

## On The Road To Gold Medallions

By Kim Rumpsa

My name is Kim Rumpsa, and I am addicted to Appaloosas. Oh, wait... wrong group.

My name is Kim Rumpsa, ICAA membership number 1001, and I bought my first Appaloosa in 1984, Gavelin S. S., ICAA #2015. He was black with a blanket, and spots as big as my hand.

Dad always told me, "You can do anything you put your mind to." It's been a terrific statement for life.



Gavelin SS ICAA #2015

In 1987 I met my husband, Jeff, ICAA membership number 1002, and three weeks later he asked me to marry him. I told him, "If you marry me, you marry my horses. So, if you can't or don't want to deal with that, then we should probably end this relationship now." His answer was, "Whatever it takes to be with you!" For the last 26 years he's been true to his word.

Fast forward, Jeff and I have been breeding and raising Appaloosas since 2000. We bought our first Appaloosa stallion in 2000; 1993 Secret Mr BarReed (Mister), ICAA number F2-1799, now ApHC Gold Medallion Stallion (2006 & 2009).

Ray, Kathee, and Heather Glodowski, along with Dona Boatman had all been instrumental in shaping, molding, and mentoring me.



Kim Rumpsa and Secret Mr BarReed (Mister), ICAA F2-1799  
2000 ApHC World Show

In 2000 I missed his bronze medallion by a ½ point in pre-green hunter, after traveling down to Florida for the Fuzzy Navel (for those who experienced and remember, wasn't that an awesome venue??). I also celebrated my 35<sup>th</sup> birthday down there with my high school friend, Kathy Cook (I know she's proudly smiling down on us!).

The next year I hit the road hard and early, and earned his bronze in green hunter. In 2002 I tried to follow in my good friend, Dona Boatman's steps. I attempted endurance riding to work toward a silver medallion. I took my then 12 year old son with me, and he rode our Tennessee Walker mare. Half-way through the season, and during a ride, Mister had a

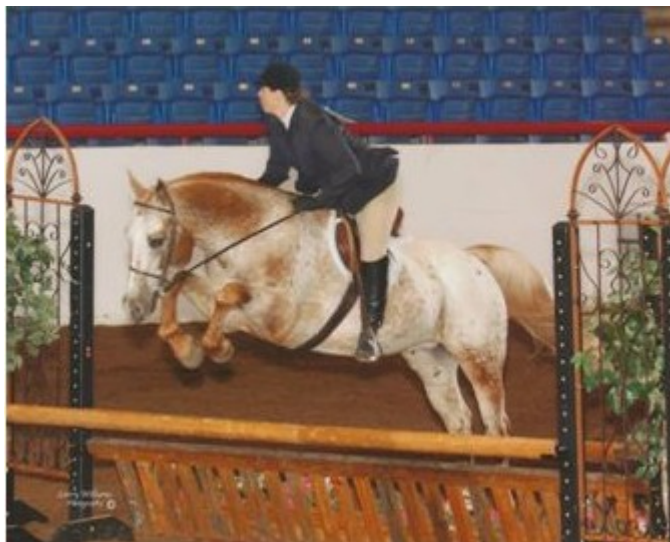
large muscle mass tie up in his inner thigh.

He was not able to pass the last vet check. Without the completion of that mileage I would not be able to complete enough miles for the medallion. Sadly, he was out the endurance races for the rest of the season. We had been showing concurrently with the endurance riding, and closed the year with another bronze, in preliminary jumping.

In 2003 I started conditioning Mister for the 2004 season in competitive trail riding (easier on me and my mind, but encompassing the entire weekend, instead of one day!). This time I had my son, Joe, riding our pregnant ten year old grey Appaloosa mare, Dancing Cherub (Jewel). I made a deal with him; if he would not complain, and just follow through with the minimum 350 miles in rides to earn a medallion, I would reward him at the end of the season with an item of his choice (he chose a mountain bike). So, Joe, then 14, conditioned Jewel while I conditioned Mister, riding every other day, mostly at a trot, often an hour and a half each of those days. We did this for a solid 6 months before the CTR season began for us, in Missouri. Those 11 months we racked up hundreds of hours of quality time together, while in the saddle and in the truck! We rode seven rides in 2004, 50 miles each weekend, in a total 6 states. I should mention Joe was not shy about telling people about his bribe, and early on in the riding season it became a common discussion at the rides. ;) Other riders were quick to help with the encouragement and reminder of his "prize" at the end of the season, counting down the miles with us. On occasion, some of my Rumpsa nieces and nephews tagged along, and would help where they could, at camp.

That year Joseph and I, along with Mister's previous owner, Karen Richardson, followed through with plans and rode the Chief Joseph Trail Ride. Joseph rode Jewel, and I took one of our other mares. Karen rode one of Mister's geldings she'd raised. A friend of ours, Jill Rizk, who also owned two of Mister's geldings, lived up in Montana. We hooked up with Jill at her ranch, to drive on to the Chief Joseph Trail Ride together. On our drive west to get to Joseph, Oregon, Karen, Joe, and I stopped at the Appaloosa Museum, as a side trip.

Joseph and I finished up 2004 completing our (my) goals; Mister earned a silver medallion, and Jewel earned a bronze medallion, both in competitive trail riding, and Joseph earned his bike.

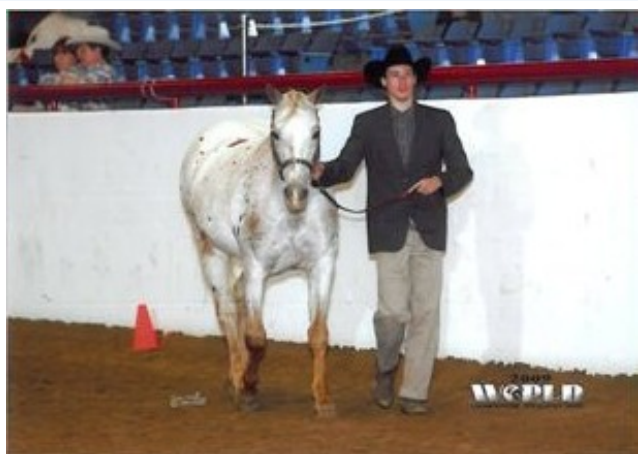


Kim Rumpsa and Secret Mr BarReed (Mister), ICAA F2-1799  
2003 ApHC World Show

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Jewel foaled, and we named him R Secret Joe Medallion (Jay), ICAA number F3-2443. The 'R' was for Rumpsa, 'Secret' for Secretariat (and Secret Mr BarReed), 'Joe' for Joseph, and 'Medallion' for Jewel's medallion earned while Jay was in utero. He was beautiful!!!! When Jay was born, his IGG test was very poor. He received a plasma transfusion while in my arms, with Jewel standing quietly over us both. He was a beautiful large blanketed red dun with a lovely star, strip and snip, socks, and lightning marks. I knew he was going to be a special boy.

2006 was the first year the ApHC was awarding a year end medallion in foundation pedigree designation (FPD) classes. I was bound and determined to earn a medallion in that category, hauling Mister, Jay, and R Secret Cloud Nine (all three FPD stallions). In 2006 I was able to finish the year earning a Gold medallion on Mister in foundation pedigree designation. I can't say I understood the significance, or the importance, or the grandeur of a gold medallion, at that time.

My husband, son, and I attended the awards banquet in 2007, held during the National show in Oklahoma City. After I picked up the award, Roger Johnson stopped me and said, "Hold that thing up; this is a REALLY BIG DEAL!!! Show it off ~ most people have never seen one of these!" It was at that moment I realized it was more prestigious than I had ever believed.



Joe Rumsa and Secret Mr BarReed (Mister), ICAA F2-1799  
2009 ApHC World Show

So, ahead to 2007, I had one horse-interested niece riding and traveling with me, Erin Rumpsa. She had expressed interest in doing the "competitive trail riding thing" with me, after traveling with us in 2004. We decided to shoot for medallions, and started conditioning our steeds in November. I would pick Erin up from school every other day, and we would ride until dark. The temperatures were not always conducive to riding, and we would often be out only for an hour or so, taking an hour to warm up afterwards (hot chocolate became a staple at our house).

2008 started out a little rough. In mid-February Montana developed an abscess, and was stalled for two weeks for soaking, wrapping, and meds. On Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> I took her straight out of the stall for a ride to see if I could feel any sign of her limping. She did not limp, but... Long story short, I had an accident in the woods attempting to land nicely after jumping off her. I broke my C-5 vertebrae in my neck, and had surgery that Monday, fusing my C-5 and C-6. The neurosurgeon team incorporated a piece of bone cut out of my right hip. Erin continued to

condition her horse, while my son conditioned mine for me. I intended for us to finish out the year successfully!~ I was released 4 1/2 weeks later, jumping at a show that weekend in Joplin, Missouri, and attending a competitive trail ride another week later. (Did I mention I have these awesome guardian angels who fly fast to keep up with me?)

We spent that year (2008) hauling to several states for competitive trail rides AND Appaloosa shows. We each trail rode one of Secret Mr BarReed's daughters; R Dun By Secretary (Jill), and R Secret Grai April Fool (Montana). We showed a few of the younger stallions, including Jay. Erin and I took four horses to the World show that year. She did a terrific job showing, and we brought home several ribbons from halter, to driving, to jumping. We closed the year with

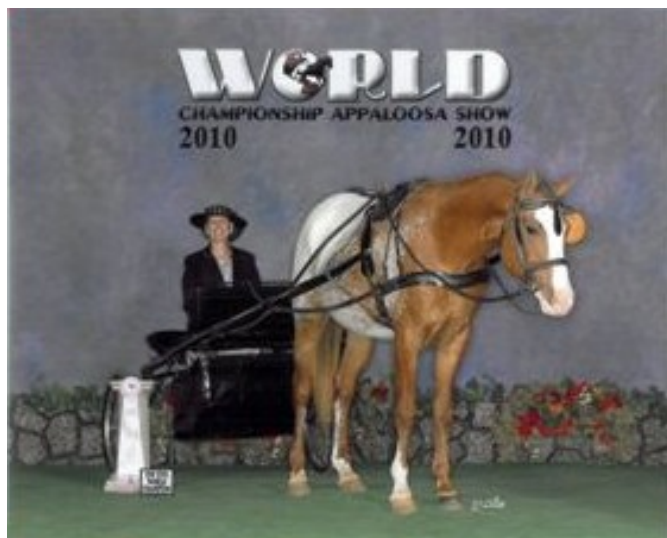


Kim Rumsa and R Secret Joe Medallion (Jay), F3-2443  
2009 ApHC World Show

bronze medallions on Jill and Montana in competitive trail riding, and Jay in hunter in hand stallions and FPD stallion halter (both in the halter category).

The next year, 2009, Jay brought home a bronze medallion in FPD stallion halter. In 2010 Jay earned two silver medallions; Ladies' side saddle, and pre-green hunter (both in the English category).

I thought 2011 might be the year to attempt a gold medallion on Jay. Mister was still the only living ApHC gold medallion stallion. How cool would it be to be able to brag owning the only *TWO* living ApHC gold medallion stallions????? Oops, Honey. I came up with another goal! ;)



Kim Rumpsa and R Secret Joe Medallion (Jay), ICAA F3-2443  
2010 ApHC World Show

I started conditioning Jay for competitive trail riding in December 2010 for the 2011 riding season. We completed 125 miles in Wyanet, Illinois, Palmyra, Wisconsin (where we visited Karl and Roger Johnson on our way home!), and Preston, Minnesota. Jay had some soundness issues during 2011, and we attended rides in Washington, Illinois and Lexington, Missouri with no earned mileage. Needless to say: lots of extra money spent on gas and entry fees.

On a side note, Jay is typically a very quiet and well-behaved stallion, and he quickly became known throughout the competitive ride groups as such. The ride veterinarians were always pleased and complimentary.

In 2011, with Jay, we earned a bronze medallion in FPD stallion halter, and a silver medallion in green hunter. We would have to try, again, the next year for Jay's Gold medallion.

In November 2011 Jay and I started the conditioning for competitive trail riding, again, for the 2012 riding season. A near-by Appaloosa owner friend decided she, too, wanted to do this trail riding thing, so she also started conditioning her gelding. Karen Sylvara also joined, and we rode most rides together.

Although not a ride that counted toward these particular goals, I did participate in an ACTHA ride in mid-April, at Hell's Gate Park, in Lewiston, Idaho on a friend's Appaloosa, PS No Joke, in my Plains Indian attire.

In 2012 we hit our first ride in April, and completed our last ride in mid-September. We attended 10 rides, traveling to Schubert, Nebraska, Pomona, Kansas, Cherryvale, Kansas, Lexington, Missouri, Wyanet, Illinois, Washington, Illinois, Utica, Illinois, Omega, Illinois, and Lehigh, Iowa. Five rides were sanctioned by UMECRA, three sanctioned by MOTDRA, and two sanctioned by NATRC. For the rides, alone, we put well over 6,000 miles on all vehicles used, collectively. Using an average gas price, at \$3.63 per gallon, and approximately 9 miles a gallon, there was spent roughly \$2,500 in fuel, alone. A ride might cost between \$65 and \$175, it might be a benefit/fund raiser, and camping might be included in the fees.

A competitive trail ride could be set for an average speed of between 4.5 and 6 miles per hour, depending on the ride. From the time we would leave camp until the time we might arrive back into camp to complete the day could actually take 8 hours or better. For instance, if it was a 30 mile ride for that day, set for an average speed of 5 miles per hour. The ride time of 6 hours, plus a couple mandatory breaks of a total 30 minutes, and a 30 minute lunch, and an added hour pad for over the target time start to make that time would total 8 hours.

That extra pad time helped often: I've lost horse shoes, Gators, Easy Boots, I've had broken tack, been off trail (WAYY too many times!), stopped to help another, had a pokey horse for some reason or another, I haven't felt well, and have experienced inclement weather, just to name some problems on the trail.

Most of my trips consisted of getting up early Friday morning, dropping a horse off at Julie Wahby's for the day, going to work, leaving Friday night directly after work, and driving until I arrived at my destination.



Kim Rumpsa and R Secret Joe Medallion (Jay), ICAA F3-2443  
Competitive Trail Ride 2012

Often, in the dark, and without cell service, I would put several extra miles on my vehicle. (You know it's difficult to read poor signage in the dark!) There were many rides I showed up at midnight, one, two o'clock... only to get up at 5 AM to feed, go back to sleep until 6:00 to sign up and vet in, with the rides typically starting between 6:30 and 7:30. Most times, as soon as the ride was over and I vetted out (utilizing the common competition lingo), I hit the road to home. Many times I arrived home, put the horse(s) away, and walked in the door with just enough time to shower and head off to work.

To date, with Jay, I have ridden in 6 State Parks (Moraine Kettle State Park, Palmyra, WI, Forestville State Park, Preston, MN, Indian Cave State Park, Schubert, NE, Mathiesson State Park, Utica, IL, Stephen Forbes State Park, Omega, IL, Brushy Creek State Park, LeHigh, IA), 3 Army Corps of Engineers properties (Army Corps of Engineers Pomona Lake, Blackhawk Trail, Pomona, KS, Army Corps of Engineers Big Hill Lake, Cherryvale, KS, Army Corps of Engineers Farmdale Reservoir, Washington, IL, ), and 2 private properties (Allen Hog Farm, Wyanet, IL several times!, and Big River Ranch, Lexington, MO twice).

My trip to Lexington, Missouri took the cake in the vehicle department, I shall say. We have a 1976 Suburban, and I had been hauling with that, with nearly 96,000 miles on it. My timing chain went out 1 mile from camp. (The timing of my timing chain was impeccable!) Having phone numbers of people at camp, I was able to call for help. Two trucks showed up; one to haul the trailer, and one to pull the truck. I only rode the first day, and I was able to make arrangements with our Appaloosa friend, Randy Smith, to use his truck to get my possessions home. He lives 30 miles away from camp. I took my trailer and horse home, came back with a car hauler, and brought the Suburban home. Randy picked the truck up from our house a few days later.

The next few trips I made (to Illinois) I used my mom and dad's 1989 Chevrolet Caprice, which had cargo coils for the rear suspension. It hauled my horse trailer like a champ!



Kim Rumpsa and R Secret Joe Medallion (Jay), ICAA F3-2443  
Competitive Trail Ride 2012

Truthfully, whether I was showing or trail riding, my on-the-road schedule was pretty similar. The gas prices and fuel mileage of the vehicles were pretty similar, too, unless I was using my dad's Impala.

Did we have break-downs, or other hiccups? Heck, yes!!!! Did my husband become upset with me at times for "leaving" him? Heck yes!!!! (I ALWAYS come back!) Was he supportive, even though this wasn't his cup of tea, it cost a lot of money, and he stayed behind as the farm hand? Extra heck YES!!!! (Thanks to you, Jeff, my favorite husband: I love you!)

I've made some priceless life-long friends, have introduced Appaloosas to many, and have created so many more memories to a chapter in my book of life. And, as an added bonus to this story, just like his sire six years earlier, Jay and I earned that Gold medallion.



From left to right:  
Secret Mr BarReed (Mister), ICAA F2-1799, earner of two ApHC Gold Medallions  
and numerous other awards,  
Kim Rumpsa, owner,  
and R Secret Joe Medallion (Jay), ICAA F3-2443, earner of one Gold Medallion  
and numerous other awards

(This is just some of the mileage)

960  
633  
450 plus  
540  
450  
600  
264  
900

*"Destiny is not a matter of chance. It is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved." ~ William Jennings Bryan*