

April 2021

# UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



Letter from the President:

## Spring UMECRA Board meeting

March 20, 2021

Present: Jon Wagner, President; Linda Mowrer, Vice President; Deb Moe, Treasurer; Janet Sarver, Secretary; Theresa Meyer, Past President; Jennifer Lorenz DVM, Veterinary Representative. Regional Directors: Nicole Mauer Storer, IL.; Sandra Wright, MI.; Laurie Henschel, WI.; Sarah Maass, MN. At-Large Directors: Peggy Pasillas and Barb Gardner. Rider Representatives: Lynda Zimmerman, Jen Moore, Max Bernsdorf and Kim Fosler. Guests: Jan Sasena, (UMECRA Awards Comm. Chair) was also in attendance.

8:45am Meeting called to order

Welcome to Linda Mower, our new Vice President.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 1/23/21 Annual Mtg. were approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting minutes from the morning Board of Directors (BoD) mtg. of 1/23/21 were approved via the boards group.io account and have been posted to the UMECRA website.

The 1/30/21 BoD mtg. minutes were also reviewed and approved on a motion by Linda M. and second by Lynda Z.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Deb Moe presented a financial report/overview of the UMECRA Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Summaries (please see attached statements/reports). Deb also mentioned that 51% of membership renewals have been made through the new online system launched in January. She then asked about expanding online payments for additional fees related to the 1000 and 100 mi. awards. Peggy made a motion to expand online payments to include the 1000 and 100-mile related fees, seconded by Sandra. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Jon asked about the transfer of \$1000 from the ICF account to the Awards account that was approved at the Annual Mtg. Deb explained that that transfer hadn't been made yet and that she would take care of it. Jon made a motion to approve the Treasurers report as amended, seconded by Sandra. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**2021 Insurance** Deb presented the 2021 insurance agenda item.

There are 27 different events that cover 57 days that the insurance quote covers. The "additional insured" costs and the ability to share those costs was explained/discussed. Rides and RM's who share similar additional insureds, i.e.: DNR's and/or trail venues, can now share the cost instead of each RM listing the additional insured and being charged a separate \$20 fee. RM's who share additional insured coverage will not be able to cancel the coverage if their ride should be canceled because it would impact the other rides. Canceled rides will still be responsible for their share of the additional insured cost.

The insurance company charges \$45 per day for insurance. Deb explained that this isn't a true reflection of the actual total cost of insurance to UMECRA because the base rate that the company charges can

change from year to year and suggested the board look at possibly increasing the daily rate to better cover the actual costs. Jon will prepare insurance information and share it with RM's via the newsletter and for future discussion at the annual meeting.

Deb made a motion that the insurance daily rates remain at \$45 for the 2021 ride season, second by Peggy, the motion was approved. NOTE: UMECRA will continue to pay half of the \$45 daily rate (\$22.50).

#### **Secretary's Report** - Janet Sarver

Trail Grant Request of \$300 from Tony Troyer for Rock River Trails Horseman's Assoc. Theresa made a motion to approve. Kim seconded. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Trail Grant Request of \$300 from Peggy Pasillas for Crow Hassan Park. After board discussion regarding the request, Peggy suggested she would gather more information and re-submit the proposal another time.

#### **Sanctioning Coordinators Report** – Theresa Meyer

Theresa stated that 2021 ride packets were not given out to ride managers due to there not being a convention. Mailing will be at least \$8.10 to send these out to each ride manager. She will coordinate the distribution either in person or by mail.

Schedule update. Maplewood West is the only one that is in question due to the State of MN Covid reopening plan and how many rigs that will be allowed per campsite. The ride manager hopes to hear from the park soon.

#### **Points Keeper Report** – Nicole Mauser-Storer

Nicole stated that she has completed the lifetime ride mileage project and that Robin is all set for the season as well.

Deb requested that when results are displayed that miles are shown, not just the points. Nicole stated she can work on adding this.

10:15 request for 10-minute break

#### **Committee Reports** – Jan Sasena

Awards – Jan reported that there are some awards that still need to be mailed or arranged to be picked up. She will work with Peggy to post a reminder in the newsletter and on the ride manager Facebook page. Jan requested to change the vendor for plaques to one that takes credit cards.

A request was made by Deb that Jan have her own purchasing card on the UMECRA account. This will help Jan oversee the purchasing of all awards and be able to submit receipts and for Deb to manage the accounting. Peggy made a motion to approve a change in vendors and a credit card for Jan's use for purchasing awards. Motion was seconded by Lynda Z. The motion was approved.

Convention 2022 -January 22-23, 2022 Convention will be hosted by Minnesota at the La Crescent Event Center in La Crosse, WI. Sarah stated that Hammer Products will be presenting and have a booth.

#### **Bylaws** -

Theresa stated that the Rules/Bylaw committee hasn't met yet. Jon indicated that the committee has lost a number of former members and asked for anyone interested in being on the committee to let Theresa know. Lynda Zimmerman and Linda Mowrer volunteered. Deb stated that she would like the bylaws to be clearer for eligibility language for positions. Jon recommended that the Appendix B is a good resource for definition of Bylaw terms.

#### **Rules** (scoring metabolic parameters in Competitive rides)

Theresa reviewed a document of score sheets from other organizations to see how they scored metabolics. Board members discussed the range of scores and criteria involved in this process. Theresa stated that this topic was a request from Sarah Mowrer at the convention. Linda M. said that comp riders are sent out without any checks of gut sounds at the halfway hold point, which is different than LD. Discussion. Jon stated that Dr. Lorenz and Theresa will collaborate and other board members can give them their input on this process.

11:37 Dr. Lorenz left

#### **Old Business**

### Membership Directory

Theresa and Kim will request a quote for printing the member directory. Jon stated that the last time this cost \$600. Discussion of sending this by mail versus electronic copies. Deb stated that she could put an option on the membership form. Sandra stated that she would suggest that hard copies be sent out to the RMs and members should request. Nicole volunteered to update the list. Jon suggested getting quotes for 100-150 directories. Jon stated that he would like to see that members get the option for this directory. Board agreed on this process.

11:46 Janet Sarver left

### New Member Welcome

Deb sends new members a sales receipt when they join UMECRA. She asked for someone to create a welcome letter that includes some information, links to internet resources. Nicole stated that she could help with this. Deb stated that there are 16 new members so far this year. Peggy said that at her novice clinic she expects 30-50 people and this may increase the numbers. Laurie suggested a decal could be mailed out. Deb stated that she would email Nicole, Peggy and Laurie to coordinate this. Jon asked that Deb keep him up to date on the new members list.

### Mentor List

Kim reviewed the mentor list and suggested that it could use an update. Jon will mention in the newsletter the need for new mentors. Nicole will help with this task.

### Veterinarian Representative

Dr. Lorenz is currently serving in an advisory role on the board. Jon stated that this is a voting position but Dr. Lorenz had stated that she is comfortable continuing as an advisory member.

### Entry Form (review, feedback)

Jon stated that the entry form has been revised. Nicole said that it is up and posted on the website.

### New Ride Definition

Deb as the treasurer, charges a \$10 fee to a new ride to account for the paperwork that needs to be done. Deb stated that she did not charge Bearfoot Boogie \$10 despite the name, venue and manager being new and asked for clarification. Jon stated that there isn't any distinct definition of a new ride but that the bylaws and sanctioning rules/guidelines are embedded with references to such. Bearfoot Boogie was presented to the board as a private ride that changed hands. Jen stated that there does not seem to be many guidelines about how a new ride is started. Theresa stated that the sanctioning schedule is organized between the five states and there is a balance that needs to be maintained. Sandra stated that barriers to entry for new rides should be considered. Deb made a motion that there could be a \$10 administrative fee when a ride changes names. Jen seconded. Jon disagreed with a fee for a ride name change. Theresa called for a roll call vote on the motion of an administrative fee for a ride name change. Deb stated she would like to rescind the motion and Laurie seconded it. There were no objections so the motion was rescinded.

12:47 pm Break

### Social Media Project

Jen reviewed her social media proposal. She would like to discuss who would be setting up and accessing the social media accounts. Jon asked if Jen could coordinate this and she agreed. Jen stated that there would need to be an administrator for posting as UMECRA, which should increase viewership on Facebook. Jon asked what is needed from the Board. Jen will ask Linda Rudolphi, the current UMECRA Facebook administrator, to allow her to share the duties then will report to the board on the IO account when she has set up a process.

### Out of Region Rides

Lynda Zimmerman asked that this be tabled for now due to the length of the meeting. She will put it on the group IO account for discussion and put it on the agenda for the November meeting.

### New Business

Deb presented the topic of communications software. The volume of emails on the IO account can be difficult to follow. She would like to research a program that will allow for more organization of information. Theresa asked for a searchable archive to be included. Deb asked the board for permission to explore software. Jon gave approval for Deb to explore new software and report back to the board her findings.

Announcements-Deb asked for ride managers to complete the form for the Covid plan. Kim asked that trail grants be submitted to the current secretary. Jon asked for a motion to adjourn. Peggy made the motion, seconded by Sarah, approved unanimously. **Mtg. adjourned at 3:40 (?)**

## Treasurer's Report *Prepared by Deb Moe 03/20/2021*

### Financial Overview:

Cash Balance: \$33,891.61

Income: \$6,530.00

Expenses: \$4,519.27

### Membership Report:

- 93 Online Renewals (51%)

Type	Income	Returning	New
Family	1,015.00	35	3
Junior	60.00	5	3
Single	2875.00	126	10
Total	3950.00	166	16

### Miscellaneous Profit/Loss

5020 · Newsletter Income	190.00
6600 · Newsletter Expense	53.42
<b>Net Newsletter Profit/Loss</b>	<b>136.58</b>
5030 · Ride Book Income	430.00
6300 · Ride Book Expense	415.13
<b>Net Ride Book Profit/Loss</b>	<b>14.87</b>
5400 · Ride Sanctioning Income	920.00
6400 · Ride Forms Expenses	717.62
6500 · RM Vet Handbook	207.00
<b>Net Sanctioning Profit/Loss</b>	<b>-4.62</b>

## Outstanding Debts:

One award recipient has not yet paid the \$35 award share. This person's award will not be delivered until the invoice is paid. All rides sanctioning for 2021 have paid their sanctioning fees and other fees. No other outstanding balances due at this time.

## Corrections to 2020 Year End Financial Statements

Upon further review, a few entries were not made to properly recognize revenue and expenses in the 2020 fiscal year. Those entries have been recorded and new financial statements are attached. The net effect of these adjustments decreases 2020 net income by \$535.84. \$582.20 of this change was due to the convention speaker travel expenses paid in 2019 but recognized in 2020. The other changes are minor corrections found while reconciling memberships, ride books, and newsletter prepaid accounts.

<b>UMECRA</b>	
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	
<b>As of March 20, 2021</b>	
	Mar 20, 21
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 - Checking - Operations (AB)	17,866.82
1001 - Savings - Awards (AB)	1,234.38
1002 - Savings - Convention (AB)	4,876.31
1003 - Savings - International (AB)	6,812.97
1004 - Savings - Trails (AB)	3,101.13
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>33,891.61</b>
Accounts Receivable	
1100 - Accounts Receivable	-12.50
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>-12.50</b>
Other Current Assets	
1200 - Undeposited Funds	78.18
1900 - Prepaid Expenses	
1901 - Convention Deposits	1,000.00
<b>Total 1900 - Prepaid Expenses</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>1,078.18</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>34,957.29</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>34,957.29</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets	2,610.49
4000 - Opening Balance Equity	30,336.07
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,010.73</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>34,957.29</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>34,957.29</b>

<b>UMECRA</b>	
<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>	
<b>January through December 2021</b>	
	Jan - Dec 21
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
Income	
Miscellaneous Income	10.00
5000 - Membership Dues Income	4,810.00
5020 - Newsletter Income	190.00
5030 - Ride Book Income	430.00
5400 - Ride Sanctioning Income	920.00
5500 - 1000 Mile Horse Income	170.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,530.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>6,530.00</b>
Expense	
6150 - 1000 Mile Horse Award Expen...	180.00
6200 - Insurance Expense	2,587.00
6300 - Ride Book Expense	415.13
6400 - Ride Forms Expenses	717.62
6500 - RM Vet Handbook	207.00
6600 - Newsletter Expense	53.42
6800 - UMECRA Membership to Othe...	100.00
6850 - Advertising Expense	300.00
6900 - Operation Expenses	
6901 - Bank Fees	10.00
6910 - Merchant Fees	2.52
<b>Total 6900 - Operation Expenses</b>	<b>12.52</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>4,572.69</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>1,957.31</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1,957.31</b>

**UMECRA  
Profit & Loss**

January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
5000 - Membership Dues Income	6,195.00
5020 - Newsletter Income	190.00
5030 - Ride Book Income	490.00
5100 - Convention Income	5,565.72
5200 - Insurance Reimbursements	1,349.98
5300 - Ride Fee Income	2,406.50
5400 - Ride Sanctioning Income	1,280.00
5500 - 1000 Mile Horse Income	290.00
5700 - Donations	4,269.00
5750 - Award Fund Income	985.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>23,021.20</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>23,021.20</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
6000 - Convention Expenses	8,351.87
6100 - Year End Award Expense	2,921.61
6150 - 1000 Mile Horse Award Expe...	468.50
6180 - First Ride Shirts Expense	153.90
6200 - Insurance Expense	3,977.00
6300 - Ride Book Expense	472.24
6400 - Ride Forms Expenses	274.30
6500 - RM Vet Handbook	271.10
6600 - Newsletter Expense	427.29
6700 - Scholarship Fund Distributio...	415.25
6750 - Trail Grant Distributions	1,300.00
6800 - UMECRA Membership to Oth...	200.00
<b>6900 - Operation Expenses</b>	
6901 - Bank Fees	190.75
6902 - Board Meeting Meals	97.63
6905 - Website Expenses	157.26
6906 - Technology	487.16
6908 - Miscellaneous Expenses	18.00
6909 - Printing Expenses	240.99
6910 - Merchant Fees	-8.99
6900 - Operation Expenses - Other	3.34
<b>Total 6900 - Operation Expenses</b>	<b>1,186.14</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>20,419.20</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>2,602.00</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
7001 - Interest Income	8.42
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>8.42</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>8.42</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,610.42</b>

**UMECRA  
Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2020**

	Dec 31, 20
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1000 - Checking - Operations (AB)	18,041.61
1001 - Savings - Awards (AB)	1,234.38
1002 - Savings - Convention (AB)	4,876.31
1003 - Savings - International (AB)	6,812.97
1004 - Savings - Trails (AB)	3,101.06
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>34,066.33</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1100 - Accounts Receivable	293.20
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>293.20</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1200 - Undeposited Funds	35.00
<b>1900 - Prepaid Expenses</b>	
1901 - Convention Deposits	1,000.00
<b>Total 1900 - Prepaid Expenses</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>1,035.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>35,394.53</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>35,394.53</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Credit Cards</b>	
2020 - Associated Bank Credit C...	1,038.04
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>1,038.04</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>3000 - Prepaid Liabilities</b>	
3001 - Prepaid Membership Du...	860.00
3002 - Prepaid Ride Books	110.00
3003 - Prepaid Newsletter Inco...	80.00
3004 - Prepaid Sanctioning Fees	360.00
<b>Total 3000 - Prepaid Liabilities</b>	<b>1,410.00</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,410.00</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,448.04</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,448.04</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
4000 - Opening Balance Equity	30,336.07
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,610.42</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>32,946.49</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>35,394.53</b>

**UMECRA Ride Forms Update**

Since there was no in-person convention in January there was no easy way to distribute ride paperwork to managers. Here's the rundown to the state-by-state breakdown of how things are being divided up and delivered:

most Wisconsin forms were sent to Jon Wagner for distribution at future rides. A couple of rides got their forms direct mailed. Illinois/Iowa folks - most forms went to Nicole Mauser-Storer for distribution at Endure ride. Michigan folks should have their forms in hand as they were sent out the first week of April. Minnesota folks - I have your forms and will distribute them at MnDRAI. If you need an extra Ride Manager/Vet handbook for a new vet or some other reason - I have a few extra. Let me know and I can mail the updated UMECRA RM/Vet handbook out.

-Theresa Meyer

[thmeyer753@gmail.com](mailto:thmeyer753@gmail.com)

UMECRA Sanctioning Coordinator

## 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 * \$.60 extra per line	\$6.00				
Business Cards	\$8.50	\$6.80 ea.	\$5.95 ea.	\$5.50 ea.	\$51.00
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)					

Know someone looking to learn more about the sport? There is a beginner clinic scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> in Minnesota!

For more information, contact Peggy Pasillas at [peggy@pasillas.net](mailto:peggy@pasillas.net) or check out the MN Distance Clinic Facebook page or the 2021 Distance Clinic event page!

Address for the clinic is:  
9928 Rich Valley Blvd  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Starts at 9am.

## Slow Feeder Safety

If you're using a slow feeder, it's probably because you want the best for your horse. You know horses in the wild graze and browse up to 16 hours a day, and you want to offer a way for your horse to have a similar feeding regimen in his domestic environment. Good for you! And all the better for your horse. Occasionally, though, slow feeders create health or welfare issues of their own. It's important to keep the risks in mind (and mitigate them) as you choose, monitor, and maintain your slow feeding equipment.

### There are 5 safety risks to consider when slow feeding:

#### Risk 1: Teeth and Gum Damage

If you use a hay feeder that has a metal grate, be sure to have your vet monitor your horse's teeth. Pull hay out of this type of feeder can cause a lot of damage to the enamel of the teeth – mainly on the upper incisors.

Minor enamel wear repairs itself over several years because horse teeth grow down from the gum constantly throughout their lives, or at least until they're in their early to mid-20s. But if the damage from the metal grates reaches the pulp horn, and you and your veterinarian don't take steps to correct it within about an hour, the tooth dies. Unfortunately, most owners don't realize anything's wrong until six to eight months later during a routine dental exam, and by then the whole tooth, even the root, is rotted, and it has to be extracted.

Slow feeder haynet cords can cause issues as well, if they hook on loose, isolated, or decaying teeth. That's particularly true in younger horses with loose baby teeth and in older horses with age-related dental disease.

Experts recommend only using cord-based haynets with horses ages 5 (when the incisors have come in) to 20 and to have your vet check their teeth beforehand. The safest and least damaging to the teeth are the nets that have 1- to 2-inch openings made from 1-inch-wide nylon straps. Horse teeth also do well with plastic tub-form feeders that have a dropping tray with holes through which the horse eats. As for metal grates, it's best to avoid them altogether, he says.

## **Risk 2: Trapped Shoes or Feet**

Most slow feeders take hoof size into consideration according to the manufacturers, so there's little chance a horse gets a foot caught in a hole. But owners should exercise common sense with other feeder parts, including not letting a haynet's tie cord drag the ground where it could loop around a body part. Also, if you suspend your feeders, don't hang them so low that a horse could trap a leg or even his head in them.

More frequently, the problem is related to shoes, horses have been known to paw at the net and get a shoe caught, and rip it off when then pull to get loose. Although it doesn't usually lead to significant injuries, it's something to be careful about.

In general, horseshoes and haynets don't go together—or only if the nets are securely tied up high. Plastic systems with holes, which are available as tubs, cylinders, wall feeders, and more, are safer for shod horses.

## **Risk 3: Frustration and Anxiety**

An often-overlooked risk with slow feeders is the frustration they can cause. Slow feeders should reduce the speed of horses' intake, but not to the point it affects their mental health. Frustration creates negative emotions and threatens welfare.

During a study which compared two slow feeders—a hanging hay bag and a plastic feeder—frustration behavior toward the bag was observed, with some horses biting, pulling, and pushing it. Horses also periodically showed behaviors such as cribbing. The plastic feeder, a triangular trough containing a descending plastic plate with holes in it, led to no signs of frustration. On the contrary, horses appeared relaxed and calm, and they were friendlier toward people than some were when fed with the hay bag. In some cases, frustrated horses might give up and stop eating altogether. Frustration is often due to openings that are too small, especially for the length of hay cuts. If the ends aren't emerging, the horse can't grab them. Horses like to pull first and then chew, instead of having to take little chopping bites. Suspended nets and bags that swing around can also cause frustration because horses cannot get sufficient leverage to retrieve pieces of hay, hang these against a fence or wall when possible.

Horses need to eat pretty much all the time. If the feeding system doesn't let them keep their stomachs comfortable, they'll never get used to it because of excessive gastric acid secretions without sufficient roughage. If the feeder doesn't allow them continuous hay, it's not good enough.

## **Risk 4: Orthopedic Issues**

Not all slow feeders encourage horses to eat with their heads down, like they do at pasture. Anything that puts the horse's neck in a different position than what it should be in risks consequences for the vertebral column. The concern is that if they're spending large amounts of time in inappropriate head and neck positions while eating, this could lead to major back and neck problems. Equine orthopedic consultants were less concerned as horses rarely stay in one position long enough to really hurt them. They noted that in nature horses are constantly moving and shifting their weight while grazing. More research is needed to determine how a head-down position without movement—which can come from a feeder as well as a pile of hay on the ground—could affect musculoskeletal health, she says.

## **Risk 5: Injuries from Damaged or Inappropriate Material**

Most professional slow feeder manufacturers have gained knowledge from experience and develop products using materials intended for horses. However, it's worth considering basic material quality, especially when trying to cut costs or build feeders at home.

Materials, regardless of quality, can also wear down with age or break if they get kicked or stepped on. Some kinds of plastic are more brittle than others, and when they break can leave sharp edges or points that can injure your horses.



Nets and straps can wear or break over time—and parts might even end up in the digestive tract. Short, frayed bits raise little concern, but a 4-inch-square piece of netting could be a problem. For safety's sake, owners should check on feeders like they would any other horse equipment.

## Conclusion

Slow feeders can improve horses' health and welfare by slowing their eating. But not all designs work with all horses, and some materials carry safety risks. To ensure your horses get the most out of their slow feeders with as little risk as possible, keep an eye on their behavior and dental health, keep dangling parts out of reach of feet and shoes, and make sure they change positions regularly while eating.



People say it's just a horse. That horse is a best friend, a teacher, and one of the best things that ever happened to me!  
That horse is my life, my love, and my soulmate.  
No matter what, it's not "just a horse".  
My horse is part of me and made me who I am today!

## Ride season is upon us!! Are you ready to go?

Checklist ready?

Conditioning started, trailer de-winterized, got your camp reservations in?

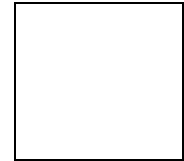
What else needs to be done? Coggins, shoes and feed ready to go? So many things to think about, but that's half the fun! Time to see your friends, catch up from the past year. Get ready to ride!!!



## Time to Start Planning Your Ride Season!!

Ride Dates	Ride Name	Ride City	Contact	Email
May 1-2	<a href="#">MnDRA I</a>	<a href="#">Hinckley, MN</a>	Michelle Fedewa	michelle.fedewa@yahoo.com
May 1-2	<a href="#">White River Spring</a>	<a href="#">Hesperia, MI</a>	Becke Grams	beckeg@aol.com
May 7-9	<a href="#">Glacier Trails</a>	<a href="#">Palmyra, WI</a>	Romona Radtke	ward.elizm@gmail.com
May 22-23	<a href="#">Border Battle Boogie</a>	<a href="#">Menagha, MN</a>	Deb Moe	debralmoe@gmail.com
May 22-23	<a href="#">AHDRA's Endure</a>	<a href="#">Chanderville, IL</a>	Nicole Mauser-Storer	n.mauserstorer@huskers.unl.edu
May 29-30	<a href="#">Grand Island</a>	<a href="#">Rapid River, MI</a>	Kathy Macki	k_macki@yahoo.com
June 5-6	<a href="#">Maplewood West</a>	<a href="#">Pelican Rapids, MN</a>	Sarah Peltier	peltier.sa@gmail.com
June 12-13	<a href="#">ApDRA</a>	<a href="#">Palmyra, WI</a>	Dawn Haas	jehaas@centurytel.net
June 12-13	<a href="#">White River Summer</a>	<a href="#">Hesperia, MI</a>	Becke Grams	beckeg@aol.com
June 19-20	<a href="#">Grand Island North</a>	<a href="#">Limestone, MI</a>	Karen Bahrman	
June 19-20	<a href="#">SE Minnesota</a>	<a href="#">Preston, MN</a>	Theresa Meyer	thmeyer753@gmail.com
June 26-27	<a href="#">Dead Dog Creek</a>	<a href="#">Kinmundy, IL</a>	Linda Mowrer	ridedeaddog@hotmail.com
June 26-27	<a href="#">Maah Daah Hey Endurance</a>	<a href="#">Medora, ND</a>	Angie Mikkelson	angieorr@hotmail.com
July 2-3	<a href="#">Endless Valley</a>	<a href="#">Avoca, WI</a>	Linda Jacobson	jdisawesome@lycos.com
July 10-11	<a href="#">AHAM</a>	<a href="#">Manton, MI</a>	Gene Dake	dedake6196@gmail.com
July 10-11	<a href="#">Mosquito Run</a>	<a href="#">Rogers, MN</a>	Peggy Pasillas	<a href="mailto:peggy@pasillas.net">peggy@pasillas.net</a>
July 23-25	<a href="#">Bonecrusher</a>	<a href="#">Palmyra, WI</a>	Amber Erickson, DC	endurochiro3@gmail.com
July 23-24	<a href="#">Northern Lightz Run</a>	<a href="#">Twin Valley, MN</a>	Michelle Splonskowski	shelsplon@gmail.com
July 31 - Aug 1	<a href="#">AHDRA's Field of Dreams Dash</a>	<a href="#">Farmington, IA</a>	Brooke Moeller	guianowriter@gmail.com
Aug 6-8	<a href="#">Detroit Horse Power Metropark Express</a>	<a href="#">Milford, MI</a>	Alicia Mansuetti	romira@me.com
Aug 7-8	<a href="#">Louise Riedel Memorial</a>	<a href="#">Arkdale, WI</a>	Elinore Tonsor	helinorelonsor@earthlink.net
Aug 14-15	<a href="#">Bearfoot Boogie</a>	<a href="#">Hinckley, MN</a>	Katie Vogl	<a href="mailto:katie.fleming661@gmail.com">katie.fleming661@gmail.com</a>
Aug 14-15	<a href="#">Rock River Charity Ride</a>	<a href="#">Franklin Grove, IL</a>	Tony Troyer	il4aerc@aol.com
Aug 28-29	<a href="#">Northern Highland</a>	<a href="#">Gleason, WI</a>	Laurie Henschel	ridgeviewwalkers@frontiernet.net
Sep 4-6	<a href="#">White River Fall</a>	<a href="#">Hesperia, MI</a>	Becke Grams	beckeg@aol.com
Sep 11-12	<a href="#">Charity Cup</a>	<a href="#">Pillager, MN</a>	Darlene Moliter	valleycreekfarm1@gmail.com
Sep 11-12	<a href="#">Keweenaw</a>	<a href="#">Marquette, MI</a>	Karen Jarvi	kjarvi0914@gmail.com
Sep 11-12	<a href="#">Lincoln Trail</a>	<a href="#">Kinmundy, IL</a>	Linda Mowrer	ridedeaddog@hotmail.com
Sep 17-19	<a href="#">Colorama</a>	<a href="#">New Prospect, WI</a>	Barb Gardner	barb@doublebarallc.com
Sep 25-26	<a href="#">Pine Marten</a>	<a href="#">Wetmore, MI</a>	Karen Bahrman	kbahrman@gmail.com
Oct 2-3	<a href="#">DRAW Finale</a>	<a href="#">Palmyra, WI</a>	Ann Marie Barnett	annmariealchemy@gmail.com
Oct 2-3	<a href="#">Huntersville Hundred</a>	<a href="#">Menagha, MN</a>	Sarah Maass	sarahmass@hotmail.com
Oct 9-10	<a href="#">Iron Oak</a>	<a href="#">Arkdale, WI</a>	Ruth Casserly	casserlytimruth@gmail.com
Oct 9-10	<a href="#">Oak Leaf Run</a>	<a href="#">Hamilton, MI</a>	Barb Kurti	oakleafrun@gmail.com
Oct 22-23	<a href="#">Point Chaser</a>	<a href="#">Theilman, MN</a>	Holly Egerer	regerer287@aol.com
Oct 30-31	<a href="#">AHDRA's Big River</a>	<a href="#">Keithsburg, IL</a>	Jim Andriakos	cgswimcoach@yahoo.com

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Deadline for Next Newsletter:  
 5<sup>th</sup> of each month Send  
 news to:  
[umecranews@gmail.com](mailto:umecranews@gmail.com)



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