

*Michigan*  
**Trail Riders** ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## *December 2010 – NEWSLETTER*

### 2010 Ride Schedule & Other Important Dates for 2011

May 15 – May 23...Blossom Ride....Luzerne to Mullett Lake....39 to 54 people enjoyed the weather  
 June 3 – 13.....1<sup>st</sup> June Ride (trophy).....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....88 trophies earned  
 June 18 – July 3.... 2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride (trophy)...Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....57 trophies earned  
 Sept 9 – 19.....September Ride (trophy).....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....83 trophies earned  
 Oct 2 – 10...Color Ride (Flip-Flop Ride).....54 to 86 riders enjoyed super campfires & great colors



Jan. 8, 2011.....Board of Director Meeting at Valley Plaza Resort in Midland.....10:30 AM  
 Mar. 5, 2011.....46<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting – Doherty Hotel, Clare ..... TBA  
 Mar. 6, 2011.....Board of Director Meeting at Doherty Hotel, Clare.....9:30 AM  
 May 6-8, 2011.....Work Bee.....Mayhem Swamp (trail surface, boardwalk), Curtisville boardwalk  
 May 14-22, 2011.....**TENTATIVE**.....Blossom Ride.....Garey Lake to Cadillac  
 June 2-12, 2011.....**TENTATIVE**.....1<sup>st</sup> June Ride (trophy).....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan  
 June 17-July 2, 2010.....**TENTATIVE**.....2<sup>nd</sup> June Ride (trophy).....Lake Michigan to Lake Huron  
 June 25, 2011.....Board of Director Meeting @ 4-Mile Truck Stop, Grayling.....3:30 PM  
 July 2011.....Work Bee.....Goose Creek.....picket poles, etc.....exact dates TBA  
 Aug. 19-21, 2011....Work Bee.....4-Mile Trail Camp.....picket poles, clear brush, connector trails  
 Sept. 8-29, 2011.....**TENTATIVE**.....September Ride (trophy)...Double cross.....Lake Huron  
 October 1-9, 2011.....**TENTATIVE**.....Color Ride.....Mullett Lake to Luzerne

### Changes, changes and more changes!

A hearty “welcome aboard” has been extended to Carol Hyzer and Pat Galloup as the two replacements to the Board of Directors. At a special meeting held at the Elk Hill Work Bee, the Board unanimously voted to offer these two brave souls the option of finishing out this year as Board Members. After working hard at clearing trails and helping at the Work Bee, these two will be running for permanent seats on the Board in March 2011.

Sally Seaver, longtime member and avid trail rider, has volunteered to take the reins as the new MTRA Historian. Welcome, Sally, to an extremely important job! We all encourage members to send any pictures you may have from any of the trail rides this past year. Please note dates, people’s names if known and locations. You can send them to the MTRA office and/or email address and they will be forwarded.

It's a lot like nuts and bolts - if the rider's nuts, the horse bolts! ~Nicholas Evans

It's time to make those arrangements for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. We will be in Clare at the Doherty Hotel March 4-6, 2011. Many members enjoy the entire weekend at this facility so be sure and make your reservations early for rooms at **877-2-DOHERTY** or **989-386-3441**. Don't forget to mention that you are a part of our group to get the special rates.

### ***Board Briefs:***

1. Something new is afoot in membership status. The Board decided to offer a "Life" membership option which is defined as a "family membership" per Guidebook guidelines. Any members wishing to invest in the future of this organization may do so by paying a one-time \$400 fee. An "L" before their MTRA number will be indicative of their lifetime membership. Please note that this type of membership may ***NOT*** be transferred to other members of the family.
2. On a point of clarification, rig-jumpers do not necessarily have to be members of the organization but they do have to pay the daily camping rate if they are with the ride. If you have any questions, please refer to page 12 of the Guidebook. **EVERYONE** must sign the Hold Harmless Form!!!!
3. The January 2011 Board meeting will be in Midland at the Valley Plaza Resort. Please make time to come to the meeting and become active in your organization. The meeting begins at 10:30 AM on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Work Bees in 2011!! – Get your calendars out!!!**

As always we have much work to be done in the trail camps as well as along the Shore to Shore trail. The **May Work Bee** will be held in the **Mayhem Swamp** (between Kalkaska & Goose Creek) where we need to shore up the trail with gravel and geotech fabric. There's also a boardwalk that needs work. Just north of Curtisville there's another boardwalk which needs gravel in the approaches with possible work on the structure. In **July** we'll be working in **Goose Creek Trail Camp** to place picket poles. And in **August** we'll be at **Four-Mile Trail Camp** for much needed brush clearing and general clean-up. We'll even make a connector trail for circle riders in that area. Please note that workers at the Work Bees will be eligible for 1 free "ride registration day" for each day of work. Check the specific dates on the first page of this newsletter.

### ***Decisions, decisions, decisions!***

Annual Elections will be held in March at the Annual Meeting with the following Board Members interested in re-running. Al Dennis, Terry Meier, Dale Peterson and Tom Smith will all be running again for Board seats. Our newest appointees, Pat Galloup and Carol Hyzer, will also be running to continue their service. Ron Anderson and Al Kendall have expressed interest in serving as Board Members as well. If any other MTRA members are interested in running for Board seats, please send in a picture and a short (~100 words) explanation of your intentions including what you've done and wish to accomplish. Please submit your picture and information to Chris at the MTRA Office by January 1<sup>st</sup> so that the ballots and information sheet will be ready for the February newsletter. E-mail submissions are acceptable.

### ***Membership Renewals Due***

It's that time of year for membership renewals to start rolling in. All memberships **expire** on January 1<sup>st</sup>!!! As a reminder, if your membership is current through 2010 it will only cost \$25 to renew if paid by March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to vote in the Annual Election for Board Members you need to renew before the voting date. If you've forgotten to renew for 2010 and wish to "re-up" it will cost \$35 and you will be able to keep your former MTRA number. Enclosed with this newsletter is the renewal form. Email folks will receive a separate email with the form attached and details. Yes, you can still renew and/or join using PayPal or credit cards but only thru the website: [www.mtra.org](http://www.mtra.org). If you have any questions, please call or email the office.

## Secretarial Notes

1. Due to a misunderstanding on my part, please accept my sincere apologies for demanding membership from rig-jumpers. My ignorance is no excuse but I can still claim insanity on occasion. If you feel you've been "wronged" please contact me and we'll make it right.
2. Please be advised that you need to renew your 2011 membership before you will be able to vote for the Board members in March. If your 2011 membership has been activated you will receive an absentee ballot automatically with your February newsletter. You may then send it in with your choices or bring it to the Banquet to vote with the group. Remember – there may be nominations from the floor at the Banquet.
3. Thank you, thank you, thank you for another wonderful year! It's been a pleasure to work for such a positive and supportive organization. I hope I've exceeded your expectations!

Happy Trails – chris

The wind of heaven is that which blows between a horse's ears. ~Arabian proverb



*Dollar Lake (between Scheck's and Kalkaska)*

*Color Ride 2010*

Yes, those are horses on the other side of the lake!!!

### **Youth Riders' Fund 2010**

Intended to provide some financial relief for families with several children who wanted to attend MTRA rides but found it a bit of a hardship, the Youth Riders' Fund has exceeded all expectations. Since 2007 this fund has provided for half of the Ride Registration costs of Youth Riders and has been generously supported by the membership to the tune of \$14,700. Since March 1, 2010 the following members have made these generous donations: Garry & Betty Randall over \$420, Barb Crampton over \$220, Mary Mast over \$150, Berna & Chris Mathews over \$100, Randy Davisson over \$65 and Chuck Fanslow over \$50 just to mention a few. It was suggested at the last Board meeting to offer "free" ride registrations to all Youth Riders in 2011. That issue will be discussed again at the January meeting. If you feel strongly please contact your Board Members and/or attend the meeting in Midland. Call Chris for directions and/or phone numbers.

## Campfires & Music – Does it get any better than that?

*Continued from August newsletter* – What an overwhelming response to my request for lyrics and chords to the “snot song”!! The musicians came out of the woodwork with assistance and worked extra hard to prepare for the September and Color Rides. Hopefully everyone enjoyed all of the camaraderie and the wonderful music we experienced on both of those rides. Bob Batie, Rex Battestilli and Danny Crampton keep us toe-tapping and singing along to our favorite tunes. And now all of you know the reason for the interest in the song “If my nose was running money, I’d blow it all on you.” Thanks so much for your continued support. I hope you enjoyed the no-bakes and peanut butter treats.



Special thanks to Alvin Iseler and the Huron County crew for keeping those super campfires blazing!!!!

**Color Ride 2010**



### *Seasonal musings!*

It's that time of year when we need to reflect on our accomplishments for this year and our goals for next. It's been a busy year to say the least. Just in case you're counting we had almost 600 participants in our five rides this year with 228 receiving trophies for their efforts. There were 141 volunteers at the Work Bees who worked over 900 hours. Some of those volunteers were members from other organizations who attended our Work Bees, for which we are eternally grateful. We had excellent food prepared by Dave & Lynn Grice on the May and June Rides. Their “Grub Wagon” was a welcome sight along the trail about lunchtime!! The weather this year was probably the best we've seen in many years with few rainy days and fewer “hot” days. We need to appreciate the long days and hard work that our Trail Boss, Theresa Gunders, puts in for us. Barbie Crampton, our indomitable bus driver, is always there with helpful hints and words of wisdom. All of our Board Members go beyond their responsibilities helping members at the rides and preparing the trails so that some of us don't get lost. It truly takes an enormous amount of time and effort to keep this organization running smoothly. We've been blessed with lots of good help!!

Some things to look forward to next year are a Double-cross in September, new signs at road crossings, “**Life**” memberships, free ride registration days for Work Bee participation and **possibly** free ride registrations for our Youth Riders compliments of the Youth Riders' Fund. More information to follow..... Happy Holidays!!!!

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