



May 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to our new members and thank you to all members who have renewed their membership. We truly appreciate your support to the association with your membership. Remember OREA is a charitable organization and your membership dues are tax deductible donation. OREA was formed to preserve, protect, and improve the Ortonville Recreation Area equestrian campground, facilities and bridle trails used by the general public for recreational equestrian activities, to promote and educate the general public on equestrian recreational activities and benefits, and assist and support Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) efforts to preserve, protect and improve our trails. We need to start tackling some of the recommendations, as well as other key improvements. If you are good at working from engineering blue prints and laying materials at particular grades or if you have equipment that can help us do the work, please let us know when you have availability. We want to accomplish some of this in the July/August time frame when it is too buggy to ride. We need to contribute people-power if we want to keep and expand our trails. Bring your friends and family. Grab the local scout troop or church group for a community service project. The more hands we have, the more we can accomplish.

Here are a few notes from our president Steve Keim:

There is some legislation going on in Lansing that can have a big impact to all of us.

A bill was introduced in March that would change the way our State Parks and Recreation Areas would be funded. The proposal would raise the fee for everybody's license plate by \$10. That \$10 would be allocated to the parks and natural resources of Michigan-and would not be able to be siphoned off into the General Fund the way the current park revenues have. It would provide more money for maintenance of our parks and the hiring of further park personnel. This would replace the current park stickers and day passes, so if you are a park user, you get a bargain. It would help us to return to the jewel provided by our parks before the state budget caused them to decline. If this does not go through, look for higher entrance fees and further reduced services and probable park closings. We will provide further information on the web site as it becomes available. Please contact your legislators as this bill is considered so that it reflects your vision for the parks.

Another piece of legislation that is being considered is a “Right to Ride” bill. The desired bill would ensure our right to ride on State of Michigan public lands unless there is an overriding and explicit concern as to why equestrian travel should be excluded. As we have more information, we will provide it on the web site. Once again, please provide your input to your Michigan legislators so the bill reflects your wishes.

Small groups of vocal citizens shape the way legislation is passed and money is allocated. Be part of that voice.

Please keep up the letter/e-mail/phone campaign to expand our trails. Our voices are being heard. The more voices, the more influence we will have. There is an example letter on the web site that you can either use as-is or add your own thoughts to. Right now, we need to show an ability to help contribute to the expansion by following up with what needs to be done with the existing trails.

We need some “artsy” people to design shirts and other products with the OREA or Hadley Hills theme. We are looking to make items available through a web site that will allow us to offer a wide range of styles and sizes, with OREA needing to keep no inventory and getting between 10% and 25% of the sales.

OREA Events Calendar 2009

Poker Ride Saturday **May 23rd**, 10am Rain date Sunday May 24th
Morgan Ride (all breeds welcome) Saturday **June 13th**, 10am
Ride for the Troops Sunday **June 14th**, 10am Rain date Saturday June 20th
Lapeer Co. Equine Farm Bureau Equine Group Ride Saturday **June 27th**
Judge Trail Ride Saturday **September 12th**, 10am Rain date Saturday September 19th
Celebration of the Horse Parade Saturday **September 26th**, 1pm
Spooktakular Saturday **October 17th**, 11am

If need you to contact anyone about OREA here are names and phone numbers:

President Steve Keim 810-793-4670
Vice President Cleon Middleton 248-628-7261
Treasurer Val Pheiffer 248-969-8630
Secretary Robin Bobek 810-797-6157
Membership Tamra Hartwig 810-797-5115
Newsletter Lise Mouthaan 810-797-8601

Our next meeting is Tuesday June 9th, 2009 at 7pm at the Metamora/Hadley Recreation Area, 3871 Herd Rd, Metamora.

Be sure to visit our web site at **hadley hills.com**