



Distance Horse of the Year Award Winner 2021



Congratulations to the 2021 Distance Horse of the Year, Bantam Z, a 7 year old gelding out of MW Mister Z X Seranata+ and owned and ridden by Cynthia Mettes.

Bantam is out of one of Cynthia's former Endurance/CTR mares, she had high hopes for what they might get from her as she had a successful distance career herself; Bantam has far exceeded their hopes and expectations. Bantam was born with a wonderful personality and combining that with an excellent trainer who put a phenomenal foundation on him, he has become a superb riding partner.

Cindy and Bantam have competed in 5 different states in the 2021 ride season and experienced some fabulous venues, made new friends, and rode some spectacularly beautiful trails. In NATRC, Bantam placed in the Open Division with six first and 3 Sweepstakes awards. Bantam also completed an AERC limited distance pioneer ride (85 miles over 3 days) placing top 5 in each ride and was awarded High Vet Score on Day 3 along with placing in the Top 10 at his first AERC 50 in the mountains of Colorado. On top of all of that he also earned his NATRC National Championship and finished the year by winning the AHA Region 9 CTR Championship with a perfect score.

Cindy comments "I would like to thank Bantam for giving me an unexpected year full of fun and excitement. Finally I would like to thank my husband, Kim, for supporting me in every way with my extreme horse passion. Bantam's future looks bright and I look forward to many more miles on the trail with him and seeing what lies around the next bend in the trail."