

Debbie Linebarger & Jayyid



2014 AERC Decade Team

Rider's name: Debbie G. Linebarger

Horse's name: Jayyid

Year of First Endurance Ride: 4-6-2002

Region: Central

Current rider lifetime mileage:

Debbie G. Linebarger - 14014

Endurance – 1420

Limited Distance - 1220

Jayyid – H30491

Endurance - 1720

Limited Distance - 1195

Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him?

I had been looking for “the” horse for about 5 months and even had purchased one and ended up giving him away because he was not “the one” for me, we were not a good match. Darolyn Butler called and asked me to go with her to North Carolina to try out a horse; I did and on the way back purchased “Jaybay”. The people at her barn were not happy and neither were her daughters, everyone loved Jaybay, and now he was my new partner. I knew that we would ride a long time together; that I would be his forever. He is the typical little boy, just like the ones that I raised, full of surprises. All my riding buddy's know about his spooks, they are epic! I have always said riding cutting horses first prepared me for him! I fell in love with him and all his surprises. I fell in love with him because of all his personalities. It was just by happenstance that he was the right size, color and type that I had been looking for; with the personality and ability that I had to have. He was and is “the” horse of a lifetime.

One more thought: When I was a girl I spent most of my free time in a dance studio. Ballet and Jazz were my world. I never went outside and played with my brother and cousins because I did not want to be dirty. When Mark and I were married he was my polar opposite. Hunting fishing camping and riding was his background. It took him 10 years to get me on a horse; and it took me one day to say OK to selling our house in the suburbs and move to the country and live with horses, chickens and cows. I love my life with my husband, Mark, who has supported me and my Jaybay, all these years. Mark has made sure that I have what I need to ride and travel with Jaybay. Jaybay takes good care of me on trail. It is a perfect life with the perfect horse! And husband.

What is your horse's breeding?

Sire – The Minstrail – Dam Amiri Samaa

Morafic is on both Sir and Dams side.

Sex: Gelding

DOB: 4-19-1994

Horse Height: 14.3

Approximate weight: 800

Color: Bay – four socks – blaze

Why did you decide to purchase this horse? We were and are a great fit! His personality and abilities are a great match with mine. I trust him and he trust me. His size was perfect at 14.3 he is perfect.

Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse? Yes, Zola, Dancselot and Aloof. Limited Distance on Kohlani, Major and Alistar

How many different horse have you ridden in this sport? I have owned 4, but have ridden four or five different horses while looking for Jay.

What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested?

The ride! I love spending time in the saddle. Cutting and Reining just became boring. The Salt Grass Trail ride became a horrible drag. The challenge of the ride, spending time with Jaybay out of trail and all the wonderful people is why I keep coming back to endurance. The fact that endurance takes such special care of the horse is very important to me. I have learned more about horse health and nutrition in endurance than in any other horse sport. The Welfare of the Horse is my first concern; not my miles or placement.

How old was your horse when first started in endurance? He was 8 when I purchased him, but he had started with Darolyn when he was 6.

What mileage distance did you start with? I did one 25 on Jay then started with 50's – then had to go back to 25's after my injuries. I had three years of major injuries that kept me from riding much. So I decided that our new goal would be to earn 1,000 miles in Limited Distance, and we did.

How much time-off do you give between ride seasons? Summers in Texas are hot and I will cut our riding down to once or twice a week, early in the mornings. I just cannot put a saddle on a soaking wet horse due to the heat.

Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse? My farrier uses aluminum shoes on all four. We will pad if going to a very rocky ride. I ride him in an S Hack, they only time he has gotten mad at me was when I put a bit in his mouth. (I wanted to see if we could do Reining together, he didn't want the bit or the arena, I got me answer real fast!)

What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse? No horse is perfect and that includes Jaybay. He would always get a "B" on back during our rides. I tried standing though the whole ride and that did not help. After I had our saddle checked numerous times; I started to change pads and found that the SuperCore did the job. Also I have to keep him shod due to his conformation with his back legs. Making these two changes have made it possible to ride for a very long time and to continue. He also gets "A's" on his back now. I do not like to keep shoes on any horse, but Jaybay has to have them. When I give him a rest during the hot part of our summers my Ferrier will have to put shims with his shoes to

balance him, because of the way he wears his feet off after just 8 weeks. So keeping shoes on keeps him balanced and a pain free back.

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse. Montell Cliff Hanger, this ride had been my jinx until Jaybay! That is when I knew that he was half Billy Goat and loved the challenges of the rocks and hill. We had a blast!

What was your most humbling experience? Our first pull – I was having a great time riding with friends and was not paying enough attention to the trail and Jaybay's left front foot went into a hole. He was lame by the time we got back to our vet check, but he never showed it on trail. I was heart sick that he was hurt out on trail and I did not know it. His injury was not career-ending or life changing to him but was to me. I pay much closer attention to the trail and if he has a bad trip or fall out there I take more time to check him out before continuing. Because I learned a big lesson about him, he will mask his pain.

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel most important? Take care of your horse and he'll take care of you. I have always taken the very best care of Jay I could. So when I got hurt he took care of me. He changed his gates – going easy and holding on to me. He knew I was not a 100%.

What advise would you give to new riders? Take time finding your partner – do not look for color or how beautiful he is; look for personality and training that matches you ability. Remember you are going to build a partnership that will last a long time.

Looking back what do you feel you did right? Taking the time needed to learn Jay before we started riding endurance. We spent months riding in my arena and trails learning each other and then teaching him things that I wanted him to know and do for me. I knew that Jay was going to be my forever horse so I never rode him to hard and gave him plenty of time off. Good vet care and good food is one of the keys to riding your horse for over 10 years.

What would you do differently? I cannot think of a thing. Jay is 19 years old and has been healthy and fit for most of his life.

What was you highest goal for your horse and did you achieve it? 3,000 miles. We have not gotten there yet and it is my fault. I have had 3 major injuries that have slowed us down.

Describe your horse's personality how is it like or unlike yours. Jay is the typical "little boy" he loves being dirty and hates being groomed. I love to groom and he will tolerate it – but then go and find the nastiest place to role. He is like me in regards to the trails – he loves a challenge and so do I.

What kind of rides do you enjoy most? 50's are the most challenging for the most fun and us.

In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life? I have made friends that will last a lifetime. And riding Jay through the trails is a great stress reliever; all the cares of the workweek and life just melt away.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success?

I keep it simple. Jay stays outside on pasture, unless it is freezing rain. He has good hay and high quality grain. We use beat pulp to make a wet mash. I take all kinds of things to our rides, carrots, alfalfa cubs (soaked), oats etc. You never know what he will want or need so I am prepared. One ride he will eat two bags of carrots the next he want touch them but will slop down a bucket of wet alfalfa cubs. They know what they need, trust them.

Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem? Flax meal has been added to his food for 11 years. First to be used for Sweet Itch and continued for all the other benefits it has.

What kind of supplements do you use? Flax Meal

Do you give any kind of joint supplements? Now that Jay is 19 years old I have started him on a basic joint supplement.

Describe your electrolyte protocol. Electrolytes for every horse are different; Jay does not require as much as some. I do use them but sparingly his body will get rid of them through his urine, so I watch it very carefully.

How do you choose which rides to attend? I mainly ride in our region due to my workload. My J O B keeps me close to home and I use my vacation days for traveling days to our Central rides.

Do you go to many rides outside your region? I have only been to a couple but enjoyed them.

Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to and why.

Darolyn Butler, I met Darolyn through a friend that I rode the Salt Grass Trail Ride in the early 90's. We went to Darolyn's ranch to ride and by the end of the day I was hooked. I tried to ride my quarter horse at Armadillo and it did not go over very well. Within the next 2 weeks I had bought my first Arabian from Darolyn, Zola. She taught me the sport and how to condition, watch and listen to your horse. And then I bought Jayyid from her in February 2002.

Vicki Hudson, taught me to ride with confidence and trust in Jaybay. Riding out of trails is a lot different than riding in an arena or on the Salt Grass Trail Ride. One day riding through the woods at Darolyn's ranch, she was behind us and hollered at me to let go of the saddle horn and trust Jaybay. I did and from that day till now I have never forgotten what she said. I have watched her with her horses and learned great love and compassion for these majestic animals.

Priscilla Auther, taught me to let go and fly like a butterfly. I would never leave home alone, I was always scared; but she taught me to trust myself and go. Every out of state ride I have done after I bought Jaybay has been with her and I have always learned something about traveling and taking care of our horses on the road.

Do you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her. Darolyn Butler was my mentor and now friend for years. I bought my first endurance horse from her, Zola and when I was ready to start again (after my boys went off to the Marine Corps) I went to her to find Jayyid.

In choosing your next horse what would you look for? Now that I am older, I looked for and found a horse that has a much smoother gait and a little on the lazy side and I found him; his name is Major, we should start endurance next season.