

A E R C  
P R O C E D U R E S M A N U A L

Introduction

The idea of an organization for endurance riders grew out of the Nevada All State Trail Riders Association in 1968. At that time there were only five rides in W. Nevada and California--the Castle Rock 50, Tevis 100, Blue Mountain 50 and Virginia City 100 and the Tellington's ride. There were no rules; endurance riding was done just for the fun of it.

Then suddenly the sport started to go in different directions. People were experimenting with various ways of judging, minimum time limits and even obstacle courses were getting into the picture. Nothing was consistent. As more rides were created and more people joined the sport, it soon became obvious that an organized club was necessary to represent endurance riding.

Defining the sport, as compared to other types of horse events, was another primary reason for forming AERC. To help other riders learn about the sport and to help create new rides were other reasons. But always, always the real goal was endurance riding. And to see what one horse and one rider could do year after year after year.

The AERC was formed during the fall of 1971. On April 11, 1972 it became a non-profit corporation in California. The original founders of AERC were Phil Gardner, Marion Robie Arnold and Charlie Barieau who were later joined by Sam Arnold, Hal Hall, Todd Nelson, D.V.M., Kathie Perry and Julie Suhr. On January 18, 1975 these charter members were given "dues free life memberships" in AERC.

Phil Gardner was the president of AERC for four years, from 1972 thru 1975. Sam Arnold served two terms, 1976 and 1977, followed by Pat Fitzgerald in 1978; Dave Clagett in 1979; Jim Remillard in 1980; Bill Bentham, D.V.M. in 1981; Hugh Bryson in 1982 and Joe Long in 1983 and 1984.

The first AERC Executive Director was past president Jim Remillard. Jim operated the office out of his home in Chico, CA during 1981. In February of 1982 the first official AERC office was opened in Auburn, CA by executive director Ann T. Ronan and Marianne Clagett, recording secretary. The office has since moved to a larger space and now has a part-time membership secretary, Carol Saunders.