



MI-TRALE NEWS



P.O. Box 43 - Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043

December 2013

www.mi-trale.org

Under the PRESIDENT's HELMET

Members,

This has been an exciting year for *your* club. In fact I may not have enough room to include the many achievements that, w/your support, we've been able to accomplish! So take a moment and read though what we've done to improve our sport for others to enjoy. By building on the partnerships we started in 2013, we expect 2014 to be even better! I ask for your continued support in 2014 and please invite a friend or business to join us. We depend on our membership dollars to support our projects in developing, constructing and maintaining our trail systems. I have listed a few of our 2013 accomplishments for you to show to your friends.

2013 MI-TRALE Accomplishments

1-Completed new 70mi East Connector by partnering w/ONF&MDNR &over 150 signs installed in 1day w/our partners! **2-**Completed bridge in Paulding over Bluff Creek. Another step in the connector from Bruce Crossing to Watersmeet. Done by partnering w/Ontonagon Cty Road Commission & w/support of MI-TRALE volunteers. **3-**Completed remediation of Pioneer multi-use trail from Norwich Road to FR400-6.2 miles-using grant approved by the MDNR. **4-**Completed remediation of about 200yds of trail on Courtney Equestrian System w/funds from NFS. **5-**Updated signage on our club supported trails to improve rider safety & sign quality-about 600 signs. **6-**Partnered w/5 counties to develop a 1st Responder Signage System. Signs were installed in Ontonagon Cty w/support of the local emergency mgr. Remaining counties will take place next spring. **7-**Worked w/partner ONF developing Pori & Healthy Forest projects. **8-**Working w/ONF on a joint 2014 ORV use map. **9-**ROW signage done on 4 major connectors in MI-TRALEs trail system. Partnered w/MDNR & MDOT to make this a reality. Other org's in the UP helped to obtain a total of 12 ROW connectors being approved & implemented in the UP. **10-**E entrance to Bergland installed-lengthened to the W from orig design. Also supported by MDNR & GAG. **11-**Helped to develop the Ontonagon Cty Recreat'l Advisory Work Group made up of Ontonagon Cty, Twship & Village appointed rep's. This partnership resulted in approval to develop & sign an ORV/Snowmobile Loop in the village of Ontonagon & create a new trail head w/in the village for both ORV & snowmobilers. **12-**Worked w/GAG to officially req replacement of bridge over W Branch of the Ontonagon River E of Bergland. This route is shared by ORVs & snowmobiles. **13-**Worked w/other org's in MI on key legislative bills in Lansing. **14-**Organized an informational session w/Pure Michigan. A follow-up session to be scheduled for JAN. This is part of MI-TRALEs effort to bring riders into the Western UP. **15-**Held 2nd Annual S.P.O.R.T. Ride w/MDNR. **16-**Held 6th Annual Senior Citizen Fall Color Ride. **17-**Developing a meeting w/MDNR for January-2014 to see if there is any interest to have a UP Trails Week as a subset of the Michigan Trails Week in SEPT-2014. Initial contacts look very good. **18-**MI-TRALE supported 2 local 4th of July parades this year: White Pine & Bruce Crossing. **19-**Gave presentations to various org's on the economic benefits of the ORV recreational trail system to local economies and how we need to work together to change from just trail riding to destination family riding. We need to stress POIs, history, waterfalls, wildlife, day trips & day planning.

Overview View of MI-TRALE

1-110+ Members. **2-**Supporting Trails in 5 Western UP Counties: Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron & Ontonagon. **3-**Maintaining 520 miles of ORV Trails. **4-**250 miles of the Total ORV Trails are MDNR Designated. **5-**Participation in Local & State Agencies Representing ORV Recreation. **6-**Partners w/the ONF, MDNR & other organizations.

Have a great Christmas and a long riding New Year!

Your President – Don Helsel

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2014 Dates to Remember

Club Meetings – 7:pm EST
First Monday of the month

January 6th – Gogebic Lodge
Annual Meeting/BOD Elections
Setting Event /Meeting schedule

February 3rd - New Location
Centennial Hall, S. Cedar St, in
Ewen MI the town is located
west of Bruce Crossing on M28
turn south on S. Cedar St by BP
gas station, the Hall is located
about 2 blocks down on the
right/west side of Cedar St

xx **WATVA Trail Tales Magazine Update** xx

In case you were wondering why you haven't seen a TrailTales Magazine in your mailbox, the reason is:

Our trial subscription term has run out with the Wisconsin ATV Association.

MI-TRALE is no longer contributing articles to the publication, nor are our members receiving the magazine as a bonus along with their membership dues.

“MI-TRALE NEWS” NEWSLETTER NEWS!

Hello! This is a small letter FROM your editor!

In order to be more current with reporting all the MI-TRALE news to you, the newsletter will now be published MONTHLY!

Look for it to be in your inbox between the 2nd & 3rd week of every month beginning now and continuing on through 2014!

“ROW” Signage Installed

Sarah Blakely-TV6 News was on hand 11/4 to cover the event of the 1st EVER posting of highway ORV Right-Of-Way signs on M-28 just east of Bergland! 11/5 saw more postings done in & around both Ontonagon and Watersmeet.

MI-TRALE has worked countless hours w/numerous individuals to make ORV ROW a reality for the betterment of our sport & to bolster economic growth in the Western UP.

!!! REMEMBER !!!

YOU MAY ONLY RIDE WHERE POSTED FOR ROW! Ride safely & legally where it's SIGNED & NOWHERE ELSE.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

To: All of our Friends
From: MI-TRALEs
Board of Directors



ONTONAGON WELCOMES YOU

As of 11/19, this is the language that greets riders of both ORVs~AND~SNOWMOBILES when they now enter the Village of Ontonagon on a SHARED “ROW” passage! This also includes EXCLUSIVE marked parking areas.

The cost for these signs & their installation were shared equally by MI-TRALE, the Village & the North Country Snowmobile Club. We are very proud to have partnered in this project!

PURE MICHIGAN Informational Meeting

Wed., November 13th was a very exciting day for MI-TRALE as we were the hosts of this meeting.

Dave Lorenz of **PURE MICHIGAN** was most gracious sharing his time and expertise informing all attendees of the benefits available to them by being on the **PURE MICHIGAN** website. Our Secretary, Linda Schulz, learned how **MI-TRALE**, could be on the website to better market our trails for the use of our riding guests, both IN & OUT of state! She's worked very hard & has **MI-TRALE** registered on the site & is improving its listing all the time~~THANK YOU, LINDA!! Visit the website: www.michigan.org and see how good **MI-TRALE** looks! Check if **PURE MICHIGAN** could help you!

Lake Gogebic Times

MI-TRALE has contributed 3 articles to this publication.

When you're out & about, pick up a copy anywhere in Bergland, at MI Information or in any Convention Centers & check 'em out!

They cover: 1st Responder signage, Positive Passed ORV Laws and our Courtney Horse Trails.

MI-TRALE GIFT IDEAS

*Looking for a great gift...
Look no further than a...*

MEMBERSHIP in MI-TRALE, or a T-shirt, hat, sweatshirt, etc!

Treat your favorite ORV enthusiast to a “treat” they will enjoy all year!

Go to the website: www.mi-trale.org
*follow the directions and...
your gift is gotten!*

Possible Horse Campground!

~~~~~  
We're very excited about,  
but only in the  
**VERY EARLY**

Planning/Developmental stage  
of this project  
in conjunction with  
the DNR!

We'll keep you posted as  
plans come closer to being a  
reality.

**ORV SAFETY CLASSES**

The 1<sup>st</sup> class conducted by  
our certified instructor  
~~Jim Altenburg~~  
graduated all attendees!!

The next class will be held  
sometime in May 2014.

Check the website this  
Spring for further details!

~~~HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014~~~

May this coming year be safe, healthy and prosperous for us all !

! MI-TRALE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING & BOD ELECTIONS !

On Wednesday December 3rd a notice was emailed to the MI-TRALE Membership concerning BOD positions opening and candidates in nomination for those positions as well as the qualifications needed for an adult member to be nominated for one of those positions from the floor of the Annual Meeting.

REMINDER

All BOD members whose positions are coming open for election have agreed to be nominees and run again for those same positions.

As of now, the slate of candidates stands as follows:

Vice President.....Jim Altenburg
Treasurer.....Dave Bishop
Director.....Cindy Grams
Director.....Khris Kennedy
Director.....Kim Sims

The MI-TRALE BOD welcomes and encourages your participation in this election and at this meeting!

Join us 6:pm EST for dinner at the Gogebic Lodge
before the meeting and then stay to vote!

We work for you, our members, and want you as an active part of our organization!

If you have any questions regarding the nomination and/or the election process, please contact one of the 3 members of the Nominations Committee:

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|----|----------------|
| Chair-Cathy Wainio | cndwainio@yahoo.com | or | (906) 988-2232 |
| Dick Johnson | rchrldjohnson@gmail.com | or | (906) 787-2427 |
| Janet Miesbauer | jmmies@msn.com | or | (906) 231-6424 |