

BLACK ROCK AND BOVINES CHALLENGE DISTANCE CHAMPS

Rugged terrain and a cattle round-up made the '22 ANCER/ANCCTR events a true test of endurance.

By Lucie Hess

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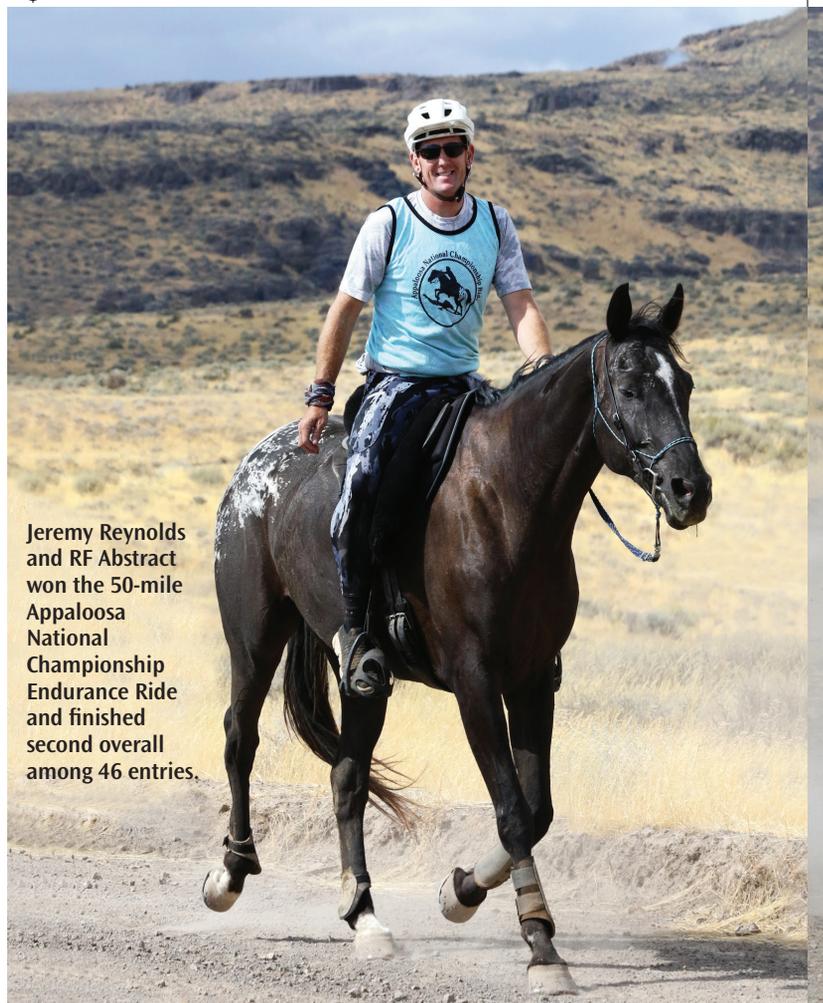
THE APPALOOSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENDURANCE RIDES (ANCER) and the Appaloosa National Championship Competitive Trail Ride (ANCCTR) were held at Patterson Dam, near Gooding, Idaho, September 30–October 2, 2022. The rides are held in conjunction with the Arabian Horse Association Distance Horse National Championships.

Forty-six horses, including six Appaloosas, started the 50-mile endurance ride on September 30, competing concurrently in ANCER for Appaloosa 50-mile titles. In the overall event, two Appaloosas finished in the Top Ten. Jeremy Reynolds, riding RF Abstract, finished second, while Jacob Cukjati, riding Niwots Dark Sun, finished sixth. Niwots Dark Sun was also presented with the overall Best Condition Horse award and the coveted George Hatley Best Condition award presented to the fittest Appaloosa.

The Appaloosa National Championship Competitive Trail Ride (ANCCTR) was held on October 1 in conjunction with the AHA Competitive Trail Ride. There were six horses entered, including one Appaloosa, RF Gulastras Shadow, ridden, owned and bred by DeWayne Brown. Karen Bumgarner's Appaloosa, HH Storm Runner, was also entered, but, sadly, was unable to start the 40-mile event due to lameness. RF Gulastras Shadow, by Gulastras Prophecy (AR) and out of Bar Pepper Shadow, finished fifth in the overall ride and placed first in the ANCCTR.

The 100-mile endurance ride was held on October 2. Two of the 29 horses entered were Appaloosas. This was the first

Jeremy Reynolds and RF Abstract won the 50-mile Appaloosa National Championship Endurance Ride and finished second overall among 46 entries.



time the 100-mile ANCER was held. That distance was approved by ApHC in 2020, but the endurance championships were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.

Heather Reynolds riding CCA Good Omen (BP Tali Tigar [AR] x BBA Redpepper Flurry) and Jessica Cobbley riding The Big Brass (Justa Foxy Cowboy x Scootin Scooter) started. Unfortunately, neither were able to complete the ride; both were pulled at the 35-mile mark. It was a difficult course with only 16 of the 29 starters finishing the 100-mile course.

Base camp for the ARA/ApHC-sanctioned event was within Bureau of Land Management boundaries, 20 miles from the nearest town. The terrain was rugged and vast. The black rock remnants of an extinct volcano were scattered about, and the views were fabulous. In places it seemed as if you could see forever. The trail was steep, with descents into—and climbs out of—canyons. The trails followed old dirt roads and single-track through the scrub brush. The ground was hard and unyielding.

This area of south central Idaho is also cattle country, and a round-up was happening on the same weekend as the ANCER/ANCCTR rides. At times, contestants found themselves facing oncoming cattle, or following them. There were few places in the canyons that were wide enough to pass, so there were delays until the cattle could be cleared from the trail. Riders dealt with the issue as best they could. When asked about the course, several stated that this was a true championship level event due to the difficulty of the terrain, not to mention the slow-moving obstacles.



ANCER 50-MILE PLACINGS

1. RF Abstract (BJC Asher Seven x Willowbez, NG), ridden and owned by Jeremy Reynolds of Dunnellon, FL, and bred by Craig Heckert and Patty Larson.
2. Niwots Dark Sun (Ravenwood Kourage, AR x Drea Daymon's Tonya), ridden, owned and bred by Jacob Cukjati of North San Juan, CA.
3. RSD Orejas Rojo (Drea Thunderheadrain x Encore Alia, AR), ridden and owned by Julie Figg of Ignacio, CO, and bred by Daniel Russell Sr.
4. Mtn Mist Topaz Moon (Mtn Mist Moonshado x BRR Aura Tazlani, AR), ridden and owned by Elayne Barclay of Prineville, OR, and bred by Robbi Pruitt.
5. EZ To B Perfect (Perfection By B x E.Z. Miss Bar), ridden and owned by Siri Olson of Goldendale, WA, and bred by Marisa Brooke.
6. Owyhee Justice (Justa Foxy Cowboy x HH Expressive), ridden and owned by Karen Bumgarner of Murphy, ID, and bred by Lyman G. Winchester Lyman G. Winchester.

Above left: Jacob Cukjati and Niwots Dark Sun were ANCER 50-mile reserve champions. The gelding also received the George Hatley Best Condition Award and the overall best condition award. Above right: DeWayne Brown and RF Gulastras Shadow claimed the Appaloosa National Championship Competitive Trail Ride title, covering 40 miles of tough volcanic terrain. ANCER's 50-mile winners gather for a photo finish on a cold Idaho night. ApHC Executive Secretary Kris Byrd attended ANCER/ANCCTR to present awards and get to know these dedicated distance riders.



ApHC Executive Director Kristopher Byrd attended the event and spent time getting to know the competitors and their horses. He volunteered to help with the competitive trail ride and was put to work as the official timer. Byrd also presented awards and gave a short talk about the George Hatley Best Condition award, explaining who George Hatley was and his importance to the Appaloosa breed. Riders were

pleased to have him participate in the ANCER/ANCCTR as a representative of the Appaloosa Horse Club.

Plans are already underway for the next ANCER/ANCCTR. It will be held September 29-October 1, 2023, at the Huntersville Hundred Ride near Menahga, Minnesota. The ANCER 50- and 100-mile Endurance Rides will be held, as well as the 40-mile ANCCTR Competitive Trail Ride.