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December 2021 – NEWSLETTER

2022 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

January 8, 2022	Board of Director's Meeting..11:00 a.m.	Jay's Sporting Goods, Clare, MI
March 26, 2022	Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting	Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI
May, 2022	Spring Work Bee	Details TBA
May 12 – 16, 2022	Proposed May Blossom Ride	South Branch Trail Camp
June 2 – 13, 2022	Proposed 1 st June Ride	Oscoda to Empire
June 17 – July 2, 2022	Proposed 2 nd June Ride	Empire to Oscoda
August 6 – 13, 2022	Proposed August Family Ride	Goose Creek Camp
August 2022	August Work Bee	Details TBA
September 9 – October 2, 2022	Proposed September Criss Cross (trophy X2)	
		Mackinaw to Cadillac and Empire to Oscoda
October 8 – 16, 2022	Proposed October Color Ride	Walsh Road to 4 Mile Road

The MTRA Membership and Board of Director's would like to welcome Cindy Greer as MTRA's next secretary. Cindy is currently working alongside Jan to learn the ropes. Jan will be leaving as secretary in March 2022.

From the secretary's desk:

1. **2022 RIDE CALENDAR** – Proposed 2022 ride calendar has been sent to MDNR and USFS for approval. See proposed dates on the front of this newsletter. Please remember that we don't normally get our ride permit from the MDNR until mid March so dates are **SUBJECT TO CHANGE** until we have our permit.
2. **2021 ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET** – Arrangements are being made to have our annual meeting/banquet at the Doherty Hotel, Clare, Michigan on March 26, 2022. See details later in this newsletter.
3. **2021 VIRTUAL TRAIL RIDE** – This ride was a great success in 2021. Thanks Tracy Evans, Melanie Moser, Suzy Rowland and Kristin Humble for all your hard work and volunteer hours to make this happen.
4. **WORKBEES** – Due to covid restrictions the MDNR did not issue MTRA work permits in 2020. Therefore, our camps and especially the trail were in need of maintenance in 2021. Our members stepped up and the trail was useable for our 2021 rides. There still is a lot of work that needs to be done on the trails. Look for work bee information in the February newsletter and plan to attend.
5. While you are out riding in the Michigan woods, remember that it is hunting season. Please wear bright colors (MDNR recommends orange) and it is a good idea to put orange on your horse too.

The MTRA organization is a group of avid horsemen who are awesome volunteers. Our Association could not continue without everyone pitching in to help where they can.

BOARD BRIEFS: By Cindy Greer

1. New members were welcomed in.
2. Discussion for 2022 work bee. Discussion to table it and decide at the January meeting, possibly Luzerne to McKinley
3. Annual meeting in Clare, March 26, 2022.
4. Pigeon River DNR is closed for inside meetings
5. Publicity Committee: Kristin Humble is doing a great job with the Horsemen's Corral articles. Virtual ride has been profitable, thank you Melanie Moser, Tracy Evans, Suzy Roland and Kristin Humble.
6. Schedule for the 2022 rides is laid out. Ride calendars will be published in the February Newsletter.
7. It is that time of year again when MTRA is taking applications for employees. Contact Chuck Fanslow if you or someone you know is interested in being the MTRA bus driver.
8. A big thank you to Lynn Gosdzinski for handling all the covid stuff.
9. Auction: would like to restart in June for the June ride money to go for the Youth fund. Melanie Moser will head up a committee to make this happen.
10. Doug Jordan, Chuck Fanslow and Al Davis met at the swamp with the lawyer for a meeting. They went back to the DNR to try to figure out some progress. It is possible to put in a boardwalk or reroute the trail. Need grants for the boardwalk. There is still work to do regarding it. And of course, need to put in for the grant.
11. Next board meeting January 8, 2022

Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting March 21, 2020 – DOHERTY HOTEL, CLARE MICHIGAN

MTRA is headed back to Clare for the Annual Banquet in 2022 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 \$35.00 per person. The increase in dinner tickets is due to the increase in food prices. The BOD will be making menu choices at their January 2022 meeting. The buffet will include 3 entrees, 2 starch choices, 2 vegetable choices and of course, the Doherty's famous salad bar. Coffee, tea and soft drink will be offered to diners and the meal will end with a sweet desert. Details will be available in the February newsletter. You can order banquet tickets when you renew your membership (form included with this newsletter) or go online to the www.mtra.org website. MTRA has contracted with the Doherty for a minimum 100 meals at the banquet. We need at least 100 people to pay for dinner. But let's see if we can fill the banquet room. 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. Banquet reservations are due by March 11, 2022.

MTRA Virtual Ride a Success! By Kristin Humble

MTRA is Virtually Amazing

We just finished our third virtual ride and all the prizes were distributed to members. It was a lot of fun to see the results and I thought I would share them here.

Our fall virtual ride challenges riders to saddle up and log 235 miles in a three month period. The mileage is equal to the distance of a shore to shore crossing, but it gives people the flexibility to ride anywhere they would like in a much larger time frame. This 90-day challenge had 115 riders entered. From August 1st to October 31 these riders covered a cumulative distance of 25,502 miles. That's enough to go across the United States 8.5 times! There were 72 riders that made the 235 miles, there were 9 additional riders who crossed twice (at least 470 miles) and an incredible two riders who crossed three times (over 705 miles each). Those amazing finishers were Katie Fritzler (705.96) and Karen Fischhaber (747.39).

As riders are racking up their mileage, we also had a very interactive facebook group page going so we could share our journey with others. The facebook page had 333 members following it who posted 171 posts, 1,097 comments and 3,288 reactions throughout the course of the three month ride. We enjoyed using our digital system of logging miles where riders completed and submitted a Google Form to update their mileage and I think everyone had a great experience on "the ride". The virtual rides have been a great fundraiser for our club, earning nearly \$17,000 and the virtual riders have enjoyed winning the wooden trophies, bumper stickers and T-shirts for participating. This new division of the MTRA has been a lot of fun and provided a lot of inspiration for riders to get out and ride.

We hope you will join us on our virtual rides and regular rides starting back up in May, there's so much to be excited about in the MTRA. Check out our website at www.mtra.org and our Facebook pages to keep up to date with all the happenings. Ride on!

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.

ATTENTION TRAIL RIDERS: If you attend the annual meeting in March at the Doherty Hotel and do not eat at the banquet but attend the party afterwards, you need to purchase a \$10.00 dance only ticket. This is how we pay for the DJ and the banquet room for the evening. Tickets may be purchased in advance (form included in this newsletter) or they can be purchased in the pool atrium in the afternoon of Saturday March 26th.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN MARCH 2021, PLEASE CONTACT THE MTRA OFFICE OR CHUCK FANSLOW BY JANUARY 7TH. We have 2 board members leaving the board in March.

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 for 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 before January 7, 2022.

MTRA is also accepting resumes for the position of Bus Driver, Trail Boss, Secretary and Treasurer.

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, 2475 McNamara Road, Gladwin, Michigan 48624. 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, financial duties and reports. All of these positions are part-time/seasonal jobs.

From the President's Desk

Here we are at the close of 2021. It has been another tough year for MTRA. We were so thankful when the MDNR issued our permit for the August, September and October rides. It was so good to have riders back in the saddle and out on the trails. The Board of Directors have been hard at work all year. Things are moving forward on the acquisition of 11 acres (by the MDNR) northwest of Cheboygan for a new camp. We are working to with MDNR to get a pavilion at the Goose Cree Camp and Scheck's Camp. Some of our trails are in rough shape and will need a major trimming in 2022. Please contact the board member in charge of your favorite section of trail and volunteer to help. Trail assignments for 2022 will be printed in the April 2022 newsletter. MTRA is in need of a bus driver. If you know anyone who might be interested please let a board member know or call or email the MTRA office. It looks like 2022 will be an amazing year for MTRA. Lets all plan to get out on the trails!

