

Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

5806 E. State Rd., Hale, MI 48739

Garry Randall, Pres.
989-539-6838

Chris Rayner, Sec/Treas
989-473-3205

APRIL 2008 – NEWSLETTER

2008 RIDE SCHEDULE & Work Bees

May 2, 3 & 4.....Work BeeMcKinley Camp.....Building boardwalk
May 9 – 18..... Blossom Ride Luzerne to River Rd..... pre-register by April 9
May 24 – 26Work BeeSouth Branch Camp(Call Bill Zettel for details)
May 30 – June 8..... Oscoda to Empire..... (Trophy ride)..... pre-register by April 20
June 14 – 29..... Oscoda to Empire (Trophy ride)..... pre-register by May 13
Sept 6 – 26 Oscoda to Oscoda(Double Cross)..... (Trophy ride)..... pre-register by Aug 6
October 3 – 12 Color Ride..... Cadillac to Goose Creek..... pre-register by Sept 3

Congratulations to Board Members

From the 8 candidates who ran for the Board of Directors, the 5 incumbents were re-elected. Congratulations go to Al Dennis, Terry Meier, Dale Peterson, Jeff Sawyer and Tom Smith and a BIG Thank-you goes to Joe Burrill, Carol Hyzer and Therese Kline who ran for the Board positions. This year we had a tremendous return on absentee ballots which is very encouraging to see that the members of this great organization are taking a more personal interest in its future.

After the Board elections, a closed meeting was held to elect Board Officers. The Officers remained in their current positions which are: President – Garry Randall, 1st Vice-President – Jeff Sawyer, 2nd Vice-President – Al Davis, Recording Secretary – Kathy Moss (assisted by Chris Rayner). With all of the organizational work done, we're ready to ride!!!!

.....
Welcome to the New Trail Boss!!

With the ride season rapidly approaching we were so lucky to find a qualified member of our organization to fill the position of Trail Boss for 2008. Congratulations goes to Theresa Gunders who accepted this illustrious position. We greatly appreciate her commitment to the MTRA and are looking forward to seeing her at the Trail Rides. Please welcome her and enjoy her enthusiasm for this demanding job.

Manure Movers of Michigan – Unite!

One of the main problems we've encountered with the closing and continued use of trail camps is the issue of Manure Management. Some of the camps will have bunkers for you to fill and will (hopefully) be emptied, some will want you to scatter those precious treasures and yet some locations (specifically the unloading zones at Lake Michigan and Lake Huron) will want you to reload those treats into your trailers to take home for redistribution. Whatever the case, it has become an issue and we must abide by the rules that are posted (if any) in each location. Since we are dealing with the most natural fertilizer in existence, please be courteous to other campers and at least scatter the piles in out of the way places. There are lots of "forest critters" who love to discover pieces of grain in those leftovers. The smell is averted, the flies are dispersed and after a good, hard rain there isn't much left to complain about.

PS – The deer and elk take care of most of the leftover hay piles but sometimes the big piles do become moldy and nasty-smelling so it would be wise to scatter those as well. Thanks!!!

Secretarial Notes

1. The email tests in February have been a great success. Many members received the 2008 Ride Calendars and Registration forms through email. Hopefully this will enable more members to easily access their Newsletters as well. Just as a reminder, the format for these documents will be in PDF, therefore Adobe Reader (a free program) is required to be able to view them. If you did not receive your newsletter by email and you requested that format, please email me because I've probably had trouble with your address or my typing. If any of you are having trouble with this process please contact me at raynechris@gmail.com or call 989-473-3205.
2. If anyone is interested in receiving newsletters, etc. by email, just send a request and it will be done.
3. You will be receiving confirmation notices thru the mail or email after your ride registrations have been received. It will be just a postcard/short email to let you know that your reservations have been logged.
4. Thanks again for all of the encouragement and helpful hints. This is a great group to work with! - chris

From the President's desk:

The MTRA's 43rd Annual Meeting was a good time for all attending. This year all members received a ballot in our February Newsletter to promote a larger participation in the election of Board Members. It worked - we received over 200 absentee ballots, a huge increase over last year.

As always the sign-in table before the meeting did a good job handing out Banquet and Dance tickets and making sure only one vote per membership would be counted.

Our special guests were Jim Radabaugh (Section Manager) and Mark Mandenburg (Non-motorized Trail Specialist), both from the Lansing DNR Office. Jim and Mark both have a long history and have been strong advocates of the MTRA. Jim spoke to the group regarding current DNR budget constraints and explained why it was necessary to close some of the state camps.

Representing the USFS was Ken Hansen, accompanied by his wife Cynthia, from the Mio Office. Ken brought posters of last year's boardwalk project and the proposed boardwalk which we plan to work on during the May 2,3-4 Work Bee at McKinley. He is a valuable asset to the USFS and the MTRA.

A silent auction for the Youth Riders' Fund raised \$791.00. The old Romney sign from the Kalkaska Camp brought in \$350.00. Thank-you to the DNR and members for their donated items.

I personally am looking forward to seeing everyone at the May Work Bee and then on the Blossom Ride starting our riding season for 2008.

Trail Assignments for 2008

Empire to Lake Dubonnet (Mud Lake)	Dale Peterson	231-861-4408
Luzerne to McKinley	Jeff Saywer	989-850-7053
Scheck's to Kalkaska	Ron Pouncey	810-629-0733
Kalkaska to Goose Creek	Dave Thomas	734-675-3785
Goose Creek to 4-Mile	Kathy Moss	989-872-4712
4-Mile to Luzerne	Jack Heaton	517-423-3951
Lake Dubonnet to Scheck's	Al Davis	231-882-4212
McKinley to South Branch	Bill Zettel	989-345-1393
South Branch to AuSable/Oscoda	Kelly Graham	989-305-0745
Cadillac to Hopkins Creek	Ginger Vanderkelen	616-636-5694
Hopkins Creek to Scheck's	Tom Smith	231-825-8077
Luzerne to Walsh Road.....	Ernest Marsh	989-345-0482
Elk Hill to Johnson's Crossing	Garry Randall	989-539-6838
Stoney Creek to Mullet Lake	Terry Swearengin	734-428-8442
Johnson's Crossings to Walsh Road.....	Al Dennis	989-848-5606
Elk Hill to Stoney Creek.....	Terry Meier	989-433-2077

MDNR - Liasion
UFSF - Liasion

Garry Randall 989-539-6838
Kelly Graham 989-305-0745

NORTH section: Luzerne – Mullet Lake
WEST section: Empire – Kalkaska
SOUTH section: Kalkaska - Cadillac
CENTRAL section: Kalkaska - Luzerne
EAST section: Luzerne

Al Dennis 989-848-5606
Al Davis 231-882-4212
Ginger Vanderkelen 616-636-5694
Dave Thomas 734-675-3785
Kelly Graham 989-305-0745



A BIG Thank you - VOLUNTEERS



I would like to personally say a huge thanks to the folks that volunteered their time and efforts to making the MTRA booth at the 2008 Stallion Expo in Lansing a great success! The volunteers were: Sue Baugher (Indiana Sue), Judy Beissel, Lucy Smith, Donna Weinberg, Pat and Kate Galloup, Sharon Brazee, Britney Atenfield, Gene and Sandiland Langschied, Polly Moore and Connie Nelson, Jennifer Edgell, Ray Rivard, Amy Helgren, Jill (Osborne) Wright, Jan Osborne, Rachel Mast, Rachele Nelson, and, of course, the Milk Man, Dave Kline. Thank you for sharing your time for the MTRA! We're talking with MI Horse Council to see if there is a way to make volunteering easier for you, and hopefully, with Dale Peterson's help, there will be an interestingly new, updated display for next year's Expo! - Therese Kline

LOADING AND UNLOADING HORSES

It is VERY important to load or unload your horses in the approved areas ONLY! Empire and Oscoda have given us permission to ride into the Great Lakes with stipulations that we only park our rigs (vehicles and trailers) in the areas they designate for us. In the evening after we ride through these towns, a crew of volunteers from camp goes back and cleans up the manure. We don't want to lose this privilege of being able to actually ride from "Shore to Shore" so please do

not take your horse in areas they are not allowed and don't load and unload anywhere but the designated areas! If you have questions, check with the Trail Boss.

WORK BEES

1. The Spring Work Bee will be May 2, 3 & 4 at McKinley Camp. We will be replacing another Board Walk east of last year's project. This one is a lot shorter but will still require lots of manpower to set the long poles in place. All members willing to work and have a fun time please be there.
2. On Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 – 26, Bill Zettel (989-345-1393) will be holding a work bee at South Branch Camp. If you would like to help out you can just show up, or give Bill a call to find out what he might need in the line of tools. Many of you don't realize what it takes to keep these trails open. Even if we don't have a lot of snow, wind takes down a lot of branches in the off season and some trails need much man/woman power to keep them open and marked! These are also good times to socialize with trail riders you haven't met before.

The new maps and guidebook are available to **current members for \$5.00, non-members for \$10.00.** Request maps from the secretary to have them sent to you or you may purchase at the Annual Meeting. You can also get them from the Trail Boss on any of the Trail Rides. ☺☺☺

Ride/Banquet Refunds????

If you are unable to attend the banquet and/or a trail ride, you must request a refund from the Secretary/Treasurer. Please call 989-473-3205 and leave a message or email raynechris@gmail.com and request your refund.

.....

GPS Coordinates

Anyone interested in obtaining the GPS Coordinates for the trail camps may check out the Forum entry #2199 or request the list from the Secretary/Treasurer at the address listed at the top of the newsletter. You may also request by email at the above address (listed in the Secretarial Notes) or call the MTRA phone and leave a message. All of the Shore-to-Shore trail camps contain a "Geocache". If you are interested in finding out more about this fun activity, contact the Sec/Treas.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

This institution is operated under special use permit with the Huron-Manistee Nation Forest and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.