

# Rail Trail News

Published four times a year by the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail  
P.O. Box 505, Midland, MI 48640-0505  
[www.LMB.org/pmrt](http://www.LMB.org/pmrt)

June, 2009

Vol. 17 No. 1

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Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of our Newsletter. We have streamlined our release schedule to optimize costs and bring you the most important news of upcoming trail events and projects.

Please also check the Friends web site [www.lmb.org/pmrt](http://www.lmb.org/pmrt) where all the latest news flashes, information on rides and formal newsletters are posted.

## Board Members

Dick Jellum retired from the Board after 6 years of exemplary service. Dick dedicated much of his time to help organize the recent annual rides and his experience, knowledge and contacts in Midland will be sorely missed. Kim Haller, Director, Midland County Parks & Recreation, joined the Board. Kim has been a strong supporter of our group and it seemed fitting to add him formally to the Board. This still leaves us 2 Board members short so we are in urgent need of new Board members. If you are interested please contact Dave Waite or any Board member, we need your enthusiastic and active participation if we are to continue the Friends work!

## Safety FIRST Corner

I'd like to give credit to the Tri-City Cyclists who posted on their web site "Pedal Power Press" the following safety tips for their cyclists. I copied these tips here because these tips apply to ALL cyclists on the trail.

When riding your bicycle on a multi-user path, remember that cycling enthusiasts have an extra responsibility to keep ourselves and other users of the path safe and to help everyone to have a good time.

- Keep right except to pass
- Alert others when passing by using voice or bell
- Always travel at safe speeds
- Don't block the trail
- Dogs must be on a leash
- Please help keep the trail clean

Be sure to slow down and give pedestrians, joggers and inline skaters plenty of warning and plenty of distance. This kind of respect is just what cyclists are asking from motor vehicle drivers on the road. When riding on congested sections of the multi-user path, or when riding on a path that doesn't have long sight distances, such as the Chippewa Trail, slow down further.

## 2009 Calendar

**Annual Bike & Skate Ride:** Please plan to join us at the FPMRT's 2009 annual bike & skate fundraiser on Saturday, September 19. This is our one and only fund raiser to help us pay for the enhancements and extensions projects that will keep this one of the premier trails in the State. We are integrating our ride with the "3 Trails in 3 Days" ride sponsored by the Bay City, Saginaw and Midland based Friends groups in support of the MBS Connector project.

Registrations are accepted on the day of the event; however preregistrations are encouraged so we can properly plan for all riders. Can't ride all three days? New this year is a one-day registration at a reduced fee.

Bay County Rail Trail: Friday, September 18th - 3:00pm to 8:00pm

Saginaw Valley Rail Trail: Sunday, September 20th - 9:00am to 4:00pm

Midland Pere Marquette Rail Trail: Saturday, September 19th - 9:00am to 4:00pm. Participant picnic: Saturday, September 19th - 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Chippewassee Park, Midland with over \$1700 in door prizes (prize drawing at 4:00 pm).

Check our web site [www.lmb.org/pmrt](http://www.lmb.org/pmrt) for more information and access to the electronic version of the Ride Flyer and Online registration (provided by the Tri-City Cyclists on their web page [www.tricitycyclists.org](http://www.tricitycyclists.org)). You can also mail in the paper copy enclosed in this Newsletter.

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### Membership Section

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 and our activities.

Michael J. Hartky  
Jim Morrissey  
Suzanne Phillips  
Ed Valenzuela  
John J. McQuillan

Rick & Nancy Schenkel  
Mr. Tracy Naugle  
City of Evart  
William Girard

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### Trail News

The Midland City section from the Farmers Market to Dublin Road needs significant crack repair work during the coming months. Bart Heil, supervisor at Midland City Parks & Recreation, is gearing up to do the work but needs help in the form of volunteers who are interested in learning how to help City employees use the crack sealing equipment. If you are interested please call Bart at 989-837-6914.

## Improving the Trail Activities 2009

Several major projects are making headway to fulfill the vision of Connecting Michigan to build the cross Michigan Bicycle Route #20.

**Great Lakes Bay Regional Rail Trails (MBS Connection):** Phase 2 was completed in early 2009. We want to thank the Midland Area Community Foundation for the grant to the Friends to support Phase 2. The Midland Area Community Foundation promotes and enables philanthropic giving to enrich and improve the lives of people in our communities. The Phase 2 report was presented to the Vision Tri-County Board (now the Great Lakes Bay Regional Board) and Quality of Life Committee who endorsed the report and have now provided support for a new non-profit Regional Rail Trails Committee to implement the Phase 2 report recommendations. The priorities are a Bay City to Saginaw pathway in the next 2-3 years, a Midland to Bay City pathway in the next 3 to 5 years and finally a Midland to Saginaw pathway in the next 5 to 8 years. If you would like to know more about this project contact Dave Waite. You can review the Phase 2 report on <http://www.co.midland.mi.us/departments/extra.php?id=21&pid=613>

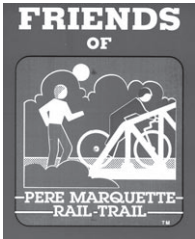
**Midland Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP):** The NMT Advisory Committee has developed a plan for non-motorized transportation capabilities and infrastructure in the City. The plan was favorably received by the City Planning Commission and now moves to the City Council for endorsement and support. The report will then be published and broadly available to the community at large for communication and action. Additionally, the Midland Area County Foundation has provided a grant for us to run a League of American Bicyclist (LAB) "Bicycle Friendly Community" workshop in Midland in late summer. The workshop will bring an LAB expert to Midland to see our current NMT infrastructure, review and critique our plan and help us set our target for LAB "Bicycle Friendly Community" certification. If you would like to know more about this project contact Dave Waite.

**Sanford Lake Park to Rail Trail Connector:** Midland County Parks & Recreation will start construction this June of an 8 ft wide pathway to connect the Pere Marquette to Sanford Park. Completion is expected late summer. If you would like to know more about this project contact Kim Haller at the Midland County Services Building.

**Clare Extensions:** The trail extension from the new tunnel to the center of Clare will be completed this summer. Additionally, Clare Parks & Recreation working with MDOT now have a multi-phase, multi-year plan to extend the rail to trails pathway west of Clare. The first section to be completed this year will be from the Moose Lodge to two miles west of Farwell. The next section will be from the Center of Clare to Moose Lodge in 2010. Moose Lodge to Lake Station in 2011, and finally Lake Station to Ewart by 2018. If you would like to know more about this project contact Don Kolander of the Clare County Parks & Recreation, e-mail [kolanderd@clareco.com](mailto:kolanderd@clareco.com)

**Adopt a Trail:** 3 organizations are partnering with the Friends to adopt a section of Trail and improve the appearance and housekeeping. We hope to expand the program in 2009. If you would like to know more about this project contact Kelly Busse.

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PERE MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL**  
Box Number 505  
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Membership Expiration Date <from spreadsheet>

<Members name & address from spreadsheet>

**Business members:** Chippewa Nature Center, City of Ewart

### HELP SUPPORT YOUR RAIL-TRAIL

Please 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 (a non-profit organization) and/or become a FPMRT member. Complete the Membership Donation section if you wish to receive the Quarterly Newsletters and periodic e-mails of events. If you do not want to be a Member and/or you want to give a Gift donation over and above the Membership Donation use the Gift Donation section. Both donations are tax deductible. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Donation:

Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Donation:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail checks to: Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail  
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