

MI-TRALE NEWS

P.O. Box 43

Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043

December 2014

www.mi-trale.org

BOARD of DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Don Helsel dhelsel1@charter.net VICE-PRESIDENT – Jim Altenburg 906-235-4856

SECRETARY – Linda Schulz lschulz@runningbearresort.com TREASURER – Dave Bishop mitrale49953@gmail.com

DIRECTORS - Russ Diethert rfd403@aol.com - Cindy Grams peppermillgrams@charter.net

Khrist Kennedy kkennedy64@yahoo.com - Kim Sims southernbelleofmi6372@yahoo.com

Cathy Wainio cndwainio@yahoo.com

From Under the Presidents Helmet

Some of you are still able to go out and enjoy a ride in the woods on 4 wheels. Sad to say that is not the case in the western UP as we had an early snow fall that quickly resulted in canceling any additional riding this fall. We had over 16" where I live with high winds out of the NW. I was able to get about 24 miles in on the 11th and another 10 miles on the 12th, both with a plow on the front. I'll take my "seat" time anyway I can get it.

If you have not already, it is time to think about getting your machines ready for winter storage. Do not put this off, as you will regret it come spring, when it is time to ride again.

Usually you would think that this would be getting into the ATV off season where your board can take a well-deserved break. But that has not happened yet, and will not this year as well. Here are some projects on our To-Do plate.

1. The most important project will be to partner with the Michigan DNR to prepare the just acquired rail corridor between Ontonagon and Rockland into a multi-use shared trail system. This is the result of MI-TRALE, local units of government, and the MDNR working together and supporting this purchase by the MDNR. This will finally provide a shared use trail into the village of Ontonagon without using a paved road. We hope to have this section of trail officially open for the 2016 riding season.
2. We will be planning the development of trail connectors and loops in an area west of Lake Gogebic with the Ottawa National Forest and local units of government. This is an area that has no official trails today and offers an opportunity to provide recreational and economic opportunities to the villages of Marenisco and Bergland.
3. MI-TRALE will be planning to implement phase one of the new NS trail from Land-of-Lakes to Bond Falls. This is possible with the recent approval of the Ottawa National Forest (ONF) Interior Vegetation Management Project signed in July, 2014. The second phase of this project will extend this connector to the SB trail just east of Bruce Crossing. This project opens ONF roads that had been previously closed for ATV use. This action is the direct result of your board working with the ONF to review and identify recreational opportunities during the public hearing process of the project.
4. Develop a partnership with the Western UP Trail Association WUPTA, Ottawa National Forest, and local units of government to identify and finalize a connector route from Ironwood to Marenisco and Bergland. This is key in developing a connector from Hurley, Wisconsin into the Western UP. In this effort MI-TRALE will be in a support role with WUPTA taking the lead.
5. The SIMAR Shared Use Camp Ground is in the final stages of approval. This is planned as a unique recreational campground with specific sites set aside and designed for equestrian users only. It will be located across M-38 from our current Courtney Equestrian Trails area. We hope to be planning and starting preliminary work in 2015.
6. Work with other clubs and organizations to maintain and improve the recreational activities in the Western UP.

Reminder that January 15th is your annual meeting with elections, and several changes in the By-Laws to ratify. The By-Laws will be included in this News Letter. If you get the chance please come to the meeting and make your vote count and see what we are up to. This is your club and we are always looking for your input and support.

Your board members want to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a fun riding New Year. May Santa bring you the new toys that you need to enjoy riding in 2015! Make sure that you give your friends a copy of your new trails guide for Christmas. You can order it on www.mi-trale.com . They will know that you really care.....and they might just invite you along on next year's ride with them!

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Interested in Geocaching?

Contact one of us:

Jim Altenburg - 906-235-4856

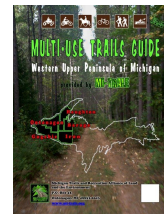
Janet Miesbauer - MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM

Cathy Wainio - cndwainio@yahoo.com

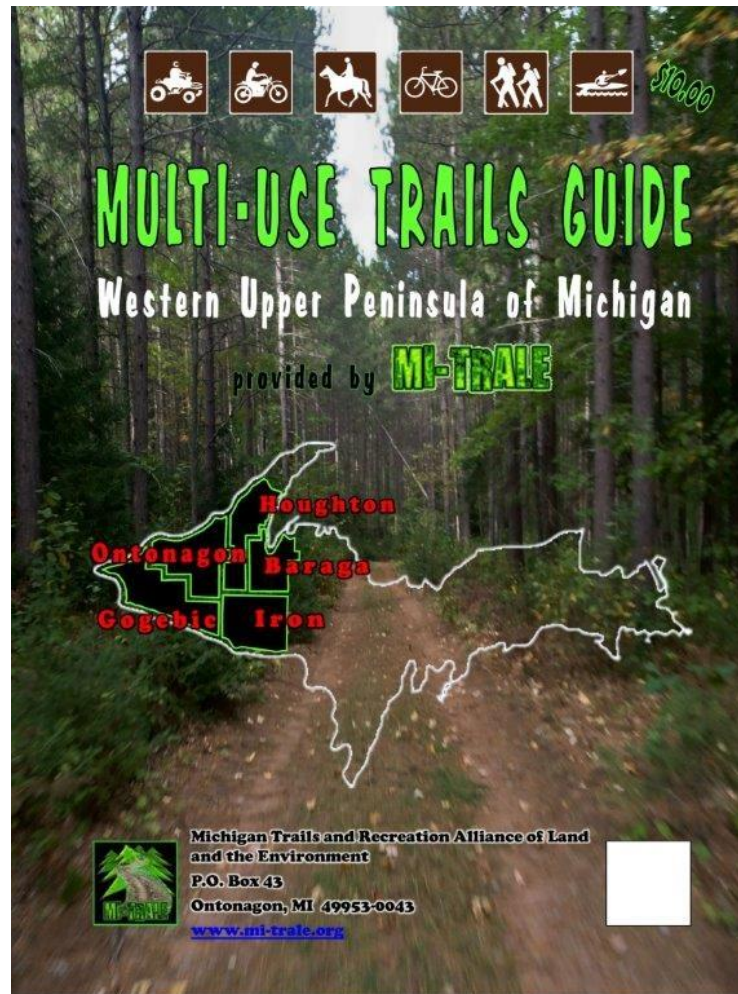


Here are a few statistics for you to consider on the new trails guide:

1. 9-10 months from start to picking up the copies
2. Over 1,000 hours of dedicated MI-TRALE volunteer time
3. 142 pages in total
4. 89 pages of maps
5. 20 pages of water trails
6. Equestrian trails included
7. Mountain bike trails included
8. Over 200 photos
9. Over 5 recipes
10. 20 suggested trips in the trip planner
11. Over 70 advertisers provided support
12. MI-TRALE members drove to Stevens Point, WI and picked up 5,000 guides that weighed over 7,000 lbs.!
13. The guide contains 109 sq ft of map information or a map that is 10X11 feet!



IT'S HERE!! IT'S HERE!!



Great Christmas Gift {hint, hint}

This is a 142 page guide for multiple types of trail users, of which 89 are detailed maps including Ottawa Forest trails, DNR Trails, club trails, horse trails, mountain bike, hiking and water trails! There is a list of sights to see along the trails, a trip planner with loops mapped out and information on lodging, dining and services and so much more. You will be proud to own one, and don't forget to purchase one as a fine Christmas present for the trail riders on your list.

We are taking mail orders now. We also will also have a list of locations where you can buy the guide on the website.

Now available on **EBAY**.

http://www.ebay.com/itm/2014-Trails-Guide-for-the-Western-UP-of-Michigan-with-Ottawa-Forest-Roads-/201241212550?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item2edae93686#ht_82wt_1153

+++MEMBERSHIP MAP PURCHASE SPECIAL+++

All current memberships will have a 1 time opportunity to purchase one Guide Book for ½ price, that's right only \$5.00 plus shipping.

Contact Map Postmaster Dave Bishop via Email at MITRALE49953@Gmail.com



Courtney Equestrian Trails News

Cathy Wainio EQ Director Reports:

December 8, 2014

MI-TRALE EQUESTRIAN UPDATE

We are excited about the accomplishments. We have had a good 2014. Here is a brief:

- **STEP GRANT:** brought a spectrum of activity. In May with the help of the Forest Service we educated approximately 260 grade school kids by visiting the Ewen and Ontonagon Schools, and sponsoring a Field Trip at Courtney Lake where The Ottawa National Forest Botanists and Educators taught. The kids were provided snacks and water, tattoos, invasive species materials; tread lightly color books, and transportation. When we educate the young we foster hopes for a future of caring about the land, as well as good relationships and appreciation of our land managers. We are currently working with the Forest Service Botanist and others to create informative signage about invasive species. This too is geared toward public awareness. We are working with Mich. Dept. of Transportation, with a consideration of posting Trail Locator Signs on the highway near The Courtney Equestrian Trails. Plans to include Teen Youth at work bees on the trails will be approached again in 2015.

- **RAC Grants:** These grants have been around for some time now. We have been tracking progress of our work, but for much of 2014, things have been at a standstill. We have funds set aside for: clearing brush, repairing low wet areas, trail head areas and the river bank. Much of this work will be done in conjunction with other Forest Service projects pending. We will be made aware of when the work will take place. We will keep you posted.

- **Equestrian (and other user) Camp Ground Proposal:** MI-TRALE has been successful in bringing this proposal to The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). We have stayed in contact with them about the process and progress and some minor changes for the proposal. For example, the DNR suggested an alternate location; set back from the highway a bit and in an old abandoned sand pit. It seems perfect. The news is encouraging and we expect to hear from them this month, on what we can work toward.

- **2014 Camp-n-Ride:** The turnout was scant, but the ride was great. Once again, the weather sent us home early. My mainstay rule: "If the animals mulling behind the tent don't approach you after ½ hour, they are not interested. Relax and go to sleep!"

- **Possible Recreational Park in Ontonagon County:** MI-TRALE is working with Ontonagon County on another possibility; a family recreation park on the south end of the county. The idea is to have shared multiuser trails contained within a specific acreage plot with a designated area for camp sites. The trails wind among small hills, which make the ride relaxed and interesting. It is quite enjoyable and peaceful.

- **Geocaching on ATV and EQ trails:** Our committee is planning for 2015. We have: collected cache items and containers, sighted locations or areas to stash, set up meetings in Dec and Jan 2015 to pack caches and work on details. We will decide who will manage and maintain each cache, what web or downloads we will work with and who will Chair the committee. Janet Miesbauer has offered to track coordinates for all the MI-TRALE Geocaches.

- **Logging on The Courtney EQ Trails:** There is still logging activity out there. Ride safe.

- **Sharing The Courtney EQ Trails:** Anyone who uses those trails are aware of the winter use by cross country skiers. I believe the snow is too deep for horse rides out there, now. But, I have been reminded that we need to please respect their grooming. They work hard to be able to ski out there. We also know that most of those trails are actually "Forest Service Roads", open to various other users. We appreciate the shared courtesy that has been displayed out on the trails. Yet, we are also reminded to stay on the trails. There have been neighboring property owners who have found horse tracks and garbage on their property, Thanks.

-MI-TRALE GUIDE BOOK: Remember, the new Trails Guide has a fantastic map of Courtney and other great information about recreational trails (including water trails), amenities and popular site locations.

-APPRECIATION: We appreciate your support and interest in MI-TRALE. We share a passion for wilderness recreation and preserving its beauty. We work with some great people and enjoy good working relationships among our partners and constituents. We enjoy helping others to find their way into the wilderness, while preserving the trails for public use. I am looking forward to more work and fun next year. Have a blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

Cathy Wainio, Equestrian Director MI-TRALE

H906-988-2232 W906-358-4577 ext 4154

Email at cndwainio@yahoo.com

*Do you have some riding photos you'd like to share?
ATV, bicycle, horse, other.....
MITRALE is in need of new photos for use in promotional items and the Newsletter.
Send them to Janet at:
MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM*

UPCOMING GEOCACHE MEETINGS:

January 19th at 6:30pm.

Meetings will be held at Cathy Wainio's residence in Ewen.

Come Join the fun!

Please contact Cathy for directions.

H906-988-2232 W906-358-4577 ext 4154

Email at cndwainio@yahoo.com

MDNR Multi-Use Routes & Horses

Equestrians have use of the multi-use routes maintained by MI-TRALE and are found in the trail guide book:

Bill Nicholls Route
Ottawa East Connector Route
Sidnaw-Bergland Route
Iron River-Marenisco Route

These routes are open to other uses including motor vehicle travel, ATV's, ORV's, motorcycles, hikers and mountain bikes so be prepared and stay alert!
www.michigan.gov/dnr

*Next
Newsletter
deadline is
3/4/2015.*

Proposed changes to the **MI-TRALE by-laws** are found below. Please review as we will be voting on them at the January meeting. Proposed changes are in RED font.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

A. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

These shall be appointed on a limited-term basis for the accomplishment of a specific objective and are always to include the Nominations Committee.

1. **Nominations Committee** – This Committee shall always consist of three (3) members, one (1) of which shall always be a member of the BOD who is not up for election in the given year. The Committee shall be appointed no later than at the month of August meeting and shall be disbanded immediately following the Elections held at the Annual Meeting. It is the duty of this Committee to seek out qualified members, (those being 18 years of age or older), to propose as candidates for possible election to the open positions on the BOD. The Nominees must be able to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position for which they have been nominated as delineated in Article V of these Bylaws. (See Article VIII, Section B, Item 1, for the definition of a “qualified” member.)
1. **Nominations Committee** – This Committee shall always consist of three (3) members, one (1) of which shall always be a member of the BOD who is not up for election in the given year. The Committee shall be appointed no later than at the month of November meeting and shall be disbanded immediately following the Elections held at the Annual Meeting. It is the duty of this Committee to seek out qualified members, (those being 18 years of age or older), to propose as candidates for possible election to the open positions on the BOD. The Nominees must be able to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position for which they have been nominated as delineated in Article V of these Bylaws. (See Article VIII, Section B, Item 1, for the definition of a “qualified” member.)

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

D. ANNUAL MEETINGS

3. It shall be the responsibility of the president to have the date, time and location of the Annual Meeting publicized at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the (BOD) to have the date, time and location of the Annual Meeting publicized at least 30 days prior to the meeting

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS, BALLOTING & VOTING

A. BOD ELECTIONS

1. **General Elections** - These actions shall always take place at MI-TRALE's Annual Meeting. (See Article V for further details as to when specific positions are open for election.)
- 1 **General Elections** – Shall take place at MI-TRALE's Annual Meeting. (See Article V for further details as to when specific positions are open for election.)
- 2 **Special Elections** – These are only held in the extreme circumstances as delineated in Article V, Section C, Item 3. These require a minimum of 15 business days advance notice to the membership in order to secure nominations from them for the two (2) vacant BOD positions. Then said election shall be held at the next month's meeting.
2. **Special Elections** – Shall be held as delineated in Article V, Section C, Item 3. Requiring a 15 business day notice to the membership. Then said election shall be held at the next month's meeting.

B. NOMINATIONS

1. Nominations may be made by any member, 18 years of age or older, in good-standing, of any other member, 18 years of age or older, in good-standing, who has attended a minimum of four (4) meetings in the six (6) months prior to the nomination and has the necessary qualifications for the position to which they have been nominated, as delineated in Article V. These may be made either to a member of the Nominations Committee or to the presiding BOD on the floor of the Annual Meeting.
1. Nominations may be made by any member, 18 years of age or older, in good-standing, of any other member qualified for the positions (Article V) who is 18 years of age or older in good-standing and has attended a minimum of two (2) meetings in the six (6) months prior to the nomination. Nominations may be made either to a member of the Nominations Committee or to the presiding BOD on the floor of the Annual Meeting.
2. The names of, and list of qualifications for, all Nominees for open Officer and Director positions on the BOD shall be compiled by the Nominations Committee no later than August 31st. This slate of candidates, and their individual lists of qualifications shall then be presented at the month of September's meeting by the Nominations Committee Chair and recorded into the Minutes. Once these Minutes are approved and accepted into record at the month of November's meeting, the slate of candidates and their qualification information shall be sent to the

membership for review prior to the General Election to be held at next year's January Annual Meeting.

2. This slate of candidates, and their individual lists of qualifications shall then be presented at the Annual meeting by the Nominations Committee Chair.

ARTICLE IX – INSURANCE

A. MI-TRALE's OWN LIABILITY COVERAGE

MI-TRALE shall purchase required liability insurance for any of the organizations' specific projects, events and involvements.

A. MI-TRALE's OWN LIABILITY COVERAGE

MI-TRALE shall purchase **all** required liability insurance, **including any** of the organizations' specific projects, events and involvements.

B. OUTSIDE ENTITIES LIABILITY COVERAGE

MI-TRALE shall require proof of liability insurance, (as required by law and the (BOD), regarding Automobile Liability and Workman's Compensation, from any contractors, agencies or businesses that are involved with assisting us to work on, develop and/or complete any organization projects. At a minimum, require coverage and liability limits as required by law or the BOD, whichever is greater.

ARTICLE X – FINANCES & PROPERTY

B. EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES

All receipts must be presented to the Treasurer for BOD reimbursement approval. No reimbursements shall be issued without a receipt.

1. **\$150.00 Limit:** An Officer/Director shall be pre-approved for the authority to spend, in between meetings, up to \$150.00 on behalf of MI-TRALE without prior BOD approval.
2. **\$150.00-\$250.00 Limit:** In-between meetings, Emergency Expenditures between these two (2) amounts shall require the approval, via phone, email or in writing, of three (3) members of the BOD. The requesting Officer/Director must provide the Secretary a record of the transaction. This record shall include the reason for the request, the names of the three (3) approving BOD members and the total amount expended for filing and reimbursement at the next month's meeting.

B. EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES

All receipts must be presented to the Treasurer for BOD reimbursement approval. No reimbursements shall be issued without a receipt.

1. **\$250.00 Limit:** An Officer/Director shall be pre-approved for the authority to spend, in between meetings, up to \$250.00 on behalf of MI-TRALE without prior BOD approval.
2. **\$250.00-\$500.00 Limit:** In-between meetings, Emergency Expenditures between these two (2) amounts shall require the approval, via phone, email or in writing, of three (3) members of the BOD. The requesting Officer/Director must provide the Secretary a record of the transaction. This record shall include the reason for the request, the names of the three (3) approving BOD members and the total amount expended for filing and reimbursement at the next month's meeting.



Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and The Environment

MI-TRALE Proudly announces the appointment and re-appointment of two of our members to State Committees!! Don Helsel was re-appointed for his second term to the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW). The purpose of the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW) is to assist the Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC) in performing the duties and responsibilities of the MTAC and to provide the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advice related to the off-road vehicle program. This includes advice related to the creation, development, operation, and maintenance of the designated ORV trail system.

Janet (Holmstrom) Miesbauer was appointed November 3, 2014 to the State of Michigan's Equine Trails Subcommittee (ETS) Janet is the new Upper Peninsula representative! This subcommittee was formed from the Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC) whose purpose is to advise the Director of the DNR and the Governor on the creation, development, operation, and maintenance of motorized and nonmotorized trails in the state, including, but not limited to, snowmobile, biking, equestrian, hiking, off-road vehicle, and skiing trails.



trail_hd www.fotosearch.com



Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and The Environment

Links you may find handy.....

MI-TRALE Website:

<http://mi-trale.org/>

Follow MI-TRALE on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/MI-TRALE/120763167985263>

Trail Guide on EBAY:

http://www.ebay.com/itm/2014-Trails-Guide-for-the-Western-UP-of-Michigan-with-Ottawa-Forest-Roads-/201241212550?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item2edae93686#ht_82wt_1153

MI-TRALE apparel:

<http://mi-trale.org/club-news/apparel/>

MDOT Highway weather cameras:

<http://mdotnetpublic.state.mi.us/drive/Default.aspx>



Dates to Remember, Volunteering & Fun!

**January 5th 2015
Annual Membership
Meeting** – Centennial
Hall, Ewen.

Director Positions &
By-Laws will be voted
on. 2015 Meeting
Schedule will be set at
this meeting, along
with the 2015 MI-
TRALE event Schedule

**January 5th, 7PM EST
Membership Meeting
Ewen Centennial Hall**



All meeting dates can be found on our
website at: www.mi-trale.org

**8th Annual Senior
Citizen Fall Color
OHV Tour**

September 2015

Side by Sides needed to
transport the seniors!

*Spend the day sharing
the fall colors from
the trails
with a senior*

**It's a day you
won't forget!**

Contact Kim if you can
help or for more info

863-528-5156



The MI-TRALE Newsletter
is accepting your news, events & photos
at the new email address for the
Newsletter:

MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM

Please send Janet your submissions.

WE NEED TRAIL SPOTTERS!

A trail spotter is someone who will ride the trails throughout the season, especially after storms or strong winds and report back to us if there are downed trees or problem areas. The spotter can also remove the downed trees if they are capable. We need some one from the Iron River or Watersmeet area to check the IM trail which runs between these two towns. We have other trails we need help with also, call Mike if you are interested
906-827-3208