

Rider Name & Horse Name



American Endurance Ride Conference

2011 AERC Decade Team



Rider's Name: Tracy Blue

Horse's Name: Bud

Region: MW

Current Rider Lifetime Mileage? 6660

Endurance: 6210

Limited Distance: 450

Tell us about your horse. When/how did you come to get him/her? I purchased Bud in '97 from his owner that could not sell him. She was selling him for meat so I matched the price and took him home.

What is your horse's breeding? Some McCue breeding on top and some TB way back on both sides

Sex: Gelding

DOB: 5/11/92

Horse height: 16.1

Approx. Weight: 1210

Color: chestnut

Shoe size: 2

Why did you decide to purchase this horse? He had kind soulful eyes and just needed someone to understand him.

Did you do endurance with any other horses before this horse? No

How many different horses have you ridden in this sport? 4 including Bud

Do you participate in any other horse sports or activities? Dressage, driving, gaming

How many years have you been involved with horses? In endurance? 50 with horses and about 10 endurance

What got you interested in endurance riding? What was it that kept you interested? It was the maximum time I could spend with my horse in one event. / The friendship.

How old was your horse when first started? First ride? 8 / 30 mile LD at Spirit Mountain

How many rides did you do the first, second, and third ride seasons? (list w/ distances) 1st season one 30, 2nd season a 25, 3 30's and a 50

3rd season 6 50's

What mileage distance did you start with? (25, 50, etc.) 30

How long till you top tenned or raced? (if you did) I top tenned the first 50. I have never raced.

How much time off do you give between ride seasons? Depends on our winter. Sometimes 4 months.

If you have done 100's, how much time off do you give after doing one? 2-3 weeks

If you have done multadays, how much time off do you give after doing one? at least a week, I go slow enough my rides are similar to conditioning.

What kind of tack do you use? (saddle, pads, girths, bits, etc.) boz saddle, usually no pad, string or synthetic girth, s-hack. Sometimes breastcollar and crupper.

What kind of shoes do you use on your horse? Pads? Barefoot? Barefoot and booted? all my horses are barefoot but Bud. He had full line sand cracks when I rescued him and his feet have never really recovered.

What kind of problems have you encountered? Bud does not do well in high humidity. Sometimes if it's very hot and humid we go very slow and his recoveries still take a while.

What was the worst or most severe injury your horse has had? He has never had an injury.

What was the worst or most severe injury you have ever had relating to horses or endurance riding? I separated my shoulder at a ride and had to walk about 7 miles in the cold and rain. Almost went hypothermic.

How did you work through it? Kept walking. The pain was less threatening than the cold.

Describe the best ride you ever had on your horse? They've all been the best as soon as they're over. Multi days are our favorite. At the end, when everyone is glad the ride is over, we want to turn around and ride it back

Describe the worst day you ever had with your horse? Can't ever remember a bad day.

What was your most humbling experience? On the fourth day of a multi day Bud was flat out sleeping. I had blanketed him and he was happy. Several people came to me and told me something had to be wrong with him, that horses usually don't sleep like that for that long.

After the fourth person I questioned my own relationship with Bud and asked Dr. Barney Fleming to look at him.

He came and we got Bud up. Barney thoroughly examined him, laughed and said, "He's tired, let him sleep."

I realized that day that no one knows their horse better than the rider.

What lessons have you learned along the way that you feel are the most important? Ride your own ride. Ride according to conditions. Take responsibility for your own horse.

Where does your horse live? Full turnout? Pastured 24/7 except during the first day hatching of mosquitos of if it's below freezing and it rains.

What kind of environment did your horse spend the first few years of its life in? (pasture, w/ a herd, etc.) Don't know

What are your horse's strengths? Bud has a great work ethic. He is very communicative. He has an competitive streak but can ignore it.

Weaknesses? He's a QH. He has a long back and fairly poor confirmation.

What advice do you have for new riders? Ride your own ride. Listen to your horse. If people at rides won't help you, keep trying, someone will.

Looking back, what would you do differently? Nothing.

What do you feel you did right? Am not sure what is actually right or wrong. But Bud has ended every ride as happy as he started.

What was your highest goal for your horse? Did you achieve it? To ride him as long as he's capable, willing and happy. / We're still going.

Describe your horse's personality? How is it like or unlike yours? He's serious and steady. Brave and stoic. He doesn't like to take big risks. I do.

What kinds of rides do you enjoy the most? (multidays, 100's, 50's, etc.) Multi days

In what ways has endurance riding made a positive influence in your life? It's taught me a lot about humanity and empathy. I dislike people who treat their horses like possessions and look down their nose at other riders who choose to ride a different ride.

Describe your electrolyte protocol. I don't use electrolytes.

Is there anything special about your nutrition program you attribute to your success? I have different feed for my horses and let them eat what they want of each.

What kind of supplements (if any) do you use? I use gro strong minerals.

Do you give any kind of joint products? (describe) Bud is presently on Adequan as a preventative.

How far do you usually travel to rides? At least three hours, but usually seven or more.

Do you go to many rides outside of your region? I try to go west. I like the rides there better. Not as many loops and they are managed really well.

Name three people involved in the sport of endurance that you look up to, and why? It's impossible to name three. There are many who have taught me and taught me well. Many I've traveled many miles with and many I've formed solid friendships with. They know who they are.

Did you have a mentor or first trail partner? Tell us about him/her/them. No. I had no idea what I was doing my first few rides. I just tried to observe what I could and ask questions.

Describe the first rig you had and then tell us how it compares to your current rig? A 2 horse slant bumper pull. Now I have a stock combo with LQ's and can haul four with hay if I need.

I went with LQ's just to have a warm shower. Used to shower in the snow in the back of my old trailer. BRRRR!

In choosing your next horse, what would you look for? I never look for anything. Seems my horses have all found me and I them. There is a weird connection that can't be ignored.