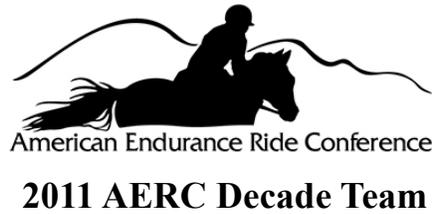


## Lynn White & Agnes



*Lynn and Agnes. Photo by Karen Bumgarner.*

**Region:** NW

**Current Rider Lifetime Mileage?**

Endurance: 2185

Limited Distance: 105

**Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her?** I was glancing through the “Too Late to Classify” ads in the local paper and saw the ad for her. I drove out to see her, rode her about 100 feet and bought her right there. Just had a good feeling about her.

**What is your horse’s breeding?** Agnes is grade, but looks like a Morab.

**Sex:** Mare

**DOB:** Probably sometime in 1992.

**Horse height:** 14.2

**Approx. Weight:** 900 Pounds

**Color:** Grey

**Shoe size:** 0

**Or, hoof boot size:** 0

**Why did you decide to purchase this horse (or if you didn't purchase, why did you choose to use this horse in endurance)?** I just had a good feeling about Agnes. She had a nice walk and good feet. I didn't know much about buying horses back then and I didn't have a mentor. But if I had a mentor I probably would have not bought her. She came with a lot of people baggage that wasn't apparent when I rode her.

**Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse?** I did limited distance with my first pony for one season.

**How many different horses have you ridden in this sport?** 3

**Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities?** Trail riding.

**How many years have you been involved with horses? In endurance?** I've worked with horses as much as I could when I was younger, which wasn't very much. I didn't get my first horse until I was 38. I've done endurance for 11 seasons.

**What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested?** I like endurance because I like to be out in the open space with a horse. I like the challenge of me and my horse against the trail. I like that endurance and horses always have something to teach me, and I really like the mutual trust that forms between a horse and rider.

**How old was your horse when first started? First ride?** Agnes and I started limited distance in 2002. I think she was nine. We did our first 50 in 2002.

**How many rides did you do the first, second, and third ride seasons? (list w/ distances)** I think the second and third seasons we did five rides each.

**What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.)** I started with LD's thinking that is what I would always do. After we finished our first 50 we've never done anything other than endurance.

**How long till you top tenned or raced? (if you did)** We top-tenned our first six 50's which was REALLY STUPID because I have never been able to break Agnes of race brain.

**How much time off do you give between ride seasons?** How ever long the winter weather keeps us from riding is pretty much the amount of time Agnes gets off between ride seasons. We just do trail riding then. Usually from December to March.

**If you have done 100's, how much time off do you give after doing one?** I usually just give Agnes two weeks off before I start to trail ride with her again.

**If you have done multidays, how much time off do you give after doing one?** One day for every 10 miles ridden.

**What kind of tack do you use? (saddle, pads, girths, bits, etc.)** Agnes needs a Myler Combination bit with a comfort snaffle. I carry a running martingale if she gets too forward. I ride a Stubben VSD all purpose saddle with a sheepskin seat saver. I use a Toklat woolback pad. Agnes has never had a sore back. I like the Wintec girths because they are a good value and don't chafe. I use a crupper if the terrain is

steep.

**What kind of shoes do you use on your horse? Pads? Barefoot? Barefoot and booted?** Agnes uses Renegades always on the fronts, and if the footing is good we go bare on the backs.

**What kind of problems have you encountered?** Agnes got very trippy in shoes. I think it was the farrier, but I'll never know. Since I dumped the shoes the tripping has stopped.

**What was the worst or most severe injury your horse has had?** Agnes reared up once and landed on the farrier's tool box cutting some muscles on her rib cage.

**How did you work through it?** I gave Agnes the winter off.

**What was the worst or most severe injury you have ever had relating to horses or endurance riding?** Agnes bucked me off and I landed on my face.

**How did you work through it?** I just deal with the fear issue. Agnes is not a very honest horse. She will try to dump me if I'm not paying attention. She's very crafty that way. She pays a lot of attention to me and she'll try to pull something if she thinks she can get away with it.

**Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse.** It was Owyhee High country ride in 2004 which goes over the high country in the Owyhees. Agnes was just on that day. It was the first time we did two consecutive 50's. On that day Agnes just stopped on the road after the first five miles. Horses were actually passing us. I thought she was tying up. Then she just started going again, like she was confused about starting another ride instead of loading up and going home. It was like she just made the decision to get going and we ended up passing all the horses that had passed us. The trail was to die for that day.

**Describe the worst day you ever had with your horse.** We've had several. Usually when Agnes thinks she should be a front runner and I have to hold her back because I know she's not conditioned to gallop 50 miles. Agnes would kill herself if I let her. She just gets very chary on me and it's just not fun. I think my profanity hovers over Oreana to this day.

**What was your most humbling experience?** When Agnes and I finished our first one-day 100 at her tender age of 18.



*Decade Team Riders - Steph Teeter, Lynn White and Tom Noll.*

**What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important?** Know the abilities of your horse and ride to that. Winning or top-tenning isn't important. Finishing with a fit and

healthy horse is.

**Where does your horse live? Full turnout?** Agnes lives 24/7 on full turnout. In the spring/summer I have to limit her pasture time or she'll get very fat.

**What kind of environment did your horse spend the first few years of its life?** I think Agnes was a brood mare and a pack horse.

**What are your horse's strengths?** Agnes is very tough, brave, surefooted, and loves her job. She's a friendly mare and doesn't mind horses in her space. She will eat anything put in front of her.

**Weaknesses?** Sometimes Agnes loves her job too much and thinks she ought to be an FEI horse.

**What advice do you have for new riders?** Learn the art of rating your horse. Don't worry about how fast your horse is because really, not many people will remember or care 10 years from now. The important thing is to have fun and enjoy the ride. Don't be afraid to try something new to you. For example, I never thought I'd ever give up using iron shoes, but Agnes just doesn't need them. Now I'm much more savvy about hoof function. Take equitation lessons and get mentoring from someone you respect. You don't have to spend a lot of money to do endurance. Start with the tack you have and get new stuff as you feel you need/afford it.

**Looking back, what would you do differently?** I would have made Agnes go much slower the first couple seasons. I would have worked at more horsemanship skills for me.

**What do you feel you did right?** Learn from my failures.

**What was your highest goal for your horse? Did you achieve it?** I wanted to complete a one-day 100. Yes.

**Describe your horse's personality.** Agnes is tenacious on the trail and friendly to most horses. She likes to see what she can get away with and is always testing me. She likes to eat. She's pretty tolerant of things but can really go crazy when she thinks someone is going to really hurt her.

**How is it like or unlike yours?** I'm tenacious and friendly most of the time. I loose it sometimes when I get really stressed/afraid.

**What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most?** (multidays, 100's, 50's, etc.) I like days when it's cloudy and not too hot. I like 2-day rides the best.

**In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life?** It makes me appreciate that I live in the best country on the face of this planet. There are not many places where a middle aged woman can do what I do with a horse on my budget. It made me realize that I am capable of more than I give myself credit. I'm more intuitive. And I'm much, much, more patient.

**Describe your electrolyte protocol.** Agnes gets dosed depending on heat, how much she sweats, and only after she has eaten and drank.

**Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success?** Grass Hay, beet pulp, and kelp.



**Are there any major changes you've made to your nutrition program that you feel made a noticeable improvement or solved a problem?** On the week before a ride I start giving Agnes a flake or two of alfalfa hay with her grass hay. This gets her guts ready for more dry food and a different forage. I want Agnes to eat at rides but I don't want to shock her system with foods that her guts are not used to. Being a grey horse Agnes has melanomas and I suspect that she has some tumors in her guts. So I try to really give her lots and lots of roughage. If she eats rich grass, clover, or fine plants she WILL colic.

**What kind of supplements (if any) do you use?** A multivitamin supplement with Selenium, kelp, and omega 3's in the winter months. Agnes gets a psyllium treatment every month to keep her guts clean.

**Do you give any kind of joint products?** (describe) I use Joint Amour from Kentucky Performance Products. It's a good value with nothing prohibited. I can tell when Agnes is off it.

**How far do you usually travel to rides?** 300 miles tops.

**Do you go to many rides outside of your region?** I try but family issues usually prevent it. My old truck gets 8 miles per gallon and its top speed is 60 mph so I avoid the Interstate. I try to stay close, but that isn't very difficult because I live only 100 miles from Oreana, Idaho: The Nexus of the Endurance Universe.

**Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why.** PJ Blonshine because she rides a lot of horses and has done endurance for a long time. PJ is really honest about what I do wrong and what I do right. We all need feed back. Who can do this sport very long in a vacuum? Karen Bumgarner because she overcomes a lot of adversity and doesn't give up. The Teeters and Regina Rose because they graciously put on so many rides that are close to my home.

**Did you have a mentor or first trail partner?** Tell us about him/her/them. I didn't have much mentoring my first two seasons. I just winged it. It's hard to ask questions when you don't know what to ask. Sometimes ignorance is bliss.

**Describe the first rig you had and then tell us how it compares to your current rig?** I drive a 1976 Ford F-250. It's a decade endurance truck! I upgraded from my ancient two-horse straight load to a larger two horse slant with a big tack room that I can sleep in. LUXURIOUS.

**In choosing your next horse, what would you look for?** I'm too old to start another horse like Agnes. I don't mind a horse with some spirit, but I'd like a horse that's a little less bullheaded and calculating. Agnes came with a lot of people baggage. She had a lot of fear issues and at the same time she'd find a way to steam-roll her rider. I'm starting an Akhal-Teke gelding from scratch, that way I'll know what kind of baggage he has. He's starting out OK. One thing Agnes has taught me is to let the horse teach you.

Let them make the mistake and then correct them. And have faith in your horse.