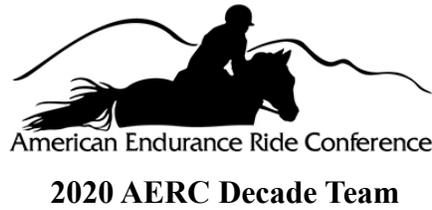


Ernie Schrader & Captain Calypso



Captain Calypso (Spot) and Ernie Schrader have been competing in AERC for 17 years. Some years Spot had a different rider and Ernie a different horse, but still riding side by side. In 2019 they reached 10 years of completions together. As a team they have multiple Best Condition awards at distances of 25, 50, 75, and 100 miles, and won multiple rides at all distances with the exception of 100 miles where they have seconds, but the win is still on their agenda. They also came in 2nd Heavy Weight at a National Championship. Captain Calypso is an amazingly tough horse and competitor. In mid-career he had serious suspensory injuries. So did Ernie. The vets said Spot would never be able to ride hard or long distance again but he proved them wrong by completing “top 10” in every ride since then at distances of 50, 75, and 100 mile rides including winning . . . actually kind of a neat story and example of what long term horse-rider partners can overcome with care and determination.

From Ernie:

Captain Calypso (Spot) has 2455 endurance miles, 55 rides, 47 completions, 27 top 10's, 5 first, 12 BC, and 10 hundred starts with 8 hundred finishes. He was pulled at 94 miles and at 85 miles after getting a stone bruise both times at Tevis, but he completed Tevis another year with a different rider when I was injured. Spot also has 215 LD miles with wins and BC's. He has completed AERC rides every year for 16 years in a row since his first ride in 2004. I completed endurance distances with him in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2017, 2018, and 2019 to reach the total "decade team" criteria. On other years I rode a different horse while someone else rode Spot, or it was a year where I rode LD or not at all due to injuries including broken back, spine surgery, six knee replacements, broken shoulder blade, shattered sacrum, three replaced shoulders, broken ribs, brain bleed, and re-attached tendons - all due to horse falls with Spot at races and on some really fun and zippy training rides. Captain Calypso also had a few bad years about 2012-2014 with suspensory injuries. The vets said he would never be able to ride hard or long distance again, but he proved them wrong with a win and all top 10's since then at 50, 75, and 100 miles... actually kind of a neat "come-back" story. This year, at 21 he is still going strong and doing 10 mile training rides in steep mountains or deep sand at 50 to 60 minutes, pulsing down in a few minutes. Not bad for a horse that the vets said was done six years ago. My doctors said I would not be able to do hard riding either but at 72 and rebuilt they were wrong. Captain Calypso has been my excitement, energy, and passion. He has kept me feeling young. We are a team.