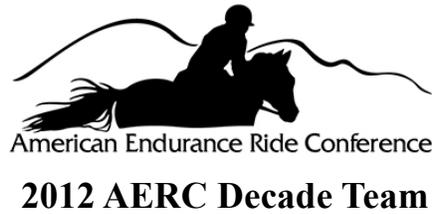


## Linda Hamrick & Zahar's Gallant Dancer



- 1996 Anglo-Arabian raised & ridden by Linda Hamrick
- 2008 AERC National Championship Race Half-Arab Champ (7th overall)
- AHA National High Point Half-Arab Endurance Horse 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007,
- 64 first place finishes in 50 mile endurance races (2nd place in AERC history)
- 4935 competition miles - 4715 endurance miles & 495 LD miles
- Top 5 or better placing in AERC, GLDRA, UMECRA, & AHDRA nearly every year of his career

Those are the stats. However, Dancer is so much more than just stats. Dancer is the ultimate creation, a true athlete with a big heart. He was bred to run and excels in doing just that! One of the most special things about Dancer is his perseverance under difficult conditions. One example of that trait happened during the AERC/AHA National Championship fifty mile ride in September, 2008. He is a flat land horse

& by the time we reached the last three or four steep hills in the final five miles of the ride, Dancer's butt muscles were extremely tired (trembling). Many horses would have quit under those circumstances (several did). Not Dancer! He is a tough minded and competitive horse & he has exhibited those qualities throughout his distance riding career.

Dancer and I completed our first 50 mile endurance ride in 2001. Nearly all of Dancer's endurance rides have been in the Midwest region, although several were in the Northeast region. We generally select which rides to attend based on the time and distance (and diesel fuel) required to travel to the site. During our 12 seasons of team competition, Dancer accumulated 4715 endurance miles and 495 LD miles. Currently, I have completed 8935 endurance miles and 2895 LD miles.

Dancer came to us from Barb Potter's farm in Howell, MI. His sire was an arabian (TF Zahara) and his dam was a thoroughbred (Winnie's Dancer). Zahar's Gallant Dancer came to live with Donnie and Linda Hamrick as a weanling in 1996. He is a 16.2 hand gray gelding, weighing about 1200 lbs.

Dancer was my second endurance horse. I figured that he had a hard act to follow, since my very first horse Sugar Shenanigans had been pretty good at her job. Fortunately, I did not let Dancer in on my doubts about him, so he was free to excel.

Although I do not participate in any other horse sports, I do quite a bit of trail riding/conditioning in the Manistee National Forest where Donnie and I plan to retire. I have ridden 9 other LD & endurance horses since I started competing in 1994.

I first learned about endurance riding when I saw a program on TV featuring the sport. By calling around to area state parks and forests, I was able to locate my eventual mentor, Janet Kirkpatrick. Her knowledge and patient guidance led me to complete several competitive trail rides and eventually my first endurance ride at White River Fall 1994.

My first endurance horse Sugar Shenanigans was four years old when she came to live with us and seven when we began to condition for our first ride. We trained over the summer of 1994 to compete in a 15 mile novice ride. Instead, we completed our first 30 mile competitive trail ride (no LD rides back then). Several months later, Sugar and I did our first 50 mile endurance ride together.

During my first three ride seasons, I completed 1200 endurance miles and many competitive trail miles. We top tenned at most of our rides, but waited to race at a few rides until midway through her second season.

Our horses are on vacation from the middle of November until the middle or end of March. Their shoes are removed and they run around their pasture in the snow growing fur for four months.

I ride with biothane tack and a Wintec saddle. Most of our horses have worn traditional steel shoes, but I tried Ground Control shoes on Dancer last summer. They helped cushion his joints enough to allow him to complete one more fifty mile ride in 2012 to qualify us as a Decade Team.

Our horses receive a selenium supplement, vitamins, minerals, daily wormer, and Cosequin joint supplement. They receive powdered commercial electrolytes beginning two days before a ride. Before & after the ride, and at each vet check, our horses get yogurt mixed with powdered electrolytes. One major change we have made to our feed program is a change from sweet feed to a low starch pelleted feed.

I have been so fortunate to have the pleasure of partnering with such an excellent horse. Dancer is the kind of horse that knows his job & enjoys doing it. His athletic conformation & competitive spirit make endurance riding FUN! Zahar's Gallant Dancer is a true Decade Team partner.