



MnDRA News

Brrrrr,

But wait, the sun is warmer



Another Karen Kersten painting. Theresa and Destinee during their first endurance season at Charity Cup

Howdy all,

Can you feel it? The sun is warmer, it is light longer, and the breeze isn't as cold. Spring is inching closer and soon we will be gearing up for another ride season. The yearly meeting is coming up in March where we celebrate last year successes and tweak our state rules. There is a lot of information about the meeting in this issue.

MnDRA is looking for a new president. Thank you Lynn for keeping us in line the past couple years. I'll just throw out an idea that maybe one of the current board members may want to run for president and then we might get more interest from members who don't want to jump straight into the presidency.

You will find my annual summary of the UMECRA convention that I posted live on facebook. We also have the proposal from the rider sub-group of the blue-ribbon committee that was formed to look into the proposal of changing

UMECRA from a ride organization to more of a rider organization.

You know me, I have an opinion about that and I share it. I hope some of you will express your opinions, but more importantly, please express them to the UMECRA board members. You will find their emails at this link: <http://www.umecra.com/boardofdirectors.html>

And finally, I have the pleasure of sharing another Karen Kersten painting; this time of my lovely bride and her favorite horse. I am amazed at the level of detail Karen can put into these paintings. The water carriers look worn as they were. This comes from a main picture and a couple supplementary ones for Theresa's hair so we didn't have to have the helmet. If you are looking for a special present, I can't suggest anything better.

Hope you are finding time to ride.

=;{}} Happy trails. Ken

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**THE STATE OF THE CLUB
ADDRESS FROM OUR
PRESIDENT.**

Hope everyone is enjoying the brisk refreshing days of winter. I personally like the warm ones better. Do not forget to sign up for the MnDRA Banquet, it promises to be lots of fun and good times. If you would like anything to be discussed or put on the agenda please let me know and it will be added. So far, we have on the agenda the UMECRA Banquet summary, the schedule for next year, dogs at rides(no leash), awards, and election of officers. Is there anything else???

Please consider running for a position on the board of directors for MNDRA. The president position is open. There is no formal declaration or paper work to fill out, you just need to be nominated at the annual meeting. If you are interested and want to campaign-go ahead. If

you would like information on what the president does feel free to facebook, email, or call me. It is a great way to learn more about the organization and its members.

I have a number of 5 gallon buckets, if anyone would like some let me know and I will bring them.

One final thought as your president; Soooo, if your horse is a reflection of who you are and you own two horses do you possess a split personality or are you just possessed????

Stay warm, stay safe. See you in Frazee.

Lynn

MNDRA Spring Banquet News Update

Remember the Spring Banquet is March 23, 2013 at the Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn. We have gotten quite a few early bird reservations but you can still register until February 21, 2013. The Holiday Inn is holding MNDRA rooms until this time and this allows them time to plan menu and seating area requirements.

White Elephant Door Prizes: Some of you have asked if we need any door prizes (thank you) and this got our wheels turning. We know everybody has won or bought something that is taking up room in their trailer, tack room, or basement closet.

We would appreciate anything you may have to donate. We will even take good used items if there is an interesting story to go with it.

To make this easy, just bring your prize when you come to the meeting/banquet. We will try to turn these "white elephants" into elegant prizes that everyone will cherish. Food, adult beverages, and special gifts should make this a great evening.

Banquet Reservations should be sent to:

Teresa Fett
11684 Woods Drive
Frazee, MN. 56544
218-334-5711 (Best to call before noon
weekdays, anytime weekends for information)



MNDRA Yearly Meeting and Awards Banquet

March 23, 2013

Holiday Inn on the Lake (5.5 miles west of TDR), **Detroit Lakes, MN.**

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Holiday Inn on the Lake, 1155 Hwy. 10 East, Detroit Lakes, MN. 56501

www.holidayinn.com

877-251-9348 or 218-847-2121 for reservations (specify MNDRA rate)

\$99 – 1 King bed overlooking pool area

\$99 – 2 Queen beds overlooking cozy/quiet area

\$109 – 2 Queen beds lake view with balcony

ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY FEBRUARY 21, 2013

SCHEDULE

2:30 Ride Manager's Meeting (Cormorant room)

3:00 Board Meeting (Cormorant room)

4:00 General Meeting (Cormorant room)

5:00 Social Hour (Tamarac room)

6:00 Dinner and Awards (Tamarac Room)

Bar will be open in the Tamarac Room at 5:00

Silver Equestrian Outfitters will have a display of items for sale.

Saturday Dinner Buffet

Menu: Charbroiled Seasoned Chicken & BBQ Pork Ribs, Mashed Potatoes,
Buttered Corn, Potato Salad, Tossed Salad w/Toppings, Herbed Dinner
Rolls w/Butter, Lemonade & Ice Tea **Cost: \$28**

Evening Options

- Pool, kiddie's pool, and hot tub open until 10:00 p.m.
- Cozy/quiet area of pool area open for socializing
- DJ with karaoke in the bar for drinks, singing, and dancing

Sunday Morning

- On site restaurant offers breakfast starting at \$3.99
- Famous Sunday Brunch from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. featuring a full menu of breakfast items and omelets made to order

**Be Sure to Attend, Stay Informed of New Issues,
Visit Your MNDRA Family, and Get Ready for Ride Season!**

2112 Annual Meeting Minutes

Well, I'm at the meeting again and it's time for my play by play minutes to give you all the pageantry and drama (Oh please, Lord, limit the drama) so you can feel as if you were there. The fun meter is back:

1:01 Meeting called to order.

1:09 Roll call.

1:14 etiquette rules being reminded



1:15 **Treasurers and Secretaries report:** Lots of numbers. Looks like we have a lot of money, but I can't figure it out. A manager is questioning the convention fund. Moved to accept, second. Report accepted.



1:25 **Ride schedule** Point Chaser is two days this year. New ride in northern wisc. Run for the Border changed name to sisu for the border, National ride in Oct will be held instead of Big River. Brushy Creek

has a spring and fall ride. Look over all the rides when the ride schedule comes out. Reminder to ride managers that flyers are needed by end of Jan.

1:36 a question about why forms are emailed to ride managers? It makes more work for ride managers to print them out. It was pointed out that everything a manager asks for will be printed and sent to them.

1:39 motion to accept schedule passed.

1:41 motion to limit discussion. You get 1 minute at a time. (perhaps this motion is too late)

1:56 Motion: Stallions must be doubled tied when not being handled and yellow ribbons used on trail. Question on can we put requirement to tie to 2 different places. Amendment made to basically do that. Concern about safety of horse getting stuck in the ropes is expressed. Passed

1:57 Motion: Riders riding as juniors can not ride stallions. passed

2:02 Motion: A ride can have a 25 mile loop on rides over 35 miles. Discussion based on the concern of horse safety and water. The counter discussion was that riders should learn about the trail and the weather and make their own decision. Many riders wanted to know how will the ride manager inform them about the trail. One vet says watch your horse and another says riders don't worry about the horses. Did not pass 2:20

2:21 No new rides after schedule approved without a majority vote from 2/3 of managers responding passed 2:29 Not sure what the discussion was about



2:31 Non UMECRA members need to pay an extra \$5 to ride. Discussion mostly against. It will push some from riding, especially Mich. and Ill. The Wisc manager asked a question that had nothing to do with the discussion. A point made that \$5 isn't much. Might help. Not passed 2:38

2:39 Blind or limited sighted horses may be denied to allow to ride by the control judge at the ride site. Riders should contact management. Discussion about liability to vets and ride managers. Point made if Wes is your vet, don't come. Wes points out that vets may not have insurance in some states. Many riders expressed concern that the ride manager needs to let them know they are not allowing blind horses at the ride. Passed 2:55

2:56 International comp. fund committee small wording change. A manager was concerned about giving money to managers who are competing against their ride. How it can help membership and participation is brought out. passed 3:03

3:04 Update on the 'Blue Ribbon Committee' First it was split up into subgroups based on special interest. It stated that 66.9% of responders of a survey thought riders should be allowed to vote. State groups wanted to

Continued on page 8

EDITOR'S RANT: THE BLUE-RIBBON SUB-COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

On page six, you will find the proposal on how to change the by-laws on voting in UMECRA. This proposal is not a proposal by the whole Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC); it is a proposal from the sub-group made up primarily of riders. The original committee was created to look into an idea that UMECRA should evolve into a rider organization, absorbing the current state and breed organizations and dividing the awards into regions. The original committee was huge.

Apparently it broke up into groups representing the breeds, the states, ride managers and the riders. Some proposals came out of the sub-committees and came to the board. Some had time for the board to consider, others did not. The riders' proposal does address a portion of the original idea, letting riders have a greater vote at the meetings. It does not address the state organizations nor the regional aspect of UMECRA.

I am in an interesting position in that while I am just a rider, I am married to a ride manager and the president of UMECRA. Trust me however, these are only my views; I don't know if Theresa will agree with them or not. I do not think UMECRA should become a rider organization. It was formed to help keep records, to strive for a consistent set of rules in the midwest to encourage riders to ride in multi-states and to set up an awards program. Since I have been a member, it has also had the responsibility of helping ride managers to run rides (paperwork, insurance, ride calendar issues, etc.)

Some of the states have rider organizations that are primarily concerned with the rider experience. While many do not, there is nothing preventing them from forming their own. I believe that the managers need an organization to protect them from rules that could make running a ride too much work; for example maybe a rule requiring one water stop for every five miles of trail.

During the conventions, I notice that most of the debates center around making things easier for the riders, such as ride managers needing to inform riders about unusual ride situations, or running more different types of rides so those who can't compete in the classic rides can still get awards. Now while ride managers want to give riders an enjoyable experience, they are limited in what they can reasonably do.

This year's debate about keeping the length of loops in competitive under 20 miles is an example. While much of the debate against the long loops was focused in concern for the horses, it really wasn't logical. Why should there be a rule to limit loop distance? Managers know their trail and if it allows for a long loop with water, why shouldn't they have one?. This rule would make some ride managers' lives much easier. It would have been interesting to see how many actual ride

managers voted no on this amendment and how many rider proxies voted no.

Most ride managers put in forty to eighty or more hours for a two day ride, and that does not count the hours during the actual ride. This has become a big reason UMECRA exists; to help those managers cut their work load a little bit. Rules like the above don't help with that.

It is hard to say that riders shouldn't have a voice in an organization they belong to. However, at this year's meeting, there were about 37 ride managers and 35 rider proxies voting. If you add the 33 extra rider voters this proposal will add, there will be almost a 2 to 1 ratio of riders to ride managers voting. That is not a ride manager-friendly ratio and not close to the suggested ratio in the proposal. While probably every rider who is a proxy would vote the way the ride manager would ask them to vote, it is hard to predict what the motions are beforehand and if the riders aren't sitting with the manager, as many don't, then they will usually vote the way they feel is best.

If this proposal is to be fair, ride managers should be allowed to vote their allotment of votes without using us riders. This will be tedious to do in reality, but a simple spreadsheet would make it so we could know the result of a vote immediately. It would just require a roll call vote for every vote, which would take longer.

A bigger question is why don't we riders feel we have a voice? We have rider reps who represent us but are seldom called. We have state delegates who represent us but are seldom called. We have board members who will listen to us, but are seldom called. Sure, all but the rider reps are managers, but I'm pretty sure every one of them are willing to listen seriously to their customers. All the MN reps we have had will listen to us. I think that is true for all the states. Let's use them if we have a concern. And even if we don't use them, we riders currently get about fifty percent of the vote at the conventions; that should be ample voice.

This proposal itself is coming from riders, and it is being taken seriously by UMECRA. So I think we riders do have a voice. We may not always get our way, but neither do ride managers. Is there a need to change? UMECRA is working very well as the chair of the BRC pointed out. Perhaps this is a solution looking for a problem.

What's your view? I'll print all responses, but more importantly, contact board members and let them know what you think. They are meeting in March and I would guess this topic will come up. You will find their emails at this link: <http://www.umecra.com/boardofdirectors.html>

Rider Vote Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to increase participation of all members of UMECRA, to broaden the knowledge base required to run the organization and to bring forward the input, ideas and skills of more UMECRA members. We have tried to develop a proposal that would create increased representation of riders (and geographic locations) without increasing the size of the BoD.

Here is the basic proposal:

- Create the role of Rider Delegate (not to be confused with Rider Representative).
- Each State would be allowed to elect one rider delegate for every ten UMECRA members, up to a maximum of ten. If there are less than ten members in a given State, no delegate would be allowed.
- Delegates would be voted in by state members via mail in ballot.
- Delegates would have to meet the following criteria:

Rider Delegates must have been members for a minimum of one year and must have completed a minimum of four UMECRA rides in the previous season, to be comprised of any combination of CTR of 25 miles or more, Limited Distance or Endurance Rides.

- Rider Delegates will have voting privileges at the Annual meeting only.
- Given the 2012 membership numbers, this is what the number of “votes” would look like in comparison to Ride Manager votes:

| | Number of UMECRA Members | Potential Number of Ride Delegates | # of UMECRA Ride Days/Ride Manager Votes |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Wisconsin | 106 | 10 | 23 |
| Minnesota | 100 | 10 | 20 |
| Illinois | 72 | 7 | 13 |
| Michigan | 52 | 5 | 32 |
| Iowa | 10 | 1 | 2 |
| Indiana | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Missouri | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| North Dakota | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Ohio | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| South Dakota | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 355 | 33 | 95 |

MnDRA General Meeting Minutes 3-17-2012 Canterbury Park, 3:30 PM

Board members: all present.

Secretary's report, Holly Egerer, a copy was printed in the newsletter and copies were available today for people to view. Peggy Pasillas moved to accept the secretary's report, seconded by Bob Egerer, minutes accepted.

Treasurer's report- Sandy Fett, A copy of the past years club account activity was passed out. Sharon Hahn made a move to accept the report, seconded by Phil Jensen.

Treasurer's report accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - *Newsletter*

Ken Meyer has changed to putting out a newsletter every other month and that has made it much easier to maintain consistency. Make sure to let Ken know if you change your e-mail address. Ken would really like for people to get back to him on the rider profile questionnaires he sends out, he sent out about 8 last year and no one responded back.

MnDRA web site, Diane Merz, was unable to attend today but sent a letter that Lynn Reichert read to the membership. Diane is going to add a link to the MnDRA face book. Diane will continue to run the web site and she will continue to pay the fee for the site as a donation to MnDRA.

Awards-Jen Wuertz and Vanessa Reichert planned the 2011 awards. Need people to do awards for 2012, Sandy Fett volunteered for 2012, Lynn put out a request for others to contact her if they can volunteer also.

Horse Expo- Walt Friberg, presented his ideas for this years promotional items he would like to use including the costs that would be involved. A sign up sheet for times to volunteer at the booth was passed around. Joan Elbert did a new PowerPoint presentation for 2012; expo requires a new PowerPoint every year. Also there will be a 10-mile clinic in May at the Lone Rock trails in

Rosemont, MN. Walt would like to have a banner made to hang in the coliseum arena for advertising MnDRA. The fee to hang the banner would be \$300.00; Walt will pay for the cost of printing a banner. Also Walt would like \$180.00 for printing costs for handouts at the booth. Barry made a motion to give Walt the money for booth operating costs (printing ect.), seconded by Peggy Pasillas, motion passed. Motion was made to give Walt the \$300.00 for cost of hanging the banner in the coliseum arena at Horse Expo, discussion followed, concern on what we have for extra money and what would be the realistic amount of new members/new member's fees we would actually get from the expense spent. A vote was counted of hands raised, yes-22, no-20. Mike Powell came forward and donated the fee for the banner for MnDRA. Walt would also like to give away more free memberships at the expo, last year he gave away 15, we got 2 people that took advantage of it. Also they would like to give away ride entries and he would like to increase the amount to a quantity of 30, discussion followed. Motion was made by Ken Meyer to give away 30 free MnDRA memberships and 30 free novice ride fee certificates for new potential members only, seconded by Phil Jansen, motion passed

Annual Banquet, Elizabeth and Danna did a great job this year. Theresa & Dale Fett and Sandy Fett will organize the Annual Banquet for next year, 2013.

GENERAL BUSINESS: 2012 Ride Schedule- 5 ride participation award, today at the board meeting we clarified that the award is only given to those that do not place in year-end awards. It will be called the participation award

Trail fund- \$200 was awarded to (Run for the Border ride) Governor Knowles State Forest in Wisconsin.

Vet Treatment Van and Trailer, Darlene Molitor-The Van is now gone, it was worn out and not worth repairing. It was sold for scrap for \$400. that was put

toward the vet trailer fund. Dean Peterson, DVM motioned to reduce the Vet Treatment Trailer Maintenance fund to \$500 per year since there is no longer a van, seconded by Mike Powell, discussion followed, motion passed.

Ride Veterinarian fees- It was asked in previous years to give the vets mileage, the board clarified that MnDRA sponsored rides will not pay the vets mileage just the daily vets fee.

NEW BUSINESS: UMECRA membership requirement, should we continue to make it a requirement for membership to MnDRA. Holly Egerer explained how this rule came to be, Theresa Meyer gave an explanation of the benefit of UMECRA membership. Discussion followed, Bob Egerer made a motion to add to the by laws that we require the UMECRA membership with the MnDRA membership, seconded by Mike Powell, motion passed. Mary suggested that with the new membership we send out information about the benefits what you get from MnDRA and UMECRA.

Membership fees paid after ride season start, can points be retroactive? A motion was made by Candy Barbo to not allow points to be retroactive after ride season has begun for unpaid memberships, seconded by Joel Hildebrandt, motion passed. A new Trailer Eyes was donated to MnDRA for a year-end award. Discussion was made about if there is a requirement for a ride manager to be a member of MnDRA in order to be sanctioned. Barry Saylor motioned that there be no requirement for membership getting MnDRA sanctioning, motion seconded, motion was defeated.

Election of officers, motion was made to keep the 2011 officers in place for 2012, seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by Holly Egerer, Secretary for MnDRA

UMECRA CONVENTION PLAY BY PLAY CONTINUED

stay independent. Breed orgs also. It was pointed out that the UMECRA org is very well-run and successful. The rider group wants to add 33 rider voters to the rolls. Let your rider reps and board members know what you think. 3:20



.3:22 Elections and results:

- Vice president, Tony Toyer
- Sec/Tres Jill Feller
- Ill director, Sarah Mowerer
- Mich director, Wayne Gasfield
- Director at large, Barb Kurti
- Director at large, Bill Suskey



3:52 Can we do it. Can we get it under 3 hours? Made it

Meeting adjourned 3:57



VETTING IN

Hi Everyone,
The link below is to an article about and promoting endurance riding that I wrote for the free publication, "Horse 'N Around." It's published in their January issue, p. 10, that is just starting to show up on the feed store racks.

<http://www.bromelandpublishing.com/ha113/index.html>

Titled, "Is endurance riding a trail for you?"

Ready for spring riding,
Lynda Zimmerman

MnDRA Membership form

Name _____

Family _____ (\$25.00) Single _____ (\$15.00)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (PRINT NEATLY) _____

Please make checks payable to MnDRA and mail membership renewal to:

Sandra Fett
35976 Co. Hwy 4
Frazee, MN 56544