

## **Roberta Harms**

31,700 is the low count for total miles completed . This includes 35 100milers and 54 BC's, four times completing 1,000 miles in one season, a TEVIS completion, Race of Champions and multiple AERC Nationals, and international competition. I believe the ONLY Midwest rider to have a horse voted into AERC's Hallof Fame (in 2004), and a AERC Perfect Ten equine. Has served on AERC's Welfare of the Horse committee and UMECRA's and AHDRA's board for many years as well as co-managing a UMECRA ride for many years.

WHEW!!!

That alone deserves a Hall of Fame award, but statistics and records, as incredible as they may be, are only part of the reason this person deserves this award.

For several years, she and I rode side by side (well--that's not exactly true. If I was on Gandie she led 90% of the time) and her husband crewed for us. That alone should have given her first every time, but she insisted we take turns coming in first. In 1994, my friend Dee Crittenden was running for Endurance Rookie on my great but aging horse, Galamon. Last ride of the season came up and Dee, who had clinched Rookies, only needed a 2nd place to also be Top Ten. I felt I would be more help on the ground than riding with her, so I asked my friend, our Hall of Fame nominee, if Dee could accompany her and I would crew. 3:22 ride time later, they came flying across the finish, Dee in front. "What the Hell?" I said to Dee. "She asked if I had ever been First Across The Line, and when I said, no, she told me "Then get in front of me and go!"

Several years later, the same generous person helped another friends of mine, Haley Elliott, also win Endurance Rookie by leading her and Ashe through rides. Ask anyone who has been in this sport for more than a couple years and I am sure they would have similar tales of sacrifice and generosity on the part of our nominee. But don't get me wrong. She is no pushover. She is strong, directed, and tells it like it is. If you ask her for her opinion, you will get it, NO HOLDS BARRED. And the concern for the horse is utmost in her behavior.

However, I was once delighted and amazed to see another side of this person, and almost giggly aspect, albeit influenced by a heavy dose of pain medication. Four of us were in a truck going to an out of area ride. I, in my usual mode, got on the serious subject of animal behavior. When our nominee added a little something to my "vast knowledge" of penguin science, I was surprised. "Did you see March of the Penguins?" I asked. "No," she replied in a very non-typical voice, "But I saw HAPPY FEET."

We are all so HAPPY to induct Roberta Harms into UMECRA's Hall of Fame.

Written by Lori Windows