



Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Spring 2015

Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7pm.
• All Members Welcome • For more information, call 734.878.2975

Upcoming Events



Saturday, May 9th, 10am - 11:30am

The Blessing of Horse and Rider for the 2015 season! Join us at the Monks Road staging area for a pancake and sausage breakfast served between 10am and 11am. Pastor Vicky Lovell will officiate blessing at 11:30am. Come with or without your horse! \$5/person (no charge for children 12 and under).

Cancelled



July 2015

Kids Day at the Ranch—Waterloo Riding Stables. Children from Elle's Place will be introduced to horses, go on a trail ride, play games and enjoy lunch. Sponsorship is \$25/child. Please help us get our youth involved by sponsoring a child to attend.

Friday – Sunday, Sept. 11th – 13th

Run Woodstock – Event held at Hell Creek Ranch. Runners on trails all weekend.

Saturday, September 19th, 11am

Pinckney to Brighton ride. Please plan on joining fellow members of both the PTRA and BTRA groups and share a meal after the ride. Bring a dish to pass. Meat will be provided by the associations.

Saturday, Dec. 2015

PTRA/BTRA Christmas Party—Location TBA

REMINDER: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE FOR 2015. RENEW ONLINE ON THE WEBSITE – IT'S FAST & EASY AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!

Note: If you plan to attend any of these events, it would be very much appreciated if you would r.s.v.p. on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/216491998419057/events/>. Thank You!

A Spring Work Bee Special Thanks by Amy Scharmen and Dianne Martin



Thanks so much to everyone who made it out to the work bee. We had a GREAT turn out; 25 in all! Trails that our members worked their butts off on are 4-3, 29-9, 8-21 and all the ones around the sand hill. A huge THANKS goes out to Donn and Cathy Dirven, Fredd and Tanner Ziobron, Brenda Badour, and Craig Hamler for working until 6 pm to open up 26 to 28 which has been closed for 20 years!!! In their honor, this trail is now known (unofficially) as "Dirven's Pass!"

Additionally, we drove all the trails to get anything that was sticking out or any known downfall. We cannot thank everyone enough.

Trail clearing is a real work out and it takes a group effort to make such a difference--our members are the best! An extra special thank you is extended to all the volunteers who do not necessarily get out on the trails throughout the year but were there to support their loved ones who do. Be sure to check out the new kiosk and picket posts at the staging area too. The improvements just keep on coming for our wonderful park!

Annual Flower Sales Results

The PTRA experience its second-best ever fund raising event by selling 346 plants (including PTRA stock order of 13 plants) which resulted in a total of \$4409.50! And a \$250 savings to boot! With our incentive discount we made \$1407.00!



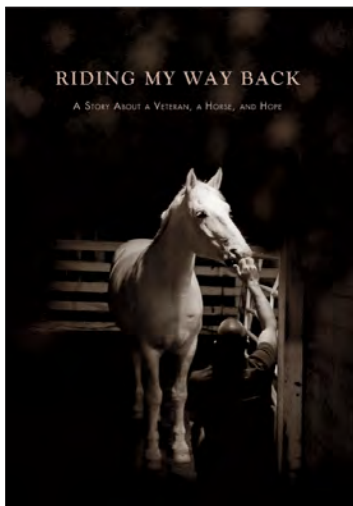
THANKS EVERYONE and especially to June and Terry Brennan from the Pinckney Auto Wash who was a huge supporter this year. The funds raised will be put towards a pavilion at the Monks Road staging area.

Monks Road Staging Area Update

As most of you know by now, our staging area has been reopened for the 2015 season. It was closed briefly to let the rock foundation settle in after the winter thaw.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our staging area in awhile, you are in for a surprise. We've not only had the area cleaned up and cut back but we've added a vaulted toilet, hitching posts and a new kiosk. Soon to be arriving is a well and four new picnic tables. Still to come is the pavilion as mentioned, two hitching rails and a commercial-size grill.

We, the PTRA board, strive to create a beautiful and useful space for you to enjoy with both your four and two legged friends. This all is made possible through your generous support. Thank you!



An Honorable Mention

Take time to view this brief documentary that chronicles one soldier's journey back from the brink of suicide. In 2010, Staff Sergeant Aaron Heliker returned from multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), in addition to third-degree burns and nerve

damage from a roadside bomb. At his most desperate and isolated, on 42 medications and suicidal, Aaron is introduced to the unlikelyst of saviors: a horse named Fred. Through caring for Fred and building mutual trust, Aaron begins the difficult process of reconnecting to the world around him and healing the terrible, invisible wounds of war that had nearly defeated him. To view the trailer visit: www.ridingmywayback.com/trailer.

Local equine therapy is provided by Michigan Abilities Center in Ann Arbor. Dianne Martin, this year's 50-50 raffle winner, donated all of her winnings to support this center and the PTRA matched her contributions and then some to make the total an \$100.

For more information visit: MichiganAbilitiesCenter.org. They are in need of financial contributions and volunteers.

PTRA Trail Hour Contest and 2014 Winners

PTRA Trail Hours is a new game we came up with last year. To participate simply log your hours in the saddle on the Pinckney Rec. Area or Lakeland trails. Tally your log and bring to next year's annual meeting. Prizes include: 1st -belt buckle; 2nd -PTRA shirt; and 3rd-PTRA patch. There is a minimum 50 hours required and awards subject to change. This is for fun and recognition and is on the "Honor System". The log form is on the last page of this newsletter.

2014 trail hour winners were Colleen McGraw and Poppy York. Together the duo logged over 300 hours. Way to go ladies! Both are shown below sporting their newest PTRA tee shirts.



PTRA 2016 Photo Calendar Contest

The PTRA is going to have a calendar for next year and is holding a contest for members' submitted photos to use. Start sending your photos in and the board will select 12 of the photos at their November meeting. The calendars will be available for purchase. Stayed tuned for further details!



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Annual Meeting Review by President Sue Armstrong

The annual members' meeting was held at Zukey's Lake Tavern on Mar. 22nd with 18 members present. After reviewing and approving the 2014 financial statement the membership re-elected board members Shirley Burga, Elsa Elmore, Kathy Moffit and Amy Scharmen for two more years. Congratulations and thank you all for your continuing support and guidance.

Our cash on hand as of that date was approximately \$4525 and the club had a net profit of \$1600 for the year.

Our communication efforts were covered with a huge thank you to Amy Scharmen Burgdorf for her development and maintenance of our website, Facebook page and Google members group. The monthly board meeting minutes are now being posted to our website as well as being sent to Saddle Up Magazine with our event schedule.

Also discussed were the trail maintenance and improvements. See article elsewhere regarding the new re-route trail north of staging area. The improvements already made to the staging area and those yet to come were then covered. Expect to see a new kiosk recently constructed by Roger Burgdolf and his helper, Lucas, along with new hitching posts, well, pavilion, rail and other improvements to take place soon.

PTRA's board passed a resolution in support of the DNR's Lakeland Trail grant application to the MNRTF for

trail improvements between Stockbridge and Jackson. The resolution was drafted with notice of support for continuing equestrian use and provided to the director for the application.

PTRA merchandise of coffee cups, shirts, logos on clothing were discussed along with the flower sale taking place at that time. Ann Marie Price was given a BIG thank you for selling over \$1,000 in flowers and for making and providing the DNR staff with a homemade basket of goodies at Christmas.

The surprise event of **THE BLESSING OF THE HORSE & RIDER** coming up on Saturday, May 9th was revealed. We hope to see everyone there and take advantage of the pancake and sausage breakfast!

After adjourning the meeting the documentary "Riding My Way Back" was shown and information on a local Ann Arbor equine therapy facility, Michigan Abilities Center and Iraq war veteran, Matthew Drake was given. A 50/50 raffle was held with winner, Dianne Martin donating her half of \$31.50 to MAC. By board vote PTRA donated their half and an additional amount for a total \$100 contribution to MAC.

Remember annual renewals are now due for membership year May 1st – Apr. 30, 2016. You can renew online through the website or mail it in. We appreciate everyone's support and are looking forward to a great year!



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Name That Trail!

Do you or your group share trail names rather than numbers? For example, our group refers to trails 26-16 -14 as the "home trail" because it's sort of like "home base" to us. We also call 20-16 the "Zip" trail because we like to zip through that area. In any case, we are interested in hearing some of your nick names. Some of our members have mentioned that trail names would be easier to remember than numbers so we're looking for your input.

This quarter we would like help naming the newly formed trail between trails 31-32 (see note below). This trail used to be really muddy so something along these lines perhaps? Or, because of the sounds the frogs make on that trail, Peeper Pass maybe?

You tell us. Send in your ideas and the board will select one lucky winner and incorporate it on our website map. The posted maps on the trails will not be changed.



Note: Earlier this spring, the DNR, at the PTRAs request, re-routed the number 32 trail. Over the years, the mud has been getting deeper and deeper in that area. Since it is mostly clay composite, the PTRAs felt it was too hazardous for horse traffic and initiated change. Some of you may have noticed that the initial trail that the DNR cleared for us is partially blocked. This is due to some reconsiderations made by the PTRAs and the homeowner whose property is *near* the initial trail. The final trial is now open and safer than the original and we hope everyone enjoys this new path. Thank you Chuck Dennison with the DNR and Dennis Russell with Russells' Tree Service for making this possible!

NAME:

PTRA Trail Hours Log
4/16/14 - 4/15/15

[illegible]

TOTAL HOURS ALL PAGES: