

# Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides Association



www.umecra.com  
April 2008

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

- 4/19-20 **Brighton Competitive Trail Rides.** (Howell, MI) **MUST PRE-ENTER RIDE BY 4/14/07.** Sat. 35, 25, 15 Comp., 15 CTR; Sun. 25, 15 Comp. Lisa Germann, 6529 Milan-Oakville Rd., Milan, MI 48160. 734-439-5616. woodlandG@peoplepc.com
- 4/26 **Iron Oak.** (Sauk City, WI). Sat. 25 Comp., 12 Novice, 12/6 Drive. Jac Dewese, W6794 Patchin Rd., Pardeeville, WI 53954. 608-429-3697. jacdew@hughs.net.

### MAY

- 5/3-4 **DRAW I.** (Greenbush, WI). Sat. 50 End., 25 LD, 25 Comp., 12 Drive; Sun. 25 LD, 25 Comp., 12/20 Drive, 12 Novice. Barb Gardner, N3758 Dehring Road, Oakfield, WI 53065. 920-291-5641. barb@doublebarallc.com. **SAME TRAILS, NEW LOCATION**
- 5/3-4 **MnDRA I.** (Orrock, MN). Sat. 50 End., 25 LD, 25 Comp.; Sun. 25 LD, 25 Comp., 12 Novice. Theresa Meyer, 3028 181<sup>st</sup> Ave., NW, Cedar, MN, 55011. 763-753-5236.
- 5/3-4 **White River Spring.** (Hesperia, MI) Sat. 50 End., 30 LD, 35/25 Comp., Sun. 50 End., 30 LD, 25 Comp. Wayne Gastfield, 723 North Warner, Fremont, MI 49412. 231-924-2605. **\$5 FEE FOR ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER 4/26..**
- 5/10-11 **Glacier Trails.** (Palmyra, WI). Sat. 50 End., 25 LD, 2-day 50/25 Comp., 12 Drive, 12 Ride/Tie; Sun. 25 LD, 25 Comp, 25/12 Drive. Monna Radtke, 2851 Henshue Road, Madison, WI 53711. 608-222-5200. helinorel-tonsor@earthlink.net.
- 5/16-18 **Run for the Border.** (Wolf Creek, WI) Fri. 2-day 100/50 End., 30 LD, 3-day 90/30 Comp.; Sat. 100/50 End., 30 LD, 2-day 60/30 Comp., Sun. 30 LD, 30 Comp., 15 Novice. Darlene Molitor, 320-597-2147. Send Early Entries to: Joan Thiel, 16052 240<sup>th</sup> St., Cold Spring, MN 56320.
- 5/17-18 **Dead Dog Creek.** (Kinmundy, IL). Sat. 50 End., 30 LD; Sun. 50 End., 30 LD., 30 Comp., 15 Novice. Linda Mowrer, 3992 East Mt. Gilead Ln., Olney, IL 62450, 618-754-3634. ridedeaddog@hotmail.com.
- 5/24-25 **Grand Island.** (Rapid River, MI) Sat. 50 End., 25 LD, 25 Comp., Sun. 25 LD, 25 Comp. Jamie Wilken, 9468 Co. 513 T Rd., Rapid river, MI 49878. 906-474-6048.
- 5/31-6/1 **Maplewood West.** (Pelican Rapids., MN) **YOU MUST MAKE CAMPING RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE.** Sat. 50 End., 25 LD, 2-day 50/25 Comp. Sun. 25 LD, 25 Comp., 12 Novice. Char Thompson, 28953 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., Hawley, MN 56549. 701-526-3737.
- 5/31-6/1 **AHDRA I.** (Wyanet, IL) Sat. 25 Comp., 12.5 Nov. Sun., 25 Comp., 12.5 Nov. Lori Windows, 12317 1550 North Avenue, Wyanet, IL 61379. 815-699-2318.

*You can download ride flyers & entry forms for any of the rides listed at [www.umecra.com](http://www.umecra.com)*

### SE MN—Novice Ride and Make Camping Reservations Now

Camping for SE MN on June 13 to 15 needs to be reserved. Reservations are made by calling 1-866-857-2757. However, if the sites are all full, please remember that Forestville sets aside 20 sites that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. These sites include both electrical and non-electrical. If you arrive early Thursday, these sites have been available. No one has ever been turned away from the park. Also, SE is having a 15-mile Novice Ride at noon on Saturday. This was erroneously left off the ride sheet.

### Oak Leaf Run Date Change

Oak Leaf Run (initially scheduled for April 4-5) has changed dates and will now be held July 26-27. Information in the ride book is correct.

**Attention!  
Have you  
renewed?**

**Look on your mailing label. If it has a red X on it, your 2008 UMECRA dues have not been received as of April 4 and this is the last newsletter you will receive until you renew. Renewal form inside.**

### Inside this issue:

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## Your Ride Books Should Have Arrived

Dear fellow UMECRA Members, by now, you should have all received your 2008 ride book. I'm sure you were just a surprised as I was to open your envelope and find that the ride book wasn't stapled. I get the books from the printer already stuffed into the envelopes – and never opened an envelope for myself until there was one in the mail for every UMECRA member. The printer and I apologize for the error and inconvenience. Here are some possible solutions:

1. Leave the book in the envelope and take it into your local printer and ask them to staple it for you. I can't imagine that they would charge you more than 50 cents for the service.
2. Punch holes in it and put it in a 3-ring binder. (You can probably get the local printer to drill holes in the book as well.)
3. Take your staple gun and drive staples through the top, then turn it over and drive them through the bottom. That should hold it together.

Again, sorry for the inconvenience.

Happy Trotting

Elinore

### Ride Managers:

If you need any adjustments made to your insurance certificates or need to add some, please email the information to Jill at: [jfeller@nconnect.net](mailto:jfeller@nconnect.net) Insurance adjustments & additions are usually completed within a few days. Make sure to send the complete name and address of who you want the insurance policy to cover and the dates. Any other insurance questions can be directed to Jill also. She can be reached via phone at: 920.948.9502. Thank you!

### RIDE MANAGER TIP #12

If a rider submits an entry on an old UMECRA entry form, no need for a redo. Simply have them sign a blank new one (containing the new liability waiver language) and staple it to the completed form.

### RIDE MANAGER TIP #116

Ask riders if they are members of UMECRA. If they aren't, take down their name and address and send it in with your ride results so that UMECRA can send them membership information and encourage them to attend future rides.

### CORRECTION NOTICES:

#### Corrections to Newsletter:

The "Nutshell Schedule" published in February and March listed the AHA National Competitive Ride (not UMECRA sanctioned) on October 4-5. It is in fact October 3-4.

Rules for the new Versatility and Senior Equine awards were clarified at the March board meeting. It was decided that the Senior Equine award would be based on points with the equine completing the most miles during the season winning the award in the case of a tie. See minutes elsewhere in the newsletter for more information on the Versatility scoring system.

#### Corrections to Ride Book:

1. Run for the Ridge—ride manager's correct email is: [sarhmaass@hotmail.com](mailto:sarhmaass@hotmail.com)
2. Rider rep Sharon Hahn's current address is 22175 Cedar Drive, Oak Grove, MN 55474. Anything sent to the old address in Dayton will not arrive.

## KS Equine Massage and Bodywork



**Kathi Soukup**

Equine Massage Therapist

Canine Massage Therapist

Tallgrass Equine Acupressure Practitioner

**815-541-0308**

[www.ks-equinemassage.com](http://www.ks-equinemassage.com)



## Voice of the Rider

Send your news to  
[UMECRAnews@gmail.com](mailto:UMECRAnews@gmail.com)

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

### HELPFUL RIDER HINT #132

Put your UMECRA directory in the glove compartment of your truck. Nobody keeps gloves in there anyway. That way, if you need to contact somebody on the way to a ride, you'll have all the numbers. If your rig breaks down, you could call a UMECRA member that lives nearby. If you get lost, you could call the cell phone of someone who's at the ride. If you forget something, you could ask a friend to pick it up before they leave.

### HELPFUL RIDER HINT #253

Got a kicker? Or just want to warn other horses to keep their distance? Here's a great way to attach a red ribbon to your horse's tail so it won't slide out in the first five miles:

1. Tie the ribbon to a metal hair barrette.
2. Take a small lock of tail and loop it one complete time around the top of the barrette.
3. Clip it all to another lock of tail so it doesn't stick up.

*If YOU have a tip to share, send it to  
[UMECRAnews@gmail.com](mailto:UMECRAnews@gmail.com).*

## What? Injured? No Way!

Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers!

Rick Nelson, who broke his leg while riding in early March, he didn't come off his horse but still took an awful hit to his leg. Speedy recovery Rick!

Lori Windows broke her leg while riding, also in early March. Now we all have heard some amazing stories from Lori on her adventures, but this has to hit home for many of us who ride or want to ride when there is still snow and ice on the ground. Lori and her horse Banner took a spill and Lori ended up getting the worst end of the deal. She is recovering and is adamant that she will see us all the first weekend in May.

Lori's husband, John, also had hip replacement done early in March and they are both home recuperating. John's doing well and Lori tells us is walking better than ever.

Wishing you both a speedy recovery!

### NEW STEED THIS YEAR?

#### Nominate for the 1000 mile award.

The 1000 mile award recognizes those equines who complete 1000 UMECRA miles in their lifetime.

The nomination form and instructions are in the ride book. Nominate now, because those miles rack up quickly, and if you wait until you're close to 1000, you'll have to pay extra for back miles to be counted.

### CHILLY IN YOUR TRAILER ? Stay warm, but use caution to avoid CO poisoning

Two children and their grandparents were killed by carbon monoxide fumes while sleeping inside the living quarters of a horse trailer the night of Oct. 11, 2007. They were in Madison, Wis., for the World Clydesdale Show. The family ran a well-known Clydesdale operation in Tomah.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a potentially deadly gas produced any time a carbon-based fuel, such as gasoline, propane, charcoal, or oil, burns. Sources can include gasoline engines, generators, cooking ranges and space heaters. Carbon monoxide is undetectable--it has no color, no odor, and no taste; it causes no respiratory irritation, and it mixes evenly with the air.

The trailer involved in this accident was not equipped with a heater, so the Tomah couple used a propane heater to warm the sleeping quarters. A roof vent was open in the trailer, but it did not provide sufficient ventilation because CO gas hangs low to the ground--it does not rise like heat. The lethal level of carbon monoxide killed the campers in their sleep.

Victims of CO poisoning are usually not aware they are being exposed to the deadly gas and become commpaired in ways that can lead to death. Symptoms of carbon

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Salero Cards



### Jen Allen

Greeting cards for horse lovers!

Call or email for designs, prices, and packages.

hone: 815-303-1958  
Email: [salero cards@yahoo.com](mailto:salero cards@yahoo.com)



# 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

# Wilderness Pursuit Endurance & Trail Horses.

Owned by Larry & Lynette Engevold  
N5773 Resewood Ave.  
Neillsville, WI. 54456  
Ph# 877-896-4221

We started Endurance racing in the Upper Midwest in 1975! In 1982 we opened our trail riding business to the public. We started by using some great trail horses and some retired endurance horses. Today we operate with over 60 head of Arabians! Using both Purebred and part-bred, we have bred and raised the majority of the horses that are on our farm. Our trail riding business is located near the Clark Co. Forest with 133,000A of land for us to ride thru-and to condition on. The land offers some of the best conditioning trails available in the State.

We would like to invite you to call, email or visit!  
Our heart has always been with UMECRA and the sport of competitive riding.

See what endurance prospect we have available for you.



[www.wildernesspursuit.com](http://www.wildernesspursuit.com)  
[wpwp@tds.net](mailto:wpwp@tds.net)

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

*E-mail submitted by UMECRA member Cynthia Kieliszewski  
ck@speednetllc.com*

The Concept of Management in the Pigeon River Country has closed all horseback riding trails except for one trail through the PRC that is maintained by the Michigan Trail Riders. The PRC has stated that we can ride on vehicle access roads. In addition, they have closed all offsite camping within the PRC. There were 15 offsites within 113,000 acres.

We are very concerned about the safety of riding roads shared by vehicles. In addition, this will effectively limit horseback riding within this forest.

We are asking your support to contact the governor and express your support for horseback riding within the PRC. We ask that you request that horseback riding be allowed on two track roads, fire lanes and ability to cross berms in order to go from one two track to another. We ask that you request the DNR to maintain designated trails within the PRC and include several existing loop trails for riding.

We ask that you remind the Governor of the positive economic

impact horses and horseback riding has on Michigan.

Please send your responses by April 8th.

This is a link directly to the Governors' office. It is called Share your opinion. It is very easy to fill out. Please consider including this link in your forwarding emails as well as using the address below in sending letters to the Governor at her office in Lansing:

<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-21995-65331--,00.html>

Mailing address:  
Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
PO Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

This is the email for letters to be sent to the DNR  
[glodent@michigan.gov](mailto:glodent@michigan.gov) Teresa Gloden

UMECRA Board of Directors Meeting  
March 15, 2008  
Antiqua Bay Resort  
10:00 am

The meeting was called to order by President Sheryl Levin. In attendance were: Sheryl Levin, Jill Feller, Tony Troyer, Julie Jackson, Elinore Tonsor, Sharon Hahn, Theresa Meyer, Linda Hamrick, Maxine Bernsdorf, Linda Mower, Wayne Gastfield, Joslyn Seefeldt and Dawn Haas. Guests: Barry Saylor and Linda Jacobson.

Treasurer's Report was presented in the format of a balance sheet. Dawn made the motion to approve the report as presented, seconded by Wayne; approved. A discussion was held on a cost comparison of the annual convention. Since there were no costs paid yet for the 2008 conventions, no report could be given. Once these costs are received, a report will be presented; the current treasurer database only has accurate records dating back from the 2007 convention, only two years worth of information will be presented.

Secretary's reports from the annual convention was previously sent to all BOD members to read. No corrections or additions were indicated. Tony motioned, Dawn seconded to accept reports as presented; motion passed.

UPDATES:

- Points data base: Sheryl reports that some of the deadlines have been missed and the last deadline is on March 16<sup>th</sup> or the program will be scraped and we will start over with a new program and new programmer.
- Membership cards: these are on hold until a database has been completed; cards may not be available to members until 2009 season
- Advertising in Ride book, website, and directory: we currently have one advertising customer. Elinore and Joslyn will work together to get more vendors to advertise. It was noted that some vendors wanted to see what a *ride book* and *member directory* were and would have advertised had they been approached at an earlier date. The advertising committee will pursue more vendors for the 2009 books.
- New Ride Entry Form: the new ride entry form is on the website. Ride Managers need to be sure their riders have the new form. Ride Managers must also POST THE EQUINE LIABILITY signs at their rides.
- Discussion of moving fiscal year: this has been put on hold due to the convention expenses not being available at this time.
- Clinic packets; new members, etc: A discussion was held on creating some 'standardized' packets of information that UMECRA members can request for clinics that they will be managing. Several BOD members had clinic booklets from previous clinics that were reviewed by the BOD. Theresa Meyer and Jill Feller will work on creating a booklet for UMECRA members to use for clinics. Jacque Deweese

has volunteered to assist in formatting the booklets for UMECRA (*Jacque was contacted after the meeting and he volunteered to assist as needed*).

- Ride manager packets: these will be sent out soon and will contain the following: t-shirt letter, non-member sign up sheets, rule books, statement for reporting ride results and a novice packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Louise Riedel Versatility Award/Charles Phillips Versatility Award: In the November BOD meeting a Louise Riedel Versatility Award was discussed and approved to be presented at the annual general meeting. In the morning BOD meeting in January, GLDRA presented the Charles Phillips Versatility award to the board. At that time, the BOD approved the Charles Phillips Versatility award in place of the Louise Riedel award. To provide clarity to this situation, the Louise Riedel Versatility Award will NOT be an annual award, but the Charles Phillips Versatility Award will be presented annually. Dawn motioned to not take the Louise Riedel award to the general meeting, Tony seconded the motion; passed. The criteria for eligibility for the Charles Phillip Versatility Award:
  - One horse/rider team must complete the following:
    - Two endurance rides of 50 miles or more in length
    - Two open competitive rides (25 or more miles) or two competitive drives (20 or more miles in length)
    - Two limited distance rides of 25 miles or more in length
  - Points will be accumulated in the following manner:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> place = 7 points
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 6 points
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 5 points
    - 4<sup>th</sup> place = 4 points
    - 5<sup>th</sup> place = 3 points
    - 6<sup>th</sup> place = 2 points
    - Completion = 1 point
  - Riders must notify the UMECRA points keeper (Barb Gardner) before the beginning of the last ride of the season that you want to be considered for this award. UMECRA members that do not notify the points keeper prior to the last ride will not be eligible for the award.
- Senior Horse Award: this award will be sponsored by Sharon Hahn. The criteria to win this award will be the total points accumulated throughout the year and the miles ridden. The newsletter contains more information on this award.
- 100-mile horse award: Barry Saylor presented a proposal for this program. Dawn motioned, Wayne seconded to take this program to the general meeting in January; motion passed.

### 100-mile Horse Program

Goal: To increase participation in current 100 mile events

To increase the number of UMECRA sanctioned 100 mile rides.

Enrollment: One time fee of \$50/ horse/rider team.

Year End Awards:

1. Recognition of completion of first one-day 100 mile ride will be a plaque with picture of horse/rider team doing the ride
2. Bronze level- same horse/rider team completion of 3- 1-day 100 mile rides
3. Silver level- same horse/rider team completion of 6- 1-day 100 mile rides
4. Gold level- same horse/rider team completion of 10- 1-day 100 mile rides
5. Platinum- same horse/rider team completion of 15- 1-day 100 mile rides
6. Triple Crown Award- completion of any three UMECRA sanctioned 1-day 100's by the same horse/rider team in a single year, ties to be split by best placements
7. 100-mile Horse of the Year- horse that has completed the most UMECRA sanctioned 1-day 100's that year, ties to be split by best placement.

Other aspects of the program:

1. Add on to web page a 100-miler section with past 100-mile horse/rider teams listed with their pertinent information
2. Make a presentation at the 2009 annual meeting to introduce and kickoff the program
3. Work with ride managers to encourage some 75 mile rides to make it easier for riders to make that jump up in mileage and/or have some elevator rides
4. Mentor program- included as part of the 100-mile section of web page listing people that would be open to mentoring 100 mile newbies
5. Have ride managers state on ride flyer how many riders they would require in order to hold a 100-mile ride
6. Have riders commit 2-weeks ahead to the ride managers that they would be doing the 100-mile ride so ride manager has sufficient time to mark the extra trail
7. Encourage ride managers to give better completion award to 100-mile riders
8. Only UMECRA sanctioned rides count towards annual awards.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Top Objectives of the Board of Directors: committees do not seem to be working well in this organization as only a few of them have been able to show any results of their work: rules/by laws, finance, and convention com-

mittees. The other committees are being discontinued at this time. The BOD needs to put their focus onto our customers: ride managers and riders. We need to simplify paperwork for them. We currently have several different people that ride managers and members must mail information to and they are getting confused and frustrated. A motion was made by Tony, seconded by Julie that going forward and starting immediately, **ALL paperwork** concerning UMECRA will be sent to the secretary/treasurer and she will forward it on to the appropriate person. Motion passed.

- Newsletters; due to a computer breakdown, the February newsletter was not mailed out by the deadline of February 15<sup>th</sup>. In order to prevent further newsletters from missed deadlines, a new procedure is being put in place. Sharon Hahn will send the electronic newsletter to Elinore for printing. Once received, Elinore will send an acknowledgement back to Sharon stating she has received the newsletter. In the event Elinore does not contact Sharon within a two-day period after sending the newsletter, Sharon will call Elinore to see if there is an issue. Sharon does have printers near her that she can use should Elinore's computer malfunction again. Future newsletter deadlines are *not* to be missed.

- Trail grants: a trail grant request for \$250 has been received for the Wildrock Campground in Neilsville, WI, home of the Wildcat ride. This money will be used in conjunction with money raised by the Neilsville Saddle Club for improvements in the campground. Dawn motioned, Jill seconded to approve the grant; motion passed.
- President and Secretary/treasurer election criteria: a request was made at the January BOD meeting to change the criteria for eligibility for the President and secretary/treasurer position; they don't need to be a ride manager. This motion was not approved in January based on the way the motion was presented. A new motion has been presented with stricter criteria. The following is the new proposal: Under Article V, Officers, Section 1, the following will be added: *The office of president must be held by an elected delegate, ride manager or former ride manager who has been a ride manager during at least five seasons in the past decade or who has been an elected delegate in the preceding five years, and who must be present at the time of the election. The office of secretary/treasurer may be held by a non-delegate, though they must be present at the time of the election and have been a ride manager for at least five years. Once elected, these officers will have one vote.*

A discussion followed. The BOD has tabled this topic until the November meeting as the term 'delegate' needs to be better defined in the bylaws.

- Limited Distance Restricted Mileage Awards: what happened to these? Jill will look back into the old minutes to see when they stopped and if there is any documentation about why. *Jill looked at the minutes of the convention from 1995 forward and there is no record of UMECRA ever awarding a 'restricted mileage award for limited distance rides'. The restricted mileage awards were formerly called limited distance competitive and limited distance endurance. Once AERC instituted the Limited Distance rides, UMECRA changed their awards to 'restricted mileage' to avoid confusion.*
- Junior Restricted Mileage Awards: what happened to these? Jill will investigate these in the minutes also. *In 2001, UMECRA awarded junior restricted mileage awards for endurance and competitive rides; they disappeared from the records after 2001.*
- November meeting: the next BOD meeting will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Antiqua Bay resort.
- Summer Conference call meeting: the BOD may hold a conference call in summer to touch base on some issues. Time and day will be announced at a later date.
- Ride date changes: any ride manager that needs to change the date of a ride or cancel a ride due to weather or personal issues needs to contact Elinore ASAP to inform her.
- There is no one to run the 2010 convention. Elinore has volunteered to run it and will contact Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc for dates.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Feller, secretary/treasurer

**UMECRA  
ADVERTISING  
RATES**

**NEWSLETTER ADS (will also be posted to the website)**

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)

**WEBSITE-ONLY 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.*

## CHILLY IN YOUR TRAILER?

*continued from page 3*

monoxide poisoning include light-headedness, dizziness, headaches, nausea, confusion, and vomiting. Prolonged exposure to low concentrations or very short exposure to high concentrations of the gas can lead to death.

To avoid CO poisoning, horse owners sleeping in trailers should be aware of the risks, ensure sufficient ventilation, properly install and maintain equipment, and utilize carbon monoxide detectors, especially in living and sleeping areas.

"We do not recommend any type of heating system to be used in horse trailers, unless the heater is one that was installed by the manufacturer," said Mark Cole, managing member

of USRider, a roadside assistance plan designed for horse owners. "Additionally, factory-installed heating systems should be serviced annually by a professional and operated strictly under recommendations of the heater manufacturer."

While it might be tempting to use a stove--if the trailer is equipped with one--for temporary heat, they should not be used for that purpose under any circumstances, Cole said.

Cole also recommended that a CO detector be installed in any trailer that has gas appliances, such as a heater, stove, oven, or refrigerator. The detector should be maintained as recommended by the manufacturer to ensure that it is performing as designed.

*Source: Press release posted on horsesring.com 10/20/2007*

If you don't have a trailer heater with a CO detector and safety shut-off valve, here are some other ideas:

### TOP 10 WAYS TO STAY WARM WIHOUT A HEATER:

1. Significant other
2. Dogs
3. Sleep at home and drive to ride early in the morning
4. Wool socks/hat
5. Wear riding clothes to bed
6. Sit up with friends by campfire instead of going to bed
7. Hot hands packets
8. Multiple sleeping bags
9. Coffee
10. Mylar emergency blanket



# FROM THE UMECRA PRESIDENT

Dear UMECRA Members,

Another ride season is on the horizon in the Midwest; boy after the winter we have had I can not say how good it is to finally be riding again.

This year is going to be a tough one for many of us with fuel prices setting new record highs, prices of grain and hay skyrocketing and let's not forget the price tag shock of going into a grocery store. I know many of us are looking for ways to cut costs and still compete at the level we are used to. Here are some things that many of us do already to keep costs in line:

1. Trailer pool to the rides. Split the fuel bill and save some money while enhancing your friendships with other riders. I for one love the solitude of taking my own trailer to a ride; but the further away a ride is the more apt I am to try to trailer pool. ☺
2. SLOW DOWN...this is probably one of the hardest things from me...I have a bit of a lead foot but it is a proven fact that slowing down to five miles below the speed limit can save you almost four to five miles per gallon in fuel.
3. Pot lucks at rides; the Midwest is famous for this, and it does save the riders and ride management some time and money. If you haven't taken part in this please do it is a great way to get to know your fellow riders and ride managers and save the time and cost of preparing a full meal at a ride or eating at a restaurant.
4. Rider supplies for a ride...water. Most of us re-fill those empty bottles from our home taps. This can save some people close to \$10 per ride.
5. Those big water tanks many of us fill at home and take to the ride...sometimes out of necessity but many times out of the ease of having water at our campsites. If the campsite has a good well and running water; grab a hose and fill your tanks when you get there...less weight on your truck will go a little ways on your fuel bill.
6. Now I am not promoting any of these sites but several have great pricing on many of the things most of us use. Cost saving supplements, tack etc. Website links
  - a. <http://www.buyabetta.com/index.html>
  - b. <http://www.adamshorsesupply.com/>
  - c. [http://www.valleyvet.com/ct\\_equine.html](http://www.valleyvet.com/ct_equine.html)
  - d. <http://www.kvvet.com/>
  - e. <http://www.horse.com/>
  - f. <http://www.jeffersequine.com/>
  - g. <http://www.bigdweb.com/>
  - h. <http://www.horseloverz.com/home.php>

Many of you have been asking why our ride books seemed to go out late this year; I wanted to answer this question so that people understand that it is not an easy feat to get the ride book together...printing is the easiest portion of the timeline. ☺

The cut off for the ride book was February 15<sup>th</sup>; we had several rides that did not have their flyers in at that time for the book to be assembled and shipped off to the printer. After contacting the rides in question the ride book was assembled and ready to go by early March then we had some late ride changes and thus held the ride book off from printing do that we could get the details listed. Without hitting the original deadline for ride managers to get their information to us; it delayed the printing of the book by two weeks then I held it up for some late ride changes for a week so that we could get those published. I figured it was better to have a complete book rather than having a ride book that was not up to date.

An update on the new points database! Our coder has over 4000 lines of code into the project and is still working on getting some issues resolved. This has delayed the process down but has not stopped the project. We will have a new point's database this year and will be able to grow on it.

The BOD's met in early March and one of the issues that was brought up is our "Customer Service" to our Ride Managers. As you will find in this newsletter, we have now ONE address for all Ride Managers to send inquires regarding points, forms etc. Hopefully this will alleviate having to have several mailing addresses to get the information to the appropriate people. Communication among the BOD's was also focused on and it was decided that we will be adding telephone conferencing to our yearly meetings. The BOD's only meets three times a year; this is not sufficient to keep our focus on issues that arise. We will be including at least one telephone conferencing meeting this year to help touch base and discuss any subjects brought to the board. This meeting will likely be held in July.

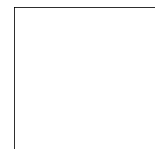
I want to thank all of the ride managers, riders and board members of UMECRA that have expressed their thoughts and offered their resources to this organization.

Thank you everyone. Good luck with your season and ride safe!

Sincerely,

Sheryl Levin  
UMECRA President

UMECRA Newsletter  
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**Next newsletter  
deadline: April 30**

Send news to:  
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