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February 2022 – NEWSLETTER

2022 Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates

March 26, 2022.....	Annual Banquet/Annual Meeting.....	Doherty Hotel, Clare, MI
April 8-10 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 and taking over as historian.

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. **2022 ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET** – Arrangements are being made to have our annual meeting/banquet at the Doherty Hotel, Clare, Michigan on March 26, 2022.
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** – We are looking to have our workbee April 8-10 from Oscoda to Luzerne. We will camp at McKinley. The trail from river rd to Luzerne is in rough shape and needs a lot of work. We will need a lot of helpers to trim back and clear it. MTRA is looking into renting a brush cutter that will aid in the clean up. We know this is early in the year but because of the oak wilt, we are limited to trimming trails. We have to do them before April 15th and after July 15th. Please plan to attend the work bee if possible. More information to come.

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. Possibly Luzerne to Oscoda. April 8,9, and 10.
3. Annual Banquet and General meeting in Clare, March 26, 2022. Would like to have Silent Auction items to raise money for the youth ride.
4. Pigeon River DNR is closed for inside meetings
5. Committees will be put in place at the March BOD meeting.
6. It is that time of year again when MTRA is taking applications for employees. Contact Chuck Fanslow or Jeff Balzer if you or someone you know is interested in being the MTRA bus driver.
7. The BOD would like to dedicate a fire ring and pavilion in honor of Joe Burrill.
8. 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.
9. Next board meeting March 27, 2022
10. We would like to give a big shout out to Dug Jordan. He is leaving the board due to personal commitments. Dug has been a asset to MTRA over the past 3 years as a board of director member. Thank you Dug for your hard work.

Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting March 26, 2022 – 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 buffet will include Chicken Marsala with rice, Beef Tips and noodles, Vegetarian stirfry, herb roasted red potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans and California blend 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. You can order banquet tickets when you renew your membership 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. 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.

It is time to renew or purchase a new subscription to Horsemen's Corral. MTRA has an article in this magazine each month. 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 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 2022, PLEASE CONTACT THE MTRA OFFICE OR CHUCK FANLOW . We have 6 board member spots open with 5 members running and we will need a write in for the last spot.

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 March 15, 2022.

MTRA is also accepting resumes for the position of Bus Driver, 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:

Bus Driver - responsibilities include all aspects of bus management and transport of riders between trail camps.

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

Welcome 2022. Hopefully we will have all the rides this year and get back to a little more normal. Still waiting on final approval for ride schedules, but appears all will be good. We are having our traditional Annual Meeting finally back at the Doherty and looking forward to seeing all. Ready for some good food, good friends and a little dancing. Make sure and get signed up.

At our January meeting I was very happy to get approved the Joe Burrill Memorial Pavilion & Fire ring. Anyone that has been on a ride, knew Joe, he lived and breathed MTRA. Working nonstop for us. If his name did not ring a bell, he was the one armed guy that was always helping someone and gathering cans for the kids fund and so much more. Always bringing and hauling equipment to work bees and making a commotion at board of directors meetings. With all of that dedication it only makes sense to remember him with a honor of having our first pavilion on east-west trail named after him. Hoping for Schecks or Goosecreek, depending on the state. Need some approvals, but start sending in your donations to make this a reality soon. A fund is being set aside.

If you have time and something to offer, Please consider being a Board member. We can really use some more great people as we have a real hurdle to get over with the Mayhem swamp blockage. The trail has to be moved from gas line right of way back to leased ground on old roadway. Stay tuned and you don't have to be on the board to volunteer to do things for the MTRA. We welcome all help.

After many years on the board this will be my last annual meeting as President and a board member. My health and work have made me change directions. I will stay and work with the board to finish our new campground in Cheboygan though. It has been a true honor to be a board member and 1st VP and President for several years of each. MTRA is truly a blessing for equestrians and shore to shore users and could not be prouder of being a part of it. Thanks all for helping me help us, it is so appreciated.

Chuck Fanslow

