

WPBA Year in Review

2022



Georgetown Pack Burro Race 2022. Photo Credit: Brian Wanke

Another Year of Haulin' Ass

----- Roger Pedretti

2022 was another tremendous year for the Western Pack Burro Association and our great sport of pack burro racing. History was made, records were broken, and everyone fortunate enough to line up behind a burro at the start line left with new friends, lasting memories, and a story or two to tell. After extensive research, as best I can determine, there were 21 burro races across five states in 2022. There were 978 signups for those 21 races, and 950 of those who signed up finished their race. The 98 teams that toed the line at the Idaho Springs race set a record for the most burro racers ever to start a race, and the 97 finishers at Idaho Springs and Leadville were both new records as well. To show how the sport is growing in leaps and bounds, you only need go back 10 years to 2012. That year there were 6 races, all in Colorado, with 214 entrants and 206 finishers. We had burro racers start and finish a race as young as 8 and as old as 70 something. It seems the sport will continue to expand into more states next year and will even become an international event, as the Western Pack Burro Association France plans on their inaugural event in June of 2023.

2022 Women's Triple Crown Winner!

Tracy Loughlin became the 9th woman to win the Triple Crown, and she and Mary Margaret are the 16th racing team to win this coveted award. I am sure the late, great Curtis Imrie would be proud of their collective effort, as Mary Margaret was a product of his Little Menokin Ranch burro family. Speaking of the Triple Crown, WPBA board member Lisa Sandoval completed the ambitious project of identifying all past Triple Crown winners and their burros, and the year each of those teams earned their crown. She then had plaques made for all past winners of the men's and women's Triple Crown and mounted on the respective trophies.



Tracy receiving the WPBA Women's Triple Crown Trophy from Steve Kuehster (on behalf of past Triple Crown Winner Louise Kuehster)

Youngest Winner (well almost) at the Frederick Miner's Day Pack Burro Race!

Speaking of breaking records, Aidan Mahlerbe, at age 14, came within 4 days of being the youngest burro racer ever to win a race when he finished first at the Frederick race in September. Wyatt Kuehster, brother of Triple Crown winner Louise Kuhster and son of longtime burro racers Steve and Mary Kuehster, was just four days younger than Aidan when he won the Idaho Springs race in July of 2012. Well done, Aidan! You can view all this year's race results, or at least all that we have been able to find, on the WPBA website at packburroracing.org. All of the races that I have been able to confirm for next year are posted there as well. If you are a race director and see your race results missing or don't see next year's race on the schedule, let me know and I will make the necessary corrections.



Winners Aidan and Yukon at the Frederick Miner's Day Pack Burro Race. Photo credit: Brian Wanke

WPBA By-Law Revisions

2022 also saw the revision of the WPBA bylaws. A working group of several people met numerous times to discuss changes. These changes were proposed to our members, and the members voted to approve them. We have identified some bylaws/rule changes that need tweaking for 2023, so we will soon be forming working groups to do so, as well as planning the 75th anniversary celebration. If you are interested in being a member of any of these groups, feel free to contact a board member and let us know.



Pedro being an outstanding burro ambassador at the Fairgrounds in Fairplay. Photo credit: Roger Pedretti

2023 WPBA Memberships

As a reminder, one of the bylaws changes is that WPBA membership now runs from January 1st to January 1st, so consider renewing your membership as soon as the New Year begins. Renewing your membership is now a fairly simple process. You simply go to the WPBA home page, click on WPBA Memberships, and you will be able to choose Individual or Youth membership.

<https://www.packburroracing.org/wpba-membership>

2023 WPBA Calendars

It is still not too late to purchase the really fabulASS 2023 WPBA calendar put together by our incredible WPBA photographers! It is filled with all kinds of neat pictures and will make a great gift! Discounts are available for purchasing multiple calendars. Buy them today and get them before the New Year at [https://www.packburroracing.org/2023-calendars!](https://www.packburroracing.org/2023-calendars)



HAULING ASS since 1949

2023 will be the 75th anniversary of Pack Burro Racing in Colorado! A major goal of the WPBA is to have a fun filled celebration honoring the 75 years of Haulin' Ass. Member gifts will be extra special and you won't want to miss out!

WPBA Board

President: Alexis Knight
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Vice President: Chris Malherbe
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Treasurer: Ellen Ritt
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Secretary: Lisa Sandoval
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<https://www.packburroring.org/>

2023 Race Schedule

[Phoenix Cheers With Long Ears Race](#)

- Sunday, January 1, 2023

[Apache Junction, AZ race](#)

- Saturday, January 21, 2023

[Black Canyon City Donkey Dash](#)

- Fri, Mar 10, 2023 and Sun, Mar 12, 2023

[Giddy Up and Run Race, TN](#)

- Friday, March 31, 2023

[Tombstone Desert Donkey Dash](#)

- Saturday, April 1, 2023

[Run With The Burros, CA](#)

- Saturday, April 15, 2023

[Turquoise NM Burro Race](#)

- Saturday, May 6, 2023

[Georgetown Burro Race](#)

- Saturday, May 27, 2023

[Idaho Springs Race](#)

- Sunday, May 28, 2023

[Creede Race](#)

- Saturday, June 10, 2023

[France Burro Race](#)

- Sunday, June 18, 2023

[Greenland Open Spaces Race](#)

- Sunday, July 23, 2023

[Fairplay World Championship Race](#)

- Sunday, July 30, 2023

[Leadville Boom Days Race](#)

- Sunday, August 6, 2023

[Buena Vista Race](#)

- Sunday, August 13, 2023

[South Fork Alder Ass Race](#)

- Saturday, September 2, 2023

[Victor Race](#)

- Saturday, September 9, 2023

[Fredrick Miner's Day Race](#)

- Saturday, September 16, 2023

[Autumn Equinox Rollinsville](#)

- Sunday, September 17, 2023

[Superior Jackass Dash](#)

- Saturday, October 21, 2023