

# 2017 Appaloosa National Champion Endurance Ride (ANCER)

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Award Photos by Steve Bradley Photography

Ride Photos by Steve Taylor

The 2017 Appaloosa National Championship Endurance Ride (ANCER) was held in the Owyhee desert in southwest Idaho. Down a five-mile, one lane, rough, gravel road sat the Teter's Lost Juniper Ranch, an oasis of green in a desolate landscape. The Teters, John and Steph, hold several rides a year from their Ranch. This event, Owyhee Canyonlands Pioneer was a 3-day event and the ANCER was held on October 7, 2017.

The Owyhee Canyonlands span southwest Idaho, southeast Oregon and northeast Nevada. They are among the most remote areas of the continental United States. Sagebrush and juniper cover the dry desert grounds, which rise up into beautiful mountains, hoodoos (tall thin rock formations), and feature natural arches and river canyons.

This year was the second year for the Appaloosa Horse Club to partner with the Arabian Horse Association to hold the Distance Horse Nationals. The Paso Fino Breed Association joined in the competition for the first time. Appaloosa riders from Idaho, Oregon and Washington came to compete.

The day was barely dawning when the ANCER ride started. Six Appaloosa National Championship riders and their mounts left the start line in a relaxed fashion. All were wondering what the day would bring. All thoughts were on the finish line 50 miles away. The start of the ride was calm, horses left at an easy trot or a walk.



The course was two different 25-mile loops, with a mid-ride stop (vet check) to assess the horses' condition and their fitness to continue. During that time the riders feed and water their horses. It's also time for the riders to take care of themselves before they go out on the second loop.

At the first vet check Laura Spear and her horse Viva Sozar, "Quick," were in the top 5 riders to come in. Quick recovered well and was the first horse to leave on the second loop.

The next rider to enter the vet check, in the top ten over-all time, was Siri Olson riding EZ To Be Perfect, "Trooper." They left the vet check in second place, but a wrong turn took her four miles in the wrong direction, which put her in last place for awhile. Olson said she took the "scenic route" and rode an additional eight miles.

Jessica Cobley riding The Big Brass, "Brass," owned by Karen Baumgartner, was the next pair out on the second loop. Halfway through the loop, she caught up to Siri, who had realized her mistake, turned around and headed in the correct direction. Cobley passed Olson and was in second until Siri caught up and passed Jessica.

The fourth rider to enter and leave the vet check was Kathleen Jepson riding Spotted Wap, "Skipper," owned by Molly Farkas. Skipper had completed the Tevis Cup (100 miles) exactly two months before. Jepson decided to ride conservatively to prevent any issues that would keep Skipper from competing.

Lisel Lemke on Race T Wildfire, "Wildfire," was the fifth horse into the Vet check. Unfortunately, she felt her horse was not fit to continue, so she pulled out of the competition.

The last rider was Lynn White riding Belesemo Moon, "Roger." White was riding conservatively as Roger had completed 50 miles the day before and she was planning on riding 50 miles the day after the ANCER.

The first Appaloosa over the finish line was Quick — Spear had kept up with the first place horse and was second overall. Quick is a registered Half Arab, so was in the standing to be the first Half Arab in the AHA Championship. To everyone's great disappointment, Quick was unable to meet completion requirements, so did not receive a placing.

Olson and Trooper pressed forward after passing Cobley and Brass. Olson finishing 6 minutes ahead of Cobley. Olson was stunned when she was told Trooper was the first place Appaloosa due to Skipper and Spear not being able to make the completion criteria.

Cobley crossed the finish line in second place, she also was





# 2017 ANCER Results

**Appaloosa National Champion**  
*Siri Olson*  
*and EZ To Be Perfect*

1st Place Appaloosa  
 15th Overall  
 5th Place Lightweight



**Reserve Appaloosa National Champion**  
*Jessica Brewer Cobbley*  
*and The Big Brass*

2nd Place Appaloosa  
 18th Overall  
 6th Place Featherweight



**Third**  
*Kathleen Jepson*  
*and Spotted Wap*

3rd Place Appaloosa  
 20th Overall  
 4th Place Middleweight





**Fourth**  
Lynn White and Belesmo Moon

4th Place Appaloosa  
ANCER "Turtle"  
5th Place Half Arab  
40th Overall  
14th Featherweight



**The George Hatley Cup  
(Best Condition)**  
EZ To Be Perfect

**Incomplete**

Liesl Lemke and Race T Wildfire  
Rider option — pulled at first vet check

Laura Spear and Viva Sozar  
Pulled at finish — metal



surprised as she thought she was in third place after being passed by Olson.

Jepson and White were third and fourth respectively.

All these finishers met the completion criteria.

The top three horses were in contention for the George Hatley Cup (a perpetual trophy awarded to the horse, judged by the ride veterinarian, to be in the best condition at the end of the race).

Trooper was awarded the George Hatley Cup. Olson teared up when she was presented with the trophy and a sterling silver belt buckle by ApHC CEO Steve Taylor.

The last Appaloosa to successfully finish the ride was given the "Turtle Award." White and Roger were the winners of this award.

The best description of the 2017 ANCER came from Kathleen Jepson who wrote:

"The scenery and vistas were stunning. I loved the technical aspects of the ride. I found an inner peace, watching the sun come up over the plateaus with a strong, steady horse cruising down the trail, that I hadn't had in years. The first loop of that ride is why I do the sport. Stunning scenery, a wonderful horse and the perfect weather. The feeling of the absence of man and development was both breathtaking and beautiful."

The ANCER competitors reported the partnership with the Arabian Horse Association was a positive experience and were hopeful the partnership will continue in the future.

The 2018 Appaloosa National Championship Endurance Ride (ANCER) will be held in conjunction with the Arabian Horse Association Distance Nationals in Henryville, Indiana, on October 27, 2018 at the "Spook Run" ride. The ride is located in the Clark State Forest and is an AERC-sanctioned 50-mile ride. 🐾