Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Newsletter
October 2026

PLEASE CHECK results and current points standings on the website.
Please notify Kathy Macki at k_macki@yahoo.com for discrepancies.
Results and points do not yet include Oak Leaf Run

Pictures from Waterloo Rock N Roll

This inaugural ride was enjoyed by all! Farm Lane Campground provided the perfect spot for riders- with their electric and water hook up sites! There are also pens located at some of the sites to make it even easier to set up camp. Ride manager Layla and her daughter Nafiseh (who did a stellar job as timer) ran a great event. Smiles were shared all day and riders loved the challenging trails at Waterloo.





Photo credit: Teresa Mulherin (Thanks Teresa for taking pictures at all the rides you attend!)

Pictures from Oak Leaf Run

Oak Leaf blessed us once again with beautiful weather and vibrant fall colors. Great camaraderie was had by all and everyone enjoyed fellowship at the potluck. What a fantastic way to wrap up the GLDRA ride year!





Photo credits: Damaris Smith, Aurora Walsh and Teresa Mulherin



The first weekend of October brought Distance Nationals to the mid west in Minnesota. Five teams from Michigan were present at Huntersville Hundred which hosted the traveling Distance Nationals competition.

Distance Nationals is a combination of breed organizations that sponsor/host a National distance ride. There are six breeds represented at distance nationals- Pure bred Arabians, Part Bred Arabians, Morgans, Paso Finos, Appaloosas, and Alkal-Tekes. If you own a papered horse from one of these breeds, consider Distance Nationals! There are distance requirements to qualify for one of the championship rides, but the experience is amazing. If you are considering attending distance nationals or have further questions, please reach out for details!

Below are the members who attended and their awards.
Next year Distance Nationals are going to be hosted by the Big South Fork ride in Tennessee!



Damaris Smith and Firelily Moon River- 50 mile Endurance Reserve Champion Appaloosa



Right: Damaris Smith and Jokers Wild Streak, Champion Appaloosa in the 100 mile Endurance and BC for Appaloosa



Wendy Maas and Sterlings Starsrider
3rd place finish AND BC for the Purebred Arabians 50 mile endurance



Jessie Finnula and FT Firestorm started in the 100 but was pulled at mile 75 for lameness. Firestorm managed to wedge a stick in between his shoe and frog. Speedy recovery to Firestorm!



Sara Hall and WP Yippe Ki Yay earned Champion Arabian in the 40 CTR

Aubrey McMurry and Firelily Moon River were Reserve Champion Appaloosa in the 40 CTR



2026 Board Members

President- Stephanie Boomgaard
Vice President: Audrey McMurry
Secretary: Jennifer Shooshanian
Treasurer: Kristen Mikula
Member at Large: Damaris Smith
Rider Reps: Teresa Mulherin, Dawn Bouwkamp
Webmaster and Newsletter: Sara Hall
Points Keeper: Kathy Macki



Next board meeting: Nov 18 at 7:30 PM REQUIRED MEETING



BANQUET DETAILS/ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

February will be here before we know it, plan ahead and book your room for the GLDRA Banquet at the Doherty Hotel in Clare, MI.

DATE: Saturday Feb 6, 2027

WHERE: Doherty Hotel, 604 N McEwan St, Clare Michigan

STRICT DEADLINE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS: Jan 6, 2027

Room Type	Rack Rate (Fri.-Sat.)	Discounted Rate (Fri.-Sat.)
King/ Double Queen	$162	$135
Double Queen Fireside	$177	$155
Jacuzzi Suite	$202	$180
JFK	$210	$190