

Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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August 2019 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

August 10 – 17, 2019.....	August Family Ride.....	South Branch to Luzerne
September 12 – 22, 2019.....	September Ride.....	Mackinaw to Oscoda
September 21, 2019.....	Board of Director's Meeting.....	Office of Sunrise Disposal, Oscoda – 2:30 p.m.
September 28, 2019.....	Fall Work Bee.....	Mullet Lake Trail Camp
October 5 – 12, 2019.....	October Color Ride.....	Cadillac to Rapid River
January 2020.....	Board of Director's Meeting.....	Details TBA
March 21 , 2020.....	Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare
March 22 , 2020.....	Board of Director's Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Bus is going to need the fuel tank repaired. MTRA member Don Ellis will research the cost of the repair. Mindy Ellis will research the cost of renting a bus for our rides.
2. Picket poles at Mullet Lake need to be removed and the holes filled in after the September Ride. Work bee to do this will be on September 28, 2019.
3. Condition of the Mayhem swamp was useable for the 1st and 2nd June rides but it still needs a solution to the ongoing beaver problem. Dug Jordan will chair a committee to work on this issue with the MDNR. Thank you to all who worked in the swamp in June to make it passable.
4. Construction on the pavilion at the Elk Hill Group camp has begun. Hopefully, it will be ready for use on our September ride.
5. MTRA Members, Kristen Humble and Alicia Wert, will be hosting activities on the August Ride. One special project they have planned requires a horse shoe. They are requesting that everyone bring a couple used horse shoes with them. The project will be more meaningful if the horse shoe used has come off your own horse.
6. Congratulations to Melanie Moser, Kristen Humble and Alicia Wert. Melanie has been appointed by the board to fill the board seat left vacant by the death of Joe Burrill. Alicia has volunteered to be the MTRA historian and Kirsten has volunteered to be on the Youth Fund Committee.

September Work Bee needs WORKERS

We need you September 28th

The date of our August work bee has been changed to September 28, 2019. This work bee will be held at the Mullet Lake Camp on Orchard Beach Road near Cheboygan Michigan. MTRA will be using this camp for the last time on the September Ride. We have lost our lease on this property. MTRA needs to remove all the picket poles and fill all the holes left by them. We need lots of help. If you can bring a tractor, a tractor with a bucket or a side by side or gator, please contact President Chuck Fanslow at clf222@yahoo.com. If work is not completed on the 28th, MTRA will be staying to the 29th to finish the project. Please do not bring your horse as we are removing the picket poles.

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 \$12.00 per day rate. You can always “drop in” on a ride – as long as your membership is current (2019) – but the daily rate becomes \$14.00 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. If you are planning to do the entire ride and receive a trophy at the end, please mark the box on your ride registration so MTRA knows how many trophies to order. The Trail Boss will handle all of the details at the ride or you can call the MTRA Office for more clarification.
2. **NEW BOARD POLICY: Refund/Cancellation/Transfer Policy: Request for refund/cancellation/transfer of funds to a different ride must be made in writing by email to mtra.office@gmail.com 1 day prior to the arrival date of the ride or by snail mail with post mark 1 day prior to the arrival date of the ride (arrival date of the ride is NOT the date you were planning to arrive for the ride). Refund /cancellation/transfer to another ride request will not be accepted by phone. Check will be issued after the ride is completed. No other refunds/cancellations/transfers of funds will be issued.**
3. You may ask “what happens to my money if I pay for a ride and do not attend the ride?” Many riders pay \$12.00 to sign up for a ride to lock in the \$12.00 per day rate and then are unable to attend. Instead of asking for a transfer or refund **before** the start of the ride, they donate it to the Association. All of these \$12.00 donations add up and are put in the general fund for trail and camp maintenance. Those riders who do not inform the MTRA office in a timely manner that they would not be able to attend the ride, their monies also go into the general fund for camp and trail maintenance.
4. Don't forget to get your Recreation Passports for your vehicle license plates in 2019 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. 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.

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.**

Youth Rider Fund... Our Youth Rider Program is working!! So far in 2019, 24 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 young riders. Several more youth riders will be joining in on the August Family Ride. At the June Board of Director's meeting, Kristen Humble and Alicia Wert volunteered to host the Children's Fund Committee. If you would like to help, please contact them.

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 21st, with MTRA members gathering in the pool area to catch up with friends and start making plans for the 2020 ride season. 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 MTRA. 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 12th (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. Hot dogs/buns/condiments will be provided by board member, Ron Wolfin. Please bring your chair, table service, drink and a dish to pass.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Well, the summer is half gone and seems like it just started. The August family ride is just about here, Come join us for the whole thing or a portion of it. Our ride numbers are up thanks to members and many new member.

A sad note, one of our board members, Joe Burrill tragically lost his life in a farm accident. He has been on the board over 10 years and was a work horse for the MTRA. He will be missed. Joe had over 50 crossings and was a amazing man. Melanie Mosier has been appointed for the remainder of this year.

We have a big expensive project coming to fruition in the new camp in Cheboygan. MTRA is committed to a new well and the picket poles for this camp and appears we will need gravel for the around drive along with much ground work. Work bees coming and some fund raising along with some hopeful grant money to keep this camp building in motion. Please consider donating money or time. More to come on this big project.

Ground has been broken at the Elk Hill group camp for the new pavilion. Hopefully it will be up by the September elk viewing time. Moving along nicely. Thanks to many equestrian groups for monetary donations to make this possible and specially to Back Country Horsemen Michigan Pigeon River and Beyond for taking lead and doing the big amount of paperwork and taking responsibility for doling out the money. If you would like to see other pavilions along our trails, contact your board members.