UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



Meet Sarah Mower – UMECRA President

A 5 year old on a horse so tall the little girl's head doesn't even reach the stirrup. Stopping for a surprise P/R check, the child is lifted from the mare. She sits on the ground cross legged while the mare's head hangs protectively over her. Check done, lifted back on, off they go. Went on to finish Year End Top 10 Junior

Same girl a few years later riding a young horse who insists on leaving trail and dumping her. "Dammitthunder!" she yells. Her cosponsor says, "When did she learn to cuss like that?" (check out her current e-mail address)

Same girl at the famous Wildcat 3-0Day 100. Went on an afternoon hike and climbed the rocks on the bank of the Wisconsin River. Got in on an altercation between two "bitchy" ol' women. One was left stranded and paralyzed with fear. Clad in shorts and flip flops, the young lady patiently guided the terrified woman down from the height.

Same girl, same year. Putting everything she had into a goal. Completed all 250 miles of Shore to Shore and hand pumped water for all every night. Ended up High Point Junior for the year!

Same young lady riding Endurance. Close to the lead with her sponsor, they caught the front runner 200 yards from the finish. At a gallop she threw one leg over the saddle (is that why you became so interested in side-saddles?), squeezed through an opening in the fence, and raced in for the win!

Same young woman taking on a task NO ONE in UMECRA, except his owner, had ever tackled. Riding Shaman the Mule! Riding him turned out to be not as hard as trying to vet him in!

Just out of High School and deciding to give back to her country. Eight years of service to the USA as a member of the Army: a soldier, a shining example of respect.

Out of the service and back to what she loved growing up. Competing, managing rides, reconnecting with UMECRA, and counseling a woman who once considered herself the child's mentor. "Don't Quit! Never Quit! We will find a way!

I took her advice. And complete respect is what I have for this, our new President. Over three decades of experience in Distance Riding. Many years as a ride manager. Always willing to share knowledge with compassion and understanding. A fine President she will be.

Lori Windows

UMECRA Board Meeting January 22, 2022

Present: Jon Wagner, President; Linda Mowrer, Vice President; Janet Sarver, Secretary; Deb Moe, Treasurer; Theresa Meyer, Past President; Barb Gardner and Peggy Pasilla, Directors at Large; Regional Directors Nicole Mauser-Stoter, IL; Sarah Maass, MN, Sandra Wright, MI, Laurie Henschel, WI Rider Representatives; Kim Fosler, Jen Moore, Maxine Bernsdorf and Dr. Jennifer Lorenz, Veterinary Advisor.

Absent: Lynda Zimmerman; Rider

Representative

Guest: Dr. Wes Elford

Location: Best Western, La Crescent, MN.

Call to Order: 7:00 a.m. CST

Approval of Minutes: November 13, 2022 BoD minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurers Report: Deb shared details of the report and answered questions. No

additions/corrections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Secretary Report: Janet presented a trail grant request from Bev Specht for signage and winter trail work at St. Croix State Park. Deb motioned to approve; Jen seconded. Grant approved.

Sanctioning Coordinator Report: Theresa presented an update on the 2022 ride calendar. Theresa motioned to approve the schedule as presented for forwarding to the annual meeting. Peggy seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the members of the board. Deb will be sending invoices for the rides by email to each ride manager.

Presidents Report: Jon distributed a letter he received from the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin detailing the balance of the scholarship fund (\$112,756.14) and the amount available for this year's scholarships (\$6,422.27). He also shared a copy of the letter he received from the Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Association thanking UMECRA for their contribution to NKMH trails project. Jon briefly reviewed the US Equestrian Federation plan that was presented Friday evening and suggested that this should be placed on the boards March meeting agenda for further discussion by the board.

Committee Reports:

Standardize Veterinarian Checks: Dr. Lorenz reported on the effort to standardize veterinarian checks. She will present a rough draft of the proposal to the board through the IO account and add it to the agenda for the March meeting. Dr. Elford reviewed the purpose for his recommendation of this process. Board discussion concluded that there will need to be more work done on the committee before any changes or a proposal will be ready.

New Member Packet: Deb stated that she has been unable to work on this project due to time constraints. It was suggested that new members names could be mentioned on Facebook account and in the newsletter as a welcome. Peggy will work with Deb and others to place names of new members in the newsletter. Sarah

and Janet will help with the new member project.

Old Business:

Review of proposals for the Annual Meeting: 1) Metabolic Considerations in Competitive Trail Proposal for Competitive Rules 4-A- 4 and 4-B-1 of Veterinary Requirements – judging competitive horses; 2) Change to General Rule 4-M under Rider Requirements; and 3) Requiring Helmets Proposal were reviewed for presentation at the annual meeting. Jon presented a motion on behalf of Lynda Zimmerman to amend the helmet proposal by adding the following statement: "In the interest of rider safety, ASTM helmets approved for equestrian use are highly recommended." Theresa seconded the motion to amend and discussion followed. The vote to amend the proposal failed and will go forward and as written.

<u>Family Award:</u> Jon provided the language describing the nomination process for the Jan Scott Family award. He suggested that the reference to the "secretary/treasurer" be omitted since there isn't any reason for either individual to be involved with the nomination process. Board discussed addition of a timeline for when the nomination needed to be submitted. Nicole and Jon will contact Robin and follow up on this award at the March BoD meeting.

New Business:

2023 Convention: The location of the 2023 convention, per the rotating schedule, is in IL. Kim has identified a potential site in Dubuque, IA, just outside the IL border. She will bring more info to the March BoD meeting.

Traveling Trophies: Jan Sasena, UMECRA Awards Coordinator, has purchased plaques for this year's winners of the Endurance and Competitive Rookie awards. The board will need to decide if it wants to continue with traveling trophies or another award (current trophies have no more available space for names of winners).

<u>Audit/Review of Treasurers Records:</u> Linda Mowrer and the audit committee will meet

following the conclusion of this meeting to review the treasurers' records. Linda will report on the audit at the annual meeting.

International Competition Fund: Jon reviewed the current status of the fund and balance; (\$5,813.69) Contributions to this fund have been suspended since 2016 due to the lack of international competition. Suspended funds are currently going to the trails fund.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: Deb motioned to adjourn,

Peggy second, approved.

UMECRA 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Present: Jon Wagner, President; Linda Mowrer, Vice President; Janet Sarver, Secretary; Deb Moe, Treasurer; Theresa Meyer, Past President; Dr. Jennifer Lorenz, Veterinary Representative; Barb Gardner and Peggy Pasillas, Directors at Large; Regional Directors Nicole Mauser-Storer, IL; Sarah Maass, MN, Sandy Wright, MI, Laurie Henschel, WI; Kim Fosler, Jen Moore, Maxine Bernsdorf, Rider Representatives.

Missing: Lynda Zimmerman, Rider

Representative.

Location: Best Western at La Crescent MN

1pm Meeting called to order by President Jon Wagner.

Jon Wagner announced that there needs to be 15 rides for a quorum.

Roll Call: Janet Sarver took the roll call. 26 rides represented with a total of 51 delegates and 54 eligible voting delegates.

Last year annual meeting minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

Secretary Report

Janet Sarver read off the three trail grant approvals for the past year. The approvals were granted for 1) Installation of electricity at the New Prospect Horse Riders Campground in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Wisconsin; 2) Rock River Trails Horseman's Association in Illinois; 3) Groomed winter trails at St. Croix State Park, Minnesota.

Treasurer's report

Deb Moe presented the report for review and questions. Elinore Tonsor questioned the increase in overall assets. Jon Wagner stated that the lack of a convention and changes due to COVID impacted the final line. Linda Mowrer approved the report, Ann Marie seconded. Report approved.

Sanctioning

Theresa Meyer reviewed the requirements to obtain insurance. Any additional days of coverage or changes to additional insured names need to be requested by February 1st. Ride flyers are also due at that date. Deb Moe reminded ride managers to pay sanctioning fees by February 1st. She stated that she will be sending out invoices. Nicole Mauser-Storer stated that the ride calendar and flyers will be on the UMECRA website soon after. Theresa Meyer read through the draft of the 2022 UMECRA ride calendar and summarized any changes in dates, names, lengths of rides offered etc. Elinore Tonsor asked about the process for a ride to take an open weekend. Theresa Meyer moved; Peggy Pasillas seconded the 2022 ride schedule. Unanimous vote to passing report.

Presidents Report

Current membership numbers have remains stable. Jon Wagner reviewed a report from Nicole Mauser-Storer. Total ride entries for 2021 were displayed in a graph from 2007 to 2021. There has been a decrease of 1000 entries over the past 14 years. Jon Wagner reported that it is difficult to compare this decrease in entries with numbers of members, however it could be a change in how people ride or some active riders who have slowed down. Review of entries for all divisions was also reviewed.

Scholarship fund – Jon Wagner reviewed the balance of this fund. The balances for both the Scholarship Fund (\$112,756.14) and the ICF fund (\$5,813.69) were shared with the membership. He encouraged people to apply

for these scholarships. Applicants must be a member of UMECRA for 2 years with a minimum of 25 completed rides. There is no age limit.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee report. Linda Mower stated that Deb Moe has created a very clean report. Alice Hubert asked if the board has considered the need for an official audit by an external company. Jon Wagner indicated unless there is a need for an external review, the board audit review is sufficient.

International Competition Fund. Jon Wagner stated that in 2016 there was a vote to stop contributing to this fund. The only activity was at last year's annual meeting where the membership approved taking \$1000 from that fund and putting it into the awards fund. There is a possibility of UMECRA supporting international rides in the future.

<u>Bylaws/Rules</u>. Jon Wagner stated that there is an active committee in this area and encouraged members to contact the board with any questions or concerns.

Old Business

Out of Region Rides – Jon Wagner stated that the board has reviewed this topic and passed a motion to postpone indefinitely any consideration for these rides

New Business

<u>2023 Convention</u> will be hosted by Illinois and will be organized by Kim Fosler and Tony Troyer. They are looking at a convention center in Dubuque IA and will send more information at a later date.

Metabolic Considerations in Competitive Trail
Proposal. Theresa Meyer stated that there was
a suggestion to add metabolic parameters to
competitive rides. Theresa and Dr. Lorenz
presented a proposal in this area. Theresa made
a motion to combine both motions of tack galls
and wounds and metabolic parameters into one
motion for voting. Seconded by Peggy
Pasillas. Discussion. Vote taken and motion
passed as presented by voice vote. The new
language will be:

- 4. Veterinary requirements judging competitive horses.
- 4) Saddle and Cinch Sores; **Tack Galls and Wounds**; those which develop during the course of the ride or those previously present which progress. **(2022)**
- B. Condition;
- 1) Evidence of Fatigue and Inability to Carry On: This should include an evaluation of depression, lack of desire to eat and drink, and diseases associated with exhaustion such as spasm, azoturia, colic and abnormal heart sounds. Metabolic parameter considerations: hydration status (skin tenting, mucous membrane, capillary refill, and jugular refill), bowel sounds. Other parameters may be evaluated including muscle soreness, muscle cramping, coordination, urine color, respiration character, sweat, salivation, etc. The horse must be metabolically stable and demonstrate fitness to continue. (2022)

Rider Requirement Proposal. Nicole Mauser-Storer explained that there was some discussion about when ride results become official. It was decided that this needs to be more specific and define the UMECRA website as the official site for publication. The responsibility will be on the rider to check their points on the website. The language will also need to be updated to remove the Secretary and add in the Webmaster. Jon Wagner made a motion, Linda Mowrer seconded. No objections, approved by unanimous consent. The bylaw change in this area is also needed. Linda Mowrer motioned for this change; Bonnie Mielke seconded. A voice vote was unanimous in support.

M. The UMECRA website: www.umecra.com, shall serve as the official process of notification of ride results and point standings. Ride results and points printed therein become official 30 days after the publication date to the website (Publication dates will be logged on the site.) Riders are responsible for checking ride results and point standings for any potential errors in a

timely manner and must report any

suspected errors to the Points
Keeper and Ride Manager within the
30 days of the publication date. Any
discrepancies in the attempts by the
Points Keeper, rider and/or the
Ride Manager to resolve any
suspected errors must be forwarded
to the UMECRA Secretary.
The UMECRA Secretary will inform
the Executive Board of Directors of
such discrepancies. The UMECRA
Board of Directors will be
responsible for the final resolution of
these issues in a timely fashion.
(2020) (2022)

Due to the passing of this language, a Bylaw change was made to Article VI, Sec.5(b)

The Points-Keeper will keep track of season rider points and division standings and provide them to the **Webmaster and** Newsletter Editor(s) for publication. Points-Keeper will also keep track of horse and rider mileages seasonally and for lifetime records. The Points-Keeper shall be responsible for record-keeping related to awards at season end, as approved by the Board. (2022)

Requiring Helmet's Proposal. Jon Wagner stated that the board agreed to bring this proposal to the membership. Jen Moore read the change in the wording that was approved at the board. Linda Mowrer approved; Jen Moore seconded. The proposal reads as follows:

Ride Requirements: 4.N: All riders, drivers and drivers' grooms are required to wear a helmet.

Discussion. Deb Moe called the question. Seconded. The question was approved to be called. Motion failed.

Elections

President – Theresa Meyer and Sarah Mowrer were nominated. Vote counted Sarah Mowrer is the new president.

Rider Representatives – Kim Fosler, Linda Jacobson, Dr. Wes Elford and Tracy Johnson. Veterinarian Representative – Dr. Jen Lorenz nominated by Barb Gardiner, seconded.

MN Representative – Peggy Pasillas nominated Sarah Maass; Ken Meyer seconded. Elected. WI Representative – Linda Jacobson nominated Barb Gardiner, seconded. Elected.

Director at Large – Jen Moore nominated Theresa Meyer; Deb Moe seconded. Tony Troyer nominated by Jennifer Haras. Seconded. Theresa Meyer elected.

The board would like to extend a thank you and appreciation to the people who are leaving the board; Jen Moore, Laurie Henschel, Lynda Zimmerman and Maxine Bernsdorf.

Announcements

Motion to adjourn by Jon Wagner, seconded by Linda Mowrer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm.

Riders Choice Award

Lily Creek Rhythm 5/1/08. Owned & Nominated by Sherry Aune.



I am nominating Rhythm because she is the best horse, I have ever had the privilege of riding, caring for and competing on. Lily Creek Rhythm started her endurance career with me in 2012 when she was 4 years old. We did a lot of conditioning that year and completed 4 LD rides, finishing in the ribbons in all 4 rides. Rhythm was my 3rd horse to do distance competitions (I still had the first 2) and it was evident to me Rhythm loved this job. It was a challenge the first few years to keep her under control at the start of rides because she just wanted to run and be out front. In 2013, Rhythm completed 535 LD miles,

In 2013, Rhythm completed 535 LD miles, receiving 8 best conditioned and was named

UMECRA Limited Distance Champion. In 2014, Rhythm moved up to endurance distance after her first ride and did not disappoint. Her strength and heart for the job was a thrill and a challenge. Rhythm completed 785 miles in 2014, most notably completing all 5 days of Shore-to-Shore ride of 250 miles and earned overall best conditioned. She also had the honor of being named UMECRA HW Endurance Champion, AERC Midwest Middleweight Champion and AERC top ten National War Mare.

2015 was the year to see how Rhythm would handle longer trailer rides for us to travel out of region. Our first attempt was a success going to the Biltmore and completing 50 miles, finishing 22nd. Rhythm travelled so well that we rode Glacier Trails 50 mile ride the next weekend and finished 1st. Our miles were cut short to only 135 for the year due to my meniscus injury and surgery.

2016 was going to be our year and I took Rhythm back to the Biltmore ride to start the season. About 5 miles into the ride my ankle gave out and my ankle up to my knee was killing me. I had to ask Rhythm to walk, and she did....like she knew. She walked 4mph with a loose rein. We cantered some to finish within the time limit, trotting was impossible. That day Rhythm took really good care of me and I know I was tough on her back and not well balanced. Janet Sarver also took good care of me at the holds. I would never have finished that ride without Janet's crewing and help. We finished 2nd to last, with only minutes to spare. I decided to breed Rhythm since I wasn't able to ride.

Rhythm did not compete in 2017. She had a beautiful ½ Arabian chestnut colt who is now gelded and stands 16.2h tall. Rhythm proved to be a very good mom as well, not over protective and happy to wean her colt when the time came. Rhythm was ridden with her colt by her side as we worked on conditioning for 2018. In 2017 Rhythm was also invited to attend a Shagya inspection in Illinois. She attended, with her 2-month-old colt by her side. Rhythm passed the inspection, and was named the most rideable of all the horses by Martha Rattner, professional rider for the inspection.

2018 was a banner year for Rhythm. Rhythm took all the travelling in stride with no problems. She competed in Florida, Georgia, Florida again, North Carolina, Montana and in the Midwest. Rhythm completed 860 competition miles, had 9 wins and 8 best conditioned. She was AERC top 5 War Mare, 4th AERC Endurance Best Conditioned and Midwest Middleweight Endurance Champion. At AHA/Breed Nationals 50-mile championship ride, Rhythm was awarded Champion Shagya Arabian. In 2019 Rhythm went back to the breeding shed as I was not going to be able to ride much. May 12, 2020 Rhythm delivered another colt, a full brother to the 1st one. Rhythm, again, proved to be a good mom. We conditioned with colt by her side. Two weeks after weaning her colt, we rode the 50 at DRAW Finale and finished 2nd. Rhythm did not hesitate to let me know how happy she was to be back out there competing and the following weekend she won the 50 at Iron Oak....far exceeding any expectations I had. That brings us to 2021, our best competition year yet. For the 1st time, we attended the AERC National Championship ride in Fort Howes, Montana. Rhythm finished the 50-mile Championship ride 4th over the line and received Middleweight Champion. I was beyond proud of her as the competition was tough. She didn't have the 'go' at the beginning of the last loop. I was okay with it, as it was a thrill just to be there so we slowed way down, hoping to finish. We came to the 1st water tank and she drank well. When we left that water tank, she wanted to be all 'go' again, so we did. I love this mare! 2021 has not been without setbacks trying to keep Rhythm's hormones in check after babies. At AHA/Breed Nationals in TN I scratched Rhythm from the 50-mile championship ride, after pulling her the day before when she was not herself at the hold. She had passed vet check. When I announced I was pulling her, I took her back to the vets for final check. She was then having minor metabolic issues and I treated her with calcium. The next morning, she was herself again so I saddled her up, after the 50-mile ride had started, and took my granddaughter out on a trail ride double on her.

She behaved perfectly, like she does this all the time, not. Even when the front runners were passing us coming in from their 1st loop, Rhythm walked along with us, like she knew. After I got home, I had Rhythm vet checked and learned she had an infection that needed treatment. Even though she was hurting, she kept going, a war mare for sure.

This year Rhythm also has the honor of being named AERC Reserve Champion War Mare, AERC top 5 Regional Best Conditioned, AERC Reserve Champion Middleweight Endurance, UMECRA Heavyweight Champion Endurance and DRAW Reserve Champion Endurance.

Lily Creek Rhythm is an incredible competitor, excellent producer and best friend. Christmas 2021 we also did our 1st parade together and Rhythm handled it like a pro. Next year will be her 10th year of competition. My journey with Rhythm and the people we've met along the way has been the best! I hope you will consider Rhythm for this award.



Have you checked out the new AERC Step It Up program? It's for first time trails volunteers and logs their trails work

(https://www.aerc.org/static/TrailHours.aspx) hours qualifies as a first time volunteer. If you are interested, call the office about the Step It Up program or see Pg 10 in the Jan. Endurance News.

Convention Kudos

I would like to thank all of the people that made the 2022 Annual Meeting and Convention such a huge success. A special thank you to Theresa Meyers for organizing the convention and making sure all of the fine details were worked out, especially considering the uncertainties of the Covid situation. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated by all of us. A big shout out to AHDRA too for providing Friday nights festivities and to Beth Frieders for her energetic leadership through all of the fun games!

The Silent auction was a huge success under the direction of Katie Vogl. Thanks to all who donated so many nice items, and of course thanks to those who did the bidding and buying. The proceeds from the auction are our main income for the trails, scholarship and convention funds, so thanks again for your terrific support!

Congratulations to everyone who received an award this year. As usual, there were some awesome accomplishments by riders and their equines. Thank you, Jan Sasena, and your awards committee for helping us recognize those accomplishments with such a nice program and awards.

Lastly, I'd like to recognize the entire UMECRA membership for their continued support. With the pandemic situation, some tough decisions have had to be made throughout the past two years. Your perseverance during this time is evidenced by your willingness to cooperate and work together for the successes we enjoy as an organization. Thank you.

Jon Wagner

Spring UMECRA BoD Meeting March 12th

W9250 Prospect Drive, Lodi, WI 53555

Meeting starts at 10am

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www.umecra.com

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

umecranews@gmail.com



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