

## **Wayne Gastfield**

I would like to nominate an individual I feel has all the attributes to qualify for the UMECRA Hall of Fame. This individual has put on rides for the past 21 years and as of this year has sponsored 27,665 miles of competition for our enjoyment. This ride season the White River Rides had a total of 935 miles for competitors to choose from, along with 1,050 miles from Shore to Shore Ride for our choosing, making a grand total of 1,985 in one year. As any ride manager should know that is an outstanding number of miles and I for one am very thankful that we have such a dedicated individual in the UMECRA organization. Entries fees in the above mentioned rides have been kept to a minimum in the open and junior division, as an incentive to encourage more participation for new comers to the sport of endurance and competitive riding. This ride manager has spent many long hours waiting up to greet his 100 mile riders as they crossed the finish line only to greet them the next morning with a warm breakfast. This individual's generosity has gone well beyond his our ride management. I myself have witnessed services being extending to other ride manager after having traveled many hours to attend their ride. Services were also extended to other competitors as well, as they were preparing for the next days event. I remember the year that this person organized a bus to take GLDRA members to the UMECRA banquet in cold Minnesota. Do I mean cold that year? I believe there still could be a pair of socks out there frozen to a bus window. This individual has support the UMECRA organization as a Board of Director Member for at least 15 years and also on the AERC Limited Distance Committee. The personal accomplishment of this individual as a competitor has been quite impressive over the past few years. 2005 accomplishment include 1st in UMECRA Limited Distance Endurance, 3rd in AERC Limited Distance, 1st AERC Best Condition and in the top 10 Mileage for the year of 2005. 2006 brought another 1st in UMECRA Limited Distance Endurance, 2nd AERC Limited Distance Endurance, 1st AERC Best Condition and 1st Top 10 Mileage Horse. One only wonders what 2007 would have brought this individual, instead a knee replacement kept him from competing but surgery had to be postponed until the end of ride season. Not so that he could ride all those miles this year but that he gave us the pleasure of doing so by continuing to manage his rides. I believe that Wayne Gastfield's accomplishments truly exemplify the qualities needed to be nominated to the UMECRA Hall of Fame.

Submitted by Julie Roe