

Chris and Marty Power

We began distance riding in 2004 and have been riding over 500 miles each season ever since. We compete on three horses – WineGlass Debonair has over 1,000 miles, H. Bikaver has over 2,000 miles, and SA Te Jat has over 3,000 miles with UMECRA. So we like to “go the distance.”

We ride in all three distance disciplines, competitive trail (CT), limited distance (LD), and endurance. We start our horses with at least two years of CT to build a strong foundation. In CT they learn when to walk, trot or canter; to take care of themselves and eat and drink along the trail; how to stand quietly for PRs and how to trot out for the vets. As riders we learn patience and pacing. Although we now focus more of our time on endurance, we still like to compete in CT or LD when the horse or the rider needs a break from the longer distances.

We had two wonderful mentors (Myles Harston and JoAnne Gernant) who helped us learn about this exciting and challenging sport and we would like to share what we have learned with others to “pass it on.”