

UMECRA Annual Convention
General Meeting
January 12, 2008
1:00 pm
Clock Tower Resort- Rockford, IL

The meeting was called to order by President Sheryl Levin.

Roll Call: 87 voting delegates were present at the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer report: The minutes from the November BOD meeting were already approved in the morning meeting. No questions from any delegates were fielded on the past published minutes. The annual balance sheet and P&L report was presented (one addition error was corrected). The higher cost of insurance was explained to the delegates (the cost of paying additional insured and not getting this cost back if the ride is cancelled). Jill Feller explained the idea of moving the fiscal year to April 1- March 31 to get a better view of our 'real' expenses (see morning meeting minutes). Rick Nelson motioned to approve reports; Linda Mower seconded; motion passed

Old Business:

- **Novice Division:** President Sheryl Levin explained that in the morning meeting of the BOD, the BOD had approved to run the Novice division for one additional year and revisit it in fall of 08.
- **Insurance costs for 2008:** Jill Feller explained the cost of the insurance from 2007 season. The motion from the BOD meeting was brought forward for discussion. The motion was: *UMECRA will pay ½ the insurance premium cost for a sanctioned ride; the additional insured costs will be paid by the ride and if the ride is cancelled, the ride/ride manager is responsible to reimburse UMECRA for the cost of the additional insured.* A discussion followed. Dale Lunde motioned, Dawn Haas seconded to approve this action; motion passed.
 - The cost of MI insurance was also discussed. MI rides get their insurance through GLDRA and pay less than the insurance offered by UMECRA. A motion was made by Dawn Haas and seconded by Rick Nelson that UMECRA should pick up the cost of the 'additional insured' certificate to cover UMECRA for MI rides. Motion passed. Lisa Germann will get the cost and reimbursement information to the secretary/treasurer. *(In a note from Lisa after the convention, it was discovered that there was no additional cost to GLDRA to cover UMECRA with the insurance; no reimbursement is needed).*

New Business:

- **Hall of Fame procedures:** The 'approved' Hall of Fame procedures was presented to the delegates. In the past, this procedure has been unclear; these procedures just clarify that process and will be placed on the UMECRA website for easy access:
 1. UMECRA Hall of Fame nominations will be accepted at the fall BOD meeting in November.
 - a. Nominees must have contributed to UMECRA. This should include an extra ordinary volunteerism given to the organization. There are no requirements that the nominees must be a rider or ride manager.
 2. All nominations must be presented to the BOD in written form in one of the following formats.
 - a. A presentation at the fall BOD meeting with documentation to be handed to all present BOD members
 - b. A letter sent to all BOD members
 - c. An email sent to all BOD members
 3. All BOD members vote on the nominees in one of two ways:
 - a. Voting at the fall meeting
 - b. Voting by telephone administered by calls from the executive BOD members
 4. The person submitting the nomination will be notified by a member of the executive BOD member with the results of the vote.
 5. The person submitting the nomination will be responsible for obtaining the award.
 - a. UMECRA will contribute \$500 each year for one Hall of Fame award. Any costs beyond this amount will need to be raised by the nominating person.
 - b. The recommended award should be a picture or painting of the recipient enjoying distance riding.
 - c. The award will be given by the nominating person at the UMECRA Annual Awards Banquet.
- **Points database:** Sheryl Levin explained the new points database that is being developed for UMECRA. UMECRA riders and nominated horses will be assigned membership numbers with the new system. Riders will receive a membership card and the number will need to be put on their entry forms and ride cards for recording purposes.
- **Ride book advertising:** UMECRA will be pursuing advertisements for the ride book to assist with the costs involved with printing and mailing. The program is as follows:
 - UMECRA Advertising Bronze Package:
 - Half page in the UMECRA ride book: \$50

- Half page in the UMECRA directory: \$50
- UMECRA Advertising Silver Package:
 - Half page in UMECRA ride book: \$100
 - Half page in UMECRA directory: \$100
 - 5 ads in newsletter: \$50
- UMECRA Advertising Gold Package:
 - Half page in UMECRA ride book: \$100
 - Half page in UMECRA directory: \$100
 - 10 ads in newsletter: \$100

20% discount on Gold and Silver packages if order is accompanied with a donation to the silent auction for 2008 or 2010. Monies and layout must be received no later than March 1, 2008 by the secretary/treasurer of UMECRA. Only 10 packages will pay for the entire ride book!! This package was approved by the BOD at the morning meeting and will go into effect immediately. The information will be placed on the UMECRA website for easy access.

- **Communications:** In fall, newsletters were received with expired deadlines for items which resulted in confusion with ride managers. To rectify this problem, the following NL deadlines have been established:
 - NL entries must be to NL editor by end of the month
 - NL editor will compose NL by 10th of month
 - NL will be sent to printer and mailed out by 15th of each month
- **Sanctioning guidelines:** The sanctioning guidelines were discussed and approved in the morning BOD meeting (see minutes of that meeting for those guidelines). These guidelines will be published on the UMECRA website for easy access.
- **2008 ride schedule:** The 2008 ride schedule was presented to the voting members of UMECRA. There were several minor changes such as mileage changes or adding a third date to an exiting ride. A discussion followed about the amount of rides on the schedule and the low attendance at rides. President Levin pointed out that those subjects were the topic of the RM forum meeting that was held earlier in the day; no action was taken on this subject at this time. Motion made by Jill Feller, seconded by Rick Nelson to accept the ride schedule with the minor changes; motion passed.
- **New rider t-shirt:** This subject was discussed and approved at the morning BOD meeting (see minutes of that meeting for more info).
- **GLDRA versatility award:** GLDRA will be sponsoring a versatility award for one horse/rider combination in UMECRA (see minutes of the morning BOD meeting for more info on this award).

- **High point senior equine award:** UMECRA Sharon Hahn is sponsoring this award. There will be more information in an upcoming NL.
- **100 mile horse recognition program:** Barry Saylor presented an idea to recognize the 100-mile horses in our region at the morning BOD meeting. Joyce Mocilan, Bettina Koehn, Joslyn Seefeldt and Dawn Haas have all volunteered to work with Barry on this subject and present some ideas at the spring BOD meeting in March.
- **Rule changes:** the following rule changes were discussed and passed:

1. UMECRA RULES

- Rides are to be sanctioned by approval of the Board of Directors at least 90 days before the date of the ride **or at the annual meeting.**
- Ride Managers must announce their mileage to the ~~UMECRA secretary~~ **UMECRA sanctioning coordinator** at least 7 days before the annual meeting; otherwise, they receive the same mileage as the previous year.
- The names of official delegates to the annual meeting must be submitted in writing to the UMECRA secretary prior to the meeting (cut-off date to be announced.)
- The current year's ride schedule will be the precedent for the succeeding year.**
- Once the schedule is finalized at the annual meeting, no new rides may be scheduled except ~~on an open date and/or~~ with board approval. **Any ride seeking approval by board vote must either be on an open date or have the approval of the ride manager(s) of any ride already scheduled on the proposed date. The current year's schedule will be the precedent for the succeeding year.** Changes to a scheduled ride ~~should~~ **must** be made 60 days in advance.
- New rides will be given priority in order of application. ~~A change in a ride date will constitute that ride as a new ride.~~ **The \$10 surcharge for new rides will be in effect.**
- The Board will attempt to limit the number of rides to three per weekend. No ride may be **scheduled or** rescheduled for any reason on the same date as another ride without the approval of the originally scheduled ride/rides.
- No more than one 100-mile one-day ride will be scheduled on any one weekend closer than 800 miles apart. Preference will be given to the existing 100-miler.
- Rider points will only be given for mileage which the ride applied for, or for which notice of a mileage change has been made 60 days in advance.
- "Reject rides" or other "fun" rides shall not be considered point eligible rides.
- If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers novice classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Novices are not eligible for year-end awards, but mileage shall count.

- 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 per starting rider.

2. REPORTING

- A. UMECRA ride results, **"per rider" reporting fees, and insurance fees** must be sent to the secretary postmarked within 14 days, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid. Every rider who starts will be reported according to divisions (heavyweight, lightweight and junior). Riders who have signed up as AERC featherweights, lightweights or middleweights must be assigned to either UMECRA lightweight or heavyweight divisions. DO NOT list UMECRA weight divisions on AERC report forms. The AERC weight division must be determined at the time of entry.

COMPETITIVE DRIVING RULES

General Rules

- A. The pace for a drive is between 5 and 8 7 mph. The pace will be determined by the drive management. Factors determining the pace will be heat, humidity, difficulty of the terrain, conditions of the trail.
- B. Mileage of Distance Drives shall not be less than 40 miles. ~~Mileage can graduate in increments of 2.5 miles.~~ **5 miles, but may be any greater distance that provides a safe and practical venue for driving. Longer distances are encouraged.**

2. Rules for Drivers

- L. ~~Pneumatic tired vehicles are not allowed.~~ **L. Bicycle type wheels are not allowed. Traditional wood or metal wheels are recommended. Pneumatic tires on automobile or heavy duty spoke wheels, such as those used on motorcycles, are acceptable.**

ENDURANCE RIDES

- 1. The ride must be at least 50 miles in length per day, ~~up to a maximum distance of 150 miles in three days.~~

General Rules

1. Eligibility

- D. Anyone having outstanding debts to UMECRA or a UMECRA ride **and not paid within 30 days (including bank fees) from notification in writing of the incident** will be disallowed from receiving points, year-end awards or mileage accumulation.

- The General rule that failed to pass was:
 - 5. Awards
 - C. Horses that tie will receive identical placings and the next placing will be omitted. (i.e. 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc.) ***Points for year-end awards will be awarded in an identical manner.***
- **UMECRA ride entry form:** The UMECRA ride entry form has been modified to include the 'legal language' that is required for most Midwest states to ensure coverage under the state's equine liability laws. A disclaimer from the following states is now part of the ride entry form: WI, IN, MI and IL. MN does not require any specific language on an entry form. It was pointed out to that ALL rides in ALL states need to be posting the equine liability signs to be covered under this law. These signs can be purchased through the state horse council organizations.
- **Illinois Horse Fair:** A request was made by Linda Mower that UMECRA pay the entry fee for a booth at the IL Horse Fair. MN also asked for a grant to pay their fee. Katie Bachhuber motioned, Joslyn Seefeldt seconded; motion passed. The cost of the booth at both the Illinois and Minnesota Horse Fair will be paid by UMECRA (the same cost as was given last year was approved).
- **Election of officers:**
 - President: nominated- Sheryl Levin (no other nominations were given- Sheryl was re-elected to a two-year term)
 - VP- the current VP submitted her resignation in December- she was serving a two-year term. The election for VP is for a one-year term. The VP and Secretary/treasurer position are currently serving a two-year term with elections for these positions to be in 2009. Nominated was Tony Troyer (no other nominations were given- Tony was elected to serve a one-year term)
 - Vet Rep: Wes Elford was nominated (Dean Peterson was also nominated, but was not present at the meeting and the nomination would not be accepted). No other nominations were given- Wes was re-elected to serve a two-year term.
 - WI Regional Director: nominated- Dawn Haas (no other nominations were given- Dawn was re-elected to a two-year term).
 - MN Regional Director: nominated- Dianne Schmidt (no other nominations were given- Dianne was elected to a two-year term)
 - Director at Large: nominated- Elinore Tonsor and Lynn Reichert; Lynn Reichert won the vote- elected to a two-year term

- IL Director (to replace Tony who moved to the VP role). This is a one-year term to complete the two-year term elected in 2007. Nominated- Linda Mower (no other nominations were given- Linda was elected)
- Rider reps: the following rider reps were elected for a two-year term by general membership vote: Sharon Hahn, Maxine Bernsdorf, Linda Hamrick and Julie Jackson.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller
UMECRA secretary/treasurer