

# MI-TRALE NEWS

P.O. Box 43

Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043

April 2015

[www.mi-trale.org](http://www.mi-trale.org)

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

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### **From Under the Presidents Helmet**

If you are like me, you cannot wait to dust off your ATV for the new 2015 riding season and get out on the trails. As you are checking over your ride to make sure that it is as ready as you are for a summer of trail riding, MI-TRALE is setting up our spring safety checkup of your trails. Every spring is a challenge for us to get out and inspect your miles of trails to clear brush, repair trail damage and schedule minor and major repairs in time for your first ride. We never know what the winter will leave behind for us to work on. There is always a surprise or two. We do ask that you do your part by noting any trail concerns and if it is not something that you can take care of (i.e. move a rock hazard or small branch), make sure you contact your MI-TRALE trail Boss and report the concern. If it is a safety issue, please find a way to mark a warning on the trail to alert your fellow riders. Let's work together to keep our trails safe for each other.

### **Major Announcements:**

MI-TRALE has just been selected by Polaris Industries to receive a \$10,000 grant to purchase trail maintenance equipment to help us provide safe trails for you. Additional details will be announced as purchases are made. When you visit a Polaris dealer, make sure you say thank you!

MI-TRALE also was just selected by the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians to receive \$5,000 to be used for additional ORV signage on your trails. These signs will be installed in the villages that we share to help guide you to local services and points of interest.

Your board has been very busy this winter in planning for the 2015 riding season. Some projects I am sure you will enjoy are:

1. Opening a new trail that will connect Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin to the Bond Falls State Park. This is made possible by working with the Ottawa National Forest to open up several key roads for ATV use. The opening is scheduled for July 01, 2015. We are looking for volunteers to help brush and sign this new trail. If you have an interest and would like to support your trails, please contact the MI-TRALE Trail Boss. We are in the process of planning a grand opening for August 22, 2015. Mark this date down.
2. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SPORT Ride is scheduled for June 13, 2015. You may recall that this event started when we opened a new trail (DH) between Baraga and Twin Lakes States Parks. For this year we are planning a very special ride. We will still have an option to ride between the two State Parks, but also have the opportunity to ride from the Twin Lakes State Park to the Ontonagon Township Park located on Lake Superior! This is the only legal ATV access location on the west shore of Lake Superior. But to make this ride even better, we are going to ride the proposed new multi-use trail

between Ontonagon, and Rockland (OR Trail). We are just getting into the planning details for this year's event. Would like to hear if you have an interest in joining the fun. We will be sending out updates and how to sign up in the next few months. Early registration: call either (906) 288-3321 ask for Rich, or (906) 353-6558 ask for Kelly.

3. We have talked about placing geocache locations on your trails to add another bit of fun to your rides. We will be finally doing this on the Pioneer ATV and the Courtney Equestrian Trails this spring as a pilot. If we receive positive feedback from you and if it does not become a maintenance nightmare, we will expand this to your other trail systems in the future. Your feedback is important to us to be able to determine if this will be something that you will use, so please take the time and let us know your thoughts and ideas. If you are a "cacher" already, we will be placing the locations on GeoCache.com for your convenience.
4. The Pioneer trail has provided you with some real challenges the past few years. There will be an engineering inspection of the entire trail completed this spring to prepare a remediation package that will provide us with the engineering recommendations and specifications to request construction bids to repair the trail. We had hoped that this would have been done in 2014, but the late and very wet spring forced us to wait for this year. I thank you for your patience in getting this done. As you may know we did get the multiple holes repaired at the Bergland section last summer, but the challenging holes at the Victoria end are still there and will be more than most of you care to try. There is a signed by-pass using the Victoria Cutoff trail in place.
5. Your Multi-Use Western UP Trails Guide is now in the Houghton and Ironwood Walmart stores! This is really great news for us. It just shows how great this new trails guide is to everyone that has seen it. If you do not have your copy yet, just go to [www.mi-trale.org](http://www.mi-trale.org) and select the ATV/ORV, then maps in the drop down box. The rest is easy as we now use PayPal to help you out.

#### Help Keep Your Trails Open

As you prepare your ride plans for the 2015 season, please keep in mind to ride this season in a safe manner and stay on the marked trails. I cannot stress enough that a sure way to lose our access to trails is by going off of them. Resource damage caused by going off trail is our number one reason why we are not able to get or lose permits from private property owners, so please ride responsibly and encourage others to do the same. When we ride our trails we are all our own ambassadors. By working and riding together we will be able to maintain and expand our trail system.

*Don*

President MI-TRALE

#### **Interested in Geocaching?**

Contact one of us:

Janet Miesbauer - [MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM)

Cathy Wainio - [cndwainio@yahoo.com](mailto:cndwainio@yahoo.com)

#### **LL Route Grand Opening Trail Ride and Dedication**

### **August 22, 2015**

Michigan's 2<sup>nd</sup> Free ORV Weekend

Starting at the Michigan and Wisconsin Border by Land O' Lakes WI on the LL Route and heading to Bond Falls in Paulding MI. Keep an eye on the website for more details

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual SPORT Ride**

### **June 13, 2015**

Michigan's Free ORV Weekend

Starting Place-Twin Lakes State Park

9am-10am Social Hour

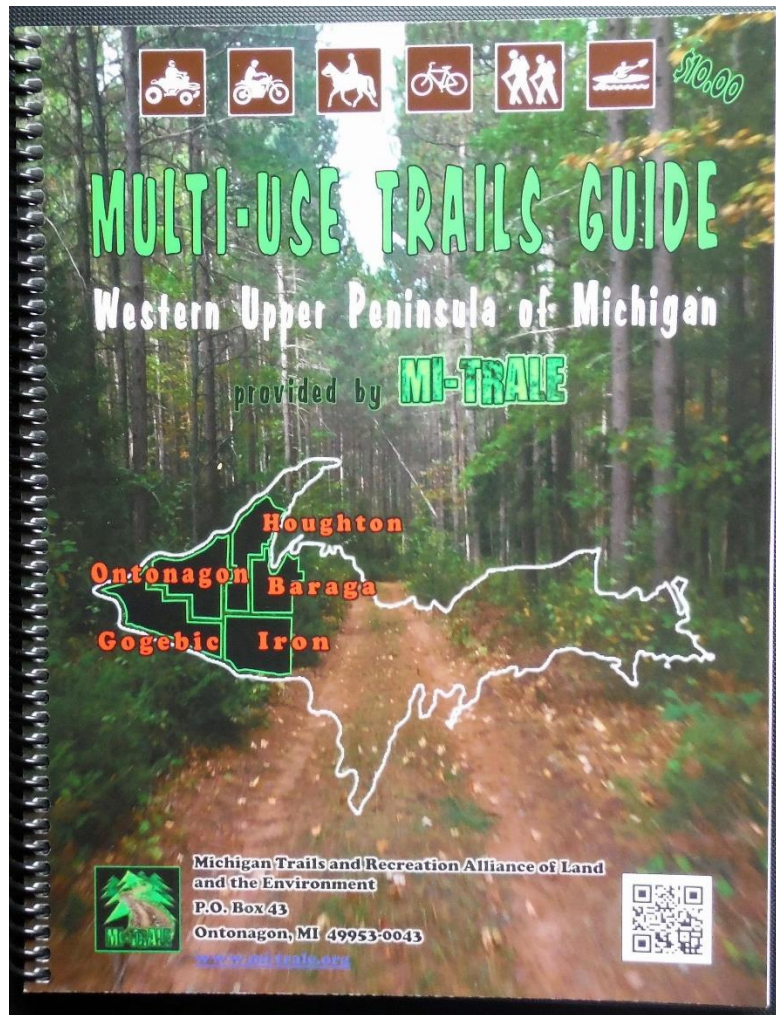
10am – Ride Departs for Ontonagon

1pm – Festivities with lunch available  
at Ontonagon Township Park on the  
shore of lake Superior

2-3pm Options for side trips and tours

Registration: call either (906) 288-3321 ask  
for Rich, or (906) 353-6558 ask for Kelly

# Do you have yours yet?



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 present for the trail riders on your list.

You can purchase a Guide Book on the website using PayPal or through mail order  
There is a list of locations where you can buy the guide too.

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](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](mailto:MITRALE49953@Gmail.com)



## Courtney Equestrian Trails News

### Cathy Wainio EQ Director Reports:

#### March 2015 - EQUESTRIAN PROJECT REPORT

Some good information was gained during our February 24th meeting with several key people from the Ontonagon Ranger station / Ottawa National Forest. Here is some insight on our Equestrian projects.

#### RAC COURTNEY EQ TRAILS - PHASE I:

This is the "Water Hole" \$5,000.00 grant of which there is still \$840 left to spend. It was the consensus that it would be spent on trail heads. Unexpected delays occurred which prevents us from spending it before the May 2015 deadline. The ONF has approved an extension of this grant fund through May of 2018.

This project was tied in with a logging project and resulted, unexpectedly so, in a closed gate blocking off a part of our EQ trail on Forest Road 1841. I was told by FS some time ago, that it was intended to block motorized traffic during the logging project and that we can propose to change it in the future...perhaps with a specialized style that will allow non-motorized traffic to pass.

There is still the possibility of needing to level parts of the trail and haul in some sand or fine gravel to complete the "water hole" project.

NOTE: An additional \$2,000.00 in RAC funds was offered to MI-TRALE's Courtney EQ Trails. I am not sure where this will be spent...possibly on a trail heads.

#### RAC COURTNEY EQ TRAILS - PHASE II:

The amount of \$9,500.00 is mainly for river bank remediation's to repair ATV use damage. An illegal plank crossing will be removed and ATV traffic re-directed. This ties in with the PORI project.

#### PORI JUNCTION VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT:

This is a project strictly managed by the Ottawa National Forest, which involves logging, road use decisions, stream and river repairs and recreational enhancements, to name a few things.

Engineering Evaluations are scheduled for this year. A "hard surface" river crossing is expected to be in place during F/Y 2016. A shared trail head (for horses and cross-country skiers) is also a part of the final outcome of this project.

#### STEP Grant:

We have fund remaining for trail repairs and a culvert and signage. We wait advice from the Forest Service as to when those repairs can be done. The PORI project may play into this also. Janet Miesbauer is working with ONF Environmental Specialists, on Invasive Species signs. We have other signs to consider: shared trail head, shared trail etiquette, and MDOT signage on the highway. Regarding youth involvement at work bees: we felt there was interest. News articles brought no response. We still have a couple leads on interested groups, and will possible pursue them in the spring. This will not cost us anything, but will lend to our in-kind work.

For all ONF projects considered, our Partners from the Ottawa National Forest plan to hit the ground with MI-TRALE in the spring, to see first-hand how these projects and funds could complement each other.

#### SIMAR CAMP GROUND - DNR FUNDED:

I expect that design on this project will happen soon. Not sure when MI-TRALE's involvement will begin. This is a big deal...and I expect they have evaluated it and come to understand of exactly what they want. Their experts will be busy. I suggest when they are ready; MI-TRALE will meet with them and get advice as to what agreements or working relationship MI-TRALE will have with the DNR on this project.

**Cathy Wainio, Equestrian Director MI-TRALE**

Email at: [cndwainio@yahoo.com](mailto:cndwainio@yahoo.com) H: 906-988-2232 W: 906-358-4577 ext. 4154



## UPCOMING GEOCACHE MEETINGS:

April [date TBA] at 6:30pm.

May [date TBA] 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](mailto:cndwainio@yahoo.com)



*Next Newsletter  
deadline for article &  
picture submissions is  
6/4/2015.  
[mitrale.pr@gmail.com](mailto:mitrale.pr@gmail.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](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

## MICHIGAN TRAIL FACTS

- 119 – Total number of rail-trails open in Michigan (1st in USA)
- 2,712 – Total number of miles open rail-trail in Michigan
- 6.6% - The percentage of USA rail-trails located in Michigan
- 12.4% - The percentage of USA rail-trail mileage located in Michigan
- 109 miles – Longest Rail-Trail in Michigan: The State Line Trail in the Upper Peninsula
- 1983 – First rail-trail opened in Michigan: The Paint Creek Trail
- 640 feet – The longest rail-trail bridge in Michigan: Mill Creek Trestle on the Wadhams to Avoca Trail
- 105 feet – Highest rail-trail bridge in Michigan: The bridge on the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River at Agate Falls on the Bill Nicholls Trail

Information courtesy of:

<http://www.michigantrails.org>

## MICHIGANS 2015 FREE ORV WEEKENDS

June 13 & 14  
August 22 & 23

This means you can ride on Michigan trails for free.  
You do not to purchase a permit or license

Both weekends MI-TRALE has a ride scheduled!

Come ride with us!

# 2015 Membership Drive

MI-TRALE will be having its annual membership drive in April. If you are a member, you will receive a letter in the mail to renew your membership and please ask your friends to join.

If you are not a member, we would love to have you join us!

Membership information can be found on the web at MI-TRALE.ORG or you can contact our membership chair.



You can now renew or join using on the Website

An application can be downloaded near the bottom of the page:

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

Please send the dues and your completed application to:

MI-TRALE Membership  
PO Box 43  
Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043

For membership applications and more information, please contact MI-TRALE Membership Chair Cindy Grams

[peppermillgrams@charter.net](mailto:peppermillgrams@charter.net) or call: 906-886-2940





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](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>

*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](mailto:MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM)



# Dates to Remember, Volunteering & Fun!

**April 6th 2015 Board Meeting** – Twilys, Ewen.

*MI-TRALE meets the first Monday of every month. Our meetings are at 7:00 p.m. EST/6:00 p.m. CST.*

*Meetings are open to EVERYONE...members and non-members!*



**All meeting dates can be found on our website at: [www.mi-trale.org](http://www.mi-trale.org)**

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Citizen Fall Color OHV Tour**

**September 24, 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](mailto: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 someone 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