

# Tonto Twist 50



## Go the Distance - Make a Difference

*Limited to 50 Riders Each Day*  
*AERC Sanctioned 50 & 25 Mile Ride*  
*Juniors ride FREE !*  
*Entry Opens on December 15, 2024*

Ride management & volunteers are committed, rain or shine!

*8th Annual Tonto Twist 50 - Saturday, January 18, 2025*  
*3rd Annual Tonto Twist 25 Sunday, January 19, 2025*

**Ride Manager:** Lancette Koerner, 480-650-3124 Email: [TontoTwist50@gmail.com](mailto:TontoTwist50@gmail.com)  
**Assistant Manager:** Ellen Hickey - **Day Manager:** Ashley Wingert  
**Control Judges:** Mark Anderson DVM, Bradley Scott Houser DVM

Thank you for your interest and support of the Tonto Twist Endurance rides. We will have a stand alone 50 mile ride on Saturday and a stand alone 25 mile ride on Sunday. A portion of the proceeds from the rides will be donated to the **Arizona Endurance Riders Club (AZERC.org)** and the **AJ Mounted Rangers**, both are Non-Profit 501 (c)(3) organizations. If you would like to further assist us in donating to these great organizations by sponsoring a ride award please contact Lancette Koerner. Available award sponsorships are: First Place, 1st Junior, Top 10, Mid-Pack, Rider Sponsor & Turtle awards.

**Base Camp Location and address:** Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds @ 1590 E Lost Dutchman Blvd Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Base camp will open at 8am Friday January 17th, 2025. However, if long distance travel requires a Thursday arrival please contact Lancette for special arrangements. Due to our lease and insurance agreements, overnight camping with horses is for **registered riders** and official ride **volunteers only**.

The rodeo park is large and easily accessible. The entrance gate will be marked with ribbons and a sign. We are permitted to camp on the **East** side of the grounds. Do not park on the south side of the stadium. Water is available in camp but it may be more convenient for you to bring your own. There are flush toilets on site but no showers or

RV hook-ups. To ensure future use of this site it is imperative that the rodeo ground rules are followed. Glass bottles are prohibited. Dogs must be on leash or contained at all times. All manure, hay, shavings and trash must be deposited at the designated locations.

**About the Trails:** The routes of the Tonto Twist will take you through the beautiful Goldfield Mountains, Tonto National Forest, Usery Park and A.J. City Equestrian park trails. We are fortunate to have this amazing area to ride in and are excited to share it with you. The trails are multi-use. You are **likely** to encounter hikers, bikers, campers with dogs, off road vehicles, other equestrians, wildlife etc. You will travel on a variety of footings, some rocky stretches, some hard packed forest roads & stretches of deep sand. The 50 mile course is moderate to difficult, the 25 mile course is easy to moderate. Please bring a **fit** horse. Hoof protection is **highly recommended**. There are **several** horse **step overs and paved road crossings**. The A.J. Mounted Rangers will be at the road crossings to assist you. Due to the closure of a critical section of BLM land, we have changed the 50 mile routes. We are planning two long loops. The **Bulldog loop (1)** has about 2000 feet of elevation gain and is approximately 26.2 miles. There will be a 1 hour hold at base camp. We will provide some hay and horse water at strategic spots along the trail but please be prepared to manage your horse and yourself for a long 1st loop. The **Mountain View/Cottonwood Springs Loop (2)** is new for 2025. It has about 1500 feet of elevation gain and is approximately 22 miles.

There will be two loops for the 25. The **Usery Park Loop (1)** which is about 17.2 miles long followed by a 30 minute hold at base camp. The **Prospector Park loop (2)** is about 6.0 miles.

### **Trail Navigation:**

**Conventional:** The trail will be **lightly** marked with ribbon on clothespins, some signs and field chalk. **(we strongly urge you to use Ride With GPS for navigation)** For the 50 mile ride, loop 1 = pink ribbon, loop 2 = orange & white striped ribbon. For the 25 mile ride on Sunday, loop 1 = pink, loop 2 = orange & white striped. Traveling ribbons will be placed on either side of the trail but turn ribbons will be on the **side of the turn**, followed by a couple confidence ribbons.

**Ride With GPS (Smartphone App):** The free version of the app and the event link is all you need to navigate the routes with Ride With GPS. The routes will have voice cues. Using this tool is your **best** choice for navigation. Sadly, trail sabotage happens every year making ribbons unreliable. Ride With GPS can provide you with navigational confidence for a more enjoyable ride. Please familiarize yourself with Ride With GPS before the ride by recording your conditioning rides at home. The Tonto Twist routes are on public land, and open for pre-riding. The Ride With GPS Event link for the Tonto Twist and instructions will be sent in the electronic rider packet after registration.

**Ride Entry:** The rides are limited to **50 riders** each day. Please have your entry in by **5 pm Monday, January 13th** to be entered into the ride. (we do not take onsite registrations). You may print the **Mail In Entry** form and **send a check** or you may sign up **online and submit payment via check or electronically via Zelle or PayPal Friends & Family. Thanks to the generosity of Tracy & Mitch Fink, Junior riders will ride for Free!** Entries received after the ride limit has been reached will be put on a wait list. Riders will be notified of their position on the list. Checks will be deposited the week of the ride.

**Refund/Cancellation Policy:** Ride entry cancellations received **on or before 5 pm Monday, January 13th, 2025** and horses pulled at check-in will receive a refund less a \$25 administration fee. No refunds for cancellations **after 5 pm January 13th, 2025.**

**Vet In & Rider Check-in:** Pick up of the vet card will serve as rider check in. Vetting is from 2:00 to 5:00 on Friday for Saturday's 50 mile ride. Saturday from 2:00 to 5:00 for Sunday's 25 mile ride. Please be patient, the vets will have 50 mile finishers to attend to as well. Sunday morning vetting is available on a **limited basis.** Please contact Lancette for a morning vet-in arrangement.

**Ride Packet:** The ride packet will be sent via email. It will include PDF maps and cue sheets for you to print. It will also include information about using the Ride With GPS App to navigate the course. If you are unable to receive email or print ride maps, please contact Lancette by **5 pm Wednesday January 15th** so a printed packet can be prepared for you to pick up.

**Ride Meeting:** Friday (for the 50 mile riders) and Saturday (for the 25 mile riders) night at **5:15. All riders, please attend your ride meeting.** The ride veterinarians will discuss ride parameters and other important ride updates will be shared.

**Friday Potluck:** We will have our traditional potluck on Friday night immediately following the ride meeting. Ride management will provide dessert, paper goods, utensils, & non-alcoholic drinks. To avoid duplicate dishes, we will start a post on the Zonie Facebook Page for you to share what you are bringing or text Ellen Hickey at 602-684-0750. Electrical outlets are available for crock pots. Please bring serving utensils for your dish. The Tonto Twist potluck has always been **EXTRAORDINARY**, with a wide variety of delicious dishes and plenty of food for all! Let's do it again!

**Saturday & Sunday Lunch:** Ride management will provide a sandwich, chips, a sweet and a drink to riders on ride days. There is a nominal charge for crew member lunches. Lunch will be available for pick up at the concession stand.

**Saturday Dinner:** We will have the **awards and volunteer appreciation** dinner at base camp. Dinner will start at **6:30pm**, with the awards presentation at **7:00.** We encourage you to attend to help celebrate a great day on the trail with amazing horses, good friends and to show **your appreciation** to our **dedicated volunteers.** Once again, we

will be serving Indian fry bread tacos. A meal that can be enjoyed by meat lovers as well as vegetarians (no lard beans). The cost is **\$12.00** per person. Official ride volunteers will receive a meal ticket as a token of gratitude for making rides possible!

**Ride Photographer:** Linda Sherrill-**Justus Photography** will photograph the rides. The photos will be available for purchase on her website [www.lindasherrill.com](http://www.lindasherrill.com) . We are grateful for Linda's talent and willingness to come from New Mexico to shoot the ride. Please support her efforts so she will come again.

### **Awards**

**50 Mile Ride:** Completion, 1st Place, Best Condition, Top 10. We will do our best to also give awards for 1st Junior, Mid-Pack, Turtle, First 50 & Rider Sponsor.

**25 Mile Ride:** Completion, 1st Place, Best Condition, Top 10. We will do our best to also give awards for 1st Junior, Mid-Pack, Turtle, First 25 & Rider Sponsor.

**Junior Best Condition Award for 50 & 25-**Sponsored by Maribel Paulson and kind folks all over the country.

**AZERC 50 & 25 Mile Team Challenge:** A Team Captain (over 1000 AERC Miles) & up to 2 Partners (under 1000 AERC miles) ride together. To learn more go to AZERC.org & sign up. AZERC Teams will be recognized and one outstanding team will be chosen by the vet based on the condition and presentation of the horses.

### **Intro to Endurance-Presented by Mary Jane Fridley**

**Friday, January 17, 2025 from 3-5 pm at the Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds (Tonto Twist Base Camp)** for Juniors (age 16 and under) Young Riders (age 17-21) and their parents/mentors, who are interested in learning about the sport of endurance riding. Come out to an afternoon event for an inside look at the world of endurance. The event will offer an explanation and overview of endurance riding, a panel discussion with current Juniors and Young Riders, a tour of the base camp, and a presentation from the head veterinarian for the Tonto Twist ride. We will also have some fun raffle prizes, snacks and beverages. Please encourage those who have an interest in Endurance to attend this event.

### **Tentative Schedule of Events**

#### **Friday      January 17th, 2025**

8:00 am	Base Camp Opens
2:00 to 5:00	Rider Check-in/Horse Vet In (50 mile riders)
3:00 to 5:00	Intro to Endurance Presentation by Mary Jane Fridley
5:15 pm	Ride Meeting (All 50 mile riders are expected to attend)
5:30 pm	Potluck

**Saturday     January 18th, 2025**

7:00 am     50 Mile Ride Start  
2:00 to 5:00     25 mile Rider Check-in/Horse Vet In (between 50 mile completions)  
6:30 pm     50 mile Awards & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner  
7:00 pm     Awards Presentation

**Sunday     January 19th, 2025**

8:30 am     25 Mile Ride Start  
3:30 pm     25 Mile Awards Presentation

**Monday     January 20th, 2025**

Clean up and vacate Rodeo grounds by 12 Noon.

**Rules and Regulations:** The ride will be conducted in accordance with AERC rules. Go to [www.aerc.org](http://www.aerc.org) for the details. It is **your responsibility to know the rules.**

**To enter the ride online click the link below:**

**<https://form.jotform.com/243415503494152>**

**Like our page and follow us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/tontotwist50>



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## **Mail In Entry Form**

### **Rider Information:**

(You may open in Adobe Acrobat click Fill & Sign to complete form on your computer before printing, or hand write legibly please)

Rider AERC No: \_\_\_\_\_ Is this **your** first 50 mile ride? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is this **your** first 25 mile ride? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Emergency Contact:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Junior Riders: (A Junior is a rider who is under the age of 16 as of 12/1/24)**

Junior riders in the 50 and 25 rides, whether they are AERC members or not, must be accompanied by a competent adult (18 years or older) sponsor throughout the competition. Junior and Sponsor must ride together at all times, including entering and leaving all control checks at the same time; the only exception being that at the finish a Junior may finish within the same minute or within the one minute on either side of the sponsor's finishing minute. All junior riders must wear approved safety helmets. A Parent or guardian must sign below.

Age (as of 12/1/24) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth-date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weight Division or Junior or Young Rider: (Check One)**

☐ Junior (Under 16 as of 12/1/24) ☐ Young Rider (16-21 years of age as of 12/1/24)  
☐ Featherweight (Rider w/tack 160 lbs or less) ☐ Lightweight (Rider w/tack 161 to 185 lbs)  
☐ Middleweight (Rider w/tack 186 to 210 lbs) ☐ Heavyweight (Rider w/tack 211 lbs or more)

**Horse Information (Saturday 50 Mile ride):**

Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Horse AERC No: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

**Horse Information (Sunday 25 Mile ride):**

Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Horse AERC No: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ride Fees - Must be received on or before 5 pm Monday January 13, 2025**

Entry Fee: \$120.00 (50 Mile Endurance Ride Saturday) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fee: \$90.00 (25 Mile Limited Distance Ride Sunday) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Camping Fee: \$20.00 per rig includes Friday, Saturday & Sunday \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(If you are sharing a rig, indicate who paid the camping fee. If not camping please state No Camping.)

AERC Non-member fee: \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Awards & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: \$12.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Crew Lunch Saturday: \$5:00 X \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Crew Lunch Sunday: \$5:00 X \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **Lancette Koerner**, and send with your **completed entry form & Signed Liability Release** to 2313 N Sinagua Cir Mesa AZ 85203.

**Refund/Cancellation Policy:** Ride entry cancellation received **on or before Monday, January 13, 2025 by 5 pm** and horses pulled at check-in will receive a refund less a \$25 administration fee. No refunds for ride entry cancellations **after January 13, 2025**. Please allow 14 days to receive your refund.

## **Agreement and Release of all Liability**

As I participate in the **Tonto Twist Endurance Ride**, I agree to abide by the rules of AERC and the aforementioned ride. I understand that endurance riding involves being in remote areas for extended periods of time, far from communications, transportation, and medical facilities; that these areas have many natural and man-made hazards which ride management cannot anticipate, identify, modify or eliminate; that horses can be excitable, difficult to control and unpredictable; and that accidents can happen to anyone at anytime. I agree to take full responsibility for myself and the animal I am riding. I will hold AERC, ride management, all ride personnel and all property owners over whose land the ride passes blameless for any accident, injury or loss that might occur due to my participation in this ride and free from all liability for such injury or loss.

### **Additional Release of Liability for Junior Riders**

I, as parent/guardian of the above minor rider, have read and understand that the liability release applies to me and my dependent. My signature also indicates that I give permission for any emergency medical treatment which may be required for my child, and do agree to indemnify and hold harmless anyone giving such consent. I do further acknowledge that I have read the foregoing and know and understand the contents herein. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

ALL RIDERS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MUST HAVE PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGN BELOW:

Rider's Signature\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions or concerns please contact Lancette @ 480-650-3124 or [Tontotwist50@gmail.com](mailto:Tontotwist50@gmail.com) .