

Michigan Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FEBRUARY 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

Annual Meeting & Banquet



Quality Inn Houghton Lake
9285 W. Lake City Rd. (989) 422-5175
Houghton Lake, MI 48629

March 15
2008

The Saturday night buffet at 6:00 pm will include Steamship Round Beef, Baked Chicken (Fried Chicken Style) Baked Ham, Boiled Redskin Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls & Butter, Beverages and Sheet Cakes for dessert. Please order your banquet or dance only tickets using the form enclosed with this newsletter.

Elections will be held at the meeting following dinner (approx. 7:45 pm) with 5 director positions to be filled. Please refer to the enclosed information sheet with comments from all of the members running for these positions. The Ballot is at the end of the information sheet. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting. More information is at the end of the newsletter.

CHANGE IN VOTING PROCEDURE!!!

Enclosed with this newsletter all current members will receive a ballot for the 2008 elections with only one (1) ballot per membership. Please return these ballots by mail to the address above or in person at the Meeting. If returned by mail, be sure to put your ballot in an envelope with your **MTRA number** on the outside of the envelope marked **Absentee Ballot**. All ballots will be opened and counted at the Annual Meeting.

Many Thanks – Board Member Dave Thomas would like to express his gratitude for all of the kind cards and prayers from the many trail riders who wished him well during his recent hospital visit and illness. He is recovering well and hopes to see all of you on the trails this summer!!

Trail Boss

The Trail Boss position is still available for anyone interested in applying. The former Trail Boss, Ray Balzer, has retired to beautiful Tennessee and his shoes will be hard to fill. However, we must fill this position as soon as possible and any inquiries will be appreciated. Please contact Garry Randall at 989-539-6838 for details.

Email Newsletters

As you may have noticed, we are encouraging those of you with email addresses to either receive your newsletters by email or go online to get your newsletters from the MTRA website. Many of you responded positively with your membership renewals and I will be running an email test during February to be sure that everyone’s addresses are correct and the formats are compatible. This newsletter will be **mailed** to everyone due to the ballots for Board Membership and to send your 2008 membership cards. If you have any problems receiving your newsletters, please contact me as soon as possible at raynechris@gmail.com or call 989-473-3205. Thanks for all of your kind notes and words of encouragement. I’ll do my best - chris

From the President’s desk:

The three temporarily closed North Spur Camps will not open this spring. The \$10,000,000 the Department of Natural Resources recently discovered will have no effect on reopening these camps. However, the MTRA has received permission from the US Forest Service to have the Blossom Ride, starting at Luzerne riding east to River Road with layovers at every Camp. Because the ride will be completely on USFS property, the MTRA does not have to deal with the DNR's event applications and fees. We need to thank the USFS for allowing this to happen on such short notice. The MTRA, as a courtesy, will keep the DNR informed as to our ride schedule, but they cannot cancel the Blossom Ride.

Happy Trails – Garry Randall

M.T.R.A. Clothing

Betty Randall & Deanna Lucas (B & D Classic Sewn) will have M.T.R.A. logo clothing available at the Annual Meeting in Houghton Lake. They will be in the Houghton/Higgins Room, Saturday, March 15, from 8am until 11pm. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can reach them at their business number, **231-825-2628**. At the Board Meeting January 5th, Betty Randall presented the club with **\$590.00 from their sales in 2007**. Since they have started selling M.T.R.A logo clothes, Betty and Deanna have donated \$5828.00 to the club.

Thank you very much!

PERMISSION TO SELL

It has been Board policy that anyone wishing to sell merchandise at MTRA trail rides must present a request to the Board ANNUALLY. "B & D Classic Sewn" has exclusive rights for the sale of our logo on clothes and they give the club a pre-set amount for each article sold. If you only have one or two items you want to set out by your campsite during a ride for resale, that's fine.



Only Trail Riders.....
Know that cleaning stalls is better than
Zolofit any day.



!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



March 7, 8, and 9, 2008 are the dates for the **Michigan Horse Council Silver Anniversary Expo** in East Lansing. Once again, MTRA is looking for volunteers to be at the booth in the Trails Area to answer questions and talk to other horse people about what we do and how we do it – and how they can join the fun and earn trophies! Volunteer a little time to introduce newbies to the concept of riding across the state, and meet up with the old timers!

The times needed are: Friday (Mar 7) from 10 am until 9 pm (Rodeo at 7 pm), Saturday (Mar 8) from 9 am until 7:30 pm, and Sunday (Mar 9) from 9 am until 5 pm.

For a 3-hour commitment at the MTRA booth, you may then wander the Expo for FREE (that's a \$10.00 value)! Please call Therese or Dave Kline at 989-634-9948 to volunteer to help MTRA's efforts recruiting new members, and retaining current members, at this year's Expo.

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.

For those of you who know John Timmons, he has a new address and would love to see any shining faces or hear from friendly trail riders. He is now located at 8750 Monroe, Durand, MI 48429. His new phone number is 989-344-2550.

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. ☺☺☺

Membership Dues: All 2008 dues need to be current to vote at the annual meeting. The year through which your dues are paid is on your mailing label as well as your MTRA number. If you did not receive your membership card with this newsletter, it will be available at the Annual Meeting or sent to you shortly thereafter.

DUES NOTICE and RESERVATION FORM - **Annual Meeting** - March 15, 2008

The price of dinner and dancing is \$25.00 per person. If you would like to come for dancing only, the price is \$10.00 per person. Anyone is welcome to come to the meeting and elections will begin at approximately 7:45PM.

No membership renewals will be taken the weekend of the banquet! You will receive an information sheet approximately one week before the meeting. **Reservations must be received no later than MARCH 7.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 989-473-3205.

Spring's a comin'!

Happy Trails!