

# RIDE & TIE



## NEWSLETTER

July-August 2005



photo by Mirror KB Ranch Photographers

Howard and Richtman on Magic Sirocco Finish First at the 2005 World Championship

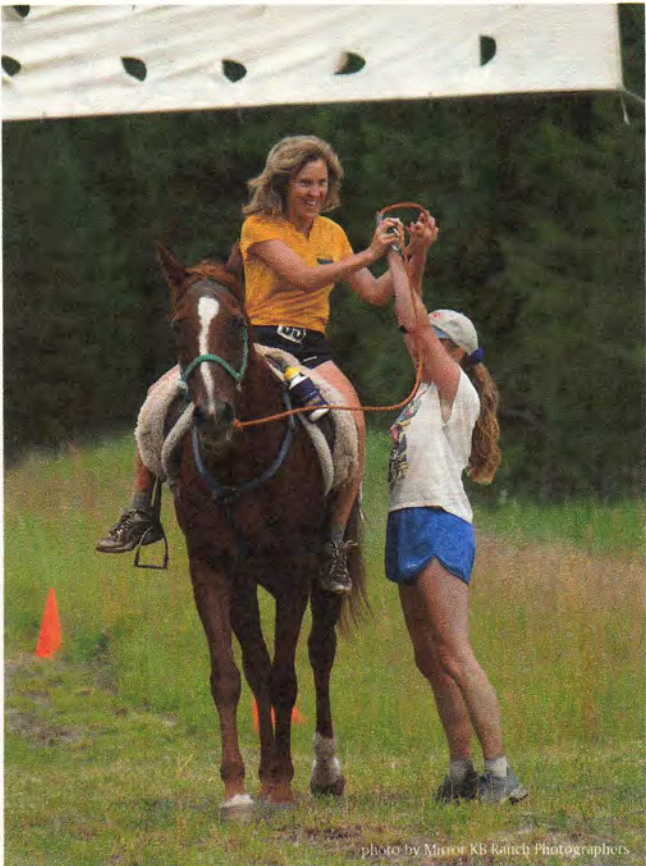


photo by Mirror KB Ranch Photographers

First Woman/Woman Team: Rachel Toor on Cimarron and Elaine Ruprecht – See story on page 4



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First Woman/Man team: Mary Tiscornia on Sal and Sid Sullivan

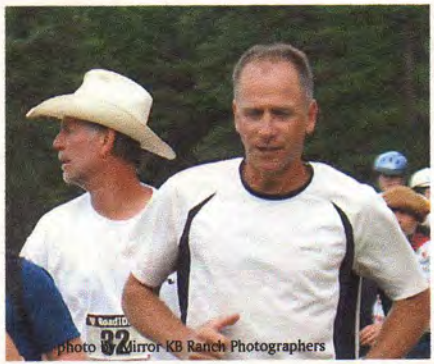


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Photo by One of The Boys with Rifle



Photo by Jackie Klüver



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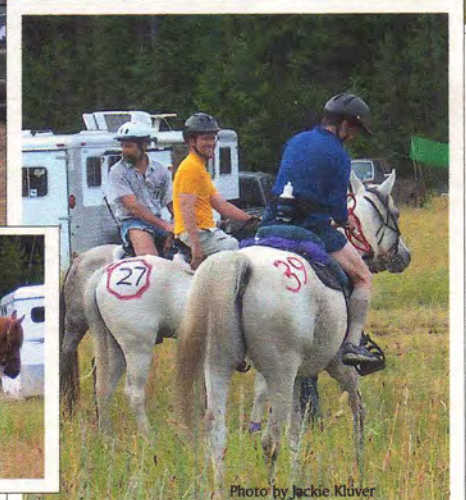


Photo by Jackie Klüver



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Photo by Jackie Klüver

# Thoughts from the President

Thanks to all participants, crews, and volunteers who came to this year's Championship Race and made it so special. The race was won for the first time by a Century in the Saddle team. Jim Howard and Mark Richtman are both 50 years old. Due partly to a nice cool race day, we had 37 teams finish out of the 39 that started. There were 32 new participants to the sport of Ride & Tie. Most of these were pure novice teams, with neither human teammate nor horse having ever done a Ride & Tie before. Several teams were made at the race camp just prior to the race. A 14 year old novice, Rae-Anne Wadey hitched a ride with a team from Alberta, Canada in hopes of finding a partner with a horse. She managed to team with Tom Gey.

The race photos are posted at [www.mirrorbranch.com](http://www.mirrorbranch.com). If you were a participant pick out a photo that you want and order it. Make sure they know you were in the race. You will get one free photo. Some of those photos have been used in this newsletter, including the cover photo.

These are some things that made this a good race:

- ⇒ The large central camping area filled with just ride & tie folks. Even the horses loved the Munro's property that we camped on, since the grass was belly high.
- ⇒ The hospitality of the Munro's. The young people got to play on the Munro's lawn and in their wading pool. We used their lawn for our Thursday night tri-tip barbecue/potluck and for our awards banquet. The pig roast was really tasty. It sure looked like a huge pig and it fed 162 people.
- ⇒ The Montana Old Time Fiddler's Kira Lee played some fine fiddle music during our awards banquet.
- ⇒ We had 2 great demonstrations of horse archery by bareback rider Pat Stoddard.
- ⇒ The programs were in full color.
- ⇒ A free photo was available to all competitors.
- ⇒ A concession stand was available for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.
- ⇒ The dumpsters and recycle cans were readily available.
- ⇒ There was a real finish line clock. Unfortunately someone turned it off when the first team finished, so in the finish line photos everyone has the blazing time of 4:27.
- ⇒ Our vet staff, headed by Jim Steere, did an excellent job.
- ⇒ We had wonderful volunteers.



President/Race Director Don Betts with partners, Cinder and George Hall

There were some old and some new special enhancements that I hope are continued at future Championships. The entry fee was just \$100 per team. There were \$1000 cash awards for the first man/man, man/woman, and woman/woman teams.

In retrospect I would order less t-shirts, more tank tops, hats, and license plate frames. We welcome your opinions on the Championship also. Send them to us!

I welcome our new board members: Dawn Hartsock, Ted Ruprecht, and Laurie Wilson. It was a close election. I returned home to additional ballots. In the future make sure that you get your ballots in on time. Congratulations to Rufus Schneider our new Vice President.

The Rules of Ride & Tie, Association by-laws, and the minutes of the March and May board meetings are posted on our web site. The minutes of future board meetings will be posted as they are approved.

Next year's World Championship Ride & Tie will be in San Diego on June 17th. Some of those Pacific Northwest newcomers are already trying to find a way to get there with their horses.

Don Betts, Ride and Tie Association President  
RideAndTieDon@aol.com

## RACHEL AND ELAINE'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

By Rachel Toor

Because it was only a three hour drive from my home in Missoula; because I'd never been to northern Montana; because I missed seeing old Ride and Tie friends; because I figured at worst I'd have a great time even if I didn't race; and because I had nothing else to do, what with being in graduate school and all and it being summer, I showed up at the Championship in Libby with no horse and no partner.

Early in the week the Munro's field was a private campground. I met up with an old friend, Don Betts, and made new friends his wonderful wife Annie, ex-cops Barry Johnson and Lisa Preston, and their canine son Jek. I got to ride during the day and be serenaded with (only slightly naughty) songs at night. I almost forgot that there was a race coming up.

Originally I had planned to do the race with my friend Nikki Kimball, perhaps the best woman ultrarunner in the United States (the week before the Championship she had proved herself to be the seventh fastest woman in the World, at the 100K Championship in Japan). Nikki has won races at every distance, and has never entered a trail ultra that she's not won, including her first 100 miler last year's Western States and the 50 mile Championship at White River, where last

year she broke her own CR, having broken Ann Trason's record the year before. She's also been a national champion in snowshoeing and regularly kicks butt on the US mountain running team. Let me put it this way: Nikki is an animal. Even if I walked the Ride and Tie course, we likely would have done okay.

Except that neither of us had a horse. When I called a few folks about leasing one for the race, the best deal I could get was \$800. Too rich for the likes of us. Nikki bowed out. I hung around and hoped. Oh, and had a lot of fun.

Then Don tells me that Patrick the Horse Archer had leased a horse to someone who had broken his wrist, but wanted the horse to be used. He'd rounded up a local Libby guy as a partner; Patrick said he'd ask the guy if he wanted to do it with me (the race, you gutter-minds, to do the race with me). Then Patrick comes back the next day to say that the guy had been kicked in the knee by a horse. There are easier ways to get out of doing it with me. Patrick swore it was the truth.

Since I haven't been running all that much and have been riding not at all, I figured it wouldn't be a tragedy if I didn't race; Annie Betts had promised that I could play Bud

Johns at the Finish, and announce people as they came across the line. I do like a little attention now and then (shut up!) and this seemed like it could be fun.

Then the numerous and sprawling Ruprecht clan began to have problems. Elaine's favorite partner, her brother-in-law Tom Gey came up lame. Was she going to do the race with her soon-to-be 13 year old daughter Sara? No fair. I called dibs on Sara as a partner when she was around eight years old. (Now she's an inch taller than me.) Sara was enjoying some time off from running (5:47 miles) and wasn't all that keen on doing the race so I managed to beg, plead, coerce and threaten Elaine until she agreed to partner with me. The problem was, we didn't exactly have a horse. We only sort of had a horse: Jim's retired guy Cimarron, who is 22 and hadn't been planning on doing the race but was brought along mostly as a babysitter for Magic Sirocco.

But, but, but, I said to Elaine. How much fun would we have? Tons. Tons. Tons. The Women/Women division was stacked with talent. I had no interest in trying to compete. I just wanted to cover the miles and have a good time. And so, late on the afternoon before the morning of the race, a partnership was born.

## A CHALLENGE TO RIDE AND TIERS

by Jessica Jacobs

At the end of 2004, my 16 year old cousin moved in with me and my family. She was a typical troubled teen with no interests other than horses. Since I had only a green mustang, my father gave us his two veteran endurance horses. I was excited to introduce my cousin to the sport of endurance. I build it up: a beautiful course, comradery, a great dinner, pride, etc. She was reluctant but agreed. We did a 25 miler in June, 2005. We went too fast, nobody greeted us at the finish, we beat the vet back from the mid-ride vet check and we were not proud. Our horses weren't tired, neither were we and we didn't bond with the other riders. What was missing? Oh! It wasn't Ride and Tie!

My dad had asked me several months earlier if I wanted to partner with him for the 2005 World Championships. I declined because it was too far to drive. Now, I was craving that feeling (sore muscles, dirty clothes, sun-kissed shoulders, bruised inner thighs, seeing my horse just when I'm about to hit the wall). So I got online to find a partner for the Championships and found Liz Perkins. Granted, I did not bring Liz to the sport but I did convince her to finish the race (by not letting her quit when fear and a bloody leg made her want to stop) and now she's hooked.

So, veteran Ride and Tiers, here is your challenge! Bring new blood. Write articles, go to ultra runs and endurance rides, encourage your friends. Who can bring in the most new participants? It is a contest. At the 2006 Championships, I propose a new prize be awarded to the person that brings in the most new people to the sport of Ride and Tie. Points could be awarded for new participants and for published articles/media coverage. Start now!



Liz and Jessica at the finish line

When I rode up to give her the horse Elaine said: "Did you notice the tree I tied him to?" No, of course I didn't. I didn't notice Mt. Everest when it was pointed out to me in the Himalayas. "It's a larch," she said. "The only deciduous, coniferous tree a pine tree that loses its needles." I always learn a lot at these races. (At one Ride and Tie, Jim Clover taught me and Mary Tiscornia how to tell the difference between a girl and a boy tick. If you want to know, ask Jim. Or Mary.)

For the first few miles Cimarron was dragging butt. I worried that he wasn't really fit enough to complete the 35 miles and said to Elaine, when I caught her, that I thought he might already be tired.

"Nope," she said. "He thinks his buddy Sirocco is still behind us. He didn't see them when they passed."

Sure enough, Cimarron soon got into the race, stretching out into a big trot that easily covered more ground than many of the horses who were cantering beside us. People heard us on the trail from miles away. Not from the thundering of Cimarron's hooves, but because Elaine and I both have big, loud mouths. We were a fix to win Loudest Team. We were noisy. If you were near us, you knew it. We were laughing. We were joking with our competitors. We were having a blast.

After she'd ridden out of the vet check and caught me running on the trail, Elaine said: "Oh, I forgot to tell you." "What?" "I've never finished the race when I've done it with a woman." Then she laughed her deep, rich loud laugh and threw back her head.

I had made only two requests of my partner: Please don't yell at me during the

race (I asked this, even though I was fairly certain that she would not) and please, please don't pee in the saddle. I had a partner once who told me during a race, as she handed me the horse with two miles to the finish, that she just couldn't hold it anymore and she peed in the saddle. Think about sitting on a big urine-soaked fuzzy sponge; I ran those last two miles. Elaine promised not to pee.

Elaine told me how she wanted her horse handled: "Don't get on or off the wrong side and don't kick him on the butt as you're mounting." She gave me some tips: If he's on a steep, rocky downhill, saying "Step" will remind him to watch out for his feet, and don't say "Whoa" unless you mean "Stop." Someone who wanted Cimarron only to slow down said "Whoa" ended up sailing over his head. Twice.

There was no yelling, no peeing, but a whole lot of fun and (loud, very loud) laughter. Until the last three miles, that is, when Anne Langstaff came galloping up behind us, her partner Rufus trailing not far behind. Even though we'd both said that we weren't out to compete, certainly not to win, I actually meant it. Really. Elaine, however, is a tough cookie. A few miles before, after we'd passed the Three Old Grays, she asked how far back Russ and Jim were. "Don't worry about it," I said. "Who cares," I said.

A couple exchanges later I told her that they were catching us.

She responded appropriately. She laughed.

But when we heard a distinctly feminine voice screaming "Whoa, whoa," I gave the horse to Elaine and said, "Now that's an unpleasant surprise."

It was three miles of hell. I hate racing, although I do like to win. Mostly I like to win stuff, what I refer to as SMOs or Shiny Metal Objects. They needn't be shiny or metal, even, but I like physical, tangible markers of where I've been and what I've done. (This is easily accomplished by entering tiny, out of the way races, like the Hellgate High School Marching Band Wind Section Kilt-Wearing Red Haired Farmer's 10K.) I thought about the fact that Elaine and I had each previously won the Man/Woman division and, gee, wouldn't it be cool to win Woman/Woman? I thought about the fact that I really, really hate to run fast; I don't like to be uncomfortable. We could hear Rufus yelling at Anne and I thought: they want it more. They should have it. Then I thought about the essence of Ride and Tie and why it is so much more meaningful, more emotional, than just running: it's about teamwork, about not letting your partner down.

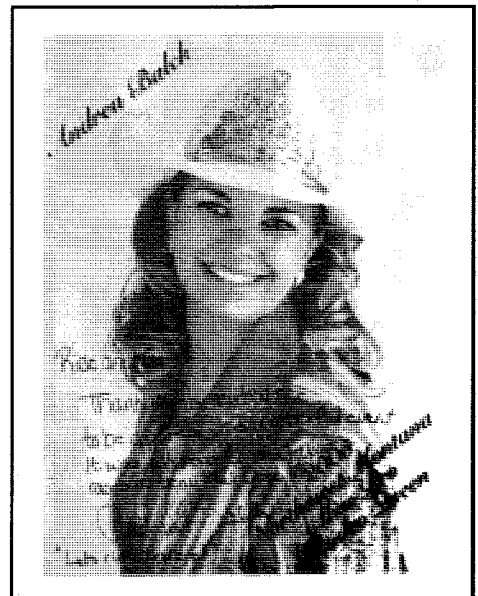
So for three miles, I had no fun at all. None. Not a smidgen, a nanosecond, a whiff. Not until we both crossed the finish, after Anne but less than half a minute before Rufus. After more than five freaking hours on the trail it came down to 18 seconds.

We weren't supposed to win. We weren't even supposed to do well. But the other thing about Ride and Tie, as we all know, all too well, is that anything can happen. You just never know. Rufus and Anne were incredibly gracious. Elaine and I discreetly

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX

## CHAMPIONSHIP FEEDBACK

In order to bring you an even better Championship next year, we need your feedback and opinions! What did you like? What didn't work well for you? What would you change? What would you like to have that wasn't provided this year? Each year the race director tries to provide a terrific race and each year he or she needs to know what you would like. Take the time to tell us while it is fresh in your mind. Send your comments to [RideAndTieDon@aol.com](mailto:RideAndTieDon@aol.com) or Don Belts 146 Janssen Farm Rd. Sequim, WA 98382 (360)681-5218 or contact anyone on the Board of Directors with your comments.



Andrea Balch, Northwest Montana Miss Pro Rodeo Queen of 2005, started the Championship race with the drop of her hat. She was prettier, but we missed you, Bud!

# Views on Endurance Saddle Fitting

by Gaston Mercier

## Introduction

Fit the horse, fit the rider, meet the equestrian sport requirements, keep riding balanced, keep the horse movement free, those are just a few of the multiple challenges of correct saddle fitting. The truth about saddle fitting is revealed, sometimes in a glaring way, in the sport of endurance riding. The long distances, the steep terrain, the long hours in the saddle, all contribute to exacerbating the saddle fitting problems, or conversely can confirm a proper saddle fit for the horse and rider team. Knowledge and experience gained in fitting endurance horses and riders can be applied to other disciplines for the benefit of horses and riders alike.

## Fitting the horse

It is the rider's responsibility to properly fit the horse, so no pain or damage is caused to our enduring equine partners. The rider will indirectly benefit greatly from proper saddle fitting. It will enhance the horse performance, reduce injuries, and increase the rider's comfort. As an illustration, a poor saddle fit can cause a horse to carry himself in an inverted fashion, with poor balance resulting in frequent dangerous tripping, and a very bumpy and tiring ride for the rider. On the contrary, a saddle correctly designed and positioned, will

favor proper horse collection for weight carriage, will leave the horse's focus on his task, and will result in a smooth and comfortable ride for the rider.

The incentives for saddle fitting are multiple; so why is it such a complex proposition? The first reason is that horses vary greatly in conformation: an Icelandic pony is greatly different from a Thoroughbred. The second reason is that there are dozens of commercially available off-the-shelf and custom saddles. Finally, there are maybe some misconceptions about what attributes of a saddle are specific to a sport and what should be generic. Thus making the match is difficult.

Our view of saddle fitting is that the following six key goals need to be achieved.

1. Maximize the surface area of support for weight distribution across the horse's back,
2. Bring the center of gravity of the rider as close as possible to that of the horse, maximizing the balance of the horse and rider, Shift weight of the rider and tack off the front legs to the hind legs in order that the carriage of the horse achieves balance, Free up the wither, shoulder and scapula while not interfering with the loins of the horse, Fit the horse standing, as well as fit the horse in motion while keeping the saddle from shifting,

In addition, of course, meet the functions, comfort, ease of maintenance, and aesthetics expectation of the rider.

This is a challenging prospect because these six goals are rarely met in the saddle and horse industry.

Treeless Saddles. For instance, one could think that treeless saddles are the answer, however, in our opinion, they fail grossly to meet the No. 1 goal of weight distribution across a maximum surface area of contact. Treeless saddles and even bareback pads or bareback riding, are great for teaching the rider about close contact, balance, and positioning. However, in our view, should be limited to short riding distances or duration, on the order of 10 miles or 1 hour, respectively.

Flexible Tree. Likewise, a flexible tree of some kind has been a reasonable compromise for many horse owners, but the recurring problem lies in the saddle shifting backwards or forward, as soon as riding takes place in steep terrain. Thus, riders have recourse to tighter cinching or to more tack, including breast collars and croupers, to address those problems, all at the expense of the horse's comfort and performance. **CONT. ON PAGE 11**

**EXCELLENT ADVENTURE CONTINUED** squealed and jumped up and down. After we'd gotten changed and cleaned up poor old Cimarron to show him for BC, I asked Elaine if she thought we were going to get a cool prize a Patagonia fleece, maybe? A shirt?

She looked at me with astonishment. I could see the little flashlight in her brain turn on. "Oh," she said. "We just won a thousand dollars." While we both knew, theoretically, about the prize money, neither of us had remembered it during the race (one of the things Rufus said she was screaming at Anne during those last stress filled miles was to think about how much gas that money would pay for).

In some ways it seemed that Jim was more excited about Cimarron's performance than his own. "All the guys that he raced against have retired," he said about the chestnut gelding. We all beamed with pride in each other's accomplishments.

It doesn't get much better than this, folks. To be out in a beautiful place, with good and interesting people, doing the two things you love to do running and riding with a partner who is fun and funny and

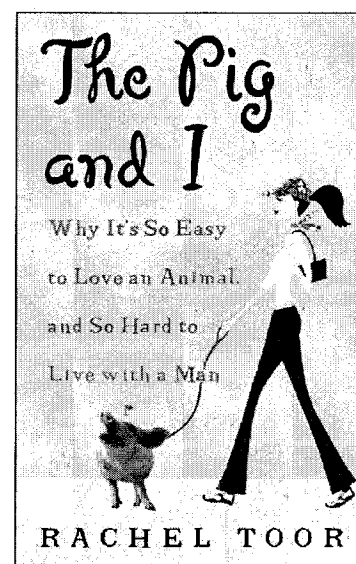
smart and kind, and then to win money and an SMO embroidered with your name on it that you can wear it just doesn't get much better.

Montana is a funny place: A state that has only recently passed open container laws; allows gambling and riding motorcycles without helmets but tickets aggressively for jay-walking; a state filled with tobacco-chewing cowboys that sent the first woman to any legislative body in the world (Jeannette Rankin was elected to Congress in 1916, two years after she worked to get women suffrage in her home state, and was the only person ever to have voted against entry into both world wars). Missoula is a small town that's the second largest city in a state that has a people to square miles ratio of 1:6, a place where you can't spit without hitting a writer of national renown, a region that's been described as the blue mole on the big red skin of Montana.

Three hours away is Libby, which will now be known as the site of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual World Championship Ride and Tie. I moved to Montana a year ago. This July, friends from all over the country came

many miles to my state, my big, odd, pioneer-spirited state, a state called by writer William Kittredge "the last best place," and shared with me an experience that was more rich than the lodes of ore mined for years from this great, good soil. And for that, I thank you all.

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Rachel Toor is the Montana Mentor for Ride and Tie. Her most recent book is *The Pig and I: Why It's So Easy to Love an Animal and So Hard to Live with a Man*.

# 35TH ANNUAL WORLD RIDE & TIE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

PLACE	TIME	DIVISION	TEAM MEMBER	STATE	AGE	STATUS	TEAM MEMBER	STATE	AGE	STATUS	TEAM AGE	HORSE	BREED	AGE
1	4:27:04	MM	Jim Howard	CA	50	Pro	Mark Richtman	CA	50	Pro	100	Magic Sirocco	1/2 Arab	11
2	5:02:00	MW	Mary Tiscornia	CA	60	Pro	Sid Sullivan	ID	39	Pro	99	Sal	Arab	7
3	5:16:00	MM	Thom Steere	CA	45	Pro	Jonnie Alper	CA	41	Pro	86	Wesob	Arab	14
4	5:18:00	WW	Rachel Toor	MT	43	Pro	Elaine Ruprecht	CA	39	Pro	82	Cimarron	Arab	22
5	5:18:39	WW	Anne Langstaff	CA	44	Pro	Rufus Schneider	CA	44	Pro	88	Koona	Arab X	14
6	5:21:00	MM	Jim Brown	CA	58	Pro	Russ Kiernan	CA	67	Pro	125	N.L. Starfire	Arab	21
7	5:22:00	MM	Warren Hellman	CA	71	Pro	Jeff Townsend	CA	49	Pro	120	Samurai		
8	5:23:00	MM	John Osterweis	CA	62	Pro	Thomas Schreck	CA	47	Pro	109	Zar Za Fire	Arab	16
9	5:28:00	MW	Scott Creel	MT	43	Am	Nancy Creel	MT	42	Am	85	Cassidy	Paso	12
10	5:30:00	MM	Doyle Eggers	CA	46	Pro	Jerome Beauchamp	CA	41	Pro	87	Turtle	Arab	8
11	5:38:00	WW	Sherrie Calaway	MT	46	Am	Kaci Calaway	MT	20	Am	66	River Lite	1/2 Arab	10
12	5:42:00	MW	Dave Riffle	WA	55	Pro	Dawn Hartsock	CA	46	Pro	101	Tess	Grade	7
13	5:57:00	MM	Byron Grant	CA	57	Pro	Paul Johnson	ID	56	Pro	113	Ron G	Grade	5
14	6:01:00	MW	Annette Parsons	CA	54	Pro	Jim Clover	CA	63	Pro	117	Bones (TutsTumbler)	Arab	18
15	6:09:00	MM	Pat Browning	CA	65	Pro	Michelle Richardson	MT	40	Am	105	Willey	1/2 Arab	12
16	6:09:30	WW	Chris Degenhardt	MT	47	Am	Lucy Beard	MT	19	Am	66	Sir Gwalihad	Arab	19
17	6:13:00	MM	Don Roth	CA	61	Pro	Steve Shaw	CA	55	Pro	116	Clown	1/2 Arab	20
18	6:19:00	WW	Janet Dodd	WA	45	Am	Becky Convery	WA	39	Am	84	Rio Blanco	Arab X	8
19	6:24:00	MM	George Hall	CA	54	Pro	Don Betts	WA	61	Pro	115	Cinder	Arab	9
20	6:29:00	MW	Katie Mayberry	MT	22	Am	Robert McMannamy	ID	39	Am	61	El Mares Nasheed	Arab	11
21	6:31:00	WW	Liz Perkins	OR	23	Am	Jessica Jacobs	CA	30	Am	53	Paliddin	Arab	16
22	6:32:00	MW	Carol Ruprecht	CA	44	Pro	Ted Ruprecht	CA	76	Pro	120	Olympian	3/4 Arab	8
23	6:42:00	WW	Linda Riley	AB	57	Am	Jane Depner	AB	49	Am	106	Kittasha	Arab	14
24	6:56:00	MW	Lisa Preston	WA	41	Pro	Josh Steffen	WA	29	Pro	70	Abu	Arab	9
25	6:58:00	MW	Rick Noer	CA	54	Pro	Melanie Weir	CA	40	Pro	94	Kamanche	Arab	17
26	7:21:00	MW	Jonathan Jordan	CA	50	Pro	Tara Jordan	CA	34	Pro	84	Flyer	Arab	13
27	7:22:00	WW	Trisha Dowling	SK	45	Am	Dawn Crowley	MB	47	Am	92	ZF Reyna	Arab/Qtr	11
28	7:23:00	WW	McKenna Steere	CA	16	Am	Marguerite Davenport	CA	16	Am	32	Bombay	Arab	13
29	9:25:00	MW	Joan Ruprecht	CA	71	Pro	Cowman A-Moo-Ha	HI	61	Pro	132	Feather	1/2 Arab	25
30	9:31:00	WW	Karen Wolfsheimer	LA	51	Pro	Carly Mecklenburg	CA	18	Pro	69	Fre Fre	Arab	12
31	9:33:00	WW	Sybil Soulsby	MB	38	Am	Prue Critchley	MB	59	Am	97	William	Welsh X	7
DNF		WW	Laurie Wilson	CA	48	Pro	Carrie Barrett	CA	45	Am	93	Chocolate Riple	1/2 Arab	10

## SHORT COURSE (17 MILES)

PLACE	TIME	DIVISION	TEAM MEMBER	STATE	AGE	STATUS	TEAM MEMBER	STATE	AGE	STATUS	TEAM AGE	HORSE	BREED	AGE
1	2:09	MM	Dan Braby	MT	49	Am	Parker Davies	MT	61	Am	110	LaTish	Arab	16
2	2:39	WW	Deborah Yarborough	MT	49	Am	Michelle Sudan	MT	35	Am	84	Duke	Arab X	18
3	2:47	WW	Loretta Wilson	WA	53	Am	Amanda Wilson	WA	15	Am	68	Freeway	Arab	20
4	2:49	WW	Juanita Rose	MT	51	Am	Denise Schwartz	MT	30	Am	81	Jesse	Arab	6
5	3:03	WW	Mary Beauchamp	CA	36	Pro	Katelyn Beauchamp	CA	15	Am	51	BFG	Arab	7
6	3:25	MW	Bob Trocha	CA	45	Pro	Caylin Trocha	CA	9	Am	54	KB	QH/Anda	7
DNF	2:06	MW	Tom Gey	CA	52	Pro	Rae-Anne Wadey	AB	14	Am	66	Majafar	3/4 Arab	19

## BIATHALON

PLACE	TIME	TEAM MEMBER	STATE	AGE	TEAM MEMBER	STATE	HORSE	BREED	AGE
1	4:01	Suzan Guilford	WY	46	Chuck Guilford	WY	Kali	Morgan	10
2	4:06	Kim Fehir	WY	57	John Fehir	WY	Walker	Quarter	7

# BRITISH REVIEW OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

by Prue Critchley and Sybil Soulsby

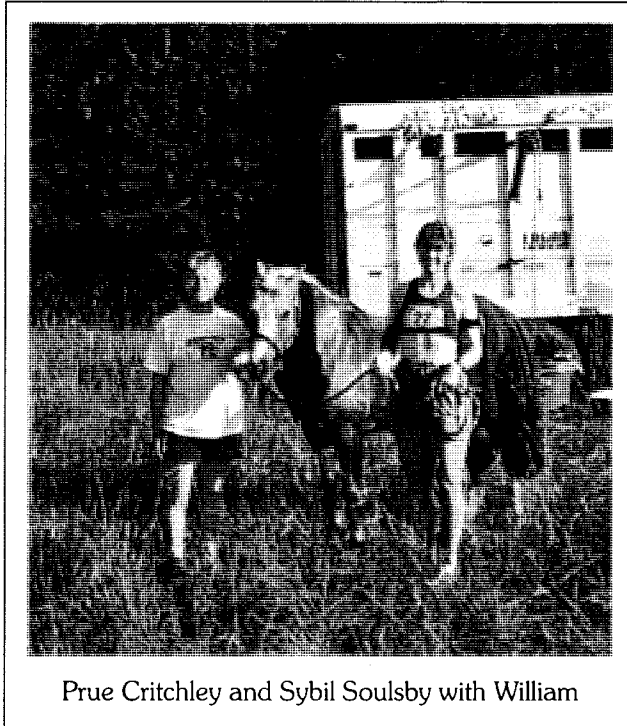
In the spring of 2005 Sybil Soulsby and Prue Critchley successfully applied to the British Endurance Association for permission to represent Great Britain in the World Championship Ride & Tie, a 35 mile event being held near Libby, Montana, on July 9th 2005. Sybil and Prue are both originally from the UK. Prue and her family have lived in Canada for 23 years and farm a few miles north of Hamiota, Manitoba. Sybil and her family also farm near Virden, Manitoba, and have lived there for five years. Both Sybil and Prue regularly participate in both Endurance and Competitive Trail rides. They felt that they would like to try another long distance sport.

Conditioning in the spring included running and walking long distances for the riders. The pony chosen for the event was the Welsh/Quarter horse palomino belonging to Sybil's daughter. His size was perfect for the many easy mounts and dismounts during the course. He has a very sensible disposition – a non spooker who stands quietly when tied. William had done many long slow miles during the spring which helped with his perennial pony weight problem! Prior to the event the team worked together practicing tying the pony and running out of sight then the second member untying and riding on. William took it all in his stride!

Sybil and Prue traveled down to Montana two days ahead of the event in order to rest themselves and their horse before the big day. The first day took them to Lethbridge in Alberta where they stayed overnight and the second day saw the start of the Kootenai Mountain range. The trip was over 800 miles each way. Registration and vetting were held on the Friday, followed by an impressive mounted archery display by Patrick "Many Dogs" Stoddard and his horse Diablo. The evening ended with a pot luck supper.

The competition started at 9.0am on Saturday, 9th July, with 33 teams of two riders/runners and one horse competing. The morning started cool and cloudy. The over night rain had settled the dust and the temperature had dropped significantly. The first tie was exciting with so many starters. Several riders were thrown by their horses but no one was badly hurt. William was very stoical and handled all the excitement very

well. The trail quickly climbed Sheldon Mountain to 4300 feet along a gravel forestry road with a ditch one side and very steep drop off on the other. Tying spots were hard to find so the team used alternate flying changes



Prue Critchley and Sybil Soulsby with William

which involved handing over the pony to the runner saving the time it would have taken to tie to a tree.

The first "trot by" vet check was at 10 miles with welcome water for horse and humans. Following the check a very steep trail went down towards camp where there was a complete vet check at 18.5 miles. There was a mandatory change of riders at this point and Prue ran on from camp leaving Sybil to care for the pony and make sure he had food and drink before the starting the next loop. He devoured the breakfast which Sybil had been unable to eat in the morning and enjoyed it so much that he almost ate the bowl – he then took his muesli mouth to the vet check. He was a little reluctant to leave camp but presented well to the vets before continuing the race. It took some time for them to catch Prue on the trail. She was greatly relieved to see them. They missed part of the trail but quickly re-found it and continued up to the water stop.

The second loop was 16.5 miles and again the trail took them up a steep trail to the top of Mount Sheldon and then slowly descended

back to camp with the last few miles being the same trail they had covered in the morning. The team finished the race together and William passed his final check in good shape and very cheerful. He had become a little footsore on all the rocks – we had mistakenly imagined that the forest trail would be soft and there would only be a few gravel miles! However, after coming from the cold, wet, flat, muddy or sandy Manitoba prairie with no appreciable rocks anywhere, the trail seemed very challenging, extremely rocky and hard.

A roast pork supper was provided prior to the awards ceremony where the team each received Completion Buckles and chairs for the 'last successful team in award' and were acknowledged as the World Champion Ride & Tie Team for Great Britain and Europe. They achieved their goal by finishing the event before dark! The only injuries the team sustained were two sore toes and Sybil had a blister from trying to chop 10 lbs of carrots and 10 lbs of applies with a plastic knife!

The following morning they packed up early to head for home. William decided to lay down in his corral for a nap so they enjoyed a delicious breakfast supplied by Brian Zwaan who is husband and crew for one of the Canadian teams, Trish Dowling and Dawn Crowley. Dawn's mother deserves special mention as being tougher than anybody else there. She had suffered a badly fractured arm en route to the World Championship but had insisted on continuing to the event with her arm in a cast. She remained most cheerful!

The scariest moment for Sybil and Prue was being interviewed for Horse TV while trying to tack up prior to the start of the race,. William stole the show by producing a seemingly never-ending gas emission and coughing as though he had T.B., something he has never done before!

A round of applause should be given to ride management for this event. The trail marking was brilliant and the hospitality second to none.

Prue Critchley  
Sybil Soulsby



# RACE RESULTS

**BEAR SWAMP RIDE @ TIE (unsanctioned)**  
June 25, 2005 Ithaca, New York  
Diane Dubois/Renee Dubois on Lynx

**GOLD COUNTRY RIDE @ TIE**  
July 9, 2005 Georgetown, California

## 20 MILES

- 2:53 Curt Riffle/Katherine Nolan on Majik
- 2:57 Steve Anderson/Kurt Miller on Basia
- 3:04 Tracy Evans/Naomi Haslam on Dia el Rason
- 3:26 Biz Eischen/Brandi Page on Bey
- 3:34 Frank Lieberman/Terry Rose Dempsey on Gypsy
- 4:09 Gary Fend/Nick Warhol on Canadian Ana

## 10 MILE SHORT COURSE

- 1:35 Rob Lydon/Richard Cross on Skipper
- 1:48 Colton Deaver/Cherie Bice on Kekoe
- 1:53 Katie Lydon/Maggie Stacey on Stormy
- 1:59 Jamie Blackburn/Lily Blackburn on Seyndene
- 2:40 Sue Van Steenkiste/Sabrina Teller on Paloma

## BEAR SWAMP R&T by Roberta Schmidt

When we had only one team signed up, Renee and Diane Dubois, I called them and advised them I was giving our veterinarian the day off and we'd do an unsanctioned ride. That was fine with them. Their enthusiasm never failed. When I told them their fees were waived, they insisted on donating the entire amount to our charity, the Reins of Hope Therapeutic Riding Program in Horse Heads, NY.

We had a wonderful day in the woods, a carbon copy of last year, overnight in the 40s, so bugs dormant, high for the day about 55, and everyone was happy and comfortable. I borrowed a horse for French exchange student Margaux Robprieure to enjoy, and one of the competitors brought her daughter and her horse. Linda McLean, who owned the stable where the competitors kept their horse overnight, shipped in another two horses for herself and a friend and everyone rode the 10 mile course. Not only did we have a blast, there were people waiting for us at the finish who want to compete next year. They're from North Carolina, but the man grew up a mile from the forest, runs marathons and his daughter is on her high school track team. They both ride and sound like a dynamite team and will coordinate their annual visit to coincide with our event.

Also, Lani Newcomb and Kathy Broaddus have committed to coming next year, and Libby Llop and one of her sons is planning to use our ride as a prep for the Old Dominion if we'll change our date to the first weekend in June next year.

SO, our shoo in winners, complete with prizes, were the woman/woman team of sisters Renee and Diane DuBois, of NY and Michigan respectively. Here is part of the email from Renee DuBois regarding her ride & tie experience: "We all had a great time! If you decide to organize the ride/run next year we will try to bring two teams. My sister appreciated the challenge of the trails and I enjoyed the beauty. You are lucky to live in such a pretty part of the state. We were also very pleased and impressed with Linda's stable. She was very kind and we felt the horses were in very good hands."



**REMINDER:  
SEND ME  
ARTICLES!!!**

# MENTORS

## CALIFORNIA:

AUBURN: CHERYL DOMNITCH, CDEFPE@AOL.COM (530)273-5668

LOS ANGELES: TOM GEY & CAROL RUPRECHT, CRUPRECHT@RIDEANDTIE.ORG

MALIBU: KIRSTEN SEYFERTH, SCATRIS@HOTMAIL.COM

MONTEREY/SANTACRUZ: DAWN HARTSOCK, GROVER1959@AOL.COM

REDDING: KAREN DEAVER, KDEAVER@SUHSD.NET (530)275-8570

SACRAMENTO: DON STRONG, DONS@DEANSHOMER.COM (976)791-3574

MICHELE JAY-RUSSELL, FLEABITOO7@YAHOO.COM (976)752-2201

SAN DIEGO: RUFUS SCHNEIDER, (619)445-2060

SAN JOSE: CURT RIFFLE CRRIFLE@EARTHLINK.NET

COLORADO: TERRY PINTANE, TERRY-PINTANE@MARIPOSAWINDOW.COM

IDAHO: SID SULLIVAN, SIDS@CABLEONE.NET

LOUISIANA: KAREN WOLFSHEIMER, WOLFSHEIMER@COX.NET (225)767-9615

MONTANA: RACHEL TOOR, RACHELTOOR@EARTHLINK.NET (406)728-9446

OHIO: MAGGIE HERLENSKY, MAGGIESZOO@DRAGON885.COM (740)947-2883

OREGON: ANNETTE PARSONS & JIM CLOVER, DEADEND@APBB.NET

TENNESSEE: JOANNE GRIMES, JFGHORSE@NETZERO.NET

UTAH: DAVE & DEBBIE WAGNER, DDWAGS@REDROCK.NET, (435)658-3035

VIRGINIA: LANI NEWCOMB, GIVE2BUTE@AOL.COM

WASHINGTON: DON BETTS, RIDEANDTIEDON@AOL.COM

SPOKANE: JANET DODD, JDOUTBACK@MSN.COM



Dawn Hartsock and Doyle Eggers honored the memory of Gavilan (Don Betts' horse) by giving the 13th place horse Ron G, a horse blanket with the inscription: Gavi Award/2005 Ride & Tie Championship/13th Place/ In Honor of a Very Special Horse"

# Secrets of the Big Dogs

by Rachel Toor

At the 35<sup>th</sup> World Championship Ride and Tie in Libby, Montana, I had a rare treat. Because I was partnering with Elaine Ruprecht, Jim Howard's wife, and using his retired 22 year old back up horse, Cimarron, I got to go out on a strategy session the day before the race with Jim and his new partner, Mark Richtman.

At that point, Jim had won seven championships; Mark six. They have competed against each other for years. Now, for the first time, they were pairing up. I was along for the ride and got to see what it would be like to run with the leaders. I figured I'd learn a bunch of valuable tips, which I either would or would not share with the rest of the Ride and Tie hoi polloi, depending on how personally valuable I found them in other words, if I thought I could gain a competitive advantage, I'd keep my big fat mouth shut.

After a short discussion of stirrup length, I trotted behind Jim as Mark rode out ahead, getting used to Sirocco (who had already won three Best Conditions). Jim is an irritatingly humble and reticent man. When I asked him if he thought there were

any teams that could challenge them in the race, he answered that you never know what's going to happen in a Ride and Tie; you can't count on anything. "Yeah, but" I said. Jim said he prefers to let the results speak for themselves.

When I asked Mark the same question he said that he'd rather come in second in a heated race than win without any real competition. This seemed like a ready and pat answer, the kind of statement that you are supposed to make because it makes you sound like a gracious good guy. The fact is, Mark is a gracious good guy. Not long after we returned from our little outing his wife Vicki when Mark was nowhere in sight said to me that Mark would rather come in second in a heated race than win without any real competition. I figure: if he said it to his wife, it must be true.

We were moving along at around a six and a half minute pace, an easy run for these guys, and I asked each of them how many times they had run past their horse. Notice: I did not ask if they'd ever run past their horse. When you've been doing the sport for as long as they have, I knew that

the chances of the answer being zero were, like, zero. Sure enough, each of the Big Dogs had run past his horse at least once. They were human. What a relief.

They didn't spend much time planning their first exchange though Jim wanted to show his horse the big scary yellow logging machines that were a little less than a mile from the start but they did plan out the end of their race: Where the last few ties would be; the contingencies based on who was riding. And they plotted out the very last tie: "We have to finish together," Jim said, quietly, with an irritatingly humble smile.

When we got back, Vicki had brought Mark some long white athletic socks, which he pulled all the way to his knees like a Catholic schoolgirl or a nerd and then secured with athletic tape. For a handsome guy, he looked like a total dork, I mean, pathetic. Jim's saddle was covered with a weird synthetic something that was jerry-rigged over a sheepskin fuzzy, to prevent chafing, he said. There would be no fashion awards for these guys.

**FROM OUR STATISTICIAN:**  
As of mid July, 204 people have participated in Ride & Ties this year. 110 were in sanctioned races of over 20 miles. 94 were in unsanctioned races less than 20 miles.

**OOPS! In the last issue of the R&T Newsletter, I offered free t-shirts to volunteers who worked three or more hours. Some of you volunteers got your free shirts, but I forgot to track down the others! If you volunteered three or more hours and didn't get a shirt, please call or email me with your size and color preference! Annie Betts (360)681-5218 Anniel2345@aol.com.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF**

<b>President:</b> Don Betts	RideAndTieDon@aol.com
<b>Vice President:</b> Rufus Schneider	(619)445-2060
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Lani Newcomb, DVM	Give2Bute@aol.com
Ted Ruprecht	jruprecht@reninet.com
Mary Tiscornia	MLT580@aol.com
Laurie Wilson	lauriemtam@earthlink.net

**BOARD MEMBERS EMERITUS**

Steve Shaw	SShaw@pacbell.net
Jim Steere, DVM	Steeres@comcast.net

**ASSOCIATION STAFF**

<b>Administrative Director:</b>	
Sharen McColl (619)445-4485	Sam2001@direcway.com
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Annie Betts	Annie12345@aol.com
<b>Publicity/Media:</b> Carol Ruprecht	cruprecht@rideandtie.org
<b>Statistician:</b> Steve Anderson	steve.anderson1@juno.com

## SADDLE FITTING CONTINUED

Adjustable Tree. Adjustable tree width and angle at the pommel level appeared as a breakthrough and a potential solution. However, experience shows that often going to a wider angle results in lowering the front of the saddle, which ends up tipping forward, or causes the saddle to set too low on the shoulder because the length of the gullet does not change. Using a narrow tree and/or a small angle results in lifting the front of the saddle, thus tipping the rider backwards. So ideally, only one gullet width and angle should be chosen for a particular horse.

After reviewing these three examples of approaches that yielded limited success in terms of saddle fitting needs, one may feel somewhat depressed about finding the right saddle for their horse and equine activity. It does not stop here:

Most saddles interfere with the front or the back of the horse, and sometimes with both. Parallel to that point, is the issue of where the weight of the rider is located on the back of the horse. Indeed, most English saddles, all-purpose saddles and dressage saddles, are sitting on the front part of the spine, starting around the ninth vertebrae, and back. The first issue with that saddle position is the interference with the scapula and shoulder movement. (Typically, the interference with the wither is well addressed). This is particularly impacting the performance of dressage and gaited horses, which need to have a free shoulder to excel. The endurance horse is no exception.

Secondly, if the horse is required to carry most of the rider's weight on the forehead, he will be out of balance and while trying to regain balance, will go faster and then the rider will constantly discipline the horse to gain control. The hind legs of the horse are well muscled and designed for flexion and weight carriage.

There is the sport of racing where the horse is encouraged to have top speed in a straight line. However, when agility is needed for quick stops, starts, jumping, quick rotations, carriage on the back haunches is desired. The best example of this is seeing in the ancient warhorses, trained and ridden for maximum maneuverability in combat, or in contemporary picador horses used in bull fighting. (Ann Hyland, *The Horse in the Ancient World*, 2003. Martin Dingle, *Masters of Equitation*, 2001. Klaus Ferdinand Hempling, *Dancing with Horse*, 2001)

For those reasons, we feel that no weight should be supported in front of the 12th or 13th vertebrae of horses, especially for long back horses, that have in essence a longer "bridge" span, and thus are more fragile, relatively speaking.

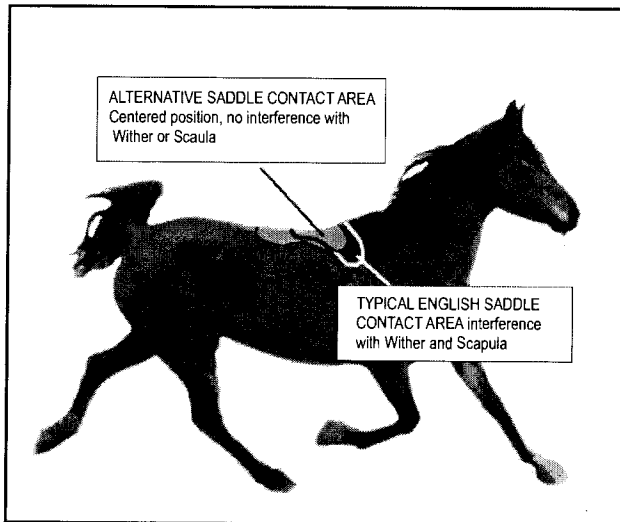
At the other end of the spectrum, and in fact the other end of the back, it is essential that the horses loin are left free of interference, especially when the horse is in motion. This last point is often overlooked, resulting in horses exhibiting back problems and refusing to pick up or maintain some

gaits. Freeing up the shoulder as well as the loins leaves a limited area in the middle of the back for saddle contact and weight distribution. It is thus very important to do that part right in terms of saddle design. For the horse owner, saddle fitting can be accomplished either by trying multiple off the shelf saddles of varying sizes and shapes, or preferably, by custom building a saddle for the horse or type of horse. Several techniques are now available to design a custom saddle or to verify the fit of an off-the-shelf saddle. (John Lyons, *The Perfect Horse*, March 2004, Vol. 9, No. 3)

We discussed the horizontal positioning of the saddle, but the vertical positioning (how far the rider's seat is away from the horses back) of the saddle and rider is also important to consider. The ideal position will bring the center of gravity of the rider as close as possible to that of the horse, maximizing balance and synergy. Again bareback would meet this objective best, but, as discussed, this technique does not distribute the weight correctly. So it is important that the materials used for the tree, padding, and seat of the saddle result in a thin rigid layer of the correct shape. For instance, panels that are used for saddle fitting, tend to raise the seat sometimes in a much-exaggerated fashion. Similarly, tree materials of lower strength can be very thick and again raise the overall position of the rider. In contrast, material such as carbon fiber, or even fiberglass, can be strong, yet very thin, on the order of a few millimeters. In addition, these materials can be shaped easily during manufacturing for a perfect custom fit, and are very light, a serious benefit.

These complex challenges have been met somehow by some old saddle designs, but failed our last criteria, meeting the horse and rider

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



# Hi-Tack

The Hi-Tech Custom Saddle Store

Hi-Tack offers complete custom saddles designed around key principles:

- **Unique Saddle Position** resulting in freer movement
- **Customized Horse and Rider Fit** providing comfort and closeness
- **Light Weight**, beginning at just 8 pounds, reducing fatigue
- **Premium Leathers** allowing intensive outdoor use
- **More Colors and Accessories** than any other saddle

You can get additional information by visiting Hi-Tack's webs at [www.hitack.com](http://www.hitack.com) or by calling Hi-Tack representatives at 208-338-9384. Be sure to mention Ride & Tie!



The Gaston-Mercier saddle is by far the most comfortable saddle I have ever ridden.  
-Julie Breuer

## Lessons Learned at the 2005 Championship

by Jessica Jacobs

1. Have a partner you can laugh with.
2. Camping with your partner is great for team building.
3. It's no fun feeling the need to compete if it's unpleasant.
4. Identification of types of trees by your partner can be fun.
5. Learn tricks (multiple uses) with your carabineer.
6. Never underestimate the power of your team (even if it was put together at the last minute).
7. New blood is needed in the sport to challenge the old Ride & Tiers.
8. Training before the race is necessary.
9. Be sure your horse is trained too!
10. Shorter ties!!!
11. A horse that ties up on Tuesday can still race on Saturday!
12. Be prepared for and enjoy the exciting unknown.
13. Take it easy during the first part of the race.
14. Practice your strategy before the race.
15. Use an experienced Ride and Tie horse.
16. Ride and Tie is such a mental sport... pay attention!
17. Hand tie near the start even if you have no pit crew--find someone.
18. Train in your tack, on your horse, well before the race.
19. Two average runners can still do great with good strategy and a decent horse.
20. Learn how to ride (at least a little) before trying a Ride and Tie (i.e. ball of foot in the stirrup, mount, dismount, etc.).
21. You will never know how many people are behind you and it doesn't matter.
22. Members of the Ride & Tie Association are wonderful.
23. Walk the course beforehand.
24. Team with a partner that will take care of your horse.
25. WWW.RIDEANDTIE.ORG is a great place to find a partner.

## IN THE NEWS by Carol Ruprecht

The sport of Ride & Tie has recently appeared in articles in the following venues, published since your previous R&T Newsletter. The sport has also been included in a number of Montana newspapers and Canadian venues for which we don't have specific details.

Redding Record Searchlight local coverage of the Whiskeytown Ride & Tie, April 10<sup>th</sup> paper.

Western Horseman (Competition Article) "Ride-and-Tie" by April Fingerlos June 2005

Horse Illustrated "The Amazing Horse and Human Race" by Sarah Christie July 2005

Flathead Living Magazine included a notice with photo in the Etcetera section and listed the event in their calendar, July/August 2005

Western Times "Ride and Tie Adventure!" by Kathleen McFarren July 2005

California Riding "Ride & Tie World Championship" July 2005 pre-race press announcement

The Equestrian News "Local Competitors Vie at Ride & Tie World Championship July 9" July/August 2005

### SADDLE FITTING CONTINUED

comfort, aesthetics, and ease of maintenance. Fortunately, we can now meet these criteria with the advancements in material development coupled with the refinement of traditional techniques.

A few examples of new materials are Sorbothane, Sympatex, and open cell foams. Sorbothane is a synthetic shock absorber. A thin layer on the order of 1/8th inch can be inserted in a pad or as a separate pad to reduce the concussions in the horse's joints. Sympatex is an aerated synthetic material that can be used for the pad in contact with the horse. This material is ventilated and helps extracting the heat and sweat away from the horse, thus helping the cooling process. It is also easy to wash and dries quickly. Finally, open cell foam technology for the saddle padding means that the padding does not compact or migrate over time. As a result the proper insulation between the rigid tree and the horse's back or the rider seat is always maintained, as opposed to wool flocking which, over time, compacts and migrates thus revealing pressure points on the back of the horse.

The amount of material that will be in contact with the horse's back should be considered. While the surface area should be large enough to distribute the weight of the rider adequately, it should also allow the horse's back to cool off. Too much material on the horse's back will not allow for good heat exchange.

### Fitting the rider

Riders vary greatly in attitude and perception. Some riders are willing to accept excruciating discomfort from a saddle as long as the horse is not affected. At the other end of the spectrum, some riders seem to only care about their comfort without consideration for the horse. Our view is that the educated and caring rider does not need to suffer and that all riders should realize that their performance and that of the horse would be enhanced if the saddle fits both the horse and rider. Indeed a poor saddle fit for the rider will cause unbalanced riding, poor positioning, early fatigue, use of reins for balance, and ultimately will translate to reduced performance of the horse, lack of control and responsiveness, and a higher chance of injury. The following discusses the variables to be considered when fitting a saddle to a rider.

**Seat size.** Very often, the seat size is described by one dimension: the length. While the length is one of the main criteria for rider fitting, it should be noted that the seat surface area, the twist, and the height of the cantle are also variables. For long distance riding, a large seat surface area is needed, as opposed to a jumping saddle on which the rider hardly ever sits. Increasing the surface area of the seat may affect the twist. It is important that the twist be sufficiently narrow so that it does not adversely affect the riders, especially those with a narrow pelvis. A lower cantle can help the rider to easily adjust a changing terrain

slope, or a higher cantle will offer more stability for the rider.

**Saddle flap length and knee roll location.** Because riders vary greatly in height and in leg length, it is important to also fit the rider limbs. Indeed, it can be uncomfortable, not to mention funny looking, to have the knees past the knee rolls, outside the saddle. Unfortunately, it is common for tall riders because the off the shelf saddles only accommodate the majority of human sizes and not the extremes. Similarly, if the knee rolls are far away from the knee of a shorter individual, the stabilizing function of the knee roll, and its role, as pivot will not be fulfilled. When choosing a saddle or ordering a custom saddle the flap size in terms of surface area and knee roll location should be carefully adjusted to the rider. It is also noteworthy that serious long distance trail saddle makers usually offer a back roll option. This should be considered if ridding in steep terrain is common. The back roll acts as a leg stopper when the horse is going uphill.

**Leathers type and length.** Similar to the flaps of a saddle, the leather type and length should be adapted to the rider's leg length and position. Strap leathers are common and inspired from English saddles. For long distance riding, they can cause discomfort over long periods of riding. As a result, many saddle and tack makers offer wider and more comfortable leathers. In that case, the length should match that of the rider's leg.

## DAWN AND DOYLE'S EXCELLENT HOT TUB

Dawn Hartsok

It all started about 10 years ago over a beer in the ride and tie camp. The two Don's (Don Betts and Dawn Hartsok) decided it sure would be nice to have a hot tub after a hard day of runnin' and ridin'. Over the next several years we came up with many flawed ideas like the kerosene heater (too stinky and always a kerosene scum on the water), the wood burning stove in a wooden tub (but how to get the big tub to camp not to mention a cord of wood), the inflatable (any heat source would pop it) and on and on. So finally this year Doyle Eggers and I came upon a new resource for a portable heater and decided this would be the year to make the invention a reality. Since Don and Annie were going to be the race directors they were going to REALLY need a soak or two!

So this is what we did: We went to the local feed store and bought a 110 gallon black plastic water trough (it easily fit in the back of the truck and was easily filled with other stuff for transport). Next we went to the [www.islandhottub.com](http://www.islandhottub.com) web site and ordered the Chofu portable propane hot tub heater. The web site has the instructions for connecting the heater to the water trough, and the fellow who runs the place is really helpful. The heater is then connected to a 5-gallon propane tank once you arrive at camp. We filled the trough with water, put in some bromine and the little yellow duck, then waited about 1 hour until the tub was 104 degrees (you need a thermometer and a stir stick because it can get really hot on the top and cold on the bottom unless you stir it before you get in). We then added two incredibly dedicated race directors (Don and Annie Betts). Voila! there you have it a portable hot tub in Ride and Tie Camp! And by the way we sure enjoyed it too!



Doyle Eggers and Dawn Hartsok enjoy a soak after their Championship Ride

Some saddle makers offer saddle designs with no flaps at all, and a fender now replaces the leathers. The fender can incorporate a front knee roll for ultimate comfort and stability. With this design, the back roll cannot be efficiently incorporated, so riders contemplating very steep terrain should consider a different design.

**Stirrup Type and Size.** Stirrups fit into two categories: open or closed (Tapadero style). The closed stirrup is in fact required in endurance rides sanctioned by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). One can assume that this requirement is aiming at increase safety, as the rider's foot cannot fall through the stirrup and branches cannot be stuck in the stirrup. The closed configuration also offers the advantage of a larger sole, which increase the surface area for the foot to rest on. This concept has been extended to open stirrup configurations too, by many manufacturers. In addition, foams have been added to the design for maximum comfort of the rider. The long distance or trail rider should seriously consider these features.

As mentioned before, a comfortable and a happy rider, will fatigue less and ultimately will preserve his mount by staying in the proper balanced position. In addition to proper physical fit of the saddle, other aspects of comfort include the materials of saddle construction, as they impact weight, ventilation, ease of maintenance, and not to mention the overall aesthetics. As mentioned earlier, synthetic materials have greatly contributed to reducing the weight of saddles, in particular fiberglass, or carbon fiber trees. Closed cell foams benefit the horse directly, but

also can positively affect the rider's comfort if used in the seat.

When it comes to the outside of the saddle, synthetic materials have made great strides but they do not equal the benefits of high quality leather. Indeed, leather is the only material to date that offers the breath-ability needed in long distance riding, especially if the saddle is used in combination with a breathable pad. The leather also offers some grip for the rider and helps the overall balance. In addition, leather stays cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter than any synthetic material. The recent advances in the tanning and treatment of leathers have translated in easy to clean and maintain all leather saddles. Riders should look for leather specifically treated for outdoor use, including water resistance and ultraviolet light protection treatment.

### Conclusion

When selecting a saddle and focusing on the proper fit of the rider and the mount, many considerations come into play. The challenge is to optimize all the variables to maximize performance and comfort, which are intimately linked, especially for the demanding sport of endurance. Such challenges can be achieved with a customized saddle for a given horse/rider team with the selection of top quality materials.

Gaston Mercier was European Endurance Champion in 1984 and 1986. He started developing his own saddles based on his experience as a rider, and with his knowledge of leather acquired in his family business.

## CONGRATULATIONS TEVIS FINISHERS!

Congratulations to all the TEVIS finishers July 23/24, 2005 and particularly those among the Ride & Tie family:

Jamie Fend  
Hal Hall  
Logos Hall  
Warren Hellman  
Jamie Kerr  
Cheryl Knoch  
Charlene Lewis  
Debby Lyon  
Michael Lynch  
Gabrielle Mann  
Melissa Ribley  
Robert Ribley  
Michele Roush  
Christoph Schork  
Cassandra Schuler  
Steve Shaw  
Pam Stalley  
Jim Steere  
Dennis Tracy

Of the top 10 at TEVIS this year, 6 are members of the Ride & Tie family. We're proud of you!

# 2005 RACE SCHEDULE

## AUGUST 6, 2005

**CHAMPAGNE FIREWORKS Ride & Tie**  
 Santa Cruz, CA  
 12 & 25 mile courses  
 Contact: Curt Riffle  
 469 Casita Way, Los Altos, CA 94022  
 (650) 949-2321    criffle@earthlink.net

## AUGUST 13, 2005

**SANTIAM CASCADE Ride & Tie**  
 Santiam Pass, OR  
 20 mile course  
 Contact: Anna Sampson  
 16501 S. Butte Creek Rd, Molalla, OR 97038  
 (503) 829-5321    flyingn@molalla.net

## AUGUST 20, 2005

**SWANTON PACIFIC Ride & Tie,**  
 Davenport, CA  
 75 & 100 courses  
 Contact: Ellen Rinde  
 318 Swanton Road, Davenport, CA 95017  
 (831) 423-6089    Ellenm@big-creek.com

## AUGUST 27 & 28, 2005

**ALL KIDDING ASIDE Ride & Tie**  
 Waverly, OH  
 10, 25 & 50 mile courses  
 Contact: Maggie Pritchard  
 1934 Buchanan Road, Waverly, Ohio 45690  
 (740) 947-2883    maggieszoo@dragonbbs.com

## SEPTEMBER 4, 2005

**NORTHWEST LABOR DAY Ride & Tie**  
 Mount Vernon, WA  
 25 mile course  
 Contact: Don Betts  
 146 Janssen Farm Road, Sequim, WA 98382  
 (360) 681-5218, RideAndTieDon@aol.com

## SEPTEMBER 10 & 11, 2005

**BIG SOUTH FORK Ride & Tie,**  
 Oneida, TN  
 10, 30 & 50 mile courses  
 Contact: Joanne Grimes  
 9013 Coburn Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922  
 (865) 693-4308, jfghorse@netzero.net

## OCTOBER 1, 2005

**MANZANITA Ride & Tie,**  
 Boulevard, CA  
 13 & 25 mile courses  
 Contact: Terry Wooley-Howe  
 505 N. Mollison #103, El Cajon, CA 92021  
 (619) 445-5443, cancer@inetworld.net

## OCTOBER 15, 2005

**FOOTHILLS OF THE CASCADE Ride & Tie**  
 Santiam Pass, OR  
 20 mile course  
 Contact: Anna Sampson or Mary Nunn  
 16501 S. Butte Creek Rd, Molalla, OR 97038  
 (503) 829-5321, flyingn@molalla.net

## OCTOBER 22-23, 2005

**FORT VALLEY Ride & Tie**  
 Fort Valley, VA  
 12, 25 & 50 mile courses each day  
 Contact: Jean Whitman  
 1788 Seven Fountains Road, Ft Valley, VA 22652  
 (703) 435-1911, runsallday@aol.com

## NOVEMBER 5, 2005

**HORSETHIEF CANYON Ride & Tie,**  
 Descanso, CA  
 11 & 22 mile courses  
 Contact: Rufus Schneider  
 P.O. Box 311, Descanso, CA 91916  
 (619) 445-2060

### NOTICE TO ALL RACE MANAGERS!!

**We are putting together a 2006 Ride & Tie Event Directory. Each manager will have a page to post a flyer for their event. If you are putting on a ride & tie next year, don't miss the opportunity to have your race in the 2006 Directory!! Contact Don or Annie Betts at RideAndTieDon@aol.com or 146 Janssen Farm Road Sequim, WA 98382 (360)681-5218**

## The Ride and Tie Association Membership Form

Print form and complete. Send form and payment to:  
 The Ride and Tie Association-987 Crows Nest Lane, El Cajon, CA 92019

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Check One)

Lifetime Member (\$500) No more annual membership fees. Eligible for special savings as offered.

New Family (\$40) Immediate family residing at one address. List all names to be included.

Competitor Member (\$50) Any competitor must be a current member to compete in sanctioned Ride & Tie events.

One Day Member (\$15)

Competitor Family (\$75) Immediate family residing at one address. List all names to be included.

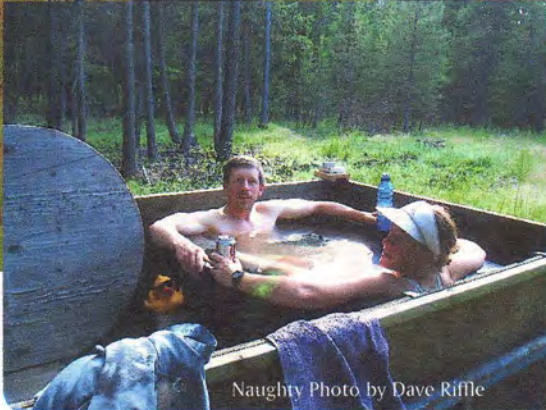
Supporter (\$100 or more) Same benefits as Competitor Member. Also available for special savings as offered.

New Member (\$25) Offered at a reduced rate for those checking out the sport. Equivalent to a Competitor Membership.

Friend of Ride & Tie (\$20) Not an actual competitor but would like to show their support for Ride & Tie.

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 sport of Ride & Tie. As a 501 (C)(#) non profit organization, these memberships contributions are tax deductible.

# Around Camp



# THE RIDE & TIE ASSOCIATION

987 Crows Nest Lane  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
(619)445-4485  
www.rideandtie.org

353 Current  
Russ Kiernan & Marilyn  
701 Miller Ave.  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

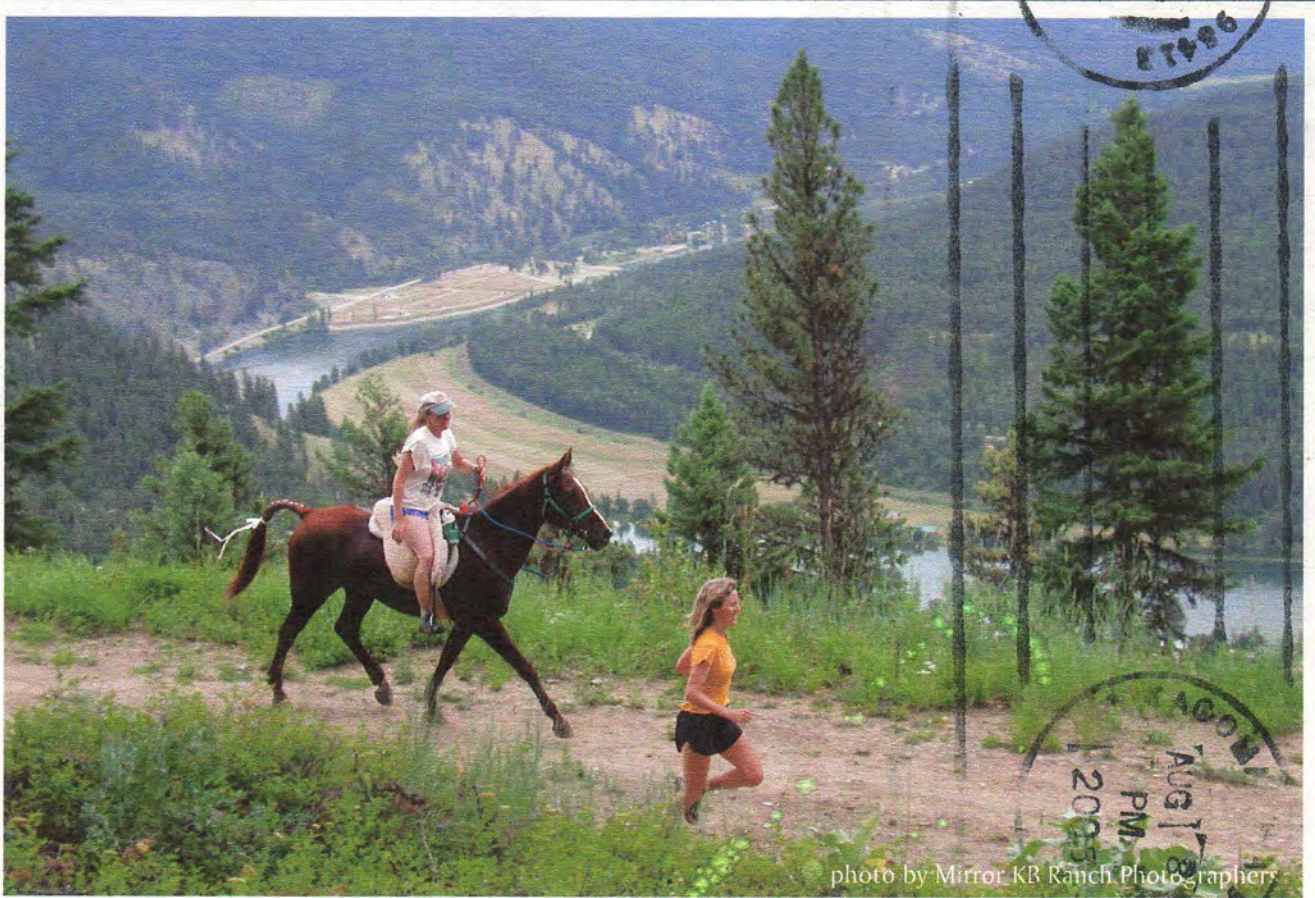


photo by Mirror KB Ranch Photographers

Elaine Ruprecht and Rachel Toor on the first loop overlooking the Kootenai River in Libby, Montana.