



Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Newsletter

May 2026

Upcoming Rides in June

WHITE RIVER SUMMER, June 6-7
Hesperia, MI

GRAND ISLAND NORTH, June 20-21
Munising, MI

White River Spring ride had a great turnout! Despite the chilly temps on Saturday morning (and ice on the buckets), the sun came out and the winds were light. Plenty of water on trail due to all the rain/flooding in April. Congrats to all the riders and their horses who enjoyed the first GLDRA ride of the year.



Are you a volunteer for GLDRA?

TRACK YOUR HOURS TO HELP HORSE TRAILS!!!

Volunteer hours: Everything anyone does pertaining to GLDRA, trail organizations, etc. should be tracking hours. Meetings, traveling, website, conversations, trail work, etc. This all counts towards Equestrian trail volunteer hours are tracked annually by organizations like the Michigan Horse Trails Association (MHTA) and Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) to demonstrate economic value to land managers and secure funding. Volunteers report hours for trail maintenance, clearing, meetings, and advocacy, often submitted through dedicated, web-based forms.

If you would like to log hours please use the link below for the online form for MHTA.

<https://michiganhorsetrailsassociation.com/member-forms/>

Volunteer Hours Tracking Spreadsheet

Email MHTA for any help in learning how to use it to track your volunteer efforts. It easily converts your hours and equipment use into volunteer hourly donations. MHTA compiles all of these hours for the Horse Trail organizations of Michigan each year and shares them here, with land managers, legislators and anywhere else they are needed. Thank you to the organizations who submit their hours every year and who do all the work, we appreciate you!



Are you participating in the “Ride the Mitten” challenge?

Did you know, GLDRA is participating in this challenge with its location at none other than Timbers Edge Campground in Hesperia!

If you missed the QR code at White River Spring- have no fear, come join us at White River Summer OR White River Labor Day. Teresa is excited to share this info with members, thanks Teresa!!

<https://michiganhorsetrailsassociation.com/ride-the-mitten-trail-challenge/>

Want to join the Ride the Mitten Challenge? Win cool prizes and sign up at the link above and check out what Michigan has to offer at locations you may not have been.

Looking for the entire 2026 ride calendar? Check out all the details, distances offered and locations, check out <https://gldrami.org/rides>.

Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Have a story to share? Send submissions by the 10th of each month to sara.hall1388@gmail.com.

2026 Board Members

President- Stephanie Boomgaard
Vice President: Audrey McMurry
Secretary: Jennifer Shooshanian
Treasurer: Kristen Mikula
Member at Large: Damaris Smith
Rider Reps: Teresa Mulherin, Dawn Bouwkamp
Webmaster and Newsletter: Sara Hall
Points Keeper: Kathy Macki

NEW MEMBERS

This year I'd like to update everyone with our new members! If you see a new face or hear an unfamiliar name announced at a ride, be sure to welcome them!

New GLDRA Members- Shannon, Chloe, and Paige Lawlor



Next board meeting: May 27 at 7:30pm