

Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides

UPCOMING EVENTS

www.umecka.com
November 2007



Jan. 11-13, 2008 UMECKA Convention — Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, IL. Mark your calendars and reserve your hotel room! See inside for details.

POINTS—NOT YET AVAILABLE

We know you are all eagerly awaiting the final points tally; unfortunately, it was not yet available at press time. Stay tuned.

The AWARDS COMMITTEE wants you to know that we have chosen award items for 2007 and are just waiting for FINAL points and mileage. We will be contacting top 10 recipients for their choices and sizes as soon as we have the necessary information. Thank you for your patience. If you are receiving an award this year, please make sure we have the correct spelling of your and your horses names.

Nominate for Rider Reps by December 5th

Attention all Members:

Rider Representative nominations are open. These positions are held for two years; which was a revision to our By-Laws in January of 2007.

Please have your nominations in to Jill Feller by December 5th so that we can get them in the December newsletter. All ballots will be mailed with the December newsletter. All members receiving email versions of the newsletter will be sent ballots by US Mail. All ballots will need to be returned to Jill Feller no later than Friday January 4th.

Current Nominations Are:

- Max Bernsdorf nominated by Sheryl Levin
- Joan Fisher nominated by Jill Feller

Board Positions Open for Re-Election:

The following positions are open on the BOD and will be elected at the January meeting:

President (2-yr term)	Veterinary Rep (2-yr term)
(4) rider reps (2-yr term)	WI and MN Regional directors (2-yr term each)

Anyone interested in any of these should submit their names and reason why they want the position to Jill Feller (contact info. on back cover).

Rider rep and other board candidates: If you would like to include information about yourself in the December newsletter so that members can make an informed vote, please send a short bio to UMECRAnews@gmail.com by December 12th.

Attention Ride Managers: Please send the names of your voting delegates (for the annual meeting) to Secretary/Treasurer Jill Feller before January 5th. Roll call at the annual meeting will be conducted with these names- changes cannot be done after the meeting is called to order.

Nominations Sought: Rider's Choice Award

It is time once again to make your nominations for this year's Rider's Choice Award. This award was originated in 1981 and has been presented annually at the UMECKA convention and awards banquet following a vote of those present at the convention. The guidelines to be considered when nominating a horse for this honor are:

1. A horse that has shown superior ability in its 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 reason you are nominating the horse. This nomination will appear in the UMECKA convention program and might be the basis for people making their selection. Nominations should be submitted to Elinore Tonsor (contact info. on back cover.)

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Voice of the Rider

Send your news to
UMECRAnews@gmail.com

News does not have to be anything earth-shattering.
Birthdays, accomplishments, new horse news, thank you,
ride stories—all are welcome!

Those who rode endurance in the 1990s may remember Melanie Connolly and her Arabian mare, Lou. Melanie competed in 50 mile events often riding with Maxine Bernsdorf and her Appy gelding with the jack-hammer trot (I forgot his name). While she no longer competes, Melanie is still a UMECRA member and responsible for donating the hand-tied quilts each time the silent auction rolls around at the convention.

Melanie has recently been diagnosed with colon cancer. Colon cancer is a sneaky little disease that can be present in the body a long time before it shows symptoms, often when the cancer is advanced. Please keep Melanie in your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to send her a card or a pick-me-up note, please send to: 11232 Fogeltanz Road, Reedsville WI 54230.

CONGRATS to the UMECRA MEMBERS who attended the AHA Competitive Championships!

WOW; is all I have to say....Competitive riders are just awesome from the MIDWEST! I received news from Mo Miller the other day that several of our UMECRA members did GREAT at the AHA Nationals!

Congratulations to all! Here are the placings that I remember...sorry Mo! :)

Lisa Germann FIRST PLACE! WOOOO HOOOO
Tim Germann FOURTH PLACE! YIPPPPPPPEEEEEEEEEE
Linda Miller FIFTH PLACE! GOOOOOOO 1/2 APPPPPPY SPOTS!
HURRAH!
Debbie Searle SIXTH PLACE! AWEEEEEEEEEEEEE-
SOOOOOOOOOOMME!

Congrats to all and if I missed you I am very sorry!

Have a Great Day!

Sheryl Levin



From our Treasurer, Jill Feller

CONGRATULATIONS to Bev Specht's horse, Preacher's Jafar Jet, who completed his 3000th UMECRA mile at Run for the Ridge. Looks like a big ol' pinto guy can put away the miles just as well as all those little skinny Arabs!

Dogs at GLRDA Rides

We in Michigan have had issues with loose dogs at some of our rides this season.

Our insurance policy requires that all dogs be contained or leashed at all times while at the ride site.

We realize that people from outside Michigan might not be aware of our leash law.

We would appreciate it if anyone who will be attending any rides in Michigan next season would abide by this rule.

Thank You

Lisa M. Germann
GLDRA President

Thank you, riders, for allowing me to represent you and bring your concerns to the BOD for the past year. Your vote is needed and appreciated so that I may continue to serve. Along with being your rep this year I have served on the mentoring committee and awards committee. I was fortunate to be able ride a few miles in four states this season and met some wonderful people. UMECRA is what YOU make it...keep voicing your opinion in Voice of the Rider. We are hard at work trying to get awards for 2007 ready for convention in January. Hope to see all of you there!

- MAX

Oct 30, 07

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

ICF Fund	2,211.40
Mayville Savings Bank	15,061.36
Trail Fund	1,834.94
Total Checking/Savings	19,107.70

Total Current Assets

19,107.70

TOTAL ASSETS

19,107.70

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Bal Equity	16,360.34
Retained Earnings	9,963.73
Net Income	-7,216.37

UMECRA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, IL
January 11-13, 2008

Hotel reservations must be called in by December 11, 2007 to take advantage of the special room rate of \$99.00. The resort's toll free number is 1-800-358-7666, and be sure to mention that you are with UMECRA to get the special rate.

Tentative Agenda

Friday, Jan 11

5:00-7:00pm Silent Auction & Vendor Set Up
Times ??? Registration Table open-convention center lobby
 AHDRA awards, and surprise entertainment

Saturday, Jan 12

7:00-12noon Registration Table open-convention center lobby
7:00-11:00am Board of Directors Meeting
8:00am-5:30pm Vendor area open
9:00-11:30am Special speaker Melissa Ribley, DVM - Chairman of the AERC Vet Committee
1:00-4:00pm Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
6:00-7:00pm Cocktails - Cash Bar
7:00-8:00pm Banquet - Buffet
8:00-9:00pm Awards Presentation
9:00-11:45pm Dance & Silent Auction Finale

Sunday, Jan 13

8:00-10:00am AHDRA Meeting

The Clock Tower Resort now has a 60,000 sq ft Tropical Resort Waterpark that is available for an additional fee of \$29 for a full day, and \$22 for a half day. If we have a minimum group of 15 people, we are eligible for a discount rate of \$22 for a full day and \$16 for a half day. Please call Joyce immediately if you are interested in using the Waterpark & also indicate on the form below if you would be interested in the Tropical Resort Waterpark. The regular hotel pool will also be available at no additional charge.

Pre-registration and payment required & MUST be received by January 1, 2008

Adults \$28 Children (under 12) \$14 This includes all convention activities and banquet.

Name of each person attending	Waterpark	Amount
Total enclosed		

Please mail this form and your check (payable to UMECRA) to:

Joyce Mocilan
924 W MacArthur
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309) 829-5125

Wisconsin Managed Forest Law

The following email was received by the editor. It does not necessarily represent the views of UMECRA. Members are encouraged to do their own research to determine how this information may affect them.

My name is Mark Warner. Our Family operates Otter Creek Farm in Dunn County Wisconsin. We have been in the horse business for many years. Recent Wisconsin legislation threatens our farm and possibly yours.

I am writing about the new Managed Forest Law that bans for profit equestrian activities on 2,900,000 acres of privately owned Wisconsin forest land.

Many horse farms will be directly impacted by this new Managed Forest Law. According to a letter sent out by the Wisconsin DNR on October 30, 2007 all recreational activity on 2,900,000 acres of privately owned Managed Forest Law land is banned if the landowner receives any "consideration or compensation."

This new legislation only applies to the 2,900,000 acres covered by Managed Forest Law agreements but the precedent of denying access to for profit equestrian activites on private land is now established in Wisconsin law.

"The specific recreational activities covered in the new law are hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, cross-country skiing, HORSEBACK RIDING, and staying in cabins."

Source:

DNR letter sent to 29,000 private forest land owners, Oct. 30, 2007

Signed by Kathryn J. Nelson
Forest Tax Section Chief
Division of Forestry
DNR

A farm that receives any "consideration or compensation" for trail rides, hay rides, or any other equestrian activities on land covered by the new Managed Forest Law will be subject to a minimum fine of \$500 and faces potential additional Managed Forest Law penalties that can amount to tens of thousands of dollars. The DNR Division of Forestry will add any additional penalites directly to the farm's property tax bill.

Our 300 acre horse farm is directly effected by the new Managed Forest Law. 120 acres of our forest containing some of our favorite trails will be covered by the ban when it becomes effective on January 1, 2008. Many other farms with Managed Forest Law contracts will find themselves in similar circumstances.

The new law goes into effect on January 1, 2008.

Land owners will still be allowed recreational use of their land but are banned from receiving any consideration from other land users. If you have given a landowner anything of value in exchange for the land you hunt, fish, ski, or ride on this may be your last season to enjoy hunting, a cross-country ski trail, riding, or a secluded cabin in the woods on 2,900,000 acres of private forest covered by the new Managed Forest Law.

How did this happen?

No hearings were ever conducted. This was a back room deal. The Managed Forest Law outdoor recreation ban was slipped into the state budget by the legislature's Joint Finance Committee on behalf of special interests.

Who voted for this? All members of the Joint Finance Committee.

Who are the legislators on the Joint Finance Committee?

Use this link for a list of the Committee members and get their contact information. Please call them.
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/jfc/jcmembership.html>

Why didn't Governor Doyle veto this law?

Governor Doyle ignored repeated requests to veto this special interest legislation. Please contact Governor Doyle immediately at 608-266-1212. Governor Doyle's email address is wisgov@gov.state.wi.us Ask the Governor to call for legislation to repeal the Managed Forest Law outdoor recreation ban and to sign this legislation into law.

Call your state Senators and Representatives.

This link has contact information for the State Legislature

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/asmhome.htm>

This one is for the State Senate

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senhome.htm>

* Ask your Senator and Representative to sponsor or cosponsor legislation repealing the Managed Forest Law legislation banning many types of recreational use on private forest land. Your legislator will tell you that they need to study this issue.

* Follow up with calls every several days to determine if your legislator has finished studying the issue and is prepared to support repeal of the Managed Forest Law outdoor recreation ban.

Please forward this message.

Take action now to repeal the new Managed Forest Law.

WEBSITE AD RATES:

\$5 per ad (text only)

\$10 for a picture ad—up to 3 pictures allowed.

Ads run for 6 weeks.

Checks for all ads must be mailed to the sec/treasurer. Jill will contact Joslyn and Sharon to let them know ad is paid for and can be placed.

Newsletter ad rates:	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)

UMECRA Board of Directors Meeting

November 3, 2007

Ho-Chunk Casino

Wisconsin Dells, WI

Meeting was called to order by President Sheryl Levin.

Roll Call was taken:

Members present: Dianne Schmidt, Theresa Meyer, Sharon Hahn, Wes Elford, Tony Troyer, Rick Nelson, Mary Mott, Jill Feller, Sheryl Levin, Barb Gardner, Dawn Haas, Paula Rapp, Wayne Gastfield, Joslyn Seefeldt

Guests: Wes Licht, Jac Deweesee, Linda Jacobson, Shirley May

Secretary minutes for the spring meeting were read. Tony Troyer made a motion to approve minutes as read; Wayne Gastfield seconded motion- passed.

Treasurer's report was given in the form of a balance sheet profit and loss breakdown. Several questions were asked about some of the finances. After discussion, Tony Troyer made a motion, seconded by Rick Nelson to approve the reports as given; motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- **Convention update:** Tony reported that the final arrangements are being made for the convention in January 2008 in Rockford. The rooms will be \$99. Tony is working on getting at least 10 vendors for a trade show that would be set up in a separate room from the meetings. Two sponsors include Midway Trailer Sales and Purina Feeds. The silent auction will be set up in the meeting rooms. Discussion was held as to the cost to vendors and different ideas on how to cut back costs of the convention to attendees. There is no price yet on the meal and the guest speaker is Dr. Melissa Ribley; who is on the AERC BOD.
- **Membership Committee:** The novice riders did not all join UMECRA in 2007, but may be joining in 2008 since some were at the end of the season. Do we want ride managers (RM) sending non-UMECRA riders contact info to the secretary/treasurer for future contacts or should RM's keep in contact with non-UMECRA riders? No decisions were reached.
- **Awards Committee:** Several bids from UMECRA members have been received for doing the year-end awards. The committee is on schedule to have awards completed by convention.
- **Ridebook:** no updates at this time. The 2007 ride book with the color pages and indexes was well received
- **By-laws:** nothing at this time
- **Other:** Joan Thiel is working on a points system for MNDRA using Access. This could possibly be ready to expand into our UMECRA website and use of UMECRA points by 2009. Peggy Brush is also working on a new points program for UMECRA.

Communication for Consideration:

- Wes Licht and Jac Deweesee were presenting the drivers at the BOD meeting. They are requesting some rule changes with the driving rules. There is a change in allowing certain pneumatic tires on carts now, thus changing the rule that states "no pneumatic tires allowed". They would also like to see the rule #2 changed which states that driving mileage needs to be increased in increments of 2.5 miles. They will send their formal wording of these new changes to Theresa Meyer in time to be presented and voted on at the annual meeting in January.
- Wes and Jac also thanked all RM's for their support the past season in hosting drives. They would like to see more of them and perhaps some of only 5-6 miles in length to encourage new drivers into the sport who don't have fully conditioned horses yet. Discussion was held as to what parameters are needed when designating a trail for a drive. Jac and Wes will put together a list of things RM's can use to assist them when marking a driving trail. Subjects such as: amount of clearance needed, width of trail, water crossings, etc will be on the list. The list will be published in the Ride Manager's Handbook.
- President Sheryl Levin read a letter from a concerned rider about accurate mileage of trails. In the letter was stated the use of GPS equipment and the inaccuracy of it with measuring trails. Theresa Meyer mentioned that her husband published an article about this same subject in the MNDRA newsletter and she would send it to Sharon to include in the UMECRA newsletter. It is important that our trails be accurately measured and GPS does not accurate as it measures in straight lines and not the curving of our trails or the hill distances.

Old Business:

- **Insurance Costs for 2008:** Jill reported that the insurance company stated that they did not see any large change in costs for 2008; however they cannot give us the price until after the first of the year. Based on the 2007 dates and additional insured, the estimate they provided is very close to the 2007 costs.
 - More than ½ of the UMECRA insurance costs were paid for by UMECRA. We did not receive any 'refund' for additional insured costs if a ride or clinic was cancelled. These events did not pay this cost. Dianne made a motion to pay for ½ of the insurance costs for the 2008 rides for the premium cost only – all additional insured costs will be paid by the ride. If a ride is cancelled, the additional insured costs will still be paid by the cancelled ride.
 - Discussion was held about paying for ½ of the MI rides insurance costs. UMECRA will pay ½ of the cost if MI purchases the insurance through UMECRA. Wayne Gastfield reports that MI insurance is much less expensive and he does not feel any ride will do this. MI does provide a Certificate of Insurance to UMECRA to show that the organization is covered with their insurance. Mary made a motion and Elinore seconded it that

UMECRA pay the cost of the ‘additional insured’ to GLDRA for covering UMECRA on their policy.

- **Hall of Fame Nominees:** There is one and possibly two nominations for Hall of Fame for UMECRA. No names were discussed at this time. Since there is no ‘official’ procedure as to the process in nominating and following through with the award, Mary Mott volunteered to put a procedure into writing to present at the January meeting.
- **Sanctioning Requirements/Rules/Guidelines:** Elinore presented some guidelines to review for the proper sanctioning of rides. These guidelines need to be written down as the Sanctioning Coordinator position will change personnel over the years and consistency is needed. The guidelines were discussed in length with many ideas being presented. Elinore will rewrite the guidelines, incorporating some of these new ideas, and represent the list at the January meeting. Anyone with ideas on sanctioning rides should contact Elinore Tonsor to discuss them.
- **Membership Management Software:** Sheryl Levin has been looking into some membership software that will allow us to print out membership cards and also be incorporated into a new points maintenance system. The cost is not high, with some being as inexpensive as \$50. More work will be done on this and a proposal will be presented at that January meeting.
- **Points database:** This is a broken system that needs to be fixed. Barb reported that she spends 20-25 hours/ week updating the UMECRA points; and this is with some improvements into the existing system. Most of the work is still done manually. A new system is needed. As discussed earlier, two UMECRA members are working on developing a new system to use.
- **Rider feedback:** some issues are that points or standing are incorrect, horse’s names are incorrect, or their ride placing is incorrect. The website states: contact points keeper if there are any problems. This is inaccurate. If there is a problem with any ride results, the rider needs to contact the RIDE MANAGER of the ride to resolve the issue. Neither the points keeper nor the secretary/treasurer can solve this issue. The RM will look into the matter and then contact the needed personnel to make the corrections. There are several things that riders can do to prevent problems. 1) Make sure the information on their ride cards at the ride is correct. 2) Make sure the writing is legible 3) Make corrections to inaccurate information at the ride 4) talk to the RM if you have a problem. Many things are happening at a ride; if a rider tells a RM something and it isn’t corrected when points are released, be patient and contact the RM again to remind them. In many cases, the information was not written down or was lost in all the confusion of the ride—the error was not intentional. The RM will get the results corrected and sent to the points keeper for updating.

of the Z-Tech ride was discussed. In 2008, the National Championship ride will be in Indiana in October and will affect some UMECRA rides. No decisions or actions were taken at this time.

- **Two-year Board of Director terms:** According to the by-laws, only Ride Managers are eligible to be elected to office. If an officer is not a RM, they will be ineligible to be elected into office. If they are on their second term and are not a RM, they will not be eligible to be re-elected when their term is up. An exception was made for Louise.
- **General membership voting rights:** UMECRA is a Ride Manager’s organization. Changing it to a rider’s organization has been discussed several times. This topic was discussed with no action taken at this time.
- **Novice Division:** There were several success stories with the Novice division. Not all novice riders joined UMECRA since it was the end of the season for them. Rick made a motion, Tony seconded it to keep the novice division for one more year and then re-evaluate it. Motion passed.
- **Membership:** Topics discussed were retention of riders, novices, and cost of memberships. Should we hold a ‘get a free membership for signing up a new member drive?’ At this time, it was decided not to go into this program as our membership costs are too low. There will be no increase in membership fees for 2008.
- **Sponsorship committee:** Rick reported that the ‘large’ sponsorship that the committee was trying to approve fell through. However, the committee will look at sponsorship for printing advertisements in the ride book. This could generate the cost of printing the books.
- **Versatility Award:** A discussion was held on creating the “Louise Riedel Versatility Award”. There would be a Champion and a Reserve Champion only for the award. The award would be the same horse and rider team. The team would need to complete in at least three competitive rides and three endurance rides throughout the season to be eligible (LD does not count). Jill made a motion; Mary seconded it to take this idea to the annual meeting to vote on. If approved, the award would be available for the 2008 ride season.
- **Competitive Rides:** Why are the competitive rides not increasing in numbers? What can be done? Each state seems to judge these rides a little differently. There needs to be more consistency. Many people have moved to LD’s because they are easier; you can use water on your horse and get off and walk when you want to. Ride Manager’s need to be in charge and not let the vets control these rides. No action was taken by the BOD.
- **New Riders:** A motion was made by Tony and seconded by Theresa that any new rider who completed their first 25 mile or longer ride be given a postcard by the RM. This card would have shirt sizes on it

New Business:

- **Ride schedule:** this topic was discussed earlier in the meeting along with sanctioning guidelines. The affect

and a place for the ride name where the rider did the ride. The rider would complete the info on the card and mail it to Dianne Schmidt. Dianne would make a t-shirt stating "I finished my first 25 mile ride at South Eastern Minnesota" and mail the shirt to the rider. The hope is to generate more excitement into our sport. The cost of the shirt will be approximately \$6.00 plus mailing costs.

- **Membership suspensions/unpaid ride fees:** UMECRA has a rule concerning NSF checks and unpaid fees however there is no time limit in the rule. The rule states: *anyone having outstanding debts to UMECRA or a UMECRA ride will be disallowed from receiving points, year-end awards or mileage accumulation.* A motion was made by Rick and seconded by Mary to change the rule to say: *Anyone having outstanding debts to UMECRA or a UMECRA ride and not paid within 60 days of the infraction (NSF or ride date) will be disallowed from receiving points, year-end awards or mileage accumulation.* Motion passed with a vote of 5 to 4.

Tony motioned that we adjourn the meeting, Rick seconded it- passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller,
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



First time 100-milers Dana Maass, Chip Jack, and Van Jacobsen compete at Run for the Ridge

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UMECRA Newsletter
c/o Sharon Hahn
22175 Cedar Dr. NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011



**Next newsletter
deadline: DEC. 12**

Send news to:
UMECRAnews@gmail.com



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.umecra.com

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