

Joni Buttram & Cash Bonus+/10



2014 AERC Decade Team



Photo © Becky Pearman

Rider's Name: Joni Buttram

Horse's name: Cash Bonus+/10

Year of First Endurance Ride (first year in the decade): 2005

Region: SE

Current rider lifetime mileage? About 8300

Endurance: about 8300 - **Limited Distance:** 0 miles

Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her? Cash was a rescue. Starving, skinny, barely halter broken, mane and tail were nearly chewed off, and still a stallion. Perfect for a 9 year old junior right? A neighbor had roped him (he was loose), and brought him to us because "y'all have Arabs, right?" 150 bucks later, he had a home. 6 months later he did a 50.

What is your horse's breeding? TWH/Arab (Polish)

Sex: gelding (supposedly, really is proud cut NOT on purpose)

DOB: May 25, 1998

Horse height: <14.1

Approximate weight: 850

Color: chestnut

Why did you decide to purchase this horse? He was cheap, and trotted out nicely.

Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse? Yes, my first endurance horse took me through my first 3 100s and almost 2000 miles.

How many different horses have you ridden in this sport? 14

Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities? I took dressage lessons for a while, and enjoyed it. I simply don't have time for anything but endurance as a full time college student in nursing school.

How many years have you been involved with endurance? With horses in general? Been involved with horses my entire life, so 21 years. As of December I'll be starting my 14th year of endurance.

What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested? My mom did endurance and got me my first horse, a 6 yo Arab mare. I love 100s, that keeps me in the sport. I hope that distance doesn't fade out.

How old was your horse when first started in endurance? 7

How many rides did you do your first three ride seasons? First year 5, second year 6, third year 7. The first three years included Cash's first 7 one day 100s.

What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.) 50

How long until you top tenoned or raced (if you did)? He top tenoned his second ride, and another few rides his first season. These were not fast rides though, as there were not many finishers.

How much time off do you give between ride seasons? 2 months+ in pasture without ANY riding, this is time to be a horse and recoup.

If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one? About 6 weeks NO riding or work of any kind. They need to rest, I do this for all of my horses.

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

Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse? Cash wears Ground Control shoes, but I'm currently trying out the EasyShoe.

What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse? After his 10th 100 Cash cut 2 tendons, and the vet suggested he be put down. Manuka honey was a miracle for him and he made a full come back, and didn't even miss a year of competition. He even placed 1sr, BC, and High Vet Score in his first 2 100s back from that injury.

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse. I've had too many good rides on Cash to pick just one. He is a 100 mile beast, so his 13 100s have been the best.

What was your most humbling experience? Completing 100 miles of OD trail three times in one year on Cash. His second 100 was OD, then he did AERC nationals there that year, and we went back to OD the next summer and again completed. Like I said, he is nearly unstoppable when it comes to 100s.

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? Know your horse. I know him inside and out, from his floppy lip, to his paddling slow trot, to his nearly impossible to post huge trot, and his still studly attitude.

What advice would you give to new riders? Learn your horse, and move up distance before you are tempted to race in shorter rides.

Looking back, what do you feel you did right? Rest time and using his talent in 100s rather than fast 50s.

What would you do differently? Honestly not much, I was a junior rider his first few years, so I didn't make all of the decisions. When I was 14 and rode unsponsored I already knew the horse well and he had a base so I can't take credit for much of anything. I do wish I had know to canter in sand earlier, as thats the reason for most of his pulls. Big trot + sand = sore rear end.

What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it? Decade team, done—actually 2016 will be our 12th year. He hit 3000 miles this year. Highest goal that we haven't reached is Platinum 100 mile status. We currently have 13 100s together, so we hope to get those last 2 soon.

Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours? Cash is a complete and total jerk. He is obnoxious, opinionated, and all business. I guess we are alike.... I know I can be a real stick in the mud sometimes.

What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most (50s, 100s, multadays, etc.)? 100s by far, anything else is "just" another ride. 100s are everything to me.

In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life? I know how to stick to it. I also think riding without a sponsor made me independent. My first 100 without a sponsor I was the only finisher, and the only one to make it past 50 miles. Bears have been a problem at that ride, but Cash took me, a 14 yo girl through it and I never thought anything about going out alone in the dark with him.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success? Good quality feed, hay, and grass, enough to keep him "too plump" by the standards of most.

Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem? Adding a buffer to elytes, absolutely helped with eating immediately after being dosed.

What kind of supplements (if any) do you use? None

Do you give any kind of joint products? None

Describe your electrolyte protocol. I use a home mix on all of my horses.

How do you choose which rides to attend? Do you go to many rides outside of your region? Not very many, I did make a trip to Big Horn this year with my new 100 mile mare.

Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why. Stephen Rojek, Barbara White, and Julie Suhr. I look up to them for their 100s, they are real endurance riders who support the essence of the sport.

Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them. My mom was my sponsor for most of my rides from age 8-14. I learned a lot from her, mostly keep up and shut up. I was also sponsored by others who taught me a lot.

In choosing your next horse, what would you look for? 100 mile potential, straight legs, and sturdy build. I've recently started 100s on a newer horse of mine, also a rescue and she is exactly what I want in a 100 miler. I can only hope she will be half the horse that Cash is.