

## Ella N Fires Jane Doe

In the winter of 2008-2009, Lori Windows received a phone call from Bonnie Mielke. "Lori, I know you've always admired Chariots, and I needed to let you know that there is a 7 year old mare, a daughter of Chariots, who is being offered free to a good home."

"Well, that's really something, but I'm really not in the market for a new horse."

"This is a pretty unique opportunity, Lori. She's supposed to be a pretty nice mare. She's had one owner, been ridden extensively in dressage and on trail and she's been well cared for. Her person is going off to college, and has decided to down size."

"Would you and Bob go and take a look at her for me? I trust your opinion and especially Bob's. If Bob says she's a good prospect, I'll probably take her."

Bob gave her two thumbs up, so the following spring, Lori Windows took ownership of Ella.

Larry Allen rode her in some Novice rides that year and won the novice division Championship on her.

In 2010, Lori started Ella in endurance. Ella and Lori won the AHDRRA part bred Championship, and UMECRA Reserve Championship. Over the past seven years, Lori and Ella have completed 4900 Endurance miles. Ella has been an AERC Top Ten War Mare every year except 2015, and War Mare Champion in 2014. In the years 2013, 2014 and 2017 Ella has earned the AERC National Best Condition Championships. That's 54 BC's in 8 seasons with her all time high of 12 BC's in 2014. Locally, Ella and Lori have been UMECRA, DRAW and AHDRRA Endurance Reserve Champion or Champion every year except 2015.

What's with 2015, you may ask. Well, it seems Ella had some iffy lameness issues, so Lori backed off and took her on some 25 milers. It turns out, not only is Ella an extraordinary Endurance Horse, but she's a gifted Competitive Horse as well. Those endurance riders who ride with Lori will tell you that it isn't a real problem to stick with Lori and Ella on the trail...it's staying with her in the vet checks that's hard. This mare has an amazing pulse recovery – which proves that she's a "freak of nature". So in 2015 Ella was AHDRRA and UMECRA Reserve Versatility Champions and DRAW Versatility Champion. She was also Reserve LD Champion, Competitive Lightweight Champion and Reserve UMECRA Junior Competitive Champion. Pretty good for an "off" year.

This horse exemplifies the reason this award was started....with the belief that UMECRA riders could and would recognize excellence in a competitor's horse... A true and consistent competitor who has overcome adversity and shown longevity in the sport of distance riding. That's EllaNFires Jane Doe, an ordinary name for an extraordinary horse.