



Hoof Beats...

March 2013 • Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Newsletter • www.gldrami.org

GLDRA 2012 Awards Banquet

I want to thank all of you who attended the GLDRA 2012 Awards Banquet. Our number of attendees has been decreasing each year, but those of you who attended supported GLDRA tremendously. We had another very successful Silent Auction. The Silent Auction brought in \$1,502 and the 50/50 raffle added another \$150 for a total of \$1,652.

Special thanks go out to Kurt Meinders for the handmade "horseshoe" end table/light he donated this year. His items are very popular and usually inspire a bidding war. It will be interesting to see what he comes up with next year! Maybe we should ask Linda Hamrick what she would like????

I want to thank all the ride managers who donated entries. The total dollar figure for ride entries amounted to approximately half of what the silent auction brought in.

PJ and the Byard boys did an outstanding job on the 50/50 raffle. Also, that cute little Meinders girl could have had an influence too on what we choose to donate. Great job. Hopefully, I can count on all of you for next year. I also want to thank Barb Kurti for her generosity in donating the \$150 she won on the 50/50 raffle back to GLDRA.

Thanks to Bruce Birr for being gracious enough to be our MC again this year. Thanks also to Rachael Meinders for helping hand out the awards. Karen Barhman was a great asset to our team as Kathy Macki and myself where closing out the silent auction. With Karen's assistance it made the process run smoothly and quickly.

I want to extend my thanks to all of you who assisted in helping me set up the awards. This is the most hectic time since our time span is very short to accomplish this chore and your help was very greatly appreciated.

Stacey Cooper you did a great job of entertaining us with your beautiful slide show. Your ending brought tears to my eyes. I did not realize how many horses we have lost over the years and it brought back so many wonderful memories.

Again thanks to all of you who attended the GLDRA 2012 Awards Banquet, our combined efforts made for a very successful and fun event – Julie Roe

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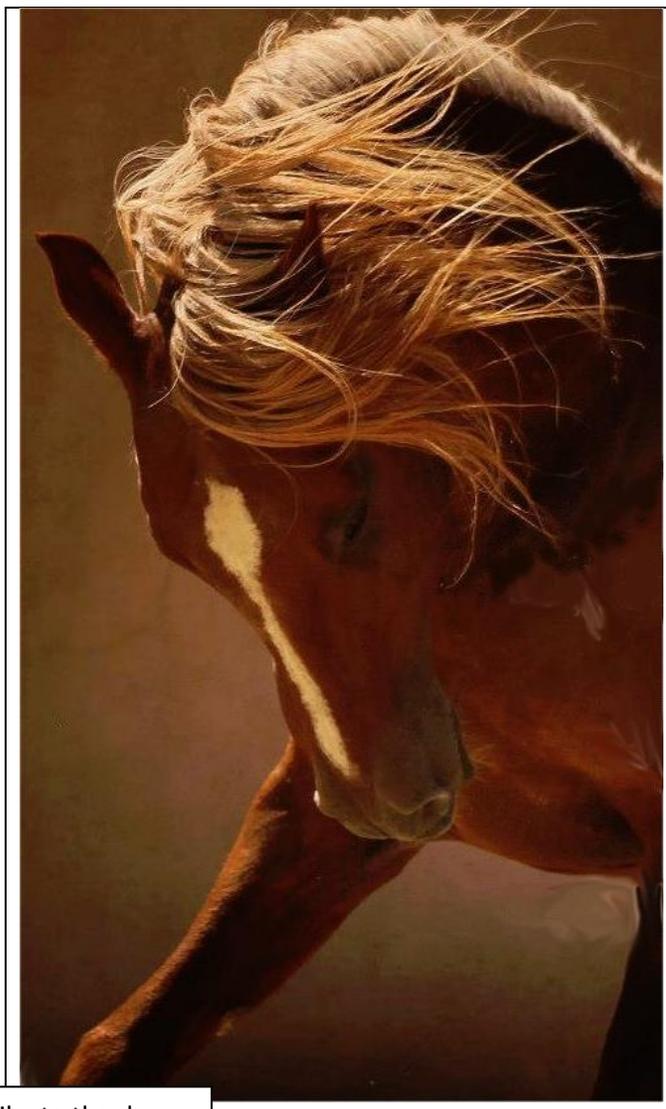
Bruce Birr, Linda Hamrick (2013-2014), Denny Byard (2013-2014) (voted in)/Shelley Dake (2013-2014) Diane Meinders (2012-2013) (board appointed)

Please take a minute and double check your mailing address for the "Renewal Needed" above your name. If you've overlooked renewing your membership for the 2013 season there is a membership form on the back cover of this newsletter. Feel free to make copies of the membership form for your friends - the more, the merrier! If you do not renew your membership this will be the last newsletter you receive.

GLDRA 2013 Ride Schedule

April 20-21Brighton ride
May 4-5White River Spring
May 25-26.....Grand Island
June 8-9.....White River Summer
June 22-23.....Hopkins Creek
July 6-7..... AHAM
July 20-21.....Grand Island North
Aug 4-10.....Shore to Shore
Aug 31-Sept 2.....White River Labor Day
Sept 7-8.....Keweenaw Dollar Bay
Sept 14-15.....Tin Cup Springs
Sept 28-29.....Pine Marten Run
Oct 12-13.....Oak Leaf Run

More information available at www.gldrami.org



The Meinders family would like to thank Julie Roe for her tireless work on the awards this year and every year! We received many fabulous awards that we will treasure for a long time.

Thanks again! Whitney, Rachael, and Diane



GLDRA Awards

Nominated at Annual Meeting/announced at banquet:

Volunteer of the Year

Sportsmanship Award

Ride Management Award

Pit Crew of the Year Award

Merry Legs Award (taken care of by junior riders and donated by Hamricks)

Nominated prior to the annual meeting (in writing and published in the fall Hoofbeats)/banquet and voted on at Annual Meeting and announced at banquet:

Hall of Fame Person

Hall of Fame Horse

**** Charles Phillips Versatility Award**

Must nominate with UMECRA before year end.

This award is given out at the UMECRA banquet and sponsored by GLDRA in memory of Charles.

Earned Awards:

** Legend Award Cup Year End High Mileage Award

Rookie of the Year

Half-Arab Association of Mich-Competitive – Breed Award

Half-Arab Association of Mich-Endurance-Breed Award

Arabian Horse Association-High Point Competitive Half-Arab Award –

Must belong to AHA

Arabian Horse Association-High Point Competitive Arab-Award – Must belong to AHA

Horse Mileage Program Awards – Must be entered in the Horse Mileage Program to receive these awards – **One-time fee of \$30.00**

200-Mile Framed Certificate

500-Mile Patch

1000-Mile Picture Frame

2000-Mile Halter

3000-Mile Polar Fleece Cooler

4000-Mile Rump Rug

5000-Mile Blanket

Mileage awards beyond this point will be determined between awards administer and rider.

Personal Mileage Programs Awards – Must be entered in the Personal Mileage Program to receive these awards – **One-time fee of \$30.00**

200-Mile Framed Certificates

500-Mile Patch

1000-Mile Buckles

2000-Mile Picture Album

3000-Mile Sweatshirt

4000-Mile Embroidered Shirt

5000-Mile Embroidered Vest

Mileage awards beyond this point will be determined between awards administer and rider

**** Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Legend Cup Year End High Mileage Award**

** Legend Cup Award -The Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Legend Cup is a traveling award presented to the horse completing the overall highest mileage of the year in sanctioned GLDRA events. The mileage can be for competitive, limited distance, endurance, or a combination of all.

CHARLES PHILLIPS' VERSATILITY AWARD **Sponsored by GLDRA**

Horse/rider teams with the highest number of points in all categories. Each horse & rider team must complete a minimum of two events in each category (Competitive Riding, Limited Distance & Endurance). Riders can nominate at any time through-out the year by mailing or emailing this form to:

Robin Schadt
7342 W 115th Street
Worth, IL 60482
708-280-8241
Fax: 708-923-7080 or 708-672-1165
robinschadt@aol.com

The points system for the Versatility Award is calculated using the following formula regardless of distance and/or division ridden:

| Placing | Points Awarded |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st | 7 points |
| 2 nd | 6 points |
| 3 rd | 5 points |
| 4 th | 4 points |
| 5 th | 3 points |
| 6 th | 2 points |
| Completion | 1 point |

CHARLES PHILLIPS' VERSATILITY NOMINATION FORM

Rider Name _____

Horse Name _____

UMECRA Board Meeting by Barb Kurti

March 9th was my first official UMECRA BOD meeting. As many of you know, I took the position of Director At Large. It was a long drive to north of Madison, Wisconsin but it was worth it.

These are some of the topics that were discussed at the meeting.

State trailer licensing requirements-A small discussion was held on each state requirement to be in compliance with the DOT regulations on pulling trailers. Each state is different and within a state it can be confusing with different answers. Members can find information by visiting the DOT site in each state.

Promotions committee- I requested to be on this committee. AERC and UMECRA have so much to offer for promoting our sport. This committee is having each state input on how to get new members and how to promote UMECRA; AERC is also doing some research on getting new members. They are looking into creating a package for each state to have (banners, DVD, flyers, booklets, etc.) I will be able to bring this information back to Michigan! If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Ride Clinics- Ride clinics should be held in each state to raise awareness and generate new members. The BOD agreed to offer a free first-time UMECRA membership to ride clinic attendees. This does not include expos or horse fairs. In other states these are very well attended. I received great response from the group when I asked for help on how to host a clinic. Diane Meinders and I will be planning a clinic in Western Michigan, so if anyone would like to help, please contact either one of us.

Trail/promotions fund- A form has been created for all future donation requests up to \$250 regarding trail grants or grants to sponsor a UMECRA booth at one of the state expos or horse fairs.

New member committee- It was suggested to have a sign at the campsite/trailer to let new members know who is a mentor/riders rep, etc.

Yahoo Group for UMECRA ride managers. Purpose: Endurance/CTR ride managers in the MW sharing information, ideas and help in managing their rides. This will be in the near future. AERC and the NE group are currently using this type of networking.

Observations from the EXPO by Diane Meinders

The EXPO had a great turnout. The participating vendors for the show were down from previous years though. Saturday is definitely the best day based on the number of people that came through the trails area and interest in our sport.

From the people that came through the trails area we had some great conversations and explained our sport. Remember this room is off to the side of the main show area so we get the traffic that is interested in trails, not all general horse people.

Many people are often pleasantly surprised to realize that they trail ride not too much slower than we ride a 15 mile loop.

We decorated the table with GLDRA awards for both horse and people. A few plaques and patches adorned the table also.

Possible changes for the future: A few ride flyers for rides close to the EXPO area and those with 15 Mile rides. The most asked for ones were AHAM, Brighton, and Hopkins Creek. Shore to Shore would be good also. (We had them for Oak Leaf). We printed off our ride schedule but for EXPO we need to detail on it what LD, E, and C means. We also should add our website to the top of that ride schedule to connect it back to GLDRA.

We need to make sure our Mentor list is up to date. We need to dig up more mentors on the East side of state or Rose Clark and Lisa Germann are going to be really busy! I am thinking a map showing where the rides are located might be cool also. Maybe it could hang behind us.

I love Stacey Cooper's videos from the banquet; I think we may want to use some/all of it on our video at the table. I think we need more video of camping, vet checks, awards/potluck, campfires etc. We need to show more of the "fun" of our sport and the friendship parts. This is something to work on this summer for those that actively take photos of our group.

We may want to consider a booth outside of the trail area at some point just to see what other interest we can grab, other than just the trail riders.

Thoughts for the Novi Expo in November:

The main issue with GLC is membership. If we do not get memberships we do not get people to our rides, which in turn bring their friends with them etc. So a thought to consider, since we are doing the distance riding example in the arena, I think we need a GREAT membership special to drum up membership. I am thinking of 10.00 new member memberships the weekend of that EXPO. (They would be signing up for 2014 membership). If we get them to take a membership, then we have their address, and email for future information etc. (which is something we need to do more of anyway!)

This will give us something to talk about also during the distance demonstration. My other thought is 20.00 memberships with one free ride entry, at any ride. I am sure all ride managers would be willing to do this to increase our ride participation, and interest in our sport! With this though, and this increased membership, we may want to put a few more 15 mile rides on the calendar for next year 2014. I think we need a white board at the Novi Expo, at our booth to promote this.

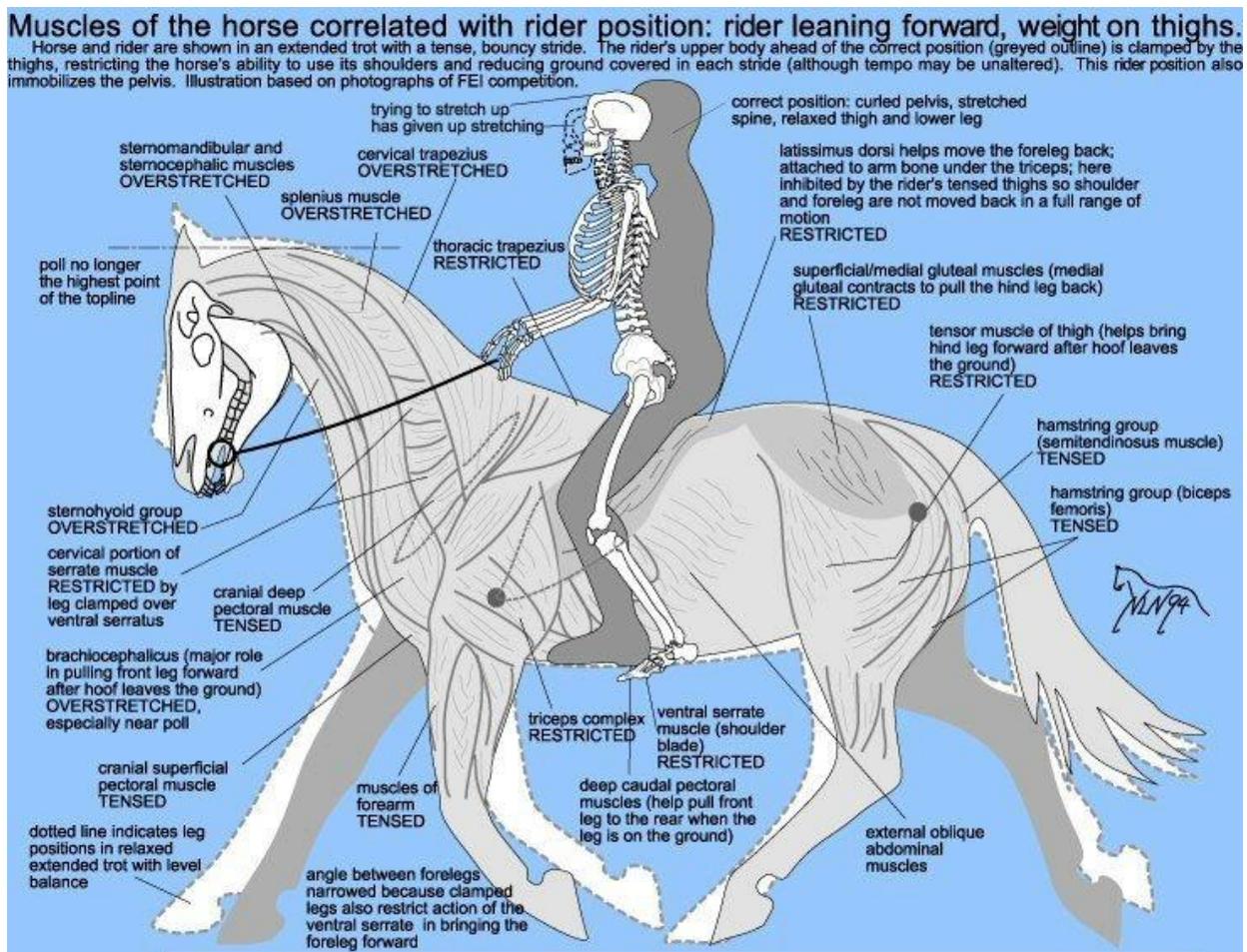
I also have the Purina guy wanting to work with us for awards. He is not going to the Novi Expo but I am hopeful to get him to donate some items we could raffle off or something at the Novi Expo or during our ring demonstration. It would be great for both of us. Purina has some new products that fit in well with our sport.

If we do a great job of promoting at this Expo we could really spread information about our sport! How exciting!

Other general comments: As I watch in the trails room which had most of the trail groups present for example: Brighton Trail riders, Waterloo, Yankee Springs etc. I thought it would be really good if each of us could “adopt” one of these trail groups and find ways to present our program to each of these trail groups. The Waterloo group for sure is really large and well supported. They have a late season November trail ride. That might be a great place for a few of us to go ride, and hand out information about our sport. We could do the same kind of thing for the other trail group locations. Maybe we need a general laminated poster to hang at their bulletin boards at these facilities if they have one.

We should consider attending the MHC meetings in favor of trails as they could use our votes.

Thanks for all who volunteered to work this EXPO. Thanks a bunch to Cathy Cook for her tons of free copies of flyers! Bark Kurti thanks for wandering around the EXPO promoting our sport. It was great to talk about riding. It was great to listen to the people and their desire to learn about our Sport!



Advertising in Newsletter

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 below for address) before they will be placed in newsletter. Send digital ads to Karen at rainbeau@battlecreekonline.com.

The newsletter Hoofbeats is a quarterly publication released Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter

Great Lakes Distance Riding Association 2013 Membership Application

Membership includes quarterly newsletters, eligibility for year end points and awards programs, horse & personal mileage tracking, and yearly GLDRA ride schedule book.

___ Individual \$20 ___ Family \$30 ___ Junior (not 16 on January 1) \$10 ___ Lifetime Individual \$200

Check box to 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:
Bruce Birr, 1633N West Kendall Road, Manistique, MI 49854**

Newsletters are posted on our website (www.gldrami.org), and are distributed electronically in PDF format. If you need a paper copy of our newsletter mailed to you, please check this box:

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(Electronic versions will considerably reduce club expenses

