

MI-TRALE NEWS

January 2013

Under the PRESIDENT's HELMET

I want to welcome each of you to MI-TRALE and the opportunities that we provide for you and your family to enjoy the great out-of-doors here in the Western UP. Come to club meetings and events to find new friends that you can share your adventures with.

Your Board of Directors will be working indoors until Spring to ensure that we are able to provide you with a safe and fun riding experience while enjoying your trails this Summer. You probably wonder what we do in the riding off-season...This is the only quiet time we have to start planning for:

1. 2013 Projects and their priorities
2. 2013 events both club and public
3. Inventory of all of your trails to prepare maintenance work schedules
4. Meet with public and private partners to renew use permits and discuss new ones
5. Initiate programs for requesting funding through the various grant programs available
6. The board discusses what you, our membership, expects and will enjoy when you ride your trail system. We are always looking for new ideas from our membership and always welcome your input.

2013 is looking like it will be a great year for MI-TRALE. Work that was been done for the past few years on a connector on the East end of Ontonagon County may become reality this Fall. If all goes as planned, this will add over 70 miles of new trail running from Iron River to the Bill Nichols trail system. When this is finalized, this will be a major NS connector for you. It will have the potential of running from Wisconsin to Copper Harbor.

MI-TRALE is working on another NS connector. This would run from Watersmeet to Bruce Crossing and would benefit Central Ontonagon County.

The last major effort is a project to replace and update all of the trail signage. We will start with the DNR Designated trails and then focus on the club supported trails. This is being done primarily as a safety issue. All signs will be standardized so that riders are able to quickly recognize the ORV trails and their location on the trail system.

The Board of Directors encourages your feedback and welcomes your support while in the area. If you see some trash on the trail, please pick it up; if you encounter a spectacular sight, photograph it so we can publish it on the website; if you come across a hazard of any sort, please contact MI-TRALE as soon as possible so we can take care of the issue. We all need to help each other to protect our trails and to ensure their continued availability for use during many years to come. For us to expand our trail system, we must be able to show that we can maintain the trails and resources that we are using today. We can only make this happen with your continued support.

I wish you and your families great riding this year. Remember to bring a friend along and show them your trails, you can be proud of them, then encourage those friends to join MI-TRALE!

Don Helsel - President

BOARD of DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Don Helsel

VICE-PRESIDENT

Tom Chase

SECRETARY

Linda Schulz

TREASURER

Russ Diethert

DIRECTORS

Dave Bishop

Cindy Grams

Roger Mattson

Kim Sims

Cathy Wainio

Dates to Remember

Club Meetings

First Monday of the month 7:00pm EST

Next meeting Feb 4th 2013

@ Twilly's-Bruce Crossing

Membership Drive

Starts April 1st 2013

Senior Ride

Thurs Sept 26th 2013

Membership Banquet

Saturday Oct 12th 2013

Website Updating

Browse around more often at:

www.mi-trale.org

We are in improvement mode and changes are the order of business!

...INTRODUCING...

Hello! My name is **Donna Wolf** and I have just been appointed by the Board of Directors, (BOD), to be the **Communications Coordinator** for **MI-TRALE**. I am in charge of editing this newsletter & I would love to hear from you w/your news to share w/our membership

Please contact me at either: (906) 827-3095 -OR- donnann.wolf@yahoo.com

I look forward to hearing from YOU!

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Publishing Schedule: JAN / APR / AUG / NOV (With some Special Editions, as news dictates!) Please contact Cindy Grams: 906-886-2940 –or- peppermillgrams@charter.net with your email address or to update your info so we can make sure that you receive the MI-TRALE NEWS. You may advise us at any time about wanting only the Quarterly Issues of the Newsletter & No Special Editions, updates or dropping your name from the mailing list altogether, whatever works best for YOU. Your input is always welcomed and valued. You may continually go to the website in-between issues of the MI-TRALE NEWS for all the latest & greatest goings on of MI-TRALE. See you in the news!

SENIOR RIDE 2013

Side-by-sides are needed to transport the Senior's on the ride. If you have a unit and would like to help make someone's day special

Contact Kim Sims
godsgrace0927@yahoo.com

We are looking for members who are geocache experts and who want to help establish several geocache trails.

“Geocache”

This is a great opportunity to get involved with your club *and* to create a fun addition to your trail system!

If you have an interest...PLEASE CONTACT: dhelsell@charter.net

TRAIL HELP NEEDED

SPOTTING* - CLEARING – BRUSHING – SIGNING

We'll be working nearly every weekend & many weekdays starting end March/beginning April.

We'll appreciate *YOUR* help! Contact Trail Mgr Mike Schulz to volunteer: (*Spotting goes on year round!)

(906) 827-3208 -OR- mike@runningbearresort.com

! GREAT GIFT IDEA !

Give your TRAIL FRIENDS & FAMILY a membership to

MI-TRALE

Birthdays - Anniversaries – Mother's & Father's Day

Do you have a great photo of your ride in the Western UP?

Please send it to: mi-trale@runningbearresort.com to have it posted on the website!

Photos Wanted

Please provide your name/email address/a short caption for photo. All photos that are posted must show helmets and responsible riding.

****Hard-copy mailed Photos CANNOT be returned****

Minutes - Membership Meeting - December 3, 2012 - Twilly's, Bruce Crossing

Meeting called to Order by President Don Helsel at 7:00pm

Attendees – Don Helsel, Linda Schulz, Mike Schulz, Cindy Grams, Tom McCauley, Don Berquist, Kim Sims, Ken Berry, Tom Chase, Lewis Shuler, Russ Diethert, Jack Swift, Dave Bishop, Marylou Driesenga, Cathy Wainio

Other Agenda Items added under new business 2) Herald Christmas Ad, 3) Vendor accounts

Motion made by Linda Schulz to Accept Agenda with additions, 2nd Cindy Grams, all in favor, passed

Motion made by Jack Swift to Accept the Minutes from November 13 2012 special meeting, 2nd by Kim Sims, all in favor, passed

Motion made by Jack Swift to accept the minutes with corrections from the November Annual Meeting, 2nd by Dave Bishop, all in favor, passed

Treasurer's Report – deposits \$215.00, balance \$28,831.82

Motion made by Jack Swift to accept the Treasurer's report, 2nd by Dave Bishop, all in favor, passed

Officer Reports - Secretary – discussion on minutes, attendee's names will be added, all minutes will be brought to the meetings for approval, only approved minutes will be sent out to the members

President – SB1020 moved to the house for a vote on Monday. We need to check on insurance coverage for non-designated trails. Wrong doing bonding was added to the policy for board members November 2012. Northwoods map we are waiting to view a proof.

Old Business - Budget/Financials/Banking - Year end Filing, Russ is checking with CPA, Bank Signatures are done, Deposits process will remain the same with Cindy, others are to mail to P.O. Box or bring to meetings. Russ is to check on reimbursements and if a 1099 is needed.

Mail will be picked up by Don and distributed at the meetings, if immediate attention is needed Don will contact accordingly.

Committee Reports - Event Ideas – S.P.O.R.T. Ride, 4th of July Parades 3 of them are on the list Bruce crossing, Greenland, White Pine, Senior Ride. Tom Chase would like to combine his committee "Rides events" with Dave's "Events" and work together, all agreed.

Bylaw – will set a meeting before Christmas.

Trail Management – Don Helsel will be putting together a document of our trails which will include: miles, designated or non and other important info. Cathy Wainio suggested putting this information on the website with the suggestion "does anyone ride the trail often and would they like to help us care for them, Jack Swift suggested call it an "adopt a trail program." This could fall into the "spotter persons" Trail Boss Mike was looking for.

EQ Director – Cathy Wainio needs help coordinating new horse volunteers – will they plan activities under MI-TRALE or FS? How will RAC funds be spent? President Don Helsel suggested to the FS while they are building their logging roads, if they would do the work we needed we would spend our \$5000 RAC Fund. MI-TRALE & FS will be meeting December 6th.

RAC Grants Strategy – President Don Helsel will be the liaison to the FS. Don will be working to finalize the 5year master agreement between the FS and MI-TRALE. Project Chairpersons were appointed - Bluff Creek Project-Linda Schulz, Courtney Equestrian Trails-Cathy Wainio, Pioneer Trail- Don Helsel.

Senior Ride – Linda Schulz located possible transportation from Ewen Trout Creek School-we are on their schedule; final cost will be brought to the next meeting for final approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Dave Bishop to spend \$40 on Christmas ad in the Herald, 2nd by Linda Schulz, all in favor 3, nay 4, motion not carried.

A Marketing plan is needed and a budget needs to be set up for it and we need to appoint a marketing committee. Kim Sims has a list of PSA's and will submit on MI-TRALE's behalf.

Vender accounts will be contacted by Don Helsel and Russ Diethert to update our address and account users.

GUEST SPEAKER - Lewis Shuler shared his history and presented a slide show on the Cycle Conservation Club.

Motion to Adjourn by Linda Schulz, 2nd by Cindy Grams and Next Meeting January 7, Konteka in White Pine

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Linda Schulz January 7, 2013 Approved 1/7/2013