

The AERC National Championship Ride at Twenty Mule Team 25/36/50/65/100 on October 31 and November 2, 2019 located in Ridgecrest CA within the Mojave desert, will be an exciting ride this year. We will have the 50 mile Championship ride, along with an open 25 and 50 mile ride, on Thursday, October 31. The 100 mile Championship ride will be on Saturday, November 2 along with an open 35, 65 and 100 mile ride.

The Trail: The trail will bring you through the scenic Mohave desert with views of the eastern Sierra Mountains. The footing will be excellent with few rocks, very little hard packed road and many miles of firmly packed sand. The trail is well marked and safe for inexperienced horses. We will have plenty of additional glow bars for the 65 and 100 mile riders. This should make for easy night time riding. The 35 is a nice introduction to longer LD's for those of you considering a 50 while the 65 is a nice transition for those of you thinking about doing your first 100 or even training for a 100. The 100 mile ride is great for novice 100 mile riders as it is technically simple with no cliffs, bogs or major water crossings. The course is of moderate difficulty with no steep climbs, but some long, gradual climbs. This is an excellent trail for novice horses as there are no water crossings or narrow trails with dangerous cliffs. The 100 is a very doable 100 with a winning time of about 12 hours and the last horses finishing usually before 4:00 a.m. The city lights of Ridgecrest are often in view during nighttime riding. The Twenty Mule Team 100 is one of the few 100 mile rides remaining, and is the only 100 mile ride in the PS region. We hope to continue this historical 100 for years to come.

Vet checks: All vet checks are out of camp except the 65 mile vet check on the 100 which will be in camp. Vet checks are easily accessible to crews, and there are points on the trail such as road crossings where crew can conveniently meet their rider. For those with no crew, management will transport crew bags to vet checks and there will be hay, horse water and human water at all checks.

Camp: Base camp is located at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds in Ridgecrest, CA. The elevation is approximately 2,500 feet. Motels, restaurants and grocery stores are available one to two miles from the fairgrounds. Plenty of water is available at base camp for horses and humans. Bring a hose. There are real restrooms with flush toilets and hot showers. There is plenty of parking and camping space available for large rigs. Stalls are \$30.00/night and pens are \$25.00/night and are available on a first entered basis. Please enclose fee with entry to reserve a stall or pen. Bring tools to clean your camp and stall/pen, or you may pay a \$10.00 fee to ride management at the ride to have your camp cleaned up. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. The fairgrounds does not allow glass containers of alcohol.

Weather: Even if it is raining/snowing in other parts of the country, the Mojave desert area in Ridgecrest, CA gets very little rain. Although the weather is generally warm and sunny during the day, you should be ready for cold weather at night. Average rainfall in the Ridgecrest area is 2 inches annually.

Awards: Even though the greatest award/reward is spending time on your horse in the beautiful Mojave desert, we will also have great awards for those completing the ride. All those completing the rides will get special awards and those completing the AERC National Championship 100 mile ride will get a beautiful belt buckle. We have generous sponsors donating prizes ranging from saddles to a trip to France.

Meals: The weekend extravaganza will begin with a Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening, October 30. Join us for food, drink and camaraderie with other endurance riders. The Cowboy Caterer will be providing the dinner for the awards ceremony on Thursday evening after the 50 mile ride as well as a hearty breakfast on Sunday morning after the 100. There are many good restaurants within a 15 minute drive of the basecamp at the fairgrounds.

Veterinary Staff: The head veterinarian is Dr. Michael Peralez who will be joined by experienced AERC ride veterinarians representing several different AERC regions. The treatment veterinarian will be Dr. Langdon Fielding.

For more information about the ride, please see our website at:

www.2019NC.com

or our facebook page at

facebook.com/AERC2019NC/

Questions?

Contact Melissa Ribley at:

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Come join us for an enjoyable weekend of beautiful desert riding!

Robert and Melissa Ribley