



Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association

April 2017

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Our first Board of Directors meeting was held on March 12th in Springfield, Mass. We welcomed in Rebecca Wachtel, Katie Vogel, Dr. Art King, DVM, Dr. Joan Hiltz, DVM, Patty Lambert and Beth Sheldon to our team. We would like to thank Dr. Nick Kohut, DVM, Cate Peloquin, Lee Alexander, Dr. Heather Hoyns, DVM, Louise Lester and Wilson Ring who have all moved on to new endeavors, some within our organization.

There are quite a few new things of interest:

• The Points, Awards and Mileage Committee is diligently working on streamlining and updating the process and the ECTRA database. There is a new online form for reporting outside mileage. For 2017 the ride year will be from January 1st to November 30th. For 2018 and forward, the ride year will be December 1st to November 30th. This change will help make sure all members have time to respond to Awards notifications, and Awards Committee can be ready for the Annual Meeting.

• As of January 2017, Back Mileage may only be purchased/ credited for the current calendar prior to payment of membership and or horse registration.

• The website www.ectra.org has a new Awards page and the 2017 Rule Book is posted.

• A new Technology Committee was formed to utilize the knowledge and strengths of our new committee to help us to use different technologies for ECTRA's advantage. The committee members are Jo Steele, Beth Sheldon, Sherry Morse and Wilson Ring. With their help, our next board meeting will be Skyped.

• New Committee Chairs: Dr. Nick Kohut, DVM for Drug Testing; Dr. Art King, DVM for Veterinary; Louise Lester for Safety; Ellen Tully and Louise Lester for Honorees; and Esther Fiddes, Beth Sheldon and Patty Lambert for Mileage, Points and Awards.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for July 5, 2017 at 7 pm. Remember the Annual Meeting February 23-25, 2018 in Grantville, PA.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2017, you need to do so before the April 20th deadline for the next issue, or you will be dropped from the mailing list. If you are planning to do any early season rides, or request Outside Mileage Credit, you must be a member by the date of the event. Also remember that your horse(s) must be registered each year in order to be eligible for mileage and awards.

There was a membership applications included with the March issue. You can also get an interactive Membership Form from the ECTRA website. The interactive form makes it easier for Membership to make sure we have your contact information: Marilyn Miles and I have to spend a lot of time tracking down e-mail and sometimes paper copy mailing addresses because of terrible handwriting. If you fill the forms by hand, PLEASE print clearly and neatly. With e-mail addresses, it is really easy to confuse lower-case L's with the number 1; s's can be confused with #5, b with #6, h's with n's, r's with n's, and so on. **Also make sure you send your membership form to Marilyn Miles in New York, NOT TO ME.** P.S. You have to **mail your form and your check**; we do not accept credit cards.

RIDE SAFELY

“ECTRA has a mission of education and I’ve been given the job of finding ways to keep our members safe while conditioning and competing. People get so caught up with the competition or just the scarce time we have to share with our horses that many times we try to minimize our responsibility to ourselves and our horses while doing so. I’ve found myself forfeiting safety in order to get done whatever it is that I’m doing.

“Last summer I starting riding my new handmade saddle. Believing that, since this was a new saddle , all was well with it; I didn’t check it before riding, specifically the stirrup leathers. I’ve been riding western saddles most of my life and I never had a stirrup fail me, but it did this time. Short story was that I fell off and broke my C2. Not only did it end my 2016 year of riding but it could have ended my life. As you can see I’m still around and planning my riding for 2017. What had happened? The Blevins buckle on one side was not seated tight enough to keep the leather together and it came loose. I suddenly found that I was riding with the stirrup handing off my toe and then it dropped off. Next thing I knew I was lying on the arena floor.

“My safety suggestion: Always check your tack “every time” and keep it clean and secure.”

Louise Lester

UPCOMING EVENTS



ECTRA's 2016 Junior Champion, Hailey Walker
Photo by Jim Theurer

from 9 to 3 with the option of bringing a horse to do a five mile ride and practice pacing following the unmounted part of the clinic. The clinic will also be held at Pure Country Campground. If you know of anyone who would like to learn more about the sport, please let them know about our clinic.

JUNE 23-25 - BROOKFIELD RIDE, BROOKFIELD NY: If you saw Deb Fisk’s article in the ECTRA Newsletter after last year’s ride, you know that a lot of us were very excited about the new venue at Pure Country Campground, the access to wooded trails with no paved roads and even great weather. We can’t guarantee the last one, although we can be optimistic, but the beautiful campground site with the wonderful people who provided all kinds of assistance and made us feel very welcome and the beautiful trails in Brookfield State Forest will definitely be there again this year. We hope that those who rode last year will plan to join us again this year and others will come find out why we were all so excited about the new venue. The Ride is scheduled for June 23-25, 2017. **For more information/entry forms for both events, contact Joanna Lasher, Ride Secretary 518-882-1515, 518-882-577-9638 (cell), e-mail jolasher65@gmail.com.** P.2



MAY 6 - CTR CLINIC, BROOKFIELD, NY: Ride management of the Brookfield CTR’s in June is also planning a one day clinic for people new to the sport on May 6, 2017. The clinic will run

E.C.T.R.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 3rd, 2017 Regency Inn,
Boxborough MA

Directors Present: Nick Kohut DVM, Wanda Stazick, Ellen Tully, Lindsey Cooke, Louise Lester, Char Jewell, Esther Fiddes, Bill Lasher, Cate Peloquin. **Others present:** Eva Norris, Kate Vogel, Megan Thompson, Joan Hiltz VMD, Beth Sheldon, Cynthia Young, Joanna Lasher

Meeting called to order at 1815.

1. **Minutes.** Minutes from September 24, 2016 were approved via email. Passed in favor: Nick Kohut DVM, Wanda Stazick, Ellen Tully, Lindsey Cooke, Louise Lester, Char Jewell, Esther Fiddes, Bill Lasher, Cate Peloquin
2. **Treasury Report Ellen Tully:** Balance on cash accounts: Checking \$24, 660.22 Money Market \$ 42,630.07. Motion to accept Bill Lasher, 2nd Louise Lester.

Passed in Favor: Nick Kohut DVM,
Wanda Stazick, Ellen Tully, Lindsey Cooke, Louise Lester, Char Jewell, Esther Fiddes, Bill Lasher, Cate Peloquin

3. **Committee reports:** All reports were in written form and will be published in the Annual Committee Reports following the minutes.

Old Business:

Mentor Program: Louise Lester to provide the number of mentors.

Kathy Brunjes Awards: This year's recipients: Autumn King and Sarah Buckley

USEF letter:

Recipient Name:

United States Equestrian Federation
4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Recipient Name The Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association (ECTRA) is a trail riding organization located in the northeastern part of the

country with over 300 members. While most of our members are located within our geographical boundaries, we do have a few who have relocated across the country and maintain their membership. We sanction competitive trail rides and drives and co-sanction with AERC those endurance rides which occur within our geographical region.

Many of our members continue to be greatly disturbed by the tragic events occurring in endurance rides within Region 7 and primarily within the Dubai endurance community. The recent fatalities that have occurred with the start of their ride season calls into question their commitment to the welfare of their horses. These very public spectacles continue to paint a poor picture for the entire sport of endurance riding and, with the less informed public, may include all aspects of trail riding.

On behalf of our membership, we would like to add our voice to those already calling for stricter punishments to be handed out to all of those people involved in these tragedies.

Sincerely,

Nick Kohut DVM, President of ECTRA

Old business continued:

Surveys in the newsletters: Project still in progress.

Purchase of additional banners to display at rides: I'm not sure that we needed this motion, this purchase was previously approved. Motion to purchase additional duplicate ECTRA banner made by Cate Peloquin, 2nd Wanda Stazick. Passed in favor: Nick Kohut DVM, Wanda Stazick, Ellen Tully, Lindsey Cooke, Louise Lester, Char Jewell, Esther Fiddes, Bill Lasher, Cate Peloquin

The following motions were made and approved via e-mail: P.3

- a. **1-15-2017 Motions made by Nick Kohut, 2nd Ellen Tully. Approved by Esther, Louise, Cate, Nick, Bill**

Motion to update rule I.3. Member Awards -Special to read:

3. 1000 MILE AWARDS will be presented to members completing 1,000, 2,000, 3,000 etc. miles. (Ridden only) (Driven only). Awards may change, if warranted, and will be recommended by the Awards' Committee with final approval by the BOD

Motion to update rule K.2. Event Volunteer Recognition Award to read:

2. Awards for volunteer miles are available and may change at the recommendation of the Awards' Committee, if warranted, with final approval by the BOD

- b. **1-9-2017 Motion made by Ellen, 2nd by Wanda. Approved by Esther, Bill, Char, Nick, Louise**

Motion by E. Tully: To add new rule pertaining to remittance of drug testing fee, page 23, rule 8.3 to the rule book. This change will result in the renumbering of subsequent rules within the Refusal of Sanctioning portion of the rule book.

Pg 23:

DRUG TESTING - All competitive events are subject to random drug testing and will be charged a drug testing fee (Endurance rides will be exempt as long as AERC has a testing program that is in effect).

6.1. Competitive rides, drives and CDR/CDDs will be charged a fee of \$2.00 per starting horse.

6.2. Ride Managers are to remit payment, following the event, to the ECTRA Treasurer along with a copy of

the event results showing the number of starting horses. Mileage will not be accredited, nor posted in the ECTRA newsletter until all fees are paid.

REFUSAL OF SANCTIONING - This is an uncommon occurrence, but ECTRA reserves the right to refuse sanctioning of any event for any of the following reasons:

8.1. At time of submitting application, failure to enclose sanction fee, insurance fee or proof of insurance, and proof that the event manager will be an ECTRA member at the time of the event.

8.2. Failure to send in Ride/Drive Result Sheets within 60 days of event date.

8.3. Failure to remit Drug Testing Fees within 60 days of event date.

- c. **12-30-2016 Motion made by Cate Peloquin 2nd Lindsey Cooke Approved: Nick, Wanda, Esther, Char, Bill, Louise**

In the past ECTRA has approved of helping our volunteers with the cost of entry to the EXPO. Since we incur no booth cost and OD really steps up with volunteers I would ask that I be allowed to spend up to \$100.00 to help our ECTRA volunteers cover cost of admission to help.

- d. **12-10-2016 Motion by Esther Fiddes 2nd by Louise Lester Approved by: Louise, Bill, Char, Wanda**

Beth and I would like to go with these medallions, in bronze, silver and gold for this year. We spent a lot of time discussing this, and feel sticking with medallion idea is better than a more expensive ribbon. We are checking costs to engrave, but she has someone local who may be able to do this for a good price. In the future, we could P.4

investigate getting ECTRA logo on the front. We will use up old medallions in bronze and silver for Versatility and Endurance as we discussed. These medallions will save some money, as we are going to spend a lot to get new awards program going. Esther

e. 10-4-2016 Motion by Esther Fiddes 2nd Cate Peloquin Approved: Wanda, Louise, Bill, Lindsey

I move that we provide the following awards:

Windbreaker 1000, chevrons for 2 and 3, Vest for 4, Jacket 5, chevron for 6 and 7 Fleece 8, chevron 9, Fancy jacket 10

In addition we give out supply of buckle pins to anyone who already has a buckle.

New business:

Beth Sheldon, Esther Fiddes and Jo Steele (via phone) presented a new program for points and mileage. Motion by Esther Fiddes and 2nd by Lindsey Cooke Passed in favor: Nick Kohut DVM, Wanda Stazick, Ellen Tully, Lindsey Cooke, Louise Lester, Char Jewell, Esther Fiddes, Bill Lasher, Cate Peloquin

Accept and implement following recommendations:

1. Move to single entry system utilizing ECTRA database. Update and correct the database.

2. Reorganize committee: - Reorganization of the committee into one unit, rather than two. Patty Lambert would do straight data entry, entering ride results into new spreadsheet monthly then notifying Beth Sheldon and Jo Steele when complete. The database would be updated more frequently, which will enable more frequent publication of mileage totals, something our membership has long requested. Beth Sheldon will handle Points, Esther Fiddes will manage much of the Awards, along with Beth Sheldon. Jo Steele will serve as database administrator. Outside Mileage: Currently riders can either send an email or fill out and

send in an Outside Mileage form. The proposed change in ride calendar year will remove some serious issues that arose. We recommend the form be redone, and ALL Outside Mileage be submitted via the form, to ensure consistency.

3. Change ride calendar year to end Nov.30. Ride Calendar changed from Jan 1 - Dec 31 to Dec 1 -Nov 30. Last regional ride is usually mid Nov. All ride results would be entered by Nov 30th. December rides would be applied to the next year. For 2017 only, ride year would be Jan 1 - Nov 30.

3. Outside Miles in December to go on the following ride year.

4. All Outside Miles to be submitted on form. Form to be redone to have online option.

New Business Continued:

Explanation of lab fees on pie chart. The 6% of lab fees were provided by the drug fees thru sanctioning cost of each ride last year.

Electronic scoring: Plans continue to follow up during the 2017 ride season. At the present time all information needs to be imputed into two separate devices, data does not link from one device to the other. Wanda Stazick to discuss further development with Wilson Ring.

Chair committee needed for the 2018 Awards Banquet: Char Jewell stepped up as chair for this committee.

Certain questions and comments on Facebook need to be directed to the BOD via email. Not all members of the BOD are on Facebook and do not see posts and questions: Esther Fiddes to email Sherry to add information on how to contact BOD on the ECTRA website.

Purchase of additional score sheets: In January of 2017 5,500 score sheets and 150 blue and white P&R slips were purchased.

Recommendations to update website. Beth Sheldon and Esther Fiddes will email Sherry Morse.

Need for two Facebook pages. Wanda Stazick to discuss with Sherry Morse.

Rotate locations of BOD meetings to encourage increased member attendance. To be discussed at the March 12th, 2017 meeting.

Questions arose about the time frame in which a protest can be filed and how long protest should be kept on file. To be discussed at March 12th, 2017 meeting.

Article in Newsletter describing Star Rating Newsletter what it means and requirements needed. Ben Fangman and Cate Peloquin to follow up.

Discussion of PayPal for annual fees for ECTRA. To be discussed at further detail at the March 12th, 2017 meeting.

Motion to adjourn made at 2120 by Nick Kohut DVM 2nd by Cate Peloquin.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Cooke, ECTRA Secretary

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 2016

Annual Meeting Committee: Char Jewel

Annual meeting is going well, although there will be a loss larger than normal due to higher speaker expenses. Louise has been working diligently on vendors and advertising since November.

Facebook page - there are 1,806 members. Posts mostly consist of people looking for general info about rides; I am going to start posting informational articles on a more regular basis as a draw to our page. There is very little spam posts, I carefully review each person who requests access to our page.

Yahoo Email Group - with the rise of FB, there is very little activity on this group. Less than 1 emails a month.

Thanks,
Char Jewell

Awards: Esther Fiddes & Beth Sheldon

Beth and I took on doing Awards this year when Brenda and Greg Senseney needed to step down from these tasks. We would like to express our enormous appreciation for their many years of dedicated hard work. Few members realize the amount of work involved; certainly we have an entirely new understanding!

We redid all the rider awards, utilizing the same company, Advanced Monograms, as ECTRA uses for members to purchase logo items. This was necessary as we are no longer able to get the belt buckles. We created a new patch for certain mileage awards as well, and streamlined some horse awards. We also replaced the medallions, as we could no longer purchase the older ones. The Junior Champion award was also changed. Certificates were updated and redone as necessary. A new certificate was created for members with mileage over 10,000. All spreadsheets, emails, contact information, notifications etc. were also reworked. Members were contacted to let them know the awards email would be coming soon, and that we would need their reply in only a couple of days so we could meet our order deadline.

Posts were made on Facebook, the ECTRA Yahoo Mail list, and we also had Judy Lorimer sent out an email blast to try and reach all of our members.

We did not receive the Award results documentation from Greg until 9 pm, Dec 26th. Work started immediately to analyze the data and organize the information for the email notifications to be sent for the more than 200 awards being given. The email award notifications were all sent out Dec 28th with the appropriate attachments. With the exception of 2 individuals, the replies were received by EOD Dec 31st.

We would like to make a few recommendations going forward, to make this process less unwieldy and challenging. First, members need to keep updated email address in ECTRA database. An email was sent to the Newsletter to encourage members to update email information and/or provide a contact phone number when they renew their memberships. Secondly, the ride year calendar needs to be discussed. In order to get this new award system ordering done in a timely manner, we need all information by the end of November. Looking at the ride calendar, all rides in our region are done by mid-November. Outside Mileage in December would be counted for the following year. This change would alleviate a great deal of

pressure, without negatively impacting members. Additionally it would not have an impact on the December holidays, as is the case currently. Thirdly, we are endeavoring to improve the program, with the able assistance of Jo Steele, to allow single data entry, which could be easily uploaded to the database. This will be of great benefit to both the Points and Awards Committees, as well as maintaining an up to date database.

We hope that the membership is pleased with our work. If you have a chance to thank Greg and Brenda, please do so!
Esther and Beth

Driving: Jenny Kimberly

There are not many drivers, and as much as we try to get combined driving people and other drivers involved, they don't come. Robin Groves has set such a good example as to how CTR (drive) gets her horse fit to do all the other things he does and how good the cross training is. We did get a new driver in the January Thaw CDD fifteen miler. A management issue is trying to get a driving route that coincides with a riding route. NJ doesn't have that problem but in VT we do. It is hard to mark a route for 1 or 2 drivers and have water stops etc. Otherwise all is well with drivers. Jenny Kimberly

Drug Testing: Heather Hoyns DVM

No Drug Testing was done in the 2016 competition year for a variety of reasons. Will need to explore a new lab for drug testing.

Electronic Scoring: Wilson Ring

Nothing happened on the electronic scoring front over the last year. The website works and the system works, although there are always ways to make it better. Like I mentioned to Wanda in an email last month, for a variety of personal reasons I couldn't focus on expanding the system in the last season. Hopefully that has passed and I will be freer to do that in the upcoming season.

I was the one who got ECTRA to spend a lot of money on this system and I remain committed to making it work. I think what I said when I began the process is now more true than ever; as young people come into ECTRA they are going to expect the process to be done electronically. I want to make this work, but I can't do it anymore by myself. I need someone, preferably more than one person, who will also take an interest in expanding the use of the system. I hope that person, or people, will come forward. Respectfully, Wilson Ring

Event Rep: Vickie Smith NO REPORT

Event Volunteers: Helen Stacy

Since its inception in 1991, the Volunteer Worker Mileage Program has 69 workers and 92,297 accumulated miles. It can take an average of one worker per rider to put on a competitive trail ride. We really appreciate our volunteers - did you know that if you help at a multi-day ride you will receive maximum mileage even if you could help only one day? As you can see, those miles will tally up fast.

There are many more ECTRA members volunteering out there so remember send in your mileage to me on a regular basis and be recognized and earn your belt buckle. It's a great way to get friends and family involved in the sport too. We want to share in the fun and camaraderie and ride managers may need the help!

In 2007, there was an award started in memory of one of our founders, the "Jane Soule Volunteer Award". Each year, the Volunteer Chair presents name(s) to the ECTRA BOD for their vote on who deserves this award. Let me know of your choice for this award in the coming year and why. The person must be a current ECTRA member but is not required to be active in ECTRA's volunteer mileage program.

Thank you for your support, bring your family to competitions and have a great ride season!

Honorees: Lee Alexander : NO REPORT

Judging Certification & Evaluation: Nick Kohut DVM & Louise Lester

This was a quiet year for the committee. There were no new judges taking the Judges test, neither Lay nor Veterinarian.

There were 62 competitive events this past year (each drive and ride at each distance counts as a separate event). Ride managers employed 9 different Veterinary judges and 12 different Lay judges.

I received 34 Mail-In Judges Evaluation sheets along with several emails concerning judges. Most of the issues raised had to do with a lack of knowledge of the current rules. As always, the committee recommends that all judges obtain a copy of the current ECTRA rulebook (updated annually on the ECTRA website) and read through it prior to working their first ride of the New Year.

Nick Kohut, Chairman, Louise Lester, Eva Norris

Judge Testing: Terry Buckley NO REPORT

Membership: Marilyn Miles

Memberships as follows - the number for family is the membership and does not include number of individuals in a family unit.

Family	- 51	Honorary	- 16
Individual	- 233	Junior	- 12
Honorary + family	- 3		
Total memberships	- 315		
Number of horses	- 422		

Marilyn Miles , Membership

Mileage & Points:

No report

Newsletter: Judy Lorimer

Eleven issues of the newsletter were published in 2016: a combined January/February issue and monthly issues from March through December. There was only one oversized issue this year, in March. The number of paper copies continues to diminish, as more and more areas of the Northeast are providing high speed internet service -- we are down to about 45 paper copies.

Total costs for the newsletter in 2016 came to \$1562.13; the January/February issue, which is mailed out via USPS to all members because of the ballot and all the year-end ECTRA Winter Getaway information, is obviously the most expensive because of the printing and postage costs.

Some of our members have helped provide news items on a regular basis, along with great photos.....keep the news coming! It makes the newsletter much more interesting. Thanks to all the committees - Sanctioning, for the monthly Events Listings; Points and Mileage, for Ride Results and Outside Mileage; and the ECTRA Secretary, for BOD minutes - that send essential information on a regular basis, as well as the other committee heads who pass on their news in a timely manner. would like to remind Ride Managers to send me publicity information well in advance of your ride date. The deadline for all issues except Jan/Feb is the 20th of the preceding month. If you have an early season ride (e.g. April) you need to send me your publicity by February 20th, in order to get your write up into the March issue.

Thanks for your support -- my first issue was in April 1980, so 2017 will be starting my 38th year as editor. Best wishes for a terrific year on the trail! Judy Lorimer, editor

Nominating: Esther Fiddes

There were three open positions for Directors this year. I was able to get three excellent candidates to run: Kate Vogel, Dr. Joan Hiltz, DVM, and Rebecca Wachtel. Officer positions are as follows: Wanda Stazick, President, Esther Fiddes, VP, Ellen Tully, Treasurer, and Lindsey Cooke, Secretary. Next year we will need to fill 2 Board positions, so please give some thought to running next year.

Respectfully submitted, Esther Fiddes

Protest: Cindy Young Nothing to report.

PR & Education: Patty Brooks

I kinda fell into the position of **PR & Education Committee Chair** as promotion and marketing have been my expertise. Elaine Larson, who preceded me, concentrated on education. So I was her side kick working on promotion.

My goal has been to get as much free press as I can for what ECTRA's about. I believe there are a vast number of horse owners out there who'd like to explore other things to do with their horses than simply ride around in circles.

I also want to reach the casual trail rider who might want to step it up a notch and I believe our CDRs are a perfect match for these folks. To that end, I try to send out to local press/radio/TV press releases for rides that fill out the form on the website. I'm being very successful with this and am currently racking my brain for different approaches to the media.

I am not proficient with social media and certainly could use a committee member who would commit to putting the info I gather on FB, etc.

I have been able to get feature articles about ECTRA and CTRs in a number of horse magazines. Most of these magazines pay me and I usually turn the amount into small ads for ECTRA. The most recent article was in *Connecticut Horse*. I hope to have Wanda bring copies of it to the Convention. My challenge with some of these articles is that the magazines want me to talk about the rides that take place in their readership. I usually can find ways around that.

Currently *Pennsylvania Equestrian* has told me they would be happy to run an article if I could list the rides taking place in PA. The issue I'm aiming for would be the one the magazine takes to the PA Expo.

Wanda can tell you about the local access TV video we did geared to promote family involvement with trail riding. If ride mgrs would send me their local access station, I'm told the stations are usually happy to run it. Some stations are fussy in that they want the local person (someone involved with the ride) to actually bring it to ...and pick it up....the station.

I've done virtually nothing with education, except for one 3 hr presentation to a group in NH that included using ECTRA's existing promotional tape/ DVD then a Q/A period. I would like to book more of these using experienced ECTRA members in the vicinity of the meeting. I understand some feel that the DVD has room for improvement. The only thing I thought was not the best is that so much of the footage was taken at a rainy ride. I don't have a copy of the DVD. I would like a copy; riding clubs, 4-H, etc are always looking for something to add to meetings. It could be put to good use and I feel confident I could get the ball rolling, if I had a copy. I'm OK with the "rainy" DVD-- at least until a new one is made.

So, I do work alone. I would like someone to get the material I put together out on social media. Let me know if you need to know anything else.

Patti Brooks Patti@PattiBrooksBooks.com

Ride Managers: Cate Peloquin

We continue to face challenges with regard to consistency among rides. One goal this year is to mail everyone a paper copy of the rule book and put together an email group to enable us to communicate more effectively. Electronic Scoring will hopefully be up and running this year and a few Ride Managers will be tasked with the Beta testing and then the actual implementation. I would like to also help communicate the rules for judging a CDR. It should not be different from ride to ride. Riders should know what to expect. I am seeking a Ride Manager for the Cheshire Ride in Maryland. This ride has a great support system and would be perfect for a first time Ride Manager.

AERC does a round of clinics called Endurance 101. If we could find a way to have a RM provide this service that would be awesome.

I am hopeful this year sees Ride Managers get more involved in ECTRA. One of the ways to get involved is to make constructive suggestions on how we can do things better, or more effectively or more consistently.

Safety: Wilson Ring

No safety issues have been brought to the attention of the committee in the last year. When I volunteered for this position, I thought it could be used to look at mishaps or accidents and find common threads or suggestions that would be pointed out to other riders to reduce the chance that such mishaps could happen again. Fortunately, in all the years I was doing it, there was only one equine fatality report that was given to me and there were no lessons that could be drawn from that incident. I have also occasionally provided safety tips for the website. I have not kept that up. Consequently I would like to leave the safety committee.

Sanctioning: Wanda Stazick

In 2016 we sanctioned 20 competitive trail rides and co sanctioned 16 endurance rides with AERC. Two competitive trail rides were cancelled due to low entries. As of January 23, 2017 there are 14 competitive trail rides sanctioned and 13 endurance rides co sanctioned with AERC. Last year 6 rides used ECTRA ride insurance the rest had their own.

The application form and process were streamlined in 2016. In January 2017 the new Drug Test Fee process changed. The fees are now paid to the ECTRA Treasurer after the ride is complete at a cost of \$2.00 per rider, if the fee is not received by the Treasurer points and mileage will not be awarded.

Star Rating: Ben Fangman NO REPORT

Trail Preservation: Dan Gruen NO REPORT

Veterinary: Heather Hoyns DVM NO REPORT

Website: Sherry Morse

- Template - limited by what Website host provides so currently no way to get rid of giant white space on front page, add slideshow to front page, or add search button to the front page
- Suggest moving to different hosting service (Weebly, WordPress, Google Sites, etc.) when current contract is over to expand programming options on website
- Would like to add:
 - o Front Page:
 - Countdown Timer to next ride on front page P.9

- **SUGGESTED ADDITIONS TO WEBSITE, CONTINUED**
- BECOME A MEMBER button . Monthly articles of interest - i.e. early ECTRA members, early ride stories, early horses, etc...
- o About CTR/Education Page : Pictures/videos to show what a CTR is, what happens at a vet check, etc. Sample schedule for a CTR What to expect at a CTR
 - Suggested Conditioning Schedule
- o ECTRA History page - more than just the current "About Us" information
- o Results Page : Ride Results for current year— Current mileage totals - monthly report if not actual access to searchable database
- o Awards page featuring Horse and Rider Milestones; Volunteers of the Year Historical list ; Honorary Members ; Current and Historical Awards listing; Explanation of Awards Program
- o Volunteer Information Page
- o Support ECTRA page with information on sponsorship options, downloadable sponsor information, etc.
- Changes that did not happen in 2016 are the same as did not happen in 2015: Awards page; Results page; About CTR page; Volunteer Information page; Support ECTRA page; ECTRA History
- Website visitation has remained static for the last several years - most visits are very short, involve just a few pages and are evenly split between new and return visitors
- I would respectfully suggest the ECTRA board consider moving their current forms to interactive versions that will allow users to pay online using PayPal or a credit card OR send in a check for payment if they prefer.
 - o The simplest platform I have found for doing this is www.emailmeform.com which does require a PayPal account for the organization.
 - o The paid version of this program is \$10/month and allows for a multitude of forms to be created and then directed to specific individuals and can also be used to generate a checklist of specified information.
 - As a sample of how a membership form can be set up please look at: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/8C8c2I0nb0QTdLX3U1c> which is the membership form for LVDA. All of the information entered in this form is then automatically entered into a spreadsheet that the membership secretary uses to confirm membership for the various club events.
 - o I would be happy to answer any questions on this product that the board has. P.10

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E.C.T.R.A. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 4th, 2017 Regency Inn Boxborough MA

Call to order: 5:00 pm

Directors present: Nick Kohut DVM, Wanda Stazick, Lindsey Cooke, Esther Fiddes, Char Jewel, Cate Pelouquin, Louise Lester, Bill Lasher.

Others present: Beth Sheldon, Kate Vogel, Nina Dimoff, Kim Lyttle, Dan Gruen, Rebecca Wachtel. Megan Thompson, Jeanette Webber, Joan Hiltz VMD, Leslie Brooks, Cynthia Young, Mary Coleman, Dr. Art King, Karen Countryman, Judy Lorimer, Roxanne Winslow, Monica McKenna, Sarah Buckley, Stephanie Buckley, Connie Walker, Michelle Grald, Amanda Stazick

Motion by Kim Lyttle and 2nd by Kate Vogel to accept Minutes from 2015 Annual Members Meeting. All approved.

Election announcements by Nick Kohut: President- Wanda Stazick, Vice President-Esther Fiddes, Secretary-Lindsey Cooke Treasurer-Ellen Tully. Directors at large: Char Jewel, Bill Lasher, Becca Wachtel, Kate Vogel and Joan Hiltz VMD.

New business:

The following question was submitted by Nancy Russell: “Please consider allowing the use of Regu-Mate with mares to regulate estrus cycles. It equates to gelding a stallion hormonally speaking. Many mare owners or prospective buyers will not use mares for CTRs based on current regulations.” Question was reviewed and discussed with members present, no motions made to change current drug rule.

Open discussion for the need for juniors/youth in our sport. Many members have reached out to their local 4-H clubs, Pony Clubs and other various youth based riding organizations.

Open discussion concerning having CTRs on the same weekend as endurance rides. Current rule/by-law does not permit this. On agenda for 3-12-17 BOD meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm Respectfully submitted, Lindsey Cooke, ECTRA Secretary

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2017 ECTRA Sanctioned Events (as of 03/17/17)

Wanda Stazick, Sanctioning, Phone (860)447-3976, wstazick@sbcglobal.net
 State/Date/Mileage/Ride Name/Contact Info (PF = Pass/Fail Offered)
 Latest Updates are highlighted in **YELLOW!**

LIMITED DISTANCE CTR, 1-DAY, 25-40 MILES

<u>State</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Dis</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact</u>
NJ	3/26	25	Bunny Hop PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 Lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
MD	4/2	25	Chesapeake Spring PF	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
MA	4/22	25	Leverett 25 PF	Liz Gibbons 413-695-2568 gibbonsem@gmail.com
PA	4/30	26	Cheshire CTR PF	Kim Colket 610-933-7074 rkcolket@verizon.net
NJ	5/12	40	NJ 100 + PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/13	35	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/14	25	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NH	5/13	25	VERDA Brown Bag PF	Wendy Bejarano 802-484-3406 dbwb@myfairpoint.net
ME	5/27	30	Maine PF	Louise Lester, 207-655-4224 louise1@maine.rr.com
ME	5/28	30	Maine PF	Louise Lester, 207-655-4224 louise1@maine.rr.com
VT	6/10	25	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
PA	6/17	25	Rock & Roll Ride	Gloria Fawcett, 724-868-2764 glofaw@gmail.com
NY	6/24	30	Brookfield 30/50 PF	Joanna Lasher 518-882-1515 JoLasher65@gmail.com
PA	7/29	25	Muckleratz Run CTR	Lindsey Cooke 717-599-9922 lacy393@gmail.com
PA	7/30	25	Muckleratz Run CTR	Lindsey Cooke 717-599-9922 lacy393@gmail.com
VT	8/5	25	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
VT	8/6	25	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
VT	9/1	40	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
VT	9/2	35	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
VT	9/3	25	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
MD	9/23	30	Chesapeake Fall PF	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
NJ	10/28	25	Jersey Devil PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	10/29	25	Jersey Devil PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com

MIDDLE DISTANCE CTR: (2 days, 40 – 75mi)

NJ	5/13-5/14	60	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
PA	7/29 – 7/30	50	Muckleratz Run CTR	Lindsey Cooke 717-599-9922 lacy393@gmail.com
VT	8/5 – 8/6	50	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
ME	5/27 – 5/28	60	Maine PF	Louise Lester, 207-655-4224 louise1@maine.rr.com
NY	6/24- 6/25	50	Brookfield 30/50 PF	Joanna Lasher 518-882-1515 JoLasher65@gmail.com
VT	9/1 – 9/2	75	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
VT	9/2 – 9/3	60	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
MD	9/23 – 9/24	50	Chesapeake Fall PF	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
NJ	10/28 – 10/29	50	Jersey Devil PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com

EXTENDED DISTANCE CTR: (3 days, 80 – 100mi)

NJ	5/12-5/14	100	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-698 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
ME	5/27 – 5/29	80	Maine PF	Louise Lester, 207-655-4224 louise1@maine.rr.com
VT	9/1 – 9/3	100	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
MD	9/22-9/24	80	Chesapeake Fall PF	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
MD	9/22 – 9/24	100	Chesapeake Fall PF	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com

DRIVES CTR: 1-3 DAYS, 25 - 100 MILES

NJ	3/26	25	Bunny Hop PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 Lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ	5/12	40	NJ 100 +	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/13	35	NJ 100+	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/14	25	NJ 100+	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/13-5/14	60	NJ 100+	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/12-5/14	100	NJ 100+	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-698 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
VT	8/5	25	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
VT	8/6.	25	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
VT	8/5 – 8/6	50	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
NJ	10/28	25	Jersey Devil PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	10/29	25	Jersey Devil PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	10/28 -29	50	Jersey Devil PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com

CONDITIONING DISTANCE RIDES AND DRIVES (R&D MEANS BOTH RIDE AND DRIVE)

NJ	3/26	10	Bunny Hop PF (R&D)	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 Lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ	3/26	15	Bunny Hop PF (R&D)	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 Lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
MD	4/2	13	Chesapeake Spring PF	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
MA	4/22	15	Leverett 25 PF	Liz Gibbons 413-695-2568 gibbonsem@gmail.com
VT	4/29	15	GMHA Mud R&D	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
PA	4/30	13	Cheshire CTR PF	Kim Colket 610-933-7074 rkcolket@verizon.net
NH	5/13	15	VERDA Brown Bag PF	Wendy Bejarano 802-484-3406 dbwb@myfairpoint.net
NJ	5/12	10	NJ 100+ (R&D)	Eileen Mullen 856-701-6742 eileenjmullen@gmail.com
NJ	5/13	10	NJ 100+ (R&D)	Eileen Mullen 856-701-6742 eileenjmullen@gmail.com
NJ	5/14	10	NJ 100+ (R&D)	Eileen Mullen 856-701-6742 eileenjmullen@gmail.com
ME	5/29	10	Maine P	Louise Lester, 207-655-4224 louise1@maine.rr.com
VT	6/10	15	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
NY	6/24	15	Brookfield 30/50 PF	Joanna Lasher 518-882-1515 JoLasher65@gmail.com
PA	7/29	12.5	Muckleratz Run CTR	Lindsey Cooke 717-599-9922 lacy393@gmail.com
PA	7/30	12.5	Muckleratz Run CTR	Lindsey Cooke 717-599-9922 lacy393@gmail.com
VT	9/2	15	GMHA PF	Chelle Grald, 802-457-1509 michelle@gmhainc.org
MD	9/23	15	Chesapeake Fall PF	Cate Peloquin, 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
NJ	10/28	10	Jersey Devil PF (R&D)	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	10/28	15	Jersey Devil PF (R&D)	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	10/29	10	Jersey Devil PF (R&D)	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	10/29	15	Jersey Devil PF (R&D)	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com

CTR CLINIC

NY	5/6	5	Brookfield CTR Clinic	Joanna Lasher 518-882-1515 JoLasher65@gmail.com
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ENDURANCE, 1-3 DAYS, 50 - 100 MILES, CO-SANCTIONED BY AERC

NJ	3/25	50	Rabbit Run	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	Lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
MD	4/8	50	Foxcatcher	Louisa Emerick	410-398-7234	Louisaeme@comcast.net
VA	4/21	55	Old Dominion No Frills	Diane Connolly,	540-668-6311	dconnolly24@gmail.com
VA	4/22	55	Old Dominion No Frills	Diane Connolly,	540-668-6311	dconnolly24@gmail.com
NC	5/5	50	Biltmore Challenge	Cheryl Newman	828-665-1531	cherylnewman@charter.net
NC	5/6	55	Biltmore Challenge	Cheryl Newman	828-665-1531	cherylnewman@charter.net
NC	5/6	75	Biltmore Challenge	Cheryl Newman	828-665-1531	cherylnewman@charter.net
NC	5/6	100	Biltmore Challenge	Cheryl Newman	828-665-1531	cherylnewman@charter.net
NH	5/14	50	VERDA Bare Bones	Ruth Ferland	603-443-3070	ruthfrind@aol.com
NY	5/28	50	New York Adventure	Dodie Sable,	610-756-3836	dodie@newpromisefarms.com
VA	6/9	50	Old Dominion	Skip Kremerer	301-293-2949	skippykemerer@aol.com
VA	6/10	100	Old Dominion	Skip Kremerer	301-293-2949	skippykemerer@aol.com
VT	6/11	50	GMHA Spring	Chelle Grald,	802-457-1509	michelle@gmhainc.org
PA	7/2	50	Muckleratz Run	Lindsey Cooke	717-599-9922	lacy393@gmail.com
VT	7/15	50	Moonlight in VT	Jo Steele	603-208-7005,	josteel@mac.com
VT	7/15	75	Moonlight in VT	Jo Steele	603-208-7005,	josteel@mac.com
VT	7/15	100	Moonlight in VT	Jo Steele	603-208-7005,	josteel@mac.com
ME	8/1	50	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/2	50	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/3	50	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/4	55	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/5	50	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/26	50	Northeast Challenge	Blaine Jack	603-942-8171	B.D.Jack@hotmail.com
ME	8/26	100	Northeast Challenge	Blaine Jack	603-942-8171	B.D.Jack@hotmail.com
NY	9/9	55	Hector Half Hundred	Eva Norris	607-693-1725,	EVA8391@aol.com
VT	10/14	50	GMHA Fall	Chelle Grald,	802-457-1509	michelle@gmhainc.org
VA	10/20	50	Fort Valley I	Claire Godwin,	DVM 240-687-1450	crgdvm@aol.com
VA	10/21	50	Fort Valley II	Claire Godwin,	DVM 240-687-1450	crgdvm@aol.com

LIMITED DISTANCE ENDURANCE, 1 DAY, 25-35 MILES, CO-SANCTIONED BY AERC

NJ	3/25	30	Rabbit Run	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	Lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
MD	4/8	25	Foxcatcher	Louisa Emerick	410-398-7234	Louisaeme@comcast.net
VA	4/21	30	Old Dominion No Frills	Diane Connolly,	540-668-6311	dconnolly24@gmail.com
VA	4/22	30	Old Dominion No Frills	Diane Connolly,	540-668-6311	dconnolly24@gmail.com
NC	5/5	25	Biltmore Challenge	Cheryl Newman	828-665-1531	cherylnewman@charter.net
NC	5/6	30	Biltmore Challenge	Cheryl Newman	828-665-1531	cherylnewman@charter.net
NH	5/14	30	VERDA Bare Bones	Ruth Ferland	603-443-3070	ruthfrind@aol.com
NY	5/28	30	New York Adventure	Dodie Sable,	610-756-3836	dodie@newpromisefarms.com
VA	6/9	25	Old Dominion	Skip Kremerer	301-293-2949	skippykemerer@aol.com
VT	6/11	25	GMHA Spring	Chelle Grald,	802-457-1509	michelle@gmhainc.org
PA	7/2	25	Muckleratz Run	Lindsey Cooke	717-599-9922	lacy393@gmail.com
ME	8/1	25	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/2	25	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/3	30	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/4	25	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/5	25	Pine Tree	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
ME	8/26	30	Northeast Challenge	Blaine Jack	603-942-8171	B.D.Jack@hotmail.com
NY	9/9	35	Hector Half Hundred	Eva Norris	607-693-1725,	EVA8391@aol.com
VT	10/14	30	GMHA Fall	Chelle Grald,	802-457-1509	michelle@gmhainc.org
VA	10/20	30	Fort Valley I	Claire Godwin,	DVM 240-687-1450	crgdvm@aol.com
VA	10/21	30	Fort Valley II	Claire Godwin,	DVM 240-687-1450	crgdvm@aol.com

ENDURANCE INTRO RIDE, 1 DAY, LESS THAN 25 MILES, CO-SANCTIONED BY AERC

VT	6/11	15	GMHA Spring	Chelle Grald,	802-457-1509	michelle@gmhainc.org
NY	9/9	15	Hector Half Hundred	Eva Norris	607-693-1725,	EVA8391@aol.com

ECTRA NEWSLETTER
JUDY LORIMER
83 GROTON ST
PEPPERELL, MA 01463
JMLORIMER@JUNO.COM

APRIL 2017

Deadline for the MAY issue is
APRIL 20th

CLASSIFIED ADS

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dogs, be a non-smoker and have excellent
work and personal references. Board for horse
and opportunity to ride. Lovely trails, inside
arena Joan Stratemeyer, Langdon NH; e-mail
joans@myfairpoint.net;
www.langwoodfarms.com.

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