

Sharon Wilson & Buddy – H33874



2015 AERC Decade Team



I finally got the pony I'd wanted all my life when I was 39. When I bought Buddy, they said he was a 2-year old Quarter Horse – I think this actually meant 1/4 horse and 3/4 something else! My vet thought he was closer to 4-years old, making him about 21 this year. At approximately 14-ish hands, his breeding has always been questioned, and he has been known as the “Wonder Pony” in the Southeast Region for the past 15 years.

We started the Limited Distance rides in 2001 and did well, racing after a few years, with many Top Ten finishes and several BCs. When the Arabian I had gotten to do the longer distances was out for a while with an injury in 2006, I decided to try Buddy in the 50s. He has always taken care of himself during the rides – eating and drinking well, cooling himself off in the water by splashing (albeit bad behavior), and laying down in puddles or creeks, unfortunately with tack and rider aboard. Buddy has always “ridden his own ride”, occasionally getting caught up racing in the first loop, but then he settles down to his own pace. I've been riding him in a halter for many years, after deciding a bit was no match for his pony attitude. With great feet and legs, Buddy has been fortunate to remain sound, with very few pulls (93% completion rate) over the years.

Buddy has competed in two National Championship rides (2008 and 2012), finishing both, and he completed his 50th 50-mile ride at Skymont last year. He had 2,545 Endurance miles and 1,025 LD miles at the end of the 2015 season. The Decade Team has been an exciting accomplishment. and now we are looking forward to his 3,000 mile mark.