

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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August 2011 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates for 2011+

May 5-8th.....Work Bee.....Goose Creek Trail Camp - - - - 24 people earned 38 free ride days!!
May 14-22nd.....**Blossom Ride**.....Garey Lake to Cadillac - - - - 30 – 59 members enjoyed the flowers!!!
May 27-29th.....Work Bee....South Branch Trail Camp (clean-up) - - - 30 people earned 30 free ride days!
June 2-12th...**Trophy Ride - 1st June Ride**...Lake Huron to Lake Michigan - 82 trophies were awarded!!!
June 17-July 2nd...**Trophy Ride - 2nd June Ride**...Lake Michigan to Lake Huron - -54 trophies were won!!
July 9-10th.....Work Bee.....Mayhem Swamp (trail surface, boardwalk, etc.) - - -postponed to Aug. 2012
Aug. 20-21st.....Work Bee.....4-Mile Trail Camp (picket poles, clear brush, connector trails).....9:00 AM
Sept. 8-29th...**Trophy Ride...September Ride - Double Cross**...Lake Huron & back.....Pre-reg. by Aug 8
October 1st-9th...**Color Ride**.....Mullett Lake to Luzerne.....Pre-register by Sept 1
October 8th.....Board of Director MeetingWalsh Rd. Trail Camp.....3:30 PM
January 7, 2012 ...Board of Director Meeting.....Ramada Inn, Grayling.....10:30 AM
March 24, 2012....MTRA Annual Banquet.....Ramada Inn, Grayling.....6:00 PM

Ride Season is Half-way Through!

Beginning with the Blossom Ride we arrived at Garey Lake amidst the drizzle. But the weather brightened and we had wonderful weather for the rest of the ride. Lots of fun was had by all with spectacular campfires and loads of laughing!! Everyone on the ride enjoyed the change of scenery. The 1st June Ride began uneventfully until the wells began to fail at South Branch & McKinley. During the mini-Work Bee at the water hole west of Luzerne, the true colors of MTRA support shined through. But the real excitement was the forest fire which caused the Ride to jump from 4-Mile Trail Camp to Kalkaska. Goose Creek was spared damage but the fire was too close for comfort. The 2nd June Ride began at Lake Michigan this year with lots of warm weather and rain but no downpours. The water holes were greatly appreciated by horses and riders as you can see in this picture at the Smith Bridge. Many thanks to all who helped make the watering locations more accessible – by moving gravel at Big Creek west of Luzerne – and the signs, etc. at Smith Bridge. The Double Cross is in the near future!!!



TICK REMOVAL – cover the tick with a glob of liquid soap or anything that will cut off the air supply to the tick. In 15-20 seconds the tick will back out and you can dispose of it.

Thanks to Marieta Davis for sharing this important information.

It isn't necessarily the length of time given to a horse but much more the frequency of the attention that counts.

Harold Wadley



BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Investigations into creating a Mackinaw camp and riding to the "tip of the mitt" are still in the works. Ray Balzer, Jan Wolfen, Ron Wolfen & Carol Hyzer have been working hard to make it a reality.
2. The Ride Calendar Committee for 2012 presented their proposals to the Board. All rides were accepted as recommended. Next year will include a Criss-Cross in September. The entire calendars will be published as soon as approved by the DNR.
3. After much research, our historian – Sally Seaver reinforced that our 50th year in existence is 2013. Plans to celebrate that occasion will be in the works for the next year.
4. There have been some bylaws change recommendations which have been passed by the Board. More about that in a later section.

Whys & Wherefores!!!

Many of our members wonder why we do or don't do things so I'm hoping to share some insights.

1. **Trail Assignment sheet** – this is a list of our Board Members' names and phone numbers along with the section of trail/camp that is their responsibility. If you have a concern about a section of trail and/or trail camp please contact that Board member to share your views.
2. **Emergency Phone Numbers** – this is a list of the police agencies in relation to our trail camp locations. If someone needs to contact you in an emergency situation, they can call those agencies who will then make contact with the Trail Boss in camp.
3. **Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number** – this is on the Ride Registration sheet so that the Trail Boss can contact someone if you are in need of assistance and you are unable. It is critical that we have this information.
4. **Early Bus/Late Bus** – the Early Bus usually leaves camp at 6:00 AM with the Late Bus leaving at 8:00 AM. All riders who are riding for a trophy will get preference to which bus they choose. Please specify which bus you prefer on your Ride Registration form. Yes, it is now an option on the "web" form.
5. **Trophies** – our database of trophy winners is finished but not totally accurate. If you have a question regarding when you received a trophy, give us a call at the office and we'll research for you. If you have won multiple trophies (like so many of you have) please send us a list and we'll keep working on the files.
6. **PayPal costs** – the Board has determined that all credit card/PayPal costs will be covered by the members. Therefore, if you request a refund from a ride which was paid for with a credit card/PayPal, we are unable to refund the fees associated with that transaction.
7. **Website printers** – please send me your email address so that I can notify you when the Newsletters are posted and/or when your membership needs to be renewed.

If you still have questions/concerns, please call or email - chris

INFORMATION PLEASE

There is always lots of information to share so I'll begin with the meeting of many of the Board members with Brenda Curtis of the DNR regarding the relocation of the Goose Creek Trail Camp. On June 5, 2011 this meeting was held to discuss the possibilities of moving the Group Camp to the south side of 612 and the 25-site destination camp to the north side of 612, both on the west side of the river. After much discussion about the need for this action, the Board members felt frustrated especially considering all of the time, effort and money that was just spent to work on the existing camp. In expression of this frustration, a letter was sent to Director Rodney Stokes (DNR) to express the concerns of the MTRA and to request that the Trail Camp remain in its present location. At the time of this writing, there has been no response.

If you are looking for trails in your area, you can access the DNR's website by going to www.michigan.gov/campandreclocator. This will open the door to many trails provided by the State of Michigan. There's even an "app" for that!

The "Coggins" bill has been presented to the Governor to sign into law. According to the Michigan.gov website, "By Michigan law, a current EIA test is a test that was done within the past 12 months." It is also stated that a Coggins test is not mandatory for participation in equestrian events UNLESS required by the organization holding that event. At this time it is still the policy of the Board of Directors of the MTRA that Coggins tests are required to participate in any of our sponsored rides.

For the "internet" savvy members please check out the Michigan Horse Council website (www.michiganhorsecouncil.com) and go to the Legislative section for updates. They do a wonderful job of presenting the issues before us including links to search for further information. Many of you post informational links to websites on our Forum Page and we greatly appreciate your time and efforts.

The next Pigeon River Country Advisory Council meeting will be held on October 21st.

Proposed Bylaws changes

The following changes to the Bylaws have been proposed and accepted by the Board of Directors to be presented to the General Membership at the March 2012 annual meeting for adoption. Please read them and ask any questions for clarification since you will be voting in March.

1. Article 1, Section 9 (page 23 of the Guidebook 7th edition) **Regular meeting of the Board:** add **"All regular and special meetings of the board of directors shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order."**
2. Article IV, Section 14 (page 25 of the Guidebook 7th edition) **Duties** Part 1, subsection a. One or more annual trail rides...if possible, (instead of: the dates of 1. The third full week of June and 2. The first full week in October should be utilized.) with **"the months of 1: June and 2: October should be utilized."**

Generosity of the MTRA knows no bounds!

The 2nd June Ride of 2011 has seen some of the most generous donations of all time. In support of the Youth Riders' Fund the activities such as Rent-A-Kid, Silent Auction and General Auction along with the returnable cans and bottles collected, sales of glow sticks and song sheets of "We Love Our Horses", the total comes to \$1516.65. Since this ride sported some of the lowest numbers of participants in recent history, that makes the generosity more remarkable. Special thanks goes out to Tracy Evans, Barb & Taylor Orefice and Laura McGrath for their creativity in composing "We Love Our Horses" which was written for the 1st June Ride and enjoyed by all. Special Thanks also to Vickie Blogg for handling all of the cans/bottles on the 2nd June Ride. And a very warm **Thank You** goes to all of you who have so wholeheartedly supported the youth of this organization.

There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse.
~Robert Smith Surtees

2012 ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD IN GRAYLING



The Ramada Inn – Grayling will be our location for the 2012 Annual Banquet. This wonderful facility has lots of room, a large pool and game area, workout area, full service restaurant, and a handy bar with their own DJ both Friday & Saturday nights. Our festivities will begin on March 24th with B & D Classic Sewn, our historical displays and other vendors available in the pool/dome area for your perusal. Dinner, consisting of carved roast beef, chicken, vegetarian tortellini, baby redskin potatoes, vegetable medley, salad bar, assorted desserts, dinner rolls and non-alcoholic beverage, will begin at 6:00 PM with the General Membership meeting to begin around 7:30 with dancing to follow. If you would like to reserve a room, we've been offered a special rate of \$65 per room for either 2 queen beds or 1 king. Reservations can be made at: 989-348-7611. Be sure to mention that you are with the MTRA. Hope to see you all there!!!

Equine Trailways Subcommittee

Sandra Batie, Chairperson of the Equine Trailways Subcommittee and MTRA member, attended the last Board of Directors' meeting to share information with the BOD and the membership. She began by discussing the survey which was distributed in March at the Annual Meeting as well as at other trail riders' venues. Totally, the ETS surveyed 870 trail riders including many MTRA members. After compiling the information, this subcommittee will include the survey results in a report they will submit to the Michigan Snowmobile & Trails Advisory Council this month. The report will be posted on the DNR website under the ETS button. The Council will, within a year, advise the Director of the DNR about statewide network of trails and other recreational trail matters. Regarding the Pigeon River Country State Forest, Batie shared a DNR proposal with us which reported some possibilities for the re-opening of three disbursed satellite camps, more looped trails for equestrian use (53 miles), expanded public access to the Elk Hill destination camp so that longer rigs could be accommodated, and a reservation system for the destination camp as well as the possibility of a new campground near the PRCSF with access to PRCSF riding. This campground would be in addition to that at Elk Hill. The discussed plan still needs to be shared with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other stakeholders such as the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council. Batie mentioned that all riders should show "good faith efforts" to abide by the PRCSF equestrian rules. According to Batie, the new Director of the DNR, Rodney Stokes, is interested in providing the necessary resources and in working things out along a timeline such that the plan could be accepted and implemented on or before May 1, 2012. She indicated that the ETS voted to support the implementation of the DNR proposed plan at their last meeting.



← Before During →
Thanks so much to all
26 members who
moved 10 yards of
limestone in 45 minutes
at the 1st June Ride!!!
WOW!!!!



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