

## Kerry Greear & Little Joe Too



### 2019 AERC Decade Team



*Photo © Steve Bradley*

**Rider's name:** Kerry Greear

**Horse's name:** Little Joe Too

**Year of First Endurance Ride** (first year in the decade): 2007

**Region:** MT

**Current rider lifetime mileage?** 7,875

Endurance: 7,845

Limited Distance: 30

**Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her?** One of my patients told me about this horse no one wanted. I found he was Al Marah/Shalimar bred. I told her I would take him but could not promise to keep him.

**What is your horse's breeding?** 1/2 arabian. Dam's side is Shalimar and sire's side is Easy Jet Too (paint)

**Sex:** G

**DOB:** May 2002

**Horse height:** 16H

**Approximate weight:** 950

**Color:** chestnut tobiano

**Why did you decide to purchase this horse?** I did not want him to go to the killer buyer

**Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse?** yes

**How many different horses have you ridden in this sport?** 2, Summerwood Silverhawk and Joe

**Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities?** trail ride

**How many years have you been involved with endurance? With horses in general?** Started endurance in 2004. Have ridden my whole life. What got you interested in endurance riding? I was looking for a challenge and read the book Tevis Cup. What was it that kept you interested? The people, the trails, the challenge

**How old was your horse when first started in endurance?** 5

**How many rides did you do your first three ride seasons?** I did one 50 the first year and three 50s the following year. I then just camped and rode Joe while I rode Hawk the next 2 years. I brought Joe back into endurance so I could ride the 2011 XP across Wyoming

**What mileage distance did you start with?** (25, 50, etc.)50s .

**How long until you top tenned or raced (if you did)?** I think it was 2011, his 3rd year. Joe was a basket case who did not do well with other horses. He started figuring it out on the XP. When I found his breeder was in hospice, I decided to ride Joe in the Big Horn 100. We did almost the entire ride with Bev Gray and Jolly. Jolly was the first horse Joe was comfortable with on the trail. He finished 2nd per plan.

**How much time off do you give between ride seasons? My horses mainly run in a pasture between mid November and mid March. If the footing is good, I may trail ride.**

**If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one?** I let my horses run in the pasture for at least two weeks after a 100 then may do some walking, climbing on our local trails

**If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one?** I have frequently done 3 and 5 day rides. I usually give them two weeks off after, and they run in the pasture.

**Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse?** Joe has mainly worn Easyboot Gloves or Glue Ons. The last couple of years I have used Easycare's Flex Plastic shoes. I have ridden my Specialized Trailmaster with both my horses since 2005. I always ride in a side pull.

**What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse?** Joe had no confidence and spooked. Big spooks. It took years of camping and trail riding to gain his confidence. I had never encountered scratches in a horse before Joe. It was challenging at rides such as Mt. Carmel and Grand Canyon. I often pulled him because he was uncomfortable. I finally figured out how to prevent it

**Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse.** The Big Horn 100 in 2011 was so special because Joe developed confidence. Joe finished fastest overall 5 day horse and BC overall at the Grand Canyon Ride.

**What was your most humbling experience?** Getting dumped the same way for 3 years. When Joe spooked, he would duck and spin.

**What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important?** Take the time it takes. Every horse is different.

**What advice would you give to new riders?** It is easy to let a really talented and willing horse do too much too soon. Be patient

**Looking back, what do you feel you did right? What would you do differently?** I gave Joe time and developed my relationship with him. I was lucky to have another exceptional horse to ride so I could bring him along slowly and still attend the rides I wanted to attend. I don't think I would change anything except get smarter faster about scratches

**What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it?** Decade Team and 3,000 miles with Joe were my goals starting in 2012, which was year 4.

**Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours?** Joe is very different from the original Joe. Just riding trails, I would let a child ride him. He is now confident on the trail but not confident with some other horses. I am a caregiver my nature and he is my child.

**What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most (50s, 100s, multadays, etc.)?** I love multi days in pretty and challenging terrain. I like to ride the same horse at least 3 days in a row.

**In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life?** I have made so many friends and ridden special places. I have learned to develop a good horse into a good endurance horse.

**Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success?** I am pretty simple with nutrition. Hay that we raise and grass are staples. Joe eats a lot at a ride: I mix a beet pulp based Senior Feed and a Soybean hull Senior Feed and always have Pro Choice licks at home and the powder when I travel.

**Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program (i.e., changed from one hay to another, added something special) that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem?** I've been doing pretty much the same thing for a dozen years

**What kind of supplements (if any) do you use?** Salt on the road and Enduramax on the trail

**Do you give any kind of joint products?** The last few years, I've given monthly Legend during ride season to Joe

**Describe your electrolyte protocol.** Joe is a big horse. I use 1 oz of Enduramax the night before and morning of a ride and after a ride. During the ride, it depends on the weather how much I give, small amounts but frequently if it is hot/humid/high elevation

**How do you choose which rides to attend?** I like pretty and challenging rides. I live and ride in one of the prettiest places in the country, so I often just want to ride at home.

**Do you go to many rides outside of your region?** I have enjoyed the Grand Canyon ride several times, enjoy Idaho rides, but mainly ride in the Mountain Region.

**Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why.** Dave and Annie Nicholson and Dave Rabe. They embody endurance/friendship/historical trails to me.

**Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them.** Dorothy Sue Phillips was my mentor. Tough woman with a heart of gold

**In choosing your next horse, what would you look for?** I have my next horse, a purebred Arabian gelding WMA Sandcastle. I call him True. He is a challenge but I love him. Joe is 18 this year but still looks and feels great. We will continue to enjoy a lot of miles together.