

## 2014 Riders Choice Winner

### **Majer Ridge Scarlet Debut Owned and ridden exclusively by Linda Jacobson (but only if I had my way, that wouldn't be true)!**

“She’s a Morgan” “She takes too long to recover.” She requires her weight in carrots at every ride.” “She’s emotional.” “She doesn’t play well with others.” All these statements are true. Scarlet carries this baggage, along with her equally quirky rider. But when it comes to recognizing a true champion of our sport regarding these statements, “Frankly, my dear(s), I don’t give a damn.”

A horse that has shown superior ability in its division and been a consistent competitor: Scarlet has placed Top Ten UMECRA in either Comp or Endurance since 2004. She placed High Mileage in '05, '08, and '12. She has placed in AERC’s Midwest division since 2008, and this year placed in AERC’s National War Mare Division. She has placed DRAW Top Eight since 2004, winning the Competitive Division in 2005 and winning the Endurance Division in 2010 and 2012. In the Morgan World, she has won Reserve Champion Endurance in '06, '07, and '09 and won Champion in '08, '10, '11 and '12 (but you will never see her wearing a Morgan jacket announcing these things ‘cause the Morgan World just can’t compete with UMECRA). In 2012, she had a total of 4,485 UMECRA miles and 3,860 AERC miles. She has completed 72 of her 79 endurance starts and 5 of her 6 100’s. That last statistic is a little skewed because I was there for that pull. There was NOTHING wrong with Scarlet. The pair had taken a spill and Linda was out of it. The only way they could get her to quit was to declare Scarlet lame.

A horse that has shown its ability to overcome setbacks: Can I repeat – “She takes too long to recover.” It’s a fact when the Pulse Rate is set at 60, Scarlet is placed even more in the hole. But it never seems to discourage either horse or rider. They play by the rules and place in spite of them. She doesn’t play well with others.” That’s an understatement. Linda takes great pains to make sure Scarlet shares the trail with no other horse. She doesn’t like other horses. She may not even like Linda. She does, however, like to fly. She has overcome a tying up issue. She didn’t do this all by herself, of course. Linda played an important part in determining diet and warm up procedures. That’s only because Scarlet can’t read. Otherwise, I’m sure she would have figured it out long before Linda did. Did I mention her rider? Just a little “quirky”, and Linda would be the first to admit it. Superior representative of the “Distance Horse”: When Scarlet was 18 years old, she experienced one of her greatest seasons. Some of that was due to genetics. Her father, Chub Lake Jack Daniels, was still competing at the age of 22. Not just competing, but winning the Lightweight Comp Reserve Division that year. But most of it is due to heart and soul. Scarlet takes my breath away. She may get held up at vet checks, but her eagerness on the trail comes smoking through in the last leg. Time after time I’ve seen riders who are ½ hour or more ahead of Scarlet at the last vet check get passed on the way to the

finish line. That rider has been me more times than I'd like to remember. As her rider sums it up, "I have never had to ask her to go forward, but never stop asking her to slow down."

In 2013, Scarlet's career was greatly detained due to a grave injury on Linda's part. But Linda managed to recover enough to ride her in at least one 50, keeping her Decade Award going. And then – 2014!!! What a season! At the age of 20, Scarlet shows no sign of slowing down. I ought to know, because I reached side by side with her several times, crossing the finish line together. And even though Scarlet missed the late rides of the season, she still ended up placing Top Ten Endurance, Top 4 Lightweight AERC, AERC's War Mare division, and UMECRA's Senior Horse Champion. Oh – and just behind her for Senior Horse was her incredible Dad, J.D. So longevity is on her side.

A horse we would like to have in our barn: It will never happen, but I would be thrilled to death to get a chance to ride this incredible horse. Although I know she will never be in my barn (wait a minute – that's not true. She has spent a few nights at my place while we were enroute to rides together.), she will always have a place in my heart.

*Nominated by Lori Windows, owned and ridden  
by Linda Jabobson!*