

2026 January

Junior/Young Rider Committee Report

January 2026 Jr/Yr committee quarterly report-activity since October.

The office asked if we would send personal e-mails to new joining juniors and young riders. The office would send the names to our committee and Lisa Shneider and MJ Fridley have volunteered to write them welcoming e-mails.

We supported the Barefoot in NM ride with Jr's Ride For Free and Stand Alone Jr BC. We also hosted a Scavenger Hunt for knowledge, when the young people found Hall of Famers and vets and asked questions about saddles, how to trot out well, how to look good for the ride photographer and the best strategy for climbing hills.

We have enlisted authors for the Jr/Yr section of EN...a writer from Canada and some of our own committee members who are also Young Riders: AnnaMaria Clarke and Emilee Randall. Alanna Frank interviewed some former winners of the Anne Ayala scholarship, wrote about them, and led me to thinking about an article for EN about this much loved lady. I have gathered wonderful information for the article and plan to also put it on the website by the Scholarship information. The Scholarship form has also been updated.

Elizabeth Farina attended a CTR and intro ride in NJ. All but 3 competitors were Juniors or Young Riders due to her influence. She has put the Pony Club on the back burner for now, but Maureen Fehrs is planning on attending the Pony Club Convention this month in her area. We are anxious to get her report.

I have collaborated with AnnaMaria Clarke to be on the Young Rider Instagram page. The name of it is: youngriderzz

Respectfully submitted, Maribel Paulson Jr/Yr committee chair

Ride Managers Committee Report

The Ride Manager Committee has been active in responding to common questions and concerns raised by the membership. Committee members authored several articles for *Endurance News* addressing frequently requested topics, including: *What AERC Does to Support Ride Managers*, *Trail Etiquette*, and the *Importance of Accurate Trail Measurement*, particularly in response to recent concerns about rides being measured "too long."

The committee also responded to a membership request to establish a Ride Manager Support Fund. After discussion, it was determined that such a fund would not be workable within AERC's current structure, and the reasons for this were communicated to the membership.

Additionally, the committee has begun in-depth discussions regarding whether AERC Ride Managers should be certified in some manner. Topics under consideration include potential requirements such as testing, mentoring, minimum mileage or experience levels, and whether Ride Managers should be permitted to ride in their own events. These discussions are ongoing and will continue as the committee evaluates possible options and implications.

Veterinary Committee Report

Actions of the Veterinary Committee since the mid-year Board meeting, July 2025

1. Provided biosecurity guidelines to ride managers, control judges and competitors during EHV outbreak.
2. Held committee election in November of 2025
3. Worked with rules committee to clarify and update rule L.4.1 – the timing of LD completion exams.
4. Sent out periodic informational emails to AERC Veterinarians
5. Continued work on fatality reporting
6. Submitted motion for adding Far Infrared Radiation treatment to Prohibited Treatment appendix
7. Counseled control judges and treatment veterinarians as needed.
8. Administered the AERC Drug Testing Program, including reviewing and working with the legal committee on adverse laboratory findings. Advised the Protest and Grievance committee on the significance of positive drug tests.
9. Wrote monthly articles for the Vet Forum column in EN
10. Answered questions about prohibited substances to members
11. Counseled new ride managers on control of rides

Goals and current projects:

1. Review, discuss and make a recommendation to the AERC BoD on the use of ophthalmic cyclosporine in competition horses.
2. Update the LD rules to clarify the completion criteria timing for LD riders
3. Complete the review and update of the veterinary certification exams
4. Continue periodic informational emails to AERC Veterinarians
5. Plan for the AERC Veterinary CE in 2027

6. Expand upon the drug testing notification to the Protest and Grievance committee on adverse laboratory findings.