

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



December News

The members of UMECRA have had a winter gathering since 1972. That was in November and the meeting was to set up rules and a point system for the next year of competition. There was another meeting in March to clarify some issues. The first January meeting was in 1974 at the Branding Iron Supper Club in Preston, Minnesota. - UMECRA gave out it's first annual awards for the previous season. Heavyweight and lightweight competitive and heavyweight and lightweight endurance to six places.

This year we will gather again to have a meeting and honor award winners. There will be some insightful speakers and time to chat and mingle with old friends and meet some new ones. I hope you'll attend the convention whether this is your first year riding or your 40th. This year it's January 22 - 24 at Wintergreen Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. DRAW members are hosting this year and it promises to be another great convention.

See you there!

Theresa Meyer, UMECRA President

Want to read about UMECRA's history?

<http://www.umecra.com/meetingminutes.html>
<http://www.umecra.com/meetingminutes.html>

The right hand column has meeting minutes and lists of those winning awards from 1975 to 2010. It's searchable if you download. The files are big - so it takes a minute or two to get to your computer desktop. Enjoy!

RULE OR BYLAW CHANGE SUGGESTIONS?

If you have UMECRA rule or bylaw changes, ideas for a new rule or rule removal suggestions, please submit them to the Rules & Bylaws committee before

the November 7th UMECRA board meeting. It's easier for the Rules & Bylaws Committee to craft language beforehand, check it against other rules for conflicts before submitting it to the whole board for a vote at that meeting. Rules & Bylaw Committee members are Tony Troyer - il4aerc@aol.com - phone 815-530-4464, Dr. Olivia Rudolphi - liv.rudolphi@gmail.com or Theresa Meyer - thmeyer753@gmail.com Phone 763-753-5236. The current rules and bylaws can be found on www.umecra.com

Applied Common Sense®
Sponsors of the UMECRA Top 10 Mileage Award

CONGRATULATIONS to all receiving UMECRA awards this season. A job well done!
REMEMBER.....awards are presented at convention. They are **NEVER/EVER** mailed. If you are not able to attend please make arrangements for someone to pick up your award. Hope to see you all there! Awards, Max

Looking for new places to ride in your area and beyond?

Check out <http://trailmeister.com/>

Lots of information there on trails and all things trails! Search by city, state, even zip codes! You can even add trails that you know about!

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2016-2017 Rider Reps Candidates Sought

Riders Choice Nominations Sought!

It is time to make your nominations for this year's Rider's Choice Award. This award originated in 1981, and has been presented annually at the UMECRA Convention and Awards banquet following a vote of those present at the convention. The guidelines to be considered when nominated a horse for this honor are as follow:

1. A horse that has shown superior ability in it division
2. A horse that has been a consistent competitor
3. A horse that has shown its ability to overcome setbacks
4. Any horse, for any reasons, the nominator admires and feels is a superior representative of the "Distance Horse."

When submitting your nomination, please include a description of the horse's accomplishments and the reasons why you are nominating the horse. There is a form on the UMECRA website under the Awards tab, then scroll down all the way to the bottom of the page to Rider's Choice. Or you can just mail or email your nomination to: Kathy Schauer W2385 Lomira Dr., Brownsville, WI 53006 email: kschauer@nconnect.net



ARE YOU A WINNER? Have you checked the placing and mileage on the web for your name?

Mileage chevrons for competitive and endurance will be waiting for you at the registration table at UMECRA convention.

Please pick up yours! Also your friends if that are not able to attend. **THEY WILL NOT BE MAILED!**

Awards,
Max



SPECIAL AWARD NOMINATIONS!

Nominations are being sought for an award for Ride Managers and Vets named The Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award. The form is on the UMECRA website under the Awards tab and will – like the Hall of Fame nomination be voted on at the November board meeting. Qualities we are looking for in the Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award might include: being organized, helpful and honest, a sense of fairness, knowledge of the sport, consistency, able to educate and able to delegate, the candidate should mentor others and be able to can deal with a crisis. This will be given out at the annual banquet. A specific form is used for this award -

http://www.umecra.com/AwardForms/UMECRA_RMVetAward.pdf

The award form should be sent or emailed to Jill Feller at jfeller@nconnect.net



Nominations are also being taken for the UMECRA Hall of Fame. Those being nominated must have made a significant contribution to UMECRA and should include extraordinary volunteerism given to the organization. There are no requirements that the nominees must be a rider or ride manager. More information can be found at:

<http://www.umecra.com/AwardForms/UMECRAHallOfFame.pdf>

Past winners have been: Louise Riedel, Dr. Bob Beecher, Grace Ramsey, Joanne Gernant, Wayne Gastfield, Bob Mielke, Dr. Dean Peterson, Jan Worthington, Ruth Stewart and Maxine Bernsdorf. Don't forget to nominate for the Charles Phillips Versatility Award - for information on eligibility and the nomination form, go to:

http://www.umecra.com/AwardForms/Versatility_Award.pdf

The award form should be sent or emailed to Jill Feller at jfeller@nconnect.net

Are you missing out on last minute ride updates or time sensitive information? If you haven't received any emails from UMECRAnews@gmail.com and you get your newsletter via the website or through the mail, please send me an email at UMECRAnews@gmail.com or to Jill Feller at jfeller@nconnect.net so we can make sure we have your correct email address.

There's an App for that.....

The **"Hay Price Calculator"** and **"Healthy Horse"** apps are now available for both Android and Apple operating systems. Check out information on the apps at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/apps/>. Funds from the sales of the apps help to support equine research at the University of Minnesota.

Healthy Horse App (\$1.99)

Determining a horse's body weight is important for weight and feeding management, and administration of medication. The Healthy Horse App will allow horse owners and professionals to estimate the body weight of adult Arabians, stock horses, saddle horses, ponies and miniature horses using equations developed through University research by entering in the equine's height, body length, neck and girth circumference. Ideal body weight and a body weight score (to assess the likelihood of being over-weight) will also be calculated for Arabians, ponies and stock horses from newly developed University of Minnesota research. This app gives an estimate of an equine's body weight and should not replace examination by a qualified professional.

Hay Price Calculator (\$0.99)

Buy hay the smart way! Many horse owners and hobby farmers purchase hay by the bale. However, the more economical way to purchase and compare different hay types is to calculate the price per ton. The aim of the Hay Price App is to aid hay buyers in calculating price per ton and to provide cost comparisons of small square, large round, and large square-bales. Hay buyers simply select the bale type, enter in the bale weight and price per bale, and the Hay Price App calculates price per ton, allowing the buyer to compare and choose the most economical

hay. This app does not take into account hay quality when determining economics.

Rider Rep – Candidate Bios!

Joslyn Seefeldt – WI Candidate

I am running for re-election for the position of Rider Representative for UMECRA. I have been a member of UMECRA since 2004.

I am an active member of our organization. I have competed in MN, IL, WI and MI.

I own 5 horses and one mule. I have competed in the competitive, limited distance and endurance divisions. I have successfully campaigned both gaited and non-gaited breeds. Encouraging participation by owners of non-traditional breeds is a hobby of mine. ☺

I believe that open communication creates a sense of community within our organization. To that end, I have been actively involved in creating several groups on Facebook, including the UMECRA Greenbeans. The UMECRA Greenbeans page is a source for both new and seasoned riders. The page has the complete UMECRA calendar, highlighted with Novice events. A FAQ for most of the rides is also listed.

My past history of involvement in the distance riding community includes: UMECRA Regional Director, DRAW President, DRAWARAMA Ride Manager. I would appreciate your vote for Rider Representative at the UMECRA convention.

Joslyn Seefeldt

AERC, UMECRA, DRAW, AHDRA, MNDRA, and GLDRA member.

Janette Sasena – MN Candidate

Hello my name is Jan Sasena; My roots are from England where I grew up, and riding has been in my life for as long as I can remember. I have been riding in the Endurance world for 3-4 years, so am somewhat new to this sport. My experience in the endurance world has been mainly in Minnesota and Wisconsin with one ride in the SE region. I have chaired and co-chaired the Minnesota Horse Expo Endurance booth for the last 3 years and have enjoyed sharing information about this wonderful riding experience. Bailey, my 20 yr old Morgan mare, and I placed in the top ten LD in UMECRA 2013, during that year Bailey was awarded BC 10 times. The knowledge shared in this sport and the care shown to our horses has been amazing. Representing the riders in Minnesota for UMECRA would be a joy

and a privilege and allow me to give back to the organization that my horse-Bailey and I have enjoyed being part of. As your representative I would have a caring, common sense approach.

Thank you,
Jan

Max Bernsdorf – WI Candidate

The duty of a rider rep (as I see it) is to put aside personal agenda and be a voice for all riders. We listen and present your concerns to the BOD. We are there to answer your question or find the answer. I have enjoyed the privilege of being your rep for several years. With your vote I would like to continue to be there for you.

Thanks!
Max

Bonnie Mielke – WI Candidate



Over the Rainbow Bridge...

BNB Nemesis Chindhi (Chindhi) was put down on Dec. 7, 2015, at 10:30 AM. due to uncontrolled seizures. Chindhi was UMECRA and AHDRA heavyweight competitive champion in 2008 and UMECRA and AHDRA LD Champion in 2011. He was retired in 2013 at the age of 11 when he foundered. Stefanie Reinhold rehabbed him; he found a forever home with Patti Green of Brooklyn, Wi. who loved him and turned him into a Parelli horse. He will surely be missed by those who knew him.



Trail Passing Safety

Horses experience a lot of new things in distance riding competition. It's a learning experience for them, which can be an exciting, nervous, fearful time causing them to act out suddenly and in ways the rider never anticipated. Passing or being passed on trail is one of those times, but there are things riders can do to minimize the chance of unpleasant behavior and/or injury. Whether your horse is new to distance riding, or returning from a layoff (e.g. first rides in spring, from a vacation or injury), we can all improve our safety skills.

- Slow down when passing or being passed; walk if you can. If you know your horse gets anxious about being passed, step off the trail if possible. Walking helps diffuse tension.

- When passing others ahead of you, state your intention in advance so the rider and horse know you're coming. When the rider agrees you can, proceed cautiously and slowly, watching the other horse for signs of anxiety (prancing, ears back, nose up, tail swishing), possible kicking or biting as you go by.

- If you're passing in a group, don't crowd. Give yourself and the horse ahead of you, as well as the one you're passing, some space for safety sake. The last horse in the group may get anxious about being left behind, so slow down. A group of passing horses can intimidate an otherwise confident horse, especially if they're close together and moving swiftly. Your group's behavior could prompt an accident, which can be avoided.

- Don't just power by without saying anything. This can be upsetting to horses and riders, creating anxiety for the future. You may not know the rider and horse ahead of you or if they're having other issues that ride; it's not worth the chance of an accident. Yes, it is your responsibility to be courteous and avoid harming another ride team, even in competition.

- If you know your horse might kick out at others, tie a red ribbon in its tail to warn those passing from behind. When you are passing, you need to verbally warn the rider being passed so they can be alert to an incident and step off trail if they wish (they won't see your red ribbon until it may be too late).

Even though I ride alone almost all the time, I have seen horses kick out and injure other riders and/or horses when passing. It seems to be a stressful event for horses new to our sport (even good "trail" horses), as well as experienced horses returning after time off. The excitement of speed may stir up their competitive or herd natures. Horses don't always kick out at "strange" horses; sometimes a rider in their own group receives the kick and may even get kicked out of the saddle. Ouch!

We are always encouraged to be courteous, friendly and safe with "trail riders" out there, slowing down to meet or pass them. Don't we want to show our own distance riding friends and colleagues the same caution? None of us wants our horse to cause another rider's injury or, worse yet, end a rider's season. Let's be more aware of practicing good sportsmanship and increased safety when passing on trail.

Lynda Zimmerman

UMECRA



PERSEVERE

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDE ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership year: 2016

CIRCLE ONE:

Single \$35 Family* \$45 - hard copy newsletter and/or ride book

Single \$ 25 Family* \$35- electronic newsletter and CD for ride book

If you do NOT want ANY newsletter sent to you- please check this box:

If you do NOT want a CD or Ridebook sent to you- please check this box:

If you do NOT want your name and contact info in the membership book, check this box:

NOTE: to receive the reduced rate, you MUST receive the newsletter electronically AND receive a CD for the ride book. **If you have either the newsletter or ride book delivered via USPS you MUST pay the higher membership fees.**

Check one: RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBERSHP _____

***Family memberships shall consist of one or more related, or coupled as significant other, adults and/or children of such adults who are less than 18 years of age, all of whom reside in the same household.**

Please include all names of eligible family members.

PRINT CLEARLY

Date: _____

AERC MEMBER NUMBER(s)(if applicable): _____

AERC HORSE NUMBER(s)if applicable: _____

UMECRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER(S): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number (s): _____

Email: _____

Please mail completed form and check made out to UMECRA to: Jill Feller, N9280 Cty Hwy TW, Mayville, WI 53050

Which one to have? Hmmmm...

For our Awards Banquet this year, you will need to pick one of the plate choices. They are as follows:

Roast Sirloin of Beef

Perfectly tender and served with au jus

Parsley Baby Red Potatoes

Fresh Garden Salad, rolls, coffee, iced tea, or milk

House dessert

Chicken Chardonnay

Breast of Chicken baked in wine sauce with mushrooms, onion, and basil

Rice Pilaf

Fresh Garden Salad, rolls, coffee, iced tea, or milk

House dessert

Vegetarian or Gluten free plates are also available.

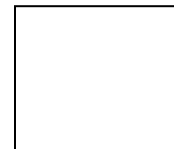
Children's plate

- Chicken Strips, French Fries, and Milk

Because these are pre-ordered plates, you **cannot** eat unless you have registered by **January 11th**. Also, we **cannot refund your registration** money after **Jan. 11th**.

Wintergreen will provide discount vouchers for breakfast buffet and lunch specials for registered hotel guests.

UMECRA Newsletter
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Deadline for Next Newsletter:
5th of each month
Send news to:
UMECRAnews@gmail.com



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