



Great Lakes Distance Riding Association

Hoof Beats Newsletter

March 2016

Letter from the President

Hello everybody and welcome to the 2016 ride season!

I know some may have already started, but for those of us who can't get out of state for a ride, this is the start. Thanks for putting your trust in me, as your newly elected president. I am looking forward to assisting the GLDRA advance. With that, I am pleased to announce that our Executive Board has kicked off the evolution of our Mentor Program. This program is vital for bringing new blood into our ranks and also keeping those with the knowledge of this sport involved. Our goals are to help mentors have the tools they need to be effective, make certain that those who wish to be mentored have the information and guidance they need and to assure there are qualified people to mentor. Our hopes are to create a down-to-earth program that can be used as the foundation for future enhancements. The sudden need for improvements to the mentor program became apparent when a dispute came to light; some of our most senior mentors were being dropped from the program. This was due to their decision not to renew their GLDRA membership. While we understand that the cost of membership is important to keeping our group solvent, the return on that investment may not be as good for someone who no longer wishes to be a competitor. But, should that reduce their value as a teacher? As a Band-Aid, the Executive Board has decided to set aside the "mentors must be a member" rule and will pursue a policy that addresses their knowledge and dedication. Look for more to come after our Board of Directors meeting in June at Grand Island North. We will be looking for input from our members.



On another note, I have to be the bearer of bad news. The White River Rides are not going to be recognized by GLDRA this year. This decision is being made with much concern and discussion. Not recognizing the rides means that any points that you or your horse earn, if you attend those rides, will not count for the GLDRA awards. Here is how we arrived at this decision.

At the annual membership meeting in February there was agreement that attendees of the White River Rides last year were enthusiastic about the 'new' management and trails. When it came to light that the management was not changing, due to UMECRA rules, and trails may be reverting to the old routes, there was considerable dismay. So the Executive Board attempted to discuss our members concerns with the ride manager, but he did not respond to our request for a teleconference. The lack of communication was disheartening. We feel that we need to urge the change to new management in order to make the rides more enjoyable for our members and volunteers. In order to do this we may have to temporarily move the rides to a new location, unless the ride manager relinquishes his claim to the current location. We are working with Pete, Kari and Dale in the hopes that we can make this be as painless as possible. As soon as we have more information on the ride's status we will be sending it out to members.

Once again thanks for your confidence,

Carl Dosmann
President GLDRA
269-782-1143



GREAT LAKES DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION

February 6, 2016

Doherty Hotel Clare, Michigan 4:00 p.m.

- I. Call to order - President Barb Kurti – The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m. by President Barb Kurti.

- II. Roll call and reading of minutes - Secretary Kathy Macki – In attendance were board members Barb Kurti, Lisa Germann, Kathy Macki, Bruce Birr, Cathy Cook, Carl Dosmann, Linda Hamrick, Karen Bahrman, Becke Grams, committee members Diane Meinders, Amy Scharmen, Andy Redman and guests Cassie Green, John Soper, Shelley Dake, Louise Northrup and Joyce Mocilan.

The minutes were accepted as read.

It was noted at this time that Lisa would chair the meeting as Barb was feeling a bit under the weather.

- III. Treasurer's report - Treasurer Bruce Birr – Bruce passed out his treasurer's report. He stated that the silent auction figures were not correct but that it did not affect the overall totals. The figure for 2015 from the silent auction should be \$1,067.00 and there should be a line in the expenses section titled "silent auction expenses" with a total of \$1,581.00. This would be for UMECRA's portion of the silent auction proceeds. Kathy moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Andy seconded. Accepted.

- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive – No report
 - B. Veterinarian – Report from Rae via Bruce – Rae stated that there seems to be a surge of interest in distance riding in Pony Club. It was suggested that she get a list of Pony Clubs so we can make contact.
 - C. Michigan Horse Council, Trails – Andy gave a short verbal report. Her November report was published in the December newsletter. She said things are going really well. Barb had some input as well. She said the meeting was very positive. Becke suggested asking them to address ORV & horse etiquette along with vehicle/horse etiquette.
 - D. Finance – The finance committee should be meeting to do a peer review. Bruce was not 100% sure he had everything needed and asked to delay this until the next board meeting.
 - E. Rider Reps – No report
 - F. Points and Mileage – No report
 - G. Newsletter – Cathy wondered what everyone's thoughts were on the ride booklets. She stated that they never went out last year and no one seemed to notice. Some discussion followed. We will check with Shannon and see who paid extra for the ride book. It was suggested that Cathy provide a ride book (flyers) for those paying extra. We will discuss this at the annual meeting tomorrow.
 - H. Grievance – No report
 - I. Awards – No report
 - J. Membership – We had 88 members for 2015 and 4 or 5 of those were from the clinics. Anyone who needs an updated membership list just contact Shannon and she will get one to them.
 - K. Promotions – Diane stated Expo is coming up soon and she will pass around a sign-up sheet at tomorrow's meeting for help.

Diane would like a list of the "\$10 memberships" from last year so she can send something out to them. It was suggested that we offer another \$10 membership to those who never managed to get to a ride. Bruce thought this was a good idea.
 - L. Web page – Amy stated the web page was going good and that we are getting a lot of new members on our FB page. It was also mentioned that Amy has been doing a monthly article for GLDRA for Saddle Up magazine.

V. Old Business

- A. Awards – Embroidery quotes – Carl stated that his “guy” can do the embroidery for the same price or maybe even cheaper than our previous embroidery person. He will get some quotes. Our previous embroidery person is asking for a \$35.00 fee for our digital file. Carl will check with her and see exactly what this is for. If she insists it was agreed that we just pay her.
- B. Insurance – Shelley – Shelley has the application completed and she would like everyone to please make sure all their information is correct so she doesn’t have to go back and ask for new certificates. She will send out her list and please, everyone verify and get back to her within the next week or so.

Bruce moved that we accept the insurance quote as long as it is not more than 15% higher than last year. Becke seconded. Approved.

- C.
- D.

VI. New Business

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

VII. Next meeting – Annual February 7, 2016 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment – Andy moved to adjourn, Becke seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Macki

Secretary

GLDRA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

**Please pay your 2016 dues to Shannon Weston or her representative - You must be a current member to vote at the annual meeting. Sign the attendance record to establish majority for the vote.

I. 10:30 A.M. Call to order - President Barb Kurti – The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by president Barb Kurti. The meeting was being chaired by VP Lisa Germann as Barb was still not feeling the best.

A. President’s Report – No report

II. Reading of minutes - Secretary Kathy Macki – The minutes were read and accepted as read.

III. Treasurer’s report - Treasurer Bruce Birr – Bruce stated that there were copies on the tables of the treasurer’s report. Please refer to the minutes from 2/6/16 for a full report.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Vet Report – Nothing new to add, please refer to the minutes from 2/6/16 for a full report.
- B. Finance Com. – Bruce asked that this be tabled until the June meeting.
- C. Membership – Shannon stated that we had 35 voting members at the meeting.
- D. Promotions – Same as last night (see the 2/6/16 minutes for a full report). Diane passed around a sign-up sheet for those willing to help with Expo.
- E. Awards – No report.
- F. Mileage and Points – No report.
- G. Newsletter – Nothing new, please see the 2/6/16 minutes for more details.
- H. Grievance – No report.
- I. Trails and MHC – Same as last night (see 2/6/16 minutes for more details). It was mentioned that they have a trail group now.
- J. Web page – The web page is going good, nothing to add from last night (see 2/6/16 minutes). Amy did add that she wanted copies of the ride flyers for the website.

V. Old Business

- A. Schedule – Gene wanted to know why Pete & Kari were not the managers listed on the ride schedule for the White River Rides. Some discussion followed and Bruce moved to temporarily suspend the members meeting to have the board address this. Becke seconded and the annual meeting was suspended at 10:58 a.m. ***(see below for minutes on the “meeting within the meeting.”)

The annual meeting was reconvened at 11:37 a.m.

VI. New Business

- A. Ride schedule – Bruce made a motion that we accept the ride schedule as presented with the exception of the WR rides and the Huron River Ride. Gene seconded and the schedule was approved.
- B. Policies – Gene made a motion that the policies be tabled until the next board meeting. Becke seconded. Passed.
- C. Nominations and election of President – Andy nominated Gene Dake & Karen Graham seconded. Diane Meinders nominated Carl Dosmann & Diane Maxey seconded. Carl Dosmann was voted in as the new GLDRA president.
- D. Nominations and election of Vice President – Linda Hamrick nominated Lisa Germann & Diane Meinders seconded. Gene moved that the nominations be closed & this was approved. Lisa remains GLDRA VP.
- C. Nominations and election for member at large (one year) – Becke nominated Linda H & Gene seconded. Becke moved to close the nominations. Linda is again the MAL.
- D. Nominations and election of rider rep (Carl’s position) – Becke nominated Karen Graham & Kathy seconded. Gene moved that nominations be closed. Karen is the new rider rep.
- E. Nominations for one finance positions (one-year Linda) – Laurie Hilyard was nominated and is the new finance person.
- F. Nominations and election of Veterinary rep – Rae was unanimously voted in as Veterinarian Rep again this year☺
- G. Nominations for Hall of Fame Award Person - No nominations
- H. Nominations for Hall of Fame Award Horse – No nominations
- I. Nominations for Sportsmanship – Shannon nominated Melinda Capuano, Jessica Gruebner seconded. Taylor Walker nominated Lisa Germann & Miranda Miller. Kathy moved that the nominations be closed, Gene seconded. Lisa was awarded the sportsmanship award.
- J. Nominations for Ride Manager and Pit Crew – The ride management award went to White River managed by Kari Hanes and Pete. Donnie was nominated and declined (he said he had won it enough☺). Diane nominated Doug Vanderwoude. There were no other nominations and Doug was awarded Pit Crew of the year.
- K. Nominations for Volunteer of the Year Award – Barb nominated Cassie Green & Becke seconded. There were no other nominations. Cassie is volunteer of the year.
- L. Merrilegs Award - Kid’s in charge of this – Backstreetstrutter GSA was the junior rider’s choice this year.

M. Anything else???

VII. Adjournment – Becke moved to adjourn & Karen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Macki

Secretary

**Brief meeting of the new Board immediately following the Annual meeting.

**Meeting called to order by new president Carl Dosmann at 12:02 p.m. Attending were Carl, Kathy, Bruce, Lisa, Barb, Karen B., Cassie Green, Gene Dake, Linda Hamrick, Andy Redman & Diane Meinders.

Gene suggested appointing Kathy and Bruce to secretary and treasurer respectively and this was approved.

Ken Wright was unanimously approved to stay on the finance committee.

Carl wondered about the awards as he no longer wants to do them. He said that Louise Northrup and Joyce Mocilan were interested in taking over. No further action was taken at this point.

We need a committee to check into becoming our own sanctioning body. The committee will consist of Karen Bahrman (heading), Shelley Dake, Becke Grams, Bruce & Carl.

Our next meeting will be June 25, 2016 at Grand Island North after the awards.

Gene motioned to adjourn and Andy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Macki

Secretary

*** Gene wanted to know why Pete & Kari were not the managers listed on the ride schedule for the White River Rides.

Much discussion followed regarding this issue. Barb suggested that tabling this issue until she could talk to Connie (sanctioning director for Midwest). Cathy Cook then stated that we need to quit pussyfooting around and address this issue with Wayne directly. Barb checked online and his rides were not yet listed as being sanctioned with AERC. She did get hold of Jill Feller and all his rides were sanctioned and fees paid with UMECRA.

It was suggested that we have a special meeting of the executive board and talk to Wayne. It was stated that if he didn't attend the conference call that he would lose his rides. There was a motion made by Becke to send Wayne a certified letter advising him that we are having a special meeting of the executive board to address his rides. Barb will send the letter (actually the new GLDRA president will send). The meeting will be February 23, 2016 via conference call.

Bruce made a motion and Gene seconded that we look into bylaw changes to become a sanctioning body. This will be reviewed at the summer meeting.

Bruce motioned to adjourn the "meeting within the meeting" and Gene seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Macki

Secretary



MICHIGAN STATE HORSE EXPO

MSU Horse Expo:

March, 11,12, 13

10-7:30 Friday

9:00-7:00 on Sat.

10:00-5:00 on Sunday

GLDRA will have an informational booth, if you would like to help at the booth, and I have not contacted you, please contact me!

Diane Meinders

616-706-6478

Information on EXPO: Many vendor booths, food, tack, and trailers! Various speakers from training, feeding massage to trick performances!

See their website with particulars: www.michiganhorseexpo.org

GLDRA MENTORS NEAR YOU



We have mentors across the state and even out of state!
Go to www.gldrami.org for mentor names and addresses.
They are glad to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

Next is our Summer Newsletter
look for it by June 30th.

Highlights include:

Updated Point Standings-have you planned
your ride season yet?

And we are always looking for photos,
articles and news of interest,

Please have your information submitted
by Friday June 11th

to Cathy Cook, ccook@cftami.com

or 1249 Maple Grove, Carsonville, MI 48419

Too Many Horses Syndrome, Juniors and Joy

Most of us have been there. It all starts rather innocently. We start distance riding with one horse. Sooner or later that horse gets an injury and we find ourselves horseless and unable to participate in the sport we are already quite addicted to. And then those fateful words are spoken "I need a backup horse". This is the beginning of another new issue that I call "horse guilt". As things usually happen once we find the perfect backup horse and condition him, both horses stay sound leaving us unable to compete and condition both horses to our satisfaction and so starts the "horse guilt". Sound familiar?

I had this issue in spades. Tim and I both had a "backup" horse. Add in little Brittany who was too good to say no to, and I was in horse guilt up to my neck. As Tim stopped conditioning and eventually stopped competing as well, all conditioning fell on my shoulders. I gave it a good try, but riding quickly became a "job" not a "joy". Add to that the fact that the horse guilt did not go away as none of the horses were getting the attention they deserved. Then the idea occurred to me that there had to be people out there who were horseless and who would jump at the chance to ride for free. I just had to find them. I tried a local flier first with limited success. The best method, much to my surprise turned out to be a Craig's list ad in the pet section. I had reservations, but decided that most people were honest. I found multiple riders and naturally some came and went (conditioning was just not for them for various reasons) but in true endurance fashion I persevered.

I am now happy to say I have found 4 wonderful riders. Three of which were interested in not only conditioning but competing as well. Although I had decided not to take on any teenagers again after poor results at first (you cannot compete with hormones) two of these ended up being juniors, who very much like me at that age, live and breathe horses. And to my delight each rider who wanted to compete was a perfect fit for one of our horses.

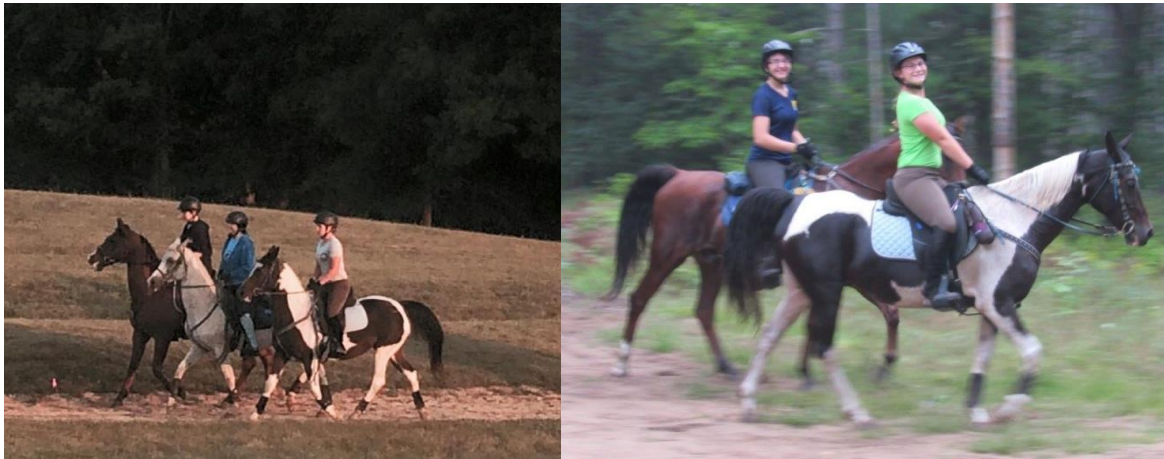
Shannon Mejia, one of my adult riders, hit it off with Kid right away. Shannon comes from Oregon and was new to Michigan. We had a lot of fun conditioning through the winter, but unfortunately Kid had a pasture accident in the spring and had to take the year off. So she spent the summer bringing Maeday (now 24 years old) out of her 7 year retirement and getting her fit again. Maeday is now ready again to compete, so you will probably all meet Shannon next season either on Kid or Maeday.

Miranda Miller is a wonderful 17 year old young lady. Her mother answered my Craig's list add and I originally told her I would not take on any more junior riders. Her mother Angela really went to bat for Miranda and so I gave in and told her I'd give Miranda a chance. I am so happy I did! After the first ride with her I knew she would be a good match for Brittany. Miranda did 6 rides on Brittany this year and they are an awesome team. Miranda loves to go fast, the twistier the trail the better, and can handle anything that sassy pony can dish out.

Taylor Walker is a very talented 16 year old rider. She has a solid background in dressage and jumping and had ridden some difficult horses. She actually found me via the GLDRA mentor list. She really wanted to compete in distance riding, but the only horse I had available at that point was Strutter. After explaining to Taylor and her mother at length how "difficult" Strutter could really be (rearing, bucking, refusing: check all of the above) she still wanted to ride him. There is truly a horse for everyone, and they quickly became a team. Taylor did 4 rides on Strutter this year, and in that short time I saw a huge change in Strutter. Best of all she quickly came to understand him and why he does what he does, and knows there is a great horse in there and we just have to help him come out.

I can't say enough what a joy this past season has been. In my initial quest to help myself out of horse guilt, I found myself enjoying helping my riders develop relationships with our horses and learning about distance riding more and more. Their joy was my joy, and watching them grow and compete gave me more happiness than any trophies or awards ever could.

So if you find yourself in "horse guilt" consider sharing your horses with others. I know you will not be disappointed, and it is really true that you find more happiness in giving to others, than anything you could buy for yourself.



Michigan Horse Council News

www.michiganhorsecouncil.com
MICHIGAN HORSE COUNCIL NEWS

Hello GLDRA members!



While MHC still has some issues, a huge issue and part of the splitting of the group revolved around the money. An internal audit has been completed and MHC has been cleared of any misuse of funds. The auditing group said the MHC books are very complete and clean.

The new meeting process of having a group host the meeting and talk for 10 minutes about their group continues and is a great way to learn about other members of MHC. I hope to be a host perhaps at a meeting later this spring or early in the fall to continue to make other groups aware of us. The meetings also have had a variety of speakers, all of which have been very good so far and well received by the group as a whole.

The Trail Committee has been restarted so I hope to become involved in that committee and keep an eye on Michigan trail development, or threats to current trails which is becoming an all too familiar problem for us in Michigan. Our March meeting was canceled due to weather, so the next meeting is in April, which I will attend.

Not much else to report! Happy Spring conditioning and see you at the rides!

Andrea Redman, MHC rep

Great Lakes Distance Riding Association 2016 Membership Application

Membership includes: quarterly newsletters, eligibility for year-end points and awards programs, horse & personal mileage tracking.

Individual \$20___ Family* \$30___ Junior (not 18 as of Jan. 1) \$10___ Lifetime Individual \$200___

*Family is up to 2 adults in same household and children <18 as of Jan. 1

Check box to the left of any item you do NOT want listed in our membership directory – otherwise it will be listed:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Please mail completed application with payment (payable to GLDRA) to:

Shannon Weston, 4000 Crandall Road, Howell, MI 48855

Newsletters and ride flyers are posted on our website (www.gldrami.org), newsletters are also distributed electronically in PDF format.

If you need paper copies of our ride flyers mailed to you, please check this box and add \$10 to above fees.

Application for Personal and/or Horse Distance Awards Programs (a one-time fee for each)

(Send to: Kathy Macki, P.O. Box 48, Rapid River, MI 49878)

Name of **Person** nominated for Personal Mileage Program: _____

Address: _____ **FEE: \$30** _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of **Horse** nominated for Horse Mileage Program: _____

Name of Horse Owner: _____ **FEE \$30** _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Breed of Horse: _____ Horse Date of Birth: _____

Breed registration #: _____ AERC # _____

Please make check/money order payable to GLDRA

Date: _____ **TOTAL \$** _____

Great Lakes Distance Riding Association – 2016 Ride Schedule – www.gldrami.org

April 23, 24	Brighton Ride Sat C-25, 35, Novice 15 Sun C-25, Novice 15	Lisa Germann 6529 Milan – Oakville Rd Milan, MI 48160 lgermann08@comcast.net	(734) 439-5616 Amy Scharmen (248) 770-2816
May 7, 8	White River Spring Sat E 50, LD 30, C 25 Sun E 50, LD 30, C - 25		RIDE PENDING
May 28, 29	Grand Island Sat E 50, LD 25, C-25 Sun LD 25, C- 25	Kathy Macki P.O. Box 48 Rapid River, MI 49878 kemacki@hughes.net	(906) 474-6416
June 11, 12	White River Summer Sat E 50, LD 30, C 25 Sun E 50, LD 30, C - 25		RIDE PENDING
June 25, 26	Grand Island North Sat E 55, LD 30, C-30 Sun LD 30, C-30	Karen Bahrman E. 1780 M-94 Skandia, MI 49885 kbahrman@gmail.com	(906) 439-5745
July 9, 10	AHAM at Hopkins Creek Sat E 50, LD 25, C 2-day 70/35/25 Sun LD 25, C 2-day 70/35/25	Gene Dake 9877 State Route 12 West Findlay, OH 45840 dedake6196@gmail.com	(269) 979-9472
Aug. 7-13	Shore to Shore For E: Pioneer 3-day rides Sunday-Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday Sun E 55, LD 30, C 30 Monday-Friday E 50, LD 25, C 25 Sat E 55, LD 30, C 30	Bruce Birr 1633N West Kendall Road Manistique, MI 49854 bbirr@centurytel.net	(906) 286-1991
Aug. 20, 21	Metro Park Express Sat E 50, LD 25, C 25, 12 Intro Sun LD 25, C 25, 12 Intro	Bev London 2039 Arbor Meadows Dr. DeWitt, MI 48820 eg_doclondon@yahoo.com	(517) 230-6979
Sept. 3 Sept. 4 Sept. 5	White River Labor Day Sat E 55, LD 30, C 25 Sun E 75, 50, LD 30, C 25 Mon E 50, LD 30, C 25		RIDE PENDING
Sept. 10, 11	Keweenaw Sat E 50, LD 25, C- 50, 25 (aft) Sun E 50, LD 25, C- 25, Fun 8-15miles	Karen Jarvi Dollar Bay, MI 49922 kih84@hotmail.com	sunnyville@hotmail.com
Sept. 17,18	Tin Cup Springs Sat E 50, LD 25, C 25 Sun LD 25, C 25	Becke Grams 1955 N Kings Hwy Luther, MI 49656 beckeg@aol.com	(616) 430-7804
Sept. 24,25	Pine Marten Run Sat E 50, LD 25, C 25 Sun LD 25, C 25	Karen Bahrman E. 1780 M-94 Skandia, MI 49885 kbahrman@gmail.com	(906) 439-5745
Oct. 15,16	Oak Leaf Run - Hamilton Sat E 50, LD 30, (Evening LD 25),C 50, 30 15N/15Intro Sun LD 30, C 30, 15N/15Intro	Barb Kurti 319 Quincy St. SW Grandville, MI 49418 silverheartsfarm@yahoo.com	(616) 896-

2016 GLDRA OFFICERS

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ccook@cftami.com

GLDRA COMMITTEES

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ccook@cftami.com

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westonwood@comcast.net

Webpage:
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gldraorg@gmail.com

Finance Committee:

Bruce Birr, Laurie Hilyard (2016), Sandra Wright (2015-2016), Amy Scharmen (2015-2016 (voted in), Ken Wright (2016-2017) (board appointed)

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Veterinary Rep.
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Same as Bruce

Karen Graham (2016-2017)
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dmeinders@glcomp.com

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989-435-9139

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Barb Kurti

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kemacki@hughes.net

Member at Large:
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Irons, MI 49644
260-602-9660

Mileage and Points:
Kathy Macki (see above)

Grievance:
Lisa Germann (see above)

MHC/Trails:
Andrea Redman

ndurancerider@hotmail.com



Newsletter Advertising

You can run ads in our newsletter for the following rates:

Classifieds: \$6.00 minimum or .10¢ a word
Business Card: \$8.00
Half Page: \$25.00
Quarter Page: \$15.00
Full Page: \$45.00

Checks for all ads must be mailed to Bruce Birr, payable to GLDRA (see above for address) before they will be placed in newsletter. Send digital ads to Cathy at

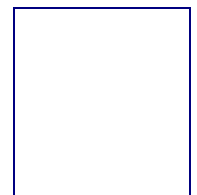
ccook@cftami.com

Great Lakes Distance Riding Association

www.gldra.org



GLDRA
c/o Cathy Cook, Newsletter Editor
1249 Maple Grove
Carsonville, MI 48419



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321