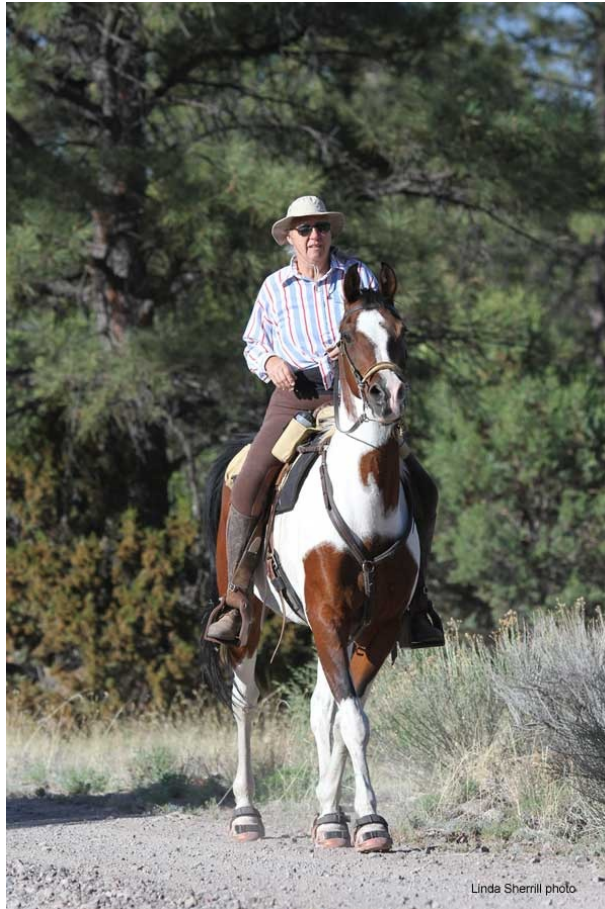


## Annie George & Chance G7



American Endurance Ride Conference

### 2012 AERC Decade Team



Linda Sherrill photo

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**Rider's name:** Anne George

**Horse's name:** Chance G7

**Year of First Endurance Ride (first year in the decade):** 2001

**Region:** SW & MT

**Current rider lifetime mileage?** about 5000. Not everything early on got recorded.

**Limited Distance:** I just got my first LD patch. Don't do much of that.

**Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her?** I got Chance as a throw away. He was a very bad boy. We had our battles, and at first he won them all. Then gradually I started winning, and now we have it worked out. We have an agreement. If I don't aggravate him to bad he wont buck me

off. He's a pretty good boy now. He loves this sport.

**What is your horse's breeding?** Chance is half Saddlebred. and Half Arab. Very heavy Bask lines on the Arab side.

**Sex:** G

**DOB:** 1994 Chance was 18 last February.

**Horse height:** 16h+

**Approximate weight:** His racing weight is about 1200. it goes up from there.

**Color:** Bay Paint

**Why did you decide to purchase this horse?** He was pretty and he was cheap. I had started a couple of Saddle bred Arab crosses for other people and I liked them. So I was looking for one.

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

**How many different horses have you ridden in this sport?** I think 3 or 4, Maybe 5 I have to look.

**Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities?** I get to work cattle once in a while. And I trail ride a lot with non Endurance friends.

**How many years have you been involved with endurance? With horses in general?** Horses were waiting there for me on the ranch when I was born. I started Endurance riding in the mid early 1980's

**What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested?** I like the fact that I can go see a lot of country, not worry about what trails to ride. I always want to see what is over the next mountain. I never want to go home. And a lot of nice people to ride with, or not, the social aspect of the sport is nice.

**How old was your horse when first started in endurance?** I think Chance was about 8.

**How many rides did you do your first three ride seasons?** I have no idea. Not a lot.

**What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.)** Started with 50's. Rarely do an LD

**How long until you top tenned or raced (if you did)?** Started a lot faster than I ride now. Did top 10 some, I have one BC Or should I say BooG7 got a BC. But the older I get the slower I ride.

**How much time off do you give between ride seasons?** None, I have never been able to do tons of rides, so I just go when I can.

**If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one?** Tried or finished ??? HeHe

**If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one?** No set time at all, for

100's or multt days. Just till the horse asks to go out for a ride. You can just tell when they are ready.

**Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse?** I have been building endurance saddles for along time so I use my saddle, and the girth I make. I just went from shoes to Renegade boots. We are both loving that change. Chance is doing much better with the boots. Strap ons and Glue ons.

**What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse?** Well Like I said Chance was a very bad boy. When he came to me he knew how to do several interesting things. Buck, rear, run over me, several other things. we eventually worked it all out, I just don't give up on a horse very easy. I think the ones that are so terribly ruined end up making the best and bond so close once they gat to trust you, and you work things out. Chance is not an easy horse to ride, but he's my pardner.... When we finished out first 5 day ride at Brice, Cheryl Johnson congratulated us and said "Good Grief Annie we all though that horse would kill you"" .... He had gained a pretty good rep by then.

**Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse.** Oh I don't know, the best ones are when I don't get dumped. HaHa No Really! I have been dumped off Chance more than any horse I have ever ridden. I really think my best rides are at home just me & Chance on the Continental Divide trail. Just enjoying the day.

**What was your most humbling experience?** There is quite a list. I'd have to think on that awhile.

**What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important?** Endurance is a sport. It is not a job. If you don't enjoy it don't do it. Don't take your self so serious, and just be where you are, on the trail, in the standings, or whatever. Just enjoy the ride the country and friends.

*"Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment." Will Rogers*

**What advice would you give to new riders?** GO SLOW. Learn all you can. Even if you have been on horses all your life this is different. In 10 years you will not believe how much you have learned. And How little you actually knew when you came in. Most of all go slow, don't be out there trying to run and win. In the first place you will not beat the old timer front runners. So don't even try, your horse will pay. Instead of trying to outrun them pick their brains, ask questions. If you don't know what the questions are, ask them, they will tell you. But mostly just ride slow.

**Looking back, what do you feel you did right?** I did some right things, and I learned from doing a lot of wrong things.

**What would you do differently?** Oh yeah, if I knew then what I know now? Probably a lot of things. I think I would be quicker to try new things. I'm kind of set in my ways (ask Karen) and so I am slow to change. Like going to boots.

**What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it?** Mostly to just never hurry my horse. and I've done pretty well with that. I'm very pleased with this decade thing. I don't deserve any credit at all for it. It was all Chance. Chance is my hero.

**Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours?** Actually I think we are a lot alike. Bold ornery and often cranky on the outside, We will both chase people out of our corral. But really soft inside.

**What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most (50s, 100s, multadays, etc.)?** I love the XP multi day rides, that's my favorite.

**In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life?** Getting to see a lot of beautiful country that I may never have gotten to ride thru. And I have so many wonderful friends that I would never have known.

**Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success?** I have always kept it simple. God made horses to use water, salt and grass. But since we ask so much more of them than God did, we do have to add some things. This last year I have started fish oil, flax seed, and lately fast track. I can see a difference. Chance is in the best shape of his life rite now. He is a big heavy horse, and the fish oil has helped the heart rate a lot.

**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?** See last answer.

**What kind of supplements (if any) do you use?** I have fed Calf Mana as far back as I can remember.

**Do you give any kind of joint products?** Yes. I have tried Adequan, Legend, they were OK. But I get the best results with Pentason. Chance has some old age issues now, and it helps him a lot.

**Describe your electrolyte protocol.** I have always been pretty stingy with elites, but lately I have used more, and I am pleased. I preload, and then use some during a ride depending on what I think he needs. I don't give a lot of it tho.

**How do you choose which rides to attend?** I have my favorites, and there are some I wont waste my money on. It pretty much depends on what ride is going on when I can afford to go time or money.

**Do you go to many rides outside of your region?** Most of my rides are outside SW

**Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why.** Trilby because she just kept plugging along. Karen Chaton because she has done so well, and she is the research geek that I always listen to..... eventually.

**Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them.** No I didn't, I just got out there and did it, I asked questions when I met someone I thought was doing it rite.

**In choosing your next horse, what would you look for?** Well I have Sofee, she is a gaited Rocky standardbred cross bred. She is 4 1/2 and I will be riding her this fall. So we shall see. As for the dream horse, I can't tell you. When I se a horse I just get a feeling. I had that feeling with Chance, and even tho I have questioned it many times, all in all it was right.