

Kerry Humphrey Greear & Summerwood Silverhawk



American Endurance Ride Conference

2013 AERC Decade Team



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Rider's name: Kerry Humphrey Greear

Horse's name: Summerwood Silverhawk

Year of First Endurance Ride (first year in the decade): 2004

Region: Mountain

Current rider lifetime mileage? 5,400

Endurance: 100%

Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her? Hawk was coming 7yo, standing in a

pasture in western Montana. I was his 4th owner and he was unstarted.

What is your horse's breeding? He is a Morab (50% Morgan/50%Arabian)

Sex: G

DOB: July 3, 1995

Horse height: 14.3

Approximate weight: 850

Color: Gray

Why did you decide to purchase this horse? He chose me. He had the look of Eagles in his eyes, liked me immediately and I simply liked his looks

Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse? No. I did not even know what endurance was

How many different horses have you ridden in this sport? 2

Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities? Yes, lots of trailriding

How many years have you been involved with endurance? With horses in general? 10 years endurance, lifetime (58 years) with horses

What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested? I was looking for a challenge for my 50th birthday. I saw the book, Tevis Cup, and decided to do it for my 50th. To do Tevis, I had to learn how to be an endurance rider and see if I had a horse able to do a 100 miler

How old was your horse when first started in endurance? 9

How many rides did you do your first three ride seasons? I started with two 50s my first year, did 4 more 50s before Tevis my second year. His third season we did a total of 665 miles including two 3-day Pioneer rides and finished 2nd and BC at the Big Horn 100.

What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.) 50s. I've never done an LD.

How long until you top tenned or raced (if you did)? Hawk and I finished 8th at Ft. Howes at our first ride and I waited until every starter was out of sight for at least 10 minutes prior to our start. I have never raced Hawk, I just try to go a steady pace.

How much time off do you give between ride seasons? My horses run in a pasture with an occasional ride/weather and footing permitting between November and March every year.

If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one? My horses are turned out into a big pasture for two weeks after a 100 then I trail ride on them. Depending on the ride difficulty, I would give the horse at least 3 weeks before another endurance ride.

If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one? Hawk has done numerous multi-days, both 155miles and 250 miles. He is always his strongest on the last day of these rides. I turn him out in the pasture for a week to 10 days after one of these rides then start trail riding. I like to do a multi-day 3 to 4 weeks prior to a 100 miler.

Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse? All of my horses have been barefoot since 2008 and use Easy Care Glue Ons or Gloves for rides. I have ridden both horses in a Specialized Trailmaster saddle since 2005. Hawk does best with a HAF pad. All our rides have been done using a sidepull from Mad Tack.

What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse? I have been fortunate and Hawk has never had problems. This past year I found he has some arthritis in his left front pastern joint, had it injected and did the 210 miles for him to achieve 5,000 miles. He is still sound.

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse. Hawk and I loved the 2011 Grand Canyon XP Ride. It snowed, was pretty cold on days 2 and 3 and we rode with Dave Rabe everyday. We finished in first place four of the days and fourth place the other day. Hawk felt great all 5 days. He loves cooler weather. The second best overall ride was 2006 Big Horn 100. At the 75 mile vet check we were an hour behind the winner and finished 3 minutes behind her and received BC.

What was your most humbling experience? Not picking up on the tree being broken in my Specialized Saddle in 2007. I couldn't figure out what was wrong with both horses, even got a metabolic pull on Hawk. It ruined my entire 2007 season.

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? I learned to watch and listen to people who finish lots of miles every year on the same horses and to adapt that knowledge to my horses. I have also learned to avoid things that riders do that lead to problems/no completions.

What advice would you give to new riders? Be open to ideas, have at least one mentor, but most importantly, learn to listen to your horse.

Looking back, what do you feel you did right? I listened to my horse and myself. All my years of trail riding and health care of people and the ability to reason/concentrate have helped me

What would you do differently? After my saddle tree problem, I have learned to check my equipment faithfully. I also tighten my own girth.

What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it? My goals have changed through the decade. My initial goal was to complete Tevis. After I achieved that in 2005, my goal was to complete the Big Horn 100. I achieved that in 2006. On the way to goal #2, I achieved my goal of a multi-day ride. We then achieved the goal of fastest overall time on a 5 day multi day and in 2012 overall best condition on a 5 day multi day. In 2009, I set the goal of Decade Team and 5,000 miles by the end of 2013. We achieved those goals and I decided to retire Hawk from endurance. He is a great trail horse who safely takes my 90 year old mom and my granddaughter on challenging mountain trails. He can continue to do that

Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours? Hawk likes to pose and is a show off. He loves cooler weather, and loves to see what is around the corner. We are alike in those ways. We don't believe in quitting but we will change our plans throughout a ride if needed. I think we have been a great team.

What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most (50s, 100s, multidays, etc.)? I love multi-days the best and am crazy about the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Mt. Carmel rides. I also love challenging 100s such as the Big Horn 100. Hawk and I did that one twice and finished 2nd and 6th.

In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life? Endurance riding fits well with my personality. I really like most of the people in the sport, like to continue learning, enjoy helping other people be successful, and achieve goals. Endurance has enabled me to enjoy some of the finest trails in the country with one of my best friends, Hawk. The sport has also allowed my family to work together to manage a ride and do multi-days and 100s as a team.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success? We have good grass hay and that is what I feed. I do make a lot of slop when traveling and at rides and utilize beet pulp, senior feed and oats for that.

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 really haven't changed much except limit green grass grazing more than I did a few years ago.

What kind of supplements (if any) do you use? The last couple of years I used Legend prior to multi-days or 100s for Hawk. I push vitamin C during and after these rides as well.

Do you give any kind of joint products? In 2013 I had one of Hawk's pastern joints injected.

Describe your electrolyte protocol. Two days before travel, I start with a little slop with salt added. The days of travel I add a small amount of enduramax to the slop. I give small doses of electrolytes with a syringe the night before the ride, before the ride and several times during the ride if it is hot and or humid. I believe in small and frequent amounts of electrolytes when my horses are working.

How do you choose which rides to attend? I prefer pretty and challenging rides. I work as a nurse practitioner and need to be able to fit rides into my work life and family life. Every February I determine my goal for the year and have 3 different paths to reach the goal. That way I'm not bothered as much if I have to change my path.

Do you go to many rides outside of your region? Not many because of distance but did travel to the Ozark Trail 100 because folks were saying it couldn't be done. I decided Hawk and I could finish it and we did. We went to Tevis, did a 100 in the MW, did a 50 in Central Region and Grand Canyon multadays in Southwest.

Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why. #1 is Julie Suhr. She is, in my opinion, the BEST ever as far as her promotion of trails, endurance riding as a sport and endurance riders in general. #2 is Dave Rabe and Karen Chaton---because it is hard for me to think of one without the other. They have paved the way for us to ride beautiful trails successfully and are always willing to lend a hand or mentor riders. #3 is Dorothy Sue Phillips who has always encouraged and helped me.

Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them. Dorothy Sue Phillips mentored me through my first multi-days and has helped me overall in my endeavors. She understands the true meaning of "endurance" and is always generous.

In choosing your next horse, what would you look for? I already have my next horse and hope to do a lot of rides on him in 2014. Once again, he chose me. His owner couldn't get rid of him because of his reputation. I was fortunate to have Little Joe Too fall into my lap. He has already been successful in multi-day rides and finished second in the Big Horn 100. He has a great work ethic and fabulous trot and canter. I also have another horse, a coming 5yo purebred Arabian who I think is going to be a fabulous endurance horse. I'm not going to be in any hurry to start him in endurance rides, he will trail ride with me the next couple of years and learn about camping and taking care of himself from Hawk.