



# APPALOOSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENDURANCE RIDE 2013

SUBMITTED BY LUCY HESS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUG SMITH

**THE 2013 APPALOOSA** National Championship Endurance Ride (ANCER), held November 2 at Bill Wilson's farm near Henryville, Indiana, in conjunction with the Spook Run AERC ride managed by Bob and Lois McAfee, hosted 12 Appaloosa riders in fierce competition, made even more difficult by inclement weather the previous day.

Jacob Cukati, 2012 champion from California, ran into snow several times crossing the mountains. Heavy rains and strong wind raked the area, making the haul to the ride difficult. The riders arriving to the ride site early had to contend with severe storm warnings, including a Tornado warning.

The day of the ride, the weather cooperated; the dawn's light through the trees was golden due to the heavy fall foliage. An invigorating chill filled the air at first. The day stayed cool, with the wind increasing and temperatures dropping.

From Maryland on the East Coast came three-time ANCER champion Cat Carter, who rode Kim Lyttle's horse Khan's Magic Piper instead of her winning horse Thespurofthemoment, "Spur." Lyttle had had a serious riding accident that kept her from riding.

Appaloosa endurance horse breeders Jeff Hartman and Carol Ann Beckner each had two of their horses competing in the ride: Bombay Ghazi Khan and Khan's Magic Piper were Hartman's; Fly Ha Dar Chel and Chelsea Image Bee were Beckner's.

The ride began with a "controlled" start because the riders had to ride a short distance on pavement before mounting the trail. Once on the trail, the Appaloosa race began.

Six riders—Hartman, Carter, Lindsey Cooke, Patty Jo Duda, Cukati and Julie Figg—composed the fast, hard-riding front group.

"The first three miles were crazy fast, fast because it was a cool, beautiful morning, fresh horses and a pack being competitive," Figg said.

In the first loop, Hartman stayed up front, with Cukati behind him, unfortunately, three riders (Carter, Cooke, and Duda) missed a turn and went about five miles out of their







way, placing them far behind. For the second half of the first loop Hartman, Figg and Cukati were the front runners. Kathy Torgeson, Trish Harrop, Duda, Gail Otto and Beckner followed close behind. Karen Gerken and Lucie Hess were the last riders, but an incident within the first three miles caused both to pull.

The order of riders changed during the second loop—a technical, single track trail of major climbs and descents. Hartman stayed half an hour in front of the rest of the pack, Carter and Cooke passed Figg on a paved road, and Cukati dropped back.

The third loop had Hartman in front with Carter and Cooke running second and third. Figg stayed fourth, and Cukati dropped back with Torgeson moving into fifth.

Hartman finished first (20 minutes ahead of Carter and Cooke). Carter and Cooke raced at the finish with Cooke's horse outrunning Carter's horse by a length. Hartman's horse won Best Condition and was presented with the George Hatley Memorial Best Condition Award.

Hess had bad luck when her horse bucked her off within three miles of the start. Gerken went back for help when Hess' leg was injured and she could not remount. Gerken gave up her ride to assist ride management locate Hess and her horse. Hess was taken to the Emergency Room by ApHC President Diane Rushing and accompanied by Gerken. No serious injuries were found.

Beckner's horse, Chelsea Image Bee was impressive. Beckner suffered from a physical problem during the ride and her horse took great care of her. Beckner was given a completion as she was misdirected down an incorrect trail near the end of the ride in the dark. But she wouldn't give up and she finished in the cold and dark.

President Rushing took photos passed out the awards and provided the entire ride with pizza for supper. Lori Richards, Chair of the Trails/Distance Committee was unable to attend, so she provided cake and ice cream after supper. Vickie Smith, a Distance Committee Advisory member, came from Vermont to assist with the ride; her husband Doug took the ride photos.

This was Hatman's year to shine. He suffered a severe blow when a tragic accident took both of his horses the night before the 2010 ANCER – Colorado ride started, and







he gave up his ride at the 2011 ANCER – Alabama when he stopped to assist a fallen rider who was gravely injured. He more than earned this win and the Best Condition Award. Congratulations to him. dropped back with Torgeson moving into fifth.

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## RESULTS

Held November 2, 2013, in conjunction with the Spook Run AERC ride near Henryville, Indiana.

### 1ST

Jeffery Hartman riding Bombay Ghazi Khan  
(ApHC National Champion)  
The George Hatley Cup — Best Condition Appaloosa  
6th Overall Ride Time (HH:mm): 6:02

### 2ND

Lindsey Cooke, riding Hydaway SSJ Raindrop  
7th Overall Ride Time: 6:23

### 3RD

Cat Carter riding Khan's Magic Piper  
8th Overall Ride Time: 6:23+

### 4TH

Julie Figg riding Goldseekers Wish  
12th Overall Ride Time: 6:58

### 5TH

Karen Torgesen riding Flick D'light Halima  
13th Overall Ride Time: 8:07

### 6TH

Jacob Cukati riding Apache Red Arrow  
14th Overall Ride Time: 8:14

### 7TH

Trish Harrop riding LT Bright Patch Joker  
15th Overall Ride Time: 8:35

### 8TH

Patti Jo Duda riding HO's Cherokee Summer E  
21st Overall Ride Time: 9:50

### 9TH

Gail Otto riding Fly Ha Dar Chel Star  
22nd Overall Ride Time: 9:50+

### 10TH

Carol Ann Beckner riding Chelsea Image Bee  
Completion Only Overall Ride Time: 10:19