

## Cheri Briscoe & MMF Thunder's Echo+/-



American Endurance Ride Conference

### 2016 AERC Decade Team



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**Rider's name:** Cheri Briscoe

**Horse's name:** MMF Thunders Echo+/-

**Year of First Endurance Ride (first year in the decade):** 2006

**Region:** PS

**Current rider lifetime mileage?**

Endurance: 24,500+

Limited Distance: 485

**Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her?** Echo is homebred. Sire was purchased as a 3 year old. Dam is third generation my breeding.

**What is your horse's breeding?** Polish with a dash of Crabbet and Babson Egyptian. Sire – HOF – DR Thunder Bask+// (one of my other Decade horses). Dam – Koszars Silmaril – full sister to my other Decade stallion, MMF Faramir+//.

**Sex:** Stallion

**DOB:** August 2, 2001

**Horse height:** 15 hands

**Approximate weight:** 900+

**Color:** Black bay

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

**How many different horses have you ridden in this sport?** More than 10. But over 1,000 miles each on four of them.

**Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities?** No.

**How many years have you been involved with endurance? With horses in general?** Endurance since March 1976; horses since 1955.

**What got you interested in endurance riding?** I was fed up with showing in speed events.

**How old was your horse when first started in endurance?** 5 years old.

**How many rides did you do your first three ride seasons?** 19.

**What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.)** 1 25, then all 50s or longer.

**How long until you top tenned or raced (if you did)?** November 2009.

**How much time off do you give between ride seasons?** None, really – my season ends in November and starts the first weekend of December. But it is slow June through the end of July.

**If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one?** Depends on when my next ride is – usually two weeks. Doc did 100s back to back.

**If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one?** Same as 100s, sometimes just one week.

**Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse?** Renegade hoof boots, Boz saddle and bareback rig. All my horses go in mechanical hackamores so they can eat their way down the trail.

**What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse?** None except scratches at desert rides. Desitin and lots of it!

**Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse.** They're all good but I think Day 4 at Echo's first Grand Canyon XP when we passed the spot where Doc, his dad, got his 15,000th mile. (Tears, tears.)

**What was your most humbling experience?** Echo getting loose at the start of a ride when he knocked me down and then pulled back and the bridle came off.

**What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important?** With a sound horse, miles don't hurt but "speed kills" and it is very important to constantly "read" your horse.

**What advice would you give to new riders?** Take it easy – pick everyone's brain and then see what makes sense and works for you.

**Looking back, what do you feel you did right?** Made mistakes with previous horses and learned a lot.

**What would you do differently?** It's gone pretty well with Echo so far.

**What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it?** Still going – would like to get 10K on him and my 10th Jim Jones Award (Doc had five, Far had one and Echo has three to date).

**Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours?** He's a stinkpot like all of his dad's

“kids.” Not mean, just likes to jerk your chain. (I hope I’m not that way.) He’s a “people horse” and basically kind (and I hope I *am* that way).

**What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most (50s, 100s, multidays, etc.)?** Multidays.

**In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life?** Great people and learning what seems so important to do right now oftentimes really isn’t. Patience.

**Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success?** Just top-quality hay and Equine Senior during rides (Les Carr put me onto that).

**Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program?** Orchard Alfalfa 70/30 seems to have worked the best (fortunately no problems to date).

**What kind of supplements (if any) do you use?** Don’t except Equine Senior at rides only – would use if I had a problem and vet recommends.

**Do you give any kind of joint products?** No, unless vet recommends for a problem.

**Describe your electrolyte protocol.** Very seldom use. If I do use, it’s ain half doses of Dr. Kerry Ridgway’s formula: 2 parts Lite salt, 2 parts regular salt, 1 part dolomite.

**How do you choose which rides to attend?** I hate to travel and am lucky there are lots nearby. Will go to Southern Utah or Arizona for a Duck ride. Am very leery about first-time rides (except Duck rides).

**Do you go to many rides outside of your region?** 2-3 multidays, 2 50s.

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

Julie Suhr – our first lady of endurance

Dave Rabe – a great horseman and a great person

Dr. Dave Nicholson – No-nonsense, a wonderful vet and great horseman

**In choosing your next horse, what would you look for?** Getting old and creaky but I would breed my own: brains and conformation and substance, and “pretty” is a plus – like frosting on a cake.

I have MMF Elendil, Echo’s 11-year-old,  $\frac{3}{4}$  brother with just over 1K miles to give Echo a break.