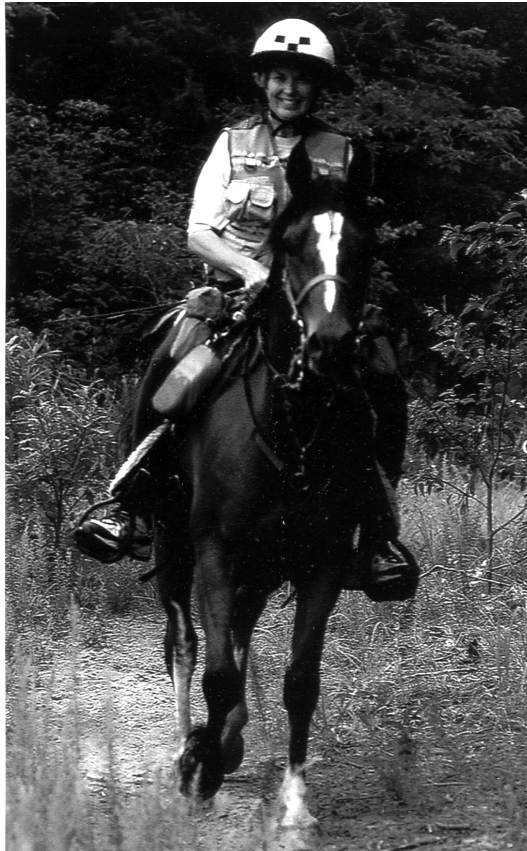
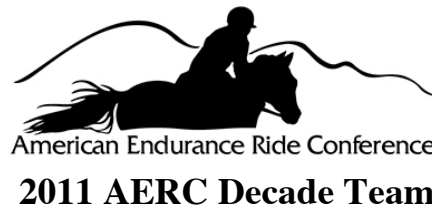


## **Kathy Crothers & Texas Dually**



**Rider's Name:** Kathy Crothers

**Horse's Name:** Texas Dually

**Region:** Central

**Current Rider Lifetime Mileage?** 12,000

**Endurance:** 12,000

**Limited Distance:** 935

**Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her?** Bought him from a breeder in TX

**What is your horse's breeding?** Arab, Polish, Crabbet

**Sex:** Gelding

**DOB:** May 2004

**Horse height:** 14.3

**Approx. Weight:** 1000

**Color:** bay

**Shoe size:** 1

**Why did you decide to purchase this horse?** He was priced right, had such a cute face, and was so fun to ride plus my husband talked me into buying him since the price was right.

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

**How many different horses have you ridden in this sport?** My stallion, 3 of his offspring two of which were also decade horses, one other gelding and also rode a few that belonged to friends on occasional rides.

**Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities?** Occasionally go on pleasure rides, NATRC competitive rides

**How many years have you been involved with horses?** For 50 + yrs. In endurance? 25yrs.

**What got you interested in endurance riding?** Reading about it in horse magazines. What was it that kept you interested? I love being out in the woods and on trails with my horse and never liked to ride at a walk for very long

**How old was your horse when first started?** 3 yrs. **First ride?** 4 yrs.

**How many rides did you do the first year?** 5 ld, 1 50, second 4 50's , and third ride seasons? 7 50's 3 ld distances)

**What mileage distance did you start with?** 25

**How long till you top tenned or raced?** Never raced but top tenned in 3rd season

**How much time off do you give between ride seasons?** Depends on the weather etc. but don't plan time off, my horse gets too fat with much time off

**If you have done 100's, how much time off do you give after doing one?** A couple of weeks

**If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one?** A couple of weeks

**What kind of tack do you use?** I use a specialized saddle now but did a lot of miles in a sport saddle. I usually use a Pelham bridle since Dually can be hard headed at the start of rides.

**What kind of shoes do you use on your horse?** I use aluminum shoes on the fronts usually with easyboots over them since Dually is flat soled. Regular rim shoes on the back

**What kind of problems have you encountered?** Dually contacted EPM shortly after his first ride season and lost all his croup muscles. I was lucky to get a good treatment and started riding him later the next year doing lots of hills to build muscle in his rear end. He only lost one year of doing endurance. He has regained most of his croup muscles.

**What was the worst or most severe injury your horse has had?** He had a pulled hind leg muscle that took a few months to heal

**How did you work through it?** Just gave him time off.

**What was the worst or most severe injury you have ever had relating to horses or endurance riding?** Broken shoulder

**How did you work through it?** Time off but it was hard and I still have back pain from being immobile for so long.

**Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse.** There were several so hard to choose. Dually isn't a fast horse and I'm a cautious rider so no wins to brag about but he is almost always a fun ride!! He did win BC once though.

**Describe the worst day you ever had with your horse.** Probably when he had a light colic after a training ride. Dually never gets colic and I have lost several horses to colic. Luckily he got over it quickly.

**What was your most humbling experience?** The first 2 rides I did on Dually. I was used to coming in top ten and doing the ride fast with my half-saddlebreds whose working trot were around 15 mph and were hard to slow down. Amazing how hard I had to work with a horse that had a slower trot who was easy to slow down. I had to learn to pace all over again in order to finish rides on time.

**What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important?** Take it slower and enjoy the ride it is much less stressful than racing up front and I get to ride more rides in a season without problems.

**Where does your horse live?** He has a run in stall and 4 acres of pasture

**What kind of environment did your horse spend the first few years of its life in?** Not sure but he was kept in a small pen for a while since he was a stallion when I got him. Not ideal but sure made camping with him easy since he was used to being confined and away from the other horses..

**What are your horse's strengths?** He loves to eat and I never have to worry about getting him to eat or drink He travels well and is real consistent as to pace on rides.

**Weaknesses?** Probably his front hooves that are so flat and sometimes hard to manage. Most of our pulls were due to shoeing problems on muddy rides with him springing or pulling a shoe.. He also tends to put on weight easily and if I'm not riding a lot I worry about him getting too fat and foundering. He is also slow on hills either up or down and that may be to damage from the EPM but he gets the job done.

**What advice do you have for new riders?** Take it slow at first to build a good base especially if you have good fast horse. Don't burn them out the first few years.

**Looking back, what would you do differently?** Left Dually at home when he was 4 and maybe he wouldn't have been stressed to get EPM but who knows.

**What do you feel you did right?** Paced the rides according to his ability and managed his hoof problems so he could go the distance with few lameness problems.

**What was your highest goal for your horse?** Wanted to be a decade team but also want to be riding Dually when he is in his 20's. Did you achieve it? We made the decade team and he is 17 this year so more years to look forward to get the other goal.

**Describe your horse's personality?** He is a clown, loves treats, and also has a strong sense of survival which makes him hard to ride at times since he spooks a lot at imaginary predators.. He works well alone and I like riding by myself. Is it like or unlike yours? I've learned to ride out his spooks and I also love to eat and neither of us are very competitive.

**What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most?** (multidays, 100's, 50's, etc.) I like the two day 50's the best. I'd also like multiday rides but hard to get to them anymore with the price of fuel and distance to the rides.

**In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life?** It is my life and I've enjoyed the many friends I've made doing endurance through the years. It keeps me active and out riding when I might rather be sitting around reading. I have enjoyed all the different scenery from the back of a horse.

**Describe your electrolyte protocol.** I used to syringe but now I just put them in the feed.

**Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success?** No, Dually doesn't take much feed and if I give him a lot of high powered grain or alfalfa he gets really spooky.

**Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem?** Switched from Ultium to Strategy since Dually tended to want to slow down on the last loop when he was on Ultium. I found I couldn't feed oats or sweet feed since Dually got really spooky then..

**What kind of supplements (if any) do you use?** I use remission which is high in mag, accel vitamin mix and Vitamin E.

**Do you give any kind of joint products?** No

**How far do you usually travel to rides?** Usually around 4 to 5 hrs.

**Do you go to many rides outside of your region?** No

**Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why?** Genie Wunderlich because she taught me to pace and has done very well in the sport with limited funds and she keeps on going. She is endurance!! Also Karren Beason who also has over come obstacles and keeps on going always enjoying the challenge and the trail.

**Did you have a mentor or first trail partner?** I started endurance conditioning with my friend Kitty Longino and we still ride together. Carol Patterson got me started in endurance when she put on a local ride and we trained together and went to early Id rides together.

**Describe the first rig you had and then tell us how it compares to your current rig?** I started out with a camper shell and pickup. Now have a living quarter gooseneck horse trailer.

**In choosing your next horse, what would you look for?** One with a fast walk, well trained, and good hooves but personality is also important.