

Dody Kirby & Sierra Bey Wind



2018 AERC Decade Team



Photo © Becky Pearman

Rider's name: **Dody Kirby**

Horse's name: **Sierra Bey Wind aka Itchy**

Year of First Endurance Ride (first year in the decade): **2009**

Region: **SE**

What is your horse's breeding? **Polish**

Sex: **Mare**

DOB: **2003**

Horse height: **14.3**

Approximate weight: **890**

Color: **Bay**

Itchy has been the most opinionated horse I have ever dealt with and thank goodness she has taught me what patience really means. Yes she has moody moments with the judges, vets, farrier, other horses, my friends and me, but it is all worth it. Once I am on her back and moving down the trail it is all FUN. She loves to go and loves being in the lead so she can ease her speed up without me knowing. Luckily I have friends that remind us to slow it down. She is bold, yet knows when to take care of herself and me. I would say she is also one of the smartest horses I have also. She is blessed with great feet and bone mass that has kept her strong and healthy. We hope to be a double decade team one day!

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse.

Our best ride was our last ride – and it was an LD. We were pacing in 2nd or 3rd place and we took a wrong turn behind some lost riders. We did an extra 8 miles – set us back at least 45 minutes and we still made 7th place and received Best Condition – my first BC ever out of 20 years competing.

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? **Most important lesson is keep your horse safe and have FUN!**

What advice would you give to new riders? **Have fun!**

What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it? **My goal with Itchy was the Decade Award and now we need to double that 😊**