan Wolfen.

The 2017 season will be upon us before we know it. We will try to keep the membership informed of upcoming projects as soon as possible. Please read the MTRA forum and newsletters, and as always, should you have concerns or questions, please call our secretary or any board member.

Now it saddens me to announce we are in need of a new treasurer for the MTRA. Chris Rayner announced at our last Board Meeting that she is resigning from the treasurer position effective January 1, 2017. Chris has done an outstanding job for the MTRA as secretary, and currently treasurer for the past 9 years. A sincere THANK YOU to Chris. She will be greatly missed by all associated with the MTRA, MDNR, and USFS with whom she has worked.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. No matter if you stay in your home state, or seek relief to a warmer climate, have a great winter and we will look forward to seeing you next year. Take care!

Sincerely, Al Davis

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!!!!

NOVI EQUESTRIAN EXPO – DECEMBER 2ND - 4TH – MTRA WORKERS NEEDED

MTRA will have a booth at the 2016 Novi Equestrian Expo. The dates and times are Friday, December 2nd from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in working the MTRA booth, please contact Kim Ross at (248) 721-3189. 2017 memberships are due January 1st. There will be membership renewal forms and new member application forms at the booth. This is a great opportunity to get your 2017 membership paid before the ride season.



← Color Ride 2016

Wilbur Creek Bridge – September Ride 2016 →



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.