

Michigan Trail Riders Association, Inc.

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February 2013 – NEWSLETTER

Ride Schedules & Other Important Dates for 2013

March 23.....MTRA Annual Banquet & General Membership Meeting...Ramada Inn, Grayling...6:00 PM
 March 24.....MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....Ramada Inn, Grayling.....9:30 AM
 May 4-5.....Work Bee.....Rapid River Trail Camp (Kalkaska).....9:00 AM
 May 10-19.....**Blossom Ride**.....Garey Lake (Empire) to Cadillac Trail Camp
 May 30-June 9.....**1st June Ride(TROPHY)**.....Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
 June 15 – 30.....**2nd June Ride(TROPHY)**.....Lake Michigan to Lake Huron
 June 22.....MTRA Board of Director Meeting.....4-Mile Truck Stop, Grayling.....3:30 PM
 Aug. 10-16.....**FAMILY RIDE**.....New, New, New.....Scheck's to Goose Creek
 Aug. 17-18.....Work Bee.....South Branch/Curtisville.....replace/repair boardwalk
 Sept. 5-15.....**September Ride(TROPHY)**.....Lake Michigan/Mullett Lake to Lake Huron
 Oct. 5-12.....**Color Ride**.....South Branch to Goose Creek



50 years of fun times, great friends and lots of wonderful trails!!!!



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: Well, we have arrived at the 50th year for MTRA. It is a huge accomplishment in these days and times. We should all be very proud and working at keeping it another 50 years. That is exactly what your Board of Directors was up to at the first meeting of the year on January 5th. We set in place new recommendations from the finance committee that should put us in a good spot for the next few years. A lot of different things were looked at and not all were popular decisions, but necessary ones to keep us solvent in the hard times in which we find ourselves. Chris will explain some of these different decisions and how they effect this year and the near future. On June 21, 2014 we will be re-dedicating our trail at the Kaliseum in Kalkaska with a parade and some very high up elected officials as then Governor George Romney did in June of 1964.

It has been a great honor to serve as your president this year and I would like to think we have made some progress over the course of it. This year's Annual Banquet will be one I hope all can attend and hope you come see some of our originators there and many photos from the start of the organization. It only happens once every 50 years, so please plan to attend as most of us probably will not be making the 100th.

We have a trial "family" ride in August this year if we have enough people to sign up. If you have not been on a ride in a while and want an easy one that you can bring the kids or grandkids to, this would be the one as it at has two days each at some of our water camps and it is less than a week long. Swim, fish, ride, come enjoy some summer with the MTRA! Again, if you have missed a few rides and it's been a while since you have made it, we can really use more riders to get those numbers up. This is your club, come enjoy all it has to offer.

Looking forward to a fun upcoming year.

Chuck Fanslow, MTRA President (989-435-9224)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

All 2012 memberships **EXPIRED** on January 1st!!! As a reminder, if your membership is current through 2012 it will only cost \$25 to renew if paid by March 31st. If you wish to vote in the Annual Election for Board Members and Bylaws Changes you need to renew your membership before the voting date of March 23, 2013. If you've forgotten to renew recently and wish to "re-join" it will cost \$35 and you will be able to keep your former MTRA number. Please check on page 28 of the Guidebook (7th edition) for all the details concerning membership. Refer to page 30 for the March 18, 2007 amendment to the bylaws regarding dues. Enclosed with the December newsletter was a renewal form. If you have lost your renewal form, please call the office and I can send you another. Email folks received an email in November with the form attached and details. If you print your newsletters from the website and have not submitted your email address, you will not receive a notice. Yes, you can still renew and/or join using PayPal or credit cards but only thru the website: www.mtra.org. If you have any questions, please call 989-473-3205 or email the office at raynechris@gmail.com.

2013 ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD IN GRAYLING

Don't forget to get your tickets and make room reservations for the weekend of March 22-24, 2013. The Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 23rd, beginning at 6:00 pm at the Ramada Inn. Call the MTRA office for ticket information. The Ramada Inn phone number is: 989-348-7611. Come join us for a wonderful weekend of celebration and sharing of 50 years of MTRA. Time is getting short!!!!

Recreation Passport Price will Increase \$1.00

Posted: Nov 14, 2012 3:57 PM EST Updated: Nov 14, 2012 3:57 PM EST The Department of Natural Resources will be increasing the price for the Michigan Recreation Passport in 2013. The new price jumps from \$10 to \$11. The Passport allows vehicles to enter Michigan's state parks, recreation areas and forest campgrounds. Residents who purchase the Passport through the Secretary of State's office when renewing their license plate will get immediate access to the Passport Perks rewards program. The rewards program is partnered with more than 1,100 local businesses offering discounts.

To learn more about the program, visit www.michigan.gov/passportperks. And to learn more about the Recreation Passport, visit www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport.

This is required of all MTRA participants on all organized Trail Rides!!!!

BOARD BRIEFS:

1. The 2012 Trail Ride Summary reflected a net loss of \$10,323.51. The board's finance committee has made several recommendations to save money. ***Some*** of the changes are:
 - A. Ride costs will increase to \$10.00/person per day with \$12.50/person per day late fee
 - B. Refunds will only be given for family emergencies and will be approved by the Board
 - C. The Newsletter will use a different format to save envelope costs
 - D. Mileage for the MTRA employees will decrease from \$0.75 to \$0.57/per mile (IRS)
 - E. The 2014 Banquet ticket price will increase to reflect actual costs
 - F. All proceeds from "auctions" on rides and at the banquet will go to the General Fund
 - G. The Assistant Secretary/Treasurer position will be paid on an hourly basis – not salary
2. The Youth Riders' Fund is alive and well with a balance of \$16,036.23. Free rides for the youth riders again in 2013!!! Many thanks to all who support our future in this endeavor!
3. B & D Classic Sewn has donated a total of \$8408.00 to the MTRA over the years, however, this year they will not be able to attend the rides due to transportation costs, etc. They will be advertising on the www.mtra.org website and will be available by phone and/or Facebook. They will be at the Annual Banquet for all to shop, shop, shop!!! In honor of the 50th Celebration, all in-stock items at the Banquet will be 50% off except for the new logo shirts.
4. All Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Please attend to see your association in action.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

2013 is upon us with great excitement because this is the year,
MTRA IS 50 YEARS OLD!

Join the celebration at the March Annual Meeting. Come meet our Honored Guest, Phyllis Garn, who is one of the 3 original founding couples. There will be pictures to view on screen. There will be a Timeline including points of interest for each year for the past 50 years. This is a chance to really learn some MTRA history! It will be an event you don't want to miss because all that attend will not only learn our history but also be a part of it!

I would like to comment on a recent historical event. There are two former Board Members, who finished their many terms in 2012, who I'd like to recognize for their long years of service. Ginger Vanderkelen (MTRA # 282) served on the Board from 1992 to 2012. "Wild" Bill Zettel (MTRA # 211) served on the Board from 1976 to 2012. Bill has served on the Board ***longer than anyone*** I have found in our history. A big "THANK YOU" to both members for absolutely countless hours of their time, meetings, attendance at Work Bees & trail maintenance. They are MTRA's example of dedication.

HISTORY TRIVIA (answer on page 4)

In past history, it was announced on April 28th that each family would get a number to place on their rig for the purpose of facilitating registration. The numbers were handed out as they registered on a trail ride.

What year was this, what year did MTRA start using membership numbers?

YOU MAKE MTRA HISTORY, so help me document it!! *Sally Seaver, Historian*

Special Thanks goes out to...

1. All of the Board of Directors and their helpers who volunteered over 1171 hours toward clearing and marking the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking trail in 2012. That's over 110 volunteers working hard to keep the trail open and ride worthy. We especially thank those volunteers who are uncounted because they work on their own time with no thought of recognition!!
2. All of the wonderful members of this association who help out the "Newbies" on the rides as well as those who offer assistance to everyone whenever a need arises!

(Answer to trivia question: 1973)

SECRETARIAL NOTES...

1. Please read your Guidebooks before the rides so that you are familiar with the rules of the organization and while on the rides. There will be updated copies of the MTRA Camp and Trail Rules posted at the Trail Boss's rig and available to all members on the rides. Some of the rules have changed.
2. Pre-ride meetings are mandatory for at least 1 person from each group.
3. Bus times and number of runs are subject to change on all rides.
4. Cancellations of rides are refundable if made with the secretary prior to the start of the ride.
5. Don't forget to get your Coggins tests done before the Trail Ride season! The MTRA requires Coggins tests for all horses and travel papers/interstate health certificates for out of state horses.
6. Just found 3 cases of the Rhoda Ritter books about the history of the Shore-to-Shore Trail – Whoohoo – cost is \$7.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. It pays to clean!!!
7. Rapid River Trail Camp is the "real" name of the trail camp just outside of Kalkaska. After much research, I've decided to call it that on our calendars. Please be assured that it will always be fondly remembered as the Kalkaska Trail Camp by the older members of MTRA, but we must make adjustments for new members and the many MTRA members to come.
8. Dale Peterson had some "Horse Crossing" signs made for us to place on those busy roads that we have to cross such as near Mayfield, Garfield Rd., etc. Thanks , Dale!!!
9. Don't forget to sign-up to volunteer at the Equine Classic in February and/or the MHC Horse Expo in March at the MTRA booth. Call Carol Hyzer (989-344-2550) for details. Free entry to volunteers!
10. Here's hoping for a wonderful and safe 2013 Ride Season!!!

- chris (989-473-3205)



Life is short!! Hug your horse!!

DESIGN A T-SHIRT CONTEST

Submit your entry for the design for the logo on a t-shirt/sweatshirt for the 50th Anniversary celebration to be sold at the Annual Banquet. Contact Betty Randall at bdcups@gmail.com or 231-825-2628 for details. Winner gets a new t-shirt!!!
Deadline is March 1, 2013!!!



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