

Randy Coleman (1941-2006) & Pandora's Pixy

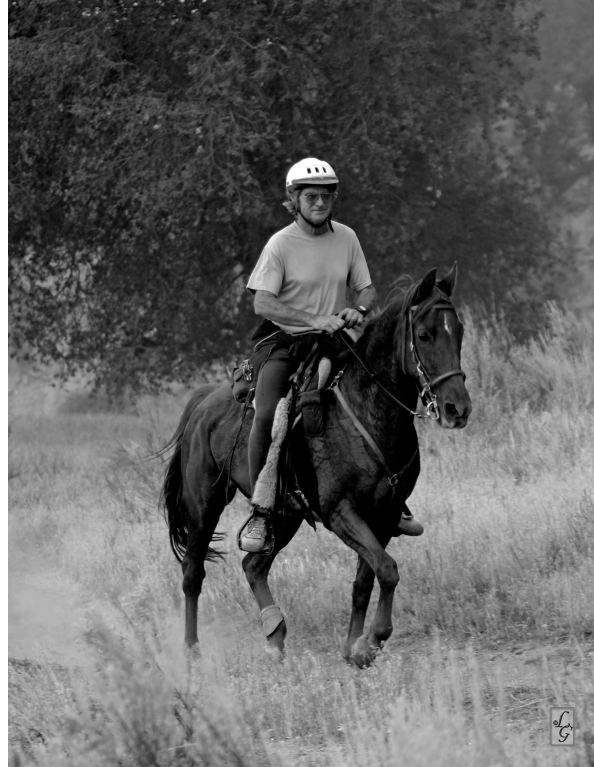
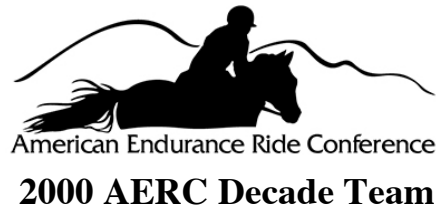


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Rider's Name: Randy Coleman

Horse's Name: Pandora's Pixy, "Pandy" – 10,085 miles & 197 ride completions

First AERC ride: 1991

Region: PS

Her first 50 mile ride was in 1991 in Montana at the Bitterroot Championship where she finished in the top ten, ridden by Chuck Dent.

Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get her? I purchased Pandy in 1994 from Sarah Zegers in Somis, California, near Ventura. Pandy had about 1,000 miles of endurance at this time including two first place finishes. Sarah says she had too many horses, but the real reason is that Pandy was a stubborn horse and Chuck said get rid of the horse.

What is your horse's breeding? Breeders: Sarah Zegers & Shannon Whetsell. Bloodlines: mostly on the Arab side out of Mae West, a big-boned Palomino mare of unknown breeding. Sire: Ragato, an El Gato son.

Sex: Mare

DOB: April 1986

Horse height: approximately 14-3 hh

Weight: approximately 950 pounds

Color: Chestnut

Shoe Size: 1

Easyboot: 1 without shoe, 2 over shoe

Why did you decide to purchase this horse? I was looking for a competitive horse and this horse became available. I was sure she and I would build a good bond and had a chance to be successful. Pandy was a little mean and for a long time other horses were at risk when they attempted to pass on a narrow trail. She was always a safe horse for the rider, taking care of herself.

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

How many different horses have you ridden in this sport? Several, including a quarter horse, and full Arabs.

Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities? California Gymkhana Association, Trail Riding, Mountain excursions, back packing once.

How many years have you been involved with horses in endurance? 20 years, 15 years in endurance.

What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested? Equine friends involved in endurance riding with their fun training rides are responsible for my involvement. Being able to finish and be competitive and horse fit to continue has kept me going in this sport.

How old was your horse when first started? First ride? First endurance ride at age of 5 was in Montana at the Bitterroot Championship 50 where she finished in the top ten. This was preceded with a couple of LDs.

How many rides did you do the first, second, and third ride seasons? First season: Two 50s; Second season: First multiday of 175 and 100 miles, five 50s (525 miles); Third season: Eight 50s (400 miles). All completion no pulls.

What mileage distance did you start with? My first ride was a 25 miles on my running quarter horse, Pandy's first was a 25.

How long till you top tenned or 'raced'? My first top ten occurred in my second season on Abbey my quarter horse. Pandy's and my first top ten occurred in our second season. Pandy remained competitive from this point often in the top ten or nearby.

How much time off do you give between rides? Mostly leave the horse alone with her equine friends in a paddock. Then exercise her starting a week before the next ride. This horse has resided in an

environment of year round riding and competition.

If you have done 100's, how much time off do you give after doing one? What is your schedule in the month leading up to the ride? The same time off applies to 50's, 100's and multiday rides. The horse is given time off until the next event. Event scheduling may be influenced by the preceding event. When doing 1400 miles in a season not much time off can be afforded.

What kind of tack do you use? Saddle is a Browns Traditional Orthoflex with a built in pad never a hose problem with this unit. Bit is a Kimberwick and the head stall is Ann Kratochvil's Biothane along with her hand made reins and half-chaps.

What kind of shoes do you use on your horse? Pads? Easyboots? Standard shoeing with pads on the front. Easyboot used on rocky rides and always carry a spare. On multiday rides like Death Valley Encounter may choose to glue on the Easyboots.

What kind of problems have you encountered? Pandi had a minor suspensory tear in the 1996 season and I had a broken leg from a different horse accident so we both had time off.

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse? The most memorable ride was the Cold Spring XP multiday day 3 where Pandi received her 10th career best condition needed for the AERC "Perfect 10 Equine" award. The following day we finished first and received her 11th BC.

Describe the worst day you ever had with your horse. The worst day I have experienced is being pulled at the 85 mile vet check of the 100 mile Tevis ride. Pandi had a case of thumps, which I did not recognize until the vet exam. Her lifetime career has had only 4 pulls out of 201 starts.

What was your most humbling experience? Chasing Michele Roush mile after mile regardless which horse she was riding, Robin Hood, Do So La and others.

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? Monitoring the horse recovery and heart rate along the route. Save some horse for the finish.

Where does your horse live? Pandi has lived in 12x24 boarding stable in the San Fernando Valley of southern California, also in the California high desert area in a paddock with other horses. She now lives in the southern Sierra Mountains at an altitude over 6000 feet near the PCT with a young gelding a DR Thunder Bask son.

What kind of environment did your horse spend the first few years of its life in? Pandi spent her youth in a pasture near Ventura, California.

What are your horse's strengths? Weaknesses? Ability to finish a ride, to compete in multiday rides. Pandi has never failed to complete a multiday ride when intended.

What advice do you have for new riders? Go slow and learn from the more experienced, but don't try to keep up with them.

Looking back, what would you do differently? With this horse I can't think of any bad experiences.

What do you feel you did right? Listen to the horse and her attitude during an event, don't push her.

What was your highest goal for your horse? Did you achieve it? To finish all the Pony Express rides

during a season. Yes we finished this achievement twice. Also to be honored in the AERC War Mare category. Also achieved this twice.

To obtain 10,000 career miles on this horse. Yes along with the AERC "Perfect 10" award.

Describe your horse's personality. How is it like or unlike yours? This is a mature horse and thus she has mellowed. Early in her career to pass her on the trail could be life threatening. She is easy now. I'm the same.

What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most? Multiday rides without a point-to-point.

Describe your electrolyte protocol. Homemade solution used the AM of the ride and during pending on weather conditions and wiliness to drink water.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success? Not an unusual feed program except no grain when not in training or eventing. Hay is a BOWA mostly when available. Lot's of Beet Pulp.

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? During a ride Pandey will get anything she wants, beet pulp with a variety of gains, mostly a senior.

What kind of supplements (if any) do you use? Pandey receives a Selenium and Vitamin "E" mix daily.

Do you give any kind of joint products? Yes monthly injectable Glucosamine.

How far do you usually travel to rides? About 800 at the most, one way.

Do you go to many rides outside of your region? My region is the PS, I do rides in the Mountain, West regions often.

Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why. Dave Nicholson DVM, he stresses the rider taking care of his horse. He can pick out a potential problem and rider before a serious problem.

Ann Kratochvil, who made me get out there and tried to slow me down.

Jackie Bumgardner for her enthusiasm for the sport.

Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them. My introduction to endurance was with friends I made at the boarding stable. I enjoyed the training rides that took us to great surrounding areas.

In choosing your next horse, what would you look for? I don't know how to pick out another Pandey from unproven stock. Pandey has good bone and weight not tall. It's just luck.

This is a great horse that has been a joy to ride, smooth, competitive and long lasting. Her awards and recognition include: Division champion, Division weight winner, War mare awards, Regional and National best condition, Pioneer awards, National mileage award, Perfect 10 Equine, 10,000 mile horse.