

February/March
2012

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



Ride Calendar!

Mark your calendars for 2012!!!



Verify Ride Status at www.UMECRA.com

04/21-22	Brighton Spring CTR – Howell MI
05/06-07	MnDRA1 – Orrock, MN
05/06-07	White River Spring – Hesperia, MI
05/12-13	Glacier Trails – Palmyra, WI
05/19-20	Run for the Border – St Croix Falls, WI
05/26-27	Grand Island – Rapid River, MI
06/02-03	ApDRA – Palmyra, WI
06/02-03	Maplewood West – Pelican Rapids, MN
06/09	Double Eagle Dance – Elsberry, MO
06/09-10	White River Summer – Hesperia, MI
06/15-17	Southeast Minnesota – Forestville, MN
06/23-24	Prairie Smoke I & II – Bismarck, ND
06/23-24	Hopkins Creek Ride – Manton, MI
06/23-24	Dead Dog Creek – Kinmundy, MI
06/30-7/1	My Backyard Ride (AHDRA 1) – Wyanet, IL
07/07-08	Endless Valley Ride – Spring Green, WI
07/07-08	AHAM – Augusta, MI
07/14-15	Mosquito Run – Rogers, MN
07/13-15	Endure for the Cure (AHDRA II) – Washington, IL
07/21-22	Zumbro Bottoms Boogie – Wabasha, MN
07/21-22	Grand Island North – Limestone, MI
07/27-29	Wildcat – Palmyra, WI
08/05	Warm Up – Oscoda, MI
08/06-10	Shore to Shore – Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
08/11	Cool Down – Empire, MI
08/11-12	Louise Reidel Memorial – Arkdale, WI
08/18-19	Thistle Down Run – Frazee, MN
08/18-19	Rock River Charity Ride – Utica, IL
08/25-26	Northern Highland – Florence, WI
09/01	White River Fall – Hesperia, MI
09/02-03	White River Labor Day – Hesperia, MI
09/08-09	Charity Cup Ride – Pillager, MN
09/08-09	Keweenaw Ride – Lake Linden, MI
09/15-16	Colorama Classic – Greenbush, WI
09/15-16	Tin Cup Springs – Luther, MI
09/22-23	Run for the Ridge – Fairfax, MN
09/29-30	Pine Marten Run – Nahma Junction, MI
10/04-07	DRAWarama – Palmyra, WI
10/06-07	Iron Creek Run – Kindred, ND
10/13-14	Iron Oak – Arkdale, WI
10/19-21	Point Chaser – Wabasha, MN
10/27-28	Big River (AHDRA III) – Keithsburg, IL

Annual Meeting
January 21, 2012
Rockford, IL

January Meeting called to order at 1:15 pm by President.

Roll call of voting delegates: 72 delegates; includes 5 rider reps and vet rep.

Bob Egerer motioned that the minutes from the secretary's report from 2011 convention be accepted; motion seconded by Linda Mower: Passed. Treasurer's report was presented with a 2011 balance sheet and P&L: Barry Saylor made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Wes Elford seconded the motion. Passed.

New Business:

Ride schedule for 2012

The ride schedule had been printed on the UMECRA website. There was one addition; the Iron Creek Run ride in North Dakota on Oct 6 & 7. The ride schedule was reviewed by all attendees. Theresa Meyer made a motion to approve the schedule; motion seconded by Tony Troyer. Passed.

Insurance costs for 2012

The ride insurance costs will remain the same as in the past years. Motion made by Jill Feller to keep the ride insurance costs the same as in 2011 with UMECRA paying ½ of the event costs while rides will continue to pay the additional insured costs; motion seconded by Barry Saylor. Passed.

Scholarship fund

There are three scholarship awards for this year. There was \$3600 in the fund therefore three recipients were each awarded \$1200. The award winners were: Jessica and Sarah Rudstrum and Tanya Meyer.

Bylaws and Rules

Driver's rule: Current rule: *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.* Tony

made motion to accept this rule, seconded by Theresa. Passed.

Breaching or brake on light weight cart. *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 and seconded by Theresa to accept this rule. Tony presented some photos of the brake system so a ride manager would know what it is. Bob Egerer asked if the photos could be sent to the ride managers; Tony agreed to make them available. Passed.

Endurance Rules and weight divisions. The rule about weighing a heavy weight rider is inconsistent between endurance and competitive rules. To correct this problem the following rule is being offered: *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.* Motion made by Theresa Meyer and seconded by Tony Troyer to accept this rule as presented. Elinore Tonsor is not sure the wording is clear. A suggestion was made to change the wording to: ***Any rider competing as a heavyweight may be required to prove their weight.*** Theresa accepts the amendment; Tony approved amendment. Passed.

Other items brought forward from the morning BOD meeting.

Novice division- PROPOSAL: *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.*

PROPOSAL: *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.*

The above proposal was presented together and approved together at the morning BOD meeting.

Theresa Meyer made a motion; seconded by Julie Jackson-Biegert to accept these rules.

Lori Windows would like to make a friendly amendment to split the two and vote on each one separately. Friendly amendment was approved by both Theresa and Julie.

Is the 90 miles in a lifetime or season? The intent was to call for lifetime miles. Theresa made an adjustment to the proposal and added lifetime to the statement.

A rider could compete on different horses over and over- yes, the way this is written, that could happen.

Mona Radtke: as a RM- do I need to ask the riders now if they are eligible at rides? Maybe we should stop offering novice rides. Right now, there is no limitation in the Novice division.

If a RM does not want to offer a Novice ride, then they should not offer them, but don't punish the entire region who want to offer Novice rides.

Tony clarified why the Novice division was originated. When started, the UMECRA membership went up.

Robin: RM's can give awards out if they choose to do so, but this rule is really about the year-end awards. The pointskeeper will figure out the year-end awards it will not fall on the RM.

Nancy: I love the Novice division; I ride a horse who is now injured so I am riding a young horse and will be remaining in Novice for one or two years. This change of rules is questioning if the division should remain, but just the continuing of receiving year-end awards against those riders who truly are novices. The revised rule is: *A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards and may enter Novice rides for mileage only. ~~Horse/A rider teams A rider not meeting this criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.~~* Motion passed with only 10 negative votes.

Reporting of errors:

Thirty days after the mailing of the UMECRA newsletter ride results printed therein become official. Errors must be reported to the pointskeeper, ride manager and UMECRA secretary within the 30 days. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and points standings. If errors are found after 30 days, the UMECRA executive board, ride manager and pointskeeper 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 would be awarded unless intentionally delay of error notification is suspected. This will be considered fraud, and may result in no change in ride

results ore points awarded. All ride results and points are final 30 days after the publication of the November newsletter. Motion made by Theresa Meyer to accept wording of the new rule; seconded by Marty Power. Passed.

Convention report for upcoming years:

2013- Oconomowoc, WI at Olympia Resort January 18-20, 2013

2014- Rochester, MN- date to be determined. This would put the convention outside the corridor. The convention can only be held outside the corridor every 4 years; it was in MN in 2011 and will in MI in 2015. Joslyn Seefeldt made a motion; seconded by Tony Troy to table approving the 2014 convention being held in MN and allow time for another proposal. Passed. ANY UMECRA member who would like to host the 2014 convention within the corrdior should contact a member of the BOD before the spring BOD meeting with their proposal. If no other proposals are brought forward for consideration, the 2014 convention may be approved to be held in Rochester, MN.

2015- Clare, MI at Hotel Doherty January 16-18, 2015

Rider reps announcement- votes counted from ballots:

Elizabeth Laurie
Maxine Bernsdorf
Bonnie Mielke
Robin Schadt

Dr. Beecher's proposal:

A committee was formed this morning to investigate the feasibility of this proposal. The members on the committee include: Marty Power, Joslyn Seefeldt, Robin Schadt, Elizabeth Laurie, Wayne Gastfield, Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer, Barb Gardner, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Dianne Schmidt.

Other volunteers: Cathy Cook, Barb Kurti, Holly Kemmis, Elinore Tonsor, Pamela Fullerton, Barry Saylor.

Committee reports:

Update on membership committee was presented along with the idea that was approved in the morning BOD meeting (see BOD minutes).

Why are there members who are in the smaller organizations and not in UMECRA? Carmen Stueck volunteered to lead the Facebook 'charge'.

Mentor sign up lists are on the tables; please sign up! Rider Choice ballots will be on the registration table-box will be available for ballots.

Election of officers:

President: Rick Nelson, **Theresa Meyer (won)**

VP: **Linda Mower (won)**, Tony Troyer (declined), Elinore Tonsor (declined), Julie Biegert (declined), Barb Kurti, Dianne Schmidt
Vet Rep: **Olivia Rudolphi**, Dean Peterson, Wes Elford (declined)
WI Regional Director: **Joslyn Seefeldt**
MN Regional Director: **Dianne Schmidt**
Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Feller
Secretary/Treasurer

**BOD Meeting
January 21, 2012
Rockford, IL**

Called to order by President.

Attendees: Bonnie Mielke, Diane Schmidt, Max Bernsdorf, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wayne Gastfield, Theresa Meyer, Rick Nelson, Jill Feller, Robin Schadt, Marty Power, Wes Elford, Linda Mower, Peggy Pasillas, Tony Troyer

Secretary's report approved: Motion by Wes to accept as printed, seconded by Marty. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Report was presented with a Balance sheet and P&L report for 2011. There was a clarification on the amount of money spent for the computer account. \$641 was spent to purchase a LCD projector for UMECRA. Motion by Rick to accept as printed, seconded; Wayne, Passed.

Dr Beecher's proposal- Dr. Beecher presented his proposal for a realignment of UMECRA. Some of the main points of the realignment are that each UMECRA member would get a vote and each ride would get votes. This proposal would make UMECRA a rider's organization instead of a ride manager's organization. A recommendation was made to send the proposal to a "Blue Ribbon Committee" and spend a year researching the different aspects of the proposal and present it to members at the 2013 convention. The proposal involves the creation of a 'regional' UMECRA and get away from the states and the small organizations such as DRAW, MNDRA, GLDRA, AHDRA, etc.

Julie: I think we should be very specific about taking this to the membership. We need to very clear before we talk to the general meeting.

Marty: There should be several committees to look into this proposal but one 'main' committee over the top to pull it all together.

Tony: We are looking at the pros and cons of the feasibility of making changes to UMECRA.

Dr. Beecher: I see rides losing riders and some are losing money. This proposal could make UMECRA stronger.

Theresa: Can I get some clarification- if UMECRA becomes a riders organization, would the smaller organizations be eliminated?

Beecher: it would depend on the committee to make this decision.

Joslyn: I don't see any advantages for DRAW: Dr Beecher- there is NO advantage for the smaller organizations. Awards would become regional and not be a state organization.

Marty: There would need to be representatives from each organization for input on the committees. The small details would be looked at later but it is too early to answer some of these questions.

Julie: We should take this one step at a time. Moving to a rider's organization would get more people to attend the conventions.

Dianne: The MNDRA bylaws say members need to be a UMECRA member so this proposal would increase the UMECRA membership as some other organizations do not make members be UMECRA members.

Robin: What we are discussing is procedure- do we have to have the membership vote on forming a committee? A discussion now with the general membership would get by-in.

Wes: I have tried to get UMECRA to move to a rider organization for years; I like that part of this proposal. I don't think we should ask for a vote from the general membership at this time.

Joslyn: Joslyn made a motion to form a committee with a representative from each organization to look at a restructure of UMECRA; Wes seconded. When is the committee being formed? There are 7 organizations; there should be people outside of the BOD to be on the committee. President and VP will appoint a core committee and then seek other outside of the BOD. Passed.

Committee: Marty, Joslyn, Robin, Elizabeth Laurie, Wayne, Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer, Barb Gardner (volunteered). ApDRA and AHDR need to appoint someone. The committee will appoint a chairperson.

By law/rule changes:

Novice division- PROPOSAL: *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.

Bonnie: This would allow a rider to compete in a 50-mile ride; the proposal should be changed and the 90 should be 45 to eliminate a 50 mile ride.

PROPOSAL: *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.*

Wes feels that this statement will force some people who cannot ride more than 12 or 15 miles out of the sport. These people would need a new division to move into that would not be Novice.

Bonnie: if someone cannot move up, why can't they just ride for mileage and fun; UMECRA should not create a new division. We would end up with professional novices.

Joslyn: We have to think of our own business philosophy; if we don't support this group, these members would be pushed out to CTR or some other sport.

Theresa: Tony worked two years on launching the Novice program; it may take as long as make changes. We would have to host another division at each ride.

Dianne: Would there be a liability if we have a person who isn't physically able to ride longer than a novice ride?

Linda: I don't think we should consistently give awards to novice year after year when long-term riders who don't get to many rides don't get awards.

Julie: I think this division could be good for older riders who no longer want to ride the longer rides.

Bonnie: How many actual novice riders switch into regular, longer rides. The numbers are low and getting lower. Why should we support these riders if they do not move up?

Marty: These riders do support the ride and pay their fees. We could get some sponsorships for the awards. What is the question: do we not want this division or can we not afford the awards?

Joslyn: I'm more concerned with the older riders who don't want to ride the longer rides; we will lose these members.

Should we do some more research into this? Jen Allen gave Theresa some names in November to talk to about keeping members in this division. One of the riders supported the new division while the others did not. Could we put all of these riders'

names into a hat and have a drawing at the convention for the novice 'mileage only' people.

Dianne: We should track how many novices are repeating year after year. Dianne only has had 2 riders return the following year.

Motion made by Julie to accept the new rule with a slight wording change; Tony seconded the motion: Passed- this will be taken to the general meeting this afternoon.

Peggy: Suggestion to rule: *Horse/rider teams who are not eligible for top 5 award can ride for mileage only.*

Bonnie: New suggestion: **Horse/rider teams who are not eligible for placing in the Novice division can ride for mileage only.**

Ride managers now have to ask Novice division if they are riding for mileage only. This rule could cause some novice riders to switch to mileage only in mid-year.

Other: *Thirty days after the mailing of the UMECRA newsletter ride results printed therein become official. Errors must be reported to the pointskeeper, ride manager and UMECRA secretary within the 30 days. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and points standings. If errors are found after 30 days, the UMECRA executive board, ride manager and pointskeeper 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 would 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.*

Dianne: The 30 days in November could cause issues with the awards committee.

Robin: This past year, any errors would be on the last ride as everyone did a great job this year as getting points in and riders checking points.

Peggy: I did not know I needed to get the November issue out quicker; I send it out to the printer and he may not get it out immediately.

Dianne: I feel we need to 'soften' the "this is a rule" mentality.

If we have a rule, we need to enforce it otherwise we should not have it.

Theresa: In looking at other clubs and enforcing rules, I found nothing similar to this rule so I can assume they have nothing in place. Louise's final point standing always had scribbling on them so this is not a new thing in our organization.

Marty made a motion to accept this rule; Julie seconded: PASSED- move to general meeting

Update on 2012 insurance costs

Theresa: The MN DNR is requesting a \$1.5M policy; however with the combination of AERC and UMECRA insurance, this is no longer an issue. Jill made a motion to keep the UMECRA insurance costs the same for 2012 rides. UMECRA will pay for ½ the cost of the daily insurance and the rides will pay for all the additional insured costs. Motion was seconded by Dianne. Passed.

Rider Rep – should there be a minimum age limit to be a Rider Rep?

Theresa: Table until March meeting
ICF committee update: Tony did not have an update but there will be info presented at that March meeting. Rick: as a group, we need to think about the funds in ICF and if we don't use it, we should consider re-appropriating the funds. We do not have any information about ICF on the website; that could contribute to the lack of use of the funds. There was a discussion last year with a rider requesting that fund but it was not approved. Bring any ideas about ICF to the March meeting.

Winter ride: Michael Liang Michael would like to put on a winter ride. Julie suggested if we do that sort of item it should be more of a fun ride. If Michael organizes the ride- would UMECRA sponsor it? Since it is a fun ride and there is no sanctioning involved, the BOD does not need to take any action.

Committee reports:

Membership: Marty presented a report on membership numbers. Should we compile a list of past members and send out a ride book? A motion was made by Linda to compare the 2010 members to the 2011 members and send a "we miss you" letter along with the 2012 ridebook cover and a membership form. Motion was seconded by Julie: Passed. The membership committee will oversee this project.

Ride schedule:

The 2012 ride schedule was approved at the November BOD meeting; however a new ride in ND has requested to sanction with UMECRA on October 6 & 7. The ride is over 500 miles from DRAWARAMA which is on the same weekend. Marty made a motion to accept the new ride; Jill seconded. Passed.

By Laws:

No changes with bylaws at this time.

Other:

MNDRA will be voting in March on their bylaws. It is very possible, that MNDRA will vote that members

will not be required to join UMECRA. The most number of UMECRA members reside in MN; however if the MNDRA bylaws change, those numbers may change.

If the majority of members continue to reside in MN, should the corridor for the convention move further west in WI to the LaCrosse area?

There is no one hosting the 2014 convention at this time. Dianne volunteered to host it in Rochester, MN. It was pointed out that Rochester is outside the corridor and the convention cannot be put there in 2014. Marty made a motion to 'waive' the current corridor rule and to allow Dianne to host the convention in Rochester in 2014. Julie seconded motion: Passed

Bonnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Linda; Passed

Respectfully submitted

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

A Note from Dr Dean Peterson

UMECRA Members:

Following the business meeting at the recent UMECRA meeting, there was a brief rules symposium held. I would like to offer my opinion for clarification on one of the rules discussed.

Under rule 6.2.1.1 of the completion exam requirements, the following is the current rule; "After meeting the final pulse criterion, riders may present their equines for the final examination for other completion criteria at the time of their choosing during the one-hour period." The key word here is examination, not examinations. For many years now, I have interpreted this to mean a single, one time, one place exam and not multiple, multiple place exams of such completion items as locomotion, metabolic, fatigue assessment, CRI's, etc. I have gone over this rule language many times and can still find NO justification for the practice of multiple exams for these completion criteria. To all riders multiple opportunities to, within 1 hour of finish, get their horses passed on the different completion criteria is to state unequivocally that the successful completion evaluation is more important than the welfare of the horse. It's as simple as that. One hour is plenty of time to treat a horse ethically or unethically, in order to successfully complete the exam while in fact, the horse is not "fit to continue".

It is hoped that the 2012 AERC meeting will bring a clarification of rule 6.2.1.1

Dean E Peterson, DVM

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A Blue Ribbon Committee...

The "Blue Ribbon Committee" (BRC) has been busy, but we need your help. Over the next few months we will be sending out a series of short surveys. Please take the time to respond.

- What is your vision for UMECRA?
- We want to hear your ideas about how to move UMECRA forward.

Meeting called to order at 1:15 pm by Pr

The following sub-committees were established:

- Riders – Holly Kemmis, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Robin Schadt, Cathy Cook
- Ride Managers – Elinore Tonsor, Barry Saylor, Wayne Gastfield, Barb Kurti, Dianne Schmidt
- Regional Organizations – Gene Dake, Lynn Reichert, Joslyn Seefeldt, Bruce Birr, Barb Gardner
- Breed Organizations – Dawn Haas, Lori Windows, R.A. Beecher

The following people agreed to serve as a liaison with the Breed and Regional Organizations:

- AHDRA – Lori Windows
- ApDRA – Dawn Haas
- DRAW – Jos Seefeldt
- GLDRA – Gene Dake
- MDDA – Tony Troyer
- MnDRA – Lynn Reichert

Send your comments and concerns to any or all of the above people.

And, a BIG THANK YOU to the BRC for your outstanding work thus far!

Marty Power

****** UMECRA BLUE RIBBON SURVEY ******

Please respond to the survey (one per email address) within 10 days of receipt. If you don't have access to email, call Peggy Pasillas at 651-450-7959 and let her know you need one via snail mail. A survey will be mailed to you.

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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 or [612-722-5039](tel:612-722-5039).
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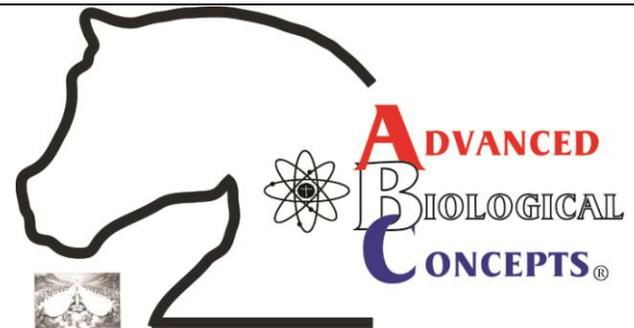
MEMBERSHIP CARD UPDATE

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 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.

Members:

If you have not renewed your 2012 UMECRA membership, you will not receive the ride book. The ride book will be mailed out to members in March. If you renewed your membership, you will have received a 2012 UMECRA membership card. If you have any questions, contact Jill at jfeller@nconnect.net or [920.948.9502](tel:920.948.9502). Thank you!



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Approved Rule Changes

Driving Rule Changes Approved at the January 2012 General Meeting

2. Rules for Drivers

Old Rule:

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.

Replaced with:

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

Old Rule:

E. Breeching or a brake is required.

Replaced with:

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 lightweight 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.

Rule Changes Approved at the January 2012 General Meeting

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.

Replaces

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.

Delete the following two rules from their respective sections:

Endurance Rules

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

COMPETITIVE RULES

2. Management Requirements

C. There shall be two weight divisions: lightweight - 179 pounds and under; heavyweight - 180 pounds and over WITH TACK. All heavyweight riders must be weighed with tack pre-ride.

Replace both with UMECRA General Rule: Management Requirements

L. There shall be weight divisions for endurance and competitive: Lightweight - 179 pounds and under; heavyweight - 180 pounds and over WITH TACK. Any rider competing as a heavyweight may be required to prove their weight.

Novice Division Rule Changes from January 2012 General Meeting
COMPETITIVE 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 and may enter rides for mileage only.

Replaces:

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.

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
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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)

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☞ **VOICE OF THE RIDER** ☞

A request has been presented to add a ride division called “SHORT COMP. All rules for 25 mile comp would apply except age & weight division and mileage. (12-15 miles limit) The purpose would be to provide a division for those who are not able or chose not to ride 25 miles to compete and earn year end awards. Your feedback is needed!

If you are in favor; If you would possibly ride this division for any number of reasons; Or, if you are completely opposed to the addition of this division. Please reply to any BOD member and your rider representatives and let your feelings be known.

Your opinion counts!



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

Thank you from the MN DNR

Editor’s note: Jill Feller received the following note from the MN DNR in response to a donation for improvements at Zumbro Bottoms Forest Recreation area (where there were 2 UMECRA rides in 2011). Go to the UMECRA website to view a copy of the original note.

Jill,
I am writing to thank you and your organization for the thoughtful donation of \$250.00 to Frontenac State Park to be used at the Zumbro Bottoms Forest Recreation Area West campground. It will be used toward the installation of electricity in the picnic shelter there. I am currently working on securing additional funds to make the project a reality as early as this summer, but next year for sure. The is a considerable support for this improvement and will be appreciated by groups and individuals alike. Thanks again for the donation and your support of Minnesota’s state equestrian facilities.
Sincerely,
Harry R. Roberts
Park Manager

An endurance riding queen!

By *Jennifer Allen*

“If I were in a bar fight I would want Brian Urlacher, Jared Allen, and Grace Ramsey.” Many people know the first two people; few outside of the endurance world know the third. And the author of the phrase is known by the community she lives in and surrounds herself by—Lori Windows.

Born in Canada, raised in Bloomington, taught in Indianapolis, working in Princeton, and living in Wyand, IL, Windows wastes no time living her life. From an early age she always had to be busy, always had to be saving money for her first horse, Chico. A Mr. Fowler set her on horses and said “You’re not getting a saddle until you learn how to ride,” then would hide out in the woods to scare the horse and dump the rider.

Now sixty one, one would think Windows would start slowing down. Try telling that to her face and you will get an emphatic “No! Why would I want to slow down? So I can get old and decrepit?” She still works as a veterinary technician at Bureau Valley Veterinary Service (Princeton, IL), travels the world, dives with rays and sharks, and rides those horses and mules.

In 1957 Candice Bergen, James Coburn, Gene Hackman, and Ben Johnson starred in a movie called Bite the Bullet. In it, competitors were to ride in a 700 mile endurance race, sponsored by Dabney Coleman’s character. After watching the movie, Lori thought to herself “That’s what I want to do!” She wanted to go from Point A to Point B as fast as she could go, without pomp or circumstance. In 1982 she attended her first endurance ride and has been hooked since, accumulating over 40,000 miles in competition.

Windows is one of the top endurance riding competitors in the United States. She is a force to be reckoned with at any endurance ride, be it a local 25 mile ride or the daunting 100 mile Western States Trail Ride, also known as the Tevis Cup. She rides green horses, fast horses, and loves mules. Having been in the sport for over twenty five years she has seen endurance riding develop and change from using backyard horses to off-track racers. Electrolytes—a substance little known about in the 1980’s—are now a necessary substance. Tack has gone from whatever is available in your barn to state-of-the-art endurance-specific saddles. Conditioning regimes have evolved.

She rides in an English saddle, and has been known to drop the bit in her horse's mouth after forty miles.

Most in her Princeton Community know her as the woman at the vet clinic who rides horses all over the nation. Fellow riders in the Endurance Community know her as a fierce competitor with fantastic horses. Either way she is a National Championship rider who will never stop riding those fast horses!



Slower Feeding is Safer Feeding

By Kentucky Equine Research

Horses evolved as wandering herbivores, moving slowly for hours and taking bites of whatever forage they came across in their rambles. Modern feeding practice is quite different, with many horses given all-day access to rich forage, an invitation to obesity. Other horses are confined to stalls and given two or three large grain meals each day. Between flakes of hay with a high carbohydrate content, there are often long hours when these horses have nothing to eat. It should not be a surprise that metabolic problems and gastrointestinal upsets are quite common in today's horses.

Horse owners and managers are listening to equine nutritionists who advise a return to a more natural management system. Simply stated, a better system will offer grain and forage over many hours, but the horse will be able to access only a small amount at a time. Acquiring the necessary devices and teaching your horse to use them will pay off in the long run, and your horse will likely avoid colic, gastric ulcers, obesity, and the stable vices that spring from boredom.

To decrease forage intake for horses that are out on pasture, follow one of these tips:

- Use a grazing muzzle. These devices have small holes in the end so horses can eat, but the amount that they get in each bite is restricted.

- Put the horse in a stall or drylot for part of each day. A drylot allows room for the horse to exercise, but he can eat only what you provide instead of gorging on grass.

There are a number of devices designed to decrease speed and amount of hay consumption. An Internet search will turn up a variety of ingenious styles including nets, boxes, barrels, and tubs that hold a lot of hay, so they don't have to be filled too frequently. The idea behind all of the devices is the same: bars, ropes, or nets block direct access to large mouthfuls of hay. The horse can pull out only small bits at a time, mimicking natural feeding behavior and keeping the horse interested and occupied for hours.

To slow grain consumption, available devices range from dispensers that dribble grain out a few pellets at a time to large, heavy ground feed tubs with a series of shallow wells. Each well holds only a little grain and the horse has to work to find and eat all the grain.

Other feeders are in the form of a large plastic ball or barrel with holes spaced around the perimeter. The horse noses the feeder around, eating the pelleted or cubed feed that falls out of the holes. Like the restricted hay feeders, these grain feeders keep the horse occupied for long periods of time and prevent grain from being gobbled too quickly.

Like anything else designed to be used around horses, the feeders you select need to be built of sturdy materials that will not splinter or break. Inspect the devices frequently for proper operation, excessive wear, and sharp corners. Look at the designs with an eye toward your particular horse and his surroundings. If he wears a halter, could it get caught on the feeder? If he is shod, could he catch a shoe in a feeding net or bag that is designed to lie on the ground or stall floor? Home-built copies of popular slow feeders should be carefully thought out, constructed of heavy-duty materials, and routinely examined for safety.

Reprinted with permission of Kentucky Equine Research; visit EquineNews.com for more equine nutrition information.

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ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDE
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Please Note: This will be your last UMECRA Newsletter if you haven't renewed your membership!

PRESIDENT

Theresa Meyer
3028 181st Ave NW
Cedar MN 55011
763-753-5236
tmeyer@tpt.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Linda Mower
3992 E Mt Gilead Lane
Olney, IL 62450
618.839.3632

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jill Feller
N9280 Cty Hwy TW
Mayville, WI 53050
920-948-9502 (cell) or 920-387-5732
jfeller@nconnect.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Linda Mower
3992 E Mt Gilead Lane
Olney, IL 62450
618.839.3632

708.280.8241 robinschadt@aol.com

POINTS KEEPER

Robin Schadt
7342 W 115th Street
Worth, IL 60482

REGIONAL DIRECTORS ILLINOIS

Tony Troyer
867 N 45th Road
Earlville, IL 60518
815.539.7375
il4aerc@aol.com

MICHIGAN
Wayne Gastfield
723 N. Warner
Fremont, MI 49412
616-924-2605

MINNESOTA

Dianne Schmidt
319 Summerfield Dr NE
Eyota, MN 55934
507-282-7333

WISCONSIN

Joslyn Seefeldt
5738 E. Klug Rd
Milton, WI 53563
608-868-4070
joslynsfiberfarm@aol.com

AERC REGIONAL REPS

Connie Caudill – Ride
Sanctioning
812-967-5973
Sue Keith
812-949-1629
suekeith@insightbb.com

SANCTIONING COORDINATOR

Jeanne Crispin
68 W Schapville Road
Scales Mound, IL 61075
815.845.2038
robertcrispin@netscape.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Peggy Pasillas
9928 Rich Valley Blvd
Inver Grove Hgts MN 55077
651-450-7959
peggy@pasillas.net
UMECRAnews@gmail.com

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Lynn Reichert
P.O. Box 220
Richmond, MN 56368
lynnreichert@msn.com

Marty Powers

2317 2350th St
McLean IL 61754-9303
217-648-2974
power@dtnspeed.net

VETERINARY REP

Olivia Rudulphi,
281 Ruby Road
Noble, IL 62868

Wineglassfarm1@yahoo.com

WEBSITE EDITOR

Nicole Mauser- Storer
201 S Cameron Lane
Bartonville, IL 61607
309.697.5591
n.mauserstorer@huskers.unl.edu

RIDER REPS

Max Bernsdorf
N5630 Hwy 42
Kewauee, WI 54216
920-388-3128
miranch@hotmail.com

Marge Dixon

7600 S IL Rt 2
Oregon, IL 61-61
815-652-333-
dixonmarge@hotmail.com

Bonnie Mielke

562 W34264 Piper Rd
North Prairie WI 53153
262-392-9369
bonniemielke@hotmail.com

Julie Jackson

10A Meadowbrooke Dr
Genesco, IL 61254
309-854-2931
jujacks@fuse.net