



Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Newsletter July 2026

Can you believe we only have four weekends of rides left this year?! Where is the time going? We are ½ way through our 2026 ride season. Make the most of the year that's left, get out and RIDE!

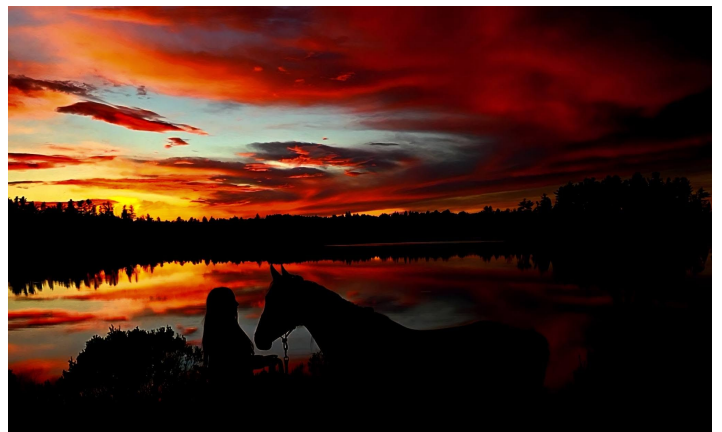
Upcoming Rides Next Month Detroit Horse Power- August 14-15 at Kensington Metropark

Results and current points standings are updated on the website.
Please notify Kathy Macki at k_macki@yahoo.com for discrepancies.

Pictures from Grand Island North



Above left: Grand Island North camp
Photo Credit: Barb Kurti



Above right: Sunset over the lake
Photo Credit: Karen Jarvi

Right: Riders showing off their mounts while
Kathy Macki photo bombs in the background!
Photo Credit: Karen Jarvi



Pictures from Hopkins Creek



Above: Lisa and Abigail Moorehouse and Ken Wright

Right: Teresa overlooking Hopkins Creek



Photo credits: Teresa Mulherin

NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

New GLDRA Member(s)- Dianna Linnell, Andrea Kulhawik,
Elizabeth Martin, Holly Zecchin

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



Next board meeting: July 22 at 7:30PM
This is a REQUIRED board meeting!

REMINDER BELOW FROM MHTA ABOUT ETIQUETTE

Equestrian Etiquette for our Camps and Trails

Let's take time for a reminder of our equestrian etiquette for our camps and trails. We need to take care of our riding areas and each other throughout Michigan. These simple tips can help you do so!

CAMPS:

- Clean up after your equine in camp, it is never OK to leave piles of manure, hay, shavings or anything that can trap moisture in our highline areas, corrals or campsites. If there is a manure bunker available, that is where ALL of your material needs to go. If not, and as long as the camp rules allow, scatter and spread it outside of the camping area so it will break down quickly. Save the trees by not piling the waste around them.
- Follow the campground rules. Keep pets secured to your site. Follow quiet time hours of 10pm-8am, including no gas generators during this time.
- Anything you add to your campsite during your stay should be removed when you leave including any twine or hooks. Do not leave waste in the fire ring. Practice leave no trace.
- Shavings in corrals are discouraged as they trap moisture, but if you feel you must use them, be sure to remove it all prior to leaving.
- Many of our equestrian camps are maintained with volunteer efforts, please pitch in to help when you can. Reach out for opportunities and MHTA can help to connect you with volunteers in your area.

TRAILS:

- Polite Passing From Behind - Slow to a walk to pass other riders on the trail and ask to pass when it's safe to do so. Wait until you put some distance between yourself and the riders you passed before you speed up. Be sure to ask if it's OK to do so. Do your best to make sure your passings are not upsetting other horses and riders.
- Polite Passing Head On - Train your equines to politely pass other equines (an arena exercise of multiple equines circling in opposite directions is a great way to work on this). On the trail, if there is room and your group of riders is smaller, try to pull off the trail and give the larger group the trail. Be aware of keeping your equine's hindquarters under control and directed to the opposite direction of the passing horses. Make any needs you have known to the other riders. Keep moving during the passing and chat with your fellow riders as you go on by.
- At water crossings, move up only as far as you need to allow others to get water. Keep your equines near or in the water until everyone has been able to get a drink. If a rider is needing to take some extra training time with their equine at a water crossing, give them that time.
- Keep greetings friendly on the trails. Let other trail users know what you need to have a safe trail passing. Look at every encounter as an opportunity to educate and create community with others.

- When riding in a group, keep an equine's length away from each other. If you can see the hind feet, you're good.
- Stay together and don't leave anyone behind unless they ask you to do so. You should only ride as fast as your slowest rider in a group. Young and inexperienced equines usually do well in the middle of the group.
- Ride only where you are designated to ride. In Michigan's Park, Rec and Game Areas - this means you need to ride only on designated horse trail. On Michigan's State and National Forest Land - riding is allowed anywhere a Land Use Order prohibiting horseback riding doesn't exist. Reach out if you need more clarification about this.
- When using our Day Staging Areas, clean up after your equine. Use manure bunkers to do so if available or pile it back in your trailer to take it home. Keep our parking areas clean.
- Many of our equestrian trails are maintained with volunteer efforts, please pitch in to help when you can. Reach out for opportunities and MHTA can help to connect you with volunteers in your area.
- Check out the Michigan Horse Trails Directory for more information on the riding and camping opportunities in Michigan, <https://michiganhorsetrails.com/>