

## **Karren Beason & Jupiter's Moon+/-**



### **2015 AERC Decade Team**



**Karen: 16,460 miles; Jupiter's Moon+/-: 3230 miles – Central Region**

My sister and I bought “Hawk” and his half- brother Winocin from Bruce Nagel when Hawk was 18 months old and Winocin was three. I had known Bruce for several years and liked his horses. We had a foal from his stallion and our mare, and when we took her back to be bred, we saw these two young ones in the pasture. They went home with us, and Hawk became mine.

He is a bay polish bred gelding and will be sixteen this year. He is 15 hands and weighs about 950. I bought him because I liked the way he stood off in the pasture and watched us plus we had the half- brother we really liked; he just had that look.

I have ridden some really nice horses over the last 35 years of participating in endurance, and Hawk is as close to my first horse, S.N. Shahil+ in work ethic and ability as I have gotten. I have had an equine of some kind since my grandfather bought me my first pony; and our family has been involved with horses as long as I can remember. Friends that discovered endurance riding introduced me to the sport, and it was love after the first ride that I tried. I did one limited distance and moved to endurance

and have used limited distance as conditioning/training for a young horse or to bring myself back after a layoff. The challenge of the trail, keeping a horse fit and sound, and the horse people involved are all positive reasons for doing endurance.

I haven't ridden a 100 for several years, but usually three to four weeks between long rides or multi-day would be enough time off. We have had the same farrier for over 15 years, and do not use any special shoeing or products, although, Hawk had back problems that were finally solved with a specialized saddle. Best ride would have been the last 100 we completed. He and I both were fit and ready, the trail was challenging, and the weather was great.

Most humbling experience would have been thinking I could really follow trail, and getting totally lost. Endurance teaches so many lessons it is almost impossible to select one, but listening to one's horse I think is the most important, because they will tell you what you need to know. I don't like to give advice to new riders, as I have probably made every mistake a rider could make and am certainly not an expert. But, if you take your time and become a horse person, not just a horse owner, you will be in the sport for the long haul, and a wonderful experience.

Riding one horse for many years has been always been a goal for me, I think that is why I really like multi days. Riding 50 miles three to five days in a row seems to encourage care of the horse. Hawk will be my last endurance horse, as he is only 16, and has as many years left to go down the trail as I do.

We are moving to limited distance, and I am looking forward to remaining involved with the sport. My heroes are Julie Suhr, Dorothy Sue Phillips, and Jan Worthington. All three are strong, capable horsewomen that set a really high bar for the rest of us. My favorite ride in Central Region is the Jo Tate Memorial; out of region, Shamrock up in the Mountain Region.