

Bonnie Mielke

Longevity. Accomplishments. Attitude of both horse and rider. These are some of the things I consider when deciding on who deserves the Hall of Fame. And when it comes to rider alone, how about willingness to help others, not being afraid to try something new, and the courage to stick to what works for you despite what others think. That is this person 100%.

I can tell you recorded miles, but I think it is only a fraction of the real miles. They became a UMECRA member in '74, AERC records go back to '85.

20,800 Endurance with 45 BC's and 63 100's with 54 completions
15,570 Comp miles
3,755 LD miles

And talk about mounts! This person is well known for breeding good horses, conditioning them well, and competing on them for years. So with this multitude of miles there are also a fine number of horses with 5,000 miles +. But the #1 concern has always been for the horse. I have witnessed RO's or no starts if there is a question or concern that even the vets don't see. Plus realizing every horse is different. They may require different feed, different supplements, different riding styles. The knowledge of this rider is unbelievable. Knowing that, novice riders are often sent to her trailer to get the best advice. And this person was instrumental in establishing the UMECRA mentor program.

This rider has traveled not only in all the UMECRA states but all over the country, proudly wearing her UMECRA jackets. I might add I have traveled some of those miles with her. I remember agreeing to show up early at an out of area ride to help mark trail and highlight armadillo holes. Yes, we have had some good times.

Another fun memory. Back when even placing in Comp was an accomplishment, no LD available, this person won HW Comp. Some "fool" remarked that winning HW was "easy". So..... this rider changed saddles and weight division and won LW Comp the next season! Her numerous Championships are too many to even try to count.

With all that said. I am going to add my \$.02 worth. The reasons why I love this person? Because of her and one of her BEST horses, I now ride my amazing Ella. And if there is anything she loves as much as her horses and this sport, it is CATS!!

I will always remember racing to the finish, her unforgettable husband charging down the road beside us, blaring the music that still gives me goosebumps!

With all that said... (Theme Song to the Magnificent Seven plays)

Written by Lori Windows