



# N MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Welcome to December

As we wrap up another year, I'm reminded of how lucky we are to be part of such a wonderful Appaloosa community.

Thank you to everyone who shared stories, photos, and milestones over the past months.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season, plenty of time in the saddle, and a bright start to the year ahead.

Best,  
Thora

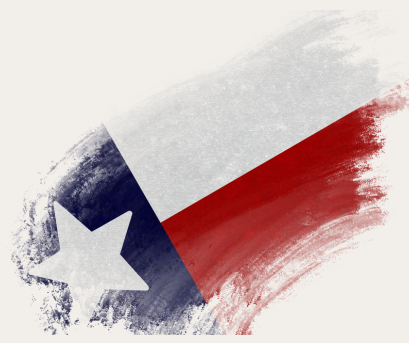
## Top News

2026 NATIONAL SHOW

WE ARE GOING TO WACO!

Our 2026 National Appaloosa Show & Youth World Appaloosa Show will be held in Waco, Texas at the Extraco Events Center!

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## Spotlight

TRAIL AND DISTANCE PROGRAMS  
WITH LUCY HESS

The Appaloosa Horse Club's Trails and Distance Program offers awards for all kinds of riders, like recreational riders, Chief Joseph Trail Riders, and distance competitors. Riders can earn recognition by participating in Endurance rides sanctioned by the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) or in Competitive Trail Rides hosted by organizations across the country. The largest of these groups is the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC), which operates nationwide. There are recognized Appaloosa Recreational Trail Rides held annually.

Every year, the Appaloosa Horse Club partners with the Arabian Horse Association to put on the National Championship Appaloosa Distance Competition, which includes a 100-mile and 50-mile Endurance Ride and a 40-mile Competitive Trail Ride. The 2025 championships were held in Idaho, with Minnesota set to host in 2026.

Riders can earn medallions and other awards for achievements such as high mileage, accumulated riding hours, and High Point Appaloosa in Endurance or Competitive Trail Riding.

Appaloosas are known for their versatility, strong bone, and good minds, making them great partners for long-distance and trail work. Their unique coat patterns don't hurt either, they stand out anywhere.

Lucy Hess has been competing in Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding since 1979, riding four different Appaloosas over the years. She has earned numerous Appaloosa Horse Club awards, including the coveted Chief Joseph Award, High Mileage Appaloosa honors, seven medallions, and nearly 2,000 logged saddle miles in the Trails and Distance Program. Although she hasn't had the chance to join the annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride yet, she hopes to someday. She has also earned multiple national and regional distance riding awards outside the club.

Lucy encourages anyone who trail rides or competes on an Appaloosa to join the Appaloosa Horse Club and take part in the Trails and Distance Program. One of the best things about the program, she says, is that you don't have to win events, you just need a sound horse, time on the trail, and a love for miles and memories.



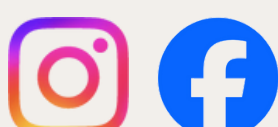
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@appaloosahorseclub | marketing@appaloosa.com



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