

Rail Trail News

Published twice a year by the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail
P.O. Box 505, Midland, MI 48641-0505
www.LMB.org/pmrt

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Vol. 19 No. 1

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of our Newsletter. Please also check the Friends web site www.lmb.org/pmrt where all the latest news flashes, information on the trail, rides and formal newsletters are posted.

Board of Directors

Mark McCartney - President
Sanford, 989-687-7586
mcctny@tds.net

Dave Waite – Vice President
Midland, 989-832-3793
davewaite@charter.net

Joe Malan - Treasurer
Sanford, 989-687-6899
bmalan@chartermi.net

Kelly Busse - Membership
Midland, 989-280-4692
bussek@charter.net

Kim Haller
Midland, 989-832-6876
khaller@co.midland.mi.us

Marilynn Marry
Midland, 989-632-6568
mamarry@hotmail.com

Tom Canale
Midland, 989-837-6333
tcanale@svsu.edu

Board Officers

Craig Kendzioski left the Board after a full 6 years of valued service. He served the Board well in several roles; Treasurer, Secretary and lead on Trail Development and Maintenance. Additionally *Joyce Halstead* resigned after just over 3 years with us. Joyce did an outstanding job leading the 3 trails in 3 Days ride for 2 years and was our liaison to the Tri City Cyclists. Joyce left to pursue other volunteer activities with the Humane Society. We wish them both the best of health and happiness in the future. However, we now have 2 vacant **Board positions – we need Board members** to help us run the events and activities that help promote and keep the trail in good condition – **please contact Mark McCartney or Dave Waite if you are interested.**

2011 Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting has been rescheduled for **Thursday, June 16**. Doors open at 6:00 pm, meeting starts 6:30 pm at the Carriage Hall House, 3210 Cook Road, Midland. So come along and hear about some great trail projects and let us know what you think we should be doing.

2011 “3 Trails in 3 Days” & 18th Annual Friends Walk, Skate & Ride

It's a good time to mark your 2011 calendars and sign up for our one and only annual fund raiser. As last year we are partnering with the Bay City and Saginaw Friends in support of the Great Lakes Bay Regional pathway project. Go to our web site or the Tri City Cyclists web site for detailed information and registration.

Friday, August 19 Bay City

Saturday, August 20 Midland

Sunday, August 21 Saginaw including the picnic with door prize drawing.

Safety First Corner

Be safe at night be SEEN! Did you know that Michigan law requires a headlight and rear reflector? If you don't you can get ticketed and worse still hit by a motor vehicle! With the advent of LED lighting technology there is a wide selection of low cost and powerful battery operated bicycle lights available. You should also try to significantly improve your night time visibility. The savvy cyclist also has one or two flashing rear lights in addition to the required reflector and wears light colored clothing with reflective accents.

Letter from the President

The other day a couple from the Detroit area, who were riding on the Pere Marquette Rail Trail, said “This trail is amazing! It has bathrooms, water, air pumps! We love it!” Yes, Midland, Midland County, Clare and Isabella Counties have indeed constructed an amazing rail trail; a trail that has been inducted into the Rails to Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame. Only twenty five trails, nationally, have been and will be given this honor!

We believe the trail is a critically important asset, contributing to the wonderful quality of life in Midland, Clare and Isabella Counties. We exist to support the trail, to improve the trail and your riding experience in any way we can. The Pere Marquette Rail Trail is a magnificent asset, arguably the most used “park” in Midland, Clare and Isabella counties. Here is what we have done recently:

- Check out the new Trail sign near the Tridge, complete with map and a brief history of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail.
- There is a new Pere Marquette Rail Trail sign at the Loomis trail head lot.
- Gave to the City of Midland to assist with the purchase of a new Asphalt Crack Repair System.
- Assisted with the new extension to the Sanford Lake Park.
- Assisted with the trail extension into Clare.
- We provide the rail trail maps that can be found in the containers at various rail trail stops.
- We sponsored a free Bicycle Maintenance Workshop, which was held near the Tridge. Thanks to Todd Atkinson of B-Xtreme Cycle & Sports, Midland.

Your membership of the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail makes it possible for us to do these things. Thank you! And ask a friend if she/he would consider joining.

2010 Financial Results

While revenues were down from 2009 the Friends continued their strong support of trail related projects in 2010 donating \$4,000 to the City of Midland for maintenance, \$2,397 for a trail sign at the Tridge and \$2,000 for a trail head sign at Loomis. Membership revenue was down \$1,000 as many members are opting for 3 year memberships. Donations were \$600 less than the previous year while our share of profits from the 3 Trails in 3 Days Ride increased \$600. Expenses for 2010 increased by \$700 due to the need to update and purchase brochures for the trail. Cash balances at the end of 2010 were \$28,900... down \$3,200 from \$32,163 at the end of 2009.

Membership Section

New members: welcome to our new members, we hope you'll all play an active role through volunteering to help with maintaining and promoting the rail-trail.

Gabriele Golombeski family Ron Ahrns family Robert Brentin

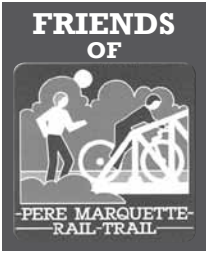
Improving the Trail

Midland City Trail Section Maintenance: The Friends donation of \$4,000 to the Midland City Parks & Rec. Commission is going to purchase needed crack sealing equipment. The 1 mile seal coat trial is deemed a success and there are plans to seal coat the remaining sections after crack repairs are completed this summer/fall. We are working with the Trail Maintenance folks to see what we can do to help with volunteer labor and securing additional funds. Given the dwindling City budget we need your help **to write or e-mail or call your council member or the mayor** and impress on them the need for adequate funding for trail maintenance.

Great Lakes Bay Regional Rail Trails: The fire damaged bridge is salvageable and funding for repairs has been secured so the Bay to Saginaw project continues towards completion to 2012. Local match funds have been secured from Saginaw WIN and Dow Chemical and grant applications are in process. No new news on the Midland to Bay City route. If you would like to know more about this project contact Dave Waite, e-mail davewaite@charter.net.

Midland Non-Motorized Transportation "Bike/Walk Midland": The street signs and on street markings for the remaining designated bike routes will be completed by early July and bike "ice cream" tours organized to inaugurate these routes. Our 2011 budget request for the Swede bike lane and other improvements is approved. A local Swede community public hearing is planned and the bike lane should be completed in late summer with an inauguration ride. We are also planning rides in July and August, Bike to the Loons. If you would like to know more about this project contact Dave Waite, e-mail davewaite@charter.net or visit the City's web site <http://www.midland-mi.org/government/departments/planning/Planning/NMTCCommittee.htm>.

Clare Extensions: Ground has been broken on the trail section from Lake Station (Mystic Lake YMCA Camp) to the west into the Village of Ewart. Construction will be complete by mid to late August 2011. This will leave only the "Clare Gap" phase (6000 ft.) west of Clare City limits to the Clare Moose Lodge trailhead. This property was originally proposed for purchase from the railroad by the DNR. After many negotiations, the DNR has agreed to a land trade so the project can move ahead. Bench sites have been selected and designated for completion by late summer. Mapping, brochures and mile marker signs are in progress and Clare County is soliciting sponsors. Isabella Bank and Trust has donated some 11 acres of property adjacent to the Pere Marquette Rail Trail just west of the village of Farwell. This beautiful and very natural piece of property is 90% wetland with stipulations to keep its scenic beauty. Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation have agreed to develop a 1 ½ acre rustic campground area (tents only) in the dry land area of this property. The campground will be used by hikers and bikers along the trail for overnight accommodations with a completion date by fall 2011. For more information contact Don Kolander of the Clare County Parks & Recreation, e-mail kolanderd@clareco.com.



**FRIENDS OF THE
PERE MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL**

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Business members: Cottage Creamery, Chippewa Nature Center, Ray's Bike Shop, Rowe Professional Services Company, Tri City Cyclists, The Laura Ludington Hollenbeck Foundation

HELP SUPPORT YOUR RAIL-TRAIL

The Pere Marquette Rail-Trail is one of Michigan's premiere linear parks. You can help enhance and maintain this superb facility by using the form below to make a donation to the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail and/or become a FPMRT member. FPMRT is a non-profit organization pledged to improve, promote and maintain the Midland-to-Clare link in Michigan's extensive rail-trail system. If you enjoy the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail now is the time to show your support. Both membership fees and donations are fully tax-deductible. Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

Phone(_____) _____

If you would like to be notified of Rail-Trail activities or would be willing to get the newsletter electronically in order to save us costs, please include an email address.

Make checks payable to:

Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail (FPMRT) and mail to:
P.O. Box 505, Midland, MI 48641

Membership Categories (indicate amount in \$):

Annual Individual \$15 _____ Annual Family \$30 _____ Annual Business \$50 _____

3 Year Individual \$40 _____ 3 Year Family \$80 _____

Lifetime Individual \$300 _____ Lifetime Family \$600 _____

Donation in addition to membership: _____

If you would consider volunteering, please include phone number: _____