

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



“Say something positive, and you’ll see something positive.”

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Do you have old newsletters?

Do you have a box, drawer, 3-ring binder with old UMECRA newsletters? I'm in search of old newsletters, 2003 and earlier. If you have some, please contact:
Theresa Meyer thmeyer753@gmail.com

Letter from the Pres.....

Spring is just around the corner! Although our equine partners have had a break from competition, many of us have been out conditioning in less than desirable weather! Kudos to you!
We are to be able to experience the sport of endurance and competitive trail riding. Let us all embrace our community and remember to be kind and treat others as we would like to be treated. We are a fantastic group of talented, passionate and caring people. Let’s strive to focus on the silver lining in others and in ourselves. Welcome to our newest board members, Brooke Moeller & Deb Searle. A heartfelt thanks to our continuing board members and volunteers. Looking forward to seeing you on the trails!

Robin Schwadt, UMECRA President

The Rule Box - 2025 Ride Season!!

Time to think about your goals for the 2025 ride season! There are some awards where you need to nominate yourself or your horse for. Links to all the nomination forms are available at [Awards - UMECRA](#)

Here are the awards you need to nominate for:

UMECRA Senior Horse Award (donated by Sharon Hahn)

This award honors the equine 20 years of age and older that accrues the highest number of UMECRA points + UMECRA miles during the season. The equine may compete in multiple divisions (endurance, limited distance, competitive, novice, driving) and with any number of riders. The equine must complete at least 4 rides to be eligible. Owners need to nominate their horse by sending their nomination form to the points keeper (Ajdavis.aussies@gmail.com) accompanied by proof of age (registration papers or vet letter or other evidence for unregistered animals). There is no fee to nominate.

To qualify just complete the [Senior Equine Nomination Form](#) and send it to the appropriate party as indicated on the form.

Jan Scott High Point Family Award

Donated by the Dale Scott Family & the Mowrer Family

A family as defined for the Jan Scott Family Award shall consist of parent(s), step-parent, or legal guardian (not to exceed two adults) and all dependent children 18 years old or younger. The family must be a member of UMECRA. Endurance and Competitive points shall be awarded on only one horse and rider combination for each member of the family. Participants are required to register with the Points Keeper listing the names of all family members before points will be counted. All members of the family who participate will be listed. There is no fee to nominate. Nominations for the family award must be submitted before the beginning of the last scheduled ride of the season by mailing or emailing this form.

Rookie Endurance / Rookie Competitive

Points are accumulated as a horse/rider team. A rider may ride multiple horses in each division;

however, points are only earned for each horse/rider team. This annual award is given to the top five "Rookie" teams in Endurance and/or Competitive Trail, senior division only (no juniors).

Points are calculated in the Rookie division using the standard UMECRA points chart, however, a Rookie only competes against other nominated Rookies. Example: It's possible to finish 6th place overall and 1st in the Rookie division.

To qualify:

For Endurance Teams

Riders may have not yet competed in more than 2 AERC sanctioned Endurance competitions prior to the year of nomination

Accumulate a minimum of 40 points

For Competitive Trail Teams

Riders may not have yet competed in more than 2 UMECRA sanctioned Competitive Trail competitions prior to the year of nomination

Accumulate a minimum of 20 points

Riders need to nominate their team by sending the Nomination Form to the UMECRA points keeper Points begin to accumulate as of the date the form was sent. There is no nomination fee

A rider must nominate per division. The rider may only earn one award per division.

Riders may place in both divisions (Endurance & Competitive Trail)

100 Mile Equine Award

Annual award based on completion of one-day, 100-mile event(s) by an equine/rider team. The rider does not need to own the equine. No points or placings are considered

Plaque and medallion awarded for the first 100 mile event completion. Medallions awarded for each multiple of three events completed (ie 3,6,9...)

To qualify: Nomination can occur at any time throughout the year by the equine owner
There is a one-time \$50 fee to nominate

1000 Mile Equine Award

Nominating for this award accumulates the miles of an equine starting at the date of nomination and continues with any UMECRA member rider and any change of ownership. Competitive, Endurance, and Limited Distance & Driving all count together

An award is given for the first 1000 miles and plates to add to the plaque are given at each 1000 miles thereafter

To qualify:

Complete the nomination form and send to the UMECRA points keeper:

Ajdavis.aussies@gmail.com

Nomination can occur at any time throughout the year. There is a one-time \$20 fee to nominate (to add retroactive years of mileages, an additional \$15/year). See the 1000-mile horse history for more information.

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Get to know Janet Sarver – UMECRA Secretary:

1. Your name and members of your family - Janet Sarver. My husband Paul and I have been married for 36 years, and we have two children, Kelsey (age 28) and Josh (age 24). I have two wonderful grandchildren ages 3 1/2 and 18 months.
2. Your occupation when not riding - I have been a social worker in Isanti County since August 1996. I have been working as a children's mental health case manager for over 26 years.
3. What do you usually ride in UMECRA? - I have been riding LD's for the past eight years. I have also competed in competitive and endurance divisions in the past.
4. Who is/are your current horse(s)? Legacy of Khourage (Legs). He is 23 years old this year and still loves to go down the trail. He has taken me on trails in seven different states from the Big Horns and Badlands to the forests of Michigan and is the most expressive horse I've owned.
5. Who was your first or most memorable horse? My first horse was Smokey, a grade

Arab that I rescued from a trail riding company. He introduced me to distance riding in the early 1990s and we competed in comp together for a few years in the early 90's when I was in college.

6. What is/was your favorite moment on a horse? I have two – 1) Earning MnDra Rookie endurance rider of the year in 2013 on my second horse, Bashir. 2) Riding 400 LD miles without a pull in 2021 with my current horse, Legs.

7. Why did you start in distance riding? I started riding this sport when I was a graduate school student in the early 1990s and bought my first Arabian. He had so much energy my trainer suggested this sport. I somehow found a connection and then friends and rode for a few years until I had my daughter. I came back into the sport in 2009 with my second Arabian and have been riding every year since. I love the friendships that I have made, the adventure of riding trails, and the time spent with my horse camping.

8. What was your most embarrassing moment at a ride (or the funniest moment)? Stopping for a much needed personal break on the side of the trail at Pine Martin Run only to have a male rider come up from behind on the trail. What happens on the trail....stays on the trail! 😊

9. What is something people might be surprised to know about you? I keep tropical freshwater fish and plants and work at a pet store on Saturdays during the winter. It's a great winter hobby.

10. What is your favorite trail food and drink? Peanut butter and strawberry jam sandwich at the halfway hold. Also an ice cold Diet Coke when the ride is done

11. What do you like to do that doesn't involve horses? Gardening with flowers in the summer, spending time with my grandchildren, feeding and watching wild birds, hiking, travelling with my husband, going to the movies. I'd also like to get back into downhill skiing which I used to do when my kids were younger.

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Time to Plan Your 2025 Ride Season!

Go to UMECRA.com for full ride details

Date	Ride Name / Location
3/29 - 3/30	Panther Creek / Tuscumbia, MO

4/12 - 4/13	Early Bird Ride / Forest City, IL
4/26	Tally Ho! Distance Riding Clinic & Ride / Tipton, IA
5/3 - 5/4	MnDRA1 / Hinkley, MN
5/3 - 5/4	White River Spring / Hesperia, MI
5/9 - 5/11	Glacier Trails / Palmyra, WI
5/10	Belair Forest Fiesta Endurance Ride / Stead, Manitoba Canada
5/17 - 5/18	Trade River Run / St Croix Falls, WI
5/17 - 5/18	AHDRA's Endura / Keithsburg, IL
5/24 - 5/25	Grand Island Ride / Rapid River, MI
5/31 - 6/1	Maplewood West / Pelican Rapids, MN
6/7 - 6/8	DRAWs Kettles N' Bits / Campbellsport, WI
6/7 - 6/8	White River Summer / Hesperia, MI
6/14 - 6/15	Kankakee River Ride / Bourbonnais, IL
6/14 - 6/15	Southeast Minnesota / Preston, MN
6/21 - 6/22	Grand Island North / Munising, MN
6/28 - 6/29	Firecracker Fling / Avoca, WI
7/12 - 7/13	Hopkins Creek Ride / Fife Lake, MI
7/12 - 7/13	Mosquito Run / Rogers, MN
7/25 - 7/27	Bonecrusher Ride / Palmyra, WI
7/27 - 8/2	Shore to Shore Distance Ride / Hale, MI
8/8 - 8/10	Louise Riedel Memorial / Arkdale, WI
8/15 - 8/16	Detroit Horse Power Benefit Ride / Milford, MI
8/16 - 8/17	Bearfoot Boogie / Hinkley, MN
8/23 - 8/24	AHDRA's Field of Dreams Dash / Farmington, IA
8/23	Souris Bend Endurance Ride / Souris, Manitoba Canada
8/23 - 8/24	DRAW's Prairie River Ride / Gleason, WI
8/30 - 9/1	White River Labor Day Pioneer Ride / Hesperia, MI
9/6 - 9/7	Charity Cup / Pillager, MN
9/6 - 9/7	Keweenaw Ride / Gwin, MN
9/6 - 9/7	Stargazers Endurance Ride / Glenboro, Manitoba Canada
9/12 - 9/13	DRAW's Colorama Classic / New Prospect, WI
9/27	Sprucewoods Spectacular Endurance Ride / Glenboro, Manitoba Canada
10/4 - 10/5	Huntersville Hundred / Menahga, MN
10/4 - 10/5	Rock River Charity Ride / Chandlerville, IL
10/11 - 10/12	Iron Oak / Arkdale, WI
10/11 - 10/12	Oak Leaf Run / Hamilton, MI
10/17 - 10/18	Point Chaser / Theilman, MN
10/25 - 10/26	AHDRA - Big River / Keithsburg, IL
Monday, 11/3/25 - End of UMECRA Season	

Election Results!

- Vice President – Peggy Pasillas
- Treasurer – Emily Schupp w/ Jessica Sonnek who will serve as the UMECRA Bookkeeper.
- Illinois Director at Large – Deb Searle
- Michigan Director at Large - Open

- Director at Large – Theresa Meyer
- Director at Large - Brooke Mueller

Riders Choice Award – Lady Jane



Think of a lady named Jane and so many characters come to mind. Dick and Jane, Tarzan and Jane, Jane Doe, and most recently Jane the Virgin TV Drama. But ask any UMECRA member and without hesitation they will reply Roberta Harm's Lady Jane!

Starting her racing career in 2011, she has amassed 5,600 miles and is still winning at age 25. A look back at this amazing mare's history. She placed Top Ten in UMECRA's LW Endurance consistently for an unbroken string of years. In 2018 Roberta switched to LDs for HER own sake, not Jane's. The winning streak continued also adding multiple BCs to those rides and placing her in AERC's (in my humble opinion) TOP AWARD.

Roberta clarifies her pulls in recent years are because of her, not Jane. As she states, "I have been riding very unbalanced for 3-4 years and Jane has managed to remain sound despite me flopping around!" I have known this team and competed against them for years and I cannot remember a pull because of Jane. I know this is a fact that disturbs Roberta, but there is no need. Horse and Rider stand tall together.

AWARDS:

AERC Endurance: Jane consistently was 3rd LW in the Midwest Regionals in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 and a 2nd in 2017 for a total of 3290 miles.
 Limited Distance: 2018 to 2023 Regional mileage awards with many BCs for 2340 miles
 UMECRA: Jane received LW placings in both endurance and LD from 2012 through 2024. A few rides were out of UMECRA so slightly fewer miles....

In 2020 the team achieved the much-pursued Decade Award, and this past year, 2024, they

became members of a group most riders can only dream of – The Century Club!

From Debby Weisbecker

I first met Lady Jane in early 2020. The first thing that strikes you about Jane is the calm and serene look about her. She is a gentle soul, and you can see it in her eyes. What those giant gentle eyes hide is the absolute endurance beast that resides in her heart. She is a horse that knows her job. And that job is to cover ground. Once you are aboard the absolute power she possesses comes out. She is not flighty or skittish, she is just solid and steady. Don't get me wrong, she knows you're up there, and she knows part of her job is to also take care of you. My best example of this is when Roberta let me ride Jane on a night LD. I am very inexperienced riding in the dark. This particular night it also stormed, and I mean hard. So, this poor girl dragged me around for 25 miles in the dark and in the rain. I truly believe the only reason we made it back before morning was Jane. I must add to all of this that Jane is no youngster either. She at 24 is still tearing up the miles. If it is totally left up to her, she will come in before everyone else and with a heart rate that seems like she put in no effort at all. It has been an absolute honor and pleasure to be part of her life. This horse has a heart of gold.

At AHDRA's Big River ride, last ride of the 2024 season, Jane carried Deb Weisbecker, Roberta's amazing friend and Jane's catch rider, to a win in the 30-mile LD. Let's give this horse another Award. One she truly deserves...Rider's Choice!

Ride Managers – all ride payments should be mailed to the UMECRA Bookkeeper:
 Jessica Sonnek
 1991 County 9
 Houston, MN 55973
 Email: jess.sonnek@gmail.com
 Call: 608.780.3477

Don't forget to renew your UMECRA membership for 2025. You must be a current member to qualify for points and miles for year-end awards!

Navigating UMECRA.com

Are you new to the sport of distance riding? Are you wondering how to get started? Have you already started but have questions and just don't know where to go? UMECRA has a spot just for you! Come and check it out at UMECRA.com! On the front page of our website there is a link for new riders, **"novice division"** that will bring you to the **UMECRA New Riders Page** that can answer many of your questions.



UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION

HOME ABOUT SCHEDULE RESULTS NEWSLETTER LINKS SUPPORTERS CONVENTION

The Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides Association was formed with the goal of promoting the sport of endurance and competitive riding and good horsemanship under the direction of qualified veterinarians. Furthermore, it was founded by a group of ride managers to standardize a set of rules for the various rides to ensure variation in the way rides were managed, to coordinate ride dates, to help points, and to present year-end awards at an annual banquet. We hold rides throughout the states of Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

Check out our schedule for the rides nearest you and for an entry form if you wish to pre-register.



Competitive Endurance Riding

These pages provide you information on what UMECRA has to offer, how to become a member and most importantly the information on our ride schedule and our awards programs. You may even want to visit our 1000 mile horse page - would you believe we have a team with over 14 000 miles! If you don't have the information you are looking for on these pages you can contact any member of our Board of Directors and they will be happy to help you out. You can also browse the links page or join our Facebook group for "greenbeans" (aka new riders) (aka new riders) for plenty of good information on endurance riding. We even have a **novice division** for those who just wants to try out the sport. Can't wait to see you at one of our rides!

Recent News

- Conventon Dates
- Rider Total Mileage 11.17.2024
- Horse Total Mileage 11.17.2024
- Relative Final Points 11.17.2024
- Points Standings 10.28.2024
- Big River Results 10.28.2024
- Oak Leaf Run Results 10.28.2024
- October Newsletter
- Points Standings 10.22.2024
- Point Chaser Results 10.22.24
- Iron Oak Results 10.22.24
- November 16 Board Meeting
- Points Standings 10.13.2024
- Rock River Charity Ride Results 10.13.2024
- Huntersville Hundred Results 10.13.2024
- September Newsletter
- Points Standings 9.30.2024
- Field of Dreams Dash Results 9.30.24
- Points Standings 9.20.2024
- Colorado Results 9.20.24
- Points Standings 9.18.2024
- Keweenaw Results 9.18.24
- Points Standings 9.16.2024
- Charity Cup Results 9.16.24
- Points Standings 9.10.2024
- White River Fall Results 9.10.24
- Metron Park Express Ride Results 9.10.24
- August Newsletter
- Points Standings 9.3.2024
- DeWitt Prairie River Ride Results 9.3.2024
- Points Standings 8.28.2024
- Beauregard Results 8.28.2024
- Points Standings 8.19.2024

Getting Started

- If you are new to the sport of endurance riding, we have put together some information to help you get started, and please feel free to contact anyone on our mentor list. We have people with a wide range of experiences just waiting to answer your questions. Don't go to a ride unprepared!

Novice rides follow the same rules as [competitive rides](#), and are between 9 and 15 miles instead of 25 to 30 miles. Most horses with a decent amount of conditioning can complete a novice ride successfully, but if you have questions on conditioning or what to expect we are here to help. All novice rides on our [schedule](#) are followed by an "N" for novice. There are also clinics noted on the schedule if you can attend them.

Novice riders are also eligible for [awards](#) once you are [member](#) of UMECRA.

Links

- [UMECRA FAQ Document](#)
- [New Rider Handbook](#) - Special Thanks to Angie Mikkelson for all her hard work on this!
- [Introduction to Novice Rides](#)
- Sign up for a ride! [Schedule page has the entry form](#)
- [Helpful Links](#) - yes your horse can do endurance - most breeds have a distance program!
- [UMECRA Facebook Page](#)
- [UMECRA Greenbeans \(aka new rider\) Facebook Page](#)
- [Promotional Documents](#)
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UMECRA New Rider Page

Where to start and who to ask

Getting Started

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- UMECRA Facebook Page
- UMECRA Greenbeans (aka new rider) Facebook Page
- Promotional Documents

Mentors

If you have questions we have people who have volunteered to help. Browse through and choose based on location or type of ride they've agreed to mentor and feel free to contact any of our mentors. They're waiting to help you!

- Katie Bachhuber, Mayville, WI
- Maxine Bernsdorf, Kewaunee, WI
- Joan Duncanson Elbert, Inner Grove Heights, MN
- Wes Elford, Mayville, WI
- Kim Fosler, Scales Mound, IL
- Barb Gardner, Oakfield, WI
- Roberta Harms, Wauconda, IL
- Laurie Henschel, Clintonville, WI
- Sarah Maass, Fairfax, MN

On the **New Riders Page** you will find the information below and links for even more! There is a **New Riders Handbook** that is packed with great information to get you started. There are also links to Mentors and their contact information. They are more than willing to talk to you and answer your questions. Next is a snippet from the **New Riders Page**.



UMECRA TRAIL GRANT REQUEST

Trail grants are provided to public trails only and are for an organization, not individuals.
Requests will be reviewed and voted on at each board meeting three times a year.

Send completed form to: Janet Sarver 5670 Foxboro Lane, Wyoming MN 55092 or email to Jsarver662@gmail.com.

Date: _____

UMECRA Member making request: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Amount of request (\$500 maximum): _____

Date money is needed: _____

Name required on check if grant is approved:

_____ *The name needs to be an organization name; not an individual name.*

Address to send check:

Please explain the reason for request. Include:

- What the money will be designated for (be specific)? You can use back of form or submit more information if needed.
- How UMECRA will benefit from granting this request?
- How UMECRA will be recognized for this request ?

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For Office Use Only:

Date Rec'd _____
Check # _____
Amount \$ _____
DB entered? _____
QB Receipt# _____

UMECRA



UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership year: _____

Credit Card option available online at
www.payumecra.com/membership

SELECT ONE:

RENEWAL NEW MEMBERSHIP

SELECT MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

Family \$45

Single \$35

Minor* \$10

**Under 18 as of Dec 1 (beginning of ride season)*

SELECT MEDIA PREFERENCE:

Electronic Newsletter - \$0

Mailed Newsletter - \$10

Electronic Ride Book - \$0

Mailed Ride Book - \$10

Ride Book is available for free by downloading the PDF file at www.umecra.com on the Schedule page.

*Family memberships shall consist of one or more related, or coupled as significant other, adults, and/or children of such adults who are less than 18 years of age, all of whom reside in the same household. Please include all names of eligible family members below.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY and LEGIBLY!

AERC MEMBER NUMBER(s) (if applicable): _____

UMECRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER(S): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number (s): _____

Email: _____

Do you have a new horse? To obtain a UMECRA number for your horse, or report a new AERC number please contact the pointskeeper (ajdavisaussies@gmail.com) and the webmaster (n.mauserstoror@outlook.com)

If you do NOT want your name and contact info in the membership book, check this box:

Pay online at payumecra.com/membership OR mail completed form along with check made out to UMECRA to:

Jess Sonnek - Bookkeeper
1991 County 9
Houston, MN 55943

UMECRA Newsletter
 c/o Peggy Pasillas
 9928 Rich Valley Blvd
 Inver Grove Hgts, MN 55077
www.UMECRA.com

Deadline for Next Newsletter:
 10th of each month
 Send news to:
UMECRAnews@gmail.com



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