

Michigan
Trail Riders ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 2011 – NEWSLETTER

2011 Ride Schedule & Other Important Dates for 2011

Mar. 5th.....46th Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting – Doherty Hotel, Clare6:00 PM
Mar. 6th.....Board of Director Meeting at Doherty Hotel, Clare.....9:30 AM
May 7-8th.....Work Bee.....Goose Creek (clean- up camp).....9:00 AM
May 9th.....Work Bee.....Goose Creek (picket poles).....TBA
May 14-22nd.....**Blossom Ride**.....Garey Lake to Cadillac.....Pre-register by April 14
June 2-12th....**Trophy Ride - 1st June Ride**Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.....Pre-register by May 2
June 17-July 2nd...**Trophy Ride - 2nd June Ride**...Lake Michigan to Lake Huron....Pre-register by May 17
June 25th.....Board of Director Meeting @ 4-Mile Truck Stop, Grayling.....3:30 PM
July 16-17th.....Work Bee.....Mayhem Swamp (trail surface, boardwalk, etc.).....9:00 AM
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-register by Aug 8
October 1st-9th.....**Color Ride**.....Mullett Lake to Luzerne.....Pre-register by Sept 1
October 8th.....Board of Director Meeting (Walsh Rd.).....Location & Time TBA

2011 Annual Banquet & Elections

The Doherty Hotel is gearing up for the arrival of the Michigan Trail Riders on March 5th & 6th. During the day our new Historian will have a display for you to review, B & D Classic Sewn and Debra Rouiller will display their wares for super shopping! The mouth watering feast will begin at 6:00 pm with the General Membership Meeting to follow (about 8:00 pm) which will include voting for Board Members. To top off the evening, dancing will follow with Bernie as the DJ. Sunday morning will start with the Board of Directors' Meeting at 9:30 am which is open to the public. Please join us to see your Board in action. Included with this newsletter is a form for membership renewal and Banquet tickets. If you wish to make reservations for a room at the Doherty please call 877-2-DOHERTY or 989-386-3441. If you have any questions, please call or email Chris at the MTRA Office.



Youth Riders Fund

I am proud to announce that the Board of Directors has approved that all youth riders from the age of 8 through 17, whose parent(s) are current MTRA members, can attend any 2011 MTRA ride **FREE**. This is only available for the 2011 season. If you plan on attending any 2011 ride, register as early as possible due to registration limits.

A special **thanks** goes out to Joe Burrill, Steve and Kim Ross, and all the others who made this possible through hard work and generous donations. - - - Al Davis

You can tell a gelding, ask a mare but you must discuss it with a stallion!!

Smith Bridge Update

After many hours of discussion, the MTRA will again be allowed to water horses in the river at the Smith Bridge between 4-Mile Camp and Luzerne. With the help of many of the Board members, MTRA member Sandra Batie, and several DNRE personnel, a temporary agreement was reached with the following provisions to be followed:

1. Riders must use the hard packed ramp nearest Smith Bridge to enter the river.
2. Riders will be allowed to walk their horses in the river, entering only as far as necessary for the horse to drink.
3. Riding in, or crossing the river, is prohibited.
4. Riders will occupy the site only as long as necessary to water their horses and avoid lingering at the river.
5. For the safety of all parties, riders shall allow boaters to launch or retrieve their boats prior to watering horses.

There will be a sign posted at the area in question. Many thanks are being extended to all persons involved in this process.

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. Several members have requested a band for the dancing after the Annual Meeting in 2012. Therefore, there will be a place on your Board Member ballots to vote for your preference – band or DJ. Keep in mind that there will be an additional charge for a band due to added expense. Please vote!
2. The MTRA received \$375 in grant money from the Michigan Horse Council to help pay for picket poles which were installed at the Mud Lake Work Bee last year.
3. A Kriss-Kross Ride will be considered for 2012. The Calendar committee will be presenting the Ride Calendars for 2012 at the June Board Meeting. If you have questions/comments, please contact Al Davis, Ginger Vanderkelen or Joe Burrill.
4. B & D Classic Sewn presented the MTRA with a \$625 donation for 2010. This brings their total amount of donations to \$7428. Thanks so much!!!

Work Bees in 2011!! – Changes have been made!!!

Due to DNRE restrictions, in **May** we'll be working in **Goose Creek Trail Camp** to clean-up the camp spots with general tools: rakes, loppers, shovels, etc. We will place picket poles in Goose Creek on May 9th. The **July 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. 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 this year 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. Lunches will be provided on the Saturdays of the Work Bees. **Mark your calendars!!**

Secretarial Notes

1. 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.
2. There are only 30 copies left of the Rhoda Ritter book about the history of the Shore-to-Shore Riding/Hiking Trail. Send \$7.00 to the MTRA office to get your copy today!

Happy Trails – chris

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