

January/February  
2012

# UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



## Ride Calendar!

Under construction for 2012!!!



## Get Ready for the UMECRA Convention!

Mark January 19-22nd 2012 on your  
calendar!

The convention room will be held at the  
Clock Tower Resort in Rockford, IL

Call 815-398-6000 to make reservations.

The Clock Tower features a water park and "Coco  
Keys" for the kids. **Water park wristbands will be  
available for only \$10/day!** *Nutzy Turtle* will be  
playing after the AHDRA awards on Friday.

### Convention Schedule!

**January 19<sup>th</sup> - Thursday:** Check in at 4pm  
Evening Reception

**January 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday:** Check in at 8am  
UMECRA - In the Beginning w/ Dr. Beecher 9am (A  
must see!!)  
UMECRA- Round Table- with members of all ages!!  
Dr. Beecher, JoAnn Gernot, & Lori Window & more!!  
(This will be filled with so much fun!!)  
AHDRA - Cocktails & Awards 6pm  
A Blast from the past....Nutzy Turtle with his band!!

**January 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday:** Check in 8am  
BoD Meeting 7am (or earlier!)  
Speaker- Dr. Meg Sleeper 9am-11:30am  
**New: Rules Symposium - Dr Wes Elford &  
Theresa Meyer (follows Dr Meg Sleeper)**  
Annual Meeting: 1pm -4pm  
Cocktails: 5:30pm  
Dinner (\$30 Adult/\$15 12 & under) / Awards  
Banquet: 6:30pm  
Dancing and Fun!!

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday:** AHDRA Meeting -7am  
Check Out

## Meet & Greet with the UMECRA Board of Directors

Here's your chance to share your  
ideas/concerns/complaints with the UMECRA Board  
of Directors on Friday January 20, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Come to the UMECRA registration table for the exact  
location of the UMECRA Board Meet & Greet.

Hope to see everyone there. Bring your ideas about  
how to increase membership, how to improve our  
novice division, whether UMECRA needs to be  
reorganized and, if so, how.

If you can't be there at 4:00 (the only time slot  
available) please get your thoughts to a Board  
member so we are aware of your views/concerns.

## For Discussion at the 2012 Convention

Forty years ago, UMECRA was founded as an  
organization of distance riding events. The rides at  
this time were the only tangible events that could  
bring substance to an organization.

The purpose of this group of rides was first to provide  
rules consistently from event to event. Up to that time  
each ride was its own little empire. The second thing  
was to maintain records. Third - to develop an annual  
award system. Thus was born Upper Midwest  
Endurance and Competitive Rides Association  
(UMECRA). The system worked well and of course  
the annual meeting and awards presentation was  
started. The rest, as they say, is history.

Currently, we are at a crossroads in maintaining  
viability in this sport. The numbers at some rides  
have fallen drastically. Many rides are subsidized by  
the manager and/or their volunteers. The rides have  
changed their format to having many events in a  
weekend. They attempt to get by with often times not  
the best trails, not the best camping, not the best  
management, etc. All-in-all, this organization,  
although it's not dying, it is struggling.

Strength in numbers may be of some help if we change our formats and recognize person membership. We, hypothetically, go from this organization of fifty rides to fifty rides and 300 members. If we do this we should require all the auxiliary organizations' members to join UMECRA en masse.

The details of this could be worked out. Now I know this is a pause-and-gulp moment. Many of the auxiliary groups (AHDRA, APDRA, etc) are very viable organizations. Many are closely associated with breed organizations. Most of them represent the duplication of what UMECRA does.

I think this could all be done with one organization. I would suggest that a regional system be developed for UMECRA; i.e. Minnesota and Iowa-one region; Michigan and Wisconsin-second region; Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio-third region. The breed awards could still come from the parent groups through UMECRA. At this time we know of several groups that are duplicating efforts in record keeping, etc.

They all require a membership fee and they all require someone to do the work. I know these represent a lot of personal input and effort. This could all be done by a parent organization. In today's world of spreadsheets, computers, etc. one entry per rider could take care of all the record keeping. One membership fee could cover what now requires several memberships. To me, the advantages certainly outweigh the disadvantages. Financially, it would be cheaper for the riders and should result in a stronger UMECRA. A system of regional awards could be formatted.

This would require some time, dedication, intelligence, forgiveness, cooperation, and diplomacy. It will be a push-me pull-me at first. Think positive, and the negatives will disappear. If a positive vote should occur, I suggest the board should establish a blue ribbon committee to address the details or possibly several committees; i.e. one for records, one for finances, one for awards.

Obviously, this epistle could go on ad nauseum. Enough said for starters. Happy trails.

R.A. Beecher, DVM

## A Blue Ribbon Committee...

We want to thank Dr. Beecher for his service to UMECRA from its creation to now and beyond. We also want to strongly support his idea to form a "Blue Ribbon Committee" to examine both the organization and structure of UMECRA.

Concerning the organization -- should UMECRA be a ride managers' organization with limited representation from rider representatives, or should it be a broad-based membership organization?

Concerning the structure -- should there be numerous smaller, autonomous organizations (UMECRA, MnDRA, DRAW, GLDRA, ApDRA, AHDRA) or should there be one large, vibrant and strong organization with subsidiary organizations?

These are difficult questions with many people having diverse opinions. However, what I think we can agree upon is to form a committee to examine these issues and what would be in the best interest of distance riding in the Midwest.

We propose that the voting membership of UMECRA (ride managers and their representatives, and rider reps.) agree to the formation of a "Blue Ribbon Committee" to begin the process of examining if/how UMECRA should be reorganized/restructured as we move into the 21st century.

Respectfully,  
Chris and Marty Power

+++++  
2008 Brenderup Prestige model, 2-horse trailer for sale. Aerodynamic, lightweight Euro design can be towed with an SUV or V-6 engine car! Lots of headroom and white interior that horses prefer; surge/inertia brakes for safety; easy for a woman to hitch up and tow. I've pulled it with a Honda Pilot. These trailer gems are no longer made in the USA; get yours today! Lots of detailed pictures available at <http://picasaweb.google.com/kaleidobob> Open the Brenderup album to see all the pictures. Asking \$11,000. Contact Lynda at [blz@usfamily.net](mailto:blz@usfamily.net) or [612-722-5039](tel:612-722-5039).  
+++++

**MEMBERSHIP CARD UPDATE**

Our UMECRA Board of Directors voted to distribute membership cards for the 2012 season. We are optimistic that the cards will provide confirmation that membership dues have been received and processed. The cards will be mailed upon receipt of your dues payment. In the event you do not receive your card within thirty (30) days of payment, please notify Jill. She can be reached at: [Jfeller@nconnect.net](mailto:Jfeller@nconnect.net) or [920.948.9502](tel:920.948.9502).

Make sure you include your membership number on all 2012 ride entry forms as it will be used to calculate points.

Please send your ad to [UMECRAnews@gmail.com](mailto:UMECRAnews@gmail.com). We can handle most common formats, such as Word, .pdf, or .jpg. The deadline for each issue is the last day of the previous month – newsletters are generally mailed by the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please send payment for your ad to:

Peggy Pasillas, UMECRA Newsletter  
9928 Rich Valley Blvd  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

**Checks should be made payable to UMECRA.**



**Rules Votes at General Meeting**

Drive Rule proposed changes:

**Current rule:**

Rules for Drivers

D. The driver must carry a whip in hand at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.

**Proposed change:**

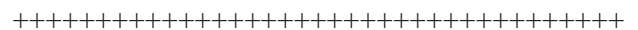
The driver must have a whip within reach at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.

**Current rule:**

E. Breeching or a brake is required.

**Proposed change:**

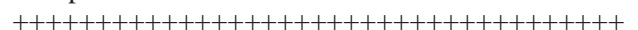
E. Breeching or a brake is required unless using a racing type harness employing "quick hitch" couplers, which attach the shafts of the cart directly to the saddle pad of the harness. This type of racing harness may only be used with a light weight two-wheeled cart. The driver must affirm to ride management via the Safety Check that the horse is accustomed to the harness and cart configuration on hills and rough terrain.



In endurance and competitive the weighing of heavyweights rule is similar, but not identical. A proposal passed to make them; the same and put the rule in UMECRA General Rules

Management Requirements

L. There shall be weight divisions for endurance and competitive: Lightweight - 179 pounds and under; heavyweight - 180 pounds and over WITH TACK. All heavyweight riders may be weighed with tack prior to the ride.



**Applied Common Sense®**  
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**Advertising in the UMECRA Newsletter**

Rates depend on the size of your ad and how many times you wish to run it:

Ad Rates for Newsletter	1 time	2-3 times	4-8 times	9-10 times	the year
Classified 10 lines * \$.60 extra per line	\$6.00				
Business Cards	\$8.50	\$6.80 ea.	\$5.95 ea.	\$5.50 ea.	\$51.00
Quarter Page	\$20.00	\$16.00 ea.	\$14.00 ea.	\$13.00 ea.	\$120.00
Half Page	\$25.00	\$20.00 ea.	\$17.50 ea.	\$16.25 ea.	\$150.00
Full Page	\$45.00	\$36.00 ea.	\$31.50 ea.	\$29.25 ea.	\$270.00

\*Line = (65 Characters per line including spaces)

Note: These have not yet passed the board, and will be discussed and probably voted on at the Monday morning board of directors meeting.  
Tony Troyer, Dr. Wes Elford, and Theresa Meyer

**Proposed Rule: Point Discrepancies**

**UMECRA General Rules**

**4. Rider Requirements**

K. Thirty days after the mailing of the UMECRA newsletter ride results printed therein become official. Errors must be reported to the points keeper, ride manager and UMECRA secretary within the 30 days. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and point standings. If errors are found after 30 days, the UMECRA executive board, ride manager and points keeper must be petitioned in writing by the rider and informed of the error. The secretary will inform the board of the petition. Correct placings and points should be awarded unless intentionally delay of error notification is suspected. This will be considered fraud, and may result in no change in ride results or points awarded. All ride results and points are final 30 days after the publication of the November newsletter.

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**Current rule: Point Discrepancies**

K. Discrepancies in point standings or other perceived errors must be reported to the UMECRA secretary in writing within 30 days of the postmark of the Newsletter..

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**Proposed Rule: Novice Division**

3. The Novice division must be a one horse/rider team. To enter this division for year-end awards and individual placings, the rider must not have completed more than 90 total miles in a regular distance ride: competitive, limited distance, or endurance. Only one 25 or 30 mile competitive ride may count per year toward year-end awards. Rides longer than 30 miles will NOT count toward awards; whether endurance, LD or competitive, but they will count toward the 90 total miles.

4. A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards. Horse/rider teams not meeting these criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.

**Current rule: Novice Division**

3. The Novice division must be a one horse/rider team. To enter this division for year-end awards and individual placings, the rider must not have completed more than 3 competitive rides of 25 miles or more. They must not have entered more than 2 Limited Distance rides or more than 2 Endurance rides. Horse/rider teams not meeting this criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.

4. The horse/rider team must not be entered during the official ride season in any other ride distances other than the novice division, with the exception of one 25 or 30 mile competitive ride.

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No BYLAW changes were voted on in the March or November board meetings. A bylaw to abide by Robert’s Rules during discrepancies may or may not be passed at the January morning board meeting.

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**GOT SOMETHING FOR THE SILENT AUCTION AT THE CONVENTION... Contact Peggy Pasillas with donation ideas! [peggy@pasillas.net](mailto:peggy@pasillas.net)**

Black, 2002 Arabian Mare. “Debut” (MD Heir ToFame x Amerons Nafalla) She has World Champion Pleasure back ground but Debut has such long ground covering strides it is hard for her to conform to a ring horse. We feel Debut would be happier as an endurance horse. Very pretty, quiet, sensible disposition with willingness to go forward, not hot, very athletic. Contact: Susie Weiss [Call 608-393-4049](tel:608-393-4049) [dominostbl@baraboo.com](mailto:dominostbl@baraboo.com)

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ALBUM**

Hello!  
All of you that want one of the UMECRA 40th anniversary albums ,,you can order it now or at the convention in Rockford . It will only be offered this one time and we will only get this price with a mass order.

For \$69.95 plus \$12.95 shipping you will receive the album and the DVD along with a copy of the minutes of the first UMECRA meeting. You will be able to see what the album looks like at the banquet.

If you only want the DVD the price will be \$15.95. Pre-order information is available on the UMECRA web site. You can use a MasterCard, Visa, or Discover card. This Album will be a collector's item so if you think you will want one make sure you order in time.

Doug Palme and Olivia Rudolphi have worked to make this happen and will donate ALL the profit to the UMECRA Convention fund. They are also going to record most of the talks that will take place at our convention. You will be able to buy them as well and UMECRA will get some of the profit from them as well. Just two more tireless workers who make UMECRA a great organization. Thanks Guys!

Any questions - just ask Rick Nelson!

## **Lung Sounds: Listening to Your Horse's Lungs**

By the Editors of EQUUS magazine

Just as lung sounds can reveal a lot about our own health, the noises your horse makes when he breathes can tell you about his health.

Just as lung sounds can reveal a lot about our own health status, the noises your horse makes when he breathes can be quite telling. Horses with advanced respiratory distress emit rasps and wheezes audible to your unaided ear. To hear the more subtle sounds of brewing trouble, however, you'll need a stethoscope and a certain proficiency in using it. Practice often when your horse is healthy, so you will be able to recognize abnormal noises when they do occur. An inexpensive stethoscope designed for listening to adult lungs (available at most drugstores) is best for listening to your horse's lungs. More expensive canine or pediatric stethoscopes won't pick up the low-frequency sounds of normal equine respiration.

Position the horse in a quiet area, out of the wind and away from barn sounds. On an average-size horse, place the stethoscope about 5 inches behind and 7 inches above the elbow (just behind the girth and below the saddle flap on a horse wearing an English saddle). Listen for the gentle blowing sounds of healthy lungs, similar to someone blowing to cool hot soup. These soft sounds can be hard to distinguish amid the heart thud and gut gurgle of the horse's interior. You can make lung sounds more audible by causing

the horse to take some deep breaths. Have a helper pinch off the horse's nostrils so he can't inhale for 30 seconds or more, until he really objects. When the horse finally pulls away (which he most certainly will), he'll take a few very deep breaths. That's when you'll hear the amplified lung sounds.

As you learn to elicit and distinguish lung sounds, listen for noises different from the gentle whoosh of unimpeded airflow. Any of the following noises, paired with other signs of respiratory disease are cause for concern:

**Loud sounds over a large area.** Most lung noises are only heard over a 3- or 4-inch section of chest wall. If you can hear blowing noises over a larger area, the lungs may be congested.

**Bubbling sounds.** If you hear lung noises similar to someone blowing through a straw stuck in a milkshake, the lungs contain excess fluid.

**Squeaking sounds.** A high-pitched squeak, usually at the end of inhalation, can indicate an airway obstruction due to inflammation or a physical blockage.

**Uncharacteristic silence.** You know the sounds of normal lungs, but this time you hear next to nothing, meaning that the airways are not active. If you encounter this very rare silence, the horse is bound to be exhibiting other obvious signs of distress.

This article first appeared in EQUUS, Issue 270.

### **Silent Auction!! You gotta be there!**

Got something you'd like to donate for the silent auction? Just bring it to the convention and give it to me (Peggy Pasillas). I'll be there on Friday afternoon. call me on my cell 651-353-7959) or ask for me at the hotel front desk.

#### **Partial listing of silent auction items:**

- Breeding to your choice of 2 Arabian studs
- Feedmark Supplements
- \$75 gift certificates to Trailwise Tack
- Ride entries
- Miscellaneous horse related home décor items
- Handmade wooden basket filled with horse treats
- And more....

# UMECRA



**PERSEVERE**

UPPER MIDWEST  
ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDE  
ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

**CIRCLE ONE:**

**Single \$35      Family \$45 - hard copy newsletter and/or ride book**

**Single \$ 25      Family \$35- electronic newsletter and CD for ride book**

*NOTE: to receive the reduced rate, you MUST receive the newsletter electronically AND receive a CD for the ride book. If you have either the newsletter or ride book delivered via USPS you MUST pay the higher membership fees.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Check one:      **RENEWAL**\_\_\_\_\_      **NEW MEMBERSHP**\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Please include all names of family members. Juniors are riders who are 16 and under as of December 15 or previous year; identify which names are junior riders. ***Please write clearly!***

**PRINT CLEARLY**

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: 20\_\_\_\_\_

Names:\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip:\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

Email:\_\_\_\_\_

**If you do NOT want ANY newsletter sent to you- please check this box:**

Please mail completed form along with **check made out to UMECRA** to:  
Jill Feller  
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer  
N9280 County Road TW  
Mayville, WI 53050

# Understanding Potomac Horse Fever

by: Equine Disease Quarterly  
January 08 2012, Article # 19409

Potomac horse fever (PHF), or equine monocytic ehrlichiosis as it is currently termed, still occurs in areas of the United States. It can often pose a diagnostic challenge because of its varied clinical presentations. Potomac horse fever was first recognized in the early 1980s in the Potomac River area of Maryland. The cause was found to be a microorganism initially named *Ehrlichia risticii*, which has since been renamed *Neorickettsia risticii*. This disease is not contagious between animals.

Much of the early research dealt with investigating how it is transmitted. It was initially discovered that transmission could occur by horses ingesting *N. risticii*-containing flukes that develop within aquatic snails; however, more recently researchers have found that insects, including damselflies, caddis flies, and mayflies, can also harbor the flukes containing the organism. Ingestion of these insects has resulted in PHF. This discovery is significant, since these flying insects can swarm in large numbers and be numerous on pastures. Furthermore, the insects are attracted to lights in horse stabling areas, increasing the risk of exposure. Horses do not have to be in close vicinity to a water source to contract PHF; even dead insects on pasture or in feed or water buckets can pose a risk.

Since August 2009, the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has diagnosed seven cases of PHF in horses presented for necropsy (Table 1). The primary clinical sign was diarrhea. Additional signs reported included anorexia, toxemia, colic, edema, ataxia, and laminitis.

Apart from necropsy cases, the laboratory received blood and fecal material for PHF testing by indirect fluorescent antibody (IFA) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods. Over the period of October 2010 through October 2011, 238 serum samples were tested for antibodies to the PHF agent using the IFA method. Of these samples, 89 were positive. The IFA test indicates prior exposure but does not necessarily signify active infection and

cannot differentiate natural exposure from a vaccine-induced titer. Paired serum samples two to three weeks later may yield more definitive information.

Additionally, 225 whole blood and/or fecal samples were tested by PCR, and 35 samples were positive. The PCR test detects the presence of specific nucleic acid of *N. rickettsia*, indicating presence of the organism. There were 87 cases/samples in which both the IFA and PCR tests were performed, of which 12 were positive in both tests. Table 2 depicts the time of year that the diagnoses were made, indicating that PHF is a warm-weather disease, as would be expected with an insect-borne disease.

Explore the power of the human-horse connection as you travel the emotional journey that veterinarians at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital and owners embark on when a beloved horse becomes ill in Equine ER

If horses live in an area where PHF is known to occur, it is important to limit possible exposure to the vectors. Owners should consider keeping food covered, using insect control around barns, and restricting grazing near water sources during the warmer months. A vaccine is available, but while it is safe, its ability to protect against infection is not fully established. Horse owners should consult their veterinarians for specific recommendations appropriate to their situation.

CONTACT: Neil Williams, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVP, 859/257-8283, nmwillia@uky.edu, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky

This is an excerpt from Equine Disease Quarterly, funded by underwriters at Lloyd's, London, brokers, and their Kentucky agents.

UMECRA Newsletter  
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[www.umecra.com](http://www.umecra.com)



Deadline for Next Newsletter:  
5<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Send news to:  
[UMECRAnews@gmail.com](mailto:UMECRAnews@gmail.com)



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