

BACK TO BLACK

AS OF 2014 only 16 Appaloosas in history have earned Gold Medallions, and of that elite group, Back To Black, "Kobie," is the only Appaloosa to have earned three Gold Medallions. He joins the short list of Appaloosas to be inducted into the Hall of Fame while still living, based on epic success.

The 2003 gelding by Classic Black and out of Bet On Black is a product of the late Karen Grimm's program. Out of her Black Horse Ranch in Minden, Nevada, Karen (at right, third from right) made her mark in the Appaloosa world and still stands as one of only two breeders to have produced two gold medallion-earning horses with Classic Black and Back To Black. Karen also impressively bred four Hall of Fame horses: Night Deck (2000), Night Vision (2005), Recurring Dream (2005) and now Back To Black whose induction is automatic based on performance. Karen herself was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009.

In May of 2013, Back To Black was purchased by Christy Wallace of Schriever, Louisiana, after being contacted by Jim and Sandy Jirkovsky, who were in care of the horse after Karen's passing. Christy and Kobie have since competed and claimed the national title in Saddle Seat Pleasure at the 66th and 67th National Championship Appaloosa Shows earning the first two gold medallions. They went on to win the World Championship title in Saddle Seat Pleasure in 2014, thus earning his third gold medallion and a much-triumphed position in the Appaloosa Hall of Fame.

ApHC trainer, judge and longtime friend of Karen's, Sandy Jirkovsky said, "Karen Grimm was always a woman with a vision. When Kobie was born her dreams for raising a multiple gold medallion winner began. She started the process by winning his first medallion in Hunter in Hand. It gives Jim and me great pleasure to help Karen's dreams become reality. I know she has a huge celebration in Heaven every time Kobie and Christy add another gold medallion to his record! Thanks to everybody for helping Karen's goal to be reached."

According to Christy, Back To Black has a big personality and has been nothing less than amazing. He shows a keen intelligence, especially when trying new things, and the pair make a great team, gaining more trust each time they work together. The duo was even featured in a regional Louisiana lifestyle magazine, *Point of Vue*, in which they were recognized for their successes.

Kobie's Silver Medallion came in 2010 in Competitive Trail Riding and that's not the only versatility he has proven. He has eleven National or World Championships, five Reserves, seven Top Tens, four Registers of Merit, five Year End Top Tens and a Club Champion Award in everything from Saddle Seat to Foundation Pedigree



Designation Halter; Judged Heading to Pleasure Driving; and Keyhole to Hunter Hack.

Back To Black was bred for and is a true example of Appaloosa quality and versatility. He is multitasking and represents the character of Karen's breeding program. His achievements are great and his place in the ApHC Hall of Fame is well deserved.

