

Introducing... MAX!

For all you crazy ride&tie people who are preparing your legs and your steeds for this year's championship, I thought you might find some comfort and solace in this story. When SE Bluemax won the coveted Best Condition award at the 1999 Ride and Tie Championship in Klamath Falls, it was the highlight of our thirteen years in the ride&tie and endurance sports. Since then, lots of folks ask me about Max. I just laugh and say "he's a great horse". For everyone who brings a new horse into the sport, this story is for you.

* 1995 - Deb Cooper tells me that a big red gelding is for sale in the Santa Cruz area. Courtney Hart and I go out to see Max for the first time. When we try to put a bit in his mouth, he puts his foot through the fiberglass fender of my horse trailer. Bought him, but can't load him, so his owner walks the two miles home, Max doing pirouettes on the lead rope.

* Bringing Max along slowly, we do a few 25's and then our first 50 mile endurance ride at the Quicksilver. He spends the evening calling out to the other horses, eventually picking up his metal corrals and carrying the whole system across a field to be with a nearby mare. He spends the rest of the night in the trailer... The next day, he runs out of gas at 45 miles, and we walk the rest of the way side by side. I think "this horse has potential..."

* Marvin Snowbarger and I do the Mustang 25 r&t together. Max is full of it, and head butts Marvin, driving his glasses through his face. I see Marvin riding up to me for the exchange, all I can see is blood - no face.... We finish. Marvin gets stitches and new glasses. Max looks pretty good at the finish - certainly better than Marvin.

* Dave VanWicklin and I do our first Ride&Tie Championship together at Davenport. Max tosses Dave into the creek. I pass Dave without seeing him and ride about 10 miles looking for him. When I passed Garrett Ford, I knew I had gone too far! Max and I had a relaxing time at the vet check waiting for Dave to catch up. We finished somewhere in the top half - Max was well rested at the end, thanx to Dave....

* Late '97. Suz and I ride the Gold Country 50 together when her mare trips and blows out her knee. Dixie goes to

Davis for surgery, Max and I trudge along to get a completion. Somewhere around 40 miles, a motorcycle rider comes down a narrow forest trail and takes us head on - actually bumping his bike into Max in a head-on crash. Max does a flying reversal, leaves me in a tree, and takes off. I extract myself from the tree and begin to beat the life out of the motorcycle rider. Ultimately, Max returns with other riders and we finish the ride. Max looks great.

* Midway thru '98, Max and I take on the Swanton, his first 100 event. In the switchbacks above Pescadero creek, we get stuck in the bog and Max goes vertical. I do some fancy midair work and land in a bush with a broken finger. We finish around 15th, and Max looks great - I believe he's really starting to enjoy this sport....

* Suzanne and I do the championship ride&tie together at Tahoe. At our first exchange, Max rears, throws Suz off his back, and generally makes our lives miserable for 38 miles. I know Suz came off at least one or two more times during that event, and we finished somewhere in the back of the pack. Max looks like he hasn't even broken a sweat....

* Late '98, Dave VanWicklin joins us for the Bloomfield Boogie, hoping I don't ride away from him again. Dave and I don't worry too much about strategy, we just compete and have a good time. This time we didn't even check the stirrup lengths until the start was underway. I made the adjustment with Dave in the saddle, and he takes off with Max in full flight. About 100 yards later, a stirrup falls off.... Max actually stops to allow us to rebuild the saddle, much to our amazement. Dave adds this note, "The ride went well until Max, at a canter, spooked at a large pothole in the road and abruptly slammed on the brakes, me ending up wrapped around his neck, legs and all." I think we finished about 10th place. Max is getting to be a pro at this stuff....

So with all that high-falutin' training and experience, Max is truly coming on as a world class endurance and ride&tie horse. Dave and I have now done 4 or 5 ride&tie events with him, and we now understand Max. He earns his first BC awards in '98, starting with Mt. Diablo. He has a

banner year in '99, including:

* Wins the Mustang 50 BC award, even though I have to apologize to the vets for his behavior.

* Takes two different novice riders to Top 10 completions in local 50 mile rides.

* Wins the BC award at the Ride & Tie Championship in Klamath Falls, with Dave VanWicklin pacing me to an 8th place finish.

* Finishes Tevis in 16th place, giving me my first successful Tevis completion.

* Wins the BC and Reserve Champion awards at the IAHA 100 mile National Championship held at the Swanton 100.



What's on tap for 2000?

Suzanne will run the Boston Marathon in April, having qualified in 3:33:00 at Napa Valley.

Dave will run marathon distances during his weekend runs as he trains for 50K and 50 mile runs - he's truly sick...

I'll be bringing along another horse, our 15'3" gelding, Asjahs Gift, an accident from our mare, Dixie - but that's another story....

Max, Dave and I will be back to defend our title in Davenport this year. As usual, Dave is in great shape and I'm flying too much. We'll make our final strategy decisions at the starting line and hope for the best. Dave will ride too slow, I'll run too slow, and Max will go like hell. With a little luck, we can make it into the top 10 again to defend our BC title.

BTW, I haven't even ridden Max since last September, when my nine year old daughter Hayley confiscated him. She rides him every weekend and hopes to do her first 50 mile ride next month. He's only tossed her once.....

written by Godfrey Sullivan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are always looking for people who want to get involved with the leadership of the sport to serve on the Board of Directors. Directors are volunteers who serve a three-year term. Responsibilities include attending at least 4 board meetings a year and the assumption of various duties and projects. This is *your* chance to really have some input in support of Ride & Tie.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors please contact Leah Mirsch (310)379-2946.

WEBSITE

Have you made a visit to our Ride & Tie website lately? Located at www.rideandtie.org the site will be updated weekly to keep you current on the latest goings on in our sport. There are many new additions including:

Partner Matching page
2000 Race Schedule
Recent Race Results
2000 Championship Race Info and Online Entry Form
Membership Renewal Form
info for the Curious
and much more!

It is an awesome website. Remember: www.rideandtie.org
GO NOW!

NEWSLETTER

The Ride & Tie Newsletter is now an "in-house" publication. This means it will originate 4 times a year from the Ride & Tie office in Foresthill. This change is in hope of making the Newsletter **YOUR** Newsletter.

If you have an idea for a story, want to write up the coverage of a race, have the "inside scoop" on what other activities our members compete in or have thoughts on how the Newsletter could better serve the membership.....CALL, or WRITE, or FAX, or EMAIL:

The Ride & Tie Association
P. O. Box 697
Foresthill, CA 95631
Phone/fax 530-367-2525
Email: judy@rideandtie.org

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Look for Ride & Tie articles in upcoming issues of *Endurance News*. The AERC has generously offered a discounted rate and Garrett Ford of Sportack (800-248-8225 for all your riding and running needs) has offered to pay 50% of that. Thanks to both for their support of Ride & Tie.

YEAR-END AWARDS

The Annual awards for the year 1999 will be given out at the traditional Thursday evening Potluck prior to the 30 Anniversary Championship race. The place is Davenport, CA., the date is June 22, 2000 and the time is about 6pm. Bring your favorite "dish" to share, get in a good visit with all the folks you only see once a year and help us Honor our Own!



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Shine & Shine Only Ride & Tie

Cheryl Domnitch.....Race Director

One out of three races isn't bad! The year got off to a wet start with the January and February Shine & Shine Only (SASO) RAT inaugural year races being canceled due to park closures. I cannot say that I did not start to get a little nervous that when the Wednesday before the March race the weather report started calling for weekend rain. March 24, however, turned out to be a perfect weather racing day.

The final tally was six teams competing, four in the 22-mile sanctioned event and two teams out for a great time in the 10-mile event. Steve Shaw and Michele Shaw are especially commended for teaming up with novices, Cristina Penilla and Tracy Hofstrand, respectively. The team of Les Nightingill, Dawn Hartsock and Slick, entered in the 10-mile event, but walked back from the vet check, so maybe we should give them credit for a sanctioned distance!? At the last minute we lost four teams due to human and horse illness. This was particularly unfortunate for me because Curt Riffle and I had big bucks bet for reaching 10 teams!...Curt, there's always next year! I will say that while more teams would have been great, and of course necessary, to keep this crazy sport alive, I had my hands full managing my first race with six teams. Thanks to everybody who helped prior to the event and as volunteers on race day.

Camping and vetting started on Friday night at Maryben Stover's pasture. The place was hopping because the 50 or so teams participating in the 25/50-mile Endurance Rides were also there. Becky Widler's horse Don, definitely let us know that he knew it was the first RAT of the season (in northern California) by showing his excitement with an escape from his trailer tie and making a mad dash across the pasture.



Don, Becky and Laurie Wilson, in typical form let us all know that they have stayed in shape during the winter months by their overall win and the Best Condition award to Don.

The race start on Saturday morning was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. intentionally to avoid conflict with the Endurance Riders at the 10 mile vet check. I did not hear any complaints from the Endurance Riders or the RATs so I'd say the combined event was quite successful.

The start was not unusually eventful, except that it took Jim Steere and Wesob about five minutes to cross the start line and when they finally did, Jim made him turn around and do it all over again.

And they were off! The course at Almaden Quicksilver Park was similar to the Quicksilver Pro-Am course (Don't forget to be there on May 5!), except the first loop was eliminated, and a new section, including some single track was added towards the end of the race. The new section called "English Camp", is an historic area of the park that used to house a community of Quicksilver miners. Some of the structures and the old cemetery still exist. This section of the park was only re-opened to the public a few years ago. I'm sure all of the RATs took the opportunity to enjoy the local historic landmark.

The best part of the course is that the participants only had to climb "Cardiac" once! So for those of you looking for a good excuse to get out there next January, February and March, there you have it! Do you need another reason?..... I neglected to mention during the pre-race meeting that early spring is the mating season for wild turkeys living in the park. While marking trails, Friday before the race, we saw two males with their plumes fully extended coaxing the females. I had intended to remind everybody to keep their cars and eyes open for them, but I had a senior moment...Oh well, you can always see them at next year's SASO race series.....

All, well nearly all, teams finished with huge grins on their faces, and gave me the ultimate compliment by telling me the course was well marked (I did have help), so overall I'd say the day was a tremendous success. I had almost as much as fun as when I'm racing...SASO 2002!

Shine & Shine Only	22 Miles	3/24/01
1. Becky Widler/Laurie Wilson	Don	2:06
2. Warren Hellman/Jeff Townsend	Sam	2:16
3. James Steere/Thomas Steere	Wesob	3:10
4. Steve Shaw/Cristina Penilla	Cougar's Clown	3:21
	10 Miles	
1. Les Nightingill/Dawn Hartsock	Slick	1:11
2. Michele Shaw/Tracy Hofstrand	Moose	1:13

GOING DOWN

In an on-going effort to make the Ride & Tie Association more "user friendly", the Competitor Membership fees have been **LOWERED!**

The Competitor Member fee is now \$40.00

The Competitor Family Membership is now \$60.00

Refunds will be issued to anyone who has paid since January 1, 2001.

30th Anniversary
Ride & Tie Championship
and Reunion

A special thanks to our sponsors

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RIDE & TIE RACE SCHEDULE 2000

April 1, 2000
Cahuilla Heights
Temecula, CA
6,12,24 miles
Arleene Foster
909-767-1237

April 8, 2000
No Frills
Ft Valley, VA
10,20,50 miles
Jean Lichtenberger
540-933-6991

April 22, 2000
Informal Practice
San Jose, CA
It's fun and it's free!
Curt Riffle
650-949-0620

May 6, 2000
Quicksilver Pro-Am
San Jose, CA
5,11,23 miles
23 mile relay
Curt Riffle
650-949-0620

May 20, 2000
Big Creek
Davenport, CA
30 miles
Ellen Rinde
831-423-6089

June 3, 2000
Browning's Challenge
Nevada City, CA
22 miles
Pat & Nita Browning
530-272-8912

June 24, 2000
30th Anniversary
Championship
Davenport, CA
37 miles
Ride & Tie Assn
530-367-2525

August 5, 2000
Champagne
Santa Cruz, CA
30 miles
Steve Shaw
831-685-3436

August 12, 2000
Swanton Pacific 100
Davenport, CA
yes.....100 miles!
Ellen Rinde
831-423-6089

August 19, 2000
Hartland Riding Club
Plainfield, NH
10,20 miles
Naomi Goodwin
603-469-3512

August 19, 2000
Horsethief Canyon
Descanso, CA
13,26 miles
Rufus Schneider
619-445-2060

August 27, 2000
Headwaters of the Rogue
-Sunday-
Crater Lake, OR
10,30 miles
Annette Parsons
541-846-6656

September 2, 2000
Rockbridge
Ft Valley, VA
12,25,50 miles
Jean Lichtenberger
540-933-6991

September 30, 2000
Cuyamaca Pro-Am
Cuyamaca State Park
24,32 miles
Arleene Foster
909-767-1237

October 27, 2000
- Friday -
Fort Valley
Ft Valley, VA
12,25,50 miles
Jean Lichtenberger
540-933-6991

NOTICE

The following is important information regarding the camp and race site for the 30th Anniversary Ride & Tie. Please read carefully and remember we all need to show respect for the areas in which we ride, bike and hike, whether for fun or in competition.

Dear Fellow Ride & Tie Enthusiasts,

You may have heard the old saying "if God be willing and the creeks don't rise". It certainly applies to the 2000 Ride & Tie Championship course. As late as the end of January, we'd had about half the normal rainfall for the season and we were worried about drought. Then came February. We got over 20 inches of rain in one month, a third of which fell within a 36-hour period. We're now dealing with mudslides, wash outs and downed trees. If God be willing and the creeks don't rise again, the 2000 Championships will be held at the Big Creek site.

The use of this course is made possible through the generosity of nearly a dozen landowners in the community. None of them have anything to gain by allowing the event to pass through their property and are taking on significant liability by doing so. They have given their permission as a neighborly gesture and have asked that the event comply with their requests in exchange for granting that permission. It's essential that participants in this year's Championships clearly understand the conditions under which the community has agreed to host the event.

- 1) Because there are people raising both cattle and goats in the vicinity, some very close to the camp area, dogs are not welcome. If extenuating circumstances force you to bring yours, it must be kept tied up or kenneled at all times. Furthermore, you will be allowed to camp downstream from Calf Gulch only.
- 2) A local rancher leases grazing rights to the camp area. Unless you are prepared to reimburse her for the value of the pasture your horses consume during the week, please keep your pen size modest and bring ample feed.
- 3) GU packets and PowerBar wrappers aren't biodegradable and it takes months to clean them up from 35-40 miles of trail. Please don't litter.
- 4) Because a couple of local landowners have had significant trespass problems from mountain bikers, they have requested that mountain bikes as well as ATVs and dirt bikers be prohibited on the course. If you wish to mountain bike in the area, please go to one of the nearby state parks.
- 5) The homes, livelihoods and lives of our neighbors depend on a high level of fire safety. No smoking, open fires, torches, etc. are allowed in camp or on the course.
- 6) Many landowners are very concerned about liability issues and have requested that all individuals using the course, not just contestants, sign a liability release before they pre ride the course.
- 7) Some gates must be kept locked during the week before the race. The Association will place combination locks on these gates. Please be sure they stay locked. The gates will be open during the race with gate monitors present.
- 8) Swanton Road sustained significant storm damage during the winters of 1998 and 2000 so is only one lane wide in several places. Furthermore, the dirt road into camp has recently been resurfaced. For you safety and the good care of our roads, please drive slowly.

As access to public lands becomes more restricted and more expensive, our sport becomes increasingly dependent on the good will of private landowners. To ensure their continued support, please do your part to make this a successful Championships by respecting the essential contributions of the community landowners that make this event possible. One unhappy neighbor, by withdrawing permission to use their section of trail, can close down the entire course. And finally, in an era when private agricultural and forest land owners face an increasingly untenable burden of local, state and federal regulations, please give private landowners your political support so they continue to have land available for our race sites.

Sincerely,
Ellen M. Rinde

1999 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RIDE AND TIE ASSOCIATION

INCOME STATEMENT (JANUARY 1, 1999 - DECEMBER 31, 1999)

INCOME			EXPENSES		
	AMOUNT	% TOTAL		AMOUNT	% TOTAL
DONATIONS (NON-ENDOWMENT)	\$21,366	38%	1999 ERTC*	\$45,334	82%
ENTRY FEES	11,430	21%	NEWSLETTER	3,133	6%
MEMBERSHIP DUES	9,385	17%	INSURANCE	1,365	2%
MERCHANDISE SALES	7,985	14%	ADMINISTRATIVE**	2,012	4%
SPONSORSHIP	868	2%	ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET	1,169	2%
ERTC BANQUET	1,692	3%	AWARDS (PRO-AM, ANNUAL)	766	1%
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET	1,410	3%	PUBLICITY	215	0%
INSURANCE	1,200	2%	AERC CONVENTION	165	0%
INTEREST	249	0%	COMPUTER/SOFTWARE	919	2%
TOTAL INCOME	\$55,585	100%	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$55,078	100%
			OPERATING SURPLUS	\$507	

* SEE EXPENSE DETAILS BELOW

ENDOWMENT FUND ACTIVITY

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS	\$0	ENDOWMENT FUND EARNINGS	\$2,869
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BALANCE SHEET (DECEMBER 31, 1999)

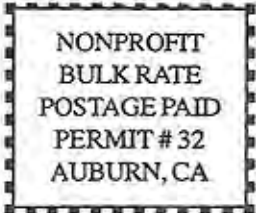
CURRENT ASSETS		CURRENT LIABILITIES	
CASH IN BANK	\$34,953	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$34,953	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$0
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$29,228	CAPITAL	
		CASH (GENERAL ACCOUNT)	\$10,410
		CASH (RACE ACCOUNT)	\$24,543
		ENDOWMENT FUND	\$29,228
		TOTAL CAPITAL	\$64,181
TOTAL ASSETS	\$64,181	TOTAL LIABILITIES/CAPITAL	\$64,181

DETAILED EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATIVE		EASYBOOT RIDE & TIE CHAMPIONSHIP (ERTC)	
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR	630	AWARDS	7,124
TELEPHONE	757	BANQUET	5,721
POSTAGE	377	PUBLICITY/POSTER	1,179
PRINTING/COPIES	79	MERCHANDISE FOR RESALE	6,641
OFFICE SUPPLIES	78	PERSONNEL (VETS, RACE DIR,	18,155
MISC (BANK FEES, TAXES, ETC)	91	RESTROOMS & RUBBISH	1,050
TOTAL	\$2,012	TRAIL WORK/PERMITS/EQUIP	2,320
		DRUG FEES	0
		AMBULANCE/AID	380
		PRINTING	685
		POSTAGE/SHIPPING	307
		TELEPHONE	875
		OFFICE SUPPLIES	340
		INSURANCE	235
		MISC	322
		TOTAL	\$45,334

Prepared by Leah Mirsch

1/14/00



PO Box 697
Foresthill, CA 95631
(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

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.

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.

HORSE REGISTRATION FORM (ONE HORSE PER FORM)

OWNER (IF DIFFERENT FROM

REGISTERED NAME OF HORSE _____

ABOVE)
Name _____

NAME (NICK NAME) As you wish it to appear in future race results _____

Address _____

GELDING MARE STALLION BREED _____

Phone _____