

# Ride & Tie

# The Newsletter

December 2000

WHO? WHAT?  
WHERE? WHY?  
WHEN?

Euer Valley Ranch, on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada range in California, will be the site of the Ride & Tie Championship competition in the year 2001. Go North on Hwy 89, just 2.5 miles out of Truckee, this area is as far out in the woods as one can get, yet only 20 miles from Reno, Nevada. September 15<sup>th</sup> is the date, so call your riding and running buddies NOW.... And all of you mark your calendars.

Located at around the 6000 foot elevation mark, the Euer Valley is right now gearing up to be a major ski area. Meandering trails for cross-country skiing will be turned into the "yellow-brick-road" of yellow ribbon in September to mark the 32 mile Ride & Tie course. This will also be the Sanctioned Endurance Race course AND the Sanctioned Trail Run course. This place is starting to sound like a Rider/Runner Theme Park!

Event Coordinator, Laura Christofk, giggles mischievously as she gives out sketchy information on the events. "More details to follow"....."do check the website often"....."individual mailings to come", is all that can be dragged from her right now. "I am very excited that the Ride & Tie Board is allowing me the freedom to try some very cool things." Cool things? Cool things from the highly imaginative and "kooky" mind of Laura Christofk!?! This is gonna be fun!

So; keep an eye on the website, [www.rideandtie.org](http://www.rideandtie.org), watch for a mailing (to come AFTER the Holidays, even the Grinch took a little time off then), talk to EVERYONE you know who runs and/or rides (or even MIGHT run and /or ride by September 15, 2001) and mark your calendars. Set aside the time, take vacation, call in sick, whatever.....just don't miss it.....Euer Valley Ranch, Truckee, California, Ride & Tie Championship and other events.

For more information: Ride & Tie Association, P.O. Box 697, Foresthill, CA., 95631.....530-367-2820.....  
judy @ rideandtie.org.



Gordy Ainsleigh leads the way



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PO Box 697  
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(530) 367-2525  
www.rideandtie.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Mail to P.O. Box 697, Foresthill, CA 95631

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a Rider
- I am a Runner
- I need a teammate and a horse
- I have a horse, but need a teammate
- I have a horse to loan or lease

*All categories of membership will receive Ride & Tie News bimonthly, The Ride & Tie Journal annually, information and applications for the annual World Championship Ride & Tie, advocacy for growth and competition in all aspects of the sport, inclusion and eligibility for the national point system and assurance of the continuance of the sport of Ride & Tie. As a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, these membership contributions are tax deductible.*

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP**

(check your choice of membership)

- Lifetime member (\$500)** Pay no more annual membership fees. Eligible for special savings as offered.
- Competitor Member (\$50)** Provides access to the membership database which can link up teammates with horse, riders and runners.
- Competitor Family Membership (\$75)** Immediate family residing at one address. Please list all names to be included.
- New Member-1st Year (\$20)** Offered at a reduced rate for those checking out the sport. Equivalent to a competitor membership.
- New Family Membership (\$35)** Immediate family residing at one address. Please list all names to be included.
- Supporter (\$100 or more)** Same benefits as a competitor member. Also eligible for special savings as offered.
- Friend of the Ride & Tie (\$20)** Not an actual competitor but would like to show their support for ride & tie. Included in all Association mailings.

**HORSE REGISTRATION FORM (ONE HORSE PER FORM)**

REGISTERED NAME OF HORSE \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME (NICK NAME) As you wish it to appear in future race results \_\_\_\_\_  
 GELDING  MARE  STALLION BREED \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Hello Everyone,

I hope you're all enjoying the holidays and that this Season finds you, your animals, friends and family well.

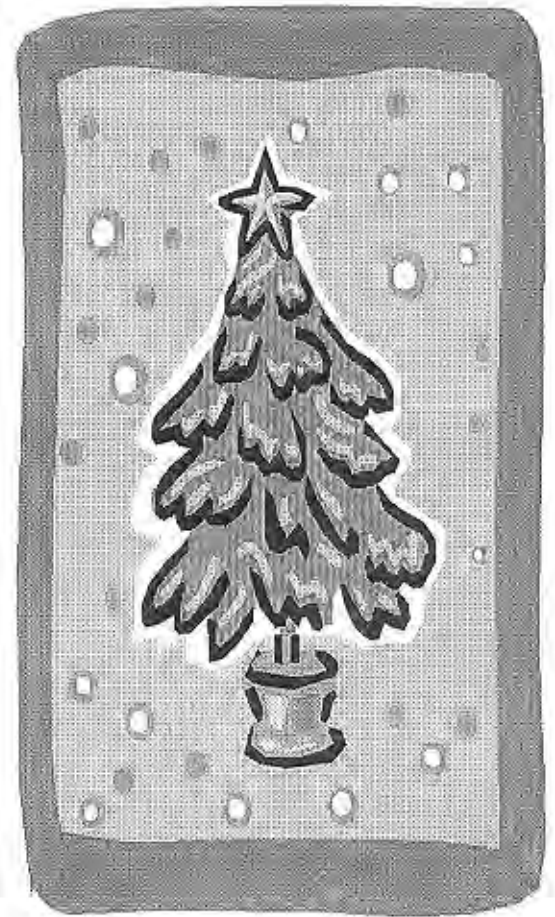
You may have heard by now that the date and location of the Championship has been changed to September 15 at Euer Valley 20 minutes outside of Truckee, CA. The Board thought long and hard about this and while it may not be as convenient for some of you, we all agreed that we should try a change of date and that it might help get our race numbers up. Also we didn't want to conflict with Western States or the Tevis and many thought that having the Championship more toward the end of the season made better sense. Steve Shaw has a report here in the newsletter and as you will see it sounds like a great site. Laura Christolk is our new race director this year. She has a lot of great ideas and we're all confident that she'll do a great job.

Our election return is complete with hand counts and all. There were 50 return ballots and the results were: Robert Ribley (declined), Curt Riffle, Pat & Nita Browning, Lani Newcomb, DVM, Lon Clearwaters/Leah Mirsch. Thank you all for your willingness to serve and for taking the time to vote.

Please make a note on your calendars the AERC convention is in Reno on March 2-4 and the R&T Awards banquet is on March 24, in San Jose. Location to be announced.

Warmest regards and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mary Tiscornia



## CAHUILLA HEIGHTS RIDE & TIE

April 1, 2000

Perfect day for a Ride & Tie...April Fool's Day! Oh, well! Dave and Arlene Foster hosted this race at their home in Hemet. They offered a 24, 12 or 6 mile ride & tie and also endurance races of the same lengths. Sounded like the ride & tiers had all the fun. Though the numbers were few, the

majority of the entrants were newcomers to the sport and "young" people. Carol Ruprecht tried the 12 miler with husband Tom and they WON! Most normally Carol is the crew for her husband Tom, and sister, Elaine, who team up at the Championship.

As the race was all on private property and there were few restrictions, it was a very relaxed crowd. Bob Edwards brought his

tough dogs and they ran the whole 24 mile course with him!! Friday night prior to the race the Fosters provided a spaghetti dinner and the awards Bar-B-Q was a mix of hamburgers and chicken. If nothing else everyone sure eats well at the Cahuilla Heights Ride & Tie. So, for good fun and good food, plan to attend in 2001.

### Cahuilla Heights Ride & Tie 24 miles 4/1/00

1 Vince Balch/Rufus Schneider	Justin	3:12
2 Bob Edwards/Sidney Vale	Fancy Belle	3:58
3 David Foster/Pat Helly	Cozad	4:15
<b>12 Miles</b>		
1 Tom Gey/Carol Ruprecht	Hat Trick	1:45
2 Robyn Tustison/Sharon Johnson	Linda	1:53
3 David Howe/Debbie Ekhaml	Dakotas Gold	1:59
4 Evelyn Marshall/Jackie Marshall	Acc	2:25
<b>6 Miles</b>		
Bryce Vale/Camas Anderson	Bobby	1:17

# HOW NOT TO DO A RIDE & TIE

By Lani Newcomb

What makes or breaks a ride and tie is the horse. Whether you have a wonderful time or a rotten time, feel great or feel crippled, it's all because of the horse. When the horse is happy, strong, forward, polite, and tugs you down the trail, you can't help but run a little faster and feel a little more powerful. When the horse is none of the above, the whole process becomes a bad Three Stooges episode.

The ever speedy Kathy Broaddus and the earthbound Lani Newcomb, approached the **No Frills Ride and Tie**, April 8, 2000, with excitement, apprehension, and resignation. It's always exciting to have the new Ride and Tie season start, and to look forward to traveling to different areas to compete and new trails to run. It's always uncertain which horses we'll be riding, whether they'll know their jobs or be tree-hugging orangutans with death wishes.

No matter how many horses we have, it's never enough. Ours have a whole calendar system worked out, and when one of our rides approaches, they all start falling apart. This year I noticed even my retired R&T horse who is kept in a field miles away from home started limping two days before the race, and he hadn't even been in contact with the active horses. Of course he was fine by Monday.

True to Virginia form, the weather, which had been cool and inviting for weeks, suddenly woke up and decided to do: SUMMER! With three days to go the temperatures started to climb, with predictions in the 80's for ride day. Not a big deal now, maybe, but for that time of year, a big change for unacclimatized horses. It got hotter, and once again our careful plans went out the window. We acknowledged that it would be really unfair to ask Hickory (a Belgian-cross) to keep up with the arabs in that weather, which left...uh oh, there must be another choice...Norman (a 5 year old arab).

Up to this point Kathy had very wisely refused to get on Norm, saying that she had her life to live but to check back with her in a few years when he grew up a little. Thursday before the ride, while we were wrestling with which horse to take, we were out on a training ride and she stopped Hickory and said, "Well, get

off." I realized that this was the moment, and if I missed it, there probably wouldn't be another, so I jumped off Norm and handed her the reins. She hopped on, and rode off. Norm is an angel when things are going his way, and smooth as butter. After a few minutes she said, "He'll do." I thought to myself, "We're gonna die," and nodded brightly. We tied him to a tree twice, rode Hickory past a few times, pretended that it was normal for healthy trees to look like shredded cabbage, and went back to pack his things.

We had planned to start at 10 a.m., but the weather reports for the afternoon were becoming ominous, with a strong cold front coming through accompanied by wind and hail, so we moved a little quicker and hit the trail a little after nine. Kathy and I had begged Jean to stay with Norm for the first few ties, so we could at least say we did SOME of the race before being killed. The whole group started off at a peaceful trot and the trail immediately began the climb up to Milford Gap. It was a great feeling, to be hiking up the mountain in a group. We chatted back and forth about what a great sport it was, and how non-stressful it could be compared to the level at which these endurance winners normally compete. As the pace heated up, Norman started to come unglued, but we figured it was so far, so good, keep going. When Kathy got to him he was really hard to get on, and I couldn't even get him stopped - he wasn't running away, he just was so overwhelmed he couldn't stop walking, so I'd have to turn him in a circle while he walked and I'd jump off at a slow point.

I had tied Norm just a little ways out from the check so Kathy could ride him in, drop him, restock and run out. I knew I was in trouble when she appeared, leading him at the trot, furious. I got an earful as to how could I have been so stupid as to tie him where he knew where the camp was, and he had been so horrible even she couldn't get on him. I stayed mum, loaded her up and sent her back out on the trail, then turned to Norm. Although he was hardly sweating, and not even breathing hard, his heartrate was over 150, he was so freaked. Pat Oliva saw I was in trouble and came to my rescue (what a doll).

She held Norm while I ran to get Hickory, who lumbered over at the trot, then held Norm's hand comfortingly. Norm was hungry and thirsty but it's as if his teeth were chattering - he drank from 4 buckets at once, bobbing from one to the next, unable to concentrate. At one point his pulse dropped down to 60 so I called Art King, who very nicely came over, listened to his pulse soberly, then looked at me kindly and said, "It's 96". Oops. After about a half an hour he finally settled down, vetted through just fine, then I remounted and headed back out.

The air was blue with curses for the rest of the race. Kathy called Norm all kinds of names, and justifiably asked how she was expected to do her share of the work if we couldn't find a decent horse. I kept explaining that he was just a baby, and that we could just quit and go back, or if we were going to go on we should ride him softly and quietly, the way we do at home. We sounded like a bunch of fishwives, screeching through the woods. The trail was perfectly marked, and had a really beautiful section down along the river about halfway through the loop, with soft earth and bluebells, but just as he started to regain his sanity we caught up with the rest of the group. Damn! He got frantic again, trying to keep up with horses that kept pulling ahead, then dropping back, then passing him while tied.

The first four teams made it back to the finish line just as the wind and rain got serious. The vets were struggling to survive, huddled under raincoats, looking forlorn. Norm still needed Hickory to hold his hand in order for his pulse to come down below a million, but it was quicker this time, and I think if it had been a 50 mile R&T, by the end he would have settled down. Of course, by the end Kathy and I would have killed each other. The other two teams had just managed to claw their way to the top of the last mountain when the hail hit. Everyone did at last make it across the finish line intact. Tremendous congratulations to all the participants for conquering such a difficult trail.

Norm says he's fine now, but Kathy refuses even to discuss the fall R&Ts with him. She says a couple more years and then we can talk.

## Champagne Ride & Tie

by Sarah Smith

I'm a newcomer to ride & tie who discovered the sport four years ago when I crewed for a friend at the annual Champagne Ride & Tie. Back then, more than 20 teams crisscrossed the meadows and redwood forests in the hills near Santa Cruz and were rewarded with a bottle of bubbly at the finish line.

This year, I returned to Champagne on Aug. 5 with teammates Curt Riffle and Corky for my second-ever ride & tie. The conditions were ideal, and the hilly, 25-mile course overlooking the Pacific was sublime. But where was everybody?? This year, the Champagne Ride & Tie was a subcategory of an endurance ride—minus the champagne—and only five R&T

teams, including us, gathered at the foggy start as curious endurance riders looked on. I shouldn't complain, because the race went smoothly and the endurance riders graciously shared the trail, but the low participation left me a bit puzzled and concerned.

Now for the details: All 10 of us ride & tiers seemed to have a great time (when not cursing missing or misdirected trail markers, that is!). Not surprisingly, John Osterweis and Mark Richtman on Victor and Warren Hellman and Jeff Townsend on Sam battled for the lead from the start. Warren and Jeff were close to catching up with John and Mark after the second vet check, but then

Warren was stymied by a trail marker that had twisted in the wind and pointed him down the wrong trail, back toward the vet check. Arrggh! They finished second, followed by Curt and me on Corky. Raj, not wanting to be too far from his pal Corky, soon rode in with teammates Cheryl Domnitch and Lori Stringfield, followed by a very good-natured Merry Law and Robin Davis on Flame. I'm not sure what happened to Merry and Robin, but I recall one of them saying something about losing or passing their horse more than once!

I hope to participate in the Champagne Ride & Tie again in years to come, and I look forward to meeting more of you there.

### Champagne Ride & Tie 25 miles 8/5/00

1	John Osterweis/Mark Richtman	Victor	2:54
2	Warren Hellman/Jeff Townsend	Sam	3:14
3	Curt Riffle/Sarah Smith	Corky	3:18
4	Cheryl Domnitch/Lori Stringfield	Rajik	3:46
5	Merry Law/Robin Davis	Flame	4:30

### No Frills Ride & Tie 25 miles 4/8/00

1	Julie Bullock/Debbie Bullis	Carmen Clasix	4:21
2	Jean Lichtenberger/Tom Sites	gm Ballistic	4:32
3	Janice Haug/Connie Walker	Fleet	4:33
4	Lani Newcomb/Kathy Broaddus	Norm Van Meter	4:35
5	Nancy Roeber-Moyer/Kay Bond	Ramegwa Vilia	6:15
6	Dave Bond/Joe Cavote	Pov Justa Fancy Dancer	6:15

**10 Miles**

1	Mark Lovecky/Kim Burns	Cloud	1:56
2	Barbara Chu/Sheri Devouassaux	Rushcreek Equus	3:37
3	Christen Chu/Johanna Winter	Brandy	3:37

DUES ARE DUE - REMIT NOW FOR A FULL YEAR OF RIDE & TIE

# On the Road

## with Rachel & Mary

by Rachel Toor

When she learned that I would be spending the summer in California, my Ride and Tie partner, Mary Tiscornia (hereafter referred to, for simplicity, as the Queen of Ride and Tie) asked if I wanted to go with her to Oregon for the Headwaters of the Rogue R & T. Sounded good to me.

Mary and I left her ranch on Friday morning, drove for a number of hours, and then heard a funny sound. She drove off the freeway into a gas station. We looked at the tires, there was a huge hunk missing from one of the trailer tires. Gone. The two gas station guys were also just about to be gone. "We'll be back", they said, driving away. The Queen pushed up her sleeves and changed the tire. I fetched tools, looked decorative, and generally gazed on in awe.

On Saturday there were 25, 50 and 75 mile endurance rides. Queen Mary and I enlisted Jim Clover as a guide and went to check out potential future Championship sites. We drove around breathtakingly beautiful Crater Lake while being treated to a fascinating lecture on tick borne illnesses by Jim. He, meanwhile, got to see, up close and personal, the Mary and Rachel Show, where we discuss the problems of the world (starting with the hunters and gatherers) and argue intensely, though without animus, about nature versus nurture, race, culture, and biology.

As the race approached I heard that we would have some tough competition. People started to talk about the team that was likely to beat

us: A young speedy guy and one of the toughest competitors around - someone who had finished a multitude of Ironman triathlons. Then they told me this guy was 70 years old. "Oh, no problem", I said. "Wrong", they said. "You don't know Lew Hollander".

It was a wonderfully low-key affair. The start time was determined by consensus at the ride meeting. Just before we started, the race director looked down at her saddle and said, "OOPS, I don't have any water. Can someone fill my water bottles?" The vet was responsible for giving us to cue to begin. "What do I say", she asked? "How about go", said someone. "GO", she said.

We went. I learned in the first 9 or 10 miles that Peter Klopfer isn't the only really tough 70 year old around. And Lew's partner, Eric, an Adidas sponsored orienteering guy, was indeed speedy. But we managed to pull away, left them in copious amounts of dust on a fabulously beautiful trail. It was mostly single track, rolling without killer hills, and in the shade of beautiful Oregon timber. Turning one corner, I came galloping along on Albi right up to a deer hunter, his arm pulled back, aiming at US. It was the first day of bow season. Soon after that I went off the trail. So we did have one teeny tiny little glitch, but I wouldn't say that we really got lost. Lew and Eric, however, said they got lost.

There were a number of creek crossings, and one big honking river crossing. We'd heard about this before the race and I negotiated with Mary to have her be the one to swim it. Great and tough partner that she is, she readily agreed (I'm a delicate flower from the South, after all). Of

course, who gets there first, on foot? I looked at the river, looked up stream and down trying to find the easiest crossing, wondered how long I could stand around waiting, and then they appeared, my partners! Mary said the water was so cold her feet were like numb sticks for the next mile or so. She's a great partner, the Queen.

We finished first. When I told Annette Parsons that the only reason I ever run is to get SMOs (Shiny Metal Objects: they needn't be shiny or metal but have to have the name of the race on them). She advised me that we'd better win: There was only an SMO for first place. The rest of the awards were merchandise. So we got our SMOs, and Albi got Best Condition.

Lew and Eric came in next, followed by Jim Brown and his partner, a rugby player named Cary who looked like the Marlboro Man. He'd crewed for Jim at the Championship and decided that this wackiness looked like fun. I think he had fun, though he looked pretty darn tired after the race. Jim's wife, Cindy, had won the 75 miler the day before, and Best Condition, and then she crewed for the entire R & T. The Browns also donated an entry to the 8 mile R & T to try to get some of the endurance riders interested in our sport. Just three minutes behind Jim and the Marlboro Man came Jim Clover and his partner Jerome Beauchamp. The rest of the field crossed the finish line in an appropriately low-key way, and then we had our awards ceremony. In addition to the one SMO, there were great awards, including lots of bottles of local wine.

I tell you, it's great to race with the Queen.

Headwater of the Rogue	30 miles	8/27/00
1 Mary Tiscornia/Rachel Toor	Albi	3:30
2 Lew Hollander/Eric Wischart	Mis P	4:02
3 Jim Brown/Cary Bertolone	Negask	4:21
4 Jim Clover/Jerome Beauchamp	Bones	4:24
5 Jim Dort/Mark Worley	Fox	5:00
6 Tim & Melissa Kerns	Shadow	5:50
7 Annette Parsons/Michele Jay	Ari Saki	5:31
8 Debbie Hansen-Bernard/Jinny Brown	Sunny22 years old!	6:02
8 mile completion		
Carol Crawford/Tina Grow	Pell Mell	

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Swanton Pacific Ride & Tie

- Ellen M. Rinde

The good thing about being a worrier is that you always come over-prepared. The bad thing is that there are enough potential pitfalls, real and imagined, in a 100-mile ride & tie to cause you lots of sleepless nights leading up to the event. To that, add the forecast for unusually hot weather and the self-imposed pressure of trying to finish a fifth consecutive year with the same team (same two people, same horse, same *GREAT* crew). Fortunately, it gets a lot easier once 5:00 AM rolls around and you get moving. Then it's just a matter of putting one foot in front of the other and following the pink and white flagging until you get to the finish line.

Three teams, all with solid experience, started the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Swanton Pacific Ride & Tie. Five of the starters were women and 4 were from Virginia (so where are all the guys ???). Dennis and Ellen Rinde were attempting their 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive finish of the 100-miler. Kathy Broaddus and Lani Newcomb were back for their 4<sup>th</sup> year. Jean Heishman returned for her 2<sup>nd</sup> year, this time teamed up with her twin sister, Janice Haug, also an

experienced endurance rider, ultra runner and ride & tie contestant.

The three horses were equally experienced. Team Rinde was using Scotty, a 4-time finisher of the 100-mile ride & tie as well as numerous other endurance rides and ride & ties. Now 17 years old, Scotty had had a minor injury and a couple of minor metabolic imbalances earlier in the summer which made him a bit of a question mark despite his experience. Broaddus/Newcomb were entered on Lightfoot Endurance Group's Corky, a top ride & tie competitor for several years. Robert and Melissa Ribley provided Haug/Heishman with Reebok, a very experience endurance competitor with ride & tie experience as well.

After heavy fog in the morning in past years, this year's event started under clear skies. By the 5:15 AM, it was already T-shirt weather. Dennis Rinde was heard saying very uncharacteristic things like "slow down", "be careful" and "don't go so fast". Following their successful strategy from last year, the two woman/woman teams traveled together; Kathy paired up with Jean (who are training partners back home), Lani with Janice and Corky with Reebok. All three teams were within 10 minutes of each other for the first 55 miles.

The "go slow" strategy paid off for Team Rinde. Dennis had an awesome running day and Scotty turned his best 100-mile ride & tie performance yet so

the team broke 20 hours for their first time, finishing in 19:52.

Unfortunately, nobody had read the fine print on Corky's contract. If they had, they would have known that he considers himself a serious ride & tie horse. He believes that you go fast and don't waste time anywhere along the way; you start no earlier than 7AM and finish no later than 12 noon; anything over 4 hours is overtime. He was lean and fit and very professional, not causal and slightly pudgy like his two competitors (who obviously put a high priority on food). This 100-mile stuff didn't fit Corky's contract at all well. Professionalism aside, not eating for 67 miles didn't work too well for Corky. Although he passed the Cascade Ranch vet check, Kathy and Lani knew the trail well enough to know better than to try to drag a tired, demoralized horse through the hills for another 33 miles, especially someone else's tired, demoralized horse. As disappointed as they were not to finish their favorite ride & tie of the year, they opted to use their good veterinary judgement and give Corky the night off.

That left Jean, Janice and Reebok on their own for the rest of the evening. They made good progress however. At 2:45 AM, Jean made her 2<sup>nd</sup> Swanton Pacific finish and Janice her first. Reebok also received the best condition award.

Lani keeps saying this ride & tie is *THE BEST* and that more people should try it because it's so much *FUN*. Where else can you get 20+ hours of fun ???

### Swanton Pacific 100 miles 8/12/00

Dennis Rinde/Ellen Rinde	Scots Bilexijo	19:52
Janice Haug/Jean Heishman	Reebok	21:45
Kathy Broaddus/Lani Newcomb	Court Decision	dnf

### Questionnaire Results

Number of questionnaires returned: 49

Priorities for the Board (in priority order):

1. Increase sanctioned race participation
2. Increase Championship participation
3. Increase number of youth participating in the sport
4. Increase number of pro-am and novice participants

How to accomplish these priorities (in priority order):

1. More sanctioned races
2. Decrease Championship fee (average suggested: \$125)
3. Decrease cost of Assoc. membership (suggested: \$28)
4. More newsletters

35 out of 49 (70%) have access to the internet and email

Reasons for not attending the 2000 Championship (priority):

1. Injury
2. Too busy
3. Too far away
4. Too expensive

Interesting comments:

1. More leverage with AERC organization and events
2. More publicity (ads, articles)
3. More current web site information (race results)
4. More awareness for participants not finishing in the top 3

REMINDER: RIDE & TIE ASSOCIATION DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2001

# RIDE & TIE RACE SCHEDULE 2000

**January 27, 2001**

Shine & Shine Only (SASO)  
(Name courtesy of Becky Hart)  
Almaden Quicksilver Park  
San Jose, CA  
11, 22 miles  
Cheryl Domnitch  
408-879-0749

**February 24, 2001**

SASO  
Almaden Quicksilver Park  
San Jose, CA  
11, 22 miles  
Cheryl Domnitch  
408-879-0749  
Curt Riffle  
650-949-0620

**March 24, 2001**

SASO  
Annual Awards Banquet  
Almaden Quicksilver Park  
San Jose, CA  
11, 22 miles  
Cheryl Domnitch  
408-879-0749

**May 5, 2001**

Quicksilver Ride & Tie  
Almaden Quicksilver Park  
San Jose, CA  
11, 22 miles  
Curt Riffle  
650-949-0620

## Annual Awards Banquet

The Annual Awards Banquet for the year 2000 will be held in San Jose, CA, on March 24, 2001 (exact site to be determined). The Banquet will be held in the evening following the March SASO Ride & Tie. Although it is true that the Ride & Tie will be weather dependent, the Awards Banquet will proceed regardless of Mother Nature. So put the date on the calendar and keep those human and horse legs in shape all winter for an early springtime ride & tie with lots of partying afterwards.

Contact: Cheryl Domnitch 408-879-0749

## AERC 2001 Convention & Trade Show

March 2-3, 2001

Silver Legacy Resort & Casino

Reno, Nevada

Visit the Ride & Tie Association booth....come by and say "HI"

## St. Joseph, MO

June 5<sup>th</sup> 2001

From Steve Shaw

On this date over 90 endurance riders will be attempting to ride 40 fifty mile endurance rides over two months from St. Jo MO to Sacramento, CA. This is the brainchild of the infamous "Buck" Dave Nicholson who put on a similar event in 1978 with the support of the British Postal Service of all things. It is the 25th Anniversary of the famous "Race Across America" won by Virl Norton in 1976.

The event is limited to 100 entries and the Ride And Tie Association has purchased an entry. The intent is to include ride and tie during the entire event; two months of RATING 50 miles a day. (It can be done...) The Association is making paid days available with a subsidy, this is below the cost of regular entry!! For just \$25

per person per day you can be a part of this event. You can pick any day or week to be a participant. Miles will be recorded for part of RAT year end awards.

For an itinerary see the web site <http://www.xprides.com> and look under XP2001.

Days will be going fast so you need to sign up soon. Already two weeks from Salt Lake City west in mid July are taken by Sydney Vale of San Diego. The 1st week of July has been reserved by Mary Tiscornia. Dana Landale has reserved day 20, June 29<sup>th</sup>. She is still looking for a partner. Phone: 435-783-5788 or email: [dananip@allwest.net](mailto:dananip@allwest.net). Dana lives in Peoa, Utah and has a horse.

TO SIGN UP: Contact Steve Shaw at [sshaw@pacbell.net](mailto:sshaw@pacbell.net) or 530-292-1902, 13054 Folsom St., N San Juan, CA 95960 and send in a check for \$25 per

person and give a hint at what portion of the trail you want to RAT.

We will work out the specific details as we are informed by the Duck. You might want to get more information about the Duck from someone who knows or check out his web site section on "HISTORY" to better understand his MOU .....

Pick a day or a week or more that you want to be a part of this history making event and come join the fun. There will be many, many RATER's there and many partners and horses to choose from if you want to come by yourself and just link up.

This event will take place June/July of 2001 and will cover the Old Pony Express trail from St. Jo MO to Sacramento, CA. It will be as if you are crossing the plains with the first settlers: Ride & Tie will be part of it too!!



# Virginia Mud

## The Rockbridge Ride & Tie

By Jean Lichtenberger Heishman

For the third year in a row, the Rockbridge Hunt has sponsored both an endurance ride and a ride & tie over Labor Day weekend. The hunt has graciously allowed the slightly demented ride & tie crowd to enter into their midst and clog their beautiful trails and torment their endurance riders. The volunteers have watched in amazement as the ride & tiers braved torrential down-pours and flood conditions (when 8 inches of rain fell during last years event) or splashed for seemingly an eternity in the creek in efforts to cool their horses down to meet criteria during the 95 degree heat wave the year before.

This year's event provided a little of both of the previous year's conditions. The ground had become soggy from preceding days of constant rain. Parking had become tricky and you had ONE shot to put your rig where you wanted it. The creeks had all risen and the trail was rerouted the day before so horses and runners would not have to cross the most treacherous areas. Five brave teams opted to compete in the 25-mile event, which started after the 50-mile endurance riders began their day. Some leeway had been made by Ride Management regarding creek crossings and teams were allowed to ride double to navigate the crossing. One team (whose horse just could NOT have been an Arab) actually started off riding double across the stream while the rest of the teams drew straws to decide which member of the team was to start off

swimming. No one else trusted their horse enough to ride double. Hickory, a Belgian-cross gelding, ridden by the Newcomb/Broaddus team, looked as though he had the capacity to carry EVERYONE over in one crossing on his back. The teams were off! Everyone made the first creek crossing without mishap. They started up the first hill; things seemed to be going fine.... footing was not bad. Now into the woods, OOPS, a little slick here and there, but no one down yet. Oh, no - whose dark bay horse is tied to a tree with its reins? Oh, that was a 50 mile endurance rider's horse that had gotten tangled up in some electric fence, unloaded his rider and had headed back for home. A ride & tier had captured the horse and tied it up for the rider to retrieve. All the teams seemed to be sticking fairly close together except for one, the team that managed to ride double across the stream! They were out in front and rapidly losing the rest of the field. Another team seemed to have become separated....the runner, a novice ride & tier and a Junior even, was an incredible runner and her partner was having trouble catching up to her on the horse. The rest of the pack struggled along, slipping and sliding in the mud. While sponging their horses off in the creeks in an effort to keep them from over-heating, the hope and prayer was that no one would lose a shoe....neither man, woman or beast. Coming out onto one road several volunteers watched as runner after runner purposely aimed for a mud puddle and stomped and splashed in the water trying to rid their shoes of the 5 pounds of mud that had become caked on the bottoms.

Nearing the halfway point and vet check, a runner was seen heading backwards down the trail. Had anyone seen her horse? Yes, a fair ways back, off to the left of the trail under some low hanging branches. Oh, No! Dark bay horse...shady area... very easy to miss. Well, there went 1<sup>st</sup> place!

On into the vet check. Everyone in...or are they? No. The Pro-Am team with the Novice /Junior has not been seen. The teams head back out for their final loop. Here comes the Pro-Am team, they missed the turn for the vet check and had gotten about 2 miles out before they realized it. The decision was made to head back and call it a day.

The last half went smoothly. The trail was a little slicker the second time around. The temperature was going up, and as the clouds came and went volunteers appeared offering water at various road crossings to aid the runners. The team that missed their horse was starting to make up lost ground. Hickory, the Belgian-cross, who was doing double time in the stream crossings to get his temperature down, was actually starting to catch up to his runner.

Out of 5 teams that started, 4 finished within about 30 minutes of each other. All to be commended and recognized for dealing with ride & tie hazards: competing with badly bruised (or broken) ribs; having to run 23 of the 25 slick miles while their partner labored over keeping the horse cooled or having to "baby-sit" another team and their horse at ties. Are we having fun yet???

### Rockbridge Ride & Tie 25 miles 9/3/00

1. Janice Haug/Jeanne Christie	Fleet	5:19
1. Jean (Lichtenberger)Heishman/Tom Sites	gm Ballistic	5:19
3. Lani Newcomb/Kathy Broaddus	Hickory	5:20
4. Julie Bullock/Debbie Bullis	Carmen Clasix	5:45
Martha Klopfer/Lindsey Voit	Grey Reisling	dnf

# The Ft. Valley Ride & Tie Rocks . . . !

By Curt Riffle

Jean Heishman's Ft. Valley Ride & Tie in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley should be on every serious ride & tier's list of "must do events". It took place on October 27<sup>th</sup> in a beautiful part of the country during a beautiful time of year. Jean along with her sister Janice, Lani Newcomb and Cathy Broadus and the other volunteers were all incredibly pleasant and accommodating to all 12 teams, especially to this author who journeyed from California's Bay Area to try out this East Coast event. But they didn't tell me about those Blue Ridge Mountain rocks . . .

Held in conjunction with 50 and 30 mile endurance rides, the Ft. Valley Ride & Tie offered 12, 30 and 50 mile events. Four teams competed in the 12, three in the 30 and three in the 50. I was impressed with the enthusiasm and camaraderie all of the participants showed before, during and after the race. Jean showed excellent teaming-forming skills that included my team. Andy Watkins from southern Virginia and I met our equine teammate, Fleet (Jean's veteran "has done everything" horse) the evening before the race. Janice's fiancée, Bob, who would be our crew casually mentioned it would be a little rocky. I should have grown suspicious when I saw Fleet had pads on all fours . . .

The 50 milers started at 8AM. The Cathy Broadus/Lani Newcomb team led the Jean Heishman/Jeannie Christie team and the Janice Haug/Tom Sites team into the morning fog. It was promising to be a beautiful Fall day. Good thing since the 50 milers would be out on the course for over 11 hours! Cathy/Lani finished first with Jean/Jeannie finishing second.

The 30 milers and 12 milers started together at the very respectable hour of 9AM. All the teams used a common trail for the first 12 miles. Or maybe I should say common stream bed. I was very impressed how these Virginians and their horses traveled so fast over the leaf-covered, round rocks. Now wonder I have always been so impressed with them whenever they would come out to the easy trails in California!

All four of the 12 milers completed their event at the vet check. Zoe Sollenberger/John Barrett finished first, Nancy Smart/Ileana Arnolds finished second, Kay Bond/Joe Cavote finished third and Nancy Roeber-Moyer/Dave Bond got their money's worth. I dropped Fleet at the vet check with Bob and took off back up the rockery. Fleet had hoped that lack of gut sounds would allow him to stay for lunch. One hour and 45

minutes later, Fleet and Andy caught up to me along with the other two teams.

We did just fine until we got to a section of trail where the ribbons had been taken off the trees and thrown on the ground. Forgetting that I had worked hard to earn the name Wrong-Way Riffle and that I hadn't told Andy about my skills at taking wrong turns, we took off down the road about 2 miles past the trail turn-off that was blocked by a van. I remember seeing the van's bumper sticker that read "Hunters for Bush" but I don't remember seeing the ribbon just past the van. Andy was a really good sport about it. I felt like an idiot. Fleet knew he should have stayed for lunch in the vet check. Mark Lovecky/Tina Gray discovered the course problem sooner than us and finished first. We finished fifteen minutes later. Unfortunately Julie Bullock/Debbie Bullis had course problems, too and did not finish.

I really enjoyed the event. I found some new ride & tie friends that I hope will join us at a California ride & tie next season. I learned how to run on real Virginia rocks. I taught the Virginians the fine art of missing trail markers. You should add the Fort Valley Ride & Tie to your list of adventures. It rreeeeaaallllyy rocks!!

## Results: Big Creek Ride & Tie 30 miles 5/20/00

1. Larie Riebling/Becky Widler	Don	3:59
2. Warren Hellman/Jeff Townsend	Samuri	4:09
3. Tom Johnson/Bob Spoor	LV Cavalier	4:13
4. Russ Kiernan/John Osterweis	Victor	4:17
5. Skip Lightfoot/Curt Riffle	Rajzik	4:25
6. Mary Tiscornia/Rachel Toor	Albi	4:32
7. Cheryl Domnitch/Sid Sullivan	Court Decision	5:02
8. Matt Madeiros/Chris Turney	Budweiser	5:18
9. Jerome Beauchamp/Frank Lieberman	Tango	5:27
10. Jim Brown/Brenda Speer	Negask	5:33
11. Jim Steere/Thom Stere	Wesob	6:39
12. Katie Webb/Steve Webb	Chili	7:27
13. Robin Davis/Merry Law	Flame	DNF