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August 2020 – NEWSLETTER

2020 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

May 8 th , 9 th & 10 th , 2020.....	Spring Work Bee.....	CANCELLED
May 15, 2020.....	Dedication of new pavilion at Elk Hill.....	CANCELLED
May 14 – 18, 2020.....	May Blossom Ride.....	CANCELLED
May 28 – June 8, 2020.....	1 st June Ride (trophy ride).....	CANCELLED
June 13 – 28, 2020.....	2 nd June Ride (trophy ride).....	CANCELLED
August 8 – 15, 2020.....	August Family Ride.....	CANCELLED
September 10 – 28, 2020.....	September Ride (trophy ride X2).....	CANCELLED
October 9 – 17, 2020.....	October Color Ride.....	CANCELLED

Board Briefs:

1. The MTRA Board of Directors was finally able to hold a face to face meeting on July 12, 2020 at the Gladwin Fairgrounds, Gladwin, Michigan. They were able to meet outside with social distancing.
2. **2020 RIDE CALENDAR** – It was decided to cancel the 2020 August, September and October Rides.
3. **2021 RIDE CALENDAR** – Proposed 2021 ride calendar was approved to send to MDNR and USFS for approval. See proposed dates in this newsletter.
4. **COVID-19 PROTOCOL PLAN** – Safety plan was approved by the Board and will be sent to the MDNR for approval.
5. **2020 ANNUAL MEETING** – Due to gathering limits, the 2020 annual meeting has been cancelled. The board will continue to run MTRA with the elected and appointed board members. An election will occur in March 2021.
6. **2021 ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET** – Arrangements are being made to have our annual meeting/banquet at the Doherty Hotel, Clare, Michigan on March 27, 2021. Details will follow in the December newsletter.
7. **2020 VIRTUAL TRAIL RIDE** – The Board approved a MTRA 2020 Virtual Ride. Details later in this newsletter.
8. **Even though MTRA will not be having their rides this year, the Board encourages you to go up north and use the camps and trails.** At this time all the camps are open for use. Because the MDNR and USFS have not issued permits to clear trail, there are spots on the Blue Dot Michigan Shore to Shore Riding and Hiking Trail that have not been cleaned. Please use care in finding a way around these spots. The Board also encourages you to use social distancing and mask use when appropriate. As always, be sure to “LEAVE NO TRACE” and pack out everything you take with you.

Please remember that these ride dates are “Proposed”. These dates still have to be approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the United States Forest Service. They are subject to change.

2021 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

March 27, 2021.....	Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI
May, 2021.....	Spring Work Bee.....	Details TBA
May 13 – 17, 2021.....	Proposed May Blossom Ride.....	South Branch Trail Camp
June 3 – 14, 2021.....	Proposed 1 st June Ride.....	Oscoda to Empire
June 18 – July 3, 2021.....	Proposed 2 nd June Ride.....	Empire to Oscoda
August 7 – 14, 2021.....	Proposed August Family Ride.....	Scheck’s and Goose Creek Camps
August 2021.....	August Work Bee.....	Details TBA
September 7 – 27, 2021.....	September Double Cross (trophy X2).....	Mackinaw to Oscoda to Empire
October 8 – 16, 2021.....	Proposed October Color Ride.....	Rapid River to Cadillac

From the President's Desk:

Hi everyone,

It has been a very rough year for all of you and MTRA. As you see the BOD's have cancelled all rides and our annual meeting this year for 2020. The first time in 57 years we do not have a ride across the state. A very sad year indeed. We are putting together a Covid Plan to deal with this for the state and USFS to approve for our future rides. Hopefully this will get under control and a plan will be put in place that allows us to deal the many aspects of Covid and future epidemics. Our bus, the water sources, bathrooms and nightly meetings are some of things that we are addressing. Much effort and planning are underway to do just that.

Our new campground in Cheboygan has also been following in the Covid style holdups. The spot that had been selected and approved was taken back by the DNR to not be usable because of ground considerations. They wanted over \$180,000.00 in gravel to be added and a couple of more hoops that are unattainable for us. Jan and I are working with several state employees to locate new ground close or in Cheboygan that can be used for our campground. We have gone to several meetings there and have been working with them to come up with a location that can work for all. Hopefully soon we will be moving forward again. It has been a battle to say the least. Patience and persistence are wearing down after almost 5 years on this project.

Trying to come up with some positives in this world of negatives here lately. Like we have some of the best people, most giving and just plain thought full in this organization. Plans have been laid for next year's rides and for our annual fun weekend meeting back at the Doherty. Trails and campgrounds are open to just take us away from it all. We are a resilient bunch and we will prevail.

WORKBEES – The 2020 May workbee had to be canceled. At this time, no workbee has been scheduled for August. There is going to be a huge amount of work to be done both in camps and on the trail in 2021. Please keep this in mind when you are planning your spring 2021. Lots of help will be needed.

REFUNDS – All ride registration monies will be returned. If you paid towards the May, 1st June or 2nd June Rides, you should already have your refund. Mindy is working on the August, September and October ride refunds. It is easier for her to do them all before she sends any of them out. You should have a check by September 1st. If you do not have your full refund by September 1st, please contact the MTRA office.

2020 MTRA VIRTUAL TRAIL RIDE:

Amidst all of the cancellations, MTRA has decided to run a virtual ride across the state. This ride is unique because you track your mileage and participate through the facebook group, "MTRA Virtual Ride 2020". On that group page, riders will be encouraged to answer club trivia, share pictures, videos, memories, etc...of rides as they keep track of their mileage from Aug 1-Oct 31 trying to get 235 miles for a trophy. The rules of the ride are simple, any interested riders log in to www.mtrawebstore.com and purchase/register for the Virtual Ride. The cost is \$45 which includes a T-shirt with the MTRA virtual logo and the ability to see your weekly progress across the shore-to-shore map. Riders will log their miles on their own trails at their own leisure on an honor system hoping to accumulate 235 miles in the three month period. They submit their mileage totals each Sunday before noon in a personal message to Kristen Humble on Facebook and she will post total mileage to the group so you will be able to see where each person is at on our trails. At the completion of the ride T-shirts will be mailed to all participants and official MTRA trophies marked "virtual" will be awarded to any MTRA club member that completed the mileage. We are hoping to use this virtual ride to raise funds for the club as well as have a little fun together when we are still apart. We hope you will log on and join us as well as share the links to advocate membership, and give riders a fun way to get involved with MTRA. Enjoy the ride!

