

Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides

www.umecra.com
January—February 2008



It's a New Year!

NEW OFFICERS! The following officers were elected and/or announced at the annual meeting:

President—Sheryl Levin
Vice President—Tony Troyer
Veterinary Representative—Wes Elford
WI Regional Director — Dawn Haas
MN Regional Director—Dianne Schmidt
IL Regional Director—Linda Mowrer
Director at Large — Lynn Reichert
Rider Representatives: Sharon Hahn, Maxine Bernsdorf, Linda Hamrick, Julie Jackson

Thanks to the officers who are stepping down for their service to the UMECRA organization.

NEW RIDE SCHEDULE!

See last page for the “Ride Schedule in a Nutshell” to tide you over until the ride book arrives. Clip and save for easy reference!

NEW AWARDS!

Got a versatile horse? How about an old horse? Or maybe a versatile old horse? See page 2 for information on the new UMECRA versatility and senior equine awards!

NEW MEMBER OF THE UMECRA HALL OF FAME!

Find out who it is on page 3!

NEW RECIPIENT OF UMECRA RIDERS' CHOICE AWARD!

Read about this exceptional equine on page 4!

NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM!

If you haven't done so already, renew your UMECRA membership for 2008 (see p. 5)!

NEW NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE!

We will try to adhere to the following schedule for 2008:

Articles due to editor (UMECRAnews@gmail.com):	last day of the preceding month
Newsletter sent to print/emailed:	10th of the month
Newsletter mailed by:	15th of the month

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, helpful hints, vet news, trail news, articles
about conditioning/equipment/horse care/trailer,.....
—all are welcome!

*Happy
valentine's Day!*



News from the Board

- Thank you for your votes allowing me to continue as Rider Rep for the next two years. If I do not happen to see you at a ride send your comments to me at miranch@hotmail.com. I will be sure your voice is heard. — Max Bernsdorf
- I would also like to thank the riders of UMECRA for re-electing me as their representative. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank departing rider reps Bettina Koehn and Paula Rapp for their efforts representing the riders of UMECRA, and to welcome new rider reps Linda Hamrick and Julie Jackson to the board. Contact information for all of your officers is on the back cover. — Sharon Hahn

Effective January 12, 2008; Mary Mott has resigned her position of Vice President of UMECRA do to personal reasons. She has also informed me that the Kettle Classic Ride will not be held. Mary has been on the board of UMECRA for many years and she will be missed. Please extend your thanks to her the next time you see her for her longevity of volunteering and help in making UMECRA a solid organization. — Sheryl Levin

NEW VERSATILITY AWARD FOR 2008

GLDRA has volunteered to sponsor the Charles Phillips and J Dalmaar Sharri +/- Versatility Award beginning with the 2008 ride season.

This is a new award for 2008 and is meant to HONOR Charles and Sharri for their love of our sport and in particular, in showing everyone just how versatile they can be.

Charles and Sharri have won the AHDRA versatility award twice and Charles and his retired horse Whitney won it once. They have set the bar high for anyone wanting to compete for this award!

To qualify for this award a horse/rider team must be a member of UMECRA, do a minimum of 2 competitive rides, 2 limited distance and 2 endurance. There will be a grand champion and a reserve champion. No divisions.

HIGH POINT SENIOR EQUINE AWARD

This award will honor the equine 20 years of age or older that accrues the highest number of UMECRA points during the season. The equine may compete in multiple divisions (endurance, limited distance, competitive, novice, driving) and with any number of riders. The equine must complete at least 4 rides to be eligible. In the event of a tie, other factors such as miles completed and consistency of performance/ completion will be considered to determine the winner.

To be considered for the award, each equine should be nominated in writing accompanied by proof of age (registration papers or vet letter or other evidence for unregistered animals). Please send nominations to: Sharon Hahn, 22175 Cedar Drive NW, Oak Grove, MN 55011.

This award will be sponsored by Sharon Hahn for now although Sharon is looking for an outside sponsor such as a manufacturer of senior feed.

UMECRA HALL OF FAME WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBER.....

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 extended to other ride manager after having traveled many hours to attend their ride. Services where also extended to other competitors as well, as they where preparing for the next days event. I remember the year that this person organized a bus

....WAYNE GASTFIELD!

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

**CONGRATULAIONS
WAYNE !**

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J Dalmaar Sharri +/ 2007 UMECRA Rider's Choice

It is my pleasure to nominate J Dalmaar Sharri+ for the UMECRA Rider's Choice Award for 2007. Sharri+ is a perfect example of the requirements for induction.

Sharri+ has been a consistent competitor since the age of five. She finished in the Top Ten during her first year of competition and has done so every year since.

During her career, Sharri+ has overcome significant setbacks. The most dramatic occurred in 2006. She had an anaphylactic shock reaction to a rabies vaccination. She almost died. She was down on the ground when found and it took 24 hours just to stabilize her. Three weeks later she finished second in the 50 mile Shore to Shore Cool Down endurance ride.

I have come to know Sharri+ well during Charles Phillips' illness this season. Sharri+ has accepted me as a rider and her new job assignment with grace and dignity. She has taken me on wonderful trail rides at my speed! Plus she is such a people horse, often staying near anyone who happens to be at the barn in lieu of being out in the pasture with the herd.

Whoever has ridden near Sharri+ knows she shows many expressions while under saddle. If you ride near her, you had better watch out. She can really snake her neck, lay her ears back and tell your horse "no way, no way, don't you even think of getting in front of me." It is quite a hoot! Fellow endurance riders are sure surprised to hear that she is at the bottom of the pecking order at our barn even below Rachel Clark's "Pony" after witnessing her ways on the trail.

To date, Sharri+ has over 2600 miles completed under competition. She is very obedient and has excellent ground manners. She truly enjoys the sport and is an exciting horse to ride, always willing to respond to whatever challenge put to her, always giving her best.

Sharri+ has shown superior ability in multiple divisions. She has consistently finished in the Top Ten in both the Endurance and Competitive divisions. When not in the Top Ten, she has finished as champion of a Restricted Division. Please see listings below:

— Submitted for nomination by Roseanna Clark

Great Lake Distance Rides Association: White River Rides
Saturday High Point 25 Mile Horse-2002
Sunday High Point 25 Mile Horse-2002
Great Lakes Distance Rides Association:
3rd Place Competitive Hywt Extended Distance-2002
Upper Midwest Endurance/Competitive Rides Association:
Top Ten Competitive Horse- 2002
Upper Midwest Endurance/Competitive Rides Association:
Competitive Restricted Mileage Grand Champion-2003
Great Lakes Distance Rides Association:
Competitive Restricted Mileage Grand Champion-2003
Great Lakes Distance Rides Association:
3rd Place Limited Distance Endurance-2003
Arabian Distance Horse Ride Association:
Limited Distance Endurance Top Ten-2003
Upper Midwest Endurance/Competitive Rides Association:
Top Ten Endurance Horse-2004
Arabian Distance Horse Ride Association:
Versatility Award (Competitive and Endurance) – 2004
Arabian Horse Association
Legion of Honor (J Dalmaar Sharri +) – 2004
Arabian Horse Association:
Region 13 Competitive Grand Champion-2004
GLDRA – AHAM Open Heavyweight Champion – July 2004
Great Lakes Distance Rides Association:
3rd Place Restricted Hywt Endurance – 2004
4th Place Restricted Hywt Competitive – 2004

Arabian Horse Association:
Region 14 Endurance Top Five Rider – 2004
AERC – 4th Place Endurance Middleweight Division - 2004
Great Lakes Distance Rides Association:
1st Place Restricted Distance Hywt Endurance-2005
Arabian Horse Association:
Region 13 Endurance Top Five Rider-2005
Arabian Horse Association:
Region 13 Competitive Grand Champion - 2006
Arabian Horse Association,
Legion of Supreme Honor Award (J Dalmaar Sharri +) – 2006
Great Lakes Distance Rides Association:
Endurance Restricted Mileage Grand Champion-2006
Upper Midwest Endurance/Competitive Rides Association:
Top Ten Endurance Horse – 2006
Upper Midwest Endurance/Competitive Rides Association:
Top Ten Competitive Horse- 2006
Arabian Distance Horse Ride Association:
Competitive Purebred Grand Champion – 2006
Arabian Distance Horse Ride Association:
Versatility Award (Competitive and Endurance) - 2006



UMECRA



PERSEVERE

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDE ASSOCIATION

UMECRA Membership Form: circle one **Single \$25** **Family \$35**

Please include all names of family members. Juniors are riders who are 16 and under as of December 15 of previous year; identify which names are junior riders. ***Please write clearly!***

Date: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Prefer Newsletter: circle one Hard copy Email version
Email will be the default method for the NL if nothing is circled

Please mail completed form along with fee to:
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer
N9280 Cty Hwy TW
Mayville, WI 53050

UMECRA Annual Convention
BOD Meeting
January 12, 2008
7:00 am
Clock Tower Resort- Rockford, IL

Present members: Maxine Bernsdorf, Tony Troyer, Rick Nelson, Sheryl Levin, Jill Feller, Bettina Koehn, Joyce Mocilan, Elinore Tonsor, Paula Rapp, Sharon Hahn, Joslyn Seefeldt, Barb Gardner, Dawn Haas, Wes Elford

Guests: Barry Saylor, Lucy Bagot

The **Secretary's minutes** from the Nov. BOD meeting and the year-end **financial reports** had been sent out to board members before the meeting to read and review. Rick made a motion and Tony seconded it to approve all reports as were presented.

Secretary/Treasurer Jill Feller presented an idea to consider moving the fiscal year of UMECRA to a April 1-March 31 year due to the date of the annual convention. When the fiscal reports are run at year end, part of the 'income' is designated for the upcoming convention. The costs of the convention are reflected in one year while some of the income for those costs are in the previous year's reports. Jill will run some reports with the suggested dates for the spring meeting to review and see if moving the fiscal year is feasible.

Old Business:

- **Novice Division:** several of the novice riders have joined UMECRA and have expressed their excitement in the program. The comments were all favorable and encouraged UMECRA to continue the Novice program. Motion was made and seconded to continue the Novice Division for the 2008 ride season and revisit it at the fall BOD meeting. Motion passed.
- **Sanctioning guidelines:** Theresa handed out the guidelines for sanctioning guidelines that were discussed at the fall BOD meeting. A short discussion followed as the guidelines had been discussed in November. Sharon motioned, Rick seconded that the new guidelines be accepted. Motion passed. Guidelines are:
 - Rides are to be sanctioned by approval of the Board of Directors at least 90 days before the date of the ride **or at the annual meeting.**
 - Ride Managers must announce their mileage to the ~~UMECRA secretary~~ **UMECRA sanctioning coordinator** at least 7 days before the annual meeting; otherwise, they receive the same mileage as the previous year.
 - The names of official delegates to the annual meeting must be submitted in writing to the UMECRA secretary prior to the meeting (cut-off date to be announced.)
 - **The current year's ride schedule will be the precedent for the succeeding year.**
 - Once the schedule is finalized at the annual meeting, no new rides may be scheduled except ~~on an open date and/or~~ with board approval. **Any ride seeking approval by board vote must either be on an open date or have the approval of the ride manager(s) of any ride already scheduled on the proposed date. The current year's schedule will be the precedent for the succeeding year.** Changes to a scheduled ride ~~should~~ **must** be made 60 days in advance.
 - New rides will be given priority in order of application. ~~A change in a ride date will constitute that ride as a new ride.~~ **The \$10 surcharge for new rides will be in effect.**
 - The Board will attempt to limit the number of rides to three per weekend. No ride may be **scheduled or** rescheduled for any reason on the same date as another ride without the approval of the originally scheduled ride/rides.
 - No more than one 100-mile one-day ride will be scheduled on any one weekend closer than 800 miles apart. Preference will be given to the existing 100-miler.
 - Rider points will only be given for mileage which the ride applied for, or for which notice of a mileage change has been made 60 days in advance.
 - "Reject rides" or other "fun" rides shall not be considered point eligible rides.
 - If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers novice classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Novices are not eligible for year-end awards, but mileage shall count.
 - Yearly fees per ride are \$40, with a surcharge of \$10 for a first year ride. This includes ride supplies and a prorate share of printing and mailing of the ride brochure. If a ride organization **or manager** sponsors more than one event per year, the \$40 fee applies to each ride. There is also a fee of \$1.50 per starting rider.

• REPORTING

- UMECRA ride results, **“per rider” reporting fees, and insurance fees** must be sent to the secretary postmarked within 14 days, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid. Every rider who starts will be reported according to divisions (heavyweight, lightweight and junior). Riders who have signed up as AERC featherweights, lightweights or middleweights must be assigned to either UMECRA lightweight or heavyweight divisions. DO NOT list UMECRA weight divisions on AERC report forms. The AERC weight division must be determined at the time of entry.
- **NSF/unpaid fees:** After discussion, the BOD made adjustments to the rule that was approved in November. The new wording is: “Anyone having outstanding debts to UMECRA or a UMECRA ride and not paid within 30 days of the check date (including all bank fees), will be disallowed from receiving points, year-end awards or mileage accumulation until all fees are paid”. Tony motioned to approve and Rick seconded the motion; motion passed.
- Theresa presented changes to the driver’s rules. Motion made by Dawn, seconded by Paula to accept rules are presented; passed. The rules are:

COMPETITIVE DRIVING RULES

- **General Rules**
- The pace for a drive is between 5 and ~~8~~ **7** mph. The pace will be determined by the drive management. Factors determining the pace will be heat, humidity, difficulty of the terrain, conditions of the trail.
- Mileage of Distance Drives shall not be less than ~~10 miles. Mileage can graduate in increments of 2.5 miles.~~ **5 miles, but may be any greater distance that provides a safe and practical venue for driving. Longer distances are encouraged.**
- Rules for Drivers
- L. ~~Pneumatic tired vehicles are not allowed.~~ **L. Bicycle type wheels are not allowed. Traditional wood or metal wheels are recommended. Pneumatic tires on automobile or heavy duty spoke wheels, such as those used on motorcycles, are acceptable.**
- **UMECRA insurance** was discussed. At the fall meeting, a motion was made that UMECRA would pay for ½ the cost for the insurance premium for UMECRA rides; UMECRA would not pay for the additional insured costs. If the ride was cancelled and there were additional insured already paid for, the ride that is cancelled will be required to pay the costs of the additional insured. A motion was made in November by Dianne but never moved forward at that time. Motion was now made by Sharon, seconded by Rick; motion passed. This will be carried to the annual meeting.
- An **advertising program** was presented to assist with costs of the annual ride book. This program presents several options for advertising. Elinore will move forward with recruiting advertisers for the ride book.
- **T-shirts** for newbies: postcards will be created to be included in the Ride Manager’s packets that are mailed in spring. These postcards will be given to any rider completing their first 25 mile or longer ride. The postcard will be addressed to Dianne Schmidt who will then create a t-shirt to mail to the rider saying “I did my first 25-mile ride at *****”. Elinore and Jill will work on the postcards.
- Sheryl Levin presented information about creating a **membership database** to use for points. Sheryl found a person at “rent-a-coder” who is creating a database for a cost of \$100. Rick motioned and Joyce seconded that UMECA pay the costs of this service: passed.
- **Membership cards** were discussed: a sample of UMECRA cards was passed around for BOD members to review. Membership numbers will be randomly picked for all members. Dawn made a motion, Tony seconded to create membership cards: motion passed. *The cards will be mailed to members.*
- BOD had previously discussed creating a **versatility award**. GLDRA presented documentation to sponsor this award. “GLDRA would like to sponsor a versatility award starting in 2008. The award would be called the Charles Phillips Versatility award in honor of Charles and his horse J. Dalmaar Sharri+/ who have enjoyed competing for and receiving the AHDRA versatility award in the past. The award would be open to all UMECRA members. Qualifications would be same horse/rider team, must do a minimum of 2-50 mile endurance, 2- competitive rides and 2- limited distance rides. There will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, no divisions.” Theresa moved to accept the MI award, Rick seconded: motion passed.
- The **ride schedule for 2008** was presented. Dawn motioned, Rick seconded to accept the schedule as presented: this will move to the annual meeting for a vote.
- Barry Saylor presented an idea to **recognize the 100-mile horses**. Joyce, Bettina, Joslyn and Dawn will work with Barry to set up a program presentation for the March BOD meeting.
- Lucy Bagot gave a brief presentation on her research as to the ride **schedules** in the Midwest vs. other areas of the country. Lucy will be presenting her ideas at the Ride Manager’s forum meeting.
- Wes brought forward a motion from a ride manager that the secretary/treasurer position does not have to be filled by a ride manager, but could be nominated from any active UMECRA member. Paula seconded the motion: motion failed.
- A discussion on **communications** was held. In fall, several deadline dates in the NL were past due by the time members received their newsletter. The following guidelines will help to alleviate these problems in the future. All newsletter articles need to be to Sharon by the

end of the month; Sharon will complete the newsletter by the 10th of the month. The newsletter will go to the printer and be mailed by the 15th of each month.

- A discussion was held on the BOD discussing topics and voting between meetings on issues using the Internet. Voting by Internet may be more workable with the new database program. No action was taken on this subject.
- Sharon Hahn would like to sponsor an **award for Senior Horses**. This award will recognize the older equine athletes in our sport. Max motioned, Rick seconded to accept this award; motion passed. More information on this award will be in the newsletter.
- Three **trail grants** were presented:
 - Forrestville Campground in MN
 - The Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association in WI
 - The Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association in WI
 - Grants were granted for \$250 for each request

Motion made by Rick and seconded by Bettina to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

UMECRA Annual Convention
General Meeting
January 12, 2008
1:00 pm
Clock Tower Resort- Rockford, IL

The meeting was called to order by President Sheryl Levin.

Roll Call: 87 voting delegates were present at the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer report: The minutes from the November BOD meeting were already approved in the morning meeting. No questions from any delegates were fielded on the past published minutes. The annual balance sheet and P&L report was presented (one addition error was corrected). The higher cost of insurance was explained to the delegates (the cost of paying additional insured and not getting this cost back if the ride is cancelled). Jill Feller explained the idea of moving the fiscal year to April 1- March 31 to get a better view of our 'real' expenses (see morning meeting minutes). Rick Nelson motioned to approve reports; Linda Mower seconded; motion passed

Old Business:

- **Novice Division:** President Sheryl Levin explained that in the morning meeting of the BOD, the BOD had approved to run the Novice division for one additional year and revisit it in fall of 08.
- **Insurance costs for 2008:** Jill Feller explained the cost of the insurance from 2007 season. The motion from the BOD meeting was brought forward for discussion. The motion was: *UMECRA will pay ½ the insurance premium cost for a sanctioned ride; the additional insured costs will be paid by the ride and if the ride is cancelled, the ride/ride manager is responsible to reimburse UMECRA for the cost of the additional insured.* A discussion followed. Dale Lunde motioned, Dawn Haas seconded to approve this action; motion passed.
 - The cost of MI insurance was also discussed. MI rides get their insurance through GLDRA and pay less than the insurance offered by UMECRA. A motion was made by Dawn Haas and seconded by Rick Nelson that UMECRA should pick up the cost of the 'additional insured' certificate to cover UMECRA for MI rides. Motion passed. Lisa Germann will get the cost and reimbursement information to the secretary/treasurer. *(In a note from Lisa after the convention, it was discovered that there was no additional cost to GLDRA to cover UMECRA with the insurance; no reimbursement is needed).*

New Business:

- **Hall of Fame procedures:** The 'approved' Hall of Fame procedures was presented to the delegates. In the past, this procedure has been unclear; these procedures just clarify that process and will be placed on the UMECRA website for easy access:
 1. UMECRA Hall of Fame nominations will be accepted at the fall BOD meeting in November.
 - a. Nominees must have contributed to UMECRA. This should include an extra ordinary volunteerism given to the organization. There are no requirements that the nominees must be a rider or ride manager.
 2. All nominations must be presented to the BOD in written form in one of the following formats.
 - a. A presentation at the fall BOD meeting with documentation to be handed to all present BOD members
 - b. A letter sent to all BOD members
 - c. An email sent to all BOD members
 3. All BOD members vote on the nominees in one of two ways:
 - a. Voting at the fall meeting
 - b. Voting by telephone administered by calls from the executive BOD members

4. The person submitting the nomination will be notified by a member of the executive BOD member with the results of the vote.
5. The person submitting the nomination will be responsible for obtaining the award.
 - a. UMECRA will contribute \$500 each year for one Hall of Fame award. Any costs beyond this amount will need to be raised by the nominating person.
 - b. The recommended award should be a picture or painting of the recipient enjoying distance riding.
 - c. The award will be given by the nominating person at the UMECRA Annual Awards Banquet.
- **Points database:** Sheryl Levin explained the new points database that is being developed for UMECRA. UMECRA riders and nominated horses will be assigned membership numbers with the new system. Riders will receive a membership card and the number will need to be put on their entry forms and ride cards for recording purposes.
- **Ride book advertising:** UMECRA will be pursuing advertisements for the ride book to assist with the costs involved with printing and mailing. The program is as follows:
 - UMECRA Advertising Bronze Package:
 - Half page in the UMECRA ride book: \$50
 - Half page in the UMECRA directory: \$50
 - UMECRA Advertising Silver Package:
 - Half page in UMECRA ride book: \$100
 - Half page in UMECRA directory: \$100
 - 5 ads in newsletter: \$50
 - UMECRA Advertising Gold Package:
 - Half page in UMECRA ride book: \$100
 - Half page in UMECRA directory: \$100
 - 10 ads in newsletter: \$100

20% discount on Gold and Silver packages if order is accompanied with a donation to the silent auction for 2008 or 2010. Monies and layout must be received no later than March 1, 2008 by the secretary/treasurer of UMECRA. Only 10 packages will pay for the entire ride book!!

This package was approved by the BOD at the morning meeting and will go into effect immediately. The information will be placed on the UMECRA website for easy access.

- **Communications:** In fall, newsletters were received with expired deadlines for items which resulted in confusion with ride managers. To rectify this problem, the following NL deadlines have been established:
 - NL entries must be to NL editor by end of the month
 - NL editor will compose NL by 10th of month
 - NL will be sent to printer and mailed out by 15th of each month
- **Sanctioning guidelines:** The sanctioning guidelines were discussed and approved in the morning BOD meeting (see minutes of that meeting for those guidelines). These guidelines will be published on the UMECRA website for easy access.
- **2008 ride schedule:** The 2008 ride schedule was presented to the voting members of UMECRA. There were several minor changes such as mileage changes or adding a third date to an exiting ride. A discussion followed about the amount of rides on the schedule and the low attendance at rides. President Levin pointed out that those subjects were the topic of the RM forum meeting that was held earlier in the day; no action was taken on this subject at this time. Motion made by Jill Feller, seconded by Rick Nelson to accept the ride schedule with the minor changes; motion passed.
- **New rider t-shirt:** This subject was discussed and approved at the morning BOD meeting (see minutes of that meeting for more info).
- **GLDRA versatility award:** GLDRA will be sponsoring a versatility award for one horse/rider combination in UMECRA (see minutes of the morning BOD meeting for more info on this award).
- **High point senior equine award:** UMECRA Sharon Hahn is sponsoring this award. There will be more information in an upcoming NL.
- **100 mile horse recognition program:** Barry Saylor presented an idea to recognize the 100-mile horses in our region at the morning BOD meeting. Joyce Mocilan, Bettina Koehn, Joslyn Seefeldt and Dawn Haas have all volunteered to work with Barry on this subject and present some ideas at the spring BOD meeting in March.
- **Rule changes:** the following rule changes were discussed and passed:

1. UMECRA RULES

- A. Rides are to be sanctioned by approval of the Board of Directors at least 90 days before the date of the ride **or at the annual meeting.**
- B. Ride Managers must announce their mileage to the ~~UME CRA~~ secretary **UME CRA sanctioning coordinator** at least 7 days before the annual meeting; otherwise, they receive the same mileage as the previous year.
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- H. No more than one 100-mile one-day ride will be scheduled on any one weekend closer than 800 miles apart. Preference will be given to the existing 100-miler.
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COMPETITIVE DRIVING RULES

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- L. ~~Pneumatic tired vehicles are not allowed.~~ **L. Bicycle type wheels are not allowed. Traditional wood or metal wheels are recommended. Pneumatic tires on automobile or heavy duty spoke wheels, such as those used on motorcycles, are acceptable.**

ENDURANCE RIDES

- 1. The ride must be at least 50 miles in length per day, **up to a maximum distance of 150 miles in three days.**

General Rules

1. Eligibility

- D. Anyone having outstanding debts to UMECRA or a UMECRA ride **and not paid within 30 days (including bank fees) from notification in writing of the incident** will be disallowed from receiving points, year-end awards or mileage accumulation.
 - o The General rule that failed to pass was:
 - 5. Awards
 - C. Horses that tie will receive identical placings and the next placing will be omitted. (i.e. 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc.) **Points for year-end awards will be awarded in an identical manner.**

- **UMECRA ride entry form:** The UMECRA ride entry form has been modified to include the 'legal language' that is required for most Midwest states to ensure coverage under the state's equine liability laws. A disclaimer from the following states is now part of the ride entry form: WI, IN, MI and IL. MN does not require any specific language on an entry form. It was pointed out to that ALL rides in ALL states need to be posting the equine liability signs to be covered under this law. These signs can be purchased through the state horse council organizations.
- **Illinois Horse Fair:** A request was made by Linda Mower that UMECRA pay the entry fee for a booth at the IL Horse Fair. MN also asked for a grant to pay their fee. Katie Bachhuber motioned, Joslyn Seefeldt seconded; motion passed. The cost of the booth at both the Illinois and Minnesota Horse Fair will be paid by UMECRA (the same cost as was given last year was approved).
- **Election of officers:**
 - President: nominated- Sheryl Levin (no other nominations were given- Sheryl was re-elected to a two-year term)
 - VP- the current VP submitted her resignation in December- she was serving a two-year term. The election for VP is for a one-year term. The VP and Secretary/treasurer position are currently serving a two-year term with elections for these positions to be in 2009. Nominated was Tony Troyer (no other nominations were given- Tony was elected to serve a one-year term)
 - Vet Rep: Wes Elford was nominated (Dean Peterson was also nominated, but was not present at the meeting and the nomination would not be accepted). No other nominations were given- Wes was re-elected to serve a two-year term.
 - WI Regional Director: nominated- Dawn Haas (no other nominations were given- Dawn was re-elected to a two-year term).
 - MN Regional Director: nominated- Dianne Schmidt (no other nominations were given- Dianne was elected to a two-year term)
 - Director at Large: nominated- Elinore Tonsor and Lynn Reichert; Lynn Reichert won the vote- elected to a two-year term
 - IL Director (to replace Tony who moved to the VP role). This is a one-year term to complete the two-year term elected in 2007. Nominated- Linda Mowrer (no other nominations were given- Linda was elected)
 - Rider reps: the following rider reps were elected for a two-year term by general membership vote: Sharon Hahn, Maxine Bernsdorf, Linda Hamrick and Julie Jackson.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller
UMECRA secretary/treasurer

UMECRA RIDE SCHEDULE IN A NUTSHELL

April 5-6 Oak Leaf Run <i>Allegan Nat.For., MI</i>	May 16-18 Run for The Border <i>Wolf Creek, WI</i> Dead Dog Creek <i>Kinmundy, IL</i>	June 28-29 Hopkins Creek <i>Manton, MI</i>	August 16-17 Cool Down <i>Empire, MI</i> Thistle Down Run <i>Frazee, MN</i>	September 13-14 Colorama <i>Greenbush, WI</i> Tin Cup Springs <i>Luther, MI</i>
April 12-13 - Open	May 24 – 25 Grand Island Rides <i>Rapid River, MI</i>	July 4-6 Endless Valley <i>Spring Green, WI</i> Mosquito Run <i>Rogers, MN</i>	August 23-14 Northern Highland <i>Boulder Junction, WI</i>	September 20-21 Run For The Ridge <i>Fairfax, MN</i>
April 19-20 Brighton Comp. <i>Howell, MI</i>	May 31 – June 1 Maplewood West <i>Pelican Rapids, MN</i>	July 11-13 Endure for a Cure <i>East Peoria, IL</i>	August 30-31 White River Fall <i>Hesperia, MI</i>	September 27-28 Pine Martin Run <i>Nahma Junction, MI</i>
April 26-27 Iron Oak <i>Saukville, WI</i>	June 7-8 ApDRA <i>Palmyra, WI</i>	July 19-20 – Open Wildcat <i>Neillsville, WI</i>	September 1 White River Labor D <i>Hesperia, MI</i>	October 4-5 AHA National Competitive Ride <i>Galena, IL</i>
May 3-4 White River Spring <i>Hesperia, MI</i> MnDRA I <i>Sand Dunes State Forest, MN</i> DRAW I <i>Greenbush, WI</i>	June 13-15 White River Summer <i>Hesperia, MI</i> SE Minnesota <i>Forestville, MN</i>	August 2-3 - Open August 9-10 Louise Riedel Mem. <i>Arkdale, WI</i> Warm Up <i>Oscala, MI</i>	September 6-7 Charity Cup <i>Pillager, MN</i> Keweenaw <i>Bootjack, MI</i> Lincoln Trails <i>Oakwood, IL</i>	October 11-12 Brighton Comp. <i>Howell, MI</i> October 17-19 Point Chaser <i>Hinckley, MN</i>
May 10-11 Glacier Trails <i>Palmyra, WI</i>	June 21-22 – Open	August 11-15 Shore to Shore <i>Across Michigan</i>		Oct. 25-26—Open Nov. 1-2—Open

UMECRA Newsletter
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**Next newsletter
deadline: FEB. 29**

Send news to:
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