

UMECRA Annual Convention
BOD Meeting
January 12, 2008
7:00 am
Clock Tower Resort- Rockford, IL

Present members: Maxine Bernsdorf, Tony Troyer, Rick Nelson, Sheryl Levin, Jill Feller, Bettina Koehn, Joyce Mocilan, Elinore Tonsor, Paula Rapp, Sharon Hahn, Joslyn Seefeldt, Barb Gardner, Dawn Haas, Wes Elford

Guests: Barry Saylor, Lucy Bagot

The **Secretary's minutes** from the Nov. BOD meeting and the year-end **financial reports** had been sent out to board members before the meeting to read and review. Rick made a motion and Tony seconded it to approve all reports as were presented.

Secretary/Treasurer Jill Feller presented an idea to consider moving the fiscal year of UMECRA to a April 1-March 31 year due to the date of the annual convention. When the fiscal reports are run at year end, part of the 'income' is designated for the upcoming convention. The costs of the convention are reflected in one year while some of the income for those costs are in the previous year's reports. Jill will run some reports with the suggested dates for the spring meeting to review and see if moving the fiscal year is feasible.

Old Business:

- **Novice Division:** several of the novice riders have joined UMECRA and have expressed their excitement in the program. The comments were all favorable and encouraged UMECRA to continue the Novice program. Motion was made and seconded to continue the Novice Division for the 2008 ride season and revisit it at the fall BOD meeting. Motion passed.
- **Sanctioning guidelines:** Theresa handed out the guidelines for sanctioning guidelines that were discussed at the fall BOD meeting. A short discussion followed as the guidelines had been discussed in November. Sharon motioned, Rick seconded that the new guidelines be accepted. Motion passed. Guidelines are:
 - 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.
- 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.

- **REPORTING**

- 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.

- **NSF/unpaid fees:** After discussion, the BOD made adjustments to the rule that was approved in November. The new wording is: “Anyone having outstanding debts to UMECRA or a UMECRA ride and not paid within 30 days of the check date (including all bank fees), will be disallowed from receiving points, year-end awards or mileage accumulation until all fees are paid”. Tony motioned to approve and Rick seconded the motion; motion passed.
- Theresa presented changes to the driver’s rules. Motion made by Dawn, seconded by Paula to accept rules are presented; passed. The rules are:

COMPETITIVE DRIVING RULES

- **General Rules**
 - 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.
 - Mileage of Distance Drives shall not be less than ~~10 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.**
 - 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.**
- **UMECRA insurance** was discussed. At the fall meeting, a motion was made that UMECRA would pay for ½ the cost for the insurance premium for UMECRA rides; UMECRA would not pay for the additional insured costs. If the ride was cancelled and there were additional insured already paid for, the ride that is cancelled will be required to pay the costs of the additional

insured. A motion was made in November by Dianne but never moved forward at that time. Motion was now made by Sharon, seconded by Rick; motion passed. This will be carried to the annual meeting.

- An **advertising program** was presented to assist with costs of the annual ride book. This program presents several options for advertising. Elinore will move forward with recruiting advertisers for the ride book.
- **T-shirts** for newbies: postcards will be created to be included in the Ride Manager's packets that are mailed in spring. These postcards will be given to any rider completing their first 25 mile or longer ride. The postcard will be addressed to Dianne Schmidt who will then create a t-shirt to mail to the rider saying "I did my first 25-mile ride at *****". Elinore and Jill will work on the postcards.
- Sheryl Levin presented information about creating a **membership database** to use for points. Sheryl found a person at "rent-a-coder" who is creating a database for a cost of \$100. Rick motioned and Joyce seconded that UMECA pay the costs of this service: passed.
- **Membership cards** were discussed: a sample of UMECRA cards was passed around for BOD members to review. Membership numbers will be randomly picked for all members. Dawn made a motion, Tony seconded to create membership cards: motion passed. *The cards will be mailed to members.*
- BOD had previously discussed creating a **versatility award**. GLDRA presented documentation to sponsor this award. "GLDRA would like to sponsor a versatility award starting in 2008. The award would be called the Charles Phillips Versatility award in honor of Charles and his horse J. Dalmaar Sharri+ / who have enjoyed competing for and receiving the AHDRA versatility award in the past. The award would be open to all UMECRA members. Qualifications would be same horse/rider team, must do a minimum of 2-50 mile endurance, 2- competitive rides and 2- limited distance rides. There will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, no divisions." Theresa moved to accept the MI award, Rick seconded: motion passed.
- The **ride schedule for 2008** was presented. Dawn motioned, Rick seconded to accept the schedule as presented: this will move to the annual meeting for a vote.
- Barry Saylor presented an idea to **recognize the 100-mile horses**. Joyce, Bettina, Joslyn and Dawn will work with Barry to set up a program presentation for the March BOD meeting.

- Lucy Bagot gave a brief presentation on her research as to the ride **schedules** in the Midwest vs. other areas of the country. Lucy will be presenting her ideas at the Ride Manager's forum meeting.
- Wes brought forward a motion from a ride manager that the secretary/treasurer position does not have to be filled by a ride manager, but could be nominated from any active UMECRA member. Paula seconded the motion: motion failed.
- A discussion on **communications** was held. In fall, several deadline dates in the NL were past due by the time members received their newsletter. The following guidelines will help to alleviate these problems in the future. All newsletter articles need to be to Sharon by the end of the month; Sharon will complete the newsletter by the 10th of the month. The newsletter will go to the printer and be mailed by the 15th of each month.
- A discussion was held on the BOD discussing topics and voting between meetings on issues using the Internet. Voting by Internet may be more workable with the new database program. No action was taken on this subject.
- Sharon Hahn would like to sponsor an **award for Senior Horses**. This award will recognize the older equine athletes in our sport. Max motioned, Rick seconded to accept this award; motion passed. More information on this award will be in the newsletter.
- Three **trail grants** were presented:
 - Forrestville Campground in MN
 - The Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association in WI
 - The Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association in WI
 - Grants were granted for \$250 for each request

Motion made by Rick and seconded by Bettina to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller
 UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer