



# UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION

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## Ride Season is Upon Us!

I thought it might be nice to share with all of you some encouraging news about the start of the 2018 ride season and a few of the highlights happening within UMECRA. First off, with the exception of the Kettles and Bits Ride being cancelled, the other May and June rides so far have all seemed to have had a very good start and a nice number of riders attending. Of the three rides I've personally been a part of, Endurance and LD entries were very strong while Comp was holding steady. As the results from all the rides come in to UMECRA this trend seems to be holding true across most rides.

A real bonus is that at every ride I have attended, I have had the pleasure of meeting at least one or two new members. At last count, I have sent out forty-seven "welcome to UMECRA" letters to our new members. We have had better than a 20% increase in membership over last years' numbers. I think that speaks volumes about the efforts of all those people and clubs who sponsor and hold clinics, mock rides, and information booths at horse fairs and the like. Ride Managers putting on well managed rides and assisting those new members through the maze of learning about competing in distance riding continues to be a big plus as well. Thank you all for helping to make these new members a part of the distance riding/driving community.

Finally, I think it is important to note and share with our members how UMECRA continues to support the endeavors of all equine enthusiasts, not just those involved in distance riding/driving, by awarding financial grants and sponsorships for trail improvements and recruitment. These financial grants and sponsorships have gone to a diversity of groups, state parks and trails. Thus far, in 2018, UMECRA has awarded six

individual grants and three sponsorships. A total of \$2300 has been distributed ranging in amounts from \$100 to \$350 and helping as many as six different state parks and organizations, in three different states, with their associated trails and projects. I think that's pretty cool and I think it shows that UMECRA's efforts to "pay it forward" are a credit to the character of our entire organization. I hope you agree and I hope that the 2018 ride season has started out well for all of you too.

*Jon Wagner | UMECRA President*

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## 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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## Advertising in the UMECRA Newsletter

Rates depend on the size of your ad and how many times you wish to run it:

Ad Rates for Newsletter	1 time	2-3 times	4-8 times	9-10 times	the year
Classified 10 lines *	\$6.00				
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Quarter Page	\$20.00	\$16.00 ea.	\$14.00 ea.	\$13.00 ea.	\$120.00
Half Page	\$25.00	\$20.00 ea.	\$17.50 ea.	\$16.25 ea.	\$150.00
Full Page	\$45.00	\$36.00 ea.	\$31.50 ea.	\$29.25 ea.	\$270.00

\*Line = (65 Characters per line including spaces)

## RIDE CALENDAR!!

6/16-6/17	SE MN, Preston, MN
6/23-6/24	Grand Island North, Limestone, MI
6/30-7/1	Dead Dog Creek, Kinmundy, IL
7/6-7/7	Endless Valley, Arena, WI
7/7-7/8	AHAM/Hopkins Creek, Manton, MI
7/14-7/15	Mosquito Run, Rogers, MN
7/21-7/22	AHDRA1 My Backyard, Farmington, IA
7/21-7/22	Pine Martin, Welmore, MI
7/28-7/29	Bonecrusher, Palmyra, WI
8/4-8/10	Shore to Shore, L Huron to L Michigan
8/11-8/12	Louise Reidel Memorial, Arkdale, WI
8/18-8/19	Rock River Charity, Utica, IL
8/18-8/19	Run for the Cactus, Granite Falls, MN
8/24-8/25	Northern Highland, Conover, WI
9/1-9/3	White River Fall Labor Day, Hesperia, MI
9/8-9/9	Charity Cup, Pillager, MN
9/8-9/9	Keweenaw, Marquette, MI
9/8-9/9	Lincoln Trail, Kinmundy, IL
9/15-9/16	Colorama Classic, New Prospect, WI
9/15-9/16	Tin Cup Springs, Luther, MI
9/21-9/22	Run for the Ridge, Fairfax, MI
9/22-9/23	Salomonie Stomp, Andrews, IN
9/29-9/30	Metro Park Express, Milford, MI
10/6-10/7	DRAWARAMA, Palmyra, WI
10/13-10/14	Iron Oak, Arkdale, WI
10/13-10/14	Oak Leaf Run, Hamilton, MI
10/19-10/20	Point Chaser, Theilman, MN
11/2-11/4	Brushy Creek

## Newsletter Editor – Volunteer Needed!

Each year two board appointed positions are renewed or new volunteers are appointed at the November Board of Directors meeting.

**Newsletter Editor(s)** will edit, author and publish at least 10 newsletters per year both electronic and by hard copy. It is important to have good computer skills for this position. Previous newsletter publishing experience is a plus. You do not have to be a writer, but formatting and editing skills are necessary and an aptitude for hitting deadlines is a valuable quality. Please send your letter nomination and qualifications to UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Birr at [bbirr@centurytel.net](mailto:bbirr@centurytel.net).

This is a non-voting position. The position is subject to the requirements of the traditional duties and standards of responsibility expected of these positions within UMECRA, subject to the authority of the UMECRA Board and as related needs arise within their areas of responsibility. In addition appointees will have to sign UMECRA Code of Conduct. Please contact a board member if you are interested.

## Ride Results!

### Correction to MnDRA1 Endurance on 5/5/18

MnDRA1 - 5/5/18 - End HW			
Barry	Saylor	Sweet Honey de	1
Max	Harn	Nano Tech	P
MnDRA1 - 5/5/18 - End LW			
Jodi	Johannessen	PR Bay Muscrana	1
Sarah	Maass	Royal Opus	2
Dana	Gasner	Remington	2
Sarah	Carlson	Miss Chievous Artemis	4

White River Spring - 5/5/18 - Comp HW			
Shannon	Weston	A Ali Imdal	1
Joshua	Mowrer	EAF Sweet Clementine	2
White River Spring - 5/5/18 - Comp LW			
Taylor	Walker	Backstreetstrutter GSA +/	1
Miranda Ann	Miller	Brittany Rolsthedice	2
Victoria	Klatt	Blue Time Avalanche	3
Lauren	Watson	Stormys lil Dancer	4
Jan	Wylie	Dose	C

White River Spring - 5/5/18 - End HW			
Kellie	Moore-Fryman	Praise The Lord	1
Sarah	Mowrer	A Time To Shine	2
William	Gage	DJ's Double O Seven (Seven)	3
Stephanie	Boomgaard	Cowboy	4
Earle	Baxter	WHR Blue Ridge (Blue)	5
Maribel	Paulson	Accomplishyourdreams (Dream)	6
Jim	Rawski	JC Darius	P
Leah	Palestrant	SAS Rodeo Drive	P
White River Spring - 5/5/18 - End LW			
Diane	Meinders	Yo Dusty	1
Linda	Hamrick	RTM First In Line	2
Helen	Lynn	Pipers Prime Time	3
Noelle	Smyder	KW Farih Magnum	4
White River Spring - 5/5/18 - LD Jr			
Fallon	Darga	Itaque Jester	1
Ava	McCarty	Dynamo Dash	2
Isabella	Moorhouse	Awana Lexicon	3
White River Spring - 5/5/18 - LD Sr			
Pam	Darga	Ecliptic Azraff	1
Emily	Fuller	Rosie	2
Cheryl	Fenton	Belesemo Odyssey	3
Roberta	Harms	Lady Jane	4
Diane	Maxey	LW Constant Sohn	5
Don	Fehrs	Player's Choice	6
Mary	Mast	Synnonym ()	C
Amy	Yatsko	Meritage MHF ()	C
Joy	Kinion	Aur Bint Shizam	C
Barb	Kurti	Kulta	C
Cassandra	Green	Tryllerika	C
Lisa	Moorhouse	WR Darkmoon Dancer	C
Angel	Chmurynski	Desperados Legacy	C
Tina	Williams	Sonny	C
Laura	Husser	CDWD Margarita	C
Alexis	Herrmann	LW Classic Diamond	P
Rebecca	Grams	Bears Northern Light	P
White River Spring - 5/6/18 - Comp HW			
Sandra	Wright	LW Raajas Chip	1
Ken	Wright	Samaha Gameela	P
White River Spring - 5/6/18 - Comp LW			
Victoria	Klatt	Blue Time Avalanche	1
Miranda Ann	Miller	Brittany Rolsthedice	2
Lisa	Germann	Over Brooks Image +/	3
White River Spring - 5/6/18 - End HW			
Earle	Baxter	I Am Amazing	1
Kellie	Moore-Fryman	Praise The Lord	2
Joann	Dible		P
White River Spring - 5/6/18 - End LW			
Diane	Meinders	Yo Dusty	1
White River Spring - 5/6/18 - LD Sr			
William	Gage	Mega Horse ()	1
Helen	Lynn	Shiraz-Spice (Spice)	2
Roberta	Harms	EV Count Valentino	3
Taylor	Walker	Backstreetstrutter GSA +/	4
Linda	Hamrick	Cash	5
Mary	Mast	Indigo Spirit	6
Maribel	Paulson	RGS Maliboo Rum (Maliboo)	C
Laura	Husser	CDWD Margarita	C
Diane	Maxey	LW Constant Sohn	P

Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - Comp HW			
Katja	Wiedrich	Noble Adventure	1
Becki	Sanford	Stryka Major Chord	2
Carmen	Steuck	Phoenix	3
Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - Comp LW			
Diane	Merz	Sterling Illusion	1
Toni	VonRuden	Neveah	2
Lynn	Reichert	W H Procrastinator	3
Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - LD Jr			
Adin	Esqueda	Spot	1
Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - LD Sr (Afternoon Ride)			
Crystal	Esqueda	Lopin in Diamonds	1
Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - LD Sr (Morning Ride)			
Darlene	Molitor	VC Sundae Edition	1
Janette	Sasena	Caduceus Oriana	2
Adrienne	Dymesich	Shady	3
Walter L.	Benhardus	Lacey	4
Jesse	Shaddrick	Jinjersnapp	5
Eileen	Kirsch	Hansi	6
Melonie	Driese	Justaemageof	C
Grace	Steffl	Pendragon Myth	C
Debra L	Juettner	Rena	C
Jane	Malischke	Hollywoods Brightest	C
Makyah	Seguin	IF Grey Mis	P
Dana	Gasner	Legacy of Khourage	P
Mark	Jakopak	SM Fire Dancer	P
Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - 50 mile End HW			
Sheryl	O'Brien	Wild River Sundancer	1
Rebecca	Horihan	LC Ermani	2
Max	Harn	Nano Tech	3
Jennifer	Fischer	Auli Sabah	4
Barry	Saylor	Ultra Psuede	P
Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - 50 mile End Jr			
Miley	Eischens	Chips Diamond Rehalla	1
Ruby	Thorp	Nightmare Blues	2
Sophie	Gustafson	Tryggr	P
Emma	Christopherson	Misty	P
Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - 50 mile End LW			
Jodi	Johannessen	PR Bay Muscrana	1
Jessie	Dux	Renegade Raja	2
Wendy	Maas	Silver Russian	3
Scott	Campbell	JG One And Only	4
Angie	Mikkelson	BAS Alada Bask	5
Candy	Barbo	SR August Breeze	6
Sarah	Carlson	Miss Chievous Artemis	C
Kristen	Seguin	Mmona Lisa	C
Sarah	Peltier	Ice Falcon LRA	C
Peggy	Pasillas	Remy	C
Sarah	Maass	Royal Opus	C
Teresa	Fett	CR Mistiraaz	C
Maria	Enge	AW Classika	P
Leigh Ann	Sytsma	Heza Bright Future	P
Linda	Jacobson	Majer Ridge Scarlet Debut	P
Roberta	Grieger-Nimmo	Meekos Rusty	P

<b>Border Battle Boogie - 5/19/18 - 75 mile End LW</b>			
Dante	LaPierre	MS Dennie MHF	1
Megan	Grashel	TA Line King	2
Rachel	Zander	Prisylla Musca	P
<b>Border Battle Boogie - 5/20/18 - Comp HW</b>			
Dale	Lunde	Mattingley Hour Glass	1
<b>Border Battle Boogie - 5/20/18 - Comp LW</b>			
Karla	Ovsak	Patches	1
Diane	Merz	Tamanni BLM	2
Victoria	Robison	FC Zhivago	3
Bev	Specht	JH Arabalest	P
<b>Border Battle Boogie - 5/20/18 - LD Jr</b>			
Jessie	Dux	Sterling Starstrider	1
Alex	Gencheff	Marvelous Maven	2
Roberta	Grieger-Nimmo	Thor	3
Linda	Jacobson	Chub Lake Jack Daniel	4
Scott	Campbell	Junk River Twister	5
Teresa	Harp	Jedwab	6
Mark	Jakopak		C
Summer	Jakopak	Delcies Acasia	C
Leigh Ann	Sytsma	Misty Afternoon	P

<b>Grand Island - 5/26/18 - Comp HW</b>			
Jeanne	Aslakson	Cinbob Go Chief	1
<b>Grand Island - 5/26/18 - Comp LW</b>			
Laura	Savatski	Murphy's Law	1
Debby	Weisbecker	Love Me A Latte	2
<b>Grand Island - 5/26/18 - End HW</b>			
Robin	Schadt	Kayheart	1
Bettina	Koehn	JBK Nadja	2
Jill	VanDamme	Massimiliano	3
<b>Grand Island - 5/26/18 - End Jr</b>			
Ava	McCarty	Dynamo Dash	1
Madelyn	VanDamme	Dreamer	2
<b>Grand Island - 5/26/18 - End LW</b>			
Linda	Hamrick	RTM First In Line	1
Julia	Newton	Lucca	2
Diane	Meinders	Yo Dusty	3
Angel	Chmurynski	Desperados Legacy	4
Tina	Williams	Sonny	5
Kelsey	Shope	Spiderintheweb	6
Kayla M.	Shope	Frost	C
Suzanne	Warren	PPF Geyms Sonsy	C
Candy	Barbo	Psyche On Fire	C
<b>Grand Island - 5/26/18 - LD Jr</b>			
Lorelai	Haase	Herbee The Love Bug	1
Hattie	Herrmann	WOA Ravens Premier +/	2

<b>Grand Island - 5/26/18 - LD Sr</b>			
Marlene	Nauta	October	1
Jon	Wagner	Mi Victory Dance	2
Wes	Elford	Suzie Q	3
Lynn	Haase	Fuzz	4
Molly	Bonjean	Basalada Chips	5
Maxine	Bernsdorf	CH Shamm Bashire	6
Trudi	Ruerink	Captain	
Roberta	Harms	JM Cest La Vie	
Luann	Huizinga	Lucky's Got Gait	
Linda	Jacobson	AE Gimli Strength	C
Deb	Searle	Charismatic	C
Nicole	Herrmann	Sazars Native Sun	C
Joslyn	Seefeldt	DSD Starstruck	C
Melinda	Stewart	McCues Miss Behavin	C
Laura	Husser	CDWD Margarita	C
<b>Grand Island - 5/27/18 - Comp HW</b>			
Carole	Rose	Sony De Mayo Rose	1
<b>Grand Island - 5/27/18 - Comp LW</b>			
Karen	Jarvi	Liberdee	1
<b>Grand Island - 5/27/18 - LD Jr</b>			
Lorelai	Haase	Silver	1
<b>Grand Island - 5/27/18 - LD Sr</b>			
Kelsey	Shope	Selket Murphy	1
Kayla	Shope	Lu-Nor Tornado	2
Roberta	Harms	Lady Jane	3
Linda	Hamrick	Cash	4
Diane	Meinders	Yo Dusty	5
Linda	Jacobson	Chub Lake Jack Daniel	6
Lizz	Epp	Moon Shadow	
Alexandra	Gregson	Rocket	
Deborah	Taylor-Lansky	Regal	C
Lynn	Haase	Hamlet	C
Julia	Newton	Frango	C
Jeanne	Aslakson	Quincey QT	C
Laura	Husser	CDWD Margarita	C
Grace	Michaud	Morning	C

<b>AHDRA Endure - 6/2/18 - Comp HW</b>			
Kaylie	Hulsey	Lilly	1
Dan	Pakes	Ko-ko	2
Amy	Corneilson	Velvets Hard Rock	3
Jim	Andriakos	WBNelsons Thunderbyrd	P
<b>AHDRA Endure - 6/2/18 - Comp LW</b>			
Ruth	Casserly	Amir Sam PMR	1
Sally	Hoff	Gloryius Trinity	2
<b>AHDRA Endure - 6/2/18 - Drive</b>			
Alice	Hubert	K-Macaroni	1
Ray	Hubert	Lone Oak	2
Josh	Mowrer	KW Magnum Archie	3
Aaron	Mowrer	Arazi	4

AHDRA Endure - 6/2/18 - End HW			
Sherry	Aune	Lily Creek Rhythm	1
Sarah	Mowrer	A Time To Shine	2
Guy	Worthington	JG Randie	3
Paula	Kaigh	GR Al Sharif Najem	4
Nick	Metz	Sammy	P
AHDRA Endure - 6/2/18 - End LW			
Jan	Worthington	Dimitri	1
Lori	Windows	Ella N Fires Jane Doe	2
Belinda	Cook	BF Four by Four	3
Cindy	Stites	G.W. Shatazz	P
AHDRA Endure - 6/2/18 - LD Sr			
Lucy	Stafford	H WineGlass Sangria	1
Roberta	Harms	Lady Jane	2
Andrea	St Clair	Dally	3
Kim	Lindquist	Sensations Candi Money D	4
Frank	Langhof	BZ Sierra Sunrise	5
Dee	Selliers	CR Tequila Rose	6
Julia	Binder	Kamar Nahhab HLA ()	C
Elizabeth	Frieders	Hotsprings Fandango	C
Laura	Marshall	JG Rusty	C
Jen	Allen	WMA Shadrach	C
Dawn	Foster	Walter Von Der Vogelweide	C
Laura	Husser	CDWD Margarita	C
Michaela	Costello	Tioga Peak	P
AHDRA Endure - 6/2/18 - Novice			
Jennifer	Howell	Autumn Maverick	1
Linda	Pakes	Spicy	2
Hayley	Kelson	Kayheart	3
Laurie	Treber	H WineGlass Szolo	4
Nicole	Mauser-Storer	HS Wineglass Pik George	MO
Martha	Power	SA Te Jat	MO
AHDRA Endure - 6/3/18 - Novice			
Angela	Stahl	Calypto	MO
Nicole	Mauser-Storer	HS Wineglass Pik George	MO
Amy	Betzelberger	Starr Quest	MO

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### Safety & Etiquette for Endurance & LD Riders

Why safety and etiquette? Too often, as this sport is growing so fast, new riders and even seasoned riders embarrass themselves by not dressing their horses properly or by doing something that makes other riders furious. Often this is simply because they don't understand the unwritten rules and norms of the game we play. Recently, accidents have occurred which could easily have been prevented with some education.

This article is written with the hope that both seasoned riders and novices will end up with a common understanding of both the unwritten rules and the safety issues that will help them enjoy this incredible sport even more than they already do.

There are currently several good books specific to endurance riding but few of them, if any, address the

AHDRA Endure - 6/3/18 - Comp HW			
Joshua	Mowrer	EAF Sweet Clementine	1
Kaylie	Hulsey	Lilly	2
Sarah	Mowrer	KW Magnum Archie	3
Amy	Corneilson	Velvets Hard Rock	4
Kim	Rumpsa	R Secret Sun Dancer	5
AHDRA Endure - 6/3/18 - Comp LW			
Martha	Power	SA Te Jat	1
Ruth	Casserly	Amir Sam PMR	2
Lori	Windows	JA Bannarr	3
AHDRA Endure - 6/3/18 - Drive			
Aaron	Mowrer	Arazi	1
Alice	Hubert	K-Macaroni	2
AHDRA Endure - 6/3/18 - LD Jr			
Summer	Stahl	Zip Like An Egyptian	P
AHDRA Endure - 6/3/18 - LD Sr			
Trudy	Horsman	HM Belle Starr	1
Sherry	Aune	Cabernet Sauvignon	2
Vera	Betzelberger	Lexus	3
Elizabeth	Frieders	Hotsprings Fandango	4
Laura	Husser	CDWD Margarita	5
Roberta	Harms	JM Cest La Vie	6
Kimberly	Rosecrans	Magic	C

unwritten rules and safety issues of one of the fastest growing equine sports in the world. More often than not it is becoming evident that these things need to be documented. These are rules that, if broken, can make you very unpopular with both other riders as well as ride management.

I try, when I go to a ride, to never become a problem for other riders or for ride management. Remember that you will be seeing the same riders at most of the rides you attend in your region, and "what goes around comes around" was never more true than it is in this sport. I understand that some things are unavoidable and stuff happens, but if you plan ahead and do your homework many of these things might be avoidable.

### Etiquette at the ride

There are many things having to do with the ride that can make you unpopular with ride management. I come from a large region where one needs to pre-enter most rides. I understand that this is not always the case. If you have to cancel, let ride management know ahead of time. If you need to make changes in horses or riders, do it ahead of time. This will facilitate the check-in procedure.

When you arrive at base camp, be respectful of space. Don't fence off a huge area when space is limited. If you are saving space for other riders, don't take more than you need.



Practice the vet check and the trot out. Watch your horse while in line waiting for the vet check. This is a good time to get you and your horse kicked. Don't visit, or if you do, don't forget about your horse. If ride management asks you to clean up, be prepared with tools to do it. The use of hay bags not only makes your job easier but also makes for less waste.

Be respectful of people camped next to you after dark. If you use a generator, please turn it off by dark. If you intend to start the ride late, let the number takers know. If you pull from the ride, be sure to let ride management know, especially if you do it someplace other than a vet check. They could spend hours looking for you!

At the ride meeting, don't visit with your friends. Listen to the ride manager. You may have done the ride before, but many have not and need to be able to hear. As a ride manager, I generally write up a description of the trail, and at the ride meeting, I try to point out the dangerous parts of the trail and let riders know about any last-minute changes. I am as guilty as others, as I want to visit with friends I have not perhaps seen for a long time. Try to be respectful of others and helpful to new riders.

### **Riding the ride**

The start of the ride can be the most challenging and dangerous part of the ride. Horses are excited, it is cool, and riders may be nervous. Horses that are very quiet going out for their training rides at home can be quite excited as the riders gather to call out their numbers at the beginning of a ride. While you wait to start, keep your horse away from others. This is also a good time to get you and your horse kicked.

Do not tailgate; the horse behind can easily pull off the shoe of the horse in front. It also makes you very unpopular with the rider in front.

If you intend to ride through at a moderate pace, stay toward the back. With green horses it is good to wait until the dust has settled and then start them out slowly. Sometimes my horses do many miles before they even realize this is a competitive sport. It is much easier to speed up later. This way their brains will not get "speed burned."

If you are starting late, however, remember that the LD riders may be coming up behind you, and you want your horse to be settled before they reach you. If you start a green horse in front, you can do lots of damage to the horse's psyche. I try to put about 250-300 miles on a green horse before letting them find out about the speed issue.

If you find yourself behind a horse that is traveling slower than you are, politely ask for the trail. Do not tailgate while you are waiting to get by. Generally, I ask approaching riders if they would like to pass. They may say "no" or may ask to pass on the right or left. Be specific so the rider in front knows which way to go. If it is a single track trail, you may ask the rider in front for the trail at the first opportunity. They should pull over and let you pass. If your horse kicks, please warn passing riders so that they can give you a wide berth.



### **Narrow trails and cliffs**

The important thing on narrow trails with cliffs on one side is to keep moving forward. Stopping causes traffic to back up and can cause horses to fall or jump off the path. If an accident occurs, do not stop to help until you can get to safety, tie your horse and then return to the injured party. If you see a rider stopped on the trail in front of you, slow down and ask them if all is OK before you continue. If off their horse, they may need you to wait while they mount. Ask them, as many horses will not stand quietly, particularly at the start of a ride.

Pull off the trail if you need to make a tack adjustment. The best would be to check all tack and equipment before the ride starts so you will not have to stop at the start of the ride.

### **Getting through gates**

Some rides take place on ranches and private property that require gates be opened and closed by the riders. Remember, the rule of the West is to "leave a gate as you find it." If a rider dismounts to open a gate, other riders ride through the gate and wait for the gate person to remount before riding on. Mixing up herds of cattle can cause the land owners grief and riders to lose the use of some beautiful trails. Some rides are fortunate enough to have marshals on the trail to open gates for you and possibly to take numbers. Be sure to call your number loud and clear and to thank them for being there. This is true also if the ride is fortunate enough to have ham radio support.

### **Water stops and crossings**

Ride management will either provide water in the form of tubs or troughs or there will be natural water in the form of lakes, creeks, rivers, ponds or sometimes just puddles created by rain water. Each of these sources has its own rules of etiquette. If troughs are provided, you are not to sponge out of them. Often sponges and buckets will be provided for sponging. Sometimes you may use your scoop to pour water on your horse, but this depends on how precious water is. On our desert rides, this is generally not allowed. It is usually one of the issues discussed at the ride meeting so it is important to be there.

Often a rider is concerned that his horse has not been drinking. If you approach a trough where a horse is drinking, try to let him finish before you let your horse in. Chances are if you let your horse drink before the other is through, he will quit and it may be the first drink that horse has had all day. Be careful that your bit hangers or shanks do not get caught on the sides of the troughs. If your horse is using the container as a rubbing post and not drinking, move out of the way so that others may drink, and then return when they are through.

Natural water can present several hazards in the form of bogs, pipes sticking out, slippery rocks and so forth. Always be alert and cautious when approaching a creek, stream or river. Do not let your horse stand at the edge and drink as there could be people lining up behind you. Try to encourage your steed to move forward or downstream to allow others into the water. Again, if you come up on a horse that is already drinking, let him finish.

Ponds can be boggy and there are times when you must weigh the benefit of taking a chance with a bog or passing it by and waiting for the next water. These again are things that will be pointed out at the ride meeting or illustrated on the map so that you will know where the next water is located.

Be certain to practice crossing water before you go to a ride with water. If that doesn't happen, get to the ride early so that you can practice before the ride starts. Don't count on your horse to follow another horse through. Often they tend to want to jump the water obstacles which can be dangerous to you, your horse and others. You are probably better off on the horse than off. It is definitely worth traveling to where you can practice prior to the ride. Don't just expect it to happen.

### **At the vet check**

Vet checks can be the cause of much discontent. Remember most of those helping are volunteers and doing their best. At my rides, a rider can be disqualified for being abusive to the help. In most cases, ride managers try to use experienced help, especially for the pulse checks. If you cannot ride a ride for some reason, volunteer to help. Endurance riders are by far the best help as they understand what is going on and can generally take a pulse a little faster. I often have to depend on crews or riders who are not riding to help with my rides.



Experienced help can really make a difference to the riders and to the flow of a ride. At the same time helping with a ride is a great place for new riders to see what it is all about.

Be patient! At vet checks, be polite and thank the volunteers for their help.

### **Safety issues**

It has become apparent to me that just the way one handles the horse prior to the ride, during the ride during the time at base camp, and on the trail, can prevent many unnecessary accidents. I realized, while teaching an equine science class, that horsemen do many things while working with and around horses to save their lives each day. In the course of riding some 20,000 career miles, I've been the observer of and sometimes the participant in unnecessary accidents. Most of these comments are based on actual incidents.

### **Tying the horse**

Improperly tying the horse is probably responsible for more injuries than any other one thing. Even if they

are properly tied, they can still get into trouble. If horses are not eating, tie them short. Or better yet, arrange for them to eat while tied short. While saddling or grooming either tie them short or not at all. If they need to eat and drink from the ground, tie them just long enough to barely reach the ground. Be sure there is nothing on which they could get the rope caught as horses will happily discover some way to injure themselves.

I generally try to tie hay bags and buckets high and when saddling and bridling, I untie the horse and place the rope over my arm or have someone hold the horse. This is especially true where green horses are concerned. I realize that many horse trainers may not agree; however, it may prevent a pull back, broken halter or snap while at ride camp.

### **Getting saddled**

Several accidents occurred last year because saddles slipped. Personally, I use a breast collar and crupper at all times, whether riding in the hills or the flats. I leave both on my saddle so they are always there. When tightening the girth, do it slowly and gently. Leave it loose at first, but secure enough that the saddle will not fall if the horse takes off or spooks. While you are doing other things to get ready, gradually tighten the girth and before mounting, tighten it again.

It's a good idea to have someone hold the horse while you mount, as horses can be excitable at the start of a ride. When mounted, bend the horse in each direction, making sure that they are responsive to your aids and do not let them take off until you are ready. Once you have started, frequently check your

girth. A good rule of thumb is not to do anything at a ride that you have not tried at home first. This can apply to both your horse's clothing and your own. Anything new can cause irritation, both to your horse and to yourself.

### **Summary**

I feel that I have barely touched the surface here and am sure that as time goes on more issues will rear their ugly heads. If you have other ideas that could be added to this, I would love to hear from you (e-mail me at [FireMtArabians@aol.com](mailto:FireMtArabians@aol.com)). My intention is not to discourage you if you are just starting out, but to make your experience a good one.

This is truly a wonderful sport and a great group of people. Most endurance riders enjoy helping new people and showing them the ropes, so to speak. Do not ever hesitate to ask your neighbor in the next rig for help. The primary reason I have stayed in this sport for so long is the people it tends to attract. It is the proper management of these issues and your horse's issues that will ensure that you enjoy your ride.

To finish is to win definitely means more than just finishing the ride. You win in many ways: meeting wonderful new riders, seeing beautiful trails, bonding with your equine and feeling the success that finishing the ride with your horse in great shape can bring you. Happy trails!

—Jackie Bumgardner

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