

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



Ride Schedule!

Dates	Ride	State
April 4-5	Oak Leaf Run	MI
April 18-19	Brighton Competitive	MI
April 25	Iron Oak	WI
May 2-3	White River Spring	MI
May 2-3	MnDRA I	MN
May 9-10	Glacier Trails	WI
May 15-17	Run for the Border	WI
May 16-17	Dead Dog Creek	IL
May 23-24	Grand Island	MI
May 30-31	Maplewood West	MN
May 30-31	AHDRA I	IL
June 6-7	ApDRA	WI
June 13-14	White River Summer	MI
June 20-21	S.E. Minnesota	MN
June 27-28	Hopkins Creek	MN
July 3-5	Endless Valley	WI
July 3-5	Mosquito Run	MN
July 11-12	Endure for a Cure	IL
July 24-26	Wildcat	WI
July 25-26	Saolmie Sizzler	IN
August 2	Warm Up	MI
August 3-7	Shore to Shore	MI
August 8	Cool Down	MI
August 15-16	Thistle Down	MN
August 22-23	Rock River Charity	IL
August 29-30	Northern Highland	WI
September 5	White River Fall	MI
September 6-7	White River Labor Day	MI
September 12-13	Charity Cup	MN
September 12-13	Keweenaw	MI
September 12-13	Lincoln Trails	IL
September 19-20	Colorama Classic	WI
September 19-20	Tin Cup Springs	MI
September 26-27	Run for the Ridge	MN
October 1-4	DRAW-arama	WI
October 3-4	Pine Martin Run	MI
October 9-11	Brighton Competitive	MI
October 16-18	Point Chaser	MN
October 24-25	AHDRA III	IL

GOING THE DISTANCE

A message from the President

I'd like to take this opportunity as your new President to thank Cheryl Williams for her time and efforts on behalf of our organization these past 2 years. Also thanks are due all of our outgoing officers, Tony Troyer, Barb Gardner, Sharon Hahn, and Elinore Tonser. Congratulations to our new slate of officers.

I believe 2009 will present a new set of challenges to all of us. Tougher economics times may affect attendance and present difficulties in scheduling and maintaining future rides during these lean days. Our rules need to ensure that riders and ride managers have a successful ride season. Together I think we can go

the distance.

Rick Nelson

Thank You UMECRA

UMECRA membership,

Rachael and I would like to thank all of UMECRA for the special awards that we received at the banquet. The awards were well thought out, and very memorable. My mom who knows nothing about UMECRA, commented on the quality awards that were given to Rachael and me. Rachael was thrilled with all, and is so motivated for this upcoming season!

Thanks to the awards committee for their hard work!! Hopefully next year Rachael and I will be able to spend a little more time at the banquet.

UMECRA is a great organization, with great people. We really enjoy being part of the group! Thanks again-
Diane & Rachael Meinders

UMECRA Board of Directors Meeting

March 14th – 10am

Ho-Chunk Casino In Wisconsin Dells WI.
10:00 A.M.

All UMECRA members are welcome to
attend and observe.

Rider Profile!

This month's profiles are brought to you by the letter "B."

Barbara Gardner (BG)
(on RR Roman Scooter)



Barb Kurti (BK)(not pictured)

Tell us about yourself (name, job, family, etc.)

Barbara Gardner, have three grown sons 30, 31 and 33, and one grandson born Aug 11, 2008. I am self employed so that just means I work all the time. I built a barn and arena so I could take in boarders and be around the horses more. The problem with that is if you are successful at it you have less time to ride.

My name is Barb Kurti. I'm an Asset Protection Manager and have been with my husband for 24 years. We have 3 horses, dog, goat, chickens and barn cats.

Tell us about the equine(s) you ride or the ride you manage.

BG: I started out riding my Tenn. Walkers (Beau and Shadow) and did ok and had a wonderful time learning about the sport. I now ride an Appaloosa (Roman) and he has been doing well in Comp. and I am hoping to move him to Endurance next season. I also manage the DRAW I ride, which we have now joined with DRAW IV and will have a 4 day ride.

BK: *Synerator (Bud). Born and raised on our farm he has over 3600 miles with the majority of them in the last 5 years. He primarily rode competitive of 50 miles or less and numerous multi-day rides. In 2004 Bud had 710 total miles including 6 days of 275 miles Shore-to-Shore and continuing on to finish at the Nationals. That year he received many awards including top honors with GLDRA, UMECRA, and AHDRA, 2- AHA High Point awards through GLDRA and UMECRA and Region 13 Reserve Grand
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Champion Competitive. In 2005 Bud took 1st place on a 3-day 100-mile ride at Wildcat. He finished the year with 630 miles, UMECRA top 10 and High Point awards for Brighton CTR and AHDRA. In 2006 Bud had 460 miles including completing his first 100 mile ride at Top of the Rock finishing first and best condition. That summer he traveled to Auburn to attempt the Tevis. In 2007 he reached 235 miles only to succumb to an injury. He came back in 2008 at age 21 with a total of 500 miles including 7 days of 200 miles Shore-to-Shore and finishing the year with a 1st place in LD. Bud is an honest horse and gives everything and then some. He is very consistent, keeps a good pace, stays focused and is very determined.

*Tryllerika(Trika) is 6 this year and finished her first two 15 mile rides in October.

*Kulta (Trika's son) at 6 months likes picking on Uncle Bud (Synerator).

How long have you been involved in distance riding and how did you get started?

BG: I have only been competing since 2002 so am still fairly new to the sport. I got into distance riding when I meet Sheryl Williams (Levin) at the stable I was boarding at. I rode with her because she went fast enough so I could gait my Walker (Beau). All the other boarders were trail riders and went too slow for me to get him into a nice running walk. She told me all about the sport as we rode together and then took me to a few rides and I was hooked.

BK: Bud and I started distance riding in 1994. I found the date and location of one of the rides and showed up 2 hours before the ride started. Didn't know anyone, just knew I wanted to ride in the woods with other riders. I was very lucky that I ended up riding with Joyce DeVries (Mocilan). Through her I learned so much and met fellow riders. Thank you Joyce!!

How far do you typically drive to get to a ride?

BG: That really varies; it depends on how bad I want to go to a particular ride.

BK: Most of the rides are within 2 hours from home other than Shore to Shore.

What's the coolest completion award you ever received or heard of?

BG: I haven't heard of that many I guess but I still like the T-shirts. I know I am new to the sport yet but I think they are really a great way to advertise.

BK: Fleece throw blanket that was hand made (anything handmade) and treats for the horse.

What do you think is most important for a good distance riding experience?

BG: Great trails, both the condition of them and how well they are marked. And nice ride management. Being friendly and helpful goes a long, long way to make a ride very enjoyable.

BK: It's the enjoyment of bonding with my horse, keeping us safe and healthy, having a good time with friends and to keep in mind to set aside the competition and have fun!!

AHDRA Triple Crown Award

AHDRA, in connection with Trailer Eyes, would like to announce the first annual Triple Crown Award competition. In order to be eligible for this award, a one rider/one equine team must compete in and complete at least one event at all three AHDRA rides: AHDRA I – My Big Back Yard Ride, AHDRA II – Endure for the Cure, and AHDRA III – Big River. Rider need not be an AHDRA member, and equines need not be Arabs or Arab crosses, although if you are competing on a Purebred or Part bred Arab, you might consider joining AHDRA. The winner will be announced after the last AHDRA ride in October, and they will receive a set of Trailer Eyes! What a prize! In addition, eligible riders will compete for individual ride awards for each jewel of the Triple Crown.

For scoring, all divisions in an event – age, weight, and breed – will be lumped together. In increments of 25 miles, teams will receive 11 points for 1st place over all down to 2 points for 10th place, and 1 point for every completion after that. Teams need not compete in the same type of event at every ride. Endurance, LD, Comp (including Novice), and driving will all be tallied in the same manner. You need not register to let us

know you are going for the prize, we will know whether or not you are eligible. Should be fun, please join in!

AHDRA UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Jen Allen is our new points keeper and Vice President. If you have ridden out of area rides since Nov. 1st, please write down the ride and your placing and give this information to Jen. Her e-mail address is sydney1410@yahoo.com. Out of area rides must be reported within 30 days of the rides completion. Club Sect/Treas is Chris Power. His e-mail address is power@dtnspeed.net. Contact him for help in joining or renewing your AHDRA/AHA membership. Our AHA liaison is Tony Troyer. He can be reached at I14aerc@aol.com for questions or comments concerning AHA.

Please remember that it is your responsibility as a member to submit your out of area points, and check to make sure they are correctly recorded. Take a look at the Nominated Horse list and make sure your horse is there with the proper breeding.

AHDRA now has a Yahoo group site! Go to yahoo.com, select groups, then search for ahdra to check it out or email ahdra@yahoogroups.com. While we are undergoing changes to our web page, it is the best place to find current information. Please join and submit constructive ideas and opinions. You can even submit pictures. It is a new year for AHDRA – let's make it the best ever!

Lori Windows, AHDRA President

Letter to the editor – Novice Division

My last UMECRA Competitive Trail Ride was in 2001 before I retired my Morab gelding Sparks. In 2008 I had a new horse and had planned on popping him in a few 15-mile rides "just for fun", with no intention of joining UMECRA. Then I heard about the Novice Division, where I could compete for yearend awards in 15-mile rides, so I joined the group again, competed successfully, and

attended my first banquet to proudly receive my 5th place jacket.

I was surprised to see that a discussion of the Novice Division was on the agenda at the meeting. If I knew about it in advance, I would have submitted comments to someone. Are these topics printed in the newsletter?

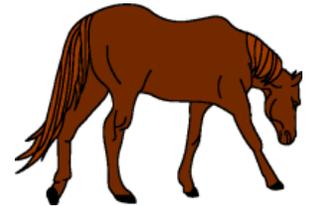
I believe that UMECRA is being short-sighted in viewing this division as solely for the benefit of new people entering the sport. I believe it could be an important vehicle for retaining older riders and horses that might otherwise leave the sport! I prefer to think of this division as Limited Distance for CTR, rather than Novice. You already have an LD division for endurance riders who don't want to tackle the 50s and 100s. Why not an LD-CTR for those who cannot do the 25s and 30s? I'm sure some will snear and say "what's next, a 5-miler?", but in reality those of us who have only done CTRs might at some point not be able to do 25's anymore yet still want compete.

On two of the 2008 rides, I baby-sat a woman who said that she could never do a 25 because once she got off a horse she stiffened up so bad she cannot get back on and ride again. She was happy that both of our rides did not have a surprise vet check. If there had been, she asked me if she could get a vet check while mounted. I didn't know the answer to that one! In her case she was a true rookie, but she could have just as easily been a seasoned competitor whose circumstances changed.

You could be retaining riders whose health prevents them from doing 25s anymore. Or someone with an older horse, still able to compete in 15s, but whose owner doesn't want to stress their horse any further than that. I had neither of those problems -- mine is simply a schedule that did not allow the level of conditioning that I used to be able to do. Perhaps my horse could have completed a 25, but I felt much better sticking to a 15. If my schedule is the same in 2009 I still will not be doing 25s. So either I will compete in 15s "just for fun" with no placing available to me and probably not joining UMECRA, or I will attend Competitive Mounted Orienteering rides instead. I know it's late for 2009, but I would hope that next year perhaps you will entertain changing this

division again to call it Limited Distance CTR and open it up to any rider who does not qualify for other CTR placings, allowing one 25 miler a year. Thank you for hearing my opinion!

Karen Tellef
Crete, IL
708-672-8974
KarenTellef2@cs.com



CHANGES TO UMECRA SENIOR EQUINE AWARD

The UMECRA Senior Equine award was put in place in 2008 to honor the equine 20 years of age or older. The equine may compete in multiple divisions (endurance, limited distance, competitive, novice, driving) and with any number of riders. Initially, the award scoring was based solely on points.

When the points were tallied at the end of the year, it was apparent that senior equines could obtain a significant advantage by pairing up with a junior rider or driver because in these and other divisions that typically have low numbers of entries, they could more easily win placing points. To mitigate this issue and provide for a more equal playing field, the board voted to adopt the following scoring system for the Senior Equine award beginning in 2009:

UMECRA Miles + UMECRA Points = Total Score

For example, if your senior equine does eight 25-mile UMECRA rides and wins them all, you will get 200 miles + 88 points (11 first place points x 8 rides) = total score of 288. If you do eight 25-mile UMECRA rides and merely complete them, you'll get 200 miles + 40 points (5 completion points x 8 rides) for a total score of 240. This system gives more weight to mileage while still allowing equines to accrue extra points for placing in the top 6.

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 – if your equine will be 20 prior to the end of the 2009

season, s/he is eligible). Please also state the name your equine enters rides under if different from what's on the papers. There is no fee to nominate. If you nominated last year, we will assume your equine hasn't gotten any younger, so there is no need to nominate again. If your equine is no longer competing, please let Sharon know so we don't have to spend time checking for points. Send nominations to: Sharon Hahn, 22175 Cedar Drive NW, Oak Grove, MN 55011, or email sharon.hahn@usa.com.

Update on Ed Hauser

A note from Wendy Hauser, a former member of MnDRA who now lives in Montana regarding her husband Ed.

On December 21, Ed suffered a serious heart attack but his prognosis is good. While there was some damage to the heart muscle, it should be able to heal completely with the help of stents..

December 2008 was a touch month for the Hauser's! Wendy asks you to keep Ed in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers and keep in touch them.

Wendy Hauser
2994 Mittower Road
Victor, MT 59875

For Sale or Trade...

Nine year old purebred Arabian 15.2 hand grey gelding. DR Viva Rockvegas #0579312, foaled 4/12/2000. Spanish bred and Sweepstakes nominated. Ridden and shown hunt by a college student. I am a trail rider, 67 years old and if I could sell Rocky I would like an older Arabian for trail riding. Rocky is a good horse just too much energy for me. I am a tall person and would like something 14.3 or taller. He is currently at a stable and being ridden several times a week for conditioning. Please contact Bibionne Puent 608-526-3720 or cell 608-797-5581. If you have any questions or have something to trade for Rocky.



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ENDURANCE CLINIC - FEB 28TH

Date: Feb. 28, 2009
Time: 10 AM- 4 PM, with Light Lunch included
Location: The Joy Gasser Farm, 4805 E Walnut Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701
Cost: \$25.00

Come, spend a winter day and learn about two of the fastest growing equine sports in the U.S., Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding. Lectures, demonstrations and question and answer sessions will satisfy your curiosity about how to spend more time in the saddle and more time with your horse.

Topics to be covered will be: The different distance riding organizations; difference between endurance and competitive trail riding; distance riding tack, equipment and clothing; choosing a good distance riding horse; feeding the distance riding horse; what to expect at your first event; associated paperwork; shoeing options for your horse; techniques and strategies for conditioning your horse, where to start and what to do. Also a question and answer session to clarify any information given earlier. Learn from our years of experience and many miles of competition.

Bring your lawn chair and be comfortable in Joy Gasser's heated indoor arena. Please pre-register so we can be sure to have adequate food available for all.

If a severe winter storm causes us to postpone the Clinic, it will be rescheduled ASAP and all people will be notified in sufficient time to avoid unnecessary driving.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at bsaylor1947@gmail.com or cell 507-951-2245 or home 507-765-2711

JANUARY 24, 2009

BOD MEETING

Annual Convention
WI Dells, WI

BOD Present: Max Bernsdorf, Wayne Gastfield, Lynn Reichel, Linda Hammrick, Julie Jackson, Dawn Haas, Barb Gardner, Joslyn Seefeldt, Elinore Tonsor, Theresa Meyer, Dianne Schmidt, Linda Mower, Rick Nelson, Tony Troyer, Sheryl Williams

Guests: Mary Mott & Barry Saylor

Meeting was called to order by President Sheryl Williams.

Secretary report was sent to BOD members earlier in the week for reading. Motion was made and seconded to

approve the report as provided to board members; motion passed.

Treasurer report presented. An audit of the treasurer was conducted on 1/23/09 by Wayne Gastfield, Rick Nelson and Mary Mott. The auditors found no problem with the financial records of UMECRA. The balance sheet for UMECRA shows a total of \$17987.10 in the funds: \$777.43 in convention fund; \$4339.93 in ICF fund; \$11663.12 in general fund and \$1206.10 in the trail fund. Motion made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report as given; passed.

Old Business:

- Ride Schedule-a tentative ride schedule was presented along with the mileage of each ride. Elinore suggested that the four-day ride for DRAW be sanctioned separately as it could have an effect on the rides the week before and the week after it. Elinore also explained that Angie Mikkelson contacted her about possibly adding a ride to the schedule, but there has been no further contact from Angie since the initial contact. There were several minor changes made to the schedule; Rick motioned to move the schedule to general meeting- Tony seconded the motion; passed.

- Insurance- Jill provided an update on the insurance for the 2009 ride season. At this time, there are no costs available from our insurance company; they did feel that the price would be much the same as last year. Dianne motioned and Rick seconded for UMECRA to keep the insurance costs for rides the same as last year. The cost is \$45/day and additional insured is \$20/insured. UMECRA will pay ½ of the daily cost/ride, but none of the additional insured costs (same as 2008 ride season). Motion passed.

- Appointments for open positions: There are several open positions that need to be filled for a two-year term. The following members are interested in these positions. The BOD discussed the positions and the individuals that are interested before a vote was taken. The following were appointed:

1. Pointskeeper: Joan Thiel and Angie Mikkelson= Angie Mikkelson was appointed
2. Newsletter Editor: Peggy Pasillas/ Shelly Sentyrz= Peggy Pasillas was appointed
3. SC: Shelly Sentyrz/ Elinore = Shelly Sentyrz was appointed
4. Webmaster: Joslyn Seefeldt = Position is not up for election this year.

- Points Database: Sheryl gave an update of the UMECRA database that she has been working on creating. She had hired a programmer and has been working with him for a year to get this set up. It is a huge database and contains all mileage for horses through the 2007 ride season. This mileage contains the UMECRA and the AERC mileage. The database will eventually be web assessable to all members. A copy of the database was given to Barb Gardner and Jill Feller. Shelly Sentyrz will also have a copy of it as she is our new pointskeeper. The database will need to be tested before being fully implemented.

- Wes Elford joined the BOD meeting late as he conducted a Veterinarian's at 7:00 am this morning. Wes

invited 20 ride vets and only one made the meeting. Marnie and Wes spent time looking at the scoring sheet for the competitive and felt some changes could be made to make it better.

- Elevator rides: Theresa Meyer presented the bylaw change that would be needed to allow elevator rides to be conducted within UMECRA. A brief discussion was held. Motion made by Max and seconded by Rick to move this motion to March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- By-law changes:

- 1) ARTICLE III; BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Section 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. The property and business of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors., which shall be composed of delegates. Only Delegates may be elected as Officers or as Directors, with the following exceptions: of the Board position of Veterinarian Representative, which will be composed of an endurance or competitive ride veterinarian, President (see, Article III, Section 5, below), and Secretary-Treasurer (see, Article III, Section 7, below). Authorized alternate voting delegates shall not be eligible for election for the purpose of this section.

Motion made by Wayne, seconded by Tony to accept this rule change and take it to the general meeting.

- 2) Section 5. PRESIDENT: (d) To be eligible to be elected, a nominee for President must be present and a Delegate to the meeting at which the election is held, must be:

- 1) a current UMECRA Ride Manager or former UMECRA Ride Manager
- 2) who has been a UMECRA Ride Manager during at least three (3) season in the past five (5) seasons, or who has been a Delegate in the preceding two (2) years.

Motion made by Wayne, seconded by Tony to accept this rule change and take it to the general meeting; motion passed.

- 3) Section 7. SECRETARY/TREASURER: Due to its requirements

and nature the position of Secretary-Treasurer may be filled by either a current Delegate or a current UMECRA Member with a minimum of three (3) years of experience in the five (5) years preceding election as a UMECRA Ride Manager . Motion made by Wayne, seconded by Tony to accept this rule change and take it to the general meeting; motion passed.

- Sanctioning Rule:

M. Ride managers who are forced to cancel their ride two years in a row will be asked by the UMECRA President to give up their ride date (unless significant reasons are presented to retain that date.) Ride managers cancelling two years in a row shall forfeit their ride's voting eligibility for the second year. Was amended to the following:

M. Ride managers who cancel their rides two years in a row will give up their ride date and forfeit their ride's voting eligibility for the second year.

Motion made by Tony, seconded by Max to accept this rule change and take it to the general meeting. Motion passed.

K. If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers novice classes; all fees and rules shall be observed. Novices are only eligible for year-end awards in the competitive novice division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that novice rides shall count. Novice rides are eligible for the Senior Equine Award. not eligible for year-end awards, but Mileage shall count. Novice mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards
Changed to:

K. If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers novice classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Novices are only eligible for year-end awards in the competitive novice division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that novice rides shall count. Novice mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards.

Motion made by Jill, seconded by Tony to accept this rule change and take it to the general meeting; motion passed

- General Rules: Rider Requirements:
 - o J. All riders and mounts must be physically present and accounted for at the start of the ride, except for those participating in elevator rides where the ride they may elevate to begins earlier than the ride they first enter. This motion was tabled until the March BOD meeting for further discussion.

- Competitive Novice Division: was presented as:
The objective of this division is to promote the entry of new riders and new horses into the sport of distance riding.
 1. A UMECRA Novice Ride cannot be longer than 15 miles. The ride must be part of the UMECRA sanctioning process. All fees apply.
 2. The Novice division must be a one horse/rider team. To enter this division for awards, the rider must not have completed more than 3 competitive rides of 25 miles or more. They must not have entered more than 2 Limited Distance rides or more than 2 Endurance rides.
 3. The horse/rider team must not be entered during the official ride season in any other ride distances other than the novice division, with the exception of one 25 or 30 mile competitive ride.
 4. Horse/rider team will use the same rules as competitive rides and including UMECRA general rules.
 5. Novice rides will have only one division. Juniors and seniors, no matter what weight division are one division for the purpose of awards and scoring for UMECRA.
 6. Scoring for UMECRA awards will use the current system for High Point Awards. Awards will be given to Top 5 only.
 7. Novice riders must accumulate a minimum of 40 miles which one ride can be a 25 or 30 mile competitive ride for Year End Top 5 Awards.
 8. If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers novice classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Novices are only eligible for year-end awards in the competitive novice division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that novice rides shall count. Novice mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards.

Was changed to:

COMPETITIVE NOVICE DIVISION

The objective of this division is to promote the entry of new riders and new horses into the sport of distance riding.

1. A UMECRA Novice Ride cannot be longer than 15 miles. The ride must be part of the UMECRA sanctioning process. All fees apply.
2. The Novice division must be a one horse/rider team. To enter this division for year-end awards and individual placings, the rider must not have completed more than 3 competitive rides of 25 miles or more. They must not have entered more than 2 Limited Distance rides or more than 2 Endurance rides. Horse/rider teams not meeting this criterion may enter novice rides for mileage only.
3. The horse/rider team must not be entered during the official ride season in any other ride distances other than the novice division, with the exception of one 25 or 30 mile competitive ride.
4. Horse/rider team will use the same rules as competitive rides and including UMECRA general rules.
5. Novice rides will have only one division. Juniors and seniors, no matter what weight division are one division for the purpose of awards and scoring for UMECRA.
6. Scoring for UMECRA awards will use the current system for High Point Awards. Awards will be given to Top 5 only.
7. Novice riders must accumulate a minimum of 40 miles and at least 3 rides, of which one ride can be a 25 or 30 mile competitive ride for Year End Top 5 Awards.

Motion made by Tony, seconded by Max to approve this motion and take it to the general meeting; motion passed.

- Competitive Drive Rules:

Under General Rules

C. There shall be one two divisions: Single Horse and Multiple Horses-- regardless of the age of the driver shall share a division for points and awards. Junior drivers must be accompanied by a sponsor in the carriage from start to finish, who will assume full responsibility of the turnout. Motion made by Tony, seconded by Theresa to accept the rule change; motion carried- will be presented at the general meeting.

- Sanctioning Requirements:

L. Yearly fees per ride are \$40, with a surcharge of \$10 for a first year ride. This includes ride supplies and a prorated 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 \$2 per starting rider.

Motion made by Rick, seconded by Dianne; failed.

- Restricted Mileage awards: Barb Gardner pointed out that the restricted mileage award rule needs clarification on wording. The wording is unclear and should be worded so one horse/rider team cannot place in restricted mileage in TWO weight divisions within the same discipline. Example: horse/rider cannot place in LW competitive and HW competitive. The horse/rider team can place in both LD and competitive. This is just a clarification of wording and does not need a motion to approve.

- Horse nomination fees: A discussion has held on increasing the 1000 mile horse nomination from \$10-\$15. Motion was made by Rick, seconded by Dianne; failed.

- High point Senior Equine Award: The criteria for the Senior Equine Award was discussed. The riders in 2008 felt that using points only could/would favor a junior rider who could potentially ride fewer miles. Since the award is for the senior horse, it was felt the horse's miles should play a part in receiving the award. Sharon Hahn presented two different options for the BOD to consider. Option 2 was decided as best option as it balanced points and mileage. Rick made a motion; seconded by Julie- passed. The new criteria for the Senior Equine Award will be posted on the UMECRA website.
- Trail Fund: A discussion was held on moving some money from the general fund into the trail fund. Motion made by Jill; seconded by Linda; subject was tabled until the March meeting.
- Awards: It was noted by Barb that two junior riders were given awards by only doing two rides. The criteria should say that three rides need to be completed to be eligible for awards. The wording has inadvertently been removed over time; the three ride minimum will be put back in to the eligibility rule.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Feller
Secretary/Treasurer

**JANUARY 24, 2009
ANNUAL MEETING
WISCONSIN DELLS**

President Sheryl Williams called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken. There were 74 votes from delegates, one veterinarian representative and four rider rep votes for a total of 79 votes.

Treasurer Report was provided in the form of a balance sheet that compared 2006, 2007 & 2008. Motion made and seconded to accept report as presented: approved

Secretary Reports: the minutes of 2008 general meeting were printed in the February NL. Motion made and seconded to accept as printed: approved.

Old Business:

- Points Database: Sheryl Williams gave an update of the point's database. UMECRA paid \$100 for the database. It includes all mileage from UMECRA horses through 2007. We will need to run a beta site in 2009 to test it out. It is imperative that the horse's name be correct on the ride sheets or the database will not recognize it and points will not be awarded to the correct horse.
- Insurance cost: Jill gave an update on the insurance. The 2009 costs are not available at this time. The BOD voted to keep the UMECRA assistance the same as last year; 1/2 of daily cost but no additional insured costs. Jill will put

updates on the insurance costs in the newsletter and on the website.

- New Rider T-shirts: An update on the new rider t-shirts was given. There was very positive feedback from riders and ride managers about this program. Kathi Macki explained that if the rider left before receiving their card, the RM can send them in so the rider receives their shirts.
- Vest Coupon: An update on the vest program: Max has 13 to present tonight at awards
- 100-mile Horse Recognition Program: Barry Saylor presented his idea of starting a 100-mile horse awards program. A plaque with horse/rider team will be presented at the end of the first 100-mile ride. Only UMECRA rides count. What can be done to encourage RM's to offer 100-mile rides? This program will be going forward in 2009. All nominations will be sent to Secretary/Treasurer with names of horse/rider teams sent to Barry Saylor.

New Business:

- Ride books: February 15th is absolute deadline for getting the ride flyers to the Sanctioning Coordinator as the ride book must be out in the mail by first part of March. The first UMECRA ride is the first week in April.
- Sanctioning Rules and Guidelines: (see the minutes from the BOD meeting for exact wording of these rules)
 - o Cancellation of a ride two years in a row will cause a forfeit of ride dates and voting rights- Motion made by Theresa; seconded by Tony: passed.
 - By Law change: (see BOD minutes for exact wording)
 - o Secretary/Treasurer: Theresa presented the new criteria accepted by the BOD for the secretary treasurer in Article III, Section 7. Motion made by Theresa; seconded by Tony; passed by a roll call vote of 45/39.
 - o PRESIDENT: Article III Board of Directors Section 5: Motion made Theresa & seconded Tony to accept the new criteria approved by the BOD concerning eligibility of running for President of UMECRA; discussion followed. Passed by majority vote.
 - o Election of directors: Article III. Section 1: Theresa motioned, Julie seconded to accept the new wording passed by the BOD. Passed by majority vote
 - Senior Horse Award: Sharon explained a change for the senior horse award. The new criteria will be based on points and miles. There will be a complete explanation in the newsletter.
 - RULE CHANGES: (see BOD minutes for exact wording)
 - o NOVICE DIVISION: Tony explained the reasoning for the change; to allow only true novice riders to win awards in this division. The BOD passed a change in this rule in the morning meeting. Tony motioned to accept the new wording, Wayne seconded; passed.
 - o Eligibility of receiving awards in the novice division was discussed in the morning BOD meeting with article (K) be reworded. Theresa motioned to accept the new wording, Tony seconded; motion passed.
 - o DRIVES: The rule stated there were TWO divisions. The BOD accepted a wording change to ONE division where all drivers will share division for

points/awards for drivers. Motion made by Tony, seconded by Sharon Hahn. Motion passed.

- Ride Schedule: Elinore presented the tentative ride schedule for the next few years. She presented the schedule with the miles for review. Several changes from the morning meeting were communicated to the general membership and several changes were made by the ride managers at the meeting: Elinore made a motion to accept the schedule with the changes, Tony seconded: approved.

- Appointed positions: The new appointed members were announced. The following members were recognized for their service over the past few years:

- o Sharon Hahn- newsletter editor (replaced by Peggy Pasillas)

- o Elinore Tonsor- sanctioning coordinator (replaced by Shelly Sentyrz)

- o Barb Gardner (Joan Thiel assisted Barb throughout the 2008 ride season)- points keeper (replaced by Angie Mikkelson)

- Elections:

- o President: complete one-year term from Sheryl resigning. This will be for one-year term. Nominated: Rick Nelson & Tony Troyer; Rick won

- o VP: Tony serving final year of one year term to replace Mary Mott who resigned as VP in 2007. This is a two-year term. Nominated: Tony Troyer, Theresa Meyer, Bill Suskey; Theresa won.

- o IL Rep: replace Linda Mowrer serving a one-year term replacing Tony who moved to VP slot to fill in for Mary Mott. This is for a two-year term. Nominated: Linda Mowrer. No other nominations were received.

- o Secretary/Treasurer: regular two year term due. Nominated: Jill Feller and Dianne Schmidt; Jill won

- o MI Rep: regular two-year term is due. Nominated: Wayne Gastfield- no other nominations.

- o Director at Large: regular two-year term is due. Nominated: Marty Powers, Carmen Stueck, Tony Troyer and Bill Suskey. Marty won.

- o Past President: this will default back to Peggy Brush as Sheryl resigned and is not eligible to serve as past president. Rick is the current past president and will be moving into the president role.

- There was a discussion on putting the Ride Book on CD's instead of a hard copy. A show of hands revealed there is a strong interest in doing this. The membership form on 2010 will have a choice choice of CD, PDF or hard copy.

- Discussion was also held on the 2011 convention; it will be the 40th anniversary of UMECRA. This convention will be held in Rochester, MN. Anyone knowing past members to invite should contact Dianne Schmidt with names and addresses.

Respectively submitted:

Jill Feller
Secretary/Treasurer

In Memory of Ben Piche...

Our prayers and condolences go to the family of Ben 'The Cowboy' Piche who died of a heart attack while
9 of 12

shoveling snow on his farm earlier this month. Ben graciously hosted the Thistle Down Ride in Frazee, MN the last several years. The family wishes for us to use their farm this year for the Thistle Down ride. Ben truly loved having us there. Henry is putting together a photo album for the family. If you have any photos or short story of Ben, please contact Henry at bunkhouse@hankshauser.com.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR...

APATHY A dirty word, in my opinion. Dictionary definition: “Lack of interest; indifference; without feeling.” My definition? “One step away from death”. On the whole, we are not an apathetic group. We are all involved in a sport that requires action and feeling. We rise early in the morning, don our sub zero clothing and enter a frozen world to care for our beloved horses. While the snow is still on the ground and the ice still covers the water tanks, we are conditioning for a season of competition. We cry and curse and cheer and cherish our moments spent on the trail with our friends, both human and equine. And yet----- On the whole, we are an apathetic group. We want our organized rides and our awards and our recognition, but many of us don’t want to put out the effort that these things require. Year after year, it seems to be the same people making the same sacrifices to do the same things for our clubs. I know it is a little late for New Year’s Resolutions, but since the New UMECRA Year is yet to begin, let’s all examine our goals. Think about what you can do for UMECRA and the sport of distance riding. Here are ten things you can do to support your sport.

#1. Mentor a new rider and bring them to rides.

#2. Volunteer to help at a ride.

#3. Join a sister club, whether it be regional or breed, and get involved.

#4. UMECRA and her sister organizations all have Yahoo “chat” groups. Log on and share your constructive comments.

#5. Let your world know about distance riding. Whenever you get a chance, give your sport some positive PR, whether it be among non-competitive horse people, at your local feed store, with your farrier or veterinarian, or in your local newspapers.

#6. Donate an award at a ride. The \$15 or \$20 the ride saves by not having to purchase a major award means more profit (or less of a loss) for management. Don’t make it an award you hope to win.

#7. Recruit a new ride veterinarian or offer to feed or house a ride veterinarian.

#8. Offer to drive an extra few miles to car pool and bring more riders to a ride.

#9. Stick around for awards at a ride. If you can’t do that, at least don’t bug the crap out of management to give you your awards early. If you can’t stay for awards, arrange to have someone pick them up for you.

#10. Volunteer for a club committee, or run for a board position.

I won’t name names for fear of leaving someone out, but I know of several people who have found wonderful ways of contributing to the sport. One lady doesn’t want to commit to managing a ride, but she brings great food to take care of the ride vets. There are several people who seldom enter the ride, but show up at to time, secretary, or feed ride management. Others come a day early to help mark trail. Get creative. Most importantly, ban the attitude: “If I don’t do it, someone else will.” Adopt the attitude: “If I don’t do it, who else will?”

Lori Windows

Hey UMECRA Members!
Got something you want to share with the rest of the members? Just let me know!

Submitting an article to the newsletter is only a few keystrokes or a letter away!

Email: UMECRAnews@gmail.com

Regular mail: UMECRA

c/o Peggy Pasillas

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Feedback on newsletter format and content is always appreciated!

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