

# MnDRA NEWS

It's Convention Time!

## UMECRA CONVENTION

January 26-28, 2018 Rockford, IL Hilton Garden Inn

## The Board Explained

Webmaster duties on page 2

## MnDRA Convention

Saturday, February 17, 2018  
The "V by HH," 66 Maple Ave. N., Maple Lake, MN  
You can find the flyer on page 3.

## Calendars

West-Side UMECRA Calendars are in!! If you ordered already (via a prior Facebook post), make sure you told me if you wanted it mailed, or if you can pick it up at the convention. (\$25 mailed, \$20 at convention.) If you didn't order, there's still time...and maybe you want to get one for that special person who has been helping you at rides, or for Grandma who will be thrilled to see you featured in July. LOL. Sarah Maass



Hi everybody,

Hope the holidays are going well for you all. It is a little on the chilly side, but that just means putting on more clothes. That's easier than removing them because at some point, people complain.

At Point Chaser this year, the vets tried something different with the exit CRI. The riders were allowed to do their metabolic and condition stuff at any time during the hold, but needed to come back just before they left to do a trot and heart rate. The goal was to make things a little less hectic for the rider. Since I was in the pulse lane, I would look over at the vets and if I saw a line I'd suggest to the rider to maybe wait until the end. If they were free, I suggested going over then. I did a survey of the riders that did this and the results were mixed. Half liked the new format and half did not. From the comments section, the main reason for disliking it was the confusion; riders were not sure what needed to be done when and the vets were inconsistent as to what happened in the early check and final check. Part of that was confusion as to what the rider was presenting for, an early check or an exit check. The riders that liked the process were happy with the flexibility of the check.

## Webmaster

The webmaster designs and updates the [www.mndra.com](http://www.mndra.com) website content and posts ride schedules, point standings, announcements, newsletters, and meeting minutes as they occur. This position also is responsible for submitting the annual invoice for the domain registration and website hosting fees for payment to ensure uninterrupted service. Finally, the webmaster responds to inquiries generated from the MnDra New Rider Inquiry form.

Which brings me to my next question – what other information would you like to see on the website? Winter is coming and I'll be looking for an outlet for my creative technological juices. How about a way to renew memberships online? Check membership status? Subscribe/unsubscribe to newsletter? Preregister for rides? Highlight our sponsors better?

Send your ideas to Deb at [info@mndra.com](mailto:info@mndra.com)

I had asked the vets to consider some modification of the traditional exit CRI. My thinking was to try to make the process more efficient to avoid the back-ups that can occur while keeping the important aspects of the check intact. As a frequent helper in the pulse lanes, I see that the exit usually catches lameness more than metabolic issues. Part of the reason is that when a horse comes in from the trail, it is loose, warm and a little 'juiced' with adrenaline. All of these can mask issues with tendons and muscles. One rider, who I respect a great deal, mentioned that often the lameness seen at the exit will work itself out on the trail. As a biologist, I feel that if a half hour after your horse just came off a ten to twenty mile loop stiffens up, then you really should be thinking twice about going out again.

I know we lose riders due to the exit CRI. As President, I feel one of my duties is to encourage attendance at our rides. As a ride manager, I know that if we can at least keep the Minnesota riders coming to our rides, we will be ok. Out-of-state riders are greatly welcome, but not essential to the bottom line if our MnDRA riders show up. This year, the novice riders saved many of our rides. Let's hope we can continue to draw a large novice contingent and that many of them move up to competitions. A good New Year resolution for us this year would be for us to be extra nice to a new rider, and maybe offer to 'adopt' them. I know I would not have necessarily continued in the sport if Holly wouldn't have adopted me my first years.

The flyer for the MnDRA winter meeting is on the next page and on Facebook. I would love to have a productive meeting with clear objectives and outcomes. Toward that, I would like any new business, proposals, or concerns submitted to me by Feb 7th so the board can discuss and ask questions before the meeting. Yes, you can still bring up things at the meeting, but there is a good chance I will push to have them tabled until Mosquito where we can have another meeting if needed. The reason is when I look at our minutes over the years, which you can find on the web site, a lot of things get voted on and then forgotten about or rescinded at the next meeting. Most of these are spur-of-the-moment ideas. We welcome ideas to make the club more receptive to the group. You can send your ideas or concerns to me at [newsletter@mndra.com](mailto:newsletter@mndra.com)

Stay warm and happy trails

Ken



## MnDRA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

**When:** Saturday, February 17, 2018

**Where:** The "V by HH," 66 Maple Ave. N., Maple Lake, MN 55358 (south side of Hwy. 55)\*  
Map available at: <http://www.ci.maple-lake.mn.us/locations/the-v-by-hh-5/>

**Agenda:** 1:30 p.m. Board of Directors' and MnDRA Sponsored Ride Managers' Meetings

**3:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Social/Mingling

6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner with Awards and Recognition to follow  
(Vegetarian item available with advance notice)



**Cost:** \$25 per person (cash bar available)

**Registration:** Please send form and check payable to MnDRA by Feb. 1, 2018, to  
Lynda Zimmerman  
130 - 8<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Maple Lake, MN 55358

**(No refunds after Feb. 1, 2018)**

\*Maple Lake is conveniently located on Hwy. 55 between Buffalo and Annandale in west central MN, approx. 50 miles west of Minneapolis, and 30 miles south of St. Cloud. Various lodging accommodations are available nearby in Buffalo and Annandale, as well as in Monticello and Clearwater on I-94.

Questions: Contact Lynda at [BLZ@usfamily.net](mailto:BLZ@usfamily.net) (i.e. Bob-Lynda-Zimmerman, not B i Z)

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Clip here and return portion below with pre-payment =====

## MnDRA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

Name/names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian meal requested: Yes (*please circle if a vegetarian meal is desired*)

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 per person = \$\_\_\_\_\_ **Check payable to MnDRA**  
(*\$25 per person includes buffet and meeting room*)

**Mail by Feb. 1, 2018**, to:  
Lynda Zimmerman  
130 - 8<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Maple Lake, MN 55358

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