



**Morning BOD Meeting
March 26, 2011
La Crosse, WI**

Meeting called to order by President Rick Nelson at 10:00 AM.

Present: Rick Nelson, Theresa Meyers, Tony Troyer, Wes Elford, Joslyn Seefeldt, Dianne Schmidt, Maxine Bernsdorf, Wayne Gastfield, Jill Feller, Marty Power, Julie Jackson, Nicole Mauer-Storer

Guests: Nicole Herrmann and her husband, Karen Bahrman, Sue Herrick

Minutes: The minutes from the two meetings held at the January convention were previously sent to the BOD members to read. Motion made by Tony to approve minutes; seconded by Maxine; approved.

Treasurer report: The report was presented as a balance sheet and a P&L from 1/1/11 until 3/20/11; there was also a 2011 convention financial report.

Theresa noted that this is the first year we did not charge a convention fee; however there was a small convention fee that was rolled into the cost of the meal. Attendees not purchasing the banquet meal paid a \$20 convention fee. Dianne noted the UMECRA used to pay for the speaker years ago and the convention did not have to worry about that cost. Dianne feels that the cost of the speaker should be paid for by UMECRA and not the convention. Tony noted that the 2012 convention in Rockford will be charging a convention fee. Motion made by Theresa to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Joslyn; approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Pine Martin vs. DRAWARAMA**
 - Karen Bahrman, ride manager of Pine Martin, presented her reasoning as to why she would like to have the DRAWARMA ride moved to a different weekend; at the present time, both rides are on the same weekend. Karen would like to see UMECRA apply the 500 mile rule (the rides would need to be at least 500 miles apart). The 300 miles is a guideline and there is no ceiling to that. "The hallmark of fairness is consistency; applying the 300 mile debate will just put this debate down to next year". *Note: The sanctioning guidelines state that if rides fall on the same weekend, the rides need to be a minimum of 300 miles apart; this guideline is to be used **before** the ride schedule is approved at the annual meeting in January. Once the ride schedule is approved, if a new ride is seeking*



sanctioning on the same weekend as a ride that has been approved, the distance between rides needs to be a minimum of 500 miles.

- Joslyn Seefeldt, President of DRAW: - Pine Martin is not the only ride that is not 500 mile limit. If we apply this rule to Pine Martin and DRAWARAMA we need to apply it to all ride weekends. DRAWARAMA has been here since 2008 and there has never been a protest so why is there one now?
- Dianne Schmidt: Was DRAWARAMA always in Southern Kettle? Yes, but when this weekend had the Mt Quest ride in Prairie du Chien before DRAWARAMA got the weekend that ride was also less than 500 miles from Pine Martin. Joslyn stated that Barb Gardner, ride manager of DRAWARMA, called Karen and asked for a multiday ride and Karen agreed; there was no mention that this multiday ride would be for one year only. Karen said she never received a call from Barb; she said she never received a call from anyone in regards to making DRAWARMA a four-day ride. She did receive an email from Jill in 2008 asking for a year to move DRAW IV (which was a two-day ride in mid October) to a different weekend because of a National Championship ride that was being held in Indiana in the middle of October when DRAW IV was normally held.
- Tony Troyer: How much of the decrease in attendance of Karen's ride is due to an economic impact? There have been increased gas prices and more impact such as loss of income during the past few years. Do you know how many WI riders quit coming to Pine Martin? *No answer was provided.*
- Joslyn: There was a 22% drop in attendance at rides throughout UMECRA in the past two years; Pine Martin was not the only ride losing riders. Historically, Pine Martin has had better attendance on Sat & Sun than DRAWARAMA has.
- Dianne: I think we should get rid of the 500 mile rule.
- Nicole Herrmann: DRAWARAMA is not a new ride; it was originally called DRAW IV but changed the name when it went to a four-day event.
- Theresa Meyer: The 500 mile rule is only in affect with rides coming onto the schedule after the January meeting and the ride schedule was approved. Rides requesting to be on the schedule before the January meeting need to meet the 300 mile guideline.
- Marty Power: I will reiterate what was just said; *the guideline is under Rule 2E 2- no new ride will be scheduled after schedule is approved without BOD approval and must be 501 miles away.* The problem is that we do not know when this rule went into effect; rule and bylaw changes should be dated when they are changed.
- Joslyn: I agree with Marty- sometimes we make rules and don't date the updates so we do not know when they went into effect.
- Rick Nelson: I need to appoint a committee or we will always have this problem.



- Julie Jackson-Biegert: I respectfully disagree that we need a committee. The rule is in place so we need to look at this and see if there is a violation of the rule.
- Rick: We will not change the 2011 schedule as it was voted on and approved at the annual meeting in January.
- Marty: I agree with Rick 2011 is a done deal and we need to look at the schedule for 2012.
- Joslyn: If we take this scrubbing to the annual meeting we would have an uproar from ride managers. *Note: The idea of 'scrubbing' the calendar and applying the 500 mile distance was presented at the 2011 annual meeting. There was no second to the proposal and the motion was never carried forward.* DRAW has tried to compromise with Pine Martin by moving the ride location beginning in 2012 to Spring Green, WI; this would increase the distance between the rides to over 300 miles. We cannot move the date at the Palmyra location due to youth hunting that begins in early October.
- Karen: I'm at a loss as to why this is an issue. We have two rides that are in conflict right now. The scrubbed schedule for less than 300 miles: there are only two rides in contrast. AHAM will move to comply with the 300 mile guideline: AHAM is in conflict with Endure for the Cure ride in Illinois. DRAW is willing to move their ride outside of the 300 mile rule – will that suffice?
- Theresa: when Elinore wrote the sanctioning guidelines down they were guidelines, not hard and fast rules. Some of our rides fall on holidays so every once in a while a ride will end up closer to 300 miles during these times as rides have to double up in certain years. In 2011, MNDRA I, White River Spring and Glacier Trails rides are all the first weekend in May; normally, MNDRA I and White River Spring ride would be a week earlier but the first full weekend in May in 2011 is Mother's Day weekend and for this year, all three rides fall together. If the 300 mile was a hard and fast rule and not a guideline; at least one of these three rides (all established rides) would need to cancel for this year. What happens is that these ride managers agree to co-exist for these years. We are fortunate as riders in the Midwest to have a lot of rides to attend and choose from, but as a ride manager, it hurts our rides because riders have all of these choices. Are we going to keep up the health of the organization by having too many rides?
- Tony: To clarify what I heard. DRAW will have a new ride site for 2012 to comply with the 300 mile rule but will keep with same date?
- Joslyn: Multi day rides will be our saving in the future; many riders will travel further with their horses to these rides. Some other rides will not make money and economics will take care of the rides.
- Motion made by Wes to grant DRAW the same dates in 2012 as long as they are outside of the 300 miles; seconded by Tony. Joslyn would like a friendly



amendment to include all rides on the schedule that are 300 miles or less. After some discussion this motion was withdrawn and the following motion was made.

- Julie made the motion: The 2011 ride schedule will exist as it is right now as approved at the annual meeting; in 2012 *and beyond* all rides on the schedule on the same weekend will need to be outside of 300 miles sanctioning guideline.
Friendly amendment: should say 2012 *and beyond*. Tony seconded the motion; motion passed 7/1.
- Rick: by DRAW moving the ride site, the problem will not exist after 2011.
- Marty: What is the protocol for moving the other ride in July? AHAM and Endure for the Cure are less than 300 miles apart; who will contact AHAM about moving their ride? As Karen stated earlier in the meeting, the ride manager of AHAM has already agreed to move his ride to a different weekend that would be 300 or more miles from an existing ride.
- **Driver's rule change**
 - A new rule is being requested from MDDA; two carts have used this sort of harness in the past year and there were no incidents. This quick release will work on light carts; what defines 'light'? The inspector at ride who is inspecting the carts before they compete would have to make that determination (what is light?). What about a groom with this rig- will that still be considered a light cart? Is it safe- the drivers that are using this rig know what is safe for their horse; if their horse is not used to this rigging, it should not be used? A driver inspects all of the carts before going out onto the trail; it is the driver going out last who inspects all the carts and riggings. This rule needs to be enforced by the safety inspector and ride managers. Would the average ride manager even know what to look for to identify this sort of rigging? Should ride managers be able to tell drivers they can't use this rigging? If we don't tell people what kind of saddle to use, we should not tell drivers' what equipment to use.
 - Breeching or a brake is required unless using a racing type harness employing "quick hitch" couplers, which attach the shafts of the cart directly to the saddle pad of the harness. This type of racing harness may only be used with a light weight two-wheeled cart. The driver must affirm to ride management via the Safety Check that the horse is accustomed to the harness and cart configuration on hills and rough terrain. Motion made by Tony; seconded by Joslyn to accept this rule as is written; motion passed- will go to the January meeting to be voted on.
- **Award's budget 2011**
 - Maxine gave handouts in regards to what we spend on awards. The budget to spend for 2011 awards will be \$7150 and a cushion of \$552.50 for Hi Point awards (this budget is based off of a formula on the number of riders who rode UMECRA sanctioned rides in 2010). Dianne stated that she would still embroidery the jacket for \$65 for the awards.



- Should we set a specific fund aside for awards? If we want to track this better, it might be easier to track and then the money is available without question. Could we put a portion from every ride that pays the riders fees into a separate account? We would then have the money already in the awards fund each year.
 - Motion made by Theresa to accept the awards budget as was presented by Maxine and to start a separate awards fund; Wayne seconded; motion passed. Jill will start a fund with ride entries sent in throughout 2011; this will prevent a large amount of 'general funds' money from being moved into an account.
- **ICF guidelines:**
 - ⊖ These were not discussed at this meeting as Tony will rewrite them and send out these guidelines through the BOD group email and they will be presented at the fall meeting.
- **Membership committee**
 - The coupons for \$10 discount on a 2011 UMECRA membership were sent out to the novice riders from 2010 with an expiration date of March 1st. Marty made a motion to extend the coupon to Novice riders throughout 2011 ride season; seconded by Tony; motion passed.
 - Mentors sign ups were on the tables at the annual meeting; we ended up with a lot of mentors. We are now putting bios on the website for the mentors. All mentors are requested to submit a bio to be published on the website. Marty has been asked to serve on as the liaison between AERC and Midwest with mentor program as AERC is just beginning a mentor program.
 - Novice committee: The RM packets that were given out at the annual convention had Novice information to hand out at the rides.
 - Tony received a letter from some Novice riders who took four hours to do the Novice ride at Big River. They had previously done NATRC and wanted to lead their own group at Tony's ride. They felt the UMECRA rules were going too fast and we were pushing the Novice riders. As RM's we need to know who our customers are and try to work with them we need to make an extra effort to work with the novices. Tony allowed these riders to have a completion award. Julie: with the Novice guidelines we are asking for 6 mph; 4 mph is not distance riding so ride managers also have to be careful that they are still promoting distance riding and not trail riding.
 - Marty: We need to be polite, accommodating but our rules are not riding 4 mph; we are not NATRC and we are not changing our rules.
 - Theresa pointed out that she needs to be stricter since she is the first ride of the season and if she is too lenient, some Novice riders could be points when they shouldn't and then other riders throughout the year may not be placed correctly.



- **Protocol for changes in rules and bylaws**

- Marty: When we get to the annual meeting it feels very rushed to have to consider all the rule and/or bylaw changes and it seems like some of them are very rushed and voted on without a lot of consideration. Marty proposed the following:
 - All suggestions for rule and/or bylaw changes needed to be submitted to the rules committee for consideration before the fall meeting.
 - These changes will be voted on at the fall BOD meeting.
 - These changes will then be posted on the website, published in the December newsletter and sent to the list serve groups (umecra-group email and any other groups)
 - All members would have these changes by the end of December
 - Members can write amendments to the changes; these amendments would need to be accompanied with an explanation as to why the amendment is being requested.
 - Any amendments will need to be posted two weeks prior to annual meeting for review by all members. These amendments will be posted on the website for review and sent out on the list serve groups.
 - All members would have the information they need to make an educated decision on before the annual meeting.
 - *Note: if there is an emergency situation where a rule and/or bylaw needs to be changed at the last minute, these guidelines may not be possible.*
 - Motion made by Marty on the above steps: seconded by Wayne to follow these steps. Motion passed.
 - Theresa: I have tried very hard to get a schedule like this to work. Sometimes we get these changes at the last minute due to it being the end of the ride season.
 - Wayne: all bylaw changes for GLDRA follow a schedule similar to this and it works.
 - Julie: people start voting on items at the annual meeting just to get out of the meeting. Are items being voted on without a lot of thought?
 - Some of the amendments don't come until the Saturday morning before the annual meeting and we can't publish them before hand. Should these amendments then wait until the next year to be voted on? Do all of our members really understand the rules?
 - If we publish the changes ahead of time; members would not hear the reasoning behind the change. These published communications could be skewed depending on how they were written.



- Wes: could we set a date when all bylaw and changes have to be submitted by a certain time so they can be discussed at the fall BOD meeting?
- **Annual convention location**
 - Dianne presented an idea to change the convention location. She presented maps of each state to show where the furthest member to the east and west live and also where the ride manager live.
 - Dianne made the motion that the Wisconsin Dells be stated as the midpoint of the corridor for the Annual Meeting and; if the meeting is not held in the Dells, it be held on the East side of the mid-point one year and on the West side the next. Motion made by Dianne; seconded by Maxine. Failed
 - Dianne presented some information on the location of RM's and members locations throughout the Midwest. Members are spread out throughout the various states. WI Dells would be the midpoint between the farthest east and west RM.
 - Tony: We get more MI RM's when the convention is held between Rockford and WI Dells.
 - Wes: We have conventions through 2014 planned- should this be brought up at fall meeting since it cannot go into play until after 2014?
 - We did the survey and we need to listen to that information. We should not ignore the results. We should look at better educational speakers to attract more attendance. Should we have a better speaker fund to use to attract more attendees?
 - Wes: We should be able to get some speakers at no cost; we have been successful at that in the past. It might cost us some travel and meal costs, but we do not have to pay them to speak.
 - Marty: Jan Worthington was excellent as a speaker at AERC; we should get her to speak at our convention; she got a standing ovation.
 - Where are the upcoming convention:
 - 2012- Rockford
 - 2013-Oconomowoc
 - 2014- open
 - 2015- MI January 16, 17 & 18 Clair MI Hotel Doherty
 - **UMECRA Website**
 - Nicole gave a presentation on the updated website: it looks great!
 - Some discussion was held on the following:
 - Put logo in upper left corner (Standard website design)?
 - Put links in and scattered info throughout the site
 - The logo really stands out more than the UMECAR name. Should it be shrunk down and the name of our organization added to it?



- Nicole will experiment a bit more with some of these ideas

- **Arabian Horse club**
 - Julie presented a sponsorship for \$35 for the Quad City Arab Horse Club for 2011 show. For the \$35, UMECRA would get an ad on all of the show bills along with a mention over the loud speaker. It is very cheap advertising and these young riders are our next members! Motion made by Maxine; seconded by Wayne to take this ad out; motion passed.

- **Marty**
 - Robin Schadt, the new points keeper who was unable to attend the meeting had a suggestion. She wants to get information to riders as fast as possible so she would like to post the ride results as 'unofficial' and if ride fees are not paid, these results would then be removed from the website at a later date. This could cause issues as members may not remember it is an unofficial results. Some UMECRA riders have information posted for rides at MNDRA or other sites and this causes an unfair advantage to these riders who are riding for points and year-end awards.
 - This topic was discussed at the January meeting and there was a rule change made therefore ride results cannot be posted until all rider fees and insurance costs are paid in full.

- **2012 Convention**
 - January 19- 22, 2012 Thursday night start
 - Room rate- \$89/room
 - Not charging for banquet rooms
 - \$20 for table for trade show
 - Charge for electricity with table is \$65
 - Speaker- Dr. Meg Sleeper who is a Veterinarian Cardiologist and a top rider in AERC.
 - Friday night there is a band: Nutsie Turtle Band
 - Saturday night there is a DJ for entertainment.
 - During dinner there will be a violinist who will play a song for tips
 - What fund-raising will be done?
 - Dr. Olivia Rudolphi and Doug Biegert are working on a video of UMECRA to sell. Stephanie Huss is looking at national sponsors to help fund the convention. Donations of \$1500 to advertise one year on the website, in the convention brochure, a booth at the banquet.
 - Should we offer different levels of sponsorship? \$500, \$1000 and \$1500



- Everyone gets on the convention brochure
 - We could reach out to some of the other local feed groups. If anyone has any ideas for sponsor, get that the name and contact information to Stephanie and she will call them and discuss a sponsorship.
- We should allow sponsors to have some freebies in convention bags
 - Could someone sponsor the bags and have their logo printed on it?
 - Samples of products could be put into the bag.
- **Fall BOD meeting**
 - November 12 at the Clock Tower Inn in Rockford, ILL at 10:00 am

Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted:
Jill Feller