

# MnDRA NEWS

Only Two Rides Left; Saddle Up!

## Run For the Ridge

It is this coming weekend! See Sarah's update on page 3.

## The Board Explained

There will be a new installment next month.

## Point Chaser

Holly wanted to remind you that if you pre-enter and pre-pay, you get a discount. I added other info from the ride flyer that is different from many rides. You can find it on page 2.

## The Final Two

- Run for the Ridge Sept 23-24
- Point Chaser Oct 20-21 (Fri/Sat)



Hi Everybody,

During supper tonight, Theresa and I had a conversation we occasionally have about the sport and a topic I have mentioned in the past; are we getting too soft? If you ever sit and talk to some of the veterans of the sport, you can get them to tell you stories about 'the good ole days' when riders would show up with rusty two horse trailers pulled by a beat up pickup or van and riders would sleep in the trailer or the back seat of a car.

We weren't that bad, but we did have a two-horse trailer and a Eureka dome tent for quite a few years. Our family got pretty good at setting that tent up fast. There was one ride where it was raining when we arrived and we were able to get the tent completely up in about two minutes. When we got our three horse trailer, we thought we really were moving up and we had a system for packing. When we bought the gooseneck, we thought we died and went to heaven on Sunday afternoon when all we had to do was throw everything into the LQ and pull away.

I started riding with Holly and Deb Ivins as my mentors. At a 'Ride the Prairie' ride (Crow Hassan), a major thunderstorm rolled in just as our time to leave was up. I was saddled and waiting in the downpour. I ran up to Holly's trailer and asked if the ride would be

## Point Chaser

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Here are highlights from the ride flyer for Point Chaser.

- **Discounted rates for pre-entry with ride fee payment before October 14th.** *Full refund, minus \$5 cancellation fee for cancellation prior to vet check-in.*
- Ride results/awards/ribbons/completions are not available until all participant results are completed – *if you are leaving before Awards; arrange to have someone pick up your awards.*
- 150 primitive campsites many with high ties, pens are ok, **self register \$16 per night.**
- **Minnesota horse trail pass is required and forms will be available at the ride site.**

For more complete info, visit <http://www.mndra.com/ride-schedule/> and scroll down to get the Point Chaser flyer.

cancelled and they chuckled and said we were just going to wait until it let up some before we left. It rained most of the first loop.

Then there was the hypothermia ride at Spirit Mountain. It was a cold rain on a Sunday morning in October. There were few comps that day and as we were coming in, discussion began on how were we going to survive the ride. During the vet check, we brought up the possibility of cutting the ride short due to conditions. As we all stood there, horses in every blanket we had, the rain gently falling and all of us just shivering it was decided for the benefit of the horses we should call the ride, if everyone agreed. We did! The only thing I remember after that was sitting on a bale of hay in the back of our trailer shivering too hard to change clothes for about ten minutes.

If you want a fun time, get Darlene and Dean talking about the early days of the sport. Then ask yourself if you can do some of the exploits they describe. Granted, no one wants to ride in those conditions; but when you do, you leave with a sense of pride regardless of the result. You truly lived up to the UMECRA motto, Persevere!

Why am I bringing this up? We only have two rides left in the season and both can have iffy weather. There is rain forecast for this weekend, but not cold. Point Chaser has been anything from snow to shorts weather. Both are private rides and we should try to support them. If we lose these late rides, our Minnesota season could be over with Charity cup. We are lucky to have so many rides in our state. There are a lot of reasons to miss rides (like family who schedule weddings on ride weekends) but let's not let weather be one of them.

Looking at the point standings there are a few interesting races going on, especially for breaking into the top ten, If you really want to make top ten, pork out this week and ride heavy weight comp. If you ride the last two rides, riding two days at each, you will get enough points to qualify for end of the year.

Happy trails,

Ken



## Run For the Ridge

Run For The Ridge: We're working hard to clear trails. After changing the venue last year, the weeds have taken over. Thanks so much to my husband and to Pegeen who have been helping clear. Sometimes this job can be daunting.

We will have less gravel road riding this year because of a generous landowner who is letting us ride on his property. I am inviting our landowners for potluck on Saturday evening. Please plan on bringing a dish to pass.

We'll have plenty of space for overflow parking at the horse campground because of the new bridge that was put in last fall. Those sites will cost \$19 per night. If you don't have a reservation, just come straight to the campground and we'll have the envelopes for you to fill out after you've found a spot.

Again, we'll have coffee and goodies in the mornings for everyone. And the Cottage Cafe provides really yummy bread pudding on Friday evening - free!! - for everyone... don't miss out on that!!