

## Lorna Christopherson & Alley-Bugs



### 2018 AERC Decade Team



The classified ad read, “Two six year old Arabian mares, \$800 each. Must take both.”

I wanted Alley-Bugs at first sight. She is a small burnished mahogany bay with sturdy legs and feet and a pretty head. Crescent, her half sister, is an affectionate chocolate bay with a lovely long mane and tail and bad front teeth. Of the pair, Crescent is less energetic.

Alley-Bugs and Crescent had been rescues and the new owners were unable to keep them, so we promised to give them both a forever home. The owners lived in a spacious triple wide and the horses were kept within a single wire around the perimeter of the home. Alley-Bugs and Crescent slept under the bedroom windows.

Back at my parents’ ranch, Alley-Bugs had a new rider and I had a new mount. Our introductory period evolved slowly and was not without problems, but I was convinced Alley was an exceptional horse. Initially, she refused to be bridled and after that, ran away with me. I’m typically independent, but I wanted to ensure Alley-Bugs was given the best possible chance. Once help came, it was evident I was in need of education, not Alley.

Alley-Bugs and I share hunger for the trail. She has done well, often placing in the top ten. I've made mistakes, one even resulting in personal physical injury. But at our core, Alley-Bugs and I are one. We live for the pleasure and challenge of the long distance ride.

