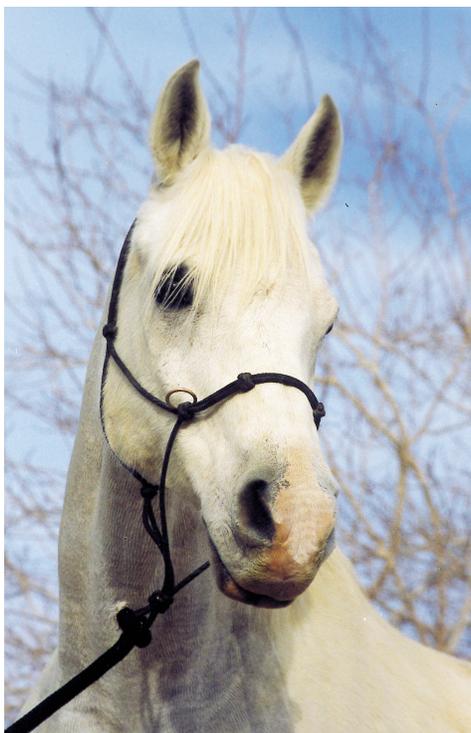
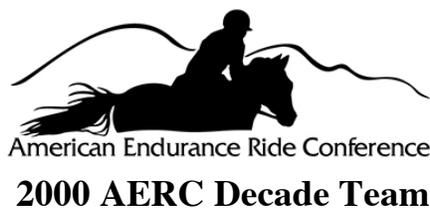


## Jackie Bumgardner & Zayante



**Rider Name:** Jackie Bumgardner

**Horse Name:** Zayante; 12795 Miles & 233 Ride Completions

**First AERC ride:** 1991

**Region:** PS

**Tell us about your horse:** Zayante belonged to a horse trainer in town and Jim, my ex-husband, was shoeing him. Jim told him if he ever decided to sell the horse we would like to buy him. This was primarily based on his good conformation and great bone. At least a year later he called and said that he would sell him to us. I, Jackie, rode him for a couple of months and when Bob and Julie Suhr called looking for a horse I told them that I had several ready to go and they could try them at my 20 Mule Team Ride. After the ride they had Nancy Elliot do a pre-purchase exam and bought Taco who they later named Zayante after the canyon close to their home. They rode him 5,000 miles without a pull. About 5 years had gone by and they called and asked if we would like to buy him back as he was still a little spooky and they were not getting younger. Needless to say I was wondering why I had ever sold him and bought him back. Julie's goal was for him to do 100 rides without a pull. So I had to do about 10 rides, which I was happy to do. He won his 100th ride, which was not the plan but just happened. I took him to the Washoe 100 for his 101 ride and was pulled by Nancy Elliot, DVM. Didn't really know what was wrong but he slightly off in the rear. He seemed OK so I entered another ride and was pulled. I finally had him x-rayed

and the vet felt it was arthritis in his hocks. We injected him and kept riding him. He seemed to be getting through the rides OK. I was also giving him Adequan. He eventually seemed to be OK and I continued giving him Adequan before rides. He has been pulled a few times but not very often. He is now close to 13,000 miles, which I hope to do this spring.

**What is your horse's breeding?** He is obviously Arabian but I have no papers.

**Sex:** Gelding

**DOB:** Don't know but he is at least 22 or 23 now.

**Approx. Weight:** 950

**Color:** He is my token grey as I usually don't do grey.

**Shoe size:** one

**Easyboot size:** 1 or 2

**Why did you decide to purchase this horse?** When I bought him back he had an incredible record plus having never been pulled.

**Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse?** We had our own breeding program too. I rode our Hall of Fame Stallion, Sierra Fadwah+/- for about 3,000 miles and he ended up going 7200 with lots of different riders. I also rode his son, Sierra Fadrazal+/- almost 8500 miles. He was a great horse and seemed to love what he was doing. He did over twenty 100-mile rides as well as won both the Death Valley Encounter and the Capitol to Capitol 200. I also received the Pardners' Award in 1992 with him and he is at 27 still my "pardner" as I ride him ponying youngsters almost daily. He is still doing LD's.

**How many different horses have you ridden in this sport?** Have ridden about 10 different horses mostly my breeding.

**Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities?** I try to do one or two dressage lessons a week with my horses and am a member of our Adult Pony Club so do some Dressage Rallies with them, I have also hunted with the local Hunt Club.

**How many years have you been involved with horses?** I started riding in Alaska when I was 6 yrs. old. Took lessons most of my life as my Dad was a Naval Aviator and we moved lots. Finally when I was in high school I was able to have a horse, but didn't ride again for about fifteen years while I was going to school and working. I started trail riding and then eventually did a few Competitive Trail Rides and then started endurance riding in the mid 1970's.

**What got you interested in endurance riding?** What was it that kept you interested? I liked being able to get off and run with my horse when I was younger as well as seeing lots of great country. I think it was the people who kept me in the sport. I enjoyed most of them a great deal.

**How old was your horse when first started?** Zayante was probably about 15 when I bought him back.

**How many rides did you do the first, second, and third ride seasons?** I generally rode about 1000 miles a year and generally placed in the region standings and sometimes in the National standings.

**What mileage distance did you start with?** I started with a 50 and didn't finish. I fell and ended up in the hospital. It was the Mt. Whitney 50.

**How much time off do you give between ride seasons?** As I move from the mountains to the desert in the winter my horses never really have an off season. They just keep on going.

**If you have done 100's, how much time off do you give after doing one? What is your schedule in the month leading up to the ride?** I might give a horse a week off after a 100 but I usually like to ride them fairly soon just to get rid of the stiffness. I keep them turned out in fairly large areas also. I might do a 50 in the month leading up to a 100. Don't really do much too special if they have been doing rides. Do lots of hills in training.

**If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one?** I would give them a week or two off after a multiday.

**What is your schedule in the month leading up to the ride?** I generally train on an every other day schedule (about 8 to 12 miles) and do lots of hills.

**What kind of tack do you use?** I have been using a DSS (Donna Snyder-Smith saddle by John DiPietra) but I now have a new Fadwah daughter and I am not sure what I am going to use on her as she has a different back then Fire Mt. Fadjur who I just sold.

**What kind of shoes do you use on your horse?** I think the shoes are called "eventers" but can't remember for sure. I use a "star" pad that my ex-husband designed. He cut a peace sign on the cream colored pad. My farriers have continued to do that and it has worked very well for me. He designed it as we were in the wet pastures in the summer and were doing Nevada rides, which were often rocky. We put nothing under the pad and the horse's feet could dry out when the pasture was dry.

**What kind of problems have you encountered?** Mostly saddle issues. Just keep trying until I find the right one. I had a problem with my right ankle when I used an endurance saddle instead of an English type saddle. I was sitting next to Arleen Morris at Ft. Shellbourne one night for the ride meeting and asked her if she had ever had a problem. She told me she put a farriers wedge pad in her stirrup. It works well if you tend to pronate or supinate. Really made a big difference for me. I just use duck tape and now have them in both stirrups.

**What was the worst or most severe injury your horse has had?** Zayante has never really had a bad injury. The arthritis I mentioned earlier is about it. He has been very sound. He did have a bad case of Strangles, which we got at the VC 100 and I was worried that I might lose him but he toughed it out.

**How did you work through it?** Kept everything very clean and kept him away from the other horses. Because he was confined to a stall I walked him a couple of times a day as his legs were stocking up.

**Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse?** My best on Sierra Fadrzal+/ was when I won the Capitol to Capitol. His Dad was the first stallion to complete this ride and it was a thrill to win it on his son. Was just looking at Zay's record and can't really come up with a best ride on him. I think I have loved them all.

**Describe the worst day you ever had with your horse?** Can't think of one except his first pull at the Washoe 100 and not being able to finish Tevis on him because of his arthritis situation was also disappointing as he had 4 Tevis completions.

**What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important?** I have learned to ride my own ride and not get caught up in what others are doing.

**Where does your horse live?** My horses are all in a large (15 acre) pasture in the summer and in a big turn out in the desert.

**What kind of environment did your horse spend the first few years of its life in?** Zayante was in a big barn in the San Luis Obispo area and sold for \$100 with no papers when the bottom fell out of the Arabian business.

**What are your horse's strengths?** He seems to be able to keep going like the energizer bunny. He is fun to ride and has good recoveries.

**Weaknesses?** He is still a little spooky but has never dumped anyone because of it.

**What advice do you have for new riders?** Get a mentor or go to someone who knows what they are doing. Stick to your goals-make a plan and stick to it.

**What do you feel you did right?** I put a lot of base miles on my horses and they lasted a long time. That worked for me as I really wanted to have a relationship with my horse. Many other riders have ridden Zayante as I had others that I needed to ride. Nick Warhol has almost as many miles on him as I do.

**What was your highest goal for your horse?** Did you achieve it? With Zayante it has been mostly mileage goals as I didn't get him until he had 5,000 miles. Didn't ask him for lots of speed and he usually finishes at least middle of the pack.

**Describe your horse's personality?** He is probably more competitive than I am and would like to go faster. How is it like or unlike yours? I just like doing the rides. Don't have to go fast now that I am older. He really doesn't either and he has been a good baby sitter for many of my younger horses.

**What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most?** I like the multadays and always have. I used to enjoy the 100's and still do but are a little harder on my body now.

**Describe your electrolyte protocol.** I use Endura Max or Ride Rite and do not use lots of electrolytes. Usually electrolyte before the ride and at lunch. Do not use them at every water stop.

**Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success?** I have had my horses on Platinum Performance with lots of beet pulp and some grain, which they get in the mornings. I

think the Platinum has really helped Zayante's joints as well as his weight. Have never seen anything else that put weight on and kept it on as well.

**What kind of supplements (if any) do you use?** Platinum Performance

**Do you give any kind of joint products?** Just what is in the Platinum and Adequan before a ride.

**How far do you usually travel to rides?** Usually not more than 4 hours unless it is a multi day.

**Do you go to many rides outside of your region?** As I live in two regions PS and West the answer would be yes I do go to rides out of my region.

**Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why?** Bob and Julie Suhr because they are lovely people and take good care of their horses. They are also very tough. Melissa and Robert Ribley now have a place in Ridgecrest and we get to train quite a lot. They are good at what they do and do consistently well at rides they enter. Robert takes his job on the AERC Board of Directors seriously. Steph and John Teeter have done lots for the sport with endurance.net. They are fun to ride with and I enjoy their company.

**Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them.** The only people around my place who were doing endurance riding were Bill Thornburgh and his daughters Tracy and Callie. They were a big help when we first started. We did get to ride some together and they were very helpful. Bill loved the sport and shared that with us. We missed him when he was no longer around.

**In choosing your next horse, what would you look for?** I have always felt that the horse must have a good mind. Fortunately all the horses we bred had that. Zayante also has a great mind and the desire to do the sport. He really loves what he is doing. I do not want to ride a horse whose eyes glass over at the start and he forgets I am up there. A good conformation is also important but not the most important. Age is not important to me either. The Fadwah daughter I just bought is 13. She has about 400 miles done quite a few years ago.

***A note from Julie Suhr about Zayante:*** “I consider Zayante to be the best horse I have ever ridden. I was pretty sure of it when we had him, but since then he has added 8,000 miles and is still going strong -- the true test of a great horse -- the years and the miles. Jackie and Nick, his primary riders, have managed him so well.” *Julie*