

Region 1 Year End Awards Program

High Point Horse & Horsemanship

Open Division: 1st through 6th place
Novice Division: 1st through 6th place
CP Division: 1st through 6th place

Requirements for eligibility (apply to all year-end awards involving horses):

1. Rider must be a current member of R1 no later than the second Sunday in November of the current ride year.
2. Complete a minimum of three (3) rides in Region 1.
3. Only points from R1 rides count.
4. Point distribution is the same as National NATRC.

Region 1 Special Awards

Some of the following awards have eligibility requirements that are in addition to those above and are detailed in the respective award description.

Bob Smith Perpetual Award:

Presented to the High Point first year Novice and/or Competitive Pleasure Division horse, regardless of class, based on the normal National NATRC point system. If a tie should occur, the winner shall be the horse that has won first place on the most number of rides. If a tie still exists, the most second places, third places, etc. shall be used until the tie is broken. For purposes of this award, a “first year horse” is one that has never previously competed in NATRC or been ridden DO in any previous year.

Bob Smith

Anyone who ever met Bob Smith had the unique experience of going back in time to the days of the old Spanish Reinsmen when horses took years to make but were true works of art when “finished”.

Born in Oklahoma in 1910, his parents worked in Buffalo Bill’s “Wild West Show” as a trick riding and roping act. Occasionally they would combine acts with their friend, Will Rogers. The Wild West Show eventually took them to California where silent movies offered more money.

Although Bob grew up surrounded by friends like Slim Pickens, John Wayne and Tom Mix who struggled hard and eventually made it in the film world, Bob wanted to be a horseman. Polo was the game of choice for the very wealthy who employed top reinsmen to train their horses. It was here he learned there were no shortcuts or gimmicks if you wanted the best—only patience, understanding the mind of the horse, and time.

Bob went on to play polo professionally and was known as the Babe Ruth of polo, being the longest hitter of his day. His eight goal rating took him all over the world, but never too long as he had “horses to work.”

When his wife, Nancy (now Kasovich), excitedly told him about NATRC in 1961, his comment was “Well, do it right. Spend the same time in training and conditioning as you would in any other horse sport. Don’t rush them and your finished horse will go soundly and happily down the trail into his twenties. Remember, many are horse riders, few are horsemen.”

Bob died in 1977. The inscription on the back of the High Point First Year Novice-CP Horse reads simply:

“In memory of Bob Smith, — Horseman 1910-1977”.

by Nancy Kasovich, formerly Nancy Smith

Past recipients:

1987 - Majik/John Clarey	2002 - Avalonn/Susan Dockter
1988 - Exzelsor/Leigh Perrona	2003 - Aassifah/Josette Brault
1989 - Razaaba/Ralph Dever	2004 - El Morafics Shalom/Lynne Hutnick
1990 - Nancy's Cameo/Shannon Mitchell	2005 - WK Spring Sonnet/Joe Dillard
1991 - Zarraba/Ralph Dever	2006 - Phantom Dusk/Gene Boicelli
1992 - Running Bear/Barbara Lieberman	2007 - The Terminacre/Alice Tavare
1993 WMU Zeus/Ralph Dever	2008 - NB Nike/Nancy Bacon
1994 Sierra Spring/Angie Meroshnekoff	2009 - Malikah/Karina Hoog
1995 - AA Sierra Sprite/Mary Chandler	2010 - Virga BL/Ashley Dillard
1996 - WW Steeleaseyn/Ashley Stone	2011 - La Paloma Dream/Ashley Dillard
1997 - Hot Request/Pam Frank (Tie)	2012 - CC Honey Dew/Tanya Ballard
1997 - Miss Lindy/Jan Jeffers (Tie)	2013 - HM Raina Bo Surely/Haley Schlerf
1998 - Mozart/Jan Jeffers	2014 - Carson El Maj/Karlie Johnson
1999 - Strength of Steel/Carolyn Johnson	2015 – Nausicca Maj/Kirsten Johnson
2000 - Arrmita/Ralph Dever	2016 – Chism/Micheline Pino
2001 - Cimarron AL/Jean Armer	

Open Horse Award (In memory of Fran & Carol Duport):

Presented to the High Point first year Open Division horse, regardless of class. Based on the normal National NATRC point system. If a tie should occur, the winner shall be the horse that has won first place on the most number of rides. If a tie still exists, the most second places, third places, etc. shall be used until the tie is broken. For purposes of this award, a "first year horse" is one that has never previously competed in the Open Division nor been ridden DO in the Open Division in any previous year.

Fran & Carol Duport

Fran & Carol were fine examples of the kind of competitors NATRC develops. They exhibited, first and foremost, a true love for their horses that naturally carried over into NATRC. They always remembered to have fun—while still remaining competitive. They rode in all divisions, encouraging Juniors, first time competitors and fellow competitors alike. Fran and Carol understood the time and patience it takes to ride a first year horse to award level, and, to that end, this award is given in their memory.

by Lynda Burch

Past recipients:

1990 - Nhaad/Jean Armer	2004 - Avalonn/Susan Dockter
1991 - BR Azerix/Nora Cook	2005 - Aassifah/Josette Brault
1992 - MS Bey Shadow/Lynne Landis	2006 - Ibn El Barak/Laura Berkley
1993 - The Bene Geserit/Bev Barmettler	2007 - Phantom Dusk/Gene Boicelli
1994 - San La Fyrestrike/Irene King	2008 - Canadian Diamonte/Sue Flagg
1995 - JJ Flashezer/Nancy Kasovich	2009 - JB Rockem Sockem Red/Olivia Armstrong
1996 - Starskees Plain Jane/Sue Flagg	2010 - Lady Tigers Hysyn/Hayley Schler
1997 - Mtn Mist Mirage/Marilyn Orlando	f2011 - Take-A-Walkaloosa/Lucie Hess
1998 - Bez's Skyrocket/Sheri Krueger	2012 - Sierra Sunshine/Donna Stidolph
1999 - Elmer's Lover Moon/Nancy Kasovich	2013 - Tango Sierra/Laura Harvey
2000 - SQR Mondragon/Jan Jeffers	2014 – Palistar/Stephanie Swain
2001 - Strength of Steel/Carolyn Johnson	2015-2016 – Qualifications not met
2002 - Coco/Alicia Dayton	
2003 - Cimarron AL/Jean Armer	

Pat Ersepke Memorial Award:

Presented to the High Point Novice Horse/Rider Combination in Region 1, based on the normal National NATRC point system. If a tie should occur, the winner shall be the horse/rider team that has the highest total number of horse and rider first place finishes. If a tie still exists, the most second places, third places, etc. shall be used until the tie is broken. To be eligible for this award the horse/rider combination must complete four (4) R1 rides in the Novice Division.

Pat Ersepke

Pat was a Physical Education Instructor at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose. She served as the Director of Women's Programs there for 10 years. In the late 70's she was offered a horse named "Papoose" by one of her students who was leaving for college. From that day, her world changed. Harry Haeussler, a friend and local horseman, suggested she try competitive trail riding with NATRC. Pat's work began. All her life she had competed in sports, however she said that this had to be the greatest! Her joy of this sport and her enthusiasm were contagious. Did anyone ever see her without a smile when she talked about horses or NATRC? A quote from a letter she wrote about her horse: "Papoose has reinforced my appreciation for people, nature and animals in my life."

Pat and her close friend and riding companion, Mary Jackson, were invited to be co-guest speakers for novice riders at the R1 Convention in 1984 in Concord, CA. At the time, Pat had already been struggling for 2 years with cancer. As she said to Mary later, "If I could live any time over again, it would be the first year we shared as novices." Pat was also a featured rider in Doni Hubbard's first book, "Favorite Trails of Northern California," and served on the NATRC R1 Board of Directors.

Pat succumbed to her cancer in 1985 and, in her memory, Mary created the Pat Ersepke Memorial Perpetual Trophy in the Novice Division to encourage novice riders to dedicate themselves and to make their achievements more special.

Past recipients:

1985 - Pacer/Brenda Pawlo	
1986 - Aza Sudan/Linda J. Clark	
1987 - Erik Rebel/Judy Gede	
1988 - Exzelsor/Leigh Perona	
1989 - El Layl/Shirley Brown	
1990 - Last Chance/Jerry Hlavac	
1991 - SK Summer Motions/Yaffa Levine	
1992 - Cherokee's Pride/Mica Hart	
1993 - Spanish Capitan/Amanda Ayres	
1994 - Destiny Dawn/Donna Hlavac	
1995 - Miss Corey /Candy Stevenson	
1996 - Mtn. Mist Mirage/Marilyn Orlando	
1997 - Andrakhan/Pat Meehan	
1998 - IBN Baskaborr/Lynnette Love	
1999 - Raybars Golden Lady/Maureen Olson	
2000 - The Balius Emerald/Christine Sparks	
2001 - Oryx Sakkar/Suzanne Brady	
	2002 - Moose/Jennifer Heim
	2003 - That Beau/Debbie Murphy
	2004 - Polaris/Denise Tortorelli
	2005 - El Nabiyah/Debra Foote
	2006 - Cassanova/Susan Stillman
	2007 - Deux Chausette/Mary Jones
	2008 - JB Rockem Sockem Red/Olivia Armstrong
	2009 - Jazz/Doug Brown
	2010 - Tango Sierra/Laura Harvey
	2011 - Sierra Sunshine/Donna Stidolph
	2012 - Shayla/Maleah Ikerd
	2013 - Shayla/Maleah Ikerd
	2014 - Carson El Maj/Karlie Johnson
	2015 - Lucky Eddie/Kirsten Johnson
	2016 - Lucky Eddie/Claire Cichocki

Barthart Region 1 High Average Award

This award is presented to the Region 1 Open Division horse that has the highest average score rather than the highest number of points. Only R1 Open division rides shall count. R1 must be the primary region for both horse and rider.

1. To qualify, horses competing for this award must start on a minimum of six R1 Open division rides during the year. "A" ride = 1 ride, "B" ride = 1/2 ride, "AA" ride = 1 1/2 rides.
2. If a horse has multiple riders, they must all be current members of R1 no later than the second Sunday in November of the current ride year.

3. A minimum average score of 97% must be attained to receive this award.
4. Every R1 ride which the horse starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the Open division. A horse shall have started a ride when it is timed out on the first day of the ride.
5. In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the horse that has won first place on the most number of rides. If a tie still exists, the most second place finishes, third place finishes etc. shall be used until the tie is broken.
6. The average score of each horse shall be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride started and dividing by the sum of rides started (as defined in item 1. above). The "percentage score" is calculated by dividing the individual horse's score by the highest score (sweepstakes) on that ride and multiplying by a factor for the ride type (B = 1/2, A = 1, AA = 1 1/2).

Barthart

Bart is one of NATRC's National Hall of Fame horses. He was ridden by his owner, Betty Young, and her son, David, in the Open Lightweight & Open Junior divisions from 1984 to 1997. When he was retired from competition he had accumulated nearly 7,200 NATRC miles, the most for any Region 1 horse and the fifth highest nationally, at that time. His trademarks were his durability and consistently high level of excellence. His many NATRC achievements include: National Grand Champion (High Average) in 1985, Reserve Grand Champion numerous times, National Reserve Open Lightweight Champion in 1988 and nine National Championships. He was the R1 High Point winner in his division for many years. His toughness and durability were also shown when he completed the Tevis 100 mile endurance race both times he was entered (1990 & 1992). In 1992, at the "ripe old age" of 18, he was the oldest horse to finish.

Although his athletic achievements were impressive, it was his character that was most cherished by his owners: self-confidence and independence, a fierce competitive spirit, honesty and reliability, an abundance of personality, and tremendous pride in doing his job well. As Betty said, when Bart was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992, "he is a kind and wonderful friend, companion and partner, and he will be treasured by our family always".

Since Bart's hallmark was his exceptional consistency, this perpetual Region 1 award was established in his name to encourage and reward that kind of consistently superior performance by horses in the Open Division.

Past recipients:

1997 - JJ Flashezer/Nancy Kasovich
 1998 - Prince Alla Baha/Ellen Lovett
 1999 - Elmer's Lover Moon/Nancy Kasovich
 2000 - Prince Alla Baha/Ellen Lovett
 2001 - Elmer's Lover Moon/Nancy Kasovich
 2002 - Steelie Dan/Carolyn Johnson
 2003 - Symplicity Sue/Nancy Bacon

2004 - Desert Reinbeau/Angie Meroshnekoff
 2005 - Desert Reinbeau/Angie Meroshnekoff
 2006 - Ibn El Barak/Laura Berkley
 2007-2016 - Qualifications not met