



Happy December, fellow Ionia Riders!

2020 has been a very different year. We started with a good plan, then Covid hit. Thankfully, we were able to get the planned gravel work done on the Confidence Course in late spring. The footing continues to improve as it gets packed in.

We are planning our 2021 Spring Workbee for Sunday, March 28 from 9-2. We have many plans for that date, so please come help clean up the campground, prune up overhanging branches, clear winter downfall – and work on some new projects (if we can get them approved)! Our rain date, if needed, will be 2 weeks later on April 11, 2021. Please mark you calendar!

The 4th Annual Forbidden Trails Ride was June 27. We changed up the registration process significantly and did not play games due to Covid. Thank You! to all who came out in support of IHTA! We had a very successful event, and hopefully June 26, 2021 will be just as great for the 5th FTR! Thanks to the Ionia Dog Trials group for allowing us this access to extra trail mileage on this date.

We are planning our annual meeting for June 26 at 6:00, the night of the FTR, while so many members are in the campground. We Sure Hope You Can Attend. This is when we elect board members and then officers.

Riders have been using our ~100 x 100 arena is next to day staging, consistently enough that it has not need weed maintenance all summer! We are so glad to have provided such a useful tool for your anxious horse you want to expose to trail riding, or your young riders you want to get more comfortable in a new space. We'll be encouraging 4-H groups to hold their practices there, as well as potentially inviting clinicians and outside events in the future.

We hope you are aware overflow parking is open further down the road at the barn lot. We also have parking for 4-5 rigs out near "15", at what used to be called the X-Country ski parking lot. This provides really nice access to the west end without riding the full length of the park. There is still a small lot there for vehicles without trailers along with the expanded lot for horse rigs.

Our Chili Cookoff will be the first Saturday in October, on the 2nd. Mark your calendar for six months prior to these events so you don't forget to make your camping reservations.

Please renew your membership now, and keep the momentum going! Also consider attending board meetings to contribute your ideas for our events and Phase 2!

Happy Trails!

Kristie Walls, IHTA President