UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



From the President:

Another ride season has come to an end. Time certainly flies by quickly. Congratulations to everyone who will be receiving an award this year and especially to those of you who reached a personal goal. We each have our own personal reasons for riding each year and there isn't enough that can be said about having the opportunity to be a part of this sport and the endurance family.

It's not too hard to understand why we get so involved in this sport. It's fun, you can choose how competitive you want to be, ride and shoot the breeze with other equine enthusiasts, meet some interesting people, and, of course, challenge yourself by setting goals for you and your equine. Reaching those goals is truly special. And then there is the glue that holds things together; the true caring and support each rider, manager, vet, volunteer and significant other has for one another. We all know there is an inherent risk in our sport and unfortunately accidents do happen. When these bad things happen our family universally steps up to help out. If you've been at a ride or personally experienced a mishap, you have witnessed how our family comes together. It is pretty amazing how everything that needs attention gets taken care of when something goes wrong. All gets taken care of, from medical attention, finding lost horses, to cleaning sites and driving rigs home. This is something of which we can all be proud. I want to personally thank everyone who has stepped up recently, over the course of the season, or anytime in the past to help another UMECRA family member in need.

Make sure you put the Convention and Awards Banquet on your schedule. I am looking forward to seeing everyone and celebrating together. Information concerning the convention can be found in a related newsletter article. A huge THANK YOU to Kim Fosler and her associates for getting everything ready. It is a big job and your efforts are certainly appreciated!

Information and minutes from the recent November Board of Directors meeting will be included in next month's newsletter. The timing of the meeting and the lengthy agenda coupled with the dead-line for submission to our newsletter editor, made it impossible to get it all together in time for this edition. If you have any immediate questions you can certainly reach out to your representative or Rider Rep for input/comment.

Jon Wagner UMECRA President



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	1 time	2-3 times	4-8 times	9-10	the year
Newsletter				times	
Classified 10 lines	\$6.00				
\$.60 extra per line					
Business Cards	\$8.50	\$6.80 ea.	\$5.95 ea.	\$5.50	\$51.00
				ea.	
Quarter Page	\$20.00	\$16.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$120.00
		ea.	ea.	ea.	
Half Page	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$17.50	\$16.25	\$150.00
		ea.	ea.	ea.	
Full Page	\$45.00	\$36.00	\$31.50		\$270.00
		ea.	ea.	\$29.25	
				ea.	
*Line = (65 Characters per line including spaces)					

Rider and Horse Numbers are Important

UMECRA tracks the points and mileage for horses and riders via individual numbers. Each person is assigned a number when you become a member for the first time, and this becomes your permanent number. If you also have an AERC number, we ask that you please check your online record and if we don't have that on file please notify either Robin Schadt or Nicole Mauser-Storer. If both numbers are on record you can register at any UMECRA ride using either your AERC or your UMECRA rider number, the two will cross reference and you will always receive points and credit for your ride. To find the information please look at UMECRA.com, hover over the "Results" button and select "Rider Numbers". From there enter any part of your first or last name to search and see what we have on file – including your membership date for the current ride season.

Horse numbers are also critical. There are many people in the history of UMECRA who have ridden "Spot" or "Blaze" and to make sure your "Spot" gets proper credit for miles the only way to do that is for each horse to have a number. If your horse has an AERC number UMECRA uses that number so you only have to remember one number, but you do have to tell us that your horse has a number. We do not automatically receive information from AERC. If you don't have an AERC number for your horse we will assign a UMECRA number, you just ask either Robin Schadt or Nicole Mauser-Storer. If you have a UMECRA number and later get an AERC number, much like with the rider numbers we add the AERC number to the horse's record and you can then enter using either number and your horse gets credit for all points and miles, but you have to tell us what that number is, we do not have a direct data connection to AERC. To see the information we have on file look at UMECRA.com, hover over the "Results" button and select "Horse Numbers". From there search on any part of the horse's name and see what comes up.

If you look at the points standings or a set of ride results all horse and rider names are links to that individual's history from what could be made electronically available. If you find your name in the points standings and the horse name is blank that means we don't have a horse number assigned for you.

UMECRA 2020 Convention Stevens Point Wisconsin Holiday Inn Stevens Point Convention Center 1001 Amber Ave Stevens Point, Wi 54482

Reserve rooms by phone: 715-344-0200 prompt #3

Holiday Inn Convention Center

Please reference group name: <u>UMECRA</u> AND group block code: <u>UME</u>

\$101.99 Standard room

FOR PETS

Unfortunately, the convention center does not allow pets but those with pets can stay at the sister hotel across the street. Please follow this reservation information.

Reserve rooms by phone:715-344-0000 prompt #3

Holiday Inn Express

Please reference group name: <u>UMECRA</u> AND group block code: <u>UME</u>

\$101.99 Standard room Holiday Inn Express

1100 Amber Ave.

Stevens Point, Wi 54482

MUST RESERVE ROOMS BY DECEMBER 18TH2019!

DINNER MENU

Meals served with rolls & butter, tossed salad served with ranch or french dressing, seasonal mixed fresh vegetables, roasted baby reds, regular & decaf coffee, tea and 2% milk.

Pork Ribeye~ 8 oz. char-grilled served with mushroom gravy \$30.00

Chicken Cordon Bleu~ breast of chicken stuffed with lightly smoked ham and swiss cheese \$30.00

Garden Vegetable Marinara~ fettuccini noodles tossed with seasonal vegetables and marinara sauce *not served with vegetables or potato \$22.00

Kids Plate~ chicken fingers served with shoestring fries and fresh fruit \$13.00 *ages 10 & under*

UMECRA 2020 Convention meal selection

ALL payments must be received no later than January 6th 2020

Please send checks made out to UMECRA along with meal selection sheet to:

Kimberly Fosler

7898 N. Carr Road

Scales Mound, IL. 61075

Write 1 name per line and an X for your selection

NAME(S)~	Pork ribeye \$30	Chicken \$30	Pasta \$22	Kids \$13	COST
TOTAL~					

Total cost for food~	_\$
\$10 For attendees NOT purchasing a meal~	_\$
Total amount due~	_\$

^{*} Individuals submitting dinner selections <u>no later January 6th</u> will be entered into a drawing for a door prize. Dinner selections received <u>after January 6th</u> will have a \$10 late fee applied. ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGES TO YOUR DINNER CHOICE WILL BE ACCEPTED ONCE RECEIVED!

UMECRA Convention Schedule

FRIDAY	
3 P.M.	Registration begins
J 1 .1VI.	registration begins
5 P.M.	Becky Hart- centered riding
J 1 . IVI.	becky flart- centered fluing
6 P.M.	AHDRA meet and greet
OT .IVI.	Alibha meet and greet
7 P.M.	AHDRA Awards
7 1 1141	/ TIDIO (/ Walas
8 P.M.	AHDRA games
01.111.	, in Elia (Barries
SATURDAY	
6:30 A.M.	UMECRA board meeting
	emizem vzeme meeting
9-10:30 A.M	Becky Hart- centered riding
10:45 A.M.	DR. Maureen Fehr- leg injuries
	0 ,
12 - 1 P.M.	BREAK FOR LUNCH
1- 4P.M.	UMECRA annual meeting
	· ·
5:30 P.M.	Cocktails
6:30 P.M.	Dinner
7:15 P.M.	Awards
	AFTER AWARDS SILENT AUCTION CLOSE
SUNDAY	
7 A.M.	AHDRA meeting
9:30 A.M.	MDDA meeting

Scholarships

UMECRA Scholarship

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE & COMPETITIVE RIDERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PURPOSE:

This fund is to provide for post high school educational opportunities for young people who are members of Upper Midwest Endurance & Competitive Riders Association. Grants, in the form of scholarships, are given for tuition at an accredited educational institution, or for fees, books, supplies and equipment required for courses at the educational institution.

AMOUNT:

Scholarships up to \$1,500 are available for attendance at educational institutions, recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS, and are not limited to any particular field of study. Education institution must be at least a two-year accredited college, university or technical school. Payment shall be made after successful completion with a 3.0 GPA of the first semester of post high school study. Reapplication is necessary for consideration of multiple year award.

ELIGIBILITY:

Selection shall be based on pre-established guidelines for eligibility which include, but are not limited to:

- a) Academic performance while in high school; or current G.P.A.
- b) Recommendation from instructors and/or guidance counselors; and leaders of the Upper Midwest Endurance & Competitive Riders Association affiliate;
- c) Financial need;
- d) Youth membership in a local or regional affiliate of the Organization of at least two (2) years, and at least 25 rides of 25 miles each.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

- 1. Fill out application on-line then print and mail.
- 2. Each applicant should request a transcript to be included with the application.
- 3. Applicants must write a short statement (no more than 500 words) which summarizes information about their background, financial needs, goals, community service and interests.
- 4. A family financial data form, or similar document validating financial need, must be included <u>and will</u> <u>be kept confidential with the Community Foundation</u>.

DEADLINE:

All required documents must be filed with the Community Foundation no later than November 18.

AERC 2020 Anne Ayala Scholarship

AERC members from high school senior year through age 21 are invited to apply for the 2020 Anne Ayala Scholarship. Deadline for application: February 1, 2020.

Visit www.aerc.org for more information.

Ride Results

-1140	ILCSU	<u> </u>	
BIG RIVE	R		
DAY 1 EN	ID HW		
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
1	Joshua	Mowrer	EAF Sweet Clementine
2	Aaron	Mowrer	Arazi
3	Peter	Dordal	Amaz'n Grace
4	Deb	Searle	WOA Ravens Premier +/
4	Robin	Schadt	Kayheart
DAY 1 END LW			
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
1	Diane	Meinders	Yo Dusty
2	Kim	Lindquist	Sensations Candi Money D
3	Amy	Cornelison	KW Magnum Archie
DAY 1 LD	SR		
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
1	Lori	Windows	Ella N Fires Jane Doe
2	Roberta	Harms	Lady Jane
3	Ann	DeLang	Chocolate Martini
4	Elizabeth	Frieders	UpUp And Away JIF
5	Daniel	Pakes	КоКо
6	Katie	Bachhuber	Indiana
DAY 1 LD	IR		
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
1	Lorelai	Haase	Herbee The Love Bug
2	Bethany	Johnson	Rea Tempted By Ghazi
DAY 1 COMP HW			. ,
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
1	Pamela	Garrison	Sky Setter
2	Barb	Gardner	RR Roman Scooter
DAY 1 CO	MP LW		
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
1	Sally	Hoff	Gloryius Trinity
2	Ruth	Casserly	Amir Sam PMR
DAY 1 NO	V	,	
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
	Mariah	Hawins	Lilly
2	Brittany	DeBord	Stormy's Night Magic
	Linda	Pakes	Spicy
DAY 1 DRI			. ,
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
	Ray	Hubert	Lone Oak
	Melissa	Coolich	Aurora Borealis von Jorrit
3	Alice	Hubert	K-Macaroni
DAY 2 LD			
Place	Rider	Rider Last Name	Horse Name
	Elizabeth	Frieders	UpUp And Away JIF
	Vera	Betzelberger	Calypso
	Daniel	Pakes	КоКо
	Lynn	Haase	HTLB Stormy
	Angela	Stahl	Zip Like An Egyption

	R			
Place	Rider Rider Last Name		der Last Name	Horse Name
1	Lorelai	orelai Haase		Herbee The Love Bug
DAY 2 CON	/IP LW			
Place	Rider Rider Last Name			Horse Name
			einders	Lumiere WW
DAY 2 NOV		Pide Pide Lead No.		Hawa Nawa
Place			der Last Name	Horse Name Spicy
DAY 2 DRIV			ikes	Эрісу
Place			der Last Name	Horse Name
			ubert	Lone Oak
POINT CH	,			
2 DAY 100				
Place		Rider Name		Horse Name
	Sarah	ue		
			Maass	Royal Opus
DAY 1 ENI		4-	r Name	Horse Name
		ue	r Name	
	Guy		Worthington O'Brien	
	Sheryl		O Brien	Wild River Sundancer
DAY 1 EN		حا -	- Name -	Haves Name
Place		ae	r Name	Horse Name Bataania KSR
	Laurie		Henschel	
	Jan			Golden Lightning
	Teresa		Fett	CR Mistiraaz
	Jane		Malischke	Hollywoods Brightest
	Maria		Enge	CRF Lady Supreme
	Eileen		Kirsch	Hansi
DAY 1 EN				
Place		de	r Name	Horse Name
	Sophie		Gustafson	
1 7				Tryggr
	Miley		Eischens	Tryggr Chips Diamond Rehalla
DAY 1 LD	SR			Chips Diamond Rehalla
DAY 1 LD	SR Ri		r Name	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name
DAY 1 LD Place	SR Ri	na	r Name Connor	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan
Place	SR Ri Samantl Sarah	na	r Name Connor Kieser	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard
Place 1 2	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L	na	r Name Connor Kieser Juettner	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena
Place 1 2 3	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen	na	r Name Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U
Place 1 2 3 4	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda	na	r Name Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan Jacobson	Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U AE Gimli Strength
Place 1 2 3 4 5	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda Barry	na	r Name Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U
Place 1 2 3 4	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda Barry	na	r Name Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan Jacobson	Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U AE Gimli Strength
Place 1 2 3 4 5	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda Barry MP LD JR	ha	r Name Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan Jacobson	Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U AE Gimli Strength
Place DAY 1 LD Place 1 2 3 4 5 COMPlace 1	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda Barry MP LD JR Ri Joey	ha	Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan Jacobson Saylor r Name Gaffaney	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U AE Gimli Strength Dream Girl DE Horse Name HJ Nikeshah
DAY 1 LD Place 1 2 3 4 5 COPPlace 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 4 5 6 2 2 2	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda Barry MP LD JR Ri Joey Ruby	ha	Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan Jacobson Saylor r Name Gaffaney Thorp	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U AE Gimli Strength Dream Girl DE Horse Name HJ Nikeshah Nightmare Blues
DAY 1 LD Place 1 2 3 4 5 COPPlace 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 4 5 6 2 2 2	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda Barry MP LD JR Ri Joey	ha	Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan Jacobson Saylor r Name Gaffaney	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U AE Gimli Strength Dream Girl DE Horse Name HJ Nikeshah
DAY 1 LD Place 1 2 3 4 5 COPPlace 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 4 5 6 2 2 2	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda Barry MP LD JR Ri Joey Ruby Adin	ide	Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan Jacobson Saylor r Name Gaffaney Thorp Esqueda	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U AE Gimli Strength Dream Girl DE Horse Name HJ Nikeshah Nightmare Blues
DAY 1 LD Place 1 2 3 4 5 DAY 1 CO Place 1 2 3	SR Ri Samantl Sarah Debra L Colleen Linda Barry MP LD JR Ri Joey Ruby Adin MP HW 5	i de	Connor Kieser Juettner Morgan Jacobson Saylor r Name Gaffaney Thorp Esqueda	Chips Diamond Rehalla Horse Name Bey Gaalan NW Wildcard Rena Joke Son U AE Gimli Strength Dream Girl DE Horse Name HJ Nikeshah Nightmare Blues

DAY 1 CO	MP LW 50M		
Place	Ride	r Name	Horse Name
1	Pamela	Coolidge	Snappy
2	Suzanne	Warren	CR Zohlaraaz
DAY 1 CO	MP HW 30M		
Place	Rider Name		Horse Name
1	Karin	Lupo	VC Premier Eddition
2	Taryn	Lindbeck	TKO Rhio Bask
3	Joan	Thiel	A Risky Encounter
3	Rebecca	Horihan	LC Ernani
5	Carmen	Steuck	Phoenix
DAY 1 CO	MP LW 30M		
Place	Rider Name		Horse Name
1	Michele	Bjork	AM Suwanne Adrianna
2	Diane	Merz	Sterling Illusion
3	Lynn	Reichert	W H Procrastinator
4	Ruth	Casserly	Amir Sam PMR
5	Emily	Kibler	Mr Major General
DAY 1 CON	MP JR 30M		
Place	Ride	r Name	Horse Name
1	Abby	Gieseke	Fancy Zara
2	Olivia	Christenson	Tamanni BLM
DAY 2 END	HW		
Place	Ride	r Name	Horse Name
1	Guy	Worthington	JG Randie
2	Brandon	Brunner	TA Ballet Dancer
DAY 2 END	LW		
Place	Ride	r Name	Horse Name
1	Adrienne	Dymesich	Shady
2	Karla	Ovsak	Patches MN
DAY 2 LD S	SR .		
Place	Ride	r Name	Horse Name
1	Samantha	Connor	Bey Gaalan
2	Teresa	Fett	Ice Falcon LRA
3	Krystyna	Eischens	AW Classika
	Sarah	Kieser	NW Wildcard
4			NW Wildcard LC Ernani
4 5	Sarah	Kieser	
4 5 6	Sarah Rebecca Debra	Kieser Horihan	LC Ernani
4 5 6 DAY 2 LD J	Sarah Rebecca Debra R	Kieser Horihan	LC Ernani
4 5 6 DAY 2 LD J Place	Sarah Rebecca Debra R Ride	Kieser Horihan Moe r Name	LC Ernani Rena
4 5 6 DAY 2 LD J Place 1	Sarah Rebecca Debra R Ride Miley	Kieser Horihan Moe	LC Ernani Rena Horse Name Holla
4 5 6 DAY 2 LD J Place 1 2	Sarah Rebecca Debra R Ride	Kieser Horihan Moe r Name Eischens	LC Ernani Rena Horse Name

DAY 2 CON	MP LW 30M		
Place	Rider Name		Horse Name
1	Ruth	Casserly	Amir Sam PMR
DAY 2 NO	DAY 2 NOV		
Place	Rider Name		Horse Name
1	Samantha	Smith	A Klassy Treasure
2	Meghan	Walsh	Nova
3	Весса	Johnson	Bob
4	Sabrina	Hagstrom	
5	Mary	Mulholland	TRJ Just Jake
6	Katie	Vogl	My Name Is Bob





Trails Post: Trail system impacts of e-bikes

by Alex Uspenski

The National Park Service released a new e-bike policy. Here is the statement from the release:

"On August 30, the National Park Service announced a new electric bicycle (e-bike) policy for national parks, expanding recreational opportunities and accessibility. The policy supports Secretary's Order 3376, signed by U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt on August 29, that directs Department of the Interior (DOI) bureaus to create a clear and consistent e-bike policy on all federal lands managed by the Department. The policy also supports Secretary's Order 3366 to increase recreational opportunities on public lands."

In our discussions last November at the Share The Trails conference in Phoenix, Arizona, we had discussed the fact that eventually e-bikes would make their way onto the trail system, but these secretary orders came quickly with no input from any other user groups.

The most important first step for us as a competing user group in this space is to understand what e-bikes are. They have different classes. This information is available if you read Secretary's Order 3376, but here it is for the sake of article flow:

The three classes are defined as follows:

- -- Class 1: e-Bikes that are pedal-assist only, with no throttle, and have a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph.
- -- Class 2: e-Bikes that also have a maximum speed of 20 mph but are throttle-assisted.
- -- Class 3: e-Bikes that are pedal-assist only, with no throttle, and a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph.

All classes limit the motor's power to 1 horsepower (750W).

Keep in mind that a good, strong rider puts out about 200 to 250W on a mountain bike. You don't need much imagination. Everyone likes to modify things and make improvements. In any case if a rider uses the assist to help them on the uphill, they will have sharper focus and probably more downhill speed even without using assist at that point. Or they may save the battery on the uphill, just to get a searing descent.

There are plenty of mods already available for these bikes to go to 1000W, and the manufacturers will continue a meteoric product development war based on racing and testing.

I worked in that world for many years. This is a passionate bunch, just as much as we are. Fast-forward five very short years, and they will be going faster, way faster. If I was still doing that stuff, mine would already be totally tricked out. Maybe a little like my horse. All our horses go way faster than if they remained purely as trail plugs. We just have the element of love and caring for our partner.

But let's face it, they are like us in some ways. A quote from the Widespread Panic song "Space Wrangler": "Where everybody moves different with familiar grace." Seeing that they are a way bigger group with an avid trail building army and obvious political connections, understanding

those users' needs will be important in preserving our own needs. At this point I see it as very situational. Some places will probably be overrun, some untouched by e-bike riders. But if we choose to ignore it or, even worse, try to fight tooth and nail to assume we can make them go away everywhere all the time, we will lose. They are not going away.

On the other hand, mountain bike riders are prolific trail builders. Colorado claims 6,821 miles of mountain bike trails. I don't know what it was 20 years ago when I lived and rode there, but I assume much less than that!

They won't need us, but we will need to get along with them.

As this happens at the federal level, some type of trickling to state sentiments seems like a natural thing to happen. Involvement and awareness are going to be an important part of our play on this topic. Most likely, our organization will eventually have to have a strategy on this matter.

The Trails and Land Management Committee members are very open to suggestions. Please forward your thoughts to us. Perspectives of our members is important in how we approach this.

- Article from November 2019 AERC Endurance News

Green Bean News: The horse you rode in on

by Erin Glassman

What are the things that prevent us from achieving our endurance goals?

In the last segment I broadly went over some of the reasons I noted after taking a poll from both inexperienced and experienced riders and broke them down into logistical and speculative categories. One of the first and biggest components of endurance riding is having an appropriate equine partner.

Horses that are injured or not conditioned for the course would definitely be a hold-up to achieving a distance finish. Conditioning a horse for the rigors of distance is a process of long, slow miles; sometimes finding a horse of our own that is a match for the rigors of the sport can also be a process that is long and slow.

Northeast Region member Jennifer Poling stated, "I didn't have too many roadblocks to getting started because I was riding other people's horses, but I had many setbacks when I struck out on my own. Knowing how to pick the right horse, being patient, learning to ride my own ride, and really truly learning to read my horse and fixing the problems as they came up were some of these. I understand now that it's a long journey with my horses and that there is no such thing as the perfect horse."

Prior to competing her own horse, in Jennifer's case, she rode other people's horses. Catch riding would be a fantastic way to start, but might not be feasible for everyone. Going to rides to volunteer as a pulse taker or timer is an excellent way to get to know other endurance riders and learn more about the sport. In order to volunteer, you can just show up to a ride nearby or contact the ride manager ahead of time to visit with them. The ride calendar is available in every EN and on AERC.org.

As a ride manager myself, I dearly love helping new people get started. Seeing the sport in action is a great way to learn without taking loads of risk upon a horse you're not confident in competing. At a ride you can talk to riders, potentially connect with someone who might be a good mentor and maybe even have an extra horse for you to gain some experience on whether that be at a ride or conditioning at home.

Huge opportunities exist when you're on the ground to be able to observe and ask questions about tack, feeding, training, etc., and you're more likely to be relaxed enough to remember to ask compared to having your attention tied up with the anxiety of a first ride.

Experienced riders can be a huge resource for someone just getting started out and can also help point new people in the direction of finding the right horse or even making an evaluation of conditioning/match up of the horse you have for the sport. An outside eye looking in is a great way to gain better insight to what you actually have on hand and helps to take out some of the guesswork you might be experiencing.

In addition to meeting riders in person, official AERC and unofficial mentors can be found on Facebook or through your local endurance sanctioning clubs, such as Texas Endurance Riders Association, Ozark Country Endurance Riders or Southeast Endurance Riders Association (not a complete list).

All of the components of getting a horse ready are not covered here. AERC.org has some fantastic educational material regarding conditioning and care of your equine partner. Many books on endurance are available in addition to asking questions on Facebook.

In the interim of the long, slow conditioning process, meeting and participating in other capacities at the rides can help you to better get your horse conditioned, wait out an injury or even locate an equine to start endurance riding on.

Before I move onto the next segment, I would like to challenge you to think of some creative ways to overcome horse hold-ups to starting endurance.

Article from January 2019 AERC Endurance News

UMECRA Newsletter c/o Brenna Starch 2131 Adams St La Crosse, WI 54601

www.umecra.com

Deadline for Next Newsletter: 5th of each month Send news to:

umecranews@gmail.com



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