

## Julie Phair & Barts Royal Ore



### 2016 AERC Decade Team



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I am thrilled for Barts Royal Ore to join the honoured ranks of the Decade Team. Having competed myself for 32 years starting from the backyard horse to FEI medal level and logging over 10000 competitive miles, nothing makes me happier than to reach a longevity milestone such as the Decade Team and particularly with “Roy” as my partner. Our Team also includes my dedicated and understanding Pit Crew, my husband Ron, who has been there for every mile.

In 2005, Roy had been purchased as green broke. An unfortunate incident occurred and that person decided to send Roy back to the breeder. I noticed Roy at an endurance ride camping out patiently waiting for a trailer ride home. His temperament struck me and after speaking with Lynda Townsend, the breeder, who said “Just take him home and see what you think”. Well after 12 years we are still together.

I sent Roy for 2 months of training to a dear friend and excellent trainer, Joan Storrey. Our course of action was to put in a year of slow work and get exposure to various terrain and conditions before doing our first mileage ride in October 2006. Longevity has always been my goal as so much time, energy and cost goes into any competition horse. I truly believe in LSD both from a physical and psychological mindset. Our first 50 mile endurance ride was at the end of 2007 after competing throughout the year in competitive and set speed rides and gradually increasing the distances. By 2010, Roy had one of his best years, placing 7<sup>th</sup> in the NE Region Featherweight Division. As a rule, we don’t ride fast or hard and usually end up middle of the pack with 15 Top Tens out of 35 completions. Although Roy has a beautiful huge trot, over distance, his best pace is an average of 8 mph. He has a natural surefooted ability to move over rough ground with ease and excels at the more technically challenging trails.

2015 was a downer year and we were told his career may be over. Stubborn as I am, I had trouble accepting that and wasn't ready to give up on him. So fall of 2015, we went back to the drawing board and made some changes in conditioning, nutrition, supplements and discussing possibilities with his chiropractor and farrier. I cannot pinpoint one specific change that made the difference but believe it was a combination of things.

In 2016, we started off the season in April with very short rides building up to a 55 mile ride in July which put us into the Decade Team category. To me, each completion was a blessing and things continued to get better. By October, at 16 years of age, Roy completed 473 miles in the OCTRA ride circuit including 255 endurance miles with all Top Ten placing and a win, 2 BC's and 2 HVS. He was the 2016 High Point Arabian in Ontario and the OCTRA Overall Horse of the Year. His career endurance mileage is 1805 and in combination tallies 2395 OCTRA miles.

We have developed a strong bond over the years and I truly hope that we have many more years and miles together. We are honoured to join the other Decade Teams. Can we aspire to the next decade? Who knows but we will keep on keepin' on and enjoying the trails as long as we can. To Finish is to Win will always be our goal.