

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



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*The more you feed your mind
with positive thoughts, the
more you attract great things
into your life.*

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IMPORTANT

**RIDE MANAGERS – Effective Immediately - When
sending in your ride results, please send them to
Robin Schadt (708.280.8241
robinschadt@aol.com) and Nicole Mauser-Storer
(309-258-9234 n.mauserstorer@outlook.com).
They are taking over the ride result reporting and
points keeping activities for the rest of the year.**

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Ride Managers – remember - 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

Drs. Mellissa Ribley and Jay Mero and reprinted
with their permission.

To AERC Veterinary Members:

*The decision to require that tack be pulled during
vet checks at a ride is left up to the head control
judge. This requirement varies from ride to ride
and does seem to have a regional basis. In some
regions it is considered normal to pull tack during
longer holds, while in some regions riders have to
come to expect that tack will never be required to
be pulled, even during a 100-mile ride.*

*AERC rules state that “Each equine will receive a
substantive physical examination of metabolic
and mechanical parameters before the ride, at
control points within the ride and after the ride.”
Checking the back and girth area of a
performance horse under saddle competing in
rides of 50 to 100 miles is a critical component of
the physical examination. It is beneficial to both
rider and horse to have tack issues brought to
their attention earlier in the ride rather than later
so that corrective actions may be taken, i.e.,
change the girth, change the saddle, add a
crupper, or pull from the ride. Waiting until the
completion of the ride to note a sore back or
girth galls is not putting the horse’s welfare at
the forefront and is not helpful to the rider.
For those regions where riders are not used to
pulling tack and are resistant to this change, the
requirement to pull tack can be framed as a help
to the riders in that tack problems caught early
rather than at the finish can make the difference
between a successful ride or a pull at the finish
line for a sore back or girth area.*

With this, the Veterinary Committee strongly recommends that Head Control Judges require tack be pulled during longer holds and at least once during a 50-mile ride and at least twice during a 100-mile ride so the the control judges may examine the back and girth area. The event that precipitated this discussion at the Veterinary Committee was a horse being pulled at the finish line of a 100 mile ride for a sore back. The horse had not had tack off throughout the duration of the ride and as a result the horse had not been examined for back soreness or tack galls.

As riders, we need to understand these types of decisions are not made frivolously. At least two experienced veterinary control judges per AERC region and members of the Veterinary Committee considered the situation, rendered their opinions and a decision was made. We should expect vetting protocols such as checking backs on endurance horses, doing a CRI, gut check and soundness exams, be part of the expected veterinary exam during an endurance ride. Riders should be concerned for the welfare of their horses and expect the veterinary staff to share that same concern.

The horse must be "Fit To Continue." (AERC Rules and Regulations 6.2.1.3) This means the horse must pass pulse and respiration parameters set before the ride and the horse must meet acceptable metabolic conditions by evaluating the cardiovascular system, G.I. system and muscular-skeletal system. The horse must demonstrate to the veterinary examiner and you as the rider, that it can withstand the stress of the ride and continue to compete and travel safely down the trail.

We expect this to be done carefully, thoughtfully, and thoroughly at each vet check. We must also then be willing to take tack off at a vet check.

We use the expertise of the ride vet to bring all the information together to make the decision of "Fit To Continue" or not. We expect these procedures and the veterinarian's expertise when we take our horse to the vet check. We expect an honest vet check and soundness exam

done on a straight out and back trot-out to tell us if our horse is sound or not.

When we are given a completion we want to know that we, as a horse and rider team, have earned and deserve a completion that's based on "Fit To Continue" and therefore our horse and every horse that completes has had its future athletic ability protected.

We EXPECT IT!

Wesley G. Elford DVM

Plenty of Time in the 2025 Ride Season!

Go to [UMECRA.com](https://www.UMECRA.com) for full ride details

Date	Ride Name / Location
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
9/12 – 9/13	DRAW's Colorama Classic / New Prospect, WI
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	

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SAVE THE DATE FOR UMECRA 2026 CONVENTION!

January 16-18, 2026

Express Suites Riverport- Conference and Event Center

900 Bruski Dr, Winona, MN 55987



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Attention Rock River goes!

We switched to Weinberg-King State Park 2 miles from Augusta, IL

There are limited reversible spots, HOWEVER, we are allowed to double up on sites are share boxes.

Grab your camping/riding buddy and you guys can share a spot!

There are also many non-electric sites to choose from also when you get there.

Hope to see you the first weekend of October!

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Ride Results

Make sure to confirm your placings on UMECRA.com for each ride and for points standings. Corrections are required to be made within 30 days of the results being posted on UMECRA.com. Reach out to the Ride Manager and the Points Keeper for any corrections.

Hopkins Creek - 7/12/25 - Comp HW 25			
Jeanne	Aslakson	GF Midnight Confession	1
Hopkins Creek - 7/12/25 - Comp LW 25			
Sara	Hall	WP Yippe Ki Yay	1
Jessica	Banner	Whiskey Ginger	2
Aurora	Walsh	Win D Prado	3
Hopkins Creek - 7/12/25 - End HW 50			
Katelyn	Fleming	MSU All Shook Up	1
Damaris M.	Smith	Joker's Wild Streak	2
Stephanie	Boomgaard	Arceus SS	3
Hopkins Creek - 7/12/25 - End LW 50			
Diane	Meinders	Yo Dusty	1
Jessie	Finnila	Sterlings Starstrider	2
Karen	Bahrman	Westwind Little Big Man	P
Hopkins Creek - 7/12/25 - LD HW 25			
Sarah	Fleming	DD Hucks Legacy	1
Lisa	Knapp	Toblerone	2
Diane	Maxey	Al-Marah Fox Romeo	3
Don	Knapp	Drifter	4
Hopkins Creek - 7/12/25 - LD Jr 25			
Vienna	Finnila	RB Liwa	1
Eve	Bouman	Kulta	2
Hopkins Creek - 7/12/25 - LD LW 25			
Erika	Delines	FT Firestorm	1
Beth	Kail	LW Constant Sohn	2
Linda	Hamrick	Cash	3
Emily	Seidler	MB Angel Bask	4
Barb	Kurti	Ayman Al Shaqab	5
Audrey	McMurry	Rusty	6
Ann	Bogen	Dun It	C

Hopkins Creek - 7/12/25 - Novice 15			
Anna	Nelson	Kaine	1
Rebecca	Bond	Chic Got Me Blue	2
Shayn	Stagg	Chili	3
Heather	Neal	Oscar on Duty	4
Sarah	Bevelhymer	Quaradini	5
Cameron	Lloyd	Crystal	6
Amber	Jensen	Hatiums Legacy	MO
Julie	Kradel	Tír na nÓg	MO
Jan	Wylie	Dose	MO
Hopkins Creek - 7/13/25 - Comp HW 25			
Damaris M.	Smith	Firelily Moon River	1
Jeanne	Aslakson	GF Midnight Confession	2
Hopkins Creek - 7/13/25 - Comp LW 25			
Jessica	Banner	Whiskey Ginger	1
Sara	Hall	WP Yippe Ki Yay	2
Aurora	Walsh	Win D Prado	P
Hopkins Creek - 7/13/25 - LD HW 25			
Sarah	Fleming	DD Hucks Legacy	1
Hopkins Creek - 7/13/25 - LD LW 25			
Jessie	Finnila	Sterlings Starfire	1
Wendy	Maas	FT Firestorm	2
Hopkins Creek - 7/13/25 - Novice 15			
Cameron	Lloyd	Crystal	1

Detroit Horse Power - 8/15/25 - Comp HW 25			
Kim	Rumspa	R Secret Cat Man Do	1
Detroit Horse Power - 8/15/25 - Comp LW 25			
Sara	Hall	WP Yippe Ki Yay	1
Jan	Wylie	Dose	2
Dawn	Bouwkamp	Bailey	3
Detroit Horse Power - 8/15/25 - End HW 50			
Audrey	Hager	Da Bomb NPF	1
Jeralee	Hartman	DD R Finale	2
Detroit Horse Power - 8/15/25 - End LW 50			
Diane	Meinders	Yo Dusty	1
Kelly	Frank	WMA Scepter	2
Cindy	LaRoy Young	KC Lucks Lil Buck	3
Helen	Lynn	Pipers Prime Time	4
Caroline	Loos	Wallace Hill Sundance	5
Amy	Wallace-Whelan	Moliero	6
Wendy	Cooper	Stardust Serenade TM	C
April	Johnson	Leonida's Shooting Star (Dia)	C
Detroit Horse Power - 8/15/25 - LD HW 25			
Diane	Maxey	Al-Marah Fox Romeo	1
Kathleen	Neuhoff	Mystique Rose	2
Amanda	Selfridge	Mix Master KS (Ron)	3
William	Gage	WMA Atlanta	4
Jennifer	Tonti	Nova	5

Detroit Horse Power - 8/15/25 - LD LW 25			
Lois	McAfee	Samir Al Mar	1
Danielle	Wilson	Midas SBA	2
Patti Jo	Duda	HO's Cherokee Summer E	3
Emily	Seidler	MB Angel Bask	4
Audrey	McMurry	Rusty	5
Caroline	North	Heavenlei Days	6
Sam	O'Connor	Willow	C
Noelle	Synder	Calvados AC	C
Detroit Horse Power - 8/16/25 - Comp HW 25			
Kim	Rumpsa	R Secret Cat Man Do	1
Detroit Horse Power - 8/16/25 - Comp LW 25			
Sara	Hall	WP Yippe Ki Yay	1
Dawn	Bouwkamp	Bailey	2
Detroit Horse Power - 8/16/25 - End HW 50			
Colleen	Greene	MajkSonofLiberty	1
Karri	Wilson Bruskotter	BKR Seance N Moshahn	2
Brad	Green	Vega VA	3
Molly	Tubbs	Johnnie Walker	P
Robert Scot	MacGregor	I'm Supercharged	P
Pamela	Reband	Caspers Come Undun	P
Detroit Horse Power - 8/16/25 - End Jr 50			
Vienne	Logan	Gitars Epiphany AF	P
Detroit Horse Power - 8/16/25 - End LW 50			
Diane	Meinders	Lumiere WW	1
Jillian	Brewer	SS Rocko	2
Shauna	Howard	Magik Silver Spirit	3
Renee	Bonsell	Sheebah Aly Essence	3
Helen	Lynn	Vazilla SV	5
Caroline	Loos	Interstellar	6
Jodi	Lazzaro	Zandar PA	C
Detroit Horse Power - 8/16/25 - LD HW 25			
William	Gage	WMA Atlanta	1
Manuela	Hinkleman	Gunny	2
Kennedy	Aldrich	Ripley	3
Tori	Shepherd	Oscar	4
Anqunette	Sarfoh	Ronan	P
Tyler	Miner	Jude	P
Suzy	Wycoff	Sheldon Cooper	P
Detroit Horse Power - 8/16/25 - LD Jr 25			
Carrver	Logan	City Psultriess	1
Charlie	Wycoff	He's A Command Handfull	P
Detroit Horse Power - 8/16/25 - LD JLW25			
Walker	Roan	Zeal	1
Wendy	Cooper	Gem	2
Megan	Padget	Sugar	3
Danielle	Wilson	Angel Power	4
Lisa	Germann	Ainia DCR	5
Jenna	Myler	American Malice	6
Caylee	Hamilton	Immortal Legacy	C

DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - Comp HW 25			
Desmond	Degroot	Ophelia Kkan	1
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - Comp Jr 25			
Astrid	Erickson	Odette Dances	1
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - Comp LW 25			
Jane	Malischke	Bourbon	1
Emily	Kibler	REVA	P

DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - End HW 50			
Guy	Worthington	PA Hi-Spirit	1
Sarah	Carlson	HTLB Stormy	2
Amber	Erickson	Ottalia Mystic	3
Crystal	Esqueda	Berry Truly My Deco	4
Stephanie	Crispin	Sinamon Raysin Bread	5
Bettina	Koehn	Finnley	6
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - End Jr 50			
Alice	Erickson	Rushcreek Calia	1
Logan	Erickson	A Kings Delivery	P
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - End LW 50			
Jessie	Finnila	Sterlings Starstrider	1
Jodi	Johannessen	SC Izzabella	2
Linda	Jacobson	AE Gimli Strength	3
Sheila	Schneider	Rushcreek Giggles	4
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - LD HW 25			
Ann	DeLang	My My My My My Boogies Shoes	1
Kimberly Ann	Fosler	BZ Cojeseryn Sahar	2
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - LD Jr 25			
Gracyn	Schneider	Midlife Crisis	1
Tabitha	Kostreva	The Wolf King	2
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - LD LW 25			
Jessi	Lipponen	Strawberree Wyne GA	1
Ann	Ruesch	Brownie Batter	2
Karen	Bahrman	Edgefield Triton	3
SAVANNAH	MALONEY	WAYLON	4
Eileen	Kirsch	Elwha	5
Jane	Kirkeide	Bassim	6
Elizabeth	Frieders	HTLB Chester	C
Debby	Weisbecker	Chocolate Martini	P
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/23/25 - Novice 12			
STELLA	JACOBY	ZIPPER	1
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/24/25 - Comp HW 25			
Amber	Hennig	PAA Baylyn Seer	1
Amber	Erickson	Ophelia Kkan	2
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/24/25 - Comp Jr 25			
Astrid	Erickson	Odette Dances	1
Melia	Hennig	Lucky John	2
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/24/25 - Comp LW 25			
Linda	Jacobson	Hazelrun Mighty Roark	1
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/24/25 - LD HW 25			
Adrienne	Dymesich	Shady	1
Sigrid	Vining	Willow	2
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/24/25 - LD Jr 25			
Elliot	Dymesich	Happy	1
Vallerie	Zwicky	FedEx	2
Eva	Dymesich	Fiametta	3
Emily	Dymesich	SRR Apache Warrior	4
DRAWs Prairie River Ride - 8/24/25 - LD LW 25			
Wendy	Maas	FT Firestorm	1
Jessie	Finnila	Renegade Raja	2
Jessi	Lipponen	Strawberree Wyne GA	3
Stella	Jacoby	Zipper	4
Jane	Kirkeide	Bassim	4

Good Etiquette Is Not Just a Responsibility, It Is An Opportunity

As a newish (5th season) rider, trail etiquette is still a struggle. We've all heard the mantra "Ride your own ride". But it's not that simple. It's rude and disrespectful to do that if the result impacts someone else's ride negatively. This past weekend, I had the good fortune to have some exceptional riders school me in trail etiquette, while at the same time extending grace and friendship. This is a list of my faux pas and what I learned from the opportunities they presented.

Faux pas 1: don't assume that a rider, even a friend, wants to ride with you just because your horses match pace. While riding the first loop, I came up behind a new friend with whom I had ridden only once. We had not talked about riding together before the start. I settled behind her for a bit and our horses seemed to have a similar pace. I remembered that responsible trail etiquette required me to ask whether it was okay for me to join her. She thanked me for asking and reminded me that it was okay as long as it didn't mess up her ride or mine. We agreed to say something and separate if being together became problematic. I stayed cognizant of how she and her horse were doing, and asked her periodically if it being together was still okay. Fortunately, it was.

Faux pas 2: don't assume that you shouldn't ride with someone, even a stranger, if you and your horse would benefit from the company. I passed a rider early on the second loop, I didn't know her name but recognized her as someone with a lot of experience and a reputation of having great horses. My gut reaction coming up on her on trail was that I'm not good enough to ride with her, thank goodness she's going slower than me! Ugh ... what a dummy. After pairing up with my friend, this rider caught us and asked if she could join us. Of course we both said yes. She introduced herself, and installed her mare as a solid leader for the group. What a gift. I made a new friend and

learned a ton by listening to her and watching how she rode and handled her horse.

Faux pas 3: neglecting to have a brief chat if you're going out on the second loop within minutes of another rider. My new highly experienced friend and her mare were a minute behind me going out on the second loop. I had intended to ride my own ride by myself on the second loop. I commented that I was going out ahead, that she will probably catch me, and then I took off alone without asking what she intended to do. Foolish. Of course, my new friend caught up a few miles up the trail. Taking off to ride my own ride nearly squandered the opportunity to capitalize on a new friendship and give my horse some supportive companionship on the second loop.

Faux pas 4: failing to take a moment to find out if someone is new and offer support. While riding alone on the start of the second loop, I passed a woman off of her horse fixing a boot. I asked "Are you okay? Do you need help?" Hearing her say "No", I moved on, riding my own ride. Shortly down the trail, when my new friend caught me, she was riding with the boot woman. Ashamed that I had left the boot woman on the side of the trail, I dropped my head and offered to let them pass. My new friend invited me to join them. Had I taken just a moment when I passed, I would have discovered that the boot woman was riding her first LD. Shame on me for putting my own ride ahead of welcoming and encouraging a new rider. The horses matched up well together and the boot woman was delightful! What a gift to finish the loop with these two super fun women.

The takeaway is: trail etiquette is more than just making sure that we ride our own ride without interfering with other horses and riders out on trail. Practicing good trail etiquette can open doors to new friendships and learning experiences that discourtesy and rudeness would have closed. "Ride our own ride", but do it politely, with respect and mindfulness. Tell other riders when they are breaching etiquette - they might

not know; and offer grace to those who, like me, should have known better.

My thanks go out to my fellow riders this past weekend for giving me the gift of your company, and for reminding me that good trail etiquette should never be forgotten.

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Photo Credit: Katy Carter – thank you for sharing your wonderful photos!





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 ?
-

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.mauserstorer@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

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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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