

Brenda Miskimmin & MC Penny Too



2011 AERC Decade Team



Brenda and Penny at the Pink Flamingo Classic. Photo by Steve Bradley.

Region: NW

Current Rider Lifetime Mileage?

Endurance: 2725 (2215 with Penny)

Limited Distance: 225 (all with Penny)

Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her? I raised Penny and owned her mom, Shae Alana. From the day she was born, Penny loved being around people so she was very easy to train and has a great attitude.

What is your horse's breeding? She is 15/16 Arab, with Russian/Polish on the top side and a bit of Egyptian on the dam's side. She is a registered partbred in the Canadian AHR.

Sex: Mare

DOB: 8 July 1995

Horse height: 14.3 hh

Approx. Weight: 900 lbs

Color: chestnut

Shoe size: 1

Or, hoof boot size: 1

Why did you decide to purchase this horse (or if you didn't purchase, why did you choose to use this horse in endurance)? It's what we bred her to do and she seemed to have the aptitude to do it.

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

How many different horses have you ridden in this sport? About a dozen, but none as long as Penny.

Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities? Anything trail related; a bit of CTR, lots of recreational trail riding.

How many years have you been involved with horses? 30 **In endurance?** 22 (some of the early records are in Alberta/not AERC).

What got you interested in endurance riding? Loved riding trails much more than around in circles in an arena. Endurance and CTR gave me something to work towards while trail riding.

What was it that kept you interested? The great people I've got to know over the years.

How old was your horse when first started? 4 yrs old. First ride? 5 yrs old (CTR & fun rides)

What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.) 25, plus a couple of CTRs the previous year.

How long till you top tenned or raced? (if you did) – We started going faster when she was 8 yrs old. Top tenned a few times although the number of ride entries was not usually high.

How much time off do you give between ride seasons? From October to February, no riding due to icy and unsafe trails, she gets to just be a horse.

If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one? A week to 10 days, then ride easy.

If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one? A week to 10 days

What kind of tack do you use? (saddle, pads, girths, bits, etc.) – Sport saddle, Dixie midnite pad plus equalizer pad, S-hackamore

What kind of shoes do you use on your horse? steel shoes, no pads

What kind of problems have you encountered? Colic

What was the worst or most severe injury your horse has had? No severe injuries, she has been very sound.

What was the worst or most severe injury you have ever had relating to horses or endurance riding? I had a bad wreck in 2000 – broken leg, 2 broken arms – I bailed from a bolting horse – I don't have that horse any more!

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse? Ride Over the Rainbow, her first 100 in 2008. It was my highest high as an endurance rider to finish just after dark following glowsticks into camp, to the cheers of my friends, the hugs, the champagne, I'll never forget this.

Describe the worst day you ever had with your horse? Serious colic after a ride. Very scary.

What was your most humbling experience? Same as previous answer

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? Too many to list.

Where does your horse live? Full turnout? At home with full turnout 24/7.

What kind of environment did your horse spend the first few years of its life? pasture with a small herd.

What are your horse's strengths? Low resting pulse, fast recoveries, very cooperative "can do" attitude; very loving; strong back and hindquarters; straight/correct legs; eats and drinks pretty well at rides

Weaknesses? Metabolic/colic sneaks up on her at rides with no or little warning. Happened about 4 times over her 10 yrs in the sport.

What advice do you have for new riders? Don't ride fast when just starting a horse in the sport; let your horse eat along the trail.

Looking back, what would you do differently? Not get caught up in other peoples rides (rare, but usually this was when difficulties occurred).

What do you feel you did right? Slowed down over the years, and kept my goals within what I thought she could achieve – long distance, moderate speed.

What was your highest goal for your horse? Do 100 milers. Did you achieve it? Yes, we completed 2 of the 3 100s we started. Very difficult mountainous terrain. So proud of her for this.

Describe your horse's personality? Sweet but can be feisty at rides. How is it like or unlike yours? She's nicer than me, but we're a good match, totally bonded.

What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most? I like them all, but 100s were personally most rewarding.

In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life? Made some great friends; doing this sport makes it easier to complete difficult tasks especially that involve a combination of mental and physical toughness.

Describe your electrolyte protocol. Electrolyte at holds and on the trail for longish loops.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success? I think there may have been something missing in my nutrition program at rides that contributed to her occasional metabolic issues. Electrolytes sometimes did not dissolve well when I tried to use them quickly, which I think may have caused imbalances (a vet suggested this).

Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem? Not really.

What kind of supplements (if any) do you use? Minerals

Do you give any kind of joint products? (describe) – Have used Adequan IM the past few years and believe it comforted her joints in years we did those 100s and multi days.

How far do you usually travel to rides? 2 – 4 hour haul is typical. We are fortunate to have several rides in southern British Columbia. I wish there were more 100s within range.

Do you go to many rides outside of your region? Sometimes to the northern states – Idaho, Washington.

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

1. Julie Suhr – need I say more?
2. Christy Janzen – such a good horsewoman, super representative for Canada on the international scene.
3. Madeline Bateman – my friend, always there to help with anything that's needed.

Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Christy and Ron Janzen. Tell us about him/her/them.

Describe the first rig you had and then tell us how it compares to your current rig? LOL. Our first rig was a homemade trailer with a ramp that the horses were smart enough to refuse to load onto. I think it was unsafe! We then got a 2 horse straight haul that was pretty good. Now I have a 2 horse angle and a camper on our Ford diesel. Not as fancy as some, but does the job.

In choosing your next horse, what would you look for? A horse much like Penny, which is why I plan to breed her next year!