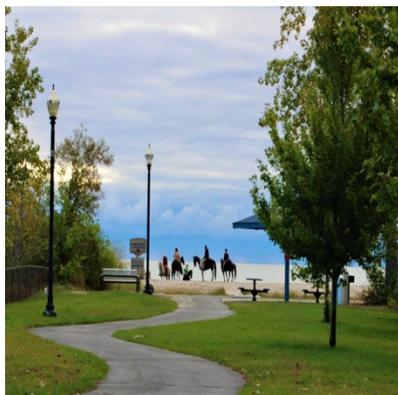


**Michigan Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.**

**PO Box 72**

**Ovid, MI 48866**



**Beach at Lake Huron**



**Beach at Lake Michigan**



[www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org)

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## ***December 2018 – NEWSLETTER***

### **2019 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates**

January 6, 2019.....	Board of Director Meeting.....	Jay's Sporting Goods, Clare - noon
March 23, 2019.....	Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare
March 24, 2019.....	Board of Director Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare – 9:30 a.m.
May 16 – 20, 2019.....	<b>PROPOSED</b> Blossom Ride.....	5 days at the Luzerne Trail Camp
May 30 – June 9, 2019.....	<b>PROPOSED</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> June Ride (trophy ride).....	Oscoda to Empire
June 14 – 29, 2019.....	<b>PROPOSED</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> June Ride (trophy ride) .....	Empire to Oscoda
August 10 – 17, 2019.....	<b>PROPOSED</b> August Family Ride.....	South Branch to Luzerne
September 12 -22, 2019.....	<b>PROPOSED</b> September Ride .....	Mackinaw to Oscoda
October 5 – 12, 2019.....	<b>PROPOSED</b> October Color Ride.....	Cadillac to Rapid River

## **Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting March 23, 2019 – DOHERTY HOTEL, CLARE MICHIGAN**

MTRA is headed back to Clare for the Annual Banquet in 2019 and the plans for a wonderful weekend are in the works. Room reservations can be made at (877) 236-4378. The Doherty Hotel is pet friendly at an additional cost of \$20.00 per night. McCarn Entertainment will once again serve as our DJ so be sure to pack your dancing boots. The buffet on Saturday evening will cost \$31.00 per person and will feature baked pork tenderloin, oven roasted chicken, southwestern sauté, herb roasted red potatoes, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, corn with bell peppers, the Doherty's famous salad and bread bar, fountain soft drinks, hot or iced tea, and decaf or regular coffee and double chocolate layer cake. You can order banquet tickets when you renew your membership (form included with this newsletter) or go online to the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website. MTRA has contracted with the Doherty for a minimum 100 meals at the banquet. The MTRA membership has been asking to go back to the Doherty, so get your reservations made. We need at least 100 people to pay for dinner. But let's party like it was the '80's when we had upwards of 150 people at our banquet. As always, dance only tickets will be \$10.00. 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. Send your request to the MTRA office either by mail or email by the January Board Meeting so you can be approved. Tables will be available for your use at a cost of \$10.00 per table or bring your own. If you have any questions, call the MTRA Office at 989-723-1425 or send an email to [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com). Banquet reservations are due by March 10, 2019.

### **BOARD BRIEFS:**

1. The Board was unable to have their fall meeting because they lacked a quorum. They had changed the date from October to September hoping it would be easier for the members to attend. Fall Board Meeting date will be on the agenda at the January meeting.
2. Good news for the Elk Hill Trail Camp. 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.
3. Changing the format for the May Blossom Ride in 2018 was a huge success. Our members have asked that the "staycation" format continue. Please note that the ride dates on the front of the newsletter are **PROPOSED DATES. THESE PROPOSED DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL**

**APPROVED BY THE MDNR AND OUR PERMITS ARE RECEIVED. APPROVAL USUALLY COMES AFTER MID MARCH.**

4. The Board of Directors would like to thank Al Davis and Bob Thornton for their past service on the Board. Both Al and Bob have decided not to seek re-election in March.
5. **MTRA is looking for individuals to become active Board Members. As a board member, you will become part of the governing body of the MTRA. You will be involved in the organizing of work bees and special projects such as boardwalks, trail and camp maintenance and grant garnering. You will be given the opportunity to work with the MDNR and the USFS in an effort to protect, preserve and promote the Michigan Riding and Hiking Trail. As a board member, you will be assigned a section of trail and a camp to oversee and maintain. To compensate your time and efforts, you, your spouse and your children under the age of 18, will be able to ride fee free during your term as a board member. If you are interested in running for the board, please contact the MTRA office at (989) 723-1425 or [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com) before January 1, 2019.**
6. The MTRA Board has received the following statement about the proposed campground north of Cheboygan.

“Progress has been made on the proposed new campground to be located at Old Mackinaw and Nipigon Roads in Cheboygan County. The Department opted to use the Recreation Trail Proposal Database (RTPD) as the mechanism to acquire the needed Department approvals. The Department is acting as the initiator and has created a file in the RTPD, number E607162018001. For the time being we are calling the proposed campground the “Old Mackinaw Campground” which may change. Staff has researched and confirmed that the subject parcels are tax reverted. We are continuing to gather needed information to be included in the proposal. We will be reaching out to MTRA after the Thanksgiving Holiday to help with additional details. The Department appreciates the letter of support received from MTRA and look forward to working together moving this project forward.”
7. The Board is very hopeful that the MDNR will approve the building of this campground by our May, 2019 work bee. Please keep this work bee in mind for your spring activities. There will be a ton of work to be done at the site and everyone’s help is needed. Detail will be published in the next newsletter and an announcement will be posted on our facebook page after the January board meeting.
8. The Board apologizes to any of its members who were confused about where the ride was in October. The Mayhem Swamp and the drive into Rapid River were questionable, so instead of waiting for a problem, the trail boss and board members who were on the October Color Ride thought it was safer for the riders and horses to not use the Rapid River Camp. Therefore, the ride spent an extra day at Goose Creek and then moved to Scheck’s for an extra day. Safety is always first on the minds of the MTRA trail boss and Board of Directors.

## **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 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. If you sign up for only one day, you can extend your ride for as many days as you wish at the \$10.00 per day rate. You can always “drop in” on a ride without pre-registering – as long as your membership is current (2019) – but the daily rate increases to \$12.50 per day due to the late fee. 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 2019 Ride Registration Form which is posted on the [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org) website. Ride Registrations Forms will be 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 2019 so that you can be "legal" on our rides. Having a Recreation Passport is important since we use the MDNR boat launch next to the Lake Huron access point and they will be checking for the 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 including our membership!! 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. It is time to renew or purchase a new subscription to Horsemen's Corral. MTRA has an article in this magazine each month. If you are looking for a Christmas present for an MTRA member, a subscription to this "horsey" magazine would be a great gift. Send \$10.00 to the MTRA office in Ovid with the name and address of the person to receive the magazine.
  5. When you are riding along paved roads – wear BRIGHT shirts so that drivers will notice you!
  6. 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.
  7. The MTRA Office email address is: [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com) and the mailing address is: 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.
  8. The MDNR is requesting that MTRA riders wear orange on our fall rides. If you are planning on a September or October ride in 2019, start planning now for an orange hat or vest or jacket or sweatshirt. It would not be a bad idea to put orange on your horse also. This is for your safety in the woods.
  9. FYI, you may purchase orange apparel with the MTRA logo at our web store in [mtra.org](http://mtra.org).
  10. **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. If you have questions just give us a call at 989-723-1425.
  11. Signing in at the work bees allows MTRA to report to the MDNR and the USFS in actual figures what our efforts support the trail riding equestrians in our state. In 2018, 63 MTRA members provided 1059 hours of volunteer hours. They also donated their tractors with loader buckets, flat bed trailers, chain saws, generators, stump grinders, York rakes, side by sides, skid steers, 4-wheelers, post hole diggers, rakes, shovels and other hand tools. Our members traveled more than 10,000 miles in their personal vehicles to get to the trails to volunteer. Congratulation to all the MTRA members who volunteered and Thank You.

**From Barb Crampton:** *I would like to thank the MTRA membership for all the wonderful good times we have shared over the years. I cherish the memories. Thank you so much for the retirement party on the September ride and all the cards and letters I have received this fall. I am asking the membership to show the same respect to the new bus driver that you have shown me over the years. I am looking forward to riding with MTRA in the near future.*

MTRA IS LOOKING FOR A HISTORIAN. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO KEEP THE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF MTRA PLEASE CONTACT AL DAVIS AT (231) 882-4212.

### **From the Presidents' desk**

Another MTRA riding season has passed yet your Board of Directors is still working preparing for the 2019 season. I'm pleased to say our ride season welcomed over fifty new members who originated from throughout the United States. Many new friendships were developed along with the reuniting of many past experiences, which will hopefully continue for many years to come. In looking back at this year we began with a new venue of the Blossom Ride which produced greater participation than ever obtained. The Blossom ride for 2019 will be again held at Luzerne Trail Camp, which seemed to be a hit with our members. Please plan on attending to kick off the 2019 Season, and have a great time. The June and August rides truly enhanced the family rides having over 40 youth in attendance. Although the September Criss Cross ride was small in numbers, it was large in enthusiasm for those who attended. October Ride produced a wet and cool experience, yet an enjoyable ride for all that attended.

Areas which could use improvement would be our work bees. The spring work bee brought many people in which much was accomplished. Many thanks go to those who volunteered their time and efforts at South Branch and River Road Camps. The fall work bee fell a little short in the area of attendance seeing only seven people showed up. A sincere "Thanks" goes out to all of you who helped your board members in the clearing and maintenance of the Trail System. As we all know it takes much time to keep trails the clear for our use.

With a new season quickly approaching, MTRA is in need of people seeking a MTRA Board Position, a new Bus Driver, and persons willing to take over the Youth Riders Program and a historian. Anyone willing to serve on any of these positions please contact our Secretary, Jan Wolfin.

Lastly I congratulate Ron Wolfin, Diana Davis, Barbara Nickell, and Terry Swearengin for completing 50 crossings on the Shore to Shore Trails. Not to be forgotten, special congratulations goes out to Rose Bos for completing her 90<sup>th</sup> crossing this September. These are feats most of us will never obtain!

I would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Holiday Season, and hope to see you in 2019.

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](http://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!!!!

I have been able to take photos off the face book page in the past to share in the newsletter, however, it will no longer allow me to do this. If you have a photo from the annual meeting or a ride and would like to share it, please send it to me in an email, [mtra.office@gmail.com](mailto:mtra.office@gmail.com). Thanks, Jan, MTRA secretary.

\*\*On Page 3, Item #6 under Board Briefs is a direct quote from Richard Hill of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. I did not notice that I had not given credit to Mr. Hill until I already had page 3 printed. I did not want to throw all those pages away to add his name under that Item, so I am putting it at the end of the newsletter so everyone knows where this quote came from. Sorry for my error. Jan

