

RIDE & TIE



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

**Father/Daughter Team
Howard and Howard
Stroll to 1st Place
for their 3rd Championship WIN!**



The rest of the story...



Jim Howard and Sara Howard win 1st Place at the
41st Annual World Ride & Tie Championship
at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, CA

Sara's mom, Elaine Ruprecht, and Elaine's brother-in-law, Thomas Gey wrapped up 2nd place!

Photos: Annie Betts

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The nice thing about teamwork is that you always have others on your side."

--Margaret Carty

The 41st Annual Ride & Tie World Championship now has its place in the history books thanks to a whole lot of people who worked together to make it happen. Ride & tie is all about teamwork, on and off the race course.

I was disappointed in the low turnout, of course. But I am not going to dwell on that. Sequoya Ward pulled together a phenomenal event, and those of you who missed it really missed out! Practically her entire family showed up to support all of us. If you have not had a chance to thank Sequoya yet, please do.

Sequoya's boyfriend, Sean, also worked hard to keep everything running smoothly, and managed the vet check on race day. Lots of volunteers marked and unmarked the course. Chris Amaral gave really good advice, and sold a lot of raffle tickets. Rufus Schneider got the awards, even though they just did not quite make it to the actual event this year. (Fear not, everyone will still get their awards! Sometimes \$%^!# just happens.) Annette created the course maps and the Participants Guides. Dr. Greg Fellers assembled the veterinary team. Dennis Miller got our shirts, the 2010 awards, bumper stickers and all the other great ride & tie logo gear, and still took photos at the finish line. Dennis also stepped in and dropped the hat to start the race since Bud was not able to join us this year. Annie Betts got the finish line all organized and also took pictures. Sue Smyth brought in a couple new sponsors. Steve Anderson kept the entries and race results updated on his laptop so we were ready to go. Carol Ruprecht wrote and distributed the post-race press release. Barrie Grant funded the Pro Am cash award. My husband Robert helped wherever he was needed, and he worked hard to keep me from flying off the handle, and was nice to me even when I did fly off the handle!

It is risky to thank all you folks publicly because I know full well that as soon as I send this to Annette I'll think of more people. So, if you were not listed and should be, I apologize. But let me know anyway!

Congratulations to Jim and Sara on their third World Champion title, and also to Rufus Schneider and Beth Love for their first Woman/Woman team, and Dave and Curt Riffle for first Man/Man team and to team Grant/Gominiak and their BC horse, Ron G. For all of you who came out and enjoyed this course, well done. This was a beautiful, but tough, course. And a gigantic "Hoorah" to Don Betts and Thomas Gey for joining the 2,000-mile club upon completing this championship. They now belong to a very elite group indeed!

It is not too late to start planning for your 2012 Championship. It will be held July 21st at Bandit Springs in the Ochoco National Forest in Oregon, just 30 minutes or so outside of Prineville. Jannelle Wilde will be the race director. Thank you in advance, Jannelle, for taking this on! Those doing the Bandit Springs race on July 9th will get to see what next year's course might be like.

I want to welcome Sherrie Reimers to our board of directors. Sherrie lives in McQueeney, Texas. It will be great to have her perspective on the board and maybe bring some attention to ride & tie in the southwest. Welcome also to our new junior editor, Darlene Julian of Auburn, CA. Check out her introductory article on page 10.

Thanks to everyone who came out and raced, or otherwise participated in this year's championship. Ride & Tie is a great family! But remember that the race season is only half over -- there are still a lot of great races coming up so get out and do it! I hope to see you on the trails.

Go Ride & Tie!

--Melanie



Left: Melanie on L.P. at the 2011 World Ride & Tie Championship.
Photo: Barry Thorpe

Right: *Editor's Note:* Congratulations to our Pres! She graduated from California State University at Long Beach with an M.S. in Gerontology, and was appointed to the Graduate Dean's List of Artists and Scholars! (That Gerontology degree will come in handy as we old Ride & Tiers continue to get even older!) Photo: Robert Hancock



Championship Race Results

Championship Course - 35 mi

<u>Place</u>	<u>Partner 1</u>	<u>Partner 2</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Time</u>
1	Jim Howard	Sara Howard	Magic Scirocco	4:56:00
2	Elaine Ruprecht	Thomas Gey	Findefar	5:08:00
3	Rufus Schneider	Beth Love	Temperence	5:38:00
4	Dave Riffle	Curt Riffle	Jabell	5:46:00
5	Barrie Grant	Aubyn Gominiak	Ron G	5:48:00
6	Gunilla Pratt	Michael Whelan	Stryde	5:59:00
7	Sequoya Ward	Chris Amaral	C Breeze	6:09:00
8	Berit Meyer	David De La Rosa	Tezona Moon	6:10:00
9	Jim Clover	Melissa Queen	Kiger Desert's Golden Rose	6:14:00
10	Annette Parsons	Charles Conrow	Spirit	6:25:00
11	Melanie Weir	Richard Noer	L.P.	6:26:00
12	Jim Brown	Russ Kiemann	Rushcreek Thor	6:28:00
13	Byron Grant	Billie-Jo Grant	Fast Eddie	6:31:00
14	Carol Wadey	Rae-Anne Wadey	Gypsy	6:32:00
15	Carol Ruprecht	Kirsten Seyferth	Hat Trick	6:36:00
16	Alyssa Stalley	Karen Camilli	Irish Maggic	6:40:00
17	Lew Hollander	Doug Madsen	Najiam	7:32:00
18	Susan Smyth	Emily Gragg	Joe Peshi	7:34:00
19	Carol Stewart	Iris Ward	Olympian	7:37:00
20	Pat Browning	Dennis Rinde	Spitfire	8:05:00
21	Leslie Yates	Gordon Wright	SC Kayla	8:10:00
22	Don Betts	George Hall	Cinder	9:05:00
	Steven Anderson	John Hall	Pip	DNF
	Victoria Ordway	Michelle Spinosa	Mojito	DNF
	John Osterweis	Sean Pont	IronWyll	DNF
	Mary Tiscornia	Mark Richtman	Win	DNF

Short Course - 22 mi

<u>Place</u>	<u>Partner 1</u>	<u>Partner 2</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Time</u>
1	Jec Ballou	Siobhan Saunders	Courage	2:54:00



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VETERINARIAN'S CORNER

Reflections on the 41st Championship

by Dr. Greg Fellers, D.V.M.

Beautiful setting, nice weather all week, a new (and challenging) course, old friends and new friends.

These are some of the things that quickly come to mind when ruminating about our just completed 41st Ride & Tie Championship at Humboldt Redwoods State Park. I also must start by thanking Sequoya Ward for all her work and planning as Race Director. Her attention to all the details required to support our task as veterinarians for the event was most reassuring.

I also want to say a word of appreciation to my colleagues, Drs. Jay Mero and Dick Root. They both came long distances to be a part of our team. In addition, Jay brought her ambulatory rig and all supplies necessary to be our treatment vet. They both have served on veterinary teams for numerous championships now, and I appreciate their knowledge and experience as well our ability to function together as a team. I'm hoping that we can call upon their expertise to share with us in future Newsletters as well as future ride & ties.

The number of teams that turned out for this year's Championship was lower than in the past several years. The price of gas and the EHV-1 scare did not help us, I'm sure. Speaking of which, I was most impressed with everyone's full support of the State-recommended biosecurity precautions we put in place for the week. All the paper work and temperature logs were completed without a hitch. This outbreak was almost completely halted in its tracks in California because of the rapid spread of good information on the Internet and horse owners' willingness to remain cautious during the critical incubation time.

We had 27 teams start this year, between the 2 distances. We had 4 DNF's 3 for lameness and 1 metabolic. After a week of cool mornings and light breezes, Saturday started muggier with little air movement. As a result, we had horses sweating more to cool, which leads to the obvious result of dehydration challenges. We had a half-dozen horses whose less than ideal hydration scores (capillary refill, jugular refill, and skin tenting) were accompanied by diminished gut sounds. We made notes on the vet cards to monitor closely on succeeding vet checks.

When dehydration becomes more profound, then blood volume shrinks and supply of oxygen and nutrients to all parts of the body and removal of metabolic wastes is compromised. The heart has to beat more rapidly to overcome the deficit. We had one metabolic pull that experienced failure to recover the required heart rate, along with absence of gut sounds and other signs of dehydration. We recommended immediate treatment with IV fluids, and fortunately the owner readily agreed. This horse subsequently became colicky, required pain relief and the removal of gastric reflux via stomach tube. The horse responded very nicely to Dr. Meo's treatment. Had this horse not received IV fluids in this timely manner, I believe it would have progressed into a full-blown ileus (complete loss of gastro-intestinal function) that could have required hospitalization.

I look back to two years ago when we had a similar issue at the first vet check at the same location, although the signs involved abnormal impulsion as well as high heart rate and poor gut sounds. We watched that horse over several hours, both at the vet check and back in camp. It waffled back and forth between eating and not, alert and depressed, and a fluctuating heart rate. It eventually became a full-blown colic that required twice the volume of IV fluids, taking well into the night before it finally started showing consistent signs of improvement. We were lucky to escape hospitalization on that horse.

The bottom line: early and timely treatment can save a more costly hospital stay and maybe even a horse's life.

As part of my role as Head Veterinarian for the Championship each year, I am available all year to answer questions about competing in our sport, as well as more general questions about exercise physiology and horse health. We have set up an email address through the Ride and Tie Association (gfellers@rideandtie.org) to help encourage better communication. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

See you in central Oregon in 2012.



Dr. Greg Fellers is all smiles at the finish line as teams finish in great shape. Photo: Dennis Miller.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BUD JOHNS!



Although unable to be at the Championship with us in person, Bud Johns, the Father of Ride & Tie, was definitely with us in spirit all weekend. Ramone's Bakery and Café of Eureka prepared this delicious and beautiful cake to help us celebrate Bud's 82nd birthday coming up this month! Happy Birthday, Bud! We love you! Photo: Annette Parsons



Congratulations to the 2011 Ride & Tie Championship Completion Pin Recipients!

Ride & Tie pins are given out to members to recognize completion of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 championships. This year's championship marked some Ride & Tie Championship completion milestones for the following individuals:

- 30 Years - Russ Kiernan
- 25 Years - Lew Hollander
- 20 Years - Elaine Ruprecht
- 15 Years - Jim Brown, Annette Parsons
- 10 Years - Carol Ruprecht
- 5 Years - Melissa Queen

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Thank You!!

Putting on a Ride & Tie Championship is a whole lot of work. Thanks to all who helped!

Race Director: Sequoya Ward
The Guru of all State Park questions: Ranger Emily Peterson
Camp Hosts: Andy and Sharon Anderson
Veterinarians: Greg Fellers, DVM; Jay Mero, DVM; Dick Root, DVM
Registration: Annie and Don Betts
Awards Coordinator: Rufus Schneider
Media Coordinator: Carol Ruprecht
Participant Guide and Course Maps: Annette Parsons
Statistics: Steve Anderson
Awards Dinner: Berit Meyer and Brian Ferguson of Ramone's
Photography: Barry Thorpe
T-Shirts: Dennis Anderson and Featherhorse Designs
Radio Patrol: Don and Marcie Campbell and their crew
Hay: Nilsen Feed
Volunteer lunches: Yvonne Ward
Water Truck: Steven Ward
Trail Crew: Sequoya & Iris Ward, Julie Moreland, Sean Masters, Chris Amaral, Lisa Tine
Vet Check Manager: Sean Masters
P&R crew: Paul Roach, Julie Moreland, Donna Biteman, Carol Wooster, Chuck Stalley
Vet Check In/Out Timers: Tom Cooper and Nannette Nickerson
Crew Bags and Hay Hauler: Garret Gunderson
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And everyone else who helped out before, during, or after race day, including, among others: Redwood Empire Endurance Riders for lending us the water tank; Ramones Bakery for donating Bud's birthday cake; Nilsens for supplying the hay at our vet checks; Ted Ruprecht for help laying out the course, and loaning me his horse for the race; Julie Moreland for loaning her horses out to help mark trail; Annette for making the maps and holding my hand the whole way through this experience; Melanie for being so on top of everything, I'm pretty sure she's even doing R&T stuff in her sleep; Sean Masters who is my right hand man, even when I'm having a bad day; Chris Amaral for all his encouraging words, Annie and Don Betts for reminding me to just BREATHE; All of my family for their support, as well as their help during race week; and to everyone who was there, because you all know you played a very important role in being a part of the 41st World Championship R&T. Thank you many times over!

-Sequoya

A Binding Tie

By Don Betts

This year's Championship was the 16th time that George Hall and I have teamed up and completed a ride & tie championship race. George has now completed 29 and I have completed 23. We have completed 16 championship races as partners (totalling 107 hours out on the trails)! This is even more than Ted and Joan Ruprecht, who had set this record very high.

I only mention this so that it might make sense that we can be elated to complete even one more championship race with a sizzling time of 9 hours and 5 minutes. We didn't miss a turn or run past our horse. We have completed all three championship events here in the Humboldt Redwoods, the best location ever for a championship race. This race was just a little harder for us, but the fun was still there.

It is always surprising that we don't get more entrants in the Championships. The events are being held in great locations. The management is better than ever, especially this year since I had nothing to do with it. The vet staff is tops. If you haven't done a championship ride & tie, you really haven't ride & tied! You owe it to yourself to do one.



A younger George and Don with Gavilan (1987-2004) take time with George's daughters to enjoy the high mountain air at North Star, Tahoe at the 1998 Ride & Tie Championship. Gavilan was named 'Horse of Distinction' at last year's championship.

Who's Afraid of a Big, Bad Hill?

by George Hall

Another Ride & Tie Championship has come and gone. I liked this year's course best of the three we have had at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, in spite of ... or maybe because of the long climbs. I'm pretty slow on the flats and the downhills these days, but I like those hills!!!

It was really nice to see Don and Annie Betts again. When Don and I first teamed up together on Tikki in 1995 at Sun Valley, Idaho, we were 34th place out of 62 finishers. Over the years we have finished every Championship race we have done together. In 1996 we even got a silver buckle for being among the top 25 teams. Now we are lucky to get 25 teams competing. What's going on here?

Don and I have been last place and close to last more than a few times. We don't mind and we are not embarrassed about it. When my arthritic hips were so bad I was hobbling down the road at a 25 minute per mile pace and needed a rock and some help getting on the horse, Don stuck with me. My prosthetic hips are eight years old now and doing fine. This year Don is recovering from a total knee replacement surgery he had last year, so he is a little slow, but he is still happy to do it. And what about Pat Browning? Two total knees!

Each time is fun and we are always glad we did it. That is what ride & tie is all about...three teammates doing their darndest to get there in one piece with a smile on their faces. I encourage everyone to promote ride & tie in any way they can to help our sport thrive. See you at the next one.

It's Just Not the Same....

We all missed Dr. Jim Steere at this year's championship, as well as his family, who all seem like our family too. Jim's daughter, Leslie Steere, shared how she and her sisters spent their time on Championship weekend:

"I was sorry to miss the championship. My sisters and I spent time that Sunday where we had buried Dad's ashes, thinking about last year's championship and missing him. We left him some hair from a horse's tail and a tiny wooden horse so he could do some spirit riding."



CONGRATULATIONS to Thomas Gey (above, left) and Don Betts (above, right) who both became members of the 2,000 Mile Club with their completion of the 2011 World Championship Ride & Tie! Tom now has 2021 miles of sanctioned ride & tie completions under his belt, while Don has 2011. **WAY TO GO, GUYS!!**
Photos: Barry Thorpe



Jec Ballou and Siobhan Saunders completed the tough 22-mile short course in impressive time on Courage, owned by Steve Shaw. (Courage is a son of Clown). This was the first ride & tie either of them had done. We are pretty sure they'll be tough to beat in the long course at next year's championship! Welcome to the family, Jec and Siobhan!
(Photo: Dennis Miller)



Photo: Barry Thorpe

Magic Sirocco 2011 Ride & Tie Horse Hall of Fame Inductee

Congratulations to Magic Sirocco and his human, Jim Howard. Here are some of Magic's impressive Ride & Tie statistics:

- **Breed: Arabian**
- **Born: 1994**
- **437 Lifetime Ride & Tie Miles**
- **11 Championship completions**
- **11 Top Tens**
- **4 Best Conditions**

The Hall of Fame Horse is chosen by a committee from the Ride & Tie Association's Board of Directors. In order to qualify, a horse must have completed at least 6 championships, have at least 800 points, and at least three championship Top Ten completions.

TrailRunner

One Dirty Magazine

2011 World Ride & Tie Championship Finishers

(For a complete listing of race results see page 3)



**2011 Championship
Best Conditioned Horse**
Ron G.
5th Place
Owner: Barrie Grant



All photos on pages 8-9 by Dennis Miller.
Some photos have been digitally manipulated to include all team-mates.



Congratulations to all the teams in the 2011 World Championship Ride & Tie

Junior Editor's Page

by Darlene Julian

My First Steps in Ride and Tie

Hello everyone! My name is Darlene Julian, and I am excited to be the new Junior Editor for the Newsletter. I am relatively new to Ride & Tie. My first experience with the sport began at the Pacific Crest race near Ashland, Oregon, last summer. I crewed for my mom, Simone Julian, and her partner, Susan Smyth, on Flyaway Joe. Although I have been running and riding for years, it was my first time witnessing what the sport is really like. I was amazed by the energy and excitement of the horses and runners, and knew that I wanted to do a race soon.

I began training with my mom and Sue, preparing for The Coolest Ride & Tie last September. The race for us was a wonderful success. It was a very hard course, but I really enjoyed the challenge. I didn't know what to expect, but knew I had to tie securely, not run past the horse, make sure to get on the right horse, untie and repeat! The last two miles we had not seen any teams for a while, so either we were lost, or doing well. We ended up winning the 17-mile race, and just could not stop hugging our horse! It was an amazing experience being able to complete my first Ride & Tie with my mom and on such a great horse. After Cool, we did another challenging race, Quicksilver, placing second in my first long course race on another great horse, Courage.

Earlier this year, my mom and I set our sights on the Championship but were set back by injuries between both us and our horses. We decided the best decision would be not to race. We were not going to miss the Championship experience, so we crewed for Sue Smyth and Emily Bragg on Joe Pesci. It was very entertaining hanging out with our crew, we worked hard but did a lot of laughing. We also crewed for Curt and Dave Riffle on Sabel. This team inspired us to rename the sport "Two Guys and a Horse". I watched the race unfold, seeing Jim and Sara Howard complete their ties and handoffs with precision. After the race, I ran parts of the course, impressed by its difficulty. Witnessing the athletes challenge themselves and their horses on a course like this has lit a fire under my feet, giving me more determination. I look forward to next year's Championship. I'd like to just say "thank you" to all of you tough folks who are driving me to look for challenges through the sport of Ride & Tie.



Left: Darlene Julian with three of her best friends. Photo: Kinsey Goodwin



Right: Darlene takes off with courage on Courage at her first Ride & Tie, the Quicksilver! Photo: Michael Cortez



Lesleigh Ordway of San Anselmo, CA is this year's happy successful bidder for the Specialized Eurolight Saddle that was auctioned off after the awards dinner. Photo: Barry Thorpe

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RACE RESULTS

HIGHLAND FARM RIDE & TIE - 20 Miles April 2, 2011	SC	CACHE CREEK RIDE & TIE - 25 Miles May 7, 2011	CA
Lorena Truett/Diane Wilson on Mazon	3:09	John Osterweiss/Sean Pont on Iron Wyll	3:24
Hope Reece/Rachel McGee on Reno	3:39	Rufus Schneider/Beth Love on Temperance	3:29
		Tom Gey/Carol Ruprecht on Findefar	3:42
CHESAPEAKE SPRING RIDE & TIE - 25 Miles April 2, 2011	MD	Gunilla Pratt/Mike Whelan on Mark	3:43
Lani Newcomb/Kathy Broaddus on Beryll	4:40	Melanie Weir/Cheryl Domnitch on Koonaa	4:32
Janice Heltibridle/Laney Baris on Bubba	5:05	Karen Camilli/Alyssa Stalley on Irish Maggic	4:40
Daryl Downs/Liz Moran on Frisky	5:05	Jorie Brundy/April Cyrek on Filly	5:08
CHESAPEAKE SPRING Short Course - 12 Miles April 2, 2011	MD	Jennifer Monioz/Rick Noer on L.P.	5:47
Terri Jones/Kelly Griel on Confetti	2:35	Mike Addis/George Hall on Courage	DNF
		CACHE CREEK Short Course - 15 Miles May 7, 2011	CA
NO FRILLS Ride & Tie - 30 Miles April 9, 2011	VA	Mickey Roman/Aaron Ruud on Sysco	2:00
Janice Heltibridle/Levi Hochstetler on Bubba	5:49	Russ Kiernan/Jim Brown on RC Thor	2:01
Rhonda Venable/Dave Venable on Tanner	6:00	Sue Smyth/Emily Gragg on Joe Pesci	2:09
Sandra Abe/Jessica Pangle on Saved by Grace	8:13	Darlene Julian/Tina Kukharets on Flyaway Joe	2:11
NO FRILLS Short Course - 12 Miles April 9, 2011	VA	Victoria Ordway/Elizabeth Dahl on Mojito	3:26
Ben Miller/Kelly Miller on Laz	2:12		
		BILTMORE RIDE & TIE - 30 Miles May 14, 2011	NC
FOXCATCHER RIDE & TIE - 25 Miles April 16, 2011	MD	Lorena Truett/Diane Wilson on San Mazon	5:20
Janice Heltibridle/Michelle Rice on Bubba	4:26	BILTMORE Short Course - 15 Miles May 14, 2011	NC
Laney Baris/Rebecca Fox on Frisky	4:26	Lori Lyttle/Malindia Long on Shera	3:07
Steve Overgard/Keith Nowlin on Hammerin Hank	4:37	Whitney Wright/Brenda Ann Sears on Comes a Time	3:10
FOXCATCHER Short Course - 10 Miles Arril 16, 2011	MD	Steve Overgard/Madison Overgard on Hank	5:52
Marina Lobas/Alexander (Sasha) Lobas on Happy	3:15	BILTMORE Short Course - 8 Miles May 14, 2011	NC
		Charlesy Charlton/Rachael Pelkey on Dan	1:59
QUICKSILVER RIDE & TIE - 25 Miles April 16, 2011	CA	Lily Turaski/Gini Agnew on Chance of Freedom	2:14
John Osterweis/Mark Richtman on Iron Wyll	3:43	BILTMORE Short Course - 4 Miles May 14, 2011	NC
Darlene Julian/Simone Julian on Courage	4:05	Greg Cumberland/James Traub on Jake	0:59
George Hall/Merry Law on Sweet Gypsy Rose	5:27	Joanne Mitchell/Kathleen Di Rosato on Legend	1:03
Curt Riffle/Dave Riffle on Sabell	DNF	Tina Webb/David Bathke on Chester	1:25
QUICKSILVER Short Course - 12 Miles April 16, 2011	CA		
Dylan Alegria/Veronica Alegria on Jack the Ripper	1:57	BILTMORE Short Course - 15 Miles May 15, 2011	NC
Susan Smyth/Emily Gragg on Joe Pesci	2:03	Diane Wilson/Lily Turaski on Chance of Freedom	2:31
Abigail Christiansen/Natalie Christine Bowman on Apache	2:17		

Photo: Brianna Conrow





Photos: Barry Thorpe



Did you miss out on getting your free copy of **“40 Years of Madness: A History of Ride & Tie Championships”** at the 2010 Championship? You can still purchase them at online booksellers including amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com. Proceeds benefit the Ride and Tie Association! Great for gifts!



Impossible Things

by Annette Parsons

"Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

-White Queen, from *Alice in Wonderland/Through the Looking Glass*

What do a 65 year-old man with a shattered pelvis, a 60 year-old woman with inflammatory joint pain, and a 12 year-old mustang once labeled as "untrainable" have in common?

They all accomplished "the impossible" at the 41st Annual World Ride & Tie Championship on June 18 in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, California. They not only completed the extremely tough but stunningly beautiful 35-mile course in just under 6 and a half hours, but they placed 10th overall!

In my 28 years of participation in ride & tie, I never ever thought I would see the day when I finished in the Top Ten at a championship! Thanks to Charles Conrow and Spirit the mustang, we did just that!

I have always been a steady but slow finisher. The 2011 race marked my 15th Championship. I have lost count of the smaller races I have completed over the years. My husband, Jim Clover, and I were staffing a Ride & Tie booth at the Pacific Northwest Endurance Riders convention in Portland last January, when a tall, thin man happened by and started asking questions. He ended up being my partner for the championship!

Charles has been an athlete much of his adult life, and competed internationally in triathlons. Then, five years ago while training, a dog ran out in front of his bicycle. Charles ended up flipping the bike and landed on his behind, shattering most of the bones in his pelvis.

Initially, he was told he would probably never walk again. He underwent a 9-hour surgery ordeal and now has pounds of plates, rods, and screws holding his pelvis and hips together. He endured months of wheelchair confinement, then years of rehab. He was determined to prove the doctors wrong, though, and he has done so in a really big way! Not only did he begin to walk again, but eventually, he began running, and quite competitively. He has not done triathlons since the accident, however, and when he learned about ride & tie, he began to get ideas about this challenging multi-disciplinary sport. He had gotten a horse two years ago, and with his wife Brianna, has been learning about endurance riding. Ride & tie seemed to him to be the perfect marriage of two sports he has come to love!

As for me, around the time of Charlie's accident five years ago, I was struck with an auto-immune disorder that has attacked my joints, causing pain that, at times, has been nearly unbearable. When it first occurred, I could not even get out of bed or get dressed by myself. I have never known much depression in my life, but that threw me for a loop. It was scary. We did not know what it was, and I did not know if I was going to have to be in a wheelchair for the rest of my life, never mind ride a horse again. I told Jim at one point, "If this is how it's going to be, just take me out and shoot me". And I meant it. But thanks to medications and dietary changes, I was able to get back in the saddle by the end of that first year, and even began jogging again the following year. I was not ready to tackle ride & tie, however, so my ultra-running husband, Jim has teamed up with young women who are awesome runners (Heather Huggins and Melissa Queen) for four of the past 5 years. Remember the "Geezer and the Babe" award at the 2009 Championship?

Last year, Jim agreed to do another championship ride & tie with me, so in 2010 he and I completed the Championship at Mt. Adams, Washington on our Kiger mustang mare, Rosie. Poor Jim! I am so slow now, that he has to run most of it. I am afraid I about did him in.

So when Charlie expressed interest at the booth in Portland in January, I told him I was seeking a strong runner who was willing to run most of it for me, so I could get my 15th Championship completion, and he agreed. All I needed to do now was find us a safe, dependable horse to compete on, since neither of us could afford a flighty fiery mount that might dump us, and Jim was planning on using Rosie with one of his "babe" runners (Melissa).

I was able to borrow Spirit, a stocky Nevada mustang, from my friend, Jani. She had let Jim borrow Spirit, for the 2008 and 2009 Championships, when Jim teamed up with Jani's sister, Heather. Jani had acquired Spirit as a 5 year old, when he had been adopted from the wild, passed from ranch to ranch, and labeled as "untrainable". She was told she was wasting her time. With patience and a couple of years, Jani transformed Spirit from a fearful, untrusting wild horse into a solid, gentle, dependable ranch horse. He is now one of her best working ranch and trail horses. Anyone can ride Spirit, from little children to crippled old ladies like me. Yet when called upon to go the distance, he handles the task with patient endurance and strength. He was not the fastest horse out there, but he wasted no time or energy in jiggling and dancing. He was focused on getting us safely thru the race. He was steady as a rock.

So there we were on June 18th, the three of us, each misfits in our own way, out on the course of the 41st Annual World Ride & Tie Championship. I told Charlie and Spirit my only goal was a completion. I would be excited to get my 15th championship. Charlie and Spirit were incredible! I was in a fair amount of pain, but determined to get through it, and I know Charles had to be in a lot of pain, yet he ran like a deer! I could hardly catch him when I was on the horse, and I couldn't on those downhills!

I knew when we were flying down that last long descent into the finish, we were going to make it. I could see Charlie ahead of me on the trail but I could not catch him! I knew when we began passing other teams that we might even come in a decent placing! But it was not until after we had crossed the finish line that I was told we had finished in 10th place! We were only a few minutes behind Jim and Melissa and Rosie! (Jim and Melissa and Rosie are a hot team, having logged an 8th place finish at the 2009 Championship at Cuneo Creek!).

Talk about elation!!! We surprised everyone, not the least of all ourselves! I owe a HUGE THANK YOU to Charlie and Spirit for an experience of a lifetime. It may be the last championship (or not!), but it will forever be one of my most memorable! And many thanks to our terrific crew, Brianna Conrow, Lisa Schuller, Laura Queen, and Nezzie Wade! Without you all we could not have done it!

And Charlie, YOU JUST ROCK!



Photo: Brianna Conrow

Alert and ready to go at the starting line.

2011 RACE SCHEDULE

(Check website for updated information rideandtie.org)

Jul 9-10, 2011, BANDIT SPRINGS Ride & Tie, Ochoco Natl Forest, OR, 10 and 25 miles.

July 10th is tentative. Contact: Janelle Wilde, 541-846-2460 jwilde@wildevents.info

Jul 10-16, 2011, FORT STANTON Ride & Tie, Capitan NM

Ride & Ties are on 7/10, 7/12, 7/14 and 7/16. 7/10 and 7/14 races are 35 miles. 7/12 and 7/16 races are 25 miles. Contact: roger_sue@prodigy.net

Jul 23-24, 2011, OLD DOMINION Ride and Tie Weekend, VA

Night time races, 12, 20 miles. Sunday: 6, 12, 20 miles. Lani Newcomb, 540-554-2004 give2bute@aol.com

Jul 30, 2011, LOST MOUNTAIN Ride & Tie, Sequim, WA

25 & 15 mile courses. Contact Don Betts at 360-681-5218 RideandTieDon@aol.com

Jul 30, 2011, SNOW TENT SLIDE Ride & Tie, Nevada City, CA NEW RACE!!

20 mile and 10 mile courses. Contact Cheryl Domnitch 530-748-4305; Susan Smyth 916-663-9410 cdefpe@aol.com or susansmythjackson@gmail.com or donnairenerea@aol.com

Aug 13, 2011, SANTIAM CASCADE, Sisters OR

10, 30, 50, 80 mile courses. Contact Anna Sampson 503-829-6002 sampson@molalla.net

Aug 27, 2011, PACIFIC CREST Ride & Tie, Ashland, OR

10 and 30 mile courses. Contact Annette Parsons 541-846-6656 aparsons@apbb.net

Sep 3, 2011, ONE HEART BENEFIT Ride & Tie Maxwell, IA

4.5, 12 and 20.5 mile courses. Benefit for One Heart Equestrian Therapy Center. Contact Eileen Witt 515-290-2306 oneheartridgeandtie@gmail.com

Sep 9-11, 2011, BIG SOUTH FORK Ride & Tie, Jamestown/Oneida, TN

Friday and Saturday: 30 and 50 or 55 mile courses, Sunday: 8 and 10 mile courses. Contact Karen Isaacs 423-474-3024 thomaskaren@embarqmail.com

Sep 11, 2011, BIG BEAR Ride & Tie Big Bear, CA NEW RACE!!

11 and 22 mile courses. Contact Kat Swigart 714-747-3563 katswig@earthlink.net

Sep 16-17-18, 2011, CHESAPEAKE Fall Ride & Tie, Fair Hill, MD

30, 50, 80, 100 miles. Contact Cate Peloquin cpenguin57@aol.com 410-652-3454

Oct 1, 2011, THE COOLEST Ride & Tie, Cool, CA **Corrected Date**

8, 15, 25 miles. Contact: Linda Shaw Coolgalinda@sbcglobal.net

Oct 15, 2011, FOOTHILLS OF THE CASCADES, Mollala, OR

25 miles. Contact Anna Sampson or Mary Nunn 503-829-5321 flyingn@molalla.net

Oct 21-22, 2011, FORT VALLEY Ride & Tie, Fort Valley, VA

15, 30 and 50 mile courses. Contact Susan Trader 703-556-0223 susntrader@aol.com

Oct 29-30, 2011, CUYAMACA Ride & Tie Weekend, Julian, CA

Friday Ride & Tie Clinic! Oct 29th 30 miles, 15 miles and 5 miles; October 30th 20 miles and



Photo: Barry Thorpe

FINDEFAR Named HORSE of DISTINCTION

Findefar, owned by Thomas Gey, is shown here at the 2009 Cuyamaca Ride & Tie with Carol Ruprecht on board and Tom running. Findefar has completed 7 championships, 35 ride & ties, and 962 miles of ride & tie. Photo: Carla Nelson

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To nominate a horse for this award, visit rideandtie.org and click on "Hall of Fame" and then click on the link to the "Horse of Distinction" page. Criteria and nomination form are located there.



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Race Directors! Be sure to designate a photographer at your races and send us the pix! And competitors, send us stories and photos of your Ride & Tie adventures to newsletter@rideandtie.org

Deadline is the 10th of the month prior to issue. Issues come out in March, May, July, September, November.

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IN THE
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July Mystery

Do you know WHO?
WHERE?
WHEN?
WHAT?

Email Annette at
newsletter@rideandtie.org

March Mystery

Steve Anderson was the only one who correctly guessed the identity of the rider (Annette Parsons-that wasn't so hard), but no one recognized her pinto horse, Saki, nor their partner, Debbie Wagner, from Placerville.

The race was Mountainside Ride & Tie, 1999. Saki did many ride & ties in the 1990s and early 2000s, including the 2001 championship at Euer Valley. Saki also introduced a number of newcomers to the sport.

