

## **Linda Jacobson**

When considering Hall of Fame nominations, one needs to consider far more than how many rides a person has won. As a wise woman once told me, ANYONE can get on a good horse and win a race. It is the preparation, the ability to deal with setbacks, the perseverance that count. One must also consider what that person has given back to UMECRA, how they treat other competitors, and – in my opinion most important – how they nurture and treat their partners, their horses.

The person I am nominating for Hall of Fame has been in this sport since 1992. She has accumulated over 23,000 miles, not counting this season's or out of area AERC rides. She has been a Ride Manager for years. And she is, without question, the best trail maker in the sport. Her trails are as OCD as she, and nothing takes away her dedication to making them perfect, not even an ATV accident and a broken leg. Even as she laid in pain she could think of nothing except how could the riders find trail if she didn't complete her mission. She is always willing to help other riders and offer encouragement. However, I do remember one incident when she led some newby comp riders a little astray. She and I were helping the rookies out when our two elderly steeds who had raced each other for more than a decade decided it was time for a run off on a nice half mile of trail. As we flew down the lane, I remember us screaming, "This is NOT how you ride competitive."

But surely the most important achievement this woman has accomplished is the health, records, and longevity of her horses. Horses, I might add, that are not your typical Best Endurance Breed. 9,600, 6,000 and 5,000 miles. More importantly, those horses competed well into their 20's and raced for 18, 20, and 21 seasons. But retiring those masters of the sport has not stopped her from pursuing future goals. She has started two young mounts to add to her records.

When you ride with this woman it is an experience in itself. You never know if she is talking to you, her horse, or herself. And if it is herself, what personality is she communicating with. I am sure by now you are all familiar with this wonderful, quirky, accomplished and unforgettable woman.

Written by Lori Windows