

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

Al Davis, President
alanddidavis@gmail.com

www.mtra.org

Jan Wolfin, Secretary
mtra.office@gmail.com

August 2018 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

August 11 – 19, 2018.....	Family Ride.....	Scheck's to Goose Creek
August 24, 25, 26, 2018.....	Work Bee.....	Stoney Creek Trail Camp
September 7 – 30, 2018.....	Criss Cross (Trophy X 2).....	Mackinaw to Cadillac, Empire to Oscoda
September 15, 2018.....	Board of Director's Meeting.....	Charlie's Country Corners..... 2:30 p.m.
October 6 – 14, 2018.....	Color Ride.....	Goose Creek to Hopkins Creek
January 2019.....	Board of Director's Meeting.....	Details TBA
March 23, 2019.....	Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare
March 24, 2019.....	Board of Director's Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare

THANK YOU BARB CRAMPTON

After 27 years of driving the MTRA bus, Barb Crampton is retiring. These years of service add up to over 300 runs and over 100,000 miles. Thank you so much, Barb, for getting up by 5 o'clock each morning and leading the MTRA parade of rigs to the next camp and getting our riders safely back to their horses. Your knowledge was freely shared not only to the newbies but also to the experienced riders. You will be missed. Now MTRA needs to find another bus driver. Please help get the word out. Interested candidates can contact Al Davis at alanddidavis@gmail.com or the MTRA office at mtra.office@gmail.com.

Board Briefs:

1. Approval has been granted by the MDNR for a pavilion at Elk Hill. MTRA Vice President, Chuck Fanslow, is on the committee working to finalize plans. This pavilion has to conform to the Pigeon River Concept of Management. Funding for this pavilion is now in the works. If any of our members would like to donate to this project, please send a check to BCHMI (Back Country Horsemen's Association Of Michigan), 3795 West Hidden Forest Drive, Ludington, Michigan 49431. Please put Elk Hill Pavilion in the memo section of your check or include a note saying you would like to donate to the Pavilion at Elk Hill. BCHMI is a 501C3 non-profit and your donation is tax deductible.
2. The MTRA web store is up and running. Lots of great comments have come in about the quality of the clothing and the design. Be sure to check out the t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, jackets and other items by following the link on our webpage, www.mtra.org or going directly to the site at www.mtrawebstore.com.
3. MTRA will continue to have a pot luck on the arrival day of all trophy rides. The nightly trail boss meeting will start at 6:00 with the pot luck following, MTRA will no longer be providing hot dogs at these pot lucks.
4. Pot luck dinners for the May, August and October rides may be planned by riders during the rides and an announcement by the trail boss will inform when and where they will be held.
5. Meier clarified that the MTRA bus fund cannot be used for bus repair, but is for bus replacement only.
6. Burrill and the Davis' announced their retirement from the youth fund. MTRA is looking for volunteers to replace them.
7. MTRA members who take alternate routes must stay off private property.
8. MTRA is still in need of a historian. If you are interested in the history of this club contact any board member and volunteer.

August Work Bee needs WORKERS

We need you August 24th, 25th and 26th

Our August work bee will be based at the Stoney Creek Trail Camp. The bridge over the dam just south of Stoney Creek Camp needs to be repaired. This is a huge job. Lots of muscle will be needed along with hand tools (hammers, saws, drills, screwdrivers, ect.). Crews will also be sent out to brush and trim trail if we have a large enough crew, so bring chain saws, loppers, nippers, 4 wheelers and side by sides.

The MTRA board is also looking for a volunteer/volunteers to bring their tractor and brush hog to this work bee. The Mullet Lake Trail Camp is a private camp and it is the responsibility of MTRA to mow it before the September ride. Please contact Al Davis at (231) 882-4212 if you are willing to help with this task.

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 (2018) – 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 30 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 2018 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 2019....The Board has voted and next year's Annual Banquet will be held in Clare at the Doherty Hotel. The fun will begin on Saturday, March 23rd, with MTRA members gathering in the pool area to catch up with friends and start making plans for the 2019 ride season. The banquet on Saturday evening will cost \$31.00 per person. Dance only tickets will be \$10.00. 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 Doherty Hotel, their website is www.dohertyhotel.net and their phone number is 989-386-3441 or you can call the MTRA office. Room reservations can be made by calling the Doherty. 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 at a cost of \$10.00 or you may bring your own,

September Ride Reminders: We will be having a pot luck dinner on Thursday September 7th (arrival date) at the Mullet Lake 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. The MDNR is again requiring that our riders wear orange while out on the trail in September and October. **Please bring an orange hat, vest, sweatshirt or even orange flagging tape to tie onto yourself and/or your horse.**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings Fellow Trail Riders,

August is here and half of the MTRA season has passed. Looking back, the Blossom Ride was a great success, providing the highest number of participants of any Blossom Ride. The Board of Directors has approved the same concept for the 2019 Blossom Ride. Numbers on the first June Ride were low, but greatly increase on the second June Ride. This was due mainly due to the quantity of new members that attended. The MTRA welcomed many "New Bees" on our rides this year. It is great meet new members to the MTRA and introduce them to the great riding on the Shore to Shore Riding and Hiking Trail.

Congratulations go out to Ron Wolfen who obtained his 50th MTRA Trophy on the first June Ride, and Diana Davis who obtained her 50th MTRA Trophy on the second June Ride. As we all know this is a great accomplishment to earn this award. Ron is the 12th recipient and Diana is the 13th recipient who has achieved this goal in the history of the MTRA.

This brings us to the August Family ride and upcoming work bee. It is hopeful many of you can attend these activities. Let us not forget the "Criss-Cross" Ride in September, and the October Ride that completes our 2018 season. Please keep in mind the revenue from the MTRA rides are needed to help cover our costs. If we cannot cover our costs the MTRA Board will be forced to eliminate rides in the future. Please try attend all or parts of the rides you can so we will not be forced to eliminate rides from the MTRA schedule.

I feel it is important to let the membership know a couple of the comments received from our "New Bees". The overwhelming comments we receive are, first, the welcome they receive from our members, and secondly, the willingness of our members to help the new members, with problems or concerns they may have. Great job everyone for remembering we were all "New Bees" at one time. Keep up the great job!

Congratulations Diana Davis

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

Good luck to Terry Swearingin and Barb Nickell, who will be riding for their 50th crossing in September.

Youth Rider Fund... Our Youth Rider Program is working!! So far in 2018, 20 youth riders have taken advantage of this program to join in the fun on an MTRA ride. 11 of these young riders completed the entire 2nd June ride and earned their trophies. Congratulations to these riders. Several more youth riders will be joining in on the August Family Ride. At the June Board of Director's meeting, Joe Burrill, Diana Davis and Al Davis announced their retirement from the program. They have spent many years and countless hours working to help earn money for the Youth Rider Fund. **THANK YOU JOE, DIANA AND AL.** The Board is now looking for their replacements. If you are interested in collecting empty can on the ride and taking them back to a store for their deposit refund, if you are interested in collecting donated items from our membership and hosting the annual auction on the 2nd June ride or if you are interested in selling glow sticks on the rides, please contact Al Davis at alanddidaavis@gmail.com.

Included in this newsletter is the 2018 Board of Director's Trail Assignments. If you would like to volunteer to help maintain a certain section of trail, please contact the board member in charge of that section. **Your help will be greatly appreciated.**

Also included is the 2018 Emergency Numbers list. Please leave a copy of this list, a copy of the MTRA ride calendar, your MTRA number and a description of your rig along with your truck and trail license plate number home with your family members. If there is an emergency at home, your family can contact the local sheriff's office or state police post in the area. They will send an officer out to the camp to inform you. It will be much easier for the officer or the trail boss to locate you if your MTRA number is displayed on the front and rear of your rig. Remember, there are several camps where cell phone coverage is not available.

Historian is still needed...The Board is still looking for a volunteer to be the MTRA Historian. If you are interested in preserving the history of the organization, please contact President, Al Davis.

