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June 2021 – NEWSLETTER

2021 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

August 7 – 14, 2021.....	August Family Ride.....	Scheck's and Goose Creek Camps
August 7, 2021.....	Annual Meeting.....	Ranch Rudolph, Traverse City Michigan
August 8, 2021.....	Board of Director's Meeting.....	Scheck's Trail Camp
September 8 – 27, 2021.	September Double Cross (trophy X2).	Stoney Creek to Oscoda to Empire
October 8 – 16, 2021.....	Proposed October Color Ride.....	Rapid River to Cadillac

MTRA RIDES ARE BACK!!! It is with great joy that the MTRA Board of Directors announces that our August, September and October Rides are a go. A ride calendar is included with this newsletter along with a ride registration form. Please note the registration deadlines on the registration form. The MDNR is requesting that everyone pre-register so we can keep track of the numbers for the rides. We are limited to 200 people per ride. Don't be too alarmed by this number. In 2019 our normal sized ride was between 80 and 100. We have lots of room to grow. Let's fill the camps!!

2021 ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET will be held August 7, 2021 in the Tumbleweed Pavilion at Ranch Rudolph near Scheck's Trail Camp. The venue will open at 4:00 p.m. Buffet style dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m followed by the Annual Meeting. MTRA will provide musical entertainment after the meeting until 10:30 p.m. Dinner menu includes pork loin, marinated boneless chicken breasts, garden salad, roasted corn and black bean salad, cheesy cast iron fried potatoes, fresh fruit display, berry cobbler, s'mores bars and key lime bars. Iced tea, lemonade and water available for drinks. The cost for dinner is \$28.00 per adult/ \$15.00 for children 7 – 12. Bar service will be available. Absolutely no outside alcoholic beverages allowed at the pavilion – meaning you can not bring your own bottle!! A reservation form is included in this newsletter. Reservations with payment must be received by the secretary by July 26, 2021. Rooms are available at Ranch Rudolph. You may also camp at Ranch Rudolph. Please contact the Ranch at (231) 947-9529 if you are interested in either of these options. You may also camp with MTRA at Scheck's Trail Camp. You must be an MTRA member to camp and register with MTRA for the nights you will be camping.

Board Briefs

1. **2021 CALENDAR** - At this time, our August, September and October rides are a go, however, things could change with covid restrictions. Please keep up with MTRA event changes on our facebook page. If you have any questions, call the MTRA office.
2. **2021 ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET** - August 7, 2021 at Ranch Rudolph near Scheck's Trail Camp. See details in this newsletter.
3. **2021 Board of Director's Election** – The mail in ballots were taken to the May Work Bee at Luzerne and counted there. **Congratulations to Jeff Balzer, Jimmy Corlew, Melanie Moser and Kathy Moss on their re-election to the board. Congratulations to Julie Parliament for her write-in win.**
4. **The Board** would like to thank Kim Ross for her years of service. Kim was a go getter and volunteered for many special projects while a board member.
5. **2021 VIRTUAL TRAIL RIDE** – The MTRA June Virtual Trail Ride is underway. Good luck to all the participants. Get those miles in.
6. **SPRING WORKBEE** – Lots and lots of work was finished at the May work bee at Luzerne. The water spots both east and west of the camp were fixed and are now safe. Some trail clearing was accomplished but there is a lot more to be done. The trail east of Luzerne all the way to Oscoda needs some extra work. A list of trail assignments is included in this newsletter. If you have a section of trail that you enjoy, please call the board member in charge of that section and make arrangements to help

7. At this time, the Mayhem Swamp is CLOSED. Dug Jordan and Chuck Fanslow are working to find a solution to this problem.
8. Due to the closure of the Mayhem Swamp, we will not be able to ride from Goose Creek to Rapid River on September 23rd. Riders will have to load their horse in their trailer and haul to Rapid River Trail Canp. Riders who have completed each days ride will be receiving their trophy. The board apologizes for this inconvenience,
9. The start date and place for the September ride has also changed. The MDNR has not issued us a permit to build a camp in Cheboygan. Chuck Fanslow and Jan Wolfen are still working on this project. Therefore, the arrival date will be September 9th at Stoney Creek.
10. Board Member, Dug Jordan, has volunteered to sit on the DNR Camp Sprint Team, which is to address camp issues within the state. The one issue that the DNR is looking into is making the horse camps multi-use. Simply meaning, the DNR wants to allow Non-horse campers to camp in the horse camps. This would allow bicycles, blocking water access with swimmers, canoes and kayaks, frisbees and numerous other non-horse camper issues. Last summer there were numerous issues with non-horse campers using the horse camps and they seemed to be ignored. MTRA is asking for members to voice your concern with this policy to your elected leaders, and with the DNR itself, the DNR Sprint Team. Contact: Scott Pratt at pratts@michigan.gov and your elected State Senator and Congressman. If you have any questions please e-mail Dug Jordan at dvjord@yahoo.com
11. Dug Jordan is working with MDNR to get the steps at Goose Creek replaced. The steps have become worn out and dangerous. Work should begin on the steps in mid to late summer. Please be careful if using the steps before they are replaced.
12. Jenny Duvall reported that a large section of the trail starting just west of River Road Camp was engulfed in a forest fire. At this time, the area is not rideable. Every step you or your horse takes stirs up the soot and ash and puts it back into the air. Breathing this can be dangerous to you and your horse. The Board encourages you to find another route when you encounter this black burn area. Hopefully, there will be rain showers in that area soon and by our September ride, new green growth will fix the problem.

MTRA has some volunteer positions available. If you would like to help MTRA, volunteer for one of the following positions;

1. Historian: This position keeps all MTRA records and history including but not limited to recording work bee information including pictures and volunteer hours, pictures from annual banquets, newsletters, board members and their terms, presidents, photos from MTRA rides and any special events. You will not be required to attend these events, however, you will need an email address to which members can send photos and information.
2. Facebook Administrator: As an administrator you will need to be facebook and MTRA knowledgeable. You will answer questions that members and prospective members ask in a timely manner. Other duties will be to read all posts to be sure they conform to MTRA policy and to change cover photo. Facebook is an important means of promoting MTRA and our page needs to be fun and current.
3. Web Page Host: This person needs to be computer literate and comfortable making updates to our web page, including our newsletter, calendar, ride information and work bee information.

In all of these positions, you will be working with the Secretary and Treasurer to help get you the information you need. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the MTRA office at (989) 723-1425 or mtra.office@gmail.com

THANK YOU to Kristen Humble who volunteered to write the article each month for the Horseman's Corral magazine. She does an amazing job highlighting MTRA.

I would like to announce that Tracy Evans has volunteered to work with Secretary, Jan Wolfin to update our ride certificates and Michigan Trail Horse Certificates. It will be great to have current camp and trail information on the certificates. Thank you Tracy.

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.

2021 Annual Banquet Ticket order form

DEADLINE for Banquet tickets– July 26, 2021

Please send form & checks only to:

MICHIGAN TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC., Post Office Box 72, Ovid, MI 48866

Name: _____ MTRA# : _____
(as you want it on your membership card)

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Primary Phone No:(_____) Alt. Phone No.: (_____)

Dues enclosed - \$35.00 renew/new.....\$ _____

Life Membership - \$440.00 one time payment (non-transferable).....\$ _____

_____ # of Dinner tickets @ \$28.00 per person 13 and above..... \$ _____

_____ # of Dinner tickets @\$15.00 per person Youth 7 - 12.....\$ _____

Donation\$ _____

(please circle one) Newsletter preference: **Mail** **Email** **Website printing** \$ _____
Total (no cash)

Email Address: _____

Referred by MTRA # _____

