

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 8-9	Louise Riedel Memorial	WI
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

The UMECRA Membership Committee needs your help!

Every organization must retain current members and attract new members in order to survive and thrive. The UMECRA membership committee needs your suggestions on how to best accomplish these important tasks. Send any and all suggestions – even if it might seem silly or impossible to achieve – to one of the committee members listed below.

Julie Jackson-Biegert jujacks@fuse.net
 Pam Cotton hellsnellsfarm@sbcglobal.net
 Linda Mower ridedeaddog@hotmail.com
 Angie Mickelson angieorr@hotmail.com
 Marty Power power@dtnspeed.net

Thanks so much for your help with this important matter.

Marty Power,

Membership committee chair

RIDE BOOKS:

The ride books have been sent out. If you have not received one, please contact Jill Feller at: jfeller@nconnect.net or 920.948.9502.

Insurance Certificates:

The insurance certificates for the 2009 rides have been sent to all the ride managers. If you have not received yours in the mail, please contact: Jill Feller at: jfeller@nconnect.net or 920.948.9502. If you need the change any items on your insurance, including adding or deleting an additional insured, please contact Jill as soon as possible to allow the corrections to be done before your ride.

UMECRA & Country Supply!

UMECRA is now signed up for Country Supply's (horse.com) country care program. Anytime you order from them online just type "umecra" into the country care code box. UMECRA will receive a check for 5% of your order total, not including wormers. We can use the funds for whatever is needed (trail grants, awards, scholarship program- whatever is needed). The program is not limited to members, anyone can type in our code and UMECRA will receive the 5% back from their order. So tell your friends!!

I've been ordering from them for years and for the most part they have really reasonable prices and the orders usually come within a week. Shipping is free on orders over \$49 dollars as well except for FOB items. No sales tax either, so the savings can add up. Any questions feel free to contact me (Dawn Keast) at [hrspwr50@aol.com](mailto:herspwr50@aol.com).

Dawn Keast

Letter to the editor – Response

That was a great letter to the editor by Lori Windows--lots of good ideas! I plan to contact ride managers to donate a few of my framed horse art prints for awards--I'd never thought of it until this article!

Karen Kersten
kkersten@uslink.net

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Why I Like Horses!

author unknown (courtesy of Joan Elbert)

Why do I like horses? I think I must be mad.
My mother wasn't horsey - and neither was my dad.

But the madness hit me early - and it hit me like a curse, and I've never gotten better. In fact I've gotten worse.

My stables are immaculate. My house is like a hovel.
Last year for my birthday - I got a brand new shovel.

I hardly read a paper - but I know who's sold their horse, and I wouldn't watch the news - unless Mr. Ed was on - of course.

One eye's always on the heavens - but my washing waves in vain as I rush to get the horses in - in case it's gonna rain.

And though they're wearing 15 rugs, the best that you can get, I bring them in to keep them dry - while I get soaking wet.

I spend up every cent I've got - on horsey stuff for sure. I buy saddles, bridles, fancy rugs - and then I buy some more.

I should have had my hair cut - or bought that nice blue shirt. At least it wouldn't now look ripped to shreds and in the dirt

I can't make a bloody sponge cake - I don't even try but I can back a car and trailer - in the twinkling of an eye.

Its jeans and Ariat boots that I live in night and day and that smell of sweaty horses just doesn't wash away.

Once every now and then I dress up for a ball.
Make up and a hairdo - with high heel shoes and all.

I ache from long forgotten falls. My knees have got no skin. My toes have gone a funny shape - from being squashed again.

But late at night, when all is still - and I've gone to give them hay, I touch their velvet softness and my worries float away.

They give a gentle nicker and they nuzzle through my hair and I know it's where my heart is - more here than anywhere.



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.



FOR SALE: Nikken magnetic horse blanket, size 76. Like new. Asking \$250. Email me at 80minus50@gmail.com or call Mike at 608-386-1114.

Our Condolences to Chip Jack...

Chip asked me to pass this along to the MnDRA family, her older brother Fred was killed in a car accident last Sat morning, I don't know the details. He was in a band called "The Deep Fried Tweetters" they also have a website with picture and memorial to him. If you could pass this on to UMERCA also, it would appreciated, Thanks,
Bev Specht

Advertising in the UMECRA Newsletter

Rates depend on the size of your ad and how many times you wish to run it:

Ad Rates for Newsletter	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)					

Please send your ad to UMECRAnews@gmail.com. We can handle most common formats, such as Word, .pdf, or .jpg. The deadline for each issue is the last day of the previous month – newsletters are generally mailed by the 15th.

Please send payment for your ad to:
Jill Feller, UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer
N9280 Cty Hwy TW
Mayville, WI 53050

Checks should be made payable to UMECRA.

NOVICE RIDE CHANGES

The following rules were adopted in the January 2009 general meeting. They limit who can place in this division for ride awards and year end awards. Experienced riders can still ride in the novice division, but they ride for miles only. We continue to need these experienced folks to mentor our beginning riders or beginning horses, and we thank you in advance for volunteering to take a group out this season! Have fun on your rides.

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.

A UMECRA Novice Ride can not be longer than 15 miles. The ride must be part of the UMECRA sanctioning process. All fees apply.

1. 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 criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.
2. 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.
3. Horse/rider team will use the same rules as competitive rides and including UMECRA general rules.
4. 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.
5. Scoring for UMECRA awards will use the current system for High Point Awards. Awards will be given to Top 5 only.
6. 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.
7. 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.

OTHER RULES AND BYLAW CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS.

Novice wording was changed in the Sanctioning guidelines of the UMECRA rules. See item K. And if a ride manager cancels their ride two years in a row they will be asked to give up their ride

date. The driving awards for UMECRA have been adjusted. Singles and pairs will be competing in the same division for points and year-end awards. One bylaw change was made. The President of UMECRA does not have to be a current ride manager, but must have been a ride manager 3 of the last 5 years, or been a delegate the last two years. The secretary/treasurer position DID NOT change, at further review during the March board meeting, that bylaw change did not have the 2/3rds majority needed to pass.

RIDE MANAGERS DID YOU GET YOUR HANDBOOKS?

I sent out copies of the Ride Manager/Vet Handbooks about a month ago. If you have not received your copies, plus the vet signature letter enclosed let me know ASAP. Thanks – Theresa Meyer, UMECRA VP, 763-753-5236 – or email at tmeyer@tpt.org Have a great ride season everyone!

EQUESTRIAN NEWS RELEASE

MOSCOW, Idaho-The Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC) Trail and Distance Department is proud to announce the 2008 recipients of the "Horse of the Year" awards. Congratulations to Fourmile's Kuna and RR Roman Scooter.

To earn the prestigious "Horse of the Year" awards for Trail and Distance, eligible ApHC-registered Appaloosas must complete a minimum of 350 miles in ApHC-approved competitive or endurance trail rides.

Fourmile's Kuna earned the 2008 Year-end High-mileage Endurance Appaloosa Award and the 2008 Year-end High-mileage Appaloosa of the Year Award. He competed in 10 competitive and endurance trail rides for a total 770 miles after earning double miles, which are awarded to "Best Condition" and "High-point" winners. The 1995 gelding also earned a 350-mile bronze medallion for 2008. Fourmile's Kuna is proudly owned by Lisa Delp of Westminster, Md.

RR Roman Scooter was honored with the 2008 Year-end High-mileage Competitive Trail Ride

Appaloosa Award. The 2001 stallion earned the award by competing in 15 competitive trail rides, and completed 495 miles. He also earned a 350-mile bronze medallion and the 2008 1,000-mile award, which is awarded to an Appaloosa for each 1,000 miles that it completes. RR Roman Scooter is proudly owned by Barbara Gardner of Oakfield, Wis.

These awards will be presented to the Appaloosas' owners at the 2008 Year-end Open/Non-pro Banquet held in conjunction with the 62nd National Appaloosa Show/2009 World Championship Appaloosa Youth Show in Jackson, Miss., June 22-July 4, 2009.

Courtesy of *Theresa Meyer*

AHDRA II Ride: Endure for the Cure

Mark July 10-12 on your calendars. Join us in Farmdale Park, Washington, Illinois and come ride and raise money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

2008 was a true test of everyone's endurance and perseverance! Challenging weather with a tremendous rain storm Friday night made the streams in the park impassable Saturday morning. Although Saturday's rides had to start later than originally scheduled, the cooperation and assistance from Todd Ernenputsch (the Park ranger), Bonnie Iten (the ride secretary) and so many others allowed the trails to be rerouted and all the scheduled rides to occur over the three days. For 2009 we are hoping for less challenging weather, but the same amount of fun and success in the fundraising effort. We hope you can join us!

Over the last 8 years over \$156,000 has been raised for Komen! Last year alone over \$16,000 was raised. This year come and help us do even better. We have lots of wonderful prizes including a custom made saddle from Native Spirit Saddlery, a portrait sitting with Genie Stewart-Spears, a horse design camping mat from The Distance Depot, a wireless trailer monitoring system from Trailer Eyes and other great stuff! Start your fundraising now for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure and

maybe this year you'll go home with one of the great prizes!

Courtesy of *Marty Power*

MNDRA I Camping May 2nd & 3rd

Sand Dunes State Forest does not do advanced reservations; campsites are first come – first served. Ken & I go around and reserve about 10 sites on Friday morning. PLEASE pull into these sites with the white tickets with our names! The center area is also reserved by ride management. Remember, all sites can house at least two trailers, so if you are the first ones to arrive, pull all the way to the front of the site, so someone can share the camp with you. And please pay for your camping with ride management when you pay the rest of your ride fees – THANKS & SEE YOU IN ORROCK! Theresa Meyer 763-753-5236 or tmeyer@tpt.org

HOW MUCH SALT DOES A HORSE REALLY NEED?

I came across this in Horse Journal and it clarifies how much salt our horses really need.

Work Level (1100 horse)	Salt (grams per day)	Salt (ounces per day – 2tbs = 1oz)
Maintenance	25 grams	Just under an ounce
Light/moderate work in cool weather	35 grams	1.25 ounces
Heavy work in cool weather	50 grams(speed work) to 62.5 grams (endurance)	1.75 to 2.2 ounces
Light/moderate work in hot weather	35 grams plus a correctly balanced electrolyte replacement product given according to product directions	1.25 ounces plus a correctly balanced electrolyte given according to product directions
Heavy work in hot	50 grams (speed	1.75 ounces

Work Level (1100 horse)	Salt (grams per day)	Salt (ounces per day – 2tbs = 1oz)
weather	work) to 62.5 grams (endurance) plus a correctly balanced electrolyte given according to product directions	(speed work) to 2.2 ounces (endurance) plus a correctly balanced electrolyte given according to product directions
Lactating mares – mares with generous salt intake will consume water more freely, supporting good milk production.	Minimum 30 grams	Minimum 1.05 ounces

For your consideration...

- Salt is the only mineral horses will naturally seek.
- Designer salts, said to be natural or from specific areas, give your horse no more value than inexpensive table salt
- Some natural, unrefined salts can contain toxic materials
- Salt is a chemical called sodium chloride (NaCl).
- Ensuring a daily consumption of 1 – 2 ounces of salt is absolutely necessary to avoid a dehydrated state.
- Sea salt is not safe because the oceans are contaminated.

What about hidden salt? If your horse stays hydrated but doesn't seem to eat the free choice salt, he may be getting his salt from other sources. Some commercial feeds may contain up to 1% salt – if you feed 6 pounds per day, that's almost 1 ounce (28.4 grams) of salt – almost enough to meet his daily requirement! A supplement with 10% salt will have 2.84 grams per ounce. One more reason to check the labels!

From the March 2009 Horse Journal

Want to get your newsletter earlier? Ask to receive it via email! Just let us know and we will make the switch! Not only will you get the newsletter earlier, but you will save UMECRA money! That's more money to support the rides, trail donations, educational grants, and awards!

Contact Jill Feller or Peggy Pasillas to make the switch to email delivery!

SMILES!

February 28, 2009 ApDRA hosted a competitive and endurance riding clinic at the SMILES (Special Methods In Learning Equine Skills) facility in Darien, WI. Fourteen participants were present to learn how to get started and what to expect from distance riding. Speakers were Sheryl Williams, Elinore Tonsor, and Dawn Haas with input and questions answered by ApDRA members Mo Miller, Linda and Hugo Hartman. There was lots of discussion and information shared. Topics covered included horse choice, tack, clothing, feeding, and conditioning. After a morning of listening and a break for lunch, the group went to the indoor arena for a vet check demonstration and had time to practice using a stethoscope to check heart rate and gut sounds. It was an enthusiastic group and we look forward to seeing many of them on the trail. Keep a watch for these newbies and offer your help and advice as needed. Thanks to Advanced Biological Concepts, AERC, and the Appaloosa Horse Club for providing materials for the participants. Thanks to SMILES for the use of the facility and horses for the demonstration. And a big thanks to Bonnie, Kaye, Paul, Sarah, Rebecca, Patricia, Sharron, Lori, Kris, Pat, Barbara, Deb, Jill, and Karole for sharing your day with us and letting us share our love of distance riding with you. Your registration gave SMILES a generous donation. See you on the trail!

UMECRA BOD MEETING

March 14, 2009

Ho Chunk Casino, Wisconsin Dells

In Attendance: Wayne Gastfield, Angie Mikkelson, Lynn Reichert, Sharon Hahn, Peggy Pasillas, Shelly Sentyrz, Dawn Haas, Linda Mowrer, Marty Power, Julie Jackson, Maxine Bernsdorf, Theresa Meyer, Peggy Brush, Rick Nelson, Jill Feller

Guests: Tony Troyer

Meeting was called to order by President Rick Nelson.

Secretary report:

Minutes from the January meetings were printed in the February newsletter so copies were not distributed at the BOD meeting. Rick presented a member's concern that the bylaws were not followed when during the general meeting in January. The bylaws state there needs to be a 2/3 majority vote to change a bylaw. During the meeting, the vote to change the secretary/treasurer criteria was a vote of 45 yes

out of 79 votes. This is not a 2/3 majority. The minutes from January 24th general meeting will be amended to reflect this change. The bylaws will remain as is for the secretary/treasurer criteria. Motion was made by Wayne to accept the minutes with this change; seconded by Theresa; motion passed.

Treasurer report:

The treasurer's report was presented in the form of a balance sheet and a profit & loss statement from January 1- March 7, 2009. Motion made by Theresa, seconded by Max to accept report as presented: passed.

Agenda:

- Convention update: Dianne Schmidt, convention manager was not in attendance at the meeting; no update was provided.
- Convention guidelines: The convention guidelines were reviewed by the BOD.
 - o Section 8 of the guidelines reads: All expenses and income need to be recorded and turned in to the UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer at the end of the convention. Communication with the Sec/Treasurer should be done prior to the convention to establish the 'hows' and whys of how expenses will be handled. An experienced convention manager may want to track all expenses/income on his/her own and just submit a final report while an inexperienced convention manager should work closely with the secretary/treasurer.
 - o After discussion by the BOD concerning the tracking of expenses and keeping records centralized, this section was changed to: All money for the UMECRA convention will be put into the Convention Fund by the Secretary/Treasurer and all expenses for the convention will be paid through this fund. Convention managers are not to manage the money transactions of the convention individually; all money transactions are to be done through the UMECRA Secretary/treasurer. Convention managers will need to work closely with the Secretary/treasurer to arrange for payment of all bills concerning the convention. Motion made by Peggy Brush, seconded by Sharon Hahn; passed.
 - o Section 14 of the convention guidelines states: Waive convention fees for the convention manager and assistants. UMECRA should pick up the cost of the convention manager's hotel room for two nights. After discussion of this section, the 'and assistants' was eliminated. Motion made by Max, seconded by Julie; passed
- Standard Operation Procedures (SOP): a discussion was held as to where items such as the 'convention guidelines' is and why is it not available to members? There are several items that would fall into a SOP type document. Motion made by Julie, seconded by Marty to write up any SOP's that UMECRA has going forward and place them on a section of the website for all members to view. Motion passed. Jill has a SOP format and will put the convention

guidelines in that format. Jill will also talk to Joslyn (UMECRA webmaster) about the web page.

- 1000-mile horse program: A motion was made by Theresa, seconded by Angie to cap the 'buy-back-miles' at \$50. The nomination fee of \$10 will stay as it currently is and the miles per year will remain at \$15/year with a cap of \$50 total for the miles (\$10 fee is still required before a rider can purchase the past year miles). A discussion was held as to the reason for the fee; in past years it was a lot of work to go back to past years to figure up the miles of horses as the records were not electronic. Due to technology, this backtracking may not be hard to do. This discussion was tabled until fall. Angie (new points keeper) will work with the point's database to see how much work is involved with this process. (Note: miles from years before the technology may not be assessable to purchase as the whereabouts of those records is unknown). No further action was taken on this subject at this time.
- Rider and horse numbers: Motion made by Peggy B., seconded by Theresa that all horses and riders in UMECRA have a number for tracking of points. Angie would assign the horse numbers and Jill would assign the rider number. Jill and Angie will work together to set up a system and report back at the fall meeting. No other action was taken on this subject at this time.
- Trail fund: this subject was tabled from the January meeting. How can UMECRA fund the trail fund to be sure there is money available for trail requests? The fund it given money from the silent auction; 75% is ICF, 12.5% is trail, 12.5% is scholarship money. This only puts money in the fund every other year. UMECRA is registered with Country Supply (now Horse.com). When members go on this site and order products, they can register to have points awarded to UMECRA. After so much in sales, UMECRA will be sent a check based off of the member's purchases. A discussion was held about who benefits most from all the different funds in the UMECRA treasury. A committee was formed: Jill, Peggy B., Dawn and Sharon. This committee will look at how UMECRA money is being generated and spent, look at trends and if any fees such as membership, rider fees, sanctioning fees, etc need to be increased in 2010. The money in UMECRA is decreasing slowly over the years and this committee will provide a report in fall.
- Elevator rides: a discussion was held about changing the UMECRA rule which bans elevator rides. There was discussion concerning how this rule change would affect endurance and competitive rides, what extra things a manager would have to do, the fact that some trails would not allow an elevator ride to work, etc. This topic was tabled until the fall meeting so more thought can be put into the wording the rule.
- Appointed position: a member expressed an idea that the appointed positions should be appointed in the fall meeting instead of in January. This time change would allow for a better transition period with the outgoing and incoming

personnel. The positions would be appointed in November at the fall meeting, but would not take on the duties until January. Motion made by Jill, seconded by Wayne; approved.

- Database: Angie asked for permission to purchase Access 2000 from Amazon.com. She needs the program to work with the new database that was developed for UMECRA. The cost of the program is \$65. Motion made by Theresa, seconded by Peggy B; approved.

- Awards: Maxine expressed concern about the cost she has to work with for the awards for the 2009 season. The amount allowed for awards is based on the ride entries from the previous season. In 2008, the ride entries were down over 400; this gives the awards committee an amount of \$19.70 & 39.40 to work with. Several board members expressed an interest in being on the awards committee and helping 'shop' for awards. These members are: Angie, Lynn and Dawn. They will work with Max to find some awards within this price range. If no awards can be found by June, the amount for awards will be reconsidered by the board for an increase. The increased cost would come from the general treasury.

- Novice Division: Tony Troyer brought a concern to the board about some senior, experienced riders who would like to ride in the 12-15 mile rides, but receive awards. Can a senior division be started? Tony stated that just a champion and reserve champion could receive awards and he was looking for a corporate sponsor for this. There were several comments and questions about this topic. Is a 15-mile ride really endurance? Should UMECRA support the shorter distances? The novice is a starting point; should there be an ending point for riders? Should an open division be started? Could these riders be the leaders of the novice groups? Ride managers could contact one of these riders and provide free camping for the weekend and a free ride entry if he/she leads the novice division. The miles would count, but no awards would be given. Some of the breed organizations only consider a competitive ride as 25 miles or higher so the lower miles would not count toward breed awards. No action was taken at this time.

- Membership committee: Marty Power will be chair of this committee. Members include: Linda M, Julie, Angie and several UMECRA members (non board members) who have expressed an interest.

- ICF funds: Julie proposed an idea to use the ICF funds to assist UMECRA ride managers hold FEI rides. By using these funds for this purpose, more UMECRA members would benefit than just providing money for one rider to go to an international ride. FEI rides in the Midwest could be very educational for all riders and keep our riders here. FEI riders are forced to leave the region to qualify at FEI rides. By going outside the region, they are missing UMECRA rides and not contributing to their support. The ICF members will be contacted about this proposal.

- Fall and spring meeting locations: Should we move these meetings to different locations? Julie put some

numbers together to show the distance of the various board members to several locations, including Rockford, IL. Theresa explained that several years ago, the area for this meeting was decided to stay between Madison and Wisconsin Dells in WI- it seemed to be the most centralized locations. No further discussion on this topic. The next meeting will be on November 14th in Madison, WI- no location was provided at this time.

- New ride: Shelly presented a new ride to be held in Bismarck ND. The ride is Prairie Smoke on June 20 & 21 managed by Deb Kolegraf. Deb had previously managed the Chimney Butte rides. Shelly stated that Dianne Schmidt had been contacted by Deb about the ride as it falls on the same weekend as SE MN ride. Dianne gave her approval for Deb holding the ride; the BOD approved the addition of the ride based on this information.

- UMECRA Brochures: Theresa will be printing up 100 new UMECRA brochures for the MN horse fair.

- 2010 Convention: the next convention will be on January 22-24th in Oconomowoc, WI- just off of I94. Elinore Tonsor is the convention manager.

- Novice Ride Criteria: Sharon Hahn expressed her concern if ride managers will remember to ask novice riders if they still fit into the new 'criteria' of being a novice rider. Sharon volunteered to prepare a checklist for managers to use so riders are true novice riders. Sharon will write up the checklist and work with Shelly to get the information out the ride managers.

- Mentors: Marty asked about the mentor program. Mentors are still listed on our UMECRA website and are still available to riders.

- Trail Fund: Linda Mowrer requested \$100 for the Stephen Forest State Park barn renovation (both Dead Dog Creek and Lincoln Trails will be held on this trail in 2009). Linda's trail group, White Squirrel Saddle Club will match the funds. Motion by Dawn, seconded by Wayne; passed.

Committees:

- Rules: Tony, Theresa (chair), Wes
- Financial: Jill (chair), Peggy, Dawn, Sharon
- Auditor: Wayne (chair), Rick, Sharon
- ICF: Jill, Elinore (not sure of other members – an researching this)
- Convention: Julie (chair) Jill, Dawn, Lynn
- Awards: Max (chair), Dawn, Angie, Linda Jacobson, Lynn R.
- Membership: Marty (chair), Linda M, Julie, Angie, several non board members to be names later.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

			Mar 7, 09
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
	Convention fund		277.43
	ICF Fund		4,339.93
	Mayville Savings Bank		5,143.29
	Trail Fund		1,206.62
	Total Checking/Savings		10,967.27
	Total Current Assets		10,967.27
TOTAL ASSETS			10,967.27
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
	Opening Bal Equity		16,860.34
	Retained Earnings		1,126.76
	Net Income		-7,019.83
	Total Equity		10,967.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			10,967.27

What Horse Owners Should Know About Strangles

On Behalf of the Equine Research Coordination Group

Strangles is a highly contagious disease that causes horses to have swollen and painful lymph nodes that block their airway and can cause difficult breathing. The name was coined because these enlarged nodes sometimes (but rarely) suffocate affected horses.

The first reported case of strangles in a horse was in 1251 by Jordanus Ruffus in Europe. Convinced of its contagious nature, Ruffus recommended isolating affected animals and pointed out that the most common source of infection for horses was water buckets previously used by infected animals. This advice remains valid today.

Here are some common questions and answers about strangles:

What causes strangles and what should I expect to see? Strangles is caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus equi* (commonly known as *S. equi*), which gains access to a

horse either through the animal's nose or mouth. Bacteria then invade the lymph nodes in the head and throat area, making them swollen and painful. With time, abscesses in the lymph nodes will mature and rupture to drain a creamy pus. Other lymph nodes in the head and throat may be involved but not be apparent because many of them will drain into the horse's throat and nasal cavity.

Additional signs of the disease that often develop include fever, loss of appetite and listlessness.

How does a horse become exposed to strangles? Most horses that develop strangles contract the disease through contact with the infected nasal discharges from another horse that has an active case of strangles or has recently recovered from strangles. Direct transmission occurs when horses, being very social creatures, have nose-to-nose contact with each other. Indirect transmission occurs when a susceptible horse shares feed, water buckets or housing with an infected horse.

About 20% of horses continue to shed *S. equi* in their nasal secretions for several weeks after they have recovered from the disease, making all recovered horses a potential source of infection for at least six weeks after clinical signs have resolved. An extremely small percentage (1% to 10%) of horses continue to shed *S. equi* in their nasal secretions for months to years. These horses frequently have guttural-pouch infections caused by *S. equi*.

Fortunately, *S. equi* is not a hearty organism and does not persist for long in the environment. While it is possible that a horse could contract strangles from the pasture that housed a horse with strangles, it is very unlikely.

How will a veterinarian know if a horse has strangles? A veterinarian generally will diagnose a case of strangles based on the classical clinical signs. The gold standard to confirm the infection is a bacteriologic culture from either nasal swabs or pus from the abscesses. Another test is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR), which detects the DNA of *S. equi*. While this test is excellent, it does not distinguish between dead and live organisms and therefore should not be used alone to make a diagnosis of strangles.

What should be done if there is a strangles outbreak? Proper management by the horse owner or the farm manager is the key to the successful control of an outbreak of strangles. Working with a veterinarian, the owner or farm manager can identify affected groups of horses, look at the geography of the premises and review management practices to develop a practical disease-control strategy.

Several specific aims of the plan should include:

1. Preventing the spread of *S. equi* infection to horses on other premises and to new arrivals on the infected premises. This is done by stopping all movement of horses on and off the affected premises until further notice. Horses with strangles and their contact should be maintained in well-demarcated "dirty" quarantine areas. Clustering the cases in groups should allow parts of the premises to be allocated as "dirty" and other parts as "clean."
2. Establishing when horses that have recovered are no longer infectious. The veterinarian will institute a program of culturing nasal swabs over several weeks. Horses that consistently test negative are returned to the clean area.
3. Investigating long-term carriers. If a horse continues to shed *S. equi* longer than expected, the veterinarian will recommend an endoscopy examination of the guttural pouches and determine treatment if needed.
4. Preventing infection spreading from dirty areas to clean areas of the premise. Ideally, the individuals working with horses should be divided to deal with each of the two groups of horses. If this is not possible, horses in the clean area should be attended to first. The veterinarian will also be able to describe methods of disinfecting facilities.

Is it possible to vaccinate against strangles? Field experience suggests that vaccinating horses usually reduces the incidence and severity of strangles. However, vaccination is not an absolute preventative. Researchers are actively working to develop improved strangles vaccines to protect horses from this highly contagious disease.

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Fast Fact!

Most of the time, a horse has "monocular" vision. This means a different image is seen by each eye so that a horse is seeing two different pictures at the same time. A horse can also have "binocular" vision. Binocular vision is when both eyes work together to see one picture (humans have binocular vision). A horse only has binocular vision when it is looking down its nose.

SCRATCHES

'Tis the season! Nothing like a muddy spring for your horses to end up with a nasty case of scratches!

Here's what Horse Journal (February 2009) recommends:

Start with daily cleaning using a tea-tree based sheath cleaner – it's antimicrobial action helps clean and treat any mild infections.

Leave it on for about 5 minutes to help soften the scabs and make them easier to remove.

Sometimes that's the only treatment needed if you catch it early enough.

Still a problem – coat the affected area with Desitin (diaper rash ointment), clear aloe gel or Corona.

Application of a Telfa type pad and wrap can help keep the area dry and clean.

If it doesn't clear in a few days you might need to be more aggressive.

Here are two options to try:

1. You can use a 50:50 mixture of Lotrimin cream (yep – athlete's foot cream) and a triple antibiotic wound cream.
2. In a small bowl, mix the following ingredients: 1 tube of 1% hydrocortisone cream, 1 tube of triple antibiotic cream, 1 tube of Lotrimin, 2 tbls of water based aloe-vera cream (must have water as the main ingredient – not mineral oil), the contents of one 1,000 IU vitamin E capsule, and the contents of one 10,000 IU capsule of vitamin A.

Apply daily until the scratches are healed. If you don't see results within 3 days, try a different treatment.

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