

April 2010

# UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



## 2010 Ride Schedule

April 17-18	Brighton Competitive	Howell, MI
April 24-25	Iron Oak	Arkdale, WI
May 1-2	MnDRA I	Orrock, MN
May 1-2	White River Spring	Hesperia, MI
May 8-9	Glacier Trails	Palmyra, WI
May 14-16	Run for the Border	Wolf Creek, WI
May 15-16	Dead Dog Creek	Kinmundy, IL
May 22-23	AHDRA I - M-BYR	Wyanet, IL
May 29-30	Grand Island	Rapid River, MI
Jun 5-6	Maplewood West	Pelican Rapids, MN
Jun 5-6	ApDRA	Palmyra, WI
Jun 12-13	White River Summer	Hesperia, MI
Jun 18-20	S. E. Minnesota	Forestville, MN
Jun 19-20	Prairie Smoke I/II	Bismarck, ND
Jun 26-27	Hopkins Creek	Manton, MI
Jun 26-27	AHDRA 1.5 - Zumbro Bottoms Boogie	
Jul 2-4	Endless Valley	Spring Green, WI
Jul 9-11	AHDRA II - Endure for the Cure	Washington, IL
Jul 10-11	Mosquito Run	Rogers, MN
Jul 10-11	AHAM Augusta, MI	
Jul 17-18	Oak Leaf Run	Wayland, MI
Jul 23-25	Wildcat	Neillsville, WI
Jul 31	Warm Up	Oscoda, MI
Aug 2-6	Shore to Shore	Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
Aug 7	Cool Down	Empire, MI
Aug 7-8	Louise Riedel Memorial	Arkdale, WI
Aug 14-15	Thistle Down Run	Frazee, MN
Aug 21-22	Rock River Charity	Utica, IL
Aug 28-29	Northern Highland	Florence, WI
Sept 4	White River Fall	Hesperia, MI
Sept 5-6	White River Labor Day	Hesperia, MI
Sept 11-12	Charity Cup	Pillager, MN
Sept 11-12	Keweenaw	Lake Linden, MI
Sept 11-12	Lincoln Trails	Kinmundy, IL
Sept 18-19	Colorama Classic	New Prospect, WI
Sept 18-19	Tin Cup Springs	Luther, MI
Sept 25-26	Run for the Ridge	Fairfax, MN
Sept 30-Oct 3	DRAWARAMA - Pioneer Ride	Palmyra, WI
Oct 2-3	Pine Marten Run	Nahma Junction, MI
Oct 8-10	Brighton Competitive - Fall	Howell, MI
Oct 22-24	Point Chaser	Hinckley, MN
Oct 30-31	AHDRA III - Big River	Keithsburg, IL

## Notice to UMECRA Members: Salamonie Sizzler Will NOT Be Sanctioning with UMECRA in 2010

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**Attention, Attention...**  
**The 2010 Ride books have been sent out. If you have not yet received your ride book, please contact Jill Feller at: [jfeller@nconnect.net](mailto:jfeller@nconnect.net) or call 920.948.9502.**

**Important! You will need to specify if you want a hardcopy ride book or a CD version.**

## Correction on Lincoln Trail Ride Distances!

Correction on Lincoln Trail ride distances  
The events listed on the front page of the ride book for the Lincoln Trail ride Sept 11-12, 2010, are incorrectly listed (but they are listed correctly on the individual flyer inside the ride book and on the website). The correct events are: Sat 100E/50E/30LD/30C/15N. Sun 30LD/30C/15N.

# Advertising in the UMECRA Newsletter

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

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*Line = (65 Characters per line including spaces)					

Please send your ad to [UMECRAnews@gmail.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## Help!!!

THERE IS A TRAVELING TROPHY FOR ROOKIE ENDURANCE AND FOR ROOKIE COMPETITIVE. I have not been able to obtain info as to who donated these and the reason for donation. Anybody who can pass that info on to any member of the awards committee would be appreciated. Thanks in advance for your help.  
Max

## Notes from AERC...

Just thought I'd let you know a few of the things your AERC BOD has been talking about and working on lately. I think few of you have the time to spend on the internet

and following all the issues there. You have "bigger fish to fry," like a job, family and riding your horses!

AERC has been at the mercy of the general slump in the country and has spent more money than is coming in over the last couple of years. In years previous, it didn't look like there would be any end to prosperity until there was, just like many personal finances. The BOD has worked diligently over many meetings with budget cuts and programs to balance the budget and it now seems we will have a surplus for 2010.

The Sponsorship Committee has developed a program from Easy Care, the Easyboot people. For every mile a horse in the easboot program completes on an AERC ride, they will donate money to AERC!! The rider must be enrolled in the Easyboot contest and send in the signed confirmation sheets to Easy Care. You need to start the ride with the boots on. This includes miles where you use the boots over shoes, too. It does not count when to put on a boot for a lost shoe, it does not need to be 4 boots, 2 is OK. So go to [www.easycare.com](http://www.easycare.com) and download the necessary forms and you to can start helping AERC and your horse. The contest is free. I use shoes, but sometimes I use easyboots, so I will sign up, too.

Another issue is a plan to require horses to make their pulse criteria at the finish in 30 minutes instead of 60 minutes on endurance rides (50 miler plus rides). This generated a lot of discussion at the convention. It turns out that the split seems to be 50/50, and we will continue to look at this. By the way, it can be done without a rule requiring it, because our current rules allow changes to be made for the safety of the horses. We will continue to study the concept.

Please give me feedback at rides and online/phone on the pulse issue and other issues as the season goes along. Sign up for the EasyBoot contest and send in your confirmation forms to Easy Care.

Roberta Harms  
DAL  
[equiphil@aol.com](mailto:equiphil@aol.com)  
847-438-0111

## Remembering Mike Thomas...

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, Mike Thomas passed away on Sunday March 28th. He was the greatest supporter of his wife of 35 years, Sandi Thomas, and a wonderful friend and uncle to me.

Mike loved life and enjoyed many things. He was very active in the sport of distance riding but preferred not to ride horses. He would do anything to keep a ride running smoothly...ride managers counted on him many times. :) He was an advocate and lover of all animals. Just on Sandi and Mike's recent move

to TN, he found a very young kitten who was sick in a park close to their home. He brought her home and nursed her back to health. He hated to see any animal suffer. Many of you have shared stories of Mike with others and that is wonderful. I thought it was about time I shared. :)

Mike would do anything for a laugh, as anyone who knew him will tell you, but he also had a very serious side to him. He would do anything to help an animal. I remember a time when I was riding with him to the Southern Kettle, we had the truck and trailer and were taking "our short cut" through Hustisford, WI. A snapping turtle apparently thought that life would be better on "the other side" of the road. Mike stopped the rig and got out. He tried to convince that darn turtle (between the turtle trying to snap him) that he was trying to help him but the turtle just didn't quite "get it". Mike came back to the truck and I am not sure what he grabbed..a snow brush maybe...but he got that darn turtle to grab it and Mike got him off the road. I was young and impatient; thinking what the heck are we doing stopping for a turtle? Mike got in the truck with this HUGE smile on his face and said something like "Guess how the turtle crossed the road?". How can you not grin like a fool after that???

Mike supported my family very much the same way he supported Sandi in all of her endeavors. I remember riding a horse named "Dude" for a few years...Mike didn't like him much (many of you may remember) but he was always there for Dude and I when we needed him. Mike supported many of us that wanted to go onto school..often talking long hours to the younger ones in the family on how important it was. He was very proud of all of us that earned our degrees and even came to my graduation from college (I was 42 years old). :)

Mike loved to laugh and could make friends with anyone. He used to organize scavenger hunts at ApDRA's rides years ago. I tried following in his footsteps but never had the success he did. He would get the WHOLE camp involved. He had a way with people that was so easy going that I don't think many could say "no" to him. He had people laughing within minutes of meeting him. I remember introducing a boyfriend to him once, the guy says to me later "That Uncle Mike of yours...do you hire him out?". "Not a chance" I said. "He is ours".

One thing you never wanted to talk to Mike about is politics...at least I didn't. LOL LOL He was very passionate in his beliefs and wanted you to know it.

We agreed to disagree several times. I respected him for that and I think he respected me for standing my ground...he would not have wanted it any other way.

Rest in peace Mike, you were not only my Uncle but you were my friend and my " other big brother", you were always there when I needed you the most. I will miss you. Until we meet again. God Speed.

If possible please join my family as we celebrate Mike's life on Sunday April 10th from 2pm to 5pm at:

Beaver Dam Senior Citizen Center  
114 East 3rd Street  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Take care all and remember to tell your loved ones how much they mean to you daily.

Sheryl Williams

Life is short, Break the rules, Forgive quickly, Kiss slowly,  
Love truly, Laugh uncontrollably,  
And never regret anything that made you smile.  
Life may not be the party we hoped for,  
but while we're here we should dance.

## **Mentors Wanted!**

### **Looking for UMECRA Mentors**

**Would you like to help others learn more about our sport?**

- **Tell others about the fun, the friends, the fantastic times we have?**
- **Explain the basics of the conditioning and care of a distance horse?**
- **Partner with a new rider at their first ride?**
- **Help UMECRA's membership grow?**

**If so, please email Marty Power (power@dtnspeed.net) with your contact information and we will list you as a mentor on the UMECRA website.**

**Thanks for considering giving back to the sport and the organization.**

**Marty**

## UMECRA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Request for Information

Sometimes in the rush of our world things are lost and forgotten. With the 40th anniversary of UMECRA approaching I would like to compile a history of the RIDERS CHOICE AWARD. I know it was started by Elenore (1981?) There seems to be no record of horses (and owners) who have received the award and what year received.

Could everyone please check their records and memory and forward what info they have to me? Your help is deeply appreciated [miranch@hotmail.com](mailto:miranch@hotmail.com) Thank you.  
Max

## Interested in Hosting A UMECRA Convention?

2011 – Rochester, MN  
2012 – Rockford, IL – UMECRA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!  
2013 – Oconomowac, WI (proposed)  
2014 – Open  
2015 – Open – next out of corridor convention!  
Bring your proposals to the Spring 2011 Board of Directors meeting!

## UMECRA Balance Sheet:

		Apr 11, 10
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Checking/Savings		
Convention fund	1,218.57	
ICF Fund	6,643.10	
Mayville Savings Bank	6,534.72	
Trail Fund	1,045.77	
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>15,442.16</b>	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>15,442.16</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>15,442.16</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Bal Equity	16,860.34	
Retained Earnings	-1,405.60	
Net Income	-12.58	
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>15,442.16</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		<b>15,442.16</b>

## Nominations for UMECRA Hall of Fame

Nominations will be taken until October 1st. Nominees are distinguished members of UMECRA. They could include riders, ride managers, officers, vets and volunteers. Please send your letter of nomination to Theresa Meyer at [tmeyer@tpt.org](mailto:tmeyer@tpt.org) or by mail to Theresa at 3028 181st Ave. NW, Cedar, MN 55011.

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## Equine Hives: Easy Diagnosis, Often an Elusive Cause

University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine  
December 14 2009, Article # 15469, [www.thehorse.com](http://www.thehorse.com)

Hunting down the cause of hives is often a challenge. Domenico Santoro, DVM, is a dermatology resident at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana. He explained that urticaria, the medical term for hives, "are flat 'bumps' that can arise very quickly on the body of a horse." They are sometimes itchy, and other times not. In some cases the lumps, which can appear on any part of the body, might also ooze a yellow-tinged fluid.

Many different medications, such as antibiotics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), or topical agents can be the culprit. Other causes range from a rapid change in temperature, stress, or an autoimmune disease. Santoro also noted that allergies can play a role as well; "a horse could be having an allergic reaction to food, flies, mosquitoes, or something in its environment." Of course, just as in humans, horses can have a seasonal reaction to pollen or molds.

Just as some people are highly allergic to certain items (peanut butter or shellfish, for example) and carry an "epi-pen" for emergencies, some horses might also have life threatening allergic reactions which require immediate care. This is why it is critical to call your veterinarian as soon as you notice hives.

In these rare cases, what is of utmost concern is the horse's airway. As you notice bumps on the skin starting to swell, the same type of reaction could be going on in the animal's windpipe, causing difficulty breathing.

Fortunately, the majority of cases involving hives are not emergencies, but you should still call your veterinarian. Santoro also noted, "if owners notice hives after

application of a specific topical product, they should wash the horse immediately." Bathing with shampoo is also a good treatment if the cause is a contact allergy to something in the environment.

With any luck, hives will disappear on their own with no serious complications. But if not, there are several tools your veterinarian can use--although it is important to note that because there are several causes of hives, treatment is highly individualized. For example, "for allergic reactions, the use of antihistamines can be effective to differentiate allergies from possible drug reactions or autoimmune disorders," Santoro noted. Corticosteroids are also used in difficult cases.

Because hives might recur if the cause is not removed from the horse's environment, it is important to find out what the horse is reacting to. In many cases, an inciting agent will not be found. But in recurrent situations, further diagnostics such as a skin biopsy or allergy testing (similar to what is done in human medicine) can be performed by a specialist.

For more information on hives, contact your local veterinarian.--Ashley Mitek

## What Color is Your Fly Sheet?

Horse Journal, April 2010

Tabanid flies are blood-suckers (the females) whose bites are extremely painful. They range from the small deer flies to the inch long dive-bombing deer flies that strike fear in the hearts of both horse and human alike. These flies actually slice a chunk of flesh from the horse when they bite, and may bite multiple times.

A Hungarian study recently released showed that tabanids are primarily attracted by reflected polarized light from black and brown coats, a phenomenon called positive polarotaxis. They found the flies to be much less attracted to white horses. White sheets may therefore help hide your dark horses from tabanids, although they could still zero in on the head and neck.

Fly masks, fly boots, belly band and neck covers help too, of course, but don't go overboard. You need to be careful not to make your horse too hot in the sun. On very hot days, just fly spray may be the better option

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Deadline for Next Newsletter:  
5<sup>th</sup> of each month  
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