



**Ride Choice nomination: Psyche on Fire**  
**Owned by Candy Barbo**  
**Nomination by Theresa Meyer**

One of the qualifications for rider choice nominations: would you like this horse in your barn. Well definitely not at first, but Psyche on Fire (better known as "Fire") has filled that bill for many years. He's definitely Mr. Reliable, Mr. First Place and Mr. High Point.

Returning from a trip, Candy and Ed stopped by Cedar Ridge Arabians in the Twin Cities on the way back home to Duluth. They are known for producing good riding and show horses. Candy hit the jackpot a couple years before getting CR Windsor there. They were shown three geldings, but Candy wasn't impressed by any of them. A day or two later, Ed asked Candy what she'd offer for one of those horses. She mulled it over briefly, and said \$1,000. Well, Ed went back and offered \$800 for Fire and they took it. For a broke horse. What does that tell you? Ed said, "Happy Birthday, Candy! Fire is yours."

It was not a match made in heaven...at first. They had great difficulties catching Fire the first year they had him. Fire was pretty rank, and likely on the way to auction if Ed hadn't picked him out.

At Fire's first competition, Candy was riding Windsor her wonderful grey, and she'd given her sister Anita the young, naughty Fire to ride and manage. They were riding comp at SE MN and I was doing P&Rs that day. Despite it being super-hot and humid, Fire would not stand still. Despite being with all his buddies, resting in the shade with him, he was very antsy.

But it didn't really take that long for Fire to settle in. He continued to be ridden by Candy's sister the first few years in endurance and comp in the Upper Midwest and Florida. Then Ed who chose Fire, rode him for several years earning heavyweight competitive top 10s in 2011 and 2012. Ed and Fire earned UMECRA Reserve Champions in HW Comp in 2013 and 2014. Fire was also AHA Competitive Trail Reserve Champion in 2013. In 16 competitions that year Fire was nearly unbeatable, only getting second place at Point Chaser.

In endurance this horse has 4,100 endurance miles, with a 94% completion rate and 18 BCs including a perfect BC score at Far Out Forest in 2015; and a first place and BC at the Big Horn 75 that same year.

2018 was another stellar year for Fire. Candy was in the saddle this season. He was MnDRA competitive lightweight champion and first place and high point at every UMECRA comp ride he was entered in. They took 3rd place purebred Arabian at the very tough AHA National Competitive Trail Ride. In 2019 Fire continued to impress because at 20 years old he beat an impressive field at AHA Distance Nationals – again earning a Purebred Competitive Trail Championship on a wet course. In 2021 Fire battled Lyme's Disease and by the end of the season was placing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> again. 2023 Fire completed several rides, most noticeably being the AHA National CTR again where he received another 3<sup>rd</sup> place!

Fire is just short of 6,000 UMECRA miles, and he has over 2,000 miles in non-UMECRA distance rides. That's 8,000 miles carrying Candy, Ed, Anita, and several others that need a reliable, steady horse on 100s to 25s. And not only is Fire a most wonder competitive and endurance horse, but that antsy mount is a distant memory.

Psyche on Fire is a durable, dependable and trustworthy distance horse that I'd welcome in my pasture. Candy says this has been Fire's last competition year, so I urge you to vote Psyche on Fire for Rider Choice.