



## Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Newsletter February 2025

Welcome to the soon to start Michigan riding season 2025!

We recently finished the 2024 GLDRA Meeting/Banquet in Clare, MI with many awards presented, new members added to the board and committees, and lots of topics discussed at the meetings. There were numerous items donated to the silent auction to help offset award costs for this year. GLDRA member and horse trainer Stephanie Boomgaard was our guest speaker sharing training tips about "Building a strong relationship with your horse." The day was packed trying to get everything addressed in such a short amount of time, but in the times between the schedule, great socialization was enjoyed.

Below are some of the highlights of the meetings:

-Veterinary Report- looking for DVM's to help learn about endurance rides and perhaps judge one day. If your equine vet is interested or willing to come to a ride and learn about distance riding, please encourage them to attend! There is a great need for younger veterinarians to help with vetting at rides. Control vets do not have to be licensed in Michigan, as long as one of the vets present is licensed in Michigan.

-Website to fill out trail conflicts- <https://michiganhorsetrailsassociation.com/incident-reporting/>  
Incident report- loose dogs, bikes, quads, e bikes, anything else on trail. Also includes non equestrians camping in horse only campgrounds. DNR is partnering with MHTA to gather data to see if there are common locations where things are happening or what types of incidents are most common.

### 2025 Board Members

President- Jan Wylie  
Vice President: Barb Kurti  
Secretary: Kathy Macki with Jennifer Shooshanian helping  
Treasurer: Kristen Miklua  
Member at Large: Layla Saatchi  
Rider Reps: Audry McMurry, Stephanie Boomgaard  
Finance Committee for 1 year position: Heather Neal  
Newsletter: Sara Hall  
Webmaster: Heather Stafford  
Points Keeper: Kathy Macki



**Next board meeting: June 4, 2025 Board meeting 7PM**

**2025 GLDRA Banquet will be at the Doherty Hotel in Clare, MI  
on Jan 31, 2026**



Are you attending the Michigan Horse Expo in East Lansing?  
Stop by the table located within the trails groups. There will be GLDRA members staffing the table to answer questions and hand out ride/clinic flyers. Need to renew your membership? Stop by to save on postage or an online fee! Easy and convenient at the expo. If you live nearby or would be willing to help staff the booth, please contact Diane Meinders as she has the schedule for the weekend. See you there!

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There are three endurance clinics this spring in Michigan. Check out <https://gldrami.org/clinics/> for all the details and locations. I'll provide a brief summary below:



#1 Brighton Area Clinic - Lisa Germann

Part 1 March 22, 2025 Classroom Instruction at Brighton Holiday Inn  
Part 1 May 31, 2025 mock ride at Brighton State Park

#2 Silver Creek Distance Riding 101 - Barb Kurti

Part 1 April 5, 2025 classroom seminar at the Grandville Library  
Part 2 April 27, 2025 mock ride at Silver Creek County Park

#3 Tin Cup Springs Endurance Clinic 101- Becke Grams

April 26, 2025- morning lecture followed by mock ride at Becke Grams Stables  
Luther, MI



Clinics are a great way for people interested in distance riding to learn about this amazing sport. These instructors are all incredibly experienced and knowledgeable about all things endurance. Ask questions, meet people (and their horses!), get out on the trails with a guide, and come join us this year!

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The first ride of the season is on May 3-4, White River Spring in Hesperia, MI at Timbers Edge Campground. Camping reservations have already started booking, so if you're planning on attending RSVP your spot!

<https://www.timbersedgecampground.com/>





I also wanted to introduce myself as the newsletter producer. My name is Sara Hall and this is only my second year in GLDRA, but I've been involved in distance riding since 2021. I'm happy to fill this position after seeing a need for better communication within GLDRA so our members are kept up to date on upcoming rides and important dates with meetings and gatherings. I ride a 16 year old Arabian gelding, Kai, and we both love the miles spent on the trail. I work as an equine vet tech and love all things horses. If anyone has things to contribute to the newsletter please feel free to email pictures, stories and whatever else to

[sara.hall1388@gmail.com](mailto:sara.hall1388@gmail.com). I am located by Lansing and would love to meet up to ride at nearby state parks. Forgive me if I forget to add something in the newsletter or perhaps have a misspelled name. If I am informed I will gladly add it to next month's information.