

Hoof Beats...



March 2011 • Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Newsletter • www.gldrami.org

Silent Auction 2011

by Julie Roe

Kudos to all of you who contributed to another successful silent auction! This year the silent auction earned GLDRA \$1,606.50 and that was without a 50/50 raffle.

Unfortunately, we forgot about the 50/50 raffle, which has usually earned us around another \$300.00. Hopefully, we can encourage our juniors to participate and support this venture at the rides this year. We would be hard put to turn down one of our up and coming competitors. I for one would take the chance on earning my gas money back, so if any of you juniors are interested in taking on this project please contact me.

I cannot thank our ride managers enough for their support. I for one can tell you that ride entries were a hot item this year. I believe that I won the award for the highest contributor but it is all for the cause.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Katy Burns for her stunningly designed jewelry, which brought us a total of \$145.00, Janet Day for her beautiful hand-made blanket, which brought in another \$95.00 and Meg Andrae for the donation of biothane tack that brought in over \$200.00. Also, a big thanks to each and every member who contributed to the silent auction. We are fortunate to have such talented individuals within our organization.

Thank you to Gene Dake for again doing the reverse auction. There has been some thought put forth that we may want to try do a straight-forward type auction next year. Gene, are you up to the challenge? We are always open to suggestions on how to make our banquet better be it award presentation, auction or entertainment so, please feel free to bring your ideas to any board member.

Stacey Cooper thanks for the memories. Your presentation recognized those outstanding individuals that have come before us and those that are yet to come. Thank you for remembering those that have passed on.

A huge thank you goes out to Kathy Macki who does more than her share for GLDRA and all the jobs she takes on for our organization. With her suggestions this was one of the smoothest running silent auctions we have had. I must also thank my very good friend Sue Herrick who always volunteers for any job without questions. Thank you Bonnie Tobias for the award presentation and assisting Sue in tallying up the totals for the auction at night's end.

Last, but definitely not least, thanks goes out to all the GLDRA members who donated their dollars. Your contributions are what enables GLDRA to present you with quality awards. Thanks again for your support. You all work hard and spend lots of dollars over the year so you deserve to receive the best we can give you for all your efforts.

Check Your Address Label!!

by Bruce Birr

Address labels having a "Expired" note at the top are not members for 2011 and will not receive any further newsletters. Those that are current in their 2011 dues are those marked "2011" or "Life". And, if anyone disagrees with their membership status should be sure to contact me for clarification or correction.

2011 GLDRA OFFICERS

President

Gene Dake
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269-979-9472

Treasurer

Bruce Birr
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cookdc@avci.net

Vice-President

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Veterinary Rep.

Rae Birr
Same as Bruce

Secretary

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GLDRA COMMITTEES

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Grievance:

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Finance Committee:

Bruce Birr, Linda Hamrick (2010-2011),
Denny Byard (2011-2012), Shelley Dake (2011-2012),
Cameron Wood (board nominated 2010-2011)

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 page two 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.

Cooper's Fashion Corner...

PONCHOS ARE IN??!!

I haven't worn a poncho since middle school, but Jim has me thinking maybe I should catch up with the fashion times. At the 2011 GLDRA Banquet, Jim modeled the latest big rave, ponchos!! He is seen here wearing a colorful, cozy poncho. I wonder if he is wearing anything under it!



Hand Warmers

I used to ride snowmobiles, then I got horses. Snowmobiles are so predictable. They turn left when you turn them, stop when you pull the brake, etc., horses, on the other hand, provide one with more excitement since you can never be too sure what your signal is going to produce. Perhaps a cue to turn left at the next corner will spur a frenzy of spins and attempts to turn right (back to the barn). I have also noticed that the brakes are not as reliable on the equine machine which adds more heart racing excitement. There are definitely more pros for riding horses in the winter months: You do not need a trail sticker, No worries about filling up with gas at \$3.40/gal., horses do not get stuck in snow banks, and your butt stays warm. The only thing snowmobiles have over horses are hand warmers. I think I will invent reins with battery operated hand warmers in them. I'll talk with Chuck next time I see him!

Stacey is pictured here modeling the latest in winter riding apparel. The coat is by Kerrits with a fleece



made by Jeanie under it for added warmth. The snow pants are by Mountain Horse (Christmas gift from mom). Boots are Baffin (purchased for snow mobiling by the model's husband) and keep your feet toasty warm while providing safety in the stirrups. The helmet is Tipperary, a common sight on endurance rider's domes. Under the dome protector is a ski-doo mask

and to protect eyes during snowy days are ski goggles. There is nothing worse than riding a psycho horse and not being able to see! The most important thing about cold weather riding are gloves. These particular gloves are the best tried yet. They were purchased at the Birch Run Outlet (no further information can be remembered about the gloves at this time).

Warm but not bulky. Of course, Under Armour is the bottom layer. The ones being worn in this picture happen to have a "fly" because Stacey's dad gave them to her.

So don't let the cold keep you out of your saddle, just have some fashion sense!

Next Issue; Should Shirts be Tucked into Riding Tights?

Your friendly fashion consultant will give the latest opinion on this fashion statement.

Keep Ridin'! Stacey Cooper

Useful Info for Horse Owners

by Bruce Birr

One of the benefits of our organization being a member of the ELCR (Equestrian Land Conservation Resource) is that they hold periodic group phone calls dealing with topics of interest. I decided to 'attend' one in December, and came away very impressed with an online resource for very useful information to horse owners.

There is a wealth of information online, and to make a long story short, here is a web link to a site (Maryland Dept. of Agriculture) which has a lot of useful info on topics ranging from manure management to pasture management and more. Just go to: http://www.mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/technical_assistance/how.php

I'm sure there are other states with similarly useful websites. Enjoy!



The Loss of a Legend

by Roseanna & John Clark

Early in March our horse, Matuks Legend+/, suffered an injury in the pasture. He was recovering nicely improving every day. Unfortunately, hampered by his injury, Legend+ had a bad fall a week later and was lost. We wish to thank everyone for your thoughtful cards, emails and phone calls. Your kindness is very much appreciated during this difficult time.

Legend+ had a brilliant career with GLDRA spanning 20 years. His accomplishments include:

- + Year end Grand Champion five times - 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
- + GLDRA Hall of Fame - 2000
- + Carried our Granddaughter Ashton to Rookie of the Year - 2010
- + Merry Legs Award - 2010
- + All time GLDRA high mileage horse completing 8,330 miles under sanctioned competition

Legend+ also was inducted in the UMERCRA Hall of Fame in 2009 and won year end Grand Champion five times in their organization.

Legend+ was bred and born at Barb Potter's farm, Masterpiece Arabians in 1985. Following training and successful showing in western pleasure and reining, Legend+ was purchased by us in 1993. Roseanna immediately began conditioning and training Legend for competitive and endurance trail riding. His record in that part of his life speaks for itself.

Much more than a successful equestrian competitor, Legend+ was a loved member of our extended family. Over the years many "just for fun trail rides" and trips were taken. On those occasions John had the opportunity to ride many different horses but he always insisted on riding Legend+ saying "hey Rose you get to ride him all the time, it's my turn!" Also, our niece Rachel, who was GLDRA Rookie of the Year in 2006, and our Granddaughter Ashton both learned how to ride and care for a horse with Legend+.

Throughout his life Legend+ lived up to his name. An exciting horse to ride he always was willing to respond to whatever challenge was asked of him, always giving his best. He lives on in our hearts.



New GLDRA Year End Award Proposed... The Legend Cup!

The Awards Banquet in 2012 may feature a new GLDRA year end award. The "Legend+ Cup" will be awarded to the horse completing the overall highest mileage of the year in sanctioned GLDRA events.

The mileage can be for competitive, endurance, or a combination of both.

The purpose of this award is to recognize the effort it takes to properly condition the horse as well as prepare and execute a season long strategy resulting in attaining the highest number of miles completed during a season in sanctioned GLDRA events. This will be a traveling trophy passed to the subsequent winner each year. The Legend+ Cup is so named in honor of Matuks Legend+.

Thank You!
from
F.A.C.E.T.S.!

WE RECEIVED A NICE
THANK YOU CARD/NOTE
FROM FACETS FOR OUR
CONTRIBUTION TO THEM.

FACETS IS FRIENDS OF THE
ALLEGAN COUNTY EQUESTRIAN
TRAIL SYSTEM, INC.

Minutes Nov 6, 2010 Board Meeting

by Kathy Macki, Secretary

DOHERTY, CLARE, MI. NOV. 6, 2010

Attending were board members Gene Dake, Bruce Birr, Wayne Gastfield, Dennis Byard, Kathy Macki, Linda Hamrick, Carl Dosmann, Barb Kurti, Becke Grams and guests Mike and DJ Byard along with PJ Birr.

I. Call to order - President Gene Dake - Meeting called to order at 12:45 p.m.

II. Roll call and reading of minutes - Secretary Kathy Macki - June 12, 2010 minutes accepted as read.

III. Treasurer's report - Treasurer Bruce Birr - Bruce passed out his treasurer's report. He went over the report and reported all balances are correct (this is an unofficial report). This is the second year with a negative balance. Becke moved, Wayne seconded to accept report. Accepted.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Executive - no report

B. Veterinarian - no report

C. Michigan Horse Council, Trails - Gene gave a short report including Right to Ride, etc., Bruce and Becke added to the discussion.

D. Finance - no report

E. Rider Reps - no report

F. Points and Mileage - Kathy needs to get results in a timely fashion.

G. Newsletter - no report

H. Grievance - no report

I. Awards - no report

J. Membership - no report other than our numbers are down some.

K. Promotions - Becke mentioned we might want to promote more.

L. Web page - no report.

V. Old Business

A. Insurance 2011 - Shelley will take care of this again this year.

B. Family membership (children through H.S.) - Gene would like to see the family membership include children through high school. Wayne motioned to accept this, Becke seconded. Bruce will work up the wording.

C. Banquet (going to a one-day format) - Discussed going to a one-day format. Kathy motioned to leave it as is.

Becke seconded. Accepted. We will keep a two-day format.

D. Membership Fees and Dues - Discussed raising rider fees, hand delivering our ride booklet, raising membership dues, etc. Gene proposed raising membership dues to \$200. For lifetime, \$30.00 for family, \$20.00 for individual, and \$10.00 for a single junior. A friendly amendment was made to make this effective in January 2011 after it could be published in the December hoofbeats. It was decided to accept old membership prices postmarked 1-1-11. Kathy motioned to accept this, Becke seconded. Passed. Bruce will check the bylaws and do appropriate wording. He will also "tweak" the membership form.

VI. New Business

A. Proposed 2011 ride schedule - appropriate changes made and the tentative schedule was accepted.

B. Banquet - Discussed banquet costs and it was decided to leave them the same as last year. Also discussed various ideas for a morning speaker. Kathy will ask Karen Bahrman about giving a talk on legal issues concerning horse owners. Also mentioned was Birr's "recap" of their trip to the WEG games. Barb suggested doing the reverse auction as the tables closed instead of all at the end. Good idea we will try this.

C. Promotions - Becke started a discussion on promotions. Many ideas were tossed around and much discussion followed. We will discuss this more at the annual meeting.

D. Budget - Bruce moved to leave budget. Wayne motioned, Becke seconded. Approved.

Kathy motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

VII. Next meeting - February 4, 2011 Doherty Hotel, Clare, Michigan at 8:00 p.m.

Dear GLDRA,
Thank you for providing
the Versatility Award for
UMECRA. I won it and
I love it. It will look nice
in my room.
Thanks, Rachel Meinders

Minutes February 4, 2011 Board Meeting

by Kathy Macki, Secretary

Doherty Hotel, Clare, Michigan

Present at the meeting were board members Wayne Gastfield, Bruce Birr, Rae Birr, Linda Hamrick, Julie Roe, Karen Bahrman, Gene Dake, Stacey Cooper, Kathy Macki, Carl Dosmann, Barb Kurti, Denny Byard and guest Kristine Dipple.

Meeting called to order at 8:25 p.m. by president Gene Dake.

Kathy read the minutes and they were accepted as read.

Bruce handed out his treasurer's report. Wayne moved to accept, Karen seconded. Passed.

Committee Reports

No executive report.

No veterinarian report.

Michigan Horse Counsel – Gene mentioned doing the MHC Expo March 11, 12, and 13, 2011. We will check for volunteers at the annual meeting and if we can get enough we will do it. Stacey volunteered to chair this committee. Bruce motioned to accept, Carl seconded. Passed.

Finance – Will meet tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. for an informal audit.

Rider reps – no report.

Points & Mileage – no report.

Newsletter – no report.

Grievance – no report.

Awards – Julie presented her bill. She stated it was low this and thought maybe the economy could have something to do with this. She mentioned that we were going to need to get more patches soon. Carl mentioned he had some contacts in the embroidery industry and he will check on some prices for us. He took a patch and will price it and let us know how much for an updated logo patch.

Membership – Bruce stated we have 53 members for 2011 already.

Promotions – no report.

Web page – Kathy gave a short report from Ashlyn. She would like to have the webmaster info updated to show her instead of Dennis.

Old Business:

Insurance – Bruce moved to hold off on setting fees until we discuss the schedule. Stacey seconded. Passed.

New Business:

Saddle Up Magazine – Discussed doing membership ad again. Stacey moved to do the ad. Will check to see if our rides are in their event calendar. Much discussion followed. Will check and see if events can be listed free. No second. Failed. Rae moved to do the free listing on their calendar. Julie seconded. Passed. We will ask promotions to take care of this.

Policies/Website – Bruce wondered if we should have some guidelines for the website regarding what is posted. Should comments be monitored/does Ashlyn monitor the comments. We will ask her at the annual meeting.

Amendments/bylaws – Bruce motioned to accept, seconded, passed.

ELCR & BCH memberships – Do we want to renew these memberships? Bruce gave a short “plug” for ELCR. He felt it was a great resource. Gene suggested joining both. Discussion followed. It was mentioned that the Back Country Horsemen endorse using high lines. This was discussed. Bruce moved to renew ELCR. Kathy seconded. Passed.

Back Country Horsemen – is high lining their policy or the state? We will wait to out if they are behind the high line debacle. Gene will send a letter and maybe go to a meeting and express our views on high lines. Membership is tabled.

Trail Fund – Barb asked that we donate to them again from our trail fund. A short discussion followed. Carl made a motion to donate \$100.00 and Rae seconded. Passed.

Wayne moved to adjourn. Barb seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Our Condolences...

Barb Kurti lost her mother, *Carla Hamilton*, in December. Her parents were on their way down to Florida from Michigan. She had a heart attack and passed away in Alabama on December 18, 2010. Services were held on January 21, 2011 on their 55th wedding anniversary. www.mkdfuneralhome.com

Jessica Niebyski (Gruebner) lost her husband of over two years and significant other of eleven years, Wayne, to a heart attack on February 27. *Wayne Francis Gruebner* was 56 yrs old. Memorial services were held 11am Thursday March 3rd, 2011 at R.O. Savage Funeral Home in Standish, MI.

General Meeting Minutes February 5, 2011

by Kathy Macki, Secretary

I. 1:07 P.M. Call to order - President Gene Dake

A. President's Report

II. Reading of minutes - Secretary Kathy Macki - Accepted as read.

III. Treasurer's report - Treasurer Bruce Birr - Bruce handed out his treasurer's report. Shelley motioned to accept, Wayne seconded. Report accepted.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Vet Report - no report.

B. Finance Com. - Met this a.m. and performed an internal audit. Looks good.

C. Membership - 77 paid members to date.

D. Promotions - Gene talked about having a table at the Expo. We would need volunteers. The cost for a table is \$25.00. We will have a table this year.

E. Awards - no report.

F. Mileage and Points - no report.

G. Newsletter - no report.

H. Grievance - no report.

I. Trails and MHC - MHC is thinking about requiring bridle tags. The money for this would stay in a horse fund.

J. Web page - Kathy gave a short update on how things were going with Ashlyn at the helm. (Going well!).

V. Old Business

A. None

VI. New Business

A. Ride schedule - Accepted. Gene talked about AHAM not having the AHA regional rides anymore and why. Also discussed Pine Marten's conflict with DRAW and UMECRA not backing Karen on making DRAW change their date (per UMECRA rules).

Karen will draft a letter that members can use/personalize to send to UMECRA in support of a date change. Much discussion followed this problem.

B. Nominations and election for member at large (one year) - Gene nominated Stacey Cooper. Karen Graham seconded. Nominations closed. Stacey is the member at large for 2011.

C. Nominations and election of rider rep (Barb's position) - Karen Bahrman nominated Cathy Cook. Rae seconded. Shelley motioned to close nominations. Cathy Cook is our new rider rep.

D. Nomination for two finance position (two-year Denny Byard & Shelley Dake) - Wayne nominated Denny & Shelley. Nominations closed. Denny & Shelly will remain on the finance committee.

E. Nominations and election of Veterinary rep - Unanimous motion for Rae to continue to be the vet rep.

F. Nominations for Hall of Fame Award - Person - No nominations for 2010.

G. Nominations for Hall of Fame Award - Horse - Kathy read the nomination for MA Mara Leah.

H. Nominations for Sportsmanship - Becke Grams nominated Diane Meinders. Jeanie moved to close nominations. Nominations closed.

I. Nominations for Ride Manager and Pit Crew - Vote was taken for ride management. Stacey read her nomination for pit crew of the year.

J. Nominations for Volunteer of the Year Award - Gene nominated Donnie Hamrick, Julie nominated Barb Kurti, Kathy nominated Ashlyn Kersten. Jean Miller moved to close nominations.

K. Merrilegs Award - Kid's in charge of this - The Kids will meet at 3:00 p.m. to pick the Merrilegs recipient.

L. Anything else - Becke Grams introduced a new rider from South Africa who was interested in learning about distance riding.

VII. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Meeting of the board members called to order at 1:58 p.m. by President Gene Dake. In attendance was Bruce, Gene, Denny, Kathy, Becke, Karen B., Wayne, Stacey, Cathy Cook, Carl, Lisa G., Rae, Barb K., and Shelley.

Board appointed Bruce as treasurer and Kathy as secretary.

Bruce moved to keep the ride insurance at \$12.00 per day. Karen seconded. Passed.

The board agreed to keep the banquet at the Dorherty through 2014.

Next meeting at WR Summer following awards.

Meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.



Hoof Beats

c/o Kari Hanes
9128 West 104th
Holton, MI 49425

Great Lakes Distance Riding Association 2011 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:
(Electronic versions will considerably reduce club expenses!)