

Karen Bumgarner & Z Summer Thunder



American Endurance Ride Conference

2016 AERC Decade Team



2016 Santiam Cascade – photo © Jessica Wynne, jwynnephotos.smugmug.com

Rider's name: Karen Bumgarner

Horse's name: Z Summer Thunder

Year of First Endurance Ride (first year in the decade): 2007

Region: NW

Current rider lifetime mileage?

Endurance: 25955

Limited Distance: Zero

What is your horse's breeding? CMK Arabian Sire x Rushcreek Arabian mare

Sex: G

DOB: 8/15/2001

Horse height: 15 hands

Approximate weight: 900-950

Color: Chestnut

Why did you decide to purchase this horse? I bred and raised him, owned his sire, Z Mufaurwa, and dam, Rushcreek Hollie. Thunder is everything I bred him to be.

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

How many different horses have you ridden in this sport? Several have been high mileage horses

Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities? Trail ride, used to game and had racehorses

How many years have you been involved with endurance? Since 1977

With horses in general? Since I was 3 years old

What got you interested in endurance riding? Adventure!

What was it that kept you interested? Adventure, competition, seeing God's great country from the back of a fine horse and doing something that not everyone can do.

How old was your horse when first started in endurance? Almost 6

How many rides did you do your first three ride seasons? One the first year, then 7 and then 8 for a total of 16

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

How long until you top tenned or raced (if you did)? We got lucky and top tenned in 2008, usually just ride ☺

How much time off do you give between ride seasons? Winter months

If you have done 100s, how much time off do you give after doing one? A week or two – I resume with slow trail riding

If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one? A week or two, it just depends on his attitude and when he starts running the fence and causing trouble

Do you use any special type of tack or shoeing with your horse? Easycare Gloves the last 8 years

What kind of problems have you overcome with your horse? We had a nasty wreck when Thunder was 6, long story but we had a lot to work through to become a team. In addition Thunder has a crooked foot which has to be carefully managed.

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse. Possibly our first multi-day at Owyhee Canyonlands, we did all 5 and Thunder looked great. He's a lot easier to ride after the first couple days

What was your most humbling experience? Eating dirt

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? Thunder is different from most horses. A thinker, very sensitive and emotional, trust me when I say that he is unlike any other horse I have ever had. Dedicated to improving my skills.

What advice would you give to new riders? Take your time letting the horse grow up and start conditioning slow and build up.

Looking back, what do you feel you did right? The miles of long slow conditioning, cattle work, trails etc.

What would you do differently? Gelded him sooner than 3. Might have less "tude" but I doubt it.

What was your highest goal for your horse, and did you achieve it? Thunder has done everything I ever asked him to do, 100's, multi-days and all with a rider who is half-lame most of the time. In addition he has done more than I ever hoped he would as I never dreamed he'd go over 5000 miles. I had hoped for 3000, figured I'd run out of money by then.

Describe your horse's personality? Strong willed, determined, and people tell me that I am ☺

What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most (50s, 100s, multadays, etc.)? Used to be 100's –now it's multi-days.

In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life? It makes you set goals and work very hard to achieve them - never give up.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success? Just good quality and consistent feed

Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program (i.e., changed from one hay to another, added something special) that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem? No

What kind of supplements (if any) do you use? Good quality and what is available in the area at the time. Products come and go

Do you give any kind of joint products? no

Describe your electrolyte protocol. I place it in his drinking water in camp, and in his mash at vet checks and after the ride

How do you choose which rides to attend? I prefer big loop rides, as in 50 mile loops, and the less number of loops the better. I seldom do rides that consist of 10 and 12 mile loops, lots of repeat trail, I like to go somewhere.

Do you go to many rides outside of your region? A few

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

Some of my heroes of the past are gone, Mae Schlegel, Smokey Killen, Viril Norton, Kerry Ridgway DVM. So in a modern world and it is so hard to narrow it to 3 people I have to go with the Queen of endurance, Julie Suhr – one of the best!! Dave Rabe – good horseman and all around nice guy! Tough choice for who gets the number 3 spot but I'm going to say the Nicholsons because they give all of us so many riding opportunities. We couldn't do this without them and other ride managers as well.

Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Nope. Read everything I could get my hands on and drove to a ride. Tell us about him/her/them.

In choosing your next horse, what would you look for? I have my next horse although he may or may not be an endurance horse. I went back to my Appaloosas for my "old lady" horses. Tough and sturdy but less flighty than the Arab. I often think my Appy's in days of old were just as good and maybe better than my Arabs. I picked Peanut out when he was 2 days old, brought him home at 4 months. He is 4 now and MIGHT do one ride next year at 5 or wait till he is six. Heck I really don't care. Last summer I got another gelding that is related to him and he can probably do rides too. Whether I Decade another horse at my age who knows? I just want to ride and enjoy my horses, that's what I have been doing all these years.