Ride & Tie Newsletter

Con & Toc Wadsworth 2002 Ride & Tie Champions



Ride & Tie Championship and Invitational Highlights Written By Nancy Kerns

Imagine this: A mountain meadow in the Northern California Sierra Mountains. It's late summer, so the knee-high grass is dried to a golden glow, and the surrounding pine forests are accented by yellowing leaves, which in turn are contrasted with an amazingly brilliant blue sky. Dozens of people wander about, talking, laughing, waiting.

At the far end of the long meadow, the distant figure of a man on a galloping horse appears, shortly followed by another man on foot. A buzz of excitement hums through camp, as people strain to see who will be the first horse, rider, and runner to approach the finish of the 32nd Annual Ride and Tie Championship.

As these figures draw closer -close enough to identify them as brothers
Con and Tod Wadsworth and their Arabian
gelding Baurakal Khan -- another set of
figures appears just behind them. It's been a
race for 32 miles of tough, rocky, dusty trail,
and now it's an all-out sprint over the last
flat quarter mile. The people waiting in the
meadow draw closer, whooping encouragement to the two riders and two runners
dashing for the finish line.

But the Wad Squad's lead holds, as it has all day. The brothers from Utah sweep across the finish line, trailed by Dennis Rinde and Jim Howard, riding Howard's horse Magic Sirocco, an excruciating 17 seconds behind.

Fierce competitors that they are, ride and tiers are also famous for their congeniality, and sure enough, within minutes all four competitors are praising

the others' accomplishments. "Those guys (Rinde and Howard) deserved to win today," said Con Wadsworth, 42, of Peoa. Utah, as his brother Tod, 41, of Draper. Utah, nods agreement. "And they might have won if they hadn't saved me from making a wrong turn." He was referring to a mistake he nearly made in the last loop of the race. Dennis Rinde, 43, of Davenport, California, who was not far behind Con (as he was for much of the final loop of the race) called out when he saw Con head straight on the horse, as the racers had done in Loop 1, rather than turn onto the final loop for home. "I would have been a real scumbag if I didn't say something," says Rinde sheepishly. "Though it would have been easy."

"The Wads were so far out front so fast today, that we had to kind of scrap our original plan; we had planned to start out easy, and save our horse for the late race," said Jim Howard, 48, who lives near Auburn, California. Rinde concurred, "We thought if we took it easy early on, we could just motor in the later parts of the race. What we didn't count on was somebody hammering really hard in the early going, and there was nobody going after that team, either."

Going out as hard and fast as possible was an integral part of the Wadsworths' race strategy, since they considered the running talents of Rinde, Howard, and a few of the other competitors on course to be superior to their own, this year, "We only started training for this race in the middle of July," says Tod. Why on earth would they decide to start training only six weeks before the Championship, after a five-year gap in competing? "They dropped the deer hunt in Wyoming, so we needed something to do," Con answered wryly. "Seriously, we didn't decide to do it until July. We bought a horse from one of our neighbors, an endurance horse, and started training."

This is a little disingenuous; it's not as if the brothers had never done this before. Their first Championship win came in 1982, when they were in their early 20s, and they won the next two year's installments as well. They also came back in 1998 and won again. So they knew the sport and what it would take to prepare, even with so little time. They began training especially hard, running every other day for as much as three hours. And not just ordinary distance runs; as a team, they did ride and tie runs in the mountains where they live, building the specific muscles and wind for the sport.

Their horse also gained fitness and skills specific to ride and tie. They had bought Baurakal Khan, an endurance horse with a good fitness foundation and some 700 competition miles to his credit, from a neighbor in Utah, and enrolled him in a crash course in ride and tie. "This is probably the first time we've done nothing but trained ride and tie every time we rode the horse. And we've never had a horse recover as well as that horse did," says Con. "It's just like training yourself; if you don't train fast, you're not going to be able to go fast. I think that was the difference this year. We raced against time every time we rode that horse, and we did ride and tie -- no endurance training rides. It's hard on a horse, but if he holds up, he's going to be tough, and that horse was tough." Baurakal Khan's ability to go fast and recover fast was not the only thing that improved. His ride and tie ground manners also contributed hugely to the Wadsworths' success. "This is the first horse we've had who lets you get on without having to run half a mile hanging onto his side, trying to pull yourself up," says Con. Tod adds, "He's really smart, too. He learned to start picking out the ties within a week. When you pick up the reins, he stops right there and lets you



Dennis Rinde:

1148, One Day, Please Join! Ren Robinson 15275 Alder Creek Truckee, CA 96161





The Ride and Tie Association Membership Form

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(Check one)	membership fees. Eligible for special savings as offered.
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	for those checking out the sport. Equivalent to a Competitor
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☐ One Day Member (\$15)	
	ompetitor Member. Also available for special savings as offered.
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All categories of membership will receive Ride & Tie News quarterly, information and applications for the Ride & Tie Championship, 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

tie him fast."

For all these strengths, the Wadsworths had one weakness they kept to themselves until after the race: They knew they couldn't keep up the blistering early pace they set in the first half of the race. Their plan was to go out as hard and fast as possible, try to build the biggest possible lead, trade frequently to use their horse to their maximum advantage, and then hope they had enough endurance to hang at the end. As Con laughs, "Our strategy was good with 17 seconds to spare — but theirs was only 17 seconds short..."

Rinde and Howard

Unfortunately for them, Dennis Rinde, 43, of Davenport, California, and Jim Howard, 48, of Auburn, California, experienced numerous small misfortunes that can accounted for those 17 seconds and then some. On the second loop, they got stuck for a while on some rocky singletrack trail,



unable to pass the 50-mile endurance riders ahead of them. They suffered a delay in the second check, when the veterinarian, perhaps unfamiliar with the more streamlined ride and tie vetting procedure, took a full five minutes to examine Howard's horse, Magic Sirocco, who was recovered and ready to continue. This left Dennis on the ground for much of the last loop, and although he ran fast -- keeping within sight of the riding and tying Wadsworths, who were running out of gas -- the long, hard run took a lot out of him, and by the time Jim had caught up with the horse, Dennis was starting to experience muscle cramps in his calves and hamstrings.

In a final blow, within the last half mile, Dennis had a problem with a tie. "I told Jim I was going to tie at the trees, I could see both Wadsworths there, real close. I picked this one tree, reached around, but the clasp didn't snap. I took off running when I realized the horse was

following me; he was loose for a few feet. I had to go back, grab the horse, and reach for another tree. By that time, Jim was right there. I just gave him the horse."

"We lost some precious time there," agrees Jim, without a trace of bitterness. "You could have gotten a jump on them. That was our horsepower to come in with. As it was, we were then at a disadvantage with you behind me at the finish. If we had hit that tie just right, the difference (between first and second place) would have been down to a second. That would have been a real horse race."

"We were really just about cooked, but we didn't want to give up," comments Con. "Tod and I don't quit unless we are absolutely dead -- and we were just about to that point," he grins.

Third place

Finishing eighteen minutes behind the second and third place finishers were Tom Johnson, 43, of Loomis, California, and Jeremy Reynolds, 22, of Los Gatos, California. Johnson, a five-time winner of the race, hadn't actually planned to compete in this year's Championship, leaving his calendar clear to accompany his wife, Marcia Smith, in case she made the U.S. team for the World Equestrian Games in Spain. When they heard they wouldn't be going to Spain, Johnson got into ride and tie gear and asked Reynolds to compete with him.

Johnson and Reynolds, an endurance competitor who "runs a little," took Reynolds' horse, Indy, in a 25-mile competition a month before the Championship, and the team won handily with 13 minutes to spare. Hooked on ride and tie with a win in his first effort, Reynolds happily agreed to compete with Johnson in the Championship.

Sadly, two weeks before the race. Indy suffered a fatal ancurysm during a break at a training ride. The duo borrowed an experienced ride and tie horse, Zar Za Fire, owned by Heather Lightfoot (Skip-Lightfoot's daughter). The team did well, considering they were all just getting to know each other, and Fire gave the veterinarians some trouble in the vet checks. ("He's great as long as you keep moving," explains Jeremy diplomatically. "He doesn't like stopping and standing around,") They finished the race third, first in the Pro-Am division, and Fire won Best Condition. Would Reynolds do another ride and tie again? "Sure, yes!" he enthuses, "They sure are fun. They are really hard and challenging, but you get a break. You run as flat out as you can go, but then you get to get on the horse and catch your breath."

When asked what he'll bring from ride and tie back to endurance, Reynolds starts to answer, but is interrupted by Johnson, who smiles," He'll know what his horse feels like on the last loop."

Division leaders

Fourth place overall, and first in a division called "Century in the Saddle," where the combined age of the riders is more than 100, went to Brad Hawthorne and Dennis Tracy, who finished 26 minutes after the leaders in a time of 3:28.

The top Man/Woman team, Mary Tiscornia and Sid Sullivan, placed 5th overall with a time of 4:10. Tiscornia is the one person who has competed in *every* Ride and Tie Championship since its inception 32 years ago.

The top-placed team in the "Century +10" division, Warren Hellman and Jeff Townsend, placed 7th overall with a time of 4:23.

The top-placed Woman/Woman team of Jennie Spearin and Cara Ravencroft placed 10th, with a time of 4:47, in what was only their second ride and tie race. In a race that mirrored that of the top two teams, they had raced hard all day against the next-placed team of ride and tie veterans Marcia Smith and Shellie Hatfield, who finished three minutes behind them.

The top-placed team in the "Century + 20" division was Lew Hollander and Doug Madsen.

The Junior division leaders, Shannell Bolsta and Clara Holland, finished 16th overall with a time of 5:07.

The finishing time of the last team to cross the finish line was 8:05, and much of the ride and tie "family" ran out to the meadow to cheer for them: George Hall and Don Betts, who competed in the Century in the Saddle division and have decades of running, riding, and ride and tie

experiences between them. Hall underwent hip replacement surgery earlier this year, and proceeded in his favorite sport at an incredibly slow but deadly steady pace, which proves the point that "anybody can do it."



Tom Johnson riding Fyre

Thank You Volunteers

Once again I was blessed with a fabulous group of volunteers that helped to make this years championship and invitational come off without a hitch. Many of these hard working individuals had returned from last year which eliminated the 'learning curve' and made the whole event seem to go off smoother.

As event coordinator I would like to mention award winners in a few of my own 'division' categories.

My 'Grace Under Pressure' award goes to Beth VanWicklin my registration counterpart. In spite of numerous details that needed to be accounted for varying with each participant, she kept her gracious demeanor and adorable smile until all were happily checked in.

Without a doubt, my 'Most Meticulous' award goes to Jim Howard, our Trail Boss. If you got lost, it was your own fault. Jim and his wife Elaine did a fabulous job again this year of trail marking, measuring, and signage, Although we had a bit of sabotage on the new loop3+ for the 50's, it was an excellent change from last years course.

Jon Root, who was also Race Director for the R&T's and Trail Run, along with his team Cassie Root, Mike Jepsen and Katie McKenzie win my 'Best In Timers' award. They had it 'wired' this year.

'Best Out Timers' award goes to team: Jeff Crosby, Jackie Wheeler, and Gary Anderson. Jeff Crosby is also runner up in the 'trail pointing' division. 'Best Trail Pointing' award must go to Steve Anderson and/or Gary Anderson (no relation) the lonely, pointing guys out at the crossroads section of loops 2 & 3. Gary Anderson also wins the 'Honey-Do This' award as he pretty much did what lasked, when lasked. What a guy.

Steve Anderson was a close runner up in the 'Honey-Do' division as well, but easily wins the 'Lonely Guy' award. Poor Steve. He spent the first half of the day at the solitary crossroads, then he had the much larger, and lonelier task of entering race results and tallying year end points on a computer in hopes to announce the association's 'Best of 2002' year end awards at the awards ceremony. Curt Riffle threatened anyone who came near Steve so as not to distract him from his humongous task. No talking for Steve that day. Nope. Just pointing and tapping.

The 'Deer in the Headlights' award goes to Karon Dutcher. She showed up innocent, bright, and cheery in the wee hours of Saturday morning to 'help'. But I don't think She was expecting to work her butt off as it turned out. Karon was in charge of number checking at the start of each event and tracking completion times. She also manned the bullhorn for spectator 'announcements' and traffic control. By the time she could leave later that evening she looked completely wiped out with that stunned 'deer in headlights' look on her face, OOPS.

Jill Pass wins my 'Good Crizenship' award. Although her primary responsibility was as the Endurance Ride Director, she also helped everyone who needed it regardless of what it was, and never stopped smilling all day.

Kathy Thompson wins my 'Take Control' award. This one is pretty self explanatory and is meant as an extreme compliment. Kathy's ability to see a problem and do what it takes to fix it is remarkable and a blessing to me, as the event coordinator.

Chris & Micki Turney win the 'Finger in the Dike' award, When a little leak in the 'plan' would appear they filled in until it was fixed. Whenever help was needed, they were helpful.

'Best P&R Team' goes to Heidi Agler, Donna Rea Jones, Steve Shaw, and Lari Shea. They were not just the 'only' P&R team, they really were the BEST. What efficiency, what accuracy, what... cold hands. Their post was shaded by the trees earlier in the day so it was a bit chilly for them. I felt like I was sending puppies to the doghouse each time I would send them from the sunny, warm spots that they were standing in back to their proper P&R area in the shade. They whined a little, but they went. Good doggies.

My "Can You Hear Me Now?" award goes to our Communications team of David Clapper, Jim Liston, David Cook and his wife..?...Mrs. Cook, and Brian Boschma. It was a flawless day as far as keeping track of just where in the heck everyone was all day.

My 'Heaven Sent' award goes to Aid Station crews, Bill and Anita Yoder, and Chuck and Jayne Mather. I assumed they were 'no-shows', but they showed up very early Saturday morning to help. I needed a miracle in the shape of aid station personnel, and like angels, they just appeared. Whew.

Tony and Debbie Brickel who were also Aid Station crew win my 'Go the Distance' award aka the 'Are We There Yet?" award. Ya know how kids on a road trip start getting antsy after awhile? Tony and Debbie dutifully manned the #1 aid station at about 6:30am. Unfortunately, this was also the last check point before the finish line so it made for a very looocoong day. By about 'margarita' time Tony had had about enough 'aiding' for one day. I heard Tony on the radio transmissions asking "Can we go yet?, Can we go yet?" The comm guys were counting, checking, recounting, and double checking their stats with the finish line people making sure all were accounted for before letting them leave their post.

My "Point and Shoot" award is pretty self explanatory. This award goes to Jeff Harter, Peter Bridges, and Jeff Foltz. These three men pretty much keep everything moving smoothly. They set everything up, replenish supplies, break it all down at the end, and find people when they are asked to, When you send any of these three amigos to do a job... consider it done. Oh what would I do without them?

Laura Duncan, my Volunteer Coordinator wins my 'Miss Efficiency' and my 'Just Fake It' awards. She always has a 'positive attitude'. She is the epitome of calm, cool, and collected. There may have been issues or problems, but she never let me know about it. Nope, everything is smooth as silk. If I ever run for president of the United States I will ask her to be my Vice president, What more can I say than that?

My 'Man Without a Mission' award goes to our Emergency Coordinator, Fred Skeen. Two championships in a row without a major injury. Sorry Fred, but I would prefer that you get this award every year.

My "Most Likely To Become Vets" award goes to our second year vet secretaries Rachael Harter, Katie Skeen, and Molly Misakian.

My 'Jimmy Buffet Commemorative' award goes to Steve Shaw for creating a real 'Margaritaville' for all of us to enjoy. Thank you so much from all of us!

My 'Stud in an Old(er) Mans Body' award goes to our Vet Check manager, Doyle Patrick. He single handedly hefted 72 bales of hay onto his flatbed trailer in a wind storm, helped offload and restack them as a play area for the kids in the banquet area, then on Sunday took them back and restacked them back were they came from in Truckee. I promised Doyle that next year we may 'do lunch', but we would not 'do a haystack'.

My 'Vannah White' award goes to Nita Browning who MC'd our raffle and silent auction, and Melissa Ribley who instead of selling 'vowels' was selling raffle tickets. They did a great job and personally, I think both are much cuter than Vannah White.

I would be totally remiss if I did not award Tom Christofk the 'Hey Big Spender' award. I had hoped that the silent auction would raise some serious cash for the association this year. I had not anticipated that it would come from my own budget! He's out of control! But he also gets my 'Husband of the Year' award, since he had to put up with me for yet another year as championship Event Coordinator. What a great help he was tome.

My 'Sales(wo)man of The Year' award goes to my mom, Mary Stewart. She and Susan Smyth-Tackson sold all the event merchandise, but for a few caps, and even took orders for more!

My 'Hallelujah' award goes to the R&T Association Board of Directors. A last minute decision to shorten the distance of the championship course (which was also the Trail Run course) by a mile or two was a relief to most. Many a competitor commented after the race that when they got to that point in the trial where they would have turned left and up yet another hill, but instead turned right, and down to the linish line they were praising the Lord... I mean Board. Euer Valley Ranch is probably THE toughest championship course, as far as elevation gain and altitude, even without the last hill (or two) that got cut out. And they all said "Amen".

Laura Christofk

Event Coordinator

Also a Special Thanks to

Susan McCartney, D.V.M., Head Vet Robert Steere, D.V.M., assisting vet Rob Lydon, D.V.M., assisting vet Larry Goss, D.V.M., assisting vet Jason Shavers, D.V.M., Biathlon vet Michele Shaw, D.V.M., Biathlon vet Melissa Ribley, D.V.M., Biathlon vet Michele Harter, Banquet Coordinator Curt Riffle, Awards Coordinator Carol Ruprecht, media marketing Biz Ishon, media marketing Michelle Jay-Russell, media marketing

Warren Hellman Mary Tiscornia John Osterweis Dianna Suarez, USFS Truckee Ranger District Tahoe Donner Association Teryl Herzog, Tahoe Donner Equestrian Center Pat Bell, Midwest Trophy Crown Awards Jennifer Nice, Endurance World Magazine Nancy Kerns, editorial Bill Gore, photographer Earl McCowan, photographer Auburn Oaks Printing, printed literature B & B Design; screen printing Fragg's Embroidery Terry Hecker, artist Mike Lathbury, Andy's Catering Greg Kimler

2002 Ride & Tie Championship and Invitational Results

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Feeding Ride & Tie Horses

(Adapted from Horse Illustrated 8/99)

The best feed for a ride & tie horse is high quality hay. Let them have plenty the night before the event and make sure there is ample water available. A horse's gut is capable of holding 50 gallons and a mixture of hay and water is a good base for the next day's race. Administer electrolytes the evening before the event and the morning of the event. Feed about 1-2 pounds of your usual grain 3 hours before the event to "top off the tank". Note that is takes about 2 hours before the nutrients and minerals in the feed are metabolically available. At the vet checks, provide plenty of water and hay wetted with water to help in re-hydration and to prevent choking. A horse can loose up to 5 gallons of water through sweating and heavy breathing in the first hour of the race. A sugar beet mash soaked with plenty of water will provide good fiber and calories (1000 calories or kcal per pound). Don't forget to administer electrolytes either with the mash or as paste in a tube. After the event, provide your hungry equine athlete with plenty of water, good hay and sloppy beet mash with electrolytes.

A good source for horse feeding, care and conditioning is our own Lew Hollander's Endurance Riding from Beginning to Winning (Green Mansions, PO Box 100, Redmond, OR 97756)

A Special Thanks to Our 2002 Championship and Invitational Sponsors







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Ride and Tie Association Horse ID Numbers

Please notice there may be a label to the lower left of the address label on the front of this Newsletter that has the recently assigned ID number for your horse. Remember to use this ID number whenever possible on sanctioned race entry forms. Call the Association office 650-949-2321 if you have questions. If you have additional horses to register (it's free!), Send the Association the following information: Owner's Name and ID number, Horse's common name, Horse's registered name (if different), Breed, Sex, Age.

You can FAX it to 650-949-3778 or send it to: 469 Casita Way, Los Altos, CA 94022.

Championship Feedback

The Association's Championship Committee would like to get your feedback on the following questions about the Championship:

- 1. When is the best timing of the Championship that will help increase our attendance?
 - a. June through early July
 - b. Mid-July through Labor Day
 - c. After Labor Day
 - d. I don't care as long as it is at least X weeks from Tevis
 - e. I don't care as long as it is at teast X weeks from Western States
 - f. Other?
- 2. Where is the best location of the Championship that will help increase attendance?
 - a. Same place Euer Valley Ranch, Truckee
 - b. Central CA coast
 - c. Northern CA
 - d. Southern CA
 - e. Other?
- 3. Any other feedback?

Please send your responses to the Association either via telephone (650-949-2321), FAX (650-949-3778) or via the Post Office: 469 Casita Way, Los Altos, CA 94022

A Team Challenge

The team from the Lightfoot Endurance Group challenges any team in the world to a fun team competition during the 2003 season. Here is how is works:

- 1. Designate up to 8 people and 4 horses on your team roster by 12/31/02 to the Association
- 2. At the end of the season, we will use the Annual Points of the top 3 teams (any combination of the runners and horses) on the
- 3. Entry fee for the competition is \$50 per roster. The Association keeps 20% of the "pot" as a donation and the winning roster takes the rest.

The Best of 2002

Here are the top 10 individuals and horses and top 5 teams in our Annual Points competition for 2002. All first place teams are repeats from 2001. Can they do it again in 2003? Heather Lightfoot's horse, Zar Za Fire displaced Warren Hellman's horse, Sam for top honors this year. And who is this guy that took top individual points? It just shows that 80% of the job is just showing up and keep moving forward! Congratulations to all!

	C . W.CO	200
1.	Curt Riffle	358
2.	Warren Hellman (tie	2)319
	Jeff Townsend (tie)	319
3.	Tom Gey	281
4.	Tom Johnson	279
5.	Doyle Eggers (tie)	272
	Mary Tisornia (tie)	272
8.	Elaine Ruprecht	263
9,	Carol Ruprecht	221
10	. John Osterweis	213

Points are awarded in all sanctioned

events using the following formula:

- · 25 points for entering an event
- 0.5 points for each completed mile
- 3 points for each team you beat to the finish line (e.g., if ten teams finished the event and you finished first, you and your team would

Horses:

Zar Za Fire (Heather Lightfoot)	283
2. Sam (Warren Hellman) 2001 Winner	278
3. Albi (Mary Tiscornia)	272
4. Victor (John Osterweis)	213
5. Magic Sirocco (Jim Howard/Elaine R.)	205
6. Benjih	202
7. Freedom Fer Me (Jim Howard/Elaine R.)	198
8. Negask	194
9. Stashi (Michele Jay)	179
10. Finaaly	178

Man/Man Teams:

titotalititota accurrent	
Warren Hellman/Jeff Townsend	205 2001 Winne
Tom Johnson/Jeremy Reynolds	133
Brad Hawthorne/Dennis Tracy	124
Con Wadsworth/Tod Wadsworth	86
Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde	83

Man/Woman Teams:

154 2001 Winner
82
68
65
62

Woman/Woman Teams:

134 2001 Winner
131
65
62
59

From the President's Saddle ...

Wow, what a Championship and Invitational! I really enjoyed seeing so many of you at the event and meeting many new participants as well. Event manager Laura Christofk and her team of volunteers did an outstanding job with our season's finale. The addition of a shorter ride & tic course, the endurance events (running and riding) and the biathlon to the venue worked well again this year. Mark you calendars for next year's World Championship and Invitational on September 6-7, 2003 at Euer Valley Ranch.

The top ten places of our Annual Points Competition are listed in this issue. It

looks like the western teams did a little better this year, but the eastern teams dominated the Woman/Woman team category again. We will have a complete listing on www.rideandtie.org.and will be providing a current list throughout the 2003 season as well. Thanks again to Steve Anderson for compiling this list for us. Winners will receive "Best of 2002" embroidered Ride & Tie outerwear and bragging rights for the next season.

Our Association's primary mission is to provide stewardship and growth for the sport of ride & tie, One way we measure our success is the number of members and participants. We have done pretty well! Two of our goals were to grow membership and

participation each by 30% in 2002. Our 2002 membership grew over 60% and our number of participants grew 28%. But we can't stop now. Our goal is to grow both levels another 30% in 2003. We need all of you to "spread the word" and bring new and "renewed" people into the sport both as members and as participants. We are again going to grow the number of events again next year, thanks in part to new race managers like Cheryl in northern California, Don in Washington and Maggie in Ohio.

We have exciting plans for 2003: More press coverage (thanks to Biz Eischen, Carol Ruprecht, Michele Jay and others), more mentors, more extensive and informative Newsletters (thanks to Laurel Anderson), more innovative events and much more fun. Please be a part of it by renewing your membership now for 2003 and supporting local race managers by entering their events and bringing along new and renewed people. Remember, 80% of the Association's funding is from memberships. If we want our sport to thrive, we have to give the Association and its volunteers something to work with! Thanks!

Go Ride & Tie! - Curt

New Lifetime Members

A Lifetime Membership to The Ride and Tie Association is a wonderful way to show support for the long-term future of the sport of ride & tie. Lifetime members pay no more dues to the Association for the rest of their lives, can include members of the immediate family, are honored in each Newsletter and will always be first in line for other membership benefits. Welcome to our newest Lifetime members! And thank you for your support!

Janice Heltibridle, Maurer VA Byron Grant, Arroyo Grande, CA Jim Howard, Elaine Ruprecht and Sara Howard, Applegate, CA



Ride & Tie Hall of Fame

Anyone can nominate any horse no matter the horse's accomplishments. A Hall of Fame Committee made up of members of the Board will decide on submitted applicants each season based principally on the horse's performance in sanctioned ride & tie events. The horse's owner must be a current member of the Ride and Tie The horse must have Association. completed 15 sanctioned ride & ties and at least 5 of them must have been Championship events. The horse's overall and category placement history, length of races completed and number of entrants in each event will all be considered as well as a short narrative by the applicant as to why the horse should be considered for entry into the Hall of Fame. Call the Association at 650-949-2321 to request an application for the 2003 season.

How a Ride & Tie Mentor Can Help

Ride & Tie Mentors are a group of people dedicated to growing the sport of ride & tie by introducing (or re-introducing) people to the sport of ride & tie. Located throughout the country, mentors are the Association's "local experts". They are available to answer questions about the sport, to give advice about what to wear, how to prepare for and successfully finish a race and provide opportunities to practice ride & tie.

An example of this is in the Bay Area of California where Curt Riffle holds monthly practices. Participants receive advanced instructions about the practice location and what to wear and bring to the practice site. Curt provides 3-4 horses and tries to team new people with experienced people. Other experienced ride & tiers like Dawn Hartsock also will bring a horse. New people are encouraged to bring their horses as well. Teams are formed in the parking lot and a quick "chalk talk" gives the basics of the sport and explains the course. Usually the course is 7 to 10 miles long and for the first 5 miles, everyone stays together at a slow pace. Frequent stops are made to explain and illustrate techniques like proper tie locations, when to exchange, how to do a "flying tie", how to pass or be passed by other teams, what poison oak looks like etc. New horses are tied along side experienced horses so they can learn how to stay calm as other horses run by them. Once everyone is more comfortable, teams are then encouraged to ride & tie at their own pace. Everyone meets back at the parking lot for some cold drinks, a snack or two for the horses and arrangements for the next practice or event.

This is a good time to contact your local Mentor as the 2003 season is just getting started. Here's a list of some of the Mentors and more are being added. If you have any questions about the Mentor program or are interested in becoming a Mentor, please contact the Association at 650-949-2321.

North Bay area of California Sacramento, CA area

San Diego area Los Angeles area Southwest Oregon **Washington State** Virginia area

South Bay area of California Curt Riffle, curt riffle@hp.com (650) 949-0620 Robert Eichstaedt, re@well.com Laura Christofk, laura@two-west.com, (530) 268-8647 Nita & Pat Browning, frenchcorral@yahoo.com Rufus Schneider, (619) 445-2060 Carol Ruprecht & Tom Gey, (949) 263-1772 Annette Parsons & Jim Clover, aparsons@terragon.com Don Betts, rideandtiedon@aor.com Lani Newcomb, give2bute@aol.com

Initial Schedule for the 2003 Season

October 26, 2002 Fort Valley Ride & Tie Fort Valley, VA, Jean Heishman runsallday@aol.com 540-933-6991

November 2, 2002 Cuyamaca Ride & Tie San Diego, CA, Rufus Schneider 619-445-2060

November 2, 2002 Lover Ride & Tie Oroville, CA Cheryl Domnitch cdefpe@aol.com 530-273-5668

lanuary 18, 2003 Shine & Shine Only Ride & Tie San Jose, CA Curt Riffle curt riffle@hp.com 650-949-0620

February 22, 2003 Shine & Shine Only Ride & Tie San Jose, CA Curt Riffle, Curt riffle@hp.com 650-949-0620

March 29, 2003 Shine & Shine Only Ride & Tie San Jose, CA Curt Riffle curt riffle@hp.com 650-949-0620

April 26, 2003 (Tentative Date) Quicksilver Pro-Am Ride & Tie PLUS San Jose, CA Curt Riffle curt_riffle@hp.com 650-949-0620

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR 2003!

Remember to include your ID number

October 7, 2002

RATs first? Is it some reference to a sinking ship? No, not at all. It's the Manzanita Ride & Tie, which is run in conjunction with the Manzanita Endurance Ride east of San Diego, California. The Manzanita Ride & Tie course is 25 miles in length, on the same trail used by the endurance ride. A 15-mile short course is also offered, for those interesting in getting started in the sport.

Ride Manager Terry Howe explains the rules to endurance riders at the pre-ride meeting; Rule #1 -- If you see a horse tied to a bush, don't untie it! And Rule #2 -- RATs (Ride and Tie'ers) are first at the vet checks.

In Ride & Tie (three athletes: two runner/riders and one horse) there is no hold time after meeting pulse criteria. Any time spent in line waiting for a vet is time lost from competition. In endurance, conversely, there is usually a hold time at the vet check, which starts from when the horse pulses down. Since endurance riders can present their horses to the veterinarian staff during their hold time, they normally don't lose competition time waiting for a vet. Thus the rule that RATs get to crowd in front of the line.

In Ride & Tie, two human athletes share a horse. The official Ride & Tie rule #13 reads "It is not permissible for both members of the team to use their horse at the same time for forward movement." The sport involves taking turns riding the horse, and running the course. This year's Manzanita event endurance head vet, and also the AERC (American Endurance Ride Conference) president Barney Fleming was encouraging endurance riders to try the sport of Ride & Tie, "it's a hoot" he announced, "a real hoot. Check it

Fireworks Ride & Tie

The weather could not have been any better! The fog was so thick that it was actually precipitating for about an hour! We had 13 teams start and 13 teams finish the Fireworks R & T this year. The only novice-novice team of Jennie Spearing and Cara Ravenscroft, riding Finaally, came from Yreka, to win the woman-woman class, in which we had

out".

The Manzanita Ride & Tie was won this year by Rufus Schneider and Ann Langstaff. They also took home honors for First Woman/Woman Team, and set a course record of 2 hours and 54 minutes. Rufus has been competing in this sport for many years, and is one of the top women in the nation. This was Ann's first Ride & Tie attempt, but she's no stranger to ultra sports. Ann's well known in the running world, having placed First Woman at the 2001 Badwater Ultrarun; 135 miles from the low point of Death Valley, up to Mount Whitney. Ann only started to ride horses a month ago, Rufus taught her, in order to team up for this race.

Second Place went to Tom Gey and Carol Ruprecht, who trailed the winning team by 9 minutes. Their horse Findefar took top honors, winning the coveted Best Condition award. Best Condition recognizes the top horse completing the course and considered by the veterinarian staff to be the most fit to continue.

Third place, and First Junior Team, was the up and coming pair Alina Vale and Carly Meeklenburg. This was their best finish ever. Alina is 17 years old, and her partner Carly is 15. They finished the sandy course only 10 minutes after the second place team. This was the fourth time Carly and Alina have raced together. Alina has been competing in Ride & Tie since she was eight years old. She first partnered with mom, Sidney Vale, at the Cuyamaca Ride & Tie where she recalls that she preferred to get off and walk or run rather than ride the 28 mile course. The reason? In order to share the horse with her mom, the stirrups had to be too long for Alina to reach.

Dr. Nuria Casas, an equine veterinarian from Spain, in the USA on a one year internship, had never heard of Ride & Tie

five teams total in the class. Before the race, I had to explain to Jennie and Cara what a tie rope was and I ended up loaning them mine for the race. At the awards presentation, several participants said to me, "Where the @"XS did they come from?" At least six teams managed to get lost out there, all in the same spot,...sorry, it sounds like a problem with trail marking to me... Two people got dumped from their horses, I'm not mentioning names, but in true Ride & Tie fashion got right back

until a client at the Chino Valley Equinc Hospital told her about it. Nuria is very familiar with endurance back in Spain and thought this sport sounded "perfect." She was at the race today to see both endurance, American style, and this sport of Ride & Tie. Nuria and her friend Anna. also from Spain, crewed for the 1st and 2nd place teams. And now? She's looking for a partner so she can try it herself at the Cuyamaca Ride & Tie which takes place on November 2nd. When Dr. Casas returns to Spain in December, she will be ready to introduce the sport to her colleagues. She's got friends in mind that both run and compete in endurance.

When asked why she does Ride & Tie Alina Vale said, "It's a great sport and I hope a lot of people will get into it". I'm not so sure Jonathan Jordan is feeling the same way about Ride & Tie right now. There are a lot of things a competitor can do wrong in Ride & Tie, and most of them have to do with losing contact with one, or two, team members. You can tie your horse where it cannot be seen, and your partner runs right past the horse. You can take a wrong turn, and your partner can pass you without knowing it, while you are busy trying to get back to the trail. You can tie to a stick so feeble that your horse breaks loose and goes it's own way. But this one is unique to my knowledge: intentionally parting ways. Usually when teams disagree they do still continue to take their disagreement down the trail together, in one direction. Jonathan's team was in the vet check 14.5 miles through the race, right behind both the first and second place teams, and then his partner took a wrong turn. Or rather, went straight at a spot where the trail does turn. He went after her for a while, pleaded with her for a bit, but there's only so far a good sport is willing to go the wrong direction before he turns around and heads back to camp. Unwritten rule #22: Sooner or later, teamwork will get you to the finish line. Written By Carol Ruprecht

on and finished the race. Tom Johnson, racing with novice Jeremy Reynolds won the overall race, riding Indy (owned by Skip Lightfoot), and Zar Za Fire (owned by Skip Lightfoot) ridden by Curt Riffle and Biz Eischen won the best condition award. Although we only had one novice-novice team out there, we had quite a few novice participants, thanks to Curt Riffle's continuing R & T practice series in the San Jose area. The other novice participants included Mark Reese, Sandy Reese, Laurel Anderson,

Gold Country Ride & Tie

August 10, 2002

It is amazing that as of this writing, I believe I am still happily married after managing two R & T's two weekends in a row! Gold Country was a huge success! For a first year R & T we had 12 teams start and 11 teams finish. We were invited by the Gold Country Endurance Riders to include the R & T in conjunction with their endurance ride, and I believe we are already invited back again for next year. The 20-mile R & T loop was also the second loop of the 50-mile endurance ride. It was a new course for the endurance riders as well as the R & T'rs. In order to eliminate potential conflicts between the endurance riders and R & Trs, we established a 10:00 am start for the R & T. I had some complaints about the heat and a late in the day start, others who were thrilled commenting on a "leisurely" start, and

three teams that mose not to arrive until race morning! The majority of the teams were local to the Gold Country area, which is indicative of the fact that we need more R&T's in this area!

There was one vet check at Canyon Creek on the course and R & T crew only were allowed at the vet check, no endurance crew. The volunteers at Canyon Creek from the endurance club, only had terrific things to say about our crew. Crew carpooled as requested, and the minute everybody hopped out of vehicles offered to help the volunteers with anything and everything that needed to be done! So race participants remember to pass kudos on to your crew! They are a big reason why we are being invited back again next year!

Unbelievable, but true; we had three novice-novice teams participate: Don Strong and Michelle Wheeler riding Zheke; Emily Laurencon and Kim Gastman riding Joe; and Viola Wilbanks and Josh Henson riding Straw! I could see the R & T glow on all of their faces at the finish line...or maybe that was just exhaustion! Greg Kimler and Brandi Page were also participating in their first R & T.

Mary Tiscornia and Tom Johnson riding Albi, were the overall winners. Best Condition was awarded to Magic Sirrocco ridden by James Howard and Elaine Ruprecht.

Thanks to the wonderful volunteers out on the course, especially Dionne Wallace at the creek crossing, Dave Van Wicklin at the totally confusing intersection, and my husband, Larry Rosenthal as the finish timer! Special thanks to Curt Riffle (and Fire), Tom Johnson, Laurie Wilson, Doyle Eggers, and Steve Shaw for participating in and/or supporting both the Gold Country and Fireworks R & Ts two weekends in a row!

All Kidding Aside

August 25th, 2002.

Competitors arrived to the southern Ohio camp to find it full to capacity with riders entered in the AKA 25/50-mile CTR. Everyone was polite, though and made room for one and all. CTR riders were curious about these people who get off of a perfectly good horse and take out running. Not quite as crazy as skydiving, but close. This is the first R&T in Ohio in many years. Many of our riders have never seen one.

Four teams entered the 25-mile R&T. Two were all the way from Virginia, one from Pennsylvania, and one from Ohio. The Ohio team was a husband and wife that traveled over four hours to compete. That's a long way considering that the husband doesn't ride and the wife doesn't run!

One rider in the CTR on Saturday expressed interest in competing if a partner and a horse could be located. The boyfriend of one competitor came through. Now for a horse. The ride manager's trail marking horse would be used, so long as the remainder of the trail got marked.

Halfway through marking the trail, a lost hunter is located, but is too ill to

either walk out alone or mount the horse. A mad gallop later, help is sent, leaving one team with a very tired little horse. Foxy seemed fine the next morning, though, so off they went on the 10-mile R&T with the four teams in the 25-mile distance.

All five teams were staying within a few minutes of each other for most of the first half until one team member missed a turn to a water stop and passed her horse. A CTR rider gave her directions back to the stop where horse and rider were reunited and the team set about the job of catching up. And catch up they did, passing the husband/wife team from Ohio on their second loop.

The 10-mile team held their own with the pros, though, despite an early problem. Seems Mike tied Foxy with the rope reins, passing the snap through the crotch of a tree. When Jim came along, the snap became wedged in the tree, forcing him to climb up to get it loose.

All riders finished in fine shape and received completion shirts, trivets, buckets and halters for the various awards. Best Condition awards were handpainted ceramic unicorns and went to Lani and Kathy's RT Red McIntosh and Mike and Jim's Foxy. A special award was presented to Jean and Janice for remembering to bring Fleet with them over the finish line.

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