

ancer

Appaloosa

Family Affair

Two of the premier endurance rides in the country took place in September at Big South Fork, TN. As in the past, the Appaloosa Horse Club and the Arabian Horse Association partnered to host the Appaloosa National Championship Endurance Ride (ANCER) and the Appaloosa National Championship Competitive Trail Ride (ANCCTR).

ANCER turned out to be a true family affair. Finishing 1-2 among Appaloosas were 10-year-old Ryker VanHart and his grandfather, Jeffery Hartman of Huntingdon, PA. Ryker won riding Bombay Ghazi Khan (owned and bred by his grandfather). The talented gelding has amassed a total of 1,250 endurance and 316 competitive trail miles with ApHC, while also winning ANCER in 2013 and 2015. Jeff Hartman placed second on another homebred, Bask in My Pizass.

"Ryker was very excited about winning, " his grandfather said afterward. "He's a young, but competitive boy, and he had wanted to race all year. I don't believe he knows how big of a win this really was. We always joke in our family that Ryker has been riding endurance before he was born. His mom, Shilo, was still



competing with me when she was pregnant, and Ryker was doing family trail rides in a front pack before he was a year old."

Hartman continued by saying, "Ghazi had been coming off a one-year layoff, recovering from a tendon injury that happened just weeks after the 2019 ANCER. I really wasn't sure if he would be endurance race sound again. I had worked out a 4-month rehab therapy program with our vet before our season had started. I was excited just having Ghazi back sound after going 50 miles at race speed. We had only done 25 miles of a 50 at speed before ANCER. All of his other rides had been slow finishing events. But he did it. He's an amazing horse."

Rounding out the Top 5 among Appaloosas were: Helen Stroh, riding Spotted Caliber (owned by Eric Beene' of Hernando, MS, bred by Teri & Gaylon Strickland); Megan Grant, riding FVF Thunderbolt (owned/bred by Janice Dobson of Auburntown, TN and leased/campaigned by Eric Beene' of Hernando, MS); and Julie Figg, riding DSA Raincloud Sprite (owned by Julie Figg of Ignacio, CO, bred by Noell & Leroy Devenny).

The 40-mile ANCCTR was held the next day. Finishing 1-2 were: Julie Figg, riding DSA Raincloud Sprite; and Kim Rumpsa, riding R Secret Anniversary (owned by Kim Rumpsa of Ware, MO, bred by Kim & Jeff Rumpsa). DSA Raincloud Sprite was the only horse out of 40 entries to start and finish both the endurance ride and the CTR competition.

This year, ANCER and ANCCTR will be held September 30 – October 2 at the Patterson Dam, Preacher Creek Road in Shoshone, ID

