

Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.
www.mtra.org

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August 2017 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

August 5 – 13, 2017.....Family Ride.....Luzerne to South Branch
 August 18,19, 20, 2017.....Work Bee.....LuzerneTrail Camp
 September 7 – 28, 2017.....Double Cross Ride (Trophy X 2).....Oscoda to Empire, Empire to Oscoda
 September 23, 2017.....Board of Director’s Meeting.....Charlie’s Country Corners.....3:00 p.m.
 October 5 – 14, 2017..... Color Ride.....Mackinaw to Walsh Road
 January 2018.....Board of Director’s Meeting.....Details TBA
 March 24, 2018.....Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting.....Evergreen Resort, Cadillac
 March 25, 2018.....Board of Director’s Meeting.....Evergreen Resort, Cadillac

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Al Davis is working with MDNR for improvements to the Cadillac Trail Camp. He will keep the board of directors up to date.
2. The August work bee will be August 18th, 19th and 20th. More information later in this newsletter.
3. Ed Godzinski is working to get a permanent trail around the gravel pit just south of Stoney Creek. The new route has been flagged for the October ride.
4. The proposed 2018 ride schedule is ready to be submitted to the MDNR for approval.
5. The Board approved the purchase of virus protection for MTRA computers.
6. MTRA member, Sheri Jacobs, has volunteered to oversee the kids activities on the August Family ride. Thank you , Sheri

August Work Bee needs WORKERS

We need you August 18th, 19th and 20th

Our August work bee will be based at the Luzerne Trail Camp. This camp needs a good clean up. There are some dead trees in the camp. These trees will be taken down before the work bee for safety, but the mess that it leaves will need to be cleaned up. The trails from Luzerne to McKinley and from Luzerne to Walsh Road need to be trimmed and cleared, so crews will be sent out to work on sections of trails. Jeff Balzer, Al Davis, Terry Meier and Kathy Moss will be coordinating the work project and large equipment that will be needed. Please call Al Davis at (231) 882-4212 if you can bring a tractor, York rake, chipper, stump grinder, 4-wheeler or side by side, chain saw or any other large equipment. What isn't donated will have to be rented. Your equipment donation is huge for MTRA. If you do not have large equipment, your presence and hand tools are just as important. We need workers with nippers, pruners, rakes, shovels, hand saws and other hand tools. In the camp, brush will need to be hauled to the chipper, campsites and picket areas need to be cleared of debris. The workers going out on the trail will need to trim with hand tools and chain saws. Be sure to wear comfortable work boots and work gloves are a good idea also. If you have your own safety equipment (safety glasses and ear plugs) it would be a good thing to bring them. MTRA will have safety glasses and ear plugs available if you do not have your own. As always, MTRA will be providing lunch on Saturday for the workers. Be sure to sign in every day that you are on the work bee. You will be awarded one free camping night for each day you work. The sign in sheets are our record for the free camping. It is also very important that we turn in every hour worked to the MDNR and USFS. We need to acknowledge MTRA's contribution to the Michigan Riding and Hiking Trail and Camps.

FAQ's...

1. Just a reminder, 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 and your daily fee will be locked in 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 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.
2. If you pay for a ride and do not attend the ride for any reason and want to transfer the paid ride dates to another ride please call the MTRA office within 10 days after the end of the ride to inform the secretary of your wish. This way, the secretary and treasurer can close out the books for that ride.
3. You may ask "what happens to my money if I pay for a ride and do not attend the ride and do not transfer it to another ride?" Many riders pay \$10.00 to sign up for a ride to lock in the \$10.00 per day rate and then are unable to attend. Instead of calling and transferring the \$10.00 to another ride, they donate it to the Association. All of these \$10.00 donations add up and are put in the general fund for trail and camp maintenance.
4. 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 important since we 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 or at the boat launch: <http://media.state.mi.us/michiganestore/public/categorydisplay.aspx?categoryId=5>
5. Don't forget – fellow members who assist you in "rescues" whether they be horse or vehicle related, would appreciate your consideration with a donation to their "fuel fund". We are all on vacation during the rides and would always be there to help out when needed. But, sometimes we appreciate the offer of monetary assistance when our rigs/trucks are being used.
6. When you are riding along paved roads – wear BRIGHT shirts so that drivers will notice you.

Annual Banquet 2018....The Board has voted and next year's Annual Banquet will be held in Cadillac at the Evergreen Resort. The fun will begin on Saturday, March 24th, with room reservations to be made at 231-775-9947. The rooms will run from \$89.00 to \$149.00 which includes a continental breakfast buffet. There are pet-friendly rooms available at an additional nominal fee of \$25.00 per night. The Resort has blocked rooms for the MTRA so be sure to let them know that you are one of our members. The banquet on Saturday evening will cost \$30.00 per person. Our DJ on Saturday night will again be McCarn Entertainment. More specific information about the menu, activities, tickets, etc. will be available with the next newsletter. If you have questions about the Evergreen Resort, their website is www.evergreenresortmi.com or you can call the MTRA office. 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.

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. 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.

September Ride Reminders: We will be having a pot luck dinner on Thursday September 7th (arrival date) at the River Road Trail Camp. Our trail boss, Gale Gunders, moves the meeting time up to 6:00 p.m. and the pot luck is immediately following the meeting. President, Al Davis, will also be meeting with the newbies after the meeting. The **MDNR** is again requiring that our riders wear orange while out on the trail in September. Please bring an orange hat, vest, sweatshirt or even orange flagging tape to tie onto yourself and/or your horse.

FROM THE SECRETARY: I would like to thank all the members and the Board of Directors for their patience from the end of May into June. The MTRA computer was hit by a ransom virus which shut the computer down. Everything was late getting done for about three weeks (partly because I was on the 1st June ride) but all is caught up now. If something was missed, please call me and let me know (989) 723-1423.

REPORTERS NEEDED: This newsletter is published 4 times a year to keep the membership informed as to what is going on with MTRA. It is full of facts and data. I would like to see a fun articles about MTRA members and the rides. If you have a desire to write and have your own byline, give the MTRA office a call or just submit an article by email to be considered for publication at [mtra.office@gmail](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello Fellow Trail Riders,

The summer is now in full swing and half of our riding schedule is completed. The May and June rides have been a great success. We have welcomed many “newbies” who were a joy to be with, and hopefully will return to many more of our rides. One of the highlights was the completion of the 50 Trophy Rides for Connie Peterson. Many warm hugs and congratulations were given to her and her husband Dale.

The Luzerne Boardwalk was used on both June Rides and enjoyed by all. For anyone who has not seen the Boardwalk, it is very impressive. A sincere thanks to all who helped in its completion, especially Michelle and Tim Jones who put sand down twice to prevent slippage.

The rebirth of the 4-Mile Camp was successful thanks to all the hard work by our members, and to the volunteers of the Shore to Shore Trail Riders. The DNR has worked with us to redevelop the camp in a very positive manor. It is hopeful that all of us have learned from this experience.

Currently I am very involved with the DNR to secure our trail going through the Mayhem Swamp.

Hopefully an everlasting agreement can be acquired with the property owner in the near future to insure the Shore to Shore Riding and Hiking Trail's longevity.

In addition, I have been involved in discussions with the DNR dealing with Public Act 288 of 2016, which deals with allowing certain roads to be used by ORVs. This would allow ORVs on many sections of the Shore To Shore Riding and Hiking Trail, as well as many other equestrian trails throughout the state. I have attempted to share my thoughts and concerns for the MTRA, through various medias, including television, and newspapers etc. I will try to keep the membership informed of any results that occur.

The August Ride is quickly approaching, and hopefully will be attended by many families. Several activities have been scheduled for the enjoyment of all. I'll be looking forward to seeing many of you on this ride.

Lastly, I would like to remind you the MTRA is always looking for people to work for our association. We would like to have on file resumes of people interested in any of the positions we offer. The positions we have are Trail Boss, Bus Driver, Treasurer, and Secretary. Anyone interested in any of the positions please submit your resume and /or letter of interest to:

MTRA Employment Director

13877 Homestead

Beulah MI 49617

Or sent via email to: alanddidavis@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Your President

Al Davis

Congratulations Connie Peterson

MTRA member, Connie Peterson #L2488, has joined a small group of MTRA members who have completed 50 trophy rides. Connie made her 50th trophy ride on the 2nd June ride. Family and friends joined the MTRA riders to celebrate Connie's accomplishment at the River Road Trail Camp.

Good luck to Renee Beesley who will be riding for her 50th crossing in September.

RIDE REGISTRATION DEADLINES: Just a reminder, 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. It takes from 2 to 4 days to ship a package to Gale. Therefore, I need your ride registration 10 days before the ride. For your convenience, I have included a ride registration form in this newsletter. 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:

September Ride-----August 28th

October Ride-----September 25th

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