



Post Office Box 72
Ovid, Michigan 48866



www.mtra.org

Chuck Fanslow, President
Clf222@yahoo.com

Jan Wolfin, Secretary
mtra.office@gmail.com

MARCH 2021 – NEWSLETTER

2021 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

March 27, 2021.....	Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting.....	CANCELED
May 14 -16, 2021.....	May Work Bee.....	Luzerne Trail Camp
May 13 – 17, 2021.....	Proposed May Blossom Ride.....	CANCELED
June 3 – 14, 2021.....	Proposed 1 st June Ride.....	CANCELED
June 18 – July 3, 2021.....	Proposed 2 nd June Ride.....	CANCELED
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

With great sadness, The MTRA Board of Director's has had to cancel the March Annual Meeting, the May ride, the 1st June Ride and the 2nd June Ride. At this time, the restrictions for gatherings by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services make it impossible for us to have our events. These restrictions are in effect until March 29, 2021. The Board feels with so much unknown, it is not fair to our members to continue to wait to see what will happen. By canceling the rides, our members can make plans to do other things, including logging miles in the 2021 MTRA Virtual Ride. **PLEASE REMEMBER, THE CAMPS AND TRAILS ARE OPEN!! THE BOARD ENCOURAGES OUR MEMBERS TO GO NORTH AND USE THE CAMPS AND TRAILS.** BE SURE TO PAY THE POST AT THE MDNR CAMPS. YOU NEED TO GO ONLINE TO RESERVE A CAMPSITE IN THE SOUTH BRANCH CAMP AS THE OVERFLOW IS LOCKED. RIVER ROAD, CADILLAC AND JOHNSON'S CROSSING ARE LOCKED WITH NO DROP IN CAMPING AVAILABLE.

Board Briefs

1. **2021 CALENDAR - THE AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER RIDES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION.** At this time, restrictions for covid are changing often and we have no idea what will happen as the months go by. The Board is still hopeful that the MDNR will issue our permit and the fall events will take place. 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** – The annual meeting/banquet has been canceled due to group gathering limits from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. We are hoping to have a meeting later in the year. If you have made reservations at the Doherty, be sure to call and cancel your reservation. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DOHERTY HOTEL IS OPEN FOR GUESTS AND YOU CAN GO STAY AT THE HOTEL. THE POOL AND HOT TUB ARE OPEN AND THEIR RESTAURANT IS OPEN FOR 25% CAPACITY.
3. **2021 Board of Director's Election – The election this year will be mail in only.** Your ballot and slate of candidates are included with this newsletter. **ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED WITH A POST MARK OF APRIL 15, 2021 OR BEFORE.** The newly elected board members will be announced on our facebook page and our website shortly after the 15th of April.
4. **2021 VIRTUAL TRAIL RIDE** – The MTRA Board approved a 2021 Virtual Ride. Look for details later in this newsletter.
5. **SPRING WORKBEES** – The Board is continuing to plan for spring work bees the weekend of May 14th, 15th and 16th. The watering holes at Big Creek west of the Luzerne Trail Camp and the watering hole between the two boardwalks east of the Luzerne Trail Camp washed out last spring due to high water in the river. The trail going east and west out of Luzerne is also a mess due to heavy wet snow this past winter. The trail needs to be cleared. We will be running this as 2 work bees not 1. Half of our worker bees will go east and the other half will go west. MTRA will have ground cloth and gravel available for the river water holes. Please plan to bring shovels, rakes, loppers, nippers, chainsaws, 4 wheelers, side by sides, wheel borrows. Horses are welcome on the work bee. We will be doing camp clean up so there will be people in the camp to watch your horse on the picket line while you do camp/trail work. We will be using both the upper and lower campsites at the Luzerne Trail Camp to stay in the guidelines of covid restrictions. Hope to see you there.
6. The Board would like to thank Theresa Anderson for driving the MTRA bus in 2019. Theresa has decided not to continue as our driver. MTRA is in need of a bus driver. If you know anyone who is interested, please have them contact President Chuck Fanslow.

7. At this time, the Mayhem Swamp is CLOSED. There is a land dispute with the MDNR and MTRA and the land owner. Dug Jordan is working with MDNR to resolve the issues. **DUG JORDAN IS REQUESTING HELP FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP.** We need to talk with an attorney. If any of our membership is an attorney and would like to volunteer an hour or two of their time to help guide us to our next step, it would be greatly appreciated. If you are an attorney or if you know an attorney who would help, please contact Dug Jordan at (231) 492-9494.
8. 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, 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 me at dvjord@yahoo.com
9. 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.

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.

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.



Virtual riders, are you ready to ride??? The Virtual Ride Committee is so excited to share the ideas for this year's MTRA virtual challenges!

The first ride will be in the spirit of the original June rides because we will be offering two single crossings during the month of June. Riders can log mileage anywhere on any number of horses as long as they can complete the mileage during the month of June. Participants will register for one crossing (\$45) or two crossings (\$65) **before the ride starts** and they will have 30 days to complete the 235 or 470 miles that they preregistered for! Now, that's a challenge! Can you do it? Are you up to the challenge of our first virtual ride? All paid participants will receive either the Virtual Ride T-Shirt or tank top of their choice with the new June 2021 logo and a Virtual Ride bumper sticker just for signing up, but if you want the coveted 2021 Virtual wooden trophy (or two trophies!) you must also be a registered member of the MTRA and complete the mileage. The rules and the sign-up link will be available on the Facebook page called "**June 2021 Virtual 30-Day Challenge**". Please read all the rules there and register before June 1st. Remember that promoting and contributing to this ride benefit the MTRA and 100% of the profits go directly to our club. All the committee volunteers would love to see members participate and keep the positive spirit of the MTRA alive during these tricky times. Join the **June 2021 Virtual 30-Day Challenge** Facebook page today to follow this ride and to keep updated on details about the three-month virtual challenge returning in the fall. Let's saddle up and get ready, after all, you've only got 4 more miles!

The following MTRA members are running for the five (5) Board of Director seats which need to be filled in 2021.

Jeff Balzer (MTRA #2847) - My wife and children, along with an extended family of over 20 have crossed the state over 100 times with the I have spent a lot of time along with my Dad and work-bee participants in building and maintaining existing trails and camps. We need more consistency in maintaining our trails and may even consider changing some of our trails to reduce necessary road- riding as population and regulatory challenge our existing routes. Having served on board for the past 6 years, I would like to continue to that service and would appreciate your vote to give me that opportunity.



three riders, MTRA. other our have to changes the



Melanie Moser (MTRA #7134) Horse camp is a place where many opinions come together and have to mesh for the group to get along. I am someone people can talk to and who talks to others. My focus on the board will be to help the thoughts and wishes of club members be heard. I will not promote my own agenda. I'm willing to do whatever needs to be done to promote the MTRA, to speak clearly the desires of others and to assist with plans for the future of our club. My dedication to this club and my affection for its members makes me an ideal candidate for the board.

Jimmy Corlew (MTRA #2874) – I have served on the past nine years. I have been a member of the 1992 and feel strongly that the MTRA is a great I will continue to try to resolve any issues as quickly and possible. My section of trail is the 20 miles between Trail Camp and Scheck's Trail Camp. I would like to you and the MTRA as a board member. Please consider vote in the upcoming election. Thank you very much Trails!!



the Board for MTRA since organization. efficiently as Rapid River keep serving me when you and Happy

Kathleen Moss (MTRA #1768) - I have been a member Board of Directors since 1997 and a member of the MTRA since 1988. During that time I've seen many changes in the Board association. Through participation in Work Bees and many rides, I've grown to know many members. I would like to continue my service to this organization to help maintain the trails and make sure they are there for our children and their children. Thank



of the
since
and the
trail
continue
make
you.

Each membership may vote once for five (5) Board seats. If you know someone who would make a great board member and who would like to be on the MTRA Board of Directors please write them in on the ballot. The top five (5) vote getters will fulfill a three (3) year commitment.

