

## Annual Club Awards:

### Guidelines for Award Criteria, Nominations, and Selection

**Background:** Our Bylaws (Special Rules, Section 8) describe Awards for riders and equines that should be recognized each year for exceptional accomplishment or contribution to Endurance. In 2022, the Quicksilver Board developed this set of guidelines for eligibility, evaluation, and selection for the awards described in the Bylaws. It is hoped that the availability of these guidelines will help to maintain our proud Club tradition of recognizing and honoring the accomplishments of our outstanding athletes!

### Horse Of The Year

This award can be nomination-based but does not have to be. The award will be given out each year since there will always be a horse that completes some endurance. There are two criteria for determining the horse of the year. (1) AERC ride performance for the year, or (2) A special event, accomplishment, or milestone accomplished by the horse in the year. The HOY committee will look at the possible horses in contention for the award, using both criteria, and select one they feel is the best horse of the year.

**1) Criteria #1- AERC Ride Performance.** This is a mathematic formula that helps determine which horse has had the best year according to AERC records. The horses can be compared between regions and weight divisions using this method. There are 4 criteria measured and awarded on a scale from 5 to 25 points each. The highest score for all 4 criteria gets the prize. The horse must be active in endurance during the calendar year for the award. If there should be an overall tie at the end, the horse with the most 100-mile division points gets the tiebreaker. If that is still a tie, both riders shall get the award.

#### **Performance Criteria:**

1) Total Miles completed in the year. the horse with the highest number of miles completed. If there is a tie, both horses are awarded the same number of points.

1 <sup>st</sup> place	25 points.
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	20 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	15 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	10 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place	5 points

A tie for first would award both horses 25 points each.

2) Best Condition Awards The horse with the most BC's for the year gets 25 points. Second number of BCs gets 20 points. If there is a tie in number of BCs each horse gets the full points.

1 <sup>st</sup> place	25 points.
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	20 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	15 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	10 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place	5 points

A tie for first would award both horses 25 points each

3) “Top Tens” The horse is awarded points for each top ten they get as follows, up to a maximum of 25 points.

1 <sup>st</sup> place	12 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	11 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	9 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	7 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place	6 points
6 <sup>th</sup> place	5 points
7 <sup>th</sup> place	4 points
8 <sup>th</sup> place	3 points
9 <sup>th</sup> place	2 points
10 <sup>th</sup> place	1 point

4) Placing in Weight Division A horse and rider who place in their weight division for the year get points as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	25 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	20 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	15 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	10 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place	5 points

Example – In 2021 both Nick and Lori had exceptional years on Sorsha and Fargo, either of which would have been plenty to be awarded HOY.

Sorsha- 400 miles, 2 Best condition, 6 top tens, placed first in weight division- score 95 points.

Fargo- 475 miles, 1 Best condition, 4 top tens, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in weight division. Score- 82 points

## **2) Criteria #2: Special Event, Signature Accomplishment, or Milestone Achieved in the Year**

The committee can look at a horse that did something exceptional during the year and can decide that it deserves horse of the year over the above calculated result. Examples of such accomplishments might be:

- a) A horse that wins the Tevis Ride or gets selected for the Haggin Cup at Tevis.
- b) A horse that makes an endurance comeback after a serious injury or setback.
- c) A horse that goes over 5,000 career miles in that year.

This “Signature Accomplishment” Criteria #2 is a selection based on the input of the committee and gets equal consideration to the “Best Athlete” Criteria #1. If the selection is not unanimous, the three-member committee will vote on the horse based on using either of the criteria. Any tie or other disagreement will be settled by the Club Vice President.

## Hall of Fame Horse

The hall of fame horse is a nominated award, meaning it will only be given out to a horse that has been previously nominated by a club member with current membership for the year in which the award is nominated.

The deadline for nomination is the last day of the calendar year for which the award will be given. This gives the committee enough time to evaluate the horses and obtain the award before the annual club banquet.

The committee will meet and determine if the nominated horse(s) meet the criteria for the hall of fame horse award. The award does not have to be given out every year if the committee feels the horse(s) nominated is / or are not qualified.

### General Criteria for Determining if a Horse is Qualified:

- 1) The horse does not need to be alive; the award can be given posthumously.
- 2) The horse should have accomplished a “substantial” endurance career in its lifetime. Examples of accomplishment that would qualify a horse:
  - a) Career Longevity: Any decade team horses would qualify. Horses with more than 10 years of competing would get special consideration.
  - b) AERC Award Recognition: Any horse that wins an AERC award such as the Hall of Fame Horse or the Partners Award would qualify.
  - c) High Mileage: Any horse with 5,000 miles would automatically qualify.
  - d) 100 Mile Completions: Any horse with ten 100-mile completions would automatically qualify.

### Other Considerations:

- a) Top Performing: A horse with multiple wins, top tens, and best conditions would get consideration. The higher the number of top performances over a long career will get the horse special consideration.
- b) Signature Accomplishment: Examples: A horse that wins the Tevis Cup, or the Old Dominion, or gets Best Condition at either event would get special consideration.
- c) Comeback Horse: A horse that makes a significant comeback in their career would get consideration. Examples:
  - Returning to a career after recovering from a potential career ending injury or sickness.
  - A horse that continues to perform at an advanced age.

Horses that are nominated and do not meet any of the four specific “substantial” criteria can still be considered. Examples: A horse that has 3500 miles, over 8 years, with several 100-mile completions is still a worthy candidate. But a horse with 1000 career miles, over 4 years, and one 100-mile completion might not be. A horse that did rides for 15 years would be considered an outstanding candidate, but if the horse just did one or fewer rides each year it would not be very impressive. A horse that has five 100-mile completions in its career would be considered very good, but if that horse is 5 for 5 at Tevis, it is outstanding. This is where the committee will decide if the horse meets the standard for a Hall of fame horse.

## Hall of Fame Rider

The hall of fame rider is a nominated award, meaning it will only be given out to a person that has been previously nominated by a club member with current membership for the year in which the award is nominated.

The deadline for nomination is the last day of the calendar year for which the award will be given. This gives the committee enough time to evaluate the horses and obtain the award before the club banquet.

The committee will meet and determine if the nominated person(s) meet the criteria for the hall of fame rider award. The award does not have to be given out every year if the committee feels the person(s) nominated is / or are not qualified.

### General Criteria for Determining if a Person is Qualified:

- 1) The person does not need to be alive; the award can be given posthumously.
- 2) The rider should have accomplished a “substantial” endurance career in their lifetime. Examples of accomplishment that would qualify a person:
  - a) Career Longevity: A 5-year career is not really impressive, but a 25-years or more career would qualify the person. A rider who had a 20-year career but has only ridden in three years would not be impressive. But a rider who has ridden for 30 years and has never missed a year would be automatically qualified.
  - b) AERC Awards: Any person that wins an AERC Hall of Fame Person or the Partners Award would automatically qualify.
  - c) High Mileage: Any rider with 5,000 or more career miles would automatically qualify.
  - d) 100-mile Completions: Any rider with ten 100-mile completions would automatically qualify.
  - e) The AERC Century Club: Any rider who wins the Century Club award would automatically qualify.

### Other Considerations:

- a) Top Performing: A rider with multiple wins, top tens, and best conditions would get consideration. The higher the number of top performances over a long career will get the person special consideration.
- b) Signature Accomplishment: A rider that wins the Tevis Cup, or the Old Dominion, or gets Best Condition at either would get special consideration.
- c) Comeback Rider: A rider that makes a significant comeback in their career would get consideration. Examples:
  - Returning to a career after recovering from a potential career ending injury or sickness.
  - A rider that continues to perform at an advanced age.
- d) Service: A rider who has served on the AERC board for many years would get special consideration.
- e) Service: A person does not have to be a “rider”. A ride manager, or volunteer who has supported endurance for 20 years would qualify.

Riders that are nominated and do not meet any of the five specific “substantial” criteria can still be considered. Examples: A rider that has 3500 miles, over 10 years, with several 100-mile completions might still be a worthy candidate. But a rider with 1000 career miles, over 4 years, and one 100-mile completion might not be. A rider who has finished the Tevis Ride 5 times would be a candidate, but a rider who has finished Tevis Ride once might not be.

## **Eleanor Norton Award**

*The following is reproduced directly from the Bylaws:*

This award, given in the memory of Eleanor Norton, is a sportsmanship award, given to the club member that exemplifies the meaning of the word “sportsmanship.”

Any nominations and recommendations for a possible recipient must be submitted in writing to any or all of the committee members by email or by telephone, along with the accompanying reasons as to why a particular candidate is to be chosen.

The committee is to carefully and diligently consider any and all recommendations and reach a final decision in time to meet the yearbook/calendar deadlines, or, if there is no yearbook/calendar, one month prior to the awards banquet.

An Eleanor Norton Award does not have to be given each year but is only given when the committee feels that there is a suitable candidate.