

2026 July

Competition Committee Report

1. The Committee is working on a draft of a motion for 50 mile rides, similar to the one passed last year for 100 mile rides, which would give full points to riders on 50 mile rides that have 5 or more riders. We will have this motion ready for the Mid-Year Board meeting. Currently, in many regions, Days 2 and 3 on 50 mile rides frequently have just a few riders, while the LD riders are many.

2. The Committee received a letter from a member requesting us to evaluate a formal 'riding mentorship' for new riders. She proposed having a formal program where experienced members volunteer to ride with a new rider on their first LD or 50. She also suggested a monetary reward for these volunteers, such as a free ride entry, or payment from AERC. While the committee appreciated her proposal, we all agreed it would not be feasible for a number of reasons. We thought it would be difficult to find riders willing to mentor someone they didn't know, as well as setting it up well ahead of time. Ride Managers need every entry to make ends meet, so the idea of a free entry is not feasible. The consensus of the committee was that informal ride mentorship already exists, through word of mouth and social media. Oftentimes new riders will post that they are looking for someone to ride with, and more often than not, there is someone willing. We encouraged this member to reach out to her local club (Arizona riders), and through social media to find folks to train and ride with.

Respectfully submitted,
Naomi Preston

Junior/Young Rider Committee Report

We now have 69 New Members who are Juniors and Young Riders for this ride season. We are still sending welcome e-mails to all of them. Lisa Schneider has resigned from the committee, so Mary Jane Fridley and I are taking turns on the e-mails.

Here is the breakdown by region:

Central 4, MW 10, MT 10, NE 10, NW 6, PS 2, SE 13, SW 2, W 12

We provided free entries for Juniors at two rides: Dry River ride and Caja del Rio. We also provided the Jr BC at Dry River.

At the YR Championship, several board members were in attendance, including Tami Rougeau from the Jr/Yr committee. AnnaMaria Clarke, another committee member, rode and completed the 100. Tami reported that the Young Riders did well. There were two pulls. They exhibited great horsemanship and sportsmanship. Avery Betz was the first YR in the open division.

We have been working hard on a motion for a raffle for Juniors to ride for free. An anonymous donor has offered to kick start the program. The details will be in the motion. We hope to present it at the July 13 Board meeting.

We continue to submit Junior based articles for Endurance News.

Respectfully submitted, Maribel Paulson Jr/Yr committee chair

Ride Managers Committee Report

The Ride Managers Committee has continued to focus on current issues affecting ride management and the endurance community. Through our recent *Endurance News* articles, we have addressed topics including rider conduct and sportsmanship, the increasing costs of putting on rides in today's economic environment, awareness of the New World Screwworm situation, and we've also made an effort to include some lighter, enjoyable content, such as highlighting the many fun-themed fall rides on the AERC calendar.

Within our private Ride Manager discussion group, we've had productive conversations regarding professional ride manager conduct, the importance of fully disclosing all ride-related fees in ride flyers, and practical approaches to feeding volunteers while balancing the expectations of individuals who provide only minimal assistance. These discussions have provided valuable opportunities for ride managers to share experiences and best practices.

As directed, the committee has also reviewed and provided input on motions originating from the various AERC committees as they have been presented.

Respectfully submitted,

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, RM Committee Chair

Veterinary Committee Report

Actions of the Veterinary Committee since January, 2026

- 1) Have continued sending out periodic informational emails to AERC Veterinarians
- 2) Continued work on fatality reporting
- 3) Counseled control judges and treatment veterinarians as needed.

- 4) Administered the AERC Drug Testing Program and wrote opinions on adverse analytical findings. Advised the Protest and Grievance committee on the significance of positive drug tests.
- 5) Wrote monthly articles for the Vet Forum column in EN
- 6) Answered questions about prohibited substances to members
- 7) Counseled new ride managers on control of rides
- 8) Worked with Protest and Grievance Committee to develop a motion to limit the available time for a respondent to request the testing of the "B" sample in the case of a protest filed for a violation of the AERC drug rule.
- 9) Put three motions before the board updating the drug rule: 1) levamisole metabolites, 2) selective androgenic receptor modulators (SARM), selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERM) and P450 aromatase inhibitors to Rule 13, Appendix B categories of prohibited substances. Added ostarine (classified as a SARM) to Appendix A, prohibited substances 3) Added ophthalmic application of cyclosporine to Appendix C allowed substances.
- 10) Have begun the planning of the 2027 AERC Veterinary CE

Goals and current projects:

- 1) Complete the review and update of the veterinary certification exams
- 2) Continue periodic informational emails to AERC Veterinarians
- 3) Planning for the AERC Veterinary CE in 2027
- 4) Consider updating Rule 13, the AERC drug rule to prohibit "stacked" NSAIDS or NSAIDS used in combination (non steroidal anti-inflammatory agents) regardless of detected levels.
- 5) Develop motion to prohibit synephrine and SGLT2 inhibitors as a category
- 6) Finalize fatality reports that are outstanding