

**Minnesota Distance Riding Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2005
The Monte Club, Monticello, MN**

President Darlene Molitor called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Other officer's present were as follows: Vice President, Dale Lunde, Secretary, Holly Egerer, Board member, Missie Schwartz. Absent was Treasurer, Sandra Noonan.

Secretary's Minutes from the last two meetings were handed out to members to review, a motion was made to approve the minutes as printed, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report, Sandra Noonan was absent so the report was given by President, Darlene Molitor. The profits from the four MnDRA sponsored rides were down this year from \$8,708.43 in 2003, to \$3,618.57 in 2004, a difference of \$5,089.96. Membership dues in 2003 were \$1,778.00 they went down in 2004 to \$1,134.00 making a difference of -\$644.00. The Checking balance is currently \$9,516.33. Year-end awards have not been paid yet except for the gift Certificates to Hilltop tack. We will also need to pay insurance for the MnDRA sponsored rides for coverage for the competitive events.

Ride entry's were way down this past year so that has impacted the ride profits very much. Hopefully 2005 will be much better. Motion was made to approve the treasurer's report, seconded and approved.

Committee Reports,

- ❖ *Newsletter*, Thank you to Suzy Warren for taking over the newsletter during mid season, due to Cole Bengston moving out of state. There was a lack of newsletters going out but since Suzy has taken it over she has been trying to resolve this, she relies on e-mail mainly, and Sheryl O'Brian and Mary Lambert volunteered to take care of sending out the mailed copies. Dianne Knapper volunteered to get MnDRA on a web link with UMECRA's web site. To make the newsletter more interesting suggestions were made to maybe have ride manager's do a note about their rides and also maybe do some member profiles. Any other news items to add would be greatly appreciated.
- ❖ *Awards*, Dianne Kuhn was happy that all the awards seem to be very nice this year, the midweight Weathabetta blankets, and the outback jackets and the hilltop tack gift certificates will all be appreciated. She is willing to continue doing awards for 2005, for ordering clothing items she needs the orders by the end of October and if anyone has any ideas for awards please send Dianne an e-mail with your thoughts.
- ❖ *Novice rides and clinics*, Mary Lambert and Sheryl O'Brian are considering running a clinic. Darlene suggested that rides holding a novice event should consider making up a separate flyer for the novice ride to help promote that event. Chip Jack made a separate list of all the Minnesota novice rides to hand out at the Expo last year and plans on doing that again this year. UMECRA is working on making up a guide for ride managers to follow for putting on a novice ride.
- ❖ *Horse Expo*, Chip Jack has the booth reserved, the dates are April 22, 23 & 24th. She has a sign up list for volunteers at the booth for 2 ½ hour shifts. It is recommended to have at least two people. Discussion on how to reward people for helping, it was decided to have the volunteer names put into a drawing for a free ride entry to a MnDRA sponsored ride. Other rides volunteered a free entry as well, SE Minn, Charity Cup, Frostbite and Point Chaser.
- ❖ *Annual Banquet*, Linda Goddard reported that Monte Club has been very easy to work with; the facility and food have been very good. She agreed to arrange next years banquet with them also.

Unfinished Business

Ride insurance for 2005 will be provided at no extra cost through AERC for the endurance rides, UMECRA is working on getting insurance for Competitive events. A unanimous vote was taken for obtaining the coverage for 1 million at a cost of \$55.00 a day, payable when you send in your ride results and rider fees.

The board awarded the trail fund to Maplewood State Park; Paula Goligowski had sent a letter of request back in January for Maplewood. The board discussed increasing the award amount to \$200 since \$100 does not go too far anymore, also the treasurer should take out of each membership paid \$2.00 to put into the trail fund to have that amount set aside to award each year. Motion was made to increase the trail fund amount from \$100 to \$200, seconded and approved.

A motion was made to rescind the rule made last year for giving 1 ½ points at the MnDRA sponsored rides, seconded and approved.

New Business

Ride schedule for 2005, Bev Specht stated that the ride for Colic Research and Breast Cancer is wrong on the ride schedule, it is not in October but is on the weekend of September 17th & 18th. Discussion followed on sanctioning the North Dakota ride, Heart to Heart and the Michigan ride, Shore to Shore. Membership did pass a motion at the general membership meeting on March 13, 1993 to resolute the articles of incorporation to accept sanctioning applications from out of state organized rides that have no state organizations for sanctioning, that the ride is UMECRA sanctioned and is accepted by the general membership vote. Heart of Gold was accepted for sanctioning but Shore-to-Shore does not fulfill the guidelines voted on in the past.

Review of the UMCECRA meeting in January, Theresa Meyer discussed the issue that did not pass about the 2 hour hold for completion after an event. She encouraged everyone to be aware of the lack of this rule and how it can jeopardize completing a ride. This rule varies, AERC is 1 hour and FEI is 2 hours for the length of hold, UMECRA has no time hold at all. Everyone needs to be aware of this and talk to your rider representatives about it.

There will be 10 points taken off a score for bad behavior each time the Veterinarian sees a difficult horse with no maximum of points to be taken.

Drew Goddard informed membership that an account has been set up with Country Supply horse equipment catalog for 5% of an order to go for donation to MnDRA. You can order online or by phone it is called Country Care and the code word is MnDRA, he passed out cards with the information on them.

Election of officers

Darlene Molitor had originally declined to go again in 2005 but after some encouragement she has agreed to continue. Vote was taken for each position for the same people to continue for 2005, and passed.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:30 PM, seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary,
Holly Egerer
Secretary for MnDRA