

RIDE & TIE



NEWSLETTER

October 2005

THE ASSOCIATION AND
ALL ITS MEMBERS SAY

THANK YOU CURT!

I introduced Curt's brother, Dave, to Ride & Tie when he read an ad in the San Jose Mercury News and called me to find out what it was all about. We teamed up for the Speed and Steed ride where Dave broke his foot. Curt, always competing with his older brother, must have thought it sounded like fun. Before long he was Ride & Tying along with the best.

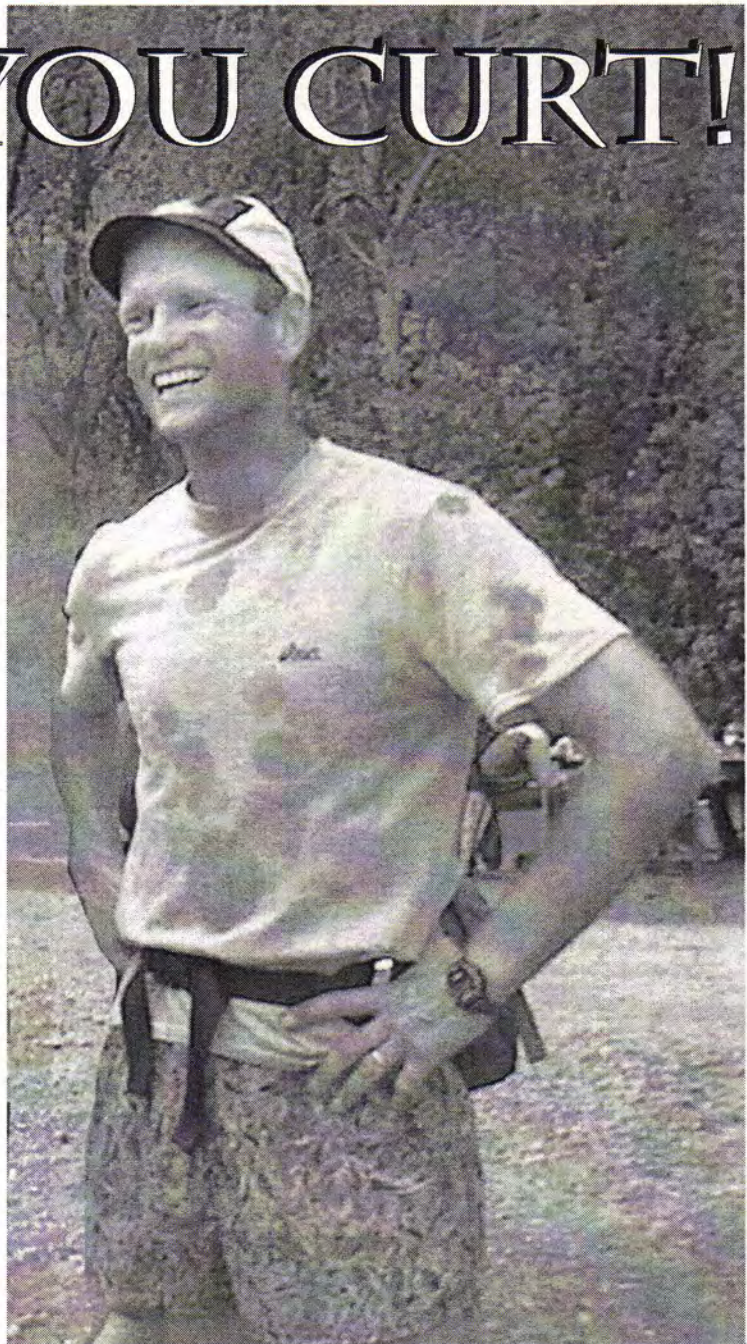
Curt began his Ride & Tie career in 1990. He has competed every year since he began. He has raced 2098 miles, ranking seventh overall in race miles. Curt has a 93% completion rate by completing 76 of the 82 races he has entered. He has completed all 14 of the Championships he has entered.

Curt is obviously a great supporter of the sport of Ride & Tie. He is a lifetime member, a mentor for the San Jose area, and has served as the president of the association for two terms. He has been the race director for many races. There is no way we can adequately show our appreciation for all the time and energy Curt has given to our sport.

Curt is shown here at the Cascade Challenge Ride & Tie in Washington state in 2003. Curt, teamed with his brother, Dave, on my horse, Gavilan, finished first. Curt, known as "Wrong Way Riffle" didn't get lost in this race. The team was so fast that they beat the time of the 25 mile endurance riders over the same course. Even with all that speed, rumor has it that one of the Riffle brothers was seen playing football during the race while he waited for his brother to catch up on the horse.

Now Curt says he's retiring from Ride & Tie. We hope it isn't true, but just in case it is, we want to make sure he knows how much we appreciate all he has done.

--"Uncle" Don Betts



THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you have all had a great Ride & Tie summer. If you have missed out there are still two Ride & Tie races in California, one in Oregon, and one in Virginia remaining on the schedule. It's not too late to get your fix. I'm sure those teams trying for high points will be there!

As I am writing this I do not have the results for the Big South Fork or Manzanita rides. Currently we have had 313 teams participate in Ride & Tie races this year. Last year we had 390 teams and in 2003 there were 298. We still have a chance to match last year's 390 teams. The more teams at our races and members in the Association, the easier it is for us to get sponsorship and donations, such as this year's Mercier Saddle from Hi-Tack. Thank you for being members and participating.

Each year there are 3 positions open on the Board of Directors. The seats on the board are for three years. If you are interested in being on the Board of Directors, submit your name to any member of the board and we will see that the information gets to the nominating committee. If you would like more information about the purpose and procedures of our organization you can find a copy of the Association By-laws at . All meetings of the board are held by telephone conference, except the one on the Thursday before the Championship.

The 2005 Championship will be in San Diego, but we are also working on the Championship race for 2006 and beyond. The sites that we are currently considering are Cuneo Creek, Novato, Santa Cruz, and Taylorsville. If you have suggestions, we would like to hear them. Also anyone interested in being a race director or being involved with the production of any of our Championships, please let us know. We will be glad to have your help and suggestions.

We are always interested in promoting our sport. We have had a booth at the AERC Convention for many years. In 2005 we added booths at the Pacific Northwest Endurance Ride convention in Portland, Oregon and the Horse Expo in Kalispel, Montana. We'll try to add the Western States Horse Expo in Sacramento next year. If anyone is interested in manning a Ride & Tie booth at any of these events contact me. If you know of other horse or running expositions/conventions in your area we would be interested in adding a booth. Steve and Linda Anderson have been operating our AERC booth for several years. Annie and I enjoyed both Kalispel and PNER. If you like talking about Ride & Tie and you want to contribute to the promotion of our sport, it's a fun way to do it. Let me know.

Annie and I have begun putting together a "2006 Ride & Tie Handbook" which will be sent out in January. It will include the membership list, flyers from all the sanctioned races, race results and other information. If you know of companies who offer products or services which would be of use to the Ride & Tie members and who would like to have an ad in our Handbook, let us know. With some ads we could make some of the pages in color!

We are already planning for our trip to San Diego in June of next year. We are looking forward to seeing you there. I have already heard that the Johns and Klopfers will be there. I guess we won't have a rodeo queen droppin' the hat next year.



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

1971 ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Jim Larimer/Hal Hall 2ND PLACE: John Holden/Bill Posedel 3RD PLACE: Don DuPont/Chuck Stalley 1ST M/W: Michael Hill/Pat Keiffer 1ST W/W: Susan Mosher/Karen Redd B.C.: Unknown	1976 NORTH STAR AT TAHOE, CA 1ST PLACE: Alexander/Chuck Stalley 2ND PLACE: Don Roth/Ken Williams 3RD PLACE: Jim Casper/Dick Fonseca 1ST M/W: Martha & Peter Klopfert 1ST W/W: D. Damas/Mary Tiscornia B.C.: Courier's Attache	1981 DOG VALLEY, NEVADA 1ST PLACE: Jim Howard/Dave Poston 2ND PLACE: Joe Cannon/Barrie Grant 3RD PLACE: J. Garnett/Jim Larimer 1ST M/W: Chris Mellick/Jon Root 1ST W/W: Val LeBel/Peggy Smythe B.C.: Rushcreek If	1986 BIG CREEK/DAVENPORT, CA 1ST PLACE: Mike Porter/Ken Williams 2ND PLACE: Robyn Root/Jon Root 3RD PLACE: C. Turney/J. Windeshausen 1ST M/W: Robyn Root/Jon Root 1ST W/W: Val LeBel/Peggy Smythe B.C.: Ma Roon
1972 ALTURAS, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: B Alexander/Chuck Stalley 2ND PLACE: Cary Brooks/Ken Williams 3RD PLACE: John Holden/Bill Posedel 1ST M/W: Greg Rice/Michelle Gebro 1ST W/W: D. Damas/Mary Tiscornia B.C.: Peanuts	1977 OLEMA, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Tom Laris/Ken Williams 2ND PLACE: Mark Driscoll/Don Roth 3RD PLACE: J. Garnett/Jim Larimer 1ST M/W: Jim Hurley/Carrie Walteres 1ST W/W: Dawn Damas/M. Tiscornia B.C.: Flying C Kenya	1982 NEW ALMADEN, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Con & Tod Wadsworth 2ND PLACE: B Alexander/Chuck Stalley 3RD PLACE: Bob Gilligan/Gary Polhill 1ST M/W: Robyn Dubach/Jon Root 1ST W/W: Val LeBel/Peggy Smythe B.C.: Nitiko Saracen	1987 BIG CREEK/DAVENPORT, CA 1ST PLACE: D. Andreotti/Chris Turney 2ND PLACE: Dan Barzer/Steve Shaw 3RD PLACE: Jack Garnett/Jim Howard 1ST M/W: R. Eichstaedt/C. Patterson 1ST W/W: G. Anderson/Sally Edwards B.C.: Buas
1973 ANGELS CAMP, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: B. Alexander/Chuck Stalley 2ND PLACE: G. Ainsleigh/Jim Larimer 3RD PLACE: Ray Batz/Bill Posedel 1ST M/W: Judy Selzer/Cory Soltau 1ST W/W: Dawn Damas/M. Tiscornia B.C.: Fad Heir	1978 BIG CREEK/DAVENPORT, CA 1ST PLACE: Jack Garnett/J. Larimer 2ND PLACE: J. Remillard/W. Schaeffer 3RD PLACE: R. Kiernan/Sherode Powers 1ST M/W: Marty Jensen/Al Jensen 1ST W/W: Joan Ulyot/Joyce Taylor B.C.: Nitko Saracen	1983 EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Con & Tod Wadsworth 2ND PLACE: Jim Howard/Jim Larimer 3RD PLACE: Alexander/Chuck Stalley 1ST M/W: Robyn Dubach/Jon Root 1ST W/W: Holly Beattie/S. Edwards B.C.: Havnik and Novaloj	1988 ALTURAS, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Jim Howard/Chris Turney 2ND PLACE: Tom Johnson/Chuck Stalley 3RD PLACE: Dan Barzer/Steve Shaw 1ST M/W: Dana Polhill/Gary Polhill 1ST W/W: M. Burroughs/S. Edwards B.C.: Zar
1974 KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON 1ST PLACE: Gordon Ainsleigh/J. Larimer 2ND PLACE: Ron Kelly/Glen Jobe 3RD PLACE: Cowman Shirk/K. Williams 1ST M/W: Cheryl & Doug Madsen 1ST W/W: D. Damas/Mary Tiscornia B.C.: Grey	1979 SUN RIVER, OREGON 1ST PLACE: Jack Garnett/J. Larimer 2ND PLACE: Bob Gilligan/Ben Martinez 3RD PLACE: B Alexander/Chuck Stalley 1ST M/W: Chris Mellick/Jon Root 1ST W/W: Merrill Cray/Terry Jensen B.C.: Hipoka	1984 PARK CITY, UTAH 1ST PLACE: Con & Tod Wadsworth 2ND PLACE: Howard Ingle/Ron Nehring 3RD PLACE: Parker Davies/ Phil Wagner 1ST M/W: Robyn root/Jon Root 1ST W/W: Beverly Gray/Debra Pack B.C.: Stormy	1989 FRAZIER PARK, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: W. Hinrichs/M. Richtman 2ND PLACE: Con & Tod Wadsworth 3RD PLACE: Dan Barzer/Steve Shaw 1ST M/W: Deborah & David Wagner 1ST W/W: Kathy Appleby/Dana Polhill B.C.: Mogli
1975 PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Don Roth/Ken Williams 2ND PLACE: Ron Kelly/Glen Jobe 3RD PLACE: B. Belasco/Dick Fonseca 1ST M/W: Martha & Peter Klopfert 1ST W/W: Dawn Damas/M. Tiscornia B.C.: Grey	1980 BIG BEAR LAKE, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Joe Cannon/Barrie Grant 2ND PLACE: Jack Garnett/J. Larimer 3RD PLACE: Bill Clark/Mark Driscoll 1ST M/W: Chris Mellick/Jon Root 1ST W/W: Sally Edwards/Mo Sproul B.C.: Royal Paradise	1985 FORESTHILL, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Jim Howard/Jim Larimer 2ND PLACE: R. Kiernan/S. Powers 3RD PLACE: C. Turney/J Windeshausen 1ST M/W: Deborah & David Wagner 1ST W/W: Val LeBel/Peggy Smythe B.C.: Stormy	1990 TRINIDAD, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Dan Barzer/Gary Polhill 2ND PLACE: Con & Tod Wadsworth 3RD PLACE: M. Richtman/K Schaurer 1ST M/W: Deborah & David Wagner 1ST W/W: Marcia Smith/M. Tiscornia B.C.: Scooter

CHAMPIONS

1991 TAYLORSVILLE, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Hawthorne/Tom Johnson 2ND PLACE: Gary Polhill/Jon Root 3RD PLACE: Jim Howard/Chris Turney 1ST M/W: Gary & Kathy Cerazioli 1ST W/W: Kath Appleby/Dana Polhill B.C.: Harry 1ST CENTURY: Russ Kiernan/S. Powers	1995 SUN VALLEY, IDAHO 1ST PLACE: T. Johnson/Mark Richtman 2ND PLACE: Con & Tod Wadsworth 3RD PLACE: Dan Barzer/Jim Howard 1ST M/W: Michelle Roush/Joh Root 1ST W/W: Cindy Mann/M. Tiscornia B.C.: Eli 1ST CENTURY: Unknown	1999 KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON 1ST PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 2ND PLACE: Garrett Ford/Scott Devlin 3RD PLACE: Tom Christofk/C. Schork 1ST M/W: Tom Gey/Elaine Ruprecht 1ST W/W: M. Tiscornia/L. Riebeling B.C.: SE Blue Max 1ST CENTURY: Unknown	2003 EUER VALLEY, TRUCKEE, CA 1ST PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 2ND PLACE: S. Lightfoot/M. Richtman 3RD PLACE: Brent & Paul Johnson 1ST M/W: Rachel Toor/Mike Whelan 1ST W/W: Laurie Wilson/Alina Vale B.C.: Magic Sirocco 1ST CENTURY: Kiernan/Osterweis
1992 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Jim Howard/Chris Turney 2ND PLACE: Gary Polhill/Jon Root 3RD PLACE: D. Andreotti/Russ Kiernan 1ST M/W: J. Herten/Lauren Jefferson 1ST W/W: Kathy Appleby/D. Polhill B.C.: Country Cousin 1ST CENTURY: D. Andreotti/R. Kiernan	1996 DAVENPORT, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Tom Johnson/M. Richtman 2ND PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 3RD PLACE: Kathy Appleby/Dan Barzer 1ST M/W: Kathy Appleby/Dan Barzer 1ST W/W: S. Andreotti/Alison Millhollin B.C.: Joe Wee 1ST CENTURY: Unknown	2000 BIG CREEK, DAVENPORT CA. 1ST PLACE: T. Johnson/Skip Lightfoot 2ND PLACE: C. Turney/Rick Anderson 3RD PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 1ST M/W: Elaine Ruprecht/Tom Gey 1ST W/W: L. Riebling/Becky Widler B.C.: Don 1ST CENTURY: Unknown	2004 FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 2ND PLACE: Brandi Page/Laurie Wilson 3RD PLACE: Jim Brown/Russ Kiernan 1ST M/W: M. Tiscornia/Sid Sullivan 1ST W/W: Brandi Page/Laurie Wilson B.C.: Yaquar Adonai 1ST CENTURY: Jim Brown/Russ Kiernan
1993 ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Tom Johnson/M. Richtman 2ND PLACE: Dan Barzer/Jim Howard 3RD PLACE: Greg Brown/Chris Knoch 1ST M/W: Aileen Johnson/S. Shaw 1ST W/W: Deborah & Wendy Wagner B.C.: Eli 1ST CENTURY: Dave Andreotti/R. Kiernan	1997 FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: B. Purcell/M. Richtman 2ND PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 3RD PLACE: C. Turney/Con Wadsworth 1ST M/W: M. Andreotti/John Root 1ST W/W: K. Appleby/L. Riebeling B.C.: Eli 1ST CENTURY: Clearwaters/Jim Arquilla	2001 EUER VALLEY, TRUCKEE, CA 1ST PLACE: C. Turney/William Emerson 2ND PLACE: S. Lightfoot/Tom Johnson 3RD PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 1ST M/W: Elaine Ruprecht/Tom Gey 1ST W/W: B. Spencer/Laurie Wilson B.C.: Magic Sirocco 1ST CENTURY: M. Richtman/J. Osterweis	2005 LIBBY, MONTANA 1ST PLACE: Jim Howard/Mark Richtman 2ND PLACE: Sid Sullivan/Mary Tiscornia 3rd PLACE: Jonnie Alber/Thom Steere 1ST M/W: Sid Sullivan/ Mary Tiscornia 1st W/W: Elaine Ruprecht/Rachel Toor BEST CONDITIONED: Magic Sirocco 1ST CENTURY: Jim Howard/Mark Richtman
1994 TAYLORSVILLE, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: M. Richtman/Deb. Wagner 2ND PLACE: Gary Polhill/C. Wadsworth 3RD PLACE: Cathy & Gary Cerazioli 1ST M/W: Gary Polhill/C. Wadsworth 1ST W/W: K. Appleby/Dana Polhill B.C.: Eli 1ST CENTURY: D. Andreotti/ Russ Kiernan	1998 DONNER SUMMIT, CALIFORNIA 1ST PLACE: Con & Tod Wadsworth 2ND PLACE: M. Richtman/Tom Johnson 3RD PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 1ST M/W: Becky Widler/Dutch Widler 1ST W/W: D. Wagner/M. Wadsworth B.C.: Pogo 1ST CENTURY: Unknown	2002 EUER VALLEY, TRUCKEE, CA 1ST PLACE: Con & Tod Wadsworth 2ND PLACE: Jim Howard/Dennis Rinde 3RD PLACE: T. Johnson/J. Reynolds 1ST M/W: M. Tiscornia/Sid Sullivan 1ST W/W: J. Spearin/C. Ravencroft B.C.: Fire 1ST CENTURY: J. Osterweis/M. Richtman	<h2>2006 SAN DIEGO!!</h2>



Competitors at the Champagne Fireworks Pro-Am Ride & Tie Start in Santa Cruz on August 11, 2005

Photo by Shmuel Thaler--Santa Cruz Sentinel

BEES, PANTYHOSE AND RIDE & TIE

By Julie Jag

Reprinted with the author's permission from the August 11, 2005 Santa Cruz Sentinel

Two macho-looking guys dressed in baggy shorts, tank tops and tattoos were pushing their cruiser bikes up a dirt trail through Henry Cowell State Park. Yet, as our paths crossed, I was the one getting the funny looks.

"You've got your helmet, but it looks like you lost your bike," one said. Indeed, I was not only walking down the trail with a bicycle helmet on my head, but my cutoff jeans shorts were pulled over a pair of taupe panty hose.

"Nope, I lost my horse," I replied. Immediately they stopped, their eyes growing as wide as saucers.

"We just saw two guys on horses going that way," they said, pointing down the trail. "And they were going fast."

They then turned down the trail as though they might come to my rescue, maybe chase down the bandits on their bikes. Before they could get started, though, I waved them off.

"That's OK," I said. "I'll catch them."

At least that's how I had been told the crazy sport of ride and tie works. I wouldn't find out how it really worked until last Saturday, when I braved the Champagne Fireworks Pro-Am Ride and Tie in Santa Cruz.

First, though, came the practice. George Hall, my partner, and Steve Shaw, who graciously loaned us the use of his horse Cougar's Clown for the race,

brought me to Henry Cowell a few days early to show me what a ride and tie race is like.

Theoretically, Hall and I would play a game of leap-frog along the trail. While I walked (I should have been running, but a hamstring injury and a sister who's an athletic trainer vetoed that option), he'd ride Clown a ways, then leave her tied to a tree and take off running. When I found Clown, I'd untie Clown and ride after him. Upon catching him, I'd hand over the reins and get to stepping while he rode on ahead to start the process all over again.

That was the theory. As far as I knew, Hall and Shaw might grow tired of our practice and take off on the horses, leaving me stranded in the middle of the park to spend the evening wandering around in search of a horse.

Thankfully, not half a mile down the trail from where I left the bikers, Clown stood tied to a tree. I untied her as quickly as I could and set off down the trail at a trot. Shaw had waited for me not far up the trail, which was good since I didn't know where I was going. He'd hung back to make sure I found the horse and my way back to the trailer. He also shared some ride and tie secrets born of decades on the trail.

Wearing panty hose under my shorts was one of them. The slickness of the hose keep saddle bums at bay while still allowing participants to wear shorts, which helps in the running and river crossings. It makes sense. Still, it was strange to hear a man in his 50s talk about trying to find nude-colored stockings without the control top but with the reinforced toe (for the

record, Hall and Shaw agree that L'eggs hold up the best).

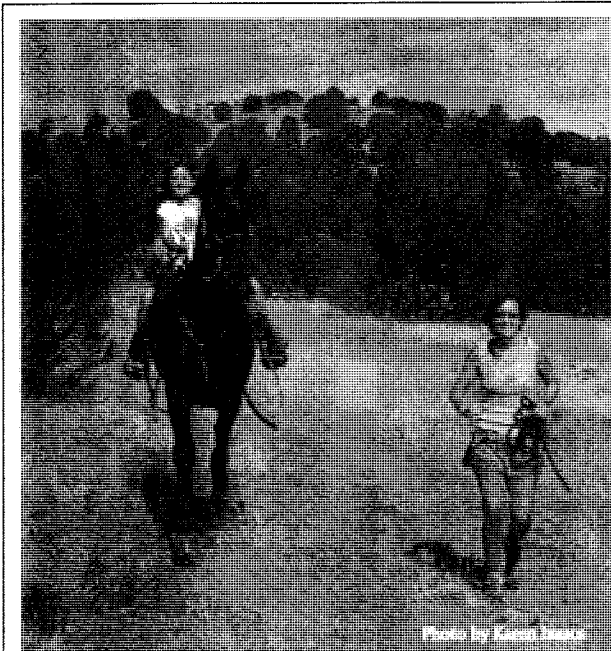
Hints like these reinforced my notion that if I did nothing else right during this ride and tie fiasco, at least I picked good partners.

Hall, a Santa Cruz veterinarian, tried ride and tie for the first time in 1980 and has competed in all but one world championship since. He knows a thing or two about being forced to walk the course, having competed soon after getting both hips replaced. But, he has recovered and has begun training for the Western States 100 endurance run, which means he has plenty of stamina. Shaw, whose race savvy equaled Hall's, was only along to lend a horse and good advice for the practice run. An Aptos resident, he would go with someone else on race day.

Ah, race day.

It might have been the fog in my brain from getting up early, the soothing effects of working around horses or some kind of confidence from the practice run. Whatever it was, I felt surprisingly calm come race time. We lined up at the border of the Graham Hill Show Grounds and the forest. After a countdown, the horses and runners took off, leaving me, literally, in the dust.

If this were a running race, I would have chastised myself for being so far behind. But it wasn't, and I'd already braced myself for coming in last. So when Hall and I were sixth, not last, midway through the race, I was pretty shocked.



Adeline Brinkley on Kate with Mom, Beth Brinkley at Fort Stanton

Although too few took advantage of the opportunity, all the participants in the Fort Stanton Ride & Ties had a fabulous time and are very appreciative of Roger Taylor who hosted FIVE days of Ride & Tie during the week of July 10-16. This week spent on BLM land in south central New Mexico was packed full with endurance events, fun times, great company, good food, wonderful horses, beautiful weather, lovely scenery and very enjoyable trails. Roger and Sue Taylor, along with their great volunteers and vets are experienced at hosting a top quality multi-day endurance ride. This year, in an attempt to bring more Ride & Ties to the southwest, Beth Brinkley convinced them to add several days of R&T to their two 3-day pioneer endurance rides. Roger masterfully laid out the trail loops to configure a unique 55-mile and 35-mile distance each day, with vet checks either in base camp or at one out-of-camp location. The 35-mile limited distance trail doubled as the R&T course, held on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday on different trails each day. The first loop was generally the longest, so Roger chose an accessible road crossing to add a second vet check for the Ride & Ties. There were several additional spots where crews could be met.

Base Camp is at ~6500 feet in rolling hills with dry grass and scattered small trees and beautiful views of surrounding mountains (Capitan 10,000 feet and Sierra Blanca 12,000 feet). The town of Capitan (pop. 1486) with stores and restaurants is only 5 miles away on a paved road. The camp has plenty of space, several water hydrants and a

meal every night of the ride. The trails consist primarily of permanently marked single-track and two-track paths through the canyons, ridges and rangeland of the Fort Stanton BLM property. The trails are ideal for Ride & Tie with ever-changing terrain, footing and views, and plenty of trees to tie to. Though no natural water is available on trail, the existing **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

Yet, when those horses and runners passed us not long after my realization, I couldn't have cared less. I was having a blast. The sport magically combined the running (or walking in my case) and riding so that as soon as I grew just a little bored of one, it was time to do the other. Plus, it wound through some of Santa Cruz's most scenic parks, including Pogonip, parts of the UC Santa Cruz campus and Wilder Ranch State Park.

Our crew added to my enjoyment. It was a ragtag group of loyal friends and family willing to sit in the sun all day just to pamper Clown, Hall and me (mostly Clown) for the couple of minutes we spent at the two vet checks (thanks guys).

Hall also made things easy for me by running 90 percent of the hills and crossing the San Lorenzo River twice.

Of course, as soon as I started thinking nothing could take the smile off my face, something did. A bee stung the inside of my ear, then decided to camp out there while I freaked out on the trail (walking, thankfully). Eventually the bee met his end and I trudged on, feeling valiant for continuing my pursuit despite the throbbing pain in my ear. That feeling stuck with me to the end, when I learned pretty much everyone on the course had gotten stung.

Hall, Clown and I crossed the finish line together four hours after we'd begun. We were stung, dusty, blistered and our pantyhose had runs, but we'd made it.

And it turns out we weren't last overall. Another team didn't finish at all.

Apparently, the riders lost their horse.

GOLD COUNTRY RIDE & TIE

by Nick Warhol

Editor's Note: Nick Warhol has been competing in AERC events since 1991. He has completed 117 races for a total of 6,395 miles including 3 completions at Western States. His Ride & Tie partner, Gary Fend, has been competing in AERC events since 1995. Gary has completed 62 races for a total of 3,175 miles including 3 completions at Western states.

I've always suspected that Ride and Tie people were absolutely nuts, and as of Saturday, July 9th, 2005, at 1:09 pm, in beautiful Georgetown, California, my suspicions have been undeniably confirmed. I've seen these people at some endurance rides, running along on the trail, huffing and puffing, but always moving down the trail. I've seen horses tied to trees on the trail, some standing quietly, while some are tearing the tree down and dragging it down the trail while they run away. Why would people choose to do this insanity, when they could be riding a nice horse instead?

Because it's actually fun! Yes, I did a ride and tie. A twenty mile ride and tie, to boot. My new horse, Don, is on his routine for a ride every 4 weeks, and the Gold Country Endurance Ride fell right smack at the two week point in Don's schedule. I was thinking about finding another horse to ride, since the GC is a fabulous ride, when my buddy Gary Fend made an off hand comment about how we should try the ride and tie. We could use his horse, Canadian Annie, the Mack truck of half Arabians. After all, Gary was a real veteran of Ride and Tie competition, having done all of

one event prior to this one. What the heck? Why not? How tough could it be? I do a lot of footwork and running in regular rides with my horse, I used to be an aerobic beast on my road bicycle, and I actually had been doing a lot of running with Don lately. Sounds like fun!

The GC Endurance ride was huge this year-there were almost 140 horses in total, and the ride management dealt with something like 50 people on the waiting list. I was impressed at the really positive attitude and overall camaraderie of the ride and tie group. They were all so jazzed and excited about the event! When they found out it was my first time, they were all over me with helpful hints, offers to crew, suggestions, and were truly excited we were giving it a try.

The event seemed like any other endurance ride I have ever been to, until Saturday morning. I got to sleep in while my wife, Judy, and the other endurance riders prepared and left on the 50 at 6am. I got to sleep in until 8 am! We attended a little riders' meeting where Gary and I scoped out the competition. We were a little out of our element- some of these guys looked like marathoners. There were only 12 teams in total- 6 on the 20 mile and 6 on the 10 mile. They have neat teams in the sport- they have man/woman teams, woman/woman teams, and Gary and I were a man/man team. The other team concept I liked was the "Century in the Saddle" team. Oh yeah, we win this one, hands down! **CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

SANTIAM-CASCADE: OUR FIRST RIDE & TIE

By Jenay Brewer

Not only was Ride and Tie an exhilarating experience physically, but a real heart warming experience for both of us. Kathie and I were 9 and 10 years old when we first witnessed Kathie's father, Doug Muck, in Reno competing in the National Ride and Tie 24 years ago. That is where the dream began for us and at that point we always made it a goal to one day ride it together as well. This was our year!

This was really a dream coming to pass for us. In the midst of fulfilling it Kathie has been struggling with some serious medical issues right up to the hours before leaving for the race. Kathie met with her last doctor at 1:30 pm and we left town at 4:00pm on Friday for the race

We were nervous not knowing what to expect for the first time. Everyone was very kind, helpful, and encouraging. The scenery was magnificent along with being very challenged



Novices Kathie Brown and Jenay Brewer win the Santiam-Cascade Ride & Tie on August 13th.

on the course. What a feeling when crossing that finish line! Then also to see our families standing there in support of us. Kathie's father and mother were both there as well. That made it extra special being it started with Kathie's father all those years ago.

After the race, we loaded up, went home knowing Kathie was checking in to the hospital to endure serious surgery on Monday morning. We believe that God gave us the blessing of this opportunity to fulfill a dream at this particular time to encourage and uplift us. God always knows what we need in time of need. Kathie was not only a winner at the race but also a winner on Monday morning, for her surgery went well.

We will look forward to many more successful Ride and Tie's in our future.

FORT STANTON RIDE CONTINUED

cattle tanks and troughs and sponging buckets provided by ride management gave ample water for the horses.

The first day of the ride began at 6:30 AM with about 50 horses heading out on the endurance ride under a controlled start. The two R&T teams left about 15 minutes later. The team of Beth Brinkley (Willcox AZ), Karen Isaacs (Elizabethton TN) and Karen's Anglo-Arab Jeb has completed numerous R&Ts together. In contrast, all three members of the other team were first timers - Carrie Miracle (Corona AZ), Rose Rice (Tucson AZ), and Carrie's Arabian JA Hai Obsession. Morning temperatures in the low 50's and no humidity made for great running conditions. The first couple of miles climbed to a high open ridge with gorgeous views of the mountains in the rising sun. The trail here was rocky and the runners made better time than many of the horses. Still, there was plenty of room for everybody along the trail, and we received much encouragement from the riders. Having no hold at the vet check, we beat all except the front-running LD riders to the finish back in camp. Our time for the 35 miles was a little over 5 hours. Carrie and Rose were taking their time and finished in about 8 hours, with all three looking very fresh and happy.

Tuesday's ride saw only Beth Brinkley and Karen Isaacs go out again, riding the Brinkley's 16-hand (ugh) Walking Horse Kate on her first R&T. Today we started at 6 AM and were through the first vet check before the front of the pack

caught us. The earlier start time worked better for the vet check management logistics, and meant that we were finished before the day got really hot. We were both delighted to discover that like the multi-day endurance horses, we felt even better on our second time out. Kate proved to be as good at R&T as she is at endurance and got us around in just over 5 hours again.

Wednesday was a day off for the endurance ride, but Roger had two "leisure" activities planned - an 8-mile R&T fun course in the morning, and a guided tour of the Fort Stanton Cave in the afternoon. Only two of the nine fun R&T participants had experience and the event featured many of the interesting things that can **CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**

A LETTER TO THE 2005 CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITORS

Dear Don and Annie,

Thank you so much for accommodating Linda and I and letting us have the opportunity of joining a real Ride and Tie! A Championship at that. Breaking us in gently on an awesome trail (we heard some real scary stories about some of your ride and tie trails). We enjoyed our first time experience totally and the learning curve was really there. Vet checks - I think we have an idea now what to do - more crew. Faster running would probably help too but I think we'll just work on the crew bit for now. Your event was smooth. Everything was so well organized, your trails and flagging and water were exceptional - no way of getting lost or going the wrong way. The vet checks were quick and thorough. The camp set up was really great from dumpsters to porta potties to water to great food, everything was there. Also, that the horses had lots of grass pasture and area to move around made our guy, Kittasha, quite content.

We can't believe how much pull you two must have to order up the perfect weather - cool for the event - hot and sunny for the beer after (it didn't really rain for the awards, just a misting). The fact that there were no horseflies or mosquitoes shows just how much pull.

We really admire the loyalty and determination of all those competitors who have been doing this competition for so many years. Every year for 25 to 35 years is incredible. What a great motivator to stay in shape with your horse.

We have to give lots of credit to Carol Ruprecht for contacting Endurance Riders of Alberta and catching our interest in the first place. Carol was a real motivator and mentor, reassuring us that we wouldn't die doing this competition and to just have fun with it. We did!! Carol also came through with two partners for our junior competitor, Rae-Anne Wadey, who came along on spec. Thanks to Tom Gey and his horse, Majafar, for taking on Rae-Anne and giving her such a great experience.

Thanks again Don and Annie and all the other ride and tiers out there, for the wonderful experience!

Jane Depner, Linda Riley and Kittasha

FORT STANTON CONTINUED

go wrong during a race. Two mother-daughter teams started, with the speedy Johnsons (Prescott AZ) jumping out to an early lead. That is, until Cheryl missed a ribbon and arrived at the checkpoint from the wrong direction. Julianne on the horse went back to get her mother on track and they eventually regained their rhythm, but lost more time waiting for the horse's pulse recovery from the excitement and extra galloping. Meanwhile, the slower but steadier team of Texans, Anna Diggs and Brigitte Caperton had pulled ahead. That is, until their horse decided he could get back to camp a whole lot faster without all the stopping and tying business. After dumping his rider at high speed into a cedar bush, he indeed beat everybody else back to camp. Missing all the excitement, but arriving with big smiles some time after the Johnsons, was the second place team of Beth Brinkley, Kate and 7-year old Adeline Brinkley.

Determined to do all 5 days, Beth recruited convincingly at the ride meeting and found a partner in Ross Carrie (Huntsville TX) for Thursday's 35-miler. A good rider and runner, Ross enjoyed his first R&T so much that he plans to try to put some events together in conjunction with central region AERC rides. Beth and Ross rode Kate who finished her third R&T in as many days, again taking a little over 5 hours. Still going strong, Beth recruited yet another enthusiastic newbie in 22-year old Erin Lusk of Las Cruces NM for the final R&T event on Saturday. Arriving with the plan to volunteer at the ride, Erin loves to ride and run and was thrilled to learn there was a sport where she could do both. She had to go to town to buy running gear, but also did a fantastic job and had a great time (of course!). Beth and Erin teamed with Jubilee, Beth's Saddlebred mare doing her second R&T.

The location and format of this ride is ideal. You can try different combinations of partners and horses and can do so many fun things in one week - R&T, endurance and sightseeing. Hopefully managing the R&T did not add too much burden for the Taylors and they will consider doing it again next year. If so, do come to support the ride and have a great time experiencing the beautiful New Mexico back country.

GOLD COUNTRY CONTINUED

Gary and I combined are well over a hundred years old, but I'll never admit by how much!

The strangest thing I felt initially was walking from the truck to the start, wearing my riding gear and helmet, without a horse! I kept looking back like I forgot him! Gary hopped up on the massive bay, Annie, and we headed to the start. Gary started on the horse, since he's done a Ride & Tie before. I have heard that the start at these events can be pretty berserk, but with only 6 teams at once, it was quite tame. The ride starts, and the riders take off down the road on the horses, while the six runners (myself included) take off running. Gary trots off, but the first couple of horses are running! And so are the runners! Look at these guys! Cripes- I'm in last already, and it's been five hundred feet! Oh well, our goal is to survive and make it to the finish. I'm running along on a nice downhill, but I can still see two runners ahead of me. After only about a mile, there's the first horse I see tied- it's Annie! (Impossible to miss, since she's so huge) I run up to her, untie her from the tree branch, and notice Gary about fifty yards ahead, jogging up a hill. I hop on, and after remembering I'm riding a fifty-five gallon oil drum, (she's that wide), I start trotting- our first rider switch was a success! However, not everyone's was. A few moments later I can see a woman taking the horse from her partner. The horse isn't standing still, and wants to go after the other horses. (Sound familiar?) She gets a foot in the stirrups, tries to swing up, but the horse is leaving, and she's not up. Uh oh, not good. She's on the side of the horse, and he's trotting. She falls off, but is hanging on and being dragged! He's cantering now, and I'm watching this- it was like in the old westerns when the cowboy falls off and just gets hauled away by the horse across the plains. She FINALLY lets go and is rolling along in the dirt, getting totally scuffed in the process. OUCH! That had to hurt. I stop, but she's up and heading down the road. Gary turns around and catches the running horse and returns it to her, where she gets up and takes off. Wow! She never even lost a place. Tough rider! I trot on by Gary, thankful he and I are wearing our helmets.

Now it's my turn to pick a spot to tie- how far should I go? The road is hard, but wide and rolling, so I trot along and see a tied horse. Good! They tie, I tie. I hopped off and tied her to a tree and took off running down the trail, leaving her behind. Weird feeling number two! Very weird. I stopped and took a look back- she's standing there like a statue. Good horse! I ran down the road and made a right hand turn onto a pretty single track trail that was slightly downhill. Hey, this is neat! I blast along down the trail running kind of fast, and even passed a runner. Western States 100, here I come! (Oh yeah, right. Let's see if it feels this good in a few hours!) I ran for quite a while, since we discovered that being endurance riders, we normally don't trot fast down hills. That meant I was going faster down the hills on foot than Gary was on the horse! I

MYSTERY PHOTO!



**We know who this team is. Do you?
Any guess what year it was taken?**

doubted that this would be a 20 mile downhill trail, and guess what, I was right. The trail turned up, and as a result, my pace slowed. I was jogging up, though, and not walking, but Gary quickly caught me. We tried a rider pass off where he just stopped and gave me the horse. I took off, leaving him running behind me. It was very strange to get up on the horse and start trotting, and be completely out of breath. Here I am, trotting along, huffing and puffing. The horse must think I am nuts! But it works! After a couple of minutes I felt fine, and was enjoying trotting along on the big mare. Yikes! I better not forget to stop and leave the horse- poor Gary would be in for quite a stint if I rode off for 30 minutes!

We continued on for a few miles, and actually looked like we knew what we were doing. We made many rider exchanges, and rode along with two other teams, mixing it up with the runners. I was on foot when we got to the water stop at 5 miles, and after grabbing a bottle of water, I just kept going. Weird again! I was getting a good workout heading up a pretty good hill, but after a few minutes, here comes big Annie to the rescue. I could tell it was her by her very distinctive "clomping." Gary goes by, but stops to tie under a tree a hundred yards ahead. Off he goes, I get to the horse and get stung twice by yellow jackets as I hop on. Great. I hate those guys. We passed the horse back and forth between us a few times until we came to the downhill section, where I ended up running all the way down, maybe 15 minutes, since I was going as fast as the horse. Somehow the crafty Gary planned the exchanges so that I had to cross the river on foot, getting my shoes soaked in the process. Now I'm in a squish and tie. Once across the water, I started up the long climb up to the vet check. It was about a mile and a half, but on foot it seemed like three. We had to walk up the steep grade, each of us taking a couple of turns on Annie. Boy, that's a nice relief to see the horse in front of **CONTINUED PAGE 8**



Martha and Peter Klopfer 1955

Congratulations!

Congratulations to two of our favorite Ride & Tie teams who have celebrated their 50th! Wedding anniversaries this year.

The Klopfers have completed 13 Ride & Tie Championships, starting in 1975. In 1975 and 76 they were the top man/woman teams at the Championship. In 1979 they were the winners of the first British Ride & Tie. For years they celebrated their anniversary at the Levi's Ride & Tie, and they have promised to return next year to compete again. The Klopfers live in Durham, North Carolina.

Ted and Joan Ruprecht began their Ride & Tie career as partners in 1980 at Big Bear. Together they have competed in 15 championships together. We hope to see them partnering up again for the Championship in San Diego. Joan and Ted live near Trinidad, California with their five horses, four dogs, and three cats.



Joan and Ted Ruprecht 1955

GOLD COUNTRY CONTINUED

you. My lungs were going pretty hard when we finally reached the top- the slight uphill road to the airport seemed like a downhill after that steep climb. A quick change and we were at the vet check. Here's where it gets really strange. No hold! Once the horse is at pulse criteria, and passes the vet exam, off you go. But there is some strategy involved, and as Ride and Tie Pro Dennis Tracy had coached us, we did it like the Pros. We all arrived at the same time, so the smart thing to do is immediately send the strongest runner off on the trail again, right away, while the other rider takes the horse through the vet check. Once clear of the vet, the rider with the horse takes off in pursuit of the runner. Great Plan, except for a couple of factors. We hit the vet check; I grabbed a huge drink and just turned around and took off back down the trail. The pulse criteria was 60- pretty low for a R&T I guess. It took Gary about 15 minutes to get Annie down and through the vet check; he wanted her to have a little time to eat as well. And what of me? I'm running! Down, down, all the way back down the steep climb we had just come up. This trail was really steep, so Gary would be going down very slowly on the horse. I hit the streams at the bottom and sploosh across once more, supercharging my shoes with water again. It's been about 15 minutes I'm on foot now. I head down the road along the stream at a decent trot; it's very pretty and shaded down here. I'm running, but I'm tired. Another 10 minutes and I clear the bottom of the canyon and start the climb back up. Where is Gary? I'm walking up the steeper hills, jogging the less steep, and trying to go a little faster on the flats and downhill's. He has our water on the horse, and I'm thirsty. Run, Run, Run. More uphill's. Walk, Walk, Walk. It's been 30 minutes now. I'm still moving

forward, but I'm ready to hear the giant clomp of Annie's hoofs behind me. No clomping. Still uphill. I begin to wonder what would happen if Annie had been pulled at the vet check? How would I know? At the finish, I guess. How far am I going to go? I decided that if I made it to the water stop before Gary caught me, I'd just lie down and die for a while until he showed up, or I'd get a ride back in a truck. Another five miles by myself? In the open sun on those uphill roads? I don't think so!

I went for a long time before I finally heard those wonderful hoofs come up behind me. It knew it was Gary, since we were the last of the 20 mile R&T teams on the trail, and there were no 50 mile endurance leaders on us yet. Gary thought I must have gotten lost, since it was taking him so long to catch me, due to the vet check, that slow downhill, and my unbelievable speed on foot! (Right!) I was pretty tired and gladly got up on Annie and let my partner hoof it. We trotted off up the hill- much better! Now's my chance to go all the way to the finish- Nah, I couldn't do that to poor Gary. We went back to our standard trading scheme of something like a half mile each, with enough time to let Annie get a rest while tied. Not too much further we got back to the water stop where I had the guy just douse me with water. It was hot! Five miles to go! Neither Gary nor I had a lot of motivation left, but we kept going, walking the uphill's and jogging the rest. At one time Gary came across Annie standing in the middle of the road with the tree I had tied her to attached to the end of her lead rope. Oops! Bad choice of trees to tie to! We took turns trudging up the hills in the direct sun, each waiting for that wonderful horse to come up from behind. Some of the endurance riders coming the other way on their second loop

would offer me water. I must have looked pretty tired! We finally reached the little cutoff trail that did a little loop of a mile or so. I was still running, but slowly, and only on level and downhill. I realized at this point that my "forward" was leaving me. My gait was okay, but my impulsion was a C at best. I walked up the last hill and made it back to the main road- a mile to go. We traded about 4 times in that last mile, since neither of us had any real desire to be on foot much. At long last we arrived at the little hill that led right to the finish on top. Gary was on the horse, I was walking along beside them up the hill. We could see the finish in a couple hundred yards, when here comes my wife, Judy, riding with Lucy Trumbul Chapman and Merri Melde. They were heading out on their second loop. We figured they would cheer us on, and help celebrate, but all we got was "What? How come you aren't running?" Groan! I was done, as was Gary. Annie was by far perkier than both of us combined. We actually ran across the finish line, and then stopped. Done. Finished. Completed. Thank goodness.

Wow. What a workout. Annie got very good scores at the post ride check- she did great. The runners? I was happy to sit down. Had it been 5 miles more it would have been a little iffy, although we probably could have walked it. We did end up second in our class, (out of 2) and 6th overall (out of 6). I was pleased to hear we only finished a little over an hour slower than the winner, though. That really helped, although I'm not sure why it really mattered. We made it to the finish.

What did I learn? I realized that this sport is not what I thought it was. It's a running event where you use a horse a little to help you →

RACE RESULTS

FORT STANTON RIDE & TIE

JULY 12-16, 2005 FORT STANTON, NEW MEXICO

July 10:

Beth Brinkley/Karen Isaacs on General Jeb Stuart
Carrie Miracle/Rose Rice on JA Hai Obsession

July 12: Beth Brinkley/Karen Isaacs on Kate

July 13: Short Course Ride & Tie

Cheryl Johnson/Julianne Johnson
Beth Brinkley/Adeline Brinkley on Kate
Brigitte Caperton/Anna Diggs

July 14: Beth Brinkley/Ross Carrie on Kate

July 16: Beth Brinkley/Erin Lusk on Jubilee

CHAMPAGNE FIREWORKS PRO-AM RIDE & TIE AUGUST 6, 2005 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

25 Mile Ride & Tie

Rufus Schneider/Laurie Wilson on Basia	2:53
Dennis Rinde/Ellen Rinde on General Geranium	BC 3:06
Doyle Eggers/Brandi Page on Turtle	3:15
Warren Hellman/Jeff Townsend on Lakota Mare	3:24
Kurt Miller/Don Strong on Zheke	3:59
Cheryl Dominitch/Dawn Hartsock on Tess	4:02
George Hall/Julie Jag on Clown	4:19
Gino Pomillia/Erik Stenson on Cutchin	DNF

15 Mile Short Course

Dave Posten/Jeff Windehausen on Shakila Sunrise	2:24
Cord Flora/Nichole Tintle on Sue Ellen	2:55
Hope Lewis/Steve Shaw on Tony	DNF
Peggy Smyth/Susan Smyth on Joe Pechi	DNF

SANTIAM CASCADE RIDE & TIE AUGUST 13, 2005 SANTIAM PASS, OREGON

20 Mile Ride & Tie

Jenay Brewer/Kathie Brown on Dillon	3:30
Don Betts/Tim Rublin on Cinder	3:42
Mark Kiel/Martina Kiel on Little Horse	3:47

SWANTON PACIFIC 75 MILE RIDE & TIE AUGUST 20, 2005 DAVENPORT, CALIFORNIA

George Hall/Steve Shaw on Tallymark	15:50
Dennis Rinde/Ellen Rinde on General Geranium	DNF

ALL KIDDING ASIDE RIDE & TIE AUGUST 27-28, 2005 WAVERLY OHIO

10 Mile Short Course	
Janet Eickholt/Emily Eickholt on unknown horse	1:39
Mindee Arnett/April Russo on unknown horse	1:52
Nancy Orth/Jennifer Wells on unknown horse	3:26

NORTHWEST LABOR DAY RIDE & TIE SEPTEMBER 4, 2005 MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON

20 Mile	
Don Betts/Lisa Preston on Cinder	3:20
Helene Thomas/Denise Markwood on Zephyr	5:30



Novice Competitors, Helene Thomas and Denise Markwood- on their cremello quarter horse, Zephyr as they finish the ride at the Pacific Northwest Labor Day ride at Mount Vernon, Washington

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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Vice President: Rufus Schneider	(619)445-2060
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Ted Ruprecht	jruprecht@reninet.com
Mary Tiscornia	MLT580@aol.com
Laurie Wilson	lauriemtam@earthlink.net

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Jim Steere, DVM	Steeres@comcast.net

ASSOCIATION STAFF

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

out, as opposed to a horse event where you do a little running. Being a good runner is everything. Considering neither Gary nor I did any training, I figure we did pretty well. And now that it's over, it was fun. Will I do it again? I won't be turning in my AERC card any time soon, but given the right event, and maybe a few miles shorter, who knows. The best summation of how Gary and I felt at the end was when the winner of the 50 caught us with a half mile to go. We got off the trail, (glad to stop for a moment), as she came swooping by. She said:

"Wow, you Ride and Tie guys really are amazing, you are Supermen!" Gary's reply was classic- he smiled, and said, "Thanks, but at the moment I don't feel very super." I could not have expressed it any better. But two hours, and some much needed food and drink later, we were feeling pretty darn good.



EDITORIAL THREAT/THANKS

What does this cute little girl have to do with Ride & Tie? Nothing!! She's our granddaughter! You'll see a lot more photos of her if you don't keep those articles and photos coming in! THANK YOU TO ALL THE WRITERS WHO CONTRIBUTE!!!!



Annie Betts,
Editor and Presidential Sweet

RACE SCHEDULE

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 CASCADES
Molalla, 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,
Fort 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

ATTENTION RACE DIRECTORS

In January we will be sending out a Ride & Tie Handbook for 2006. Along with the membership list, there will be a page for each of the races planned and sanctioned for 2006. The deadline to have your race information in the handbook is November 1st. Your flyer should include: Name of race, date, length of race, vet (if known) Race director's phone number, address and email address, cost of entry (including membership costs for non-members), directions to the race site and anything else you'd like to put on the page such as trail description or a logo or picture.

Send your flyer to Don and Annie Betts, 146 Janssen Farm Road, Sequim, WA 98382, or send it in email to me at Annie12345@aol.com. If you have questions email or call us at (360) 681-5218.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

THE RIDE AND TIE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO THE ASSOCIATION: CARA ACHTERBERG, KEN AND BETH ALKIRE, JEROME BEAUCHAMP, JERRY AND LORI BOOTS, JOAN BRENNAN, GESA BRINKS, THE BRYANT FAAMILY, THE CALAWAY FAMILY, JIM CALKINS, BECKY CONVERY, SCOTT AND NANCY CREEL, PRUE CRITCHLEY, RICHARD CROSS, M.D., DAWN CROWLEY, ELIZABETH DAVIS-WALLACE, JANET DODD, TRISHA DOWLING, CORD

FLORA, TRINA FREDERICKSON, NAOMI HASLAN, KAREN HIL, JESSICA JACOBS, JULIE JAGODZINSKE, DALY JOHNSON, SADIE JULIN, BEVERLY KANE, JIM AND KAYLA KING, HOPE LEWIS, ROB LYDON, DVM, KATIE MAYBERRY, ROBERT MCMANNAMY, SUSAN MEYER, MIKE MOFFAT, GLEN MORGAN, JAY AND GAIL MUNRO, KATHY PAYNE, LIZ PERKIN, CINDY AND MARK PILLIOD, STEVE AND MOLLY REBSCHER, MICHELLE RICHARDSON, TIM RUBIN, MYRRH SAGY, SYBIL SOULBY, MICHELLE SUDAN, ROGER TAYLOR, ELAYNE TINGEY, NICHOLE TINTLE, GLEN AND MICHELLE WHEELER, AND DEBORAH YARBOROUGH! WELCOME AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE RACES!



COMPETING MENTORS

So far during 2005 fifteen of our 23 mentors have participated in Ride & Tie races. Ten competed in the Championship and of them three finished in the top ten! Mentors competing in the Championship were: Sid Sullivan (2nd place), Rachel Toor (4th place) Rufus Schneider (5th Place) Dawn Hartsock (12th), Annette Parsons/Jim Clover (14th), Janet Dodd (18th), Carol Ruprecht (22nd), Lisa Preston (24th), Karen Wolfsheimer (30th) and Tom Gey in the Short Course. Other races in which our mentors made a good showing were: (in order that I noticed their names on the Race Results) Rufus Schneider 1st place Pioneertown, Curt Riffle at Whiskeytown (2nd place) and Quicksilver (2nd Place) and Gold Country (1st place), Karen Deaver at Whiskeytown Short course (2nd place), Carol Ruprecht/Tom Gey 3rd place Whiskeytown Short Course, Dawn Hartsock/Lisa Preston (3rd Place) Grizzly Mountain, Michele Jay Russell Quicksilver Eleven Mile (2nd Place), Kirsten Seyforth (3rd place) Whiskeytown, Carol Ruprecht/Tom Gey (3rd place) Whiskeytown Eleven Mile, Michelle Jay Russell at Quicksilver Eleven Mile (2nd Place), and Cheryl Dominitch/Dawn Hartsock at Quicksilver (7th place). CONGRATULATIONS to them all! We're lucky to have such experienced mentors!

THREE NEW MENTORS!

Steve Anderson from San Jose, California, Janet Dodd from eastern Washington and Lisa Preston from western Washington will now be available to advise, assist and cheer on, anyone interested in trying out our sport. Thanks!

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, fleabit007@yahoo.com (976)752-2201

San Diego: Rufus Schneider, (619)445-2060

San Jose: Steve Anderson, steve.anderson1@juno.com (408) 249-2780

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@dragonbbs.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:

Western Washington: Lisa Preston, lfp Preston@hotmail.com

Eastern Washington: Janet Dodd, jdoutback@msn.com

Editor's Comment: I goofed! Some how I managed to leave off the last two paragraphs of Rachel's article in the last issue. So here it is again. Complete this time!

THE SECRET OF THE BIG DOGS

At the 35th 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.

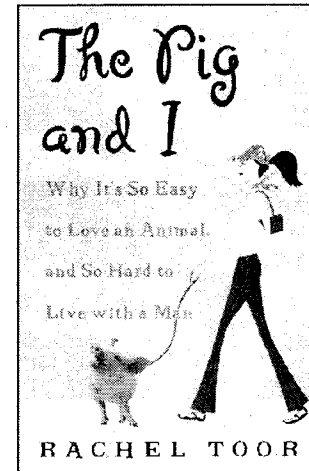
When we got back, Vicki had brought Mark some long white athletic socks, which he pulled all the way to his knees like a Catholic schoolgirl or a nerd and then secured with athletic tape. For a handsome guy, he looked like a total dork, I mean, pathetic. Jim's saddle was covered with a weird synthetic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

After the race, when the two fifty-year old men had easily cruised to victory and a total of 15 championship wins between them, I

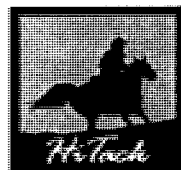
thought about the biggest, more profound thing I'd learned going out on the trail with them. I'm willing to share it here.

The Big Dogs do everything pretty much exactly the same as the rest of us. The secret: they just do it better.

by Rachel Toor

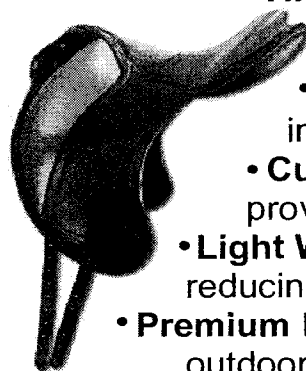


Rachel Toor is the Montana Ride & Tie Mentor. Her most recent book is THE PIG AND I: Why It Is So Easy To Love An Animal And So Hard To Live With A Man.



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