

RIDE & TIE



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011



All Photos: Dennis Anderson and
the Trout Lake Community Ser Ice Club

2010 Team Point Champions

Top Left: 1st Place Man-Woman Team: Gunilla Pratt (on Stryde) and Mike Whelan

Top Right: 1st Place Woman-Woman Team: Lani Newcomb (on Cinder) and Kathy Broaddus

Bottom: 1st Place Man-Man Team: Ira Hickman and Ben Volk with Serres

Visit www.rideandtie.org for a complete listing of final 2010 point standings.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe it's February already. Coming up on March 19th here in Southern California is the very first ride & tie of the 2011 season at the Bar H Ranch. This is a Pro Am event so it is a great opportunity to introduce newcomers to the sport. We have quite a few newcomers coming out to try their first ride & tie so it will be a good day. We still have people looking for partners! I hope to see you there.

I hope you've had a chance to check out the 2011 race schedule on the ride & tie website. We have some new events on the schedule this year. In April there is the Highland Farm Ride & Tie in South Carolina, which is a benefit ride for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. In May a ride & tie is being added to the Ride The Divide endurance ride in Quemada, New Mexico. In July is the new Snow Tent Slide Ride & Tie in Nevada City, California. And September brings the Big Bear Ride & Tie in Big Bear, California. It is important that you get out there and support these new races! If ride & tiers don't show up there is no reason to put on races.

I do want to share with all of you that I survived my first experience as race director. The Cuyamaca Ride & Tie Weekend last October was quite successful, despite some rather unfortunate weather on the first day. While out marking the course I got a bee sting on my face that had my right eye nearly swollen shut by race day! It was such a nice little memento of the weekend. I told everybody that the swollen eye was courtesy of Rufus Schneider after she got tired of listening to me whine, but I don't think anyone really believed that.

First, let me say it was really fun. It was certainly a lot of work. I could not have done it without the help of Rufus and the volunteers she assembled. Take note: good volunteers are really important. Her cross-country runners were able to raise about \$300 to support their team, too, which is really great. I think (I hope) this year it will be just a little bit easier.

Did I mention it was a lot of fun? Did I mention it was a lot of work?

In addition to two days of ride & tie races, thanks to Stephen and Gunilla Pratt there was also a Halloween costume contest with great prizes. Rick Noer won the adult costume contest by dressing up as "Irish Mike" Whelan. I think dressing up as Irish Mike may need to become a tradition. In fact, I say that we *all* should dress up as Irish Mike. Anyway, I hope you all plan to check out Cuyamaca this year. The camp is fantastic (corrals, hot showers) and the trails are beautiful! I've already put in the order for good weather.

If you have ever considered putting on a race of your own I encourage you to do it. We have a lot of experienced race directors who can help you. Perhaps you know where there are great trails for a course. Or maybe you do endurance and would like to manage a ride & tie in conjunction with an endurance ride. It will be a fun challenge for you, and a great help to the growth of the sport. For more information check out the website at www.rideandtie.org and click on "Sanction a new Race" or contact one of our race directors. It is not too late to get races on the schedule for this year.

See you out there!

--Melanie Weir, President, Ride and Tie Association



Photo: Carla Nelson

Cuyamaca Ride & Tie

Top Left: Carol Ruprecht on FindeFar with Thomas Gey

Top right: Tessora Bustillos on Mickey, with Michael

Right: Kira Nelson on Justin with our Pres, Melanie Weir.



Photo: Evaline Bustillos



Photo: Carla Nelson

Return to Humboldt Redwoods with us

for the 41st Annual World Ride & Tie Championship. The "Champs" will once again be at Cuneo Creek Horse Camp in spectacular Humboldt Redwoods State Park. June 18, 2011. Watch the web site for updates, entry info and directions. You won't want to miss this one!

www.rideandtie.org



Photo: B. Thorpe

VETERINARIAN'S CORNER

Note: Following is a set of "guidelines" for endurance veterinarians and ride managers to use when staging a ride & tie competition at the same venue as their endurance ride. This is a collaborative effort that has come about in response to some confusion that has come to light when folks not familiar to the sport are called upon to conduct a ride & tie competition.

The objective of this article is to show folks that, with a few logistical adaptations, it does not require a lot of additional time and effort to add a ride & tie race to an endurance event, especially if there is a ride & tie mentor involved to provide support and guidance.

The result, we hope, is that our own membership will be inspired and motivated to approach the endurance ride managers of events that are held in your local area. Armed with this information plus the knowledge that the Ride and Tie Association will help with paper work, forms, insurance, etc., we hope to see a growth in new ride & tie competitions held at new venues all over the country.

It should also be noted that the Ride and Tie Association Board of Directors is moving forward with a plan to inform and educate the AERC Board of Directors, Ride Managers Committee and Veterinary Committee of the inherent compatibilities of our two sports and the mutual benefits that exist in staging our competitions together.

--Dr. Greg Fellers, DVM

VETERINARY GUIDELINES FOR RIDE & TIE COMPETITIONS

Introduction

This guideline is provided as an aid to veterinarians who are new to the sport of ride & tie, but who are experienced as ride control veterinarians for endurance rides. For veterinarians who have been asked to help with a ride & tie event but have no long distance competition experience, the American Endurance Ride Conference has published a very informative and helpful handbook on veterinary guidelines. It can be found online at www.aerc.org under Control Judges/Control Judges Handbook.

For the equine athlete, in the sport of ride & tie, the course is a series of short (1/2 to 3 or 4 miles) "sprints" of trotting and even galloping, followed by a short rest (a few minutes), then running again, etc. Total distances are modest in comparison to endurance rides. Long courses tend to be in the 25-35 miles range, while short courses are generally anywhere from 5 to 15 miles.

Cardiac Recovery Criteria

In comparison to the more steady pace of an endurance ride, equine cardiac rates during a ride & tie competition will be higher, but for much shorter periods of time. Unless the horse has a rest longer than planned (i.e., a runner gets lost or injured), cardiac recovery does not come down to the level commonly required at vet checks in endurance rides typically 56-64 beats per minute (bpm). Cardiac recovery criteria at vet checks in ride & tie typically are 68, give or take, pending climatic conditions and terrain. The time required for recovery is also 30 minutes at vet checks and a strong recommendation for a 30-minute requirement at the finish.

A word about finishing time: the team's official finish time is when the last member of the team crosses the finish line. However, the time the horse crosses the finish line should also be recorded, so that the proper time to meet pulse down criteria can be determined.

The Veterinary Exam

The pre-race exam, vet checkpoint exams and the completion exam are all virtually the same as those conducted for endurance rides. The same vet card can be used. This exam should include multiple metabolic factors, a cursory exam for areas of pathology, heat, sensitivity including back and legs, and an out and back trot out for lameness and impulsion. Again, the criteria for pulls for metabolic or lameness reasons are virtually the same as with endurance.

Veterinary Checkpoints

Checkpoints should occur every 8-12 miles. The key to a successful vet checkpoint is to operate efficiently with as little delay as possible. The horse must be presented to the P&R teams and the veterinarian by one of the team members. The crew can be caring for the horse after one runner leaves and before the other arrives, but the horse cannot be presented, even if its heart rate has recovered, until the second runner has arrived.

It should be noted that it is a requirement that runner and rider switch at each vet check. Thus, one team member rides into the vet check, and the other must ride the horse out (assuming the horse meets all criteria). While not preferred, occasionally the runner will get to the vet check first. In this situation, the runner who came in first is required to wait until the other team member brings the horse in and the horse recovers before presenting for P&R and to the vet.

With ride & tie, there are no time holds at vet checks. As soon as the horse meets the required pulse criteria with the P&R team, the veterinary exam should proceed immediately, if possible. This may require that a veterinarian be dedicated to the ride & tie event, especially early in the race when the more competitive teams are still tightly grouped. Assuming the endurance competitors are in a gate into a hold, it is helpful to announce at the pre-ride orientation that ride & tie competitors will be allowed to proceed to the front if there is a line waiting for their vet exam, with the explanation as to why (a runner may be out there running for a long time if his/her partner is standing in a long line at a vet check), and asking for the cooperation of the endurance riders. Also long course ride & tie competitors should have priority over short course competitors.

Early in the race, there often are a few excited horses that might have difficulty meeting pulse criteria. Bringing a buddy horse over to the vet area to keep them company can be helpful. Never the less, there will be occasions when an elevated heart rate in an excited horse with a normal physical exam will require your best judgment as to whether to allow the team to proceed or not. Don't allow the pressure of the competition to cause a hasty decision. Again, a word at the pre-race orientation stressing that it is the human team member's responsibility to get an excited horse to settle down will be helpful in establishing an understanding. It is not a blank excuse for a non-recovering heart rate.

Judging for BC

Since ride & tie competitions generally have fewer numbers of participants, the top 10 finishers are not automatically used to determine who qualifies to be judged for best condition. Depending on the size of the race, it could be top 3, top 5, top 25%, top 50%, the whole class, etc. The standard for who qualifies to be judged for BC, as well as the timing for the exam, should be set ahead of time at the pre-race orientation.

The Ride and Tie Association has a form to use for judging BC that is relatively easy to follow. The process is similar to the AERC form, but does not include weight carried as a factor. If there are multiple distances being run at an event, it is the prerogative of management and the veterinarians to decide if BC is

Continued on Page 6

Big (Muddy) South Fork Ride & Tie Weekend in Tennessee

by Joanne Mitchell

Another Big South fork RAT has come and gone. My bug bites have finally healed. This was the fourth year for the 2-day Big South Fork 30-miler, and the 12th year running for the Big South Fork Ride & Tie! We had two teams each in the 30-milers on Friday and Saturday. A fun-RAT 8-miler on Sunday drew 6 teams.

On Friday the teams survived seven creek crossings and a light rain. Joe and Renee Bellafato, are both athletes in soccer and cross-country, but this sport of ride & tie is a new thing for them. They managed a win, about a half-hour ahead of Lani Newcomb and Janice Heltibridle, both of whom were having a great time as usual.

During the Saturday Ride & Tie, the rain came down in earnest. The creeks and rivers began to rise, and with seven creek crossings and another river crossing, there was never a dry moment. Frisky's team (Janice Heltibridle and Beth Kempf) was only about one minute ahead of Jeb's team (Karen Isaacs and Amy Betzelberger) when I saw them mid-race. Beth remarked about the Big South Fork River crossing, "I was a bit overwhelmed when I saw

the size of the river! Frisky took it like a pro, I just held on!" The Big South Fork River is only one of three rivers designated as a national river and one of the very few rivers in the eastern United States that has not been dammed for flood control--truly a wild river. Fortunately all riders and runners made it across before the waters rose, as the storm flow was more than 10 times its normal flow! Karen said the creeks were only about mid-thigh deep, and she and Amy had fun in spite of all the rain. That team was an "internet matchup" when Karen's partner from last year couldn't make it. Amy was still on a high after winning the One Heart Ride and Tie in Iowa.

Around 5:30 p.m. on Saturday the really big storm dumped about 2" of rain in about 45 minutes. We had a short award ceremony for Saturday's event and the briefing for Sunday. Lori Lytell, Malynia DeLong, and I scouted Sunday's 8 mile course while it was light still to make sure there were no obstacles. SAFETY WAS AN ISSUE. Last year a horse was killed at Big South Fork when a tree fell on it.

Six teams turned out for Sunday's 8-mile Ride & Tie, and it seemed bad luck and challenges were the order of the day. The junior team had a bucking bronc at the vet-in, but finished just fine. The winning team, Brenda Ann Sears and Whitney Wright from NC, on Comes a Time had a late start but made up for lost time. The second place team, Janice Heltibridle and her son Matthew Schmidt had an equipment failure just before the vet check when the left side stirrup and fender came apart. With no time to fix it, Janice ran some and rode bareback for the second loop. I don't think her son rode

Continued on Page 9



Looking like drowned rats, intrepid teams braved rising rivers at Big South Fork Ride & Tie. Photo: Linda Toups © 2010



moeben

Tom Gey loves his Moeben Sleeves!

www.moeben.com



RIDE & TIE
SPONSOR

OFFICIAL
AERC
SPONSOR

Your treeless saddle specialists

Providing innovative products to enhance your partnership with your horse



ACTION RIDER TACK

877.865.2467

info@ActionRiderTack.com

NATRC



SPONSOR

Older Athletes in Extreme Sports

The following paragraphs are excerpts from a book-in-progress by Frank Lieberman which highlights the accomplishments of older athletes in extreme sports such as Ride & Tie and endurance riding. Here, Frank shares some highlights about the late, great Dr. Jim Steere.

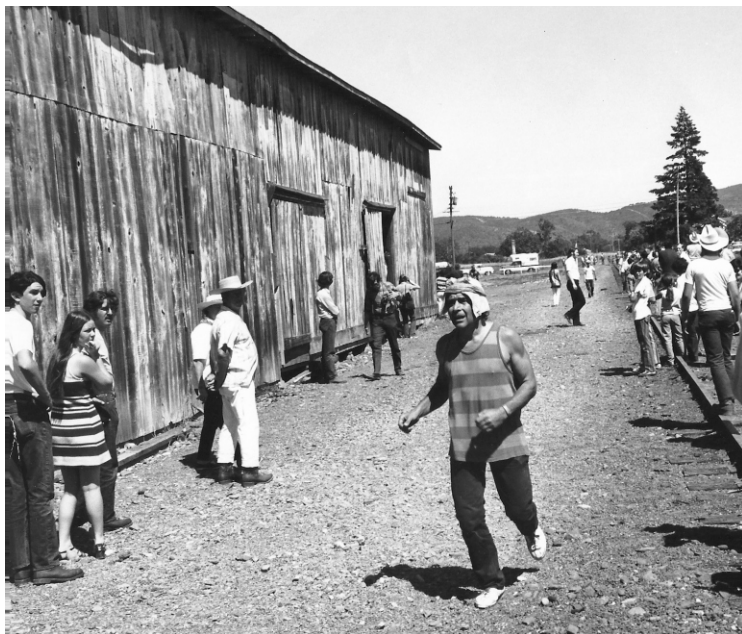
My Friend James Henry Steere, March 5, 1925-August 3, 2010
By Frank Lieberman

Dr. Jim Steere, DVM, was the oldest person to complete the Tevis Cup at 80 years of age. That was impressive. Was that the most impressive feat or accomplishment by this man? I will let you decide.

Jim completed 825 recorded AERC miles. Of course when Jim began endurance riding in 1960 there was no one there to tally his Tevis and other endurance miles, so his true mileage remains unknown. His first Tevis was in 1967. Unfortunately, his horse became lame so he did not complete that year, but returned the following year to complete that demanding and historic ride.

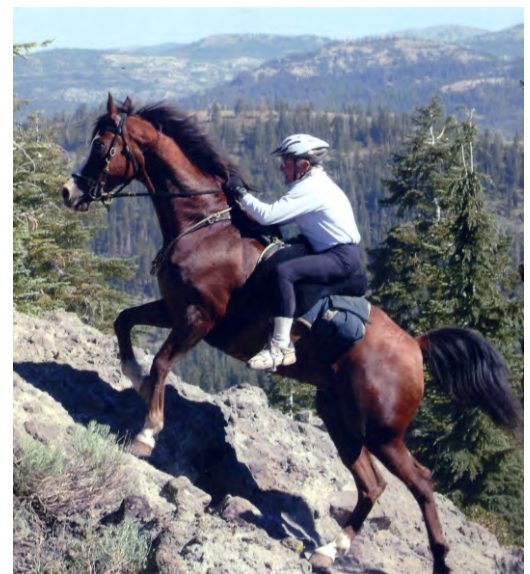
In 1971, Jim learned from his friend, Mary Tiscornia, that there was to be something called a Levi's Ride & Tie race in St. Helena, California. Neither of them, nor anyone else in the world at that time, knew or understood about the sport of ride & tie, but that did not stop them from competing. That was only the beginning. He participated in that first ride & tie and became a major player in the sport, saving the sport from extinction and working with Bud Johns, the sport's creator, to become head veterinarian and establish race and Best Condition criteria that have helped protect our equine partners. These criteria are still used today in endurance and ride & tie events. Over the next 40 years he participated in every Levi's Ride & Tie (or Championship, as it is now called) as a competitor or head vet. In June of 2010 Jim partnered with his son, Thom Steere, for his final World Championship Ride & Tie race. At 85 years of age, Jim became the oldest competitor to compete in Ride & Tie. Jim and Thom rode Jim's horse Wesob to a completion in the 19-mile short course, to the delight of their large cheering section, which consisted of all of Jim's children and most of their families, who were all either crewing or competing. (For more about Jim's Ride & Tie experiences through the years, see "40 Years of Madness: A History of Ride & Tie Championships", 2010. Available via online booksellers.)

Jim achieved many awards and had a distinguished career, leaving his imprint on the worlds of endurance and ride & tie. What I admired about him was his ability, care, concern and love for people and animals. He was generous with his time and willing to share his knowledge. He was a giving man who mastered the art of generativity. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten.



Left: In 1971 Dr. Jim Steere was among the field of first-ever Ride & Tiers when he finished the first Levi's Ride & Tie at St. Helena, CA. His partner was Mary Tiscornia.

Below: Dr. Steere and his famous horse, Wesob, at Cougar Rock during the Western States 100 Mile Endurance Ride (Tevis Cup) sometime during the 2000's. He was close to 80 at the time.



**FEATHERHORSE
DESIGNS**

DEDICATED TO THE
ENDURING SPIRIT OF THE HORSE

Creating promotional products for your event.
Screen printing, embroidery, etched glass, etc.
Produced from your design or ours.

Dennis Miller
(530) 281-6631
dennis@featherhorsesdesigns.com www.featherhorsesdesigns.com



www.clifbar.com

www.rideandtie.org

Junior Editor's Page

by Regan Volk

Hey everyone! Here are some fun facts about horses to keep you entertained during these cold winter months. I know I haven't been able to do much riding and I found this info amusing.

- There are about 75 million horses in the world.
- Arabians have one less rib, one less lumbar bone, and one or two fewer tail vertebrae than other horses. That is why Arabians "flag" their tails.
- Mr. Ed, the talking equine star of the 1960s television series, was a golden palomino. He learned an enormous amount of tricks for his role, including answering a telephone, opening doors, writing notes with a pencil, and unplugging a light. Mr. Ed would occasionally have a fit of temper, as befitting his star status, and would stand stock still, wheezing and refusing to move.
- A horse typically sleeps two and half to three hours a day.
- Horses younger than 4 years can concentrate for a maximum of 10-15 minutes.
- Horses lie down only about 43.5 minutes a day.
- Horses sleep longer in the summer than in the winter.
- A horse's heart weighs nine pounds.
- A zedonk is the offspring of a zebra and a donkey.
- A horse has approximately 205 bones.
- A horse is described as a 'foal' for its first year of life.
- A horse's teeth can be used to estimate its age.
- Horses generally dislike the smell of pigs.
- Horses are traditionally measured in 'hands'; this was originally the width of a man's hand and has been set at 4 inches.



Till next time. Keep running...keep riding,

--Regan Volk

Information Sources:

1. The Encyclopedia of Horses and Ponies, by Tamsin Pickeral
2. The Economic Impact of the Horse Industry in the United States, American Horse Council www.horsecouncil.org

Veterinarian's Corner: Continued from Page 3

awarded only in the long course, or if it is to be awarded in the short course(s) as well.

Questions?

The intent of this "guideline" is to illustrate the differences and similarities to endurance events, and to help veterinarians and ride management feel comfortable with the concept of conducting a ride & tie event in conjunction with an already established endurance event.

If you have questions about vetting criteria and processes for ride & tie, please contact me at gfellers@rideandtie.org.

--Greg E. Fellers, DVM

Time is running out!

Nominate a

Horse of Distinction today!

<http://www.rideandtie.org/halloffame.php>

ZOMBIE RUNNER
Stuff for people who run.
WWW.ZOMBIE RUNNER.COM



Black Forest
treeless saddles

THIS is riding as it was always intended to be ... discover a new partnership with your horse.

- Flexible in all directions
- The feel of your horse's every movement
- The spine stays protected
- Enhance spinal clearance and shock absorption
- No break-in time for the rider
- Interchangeable saddle fittings

THE NATURAL WAY TO RIDE!

888.227.5621
www.blackforestsaddles.com

RACE RESULTS

FOOTHILLS OF THE CASCADES RIDE & TIE - 25 Miles Oct 15, 2010

Chris Amaral/Squoya Ward on Magnificent Obsession (BC) 4:09
 Jim Clover/Annette Parsons on Kiger Deserts Golden Rose 4:24
 Doug Ferro/Jenny Ferro on Halley 5:55
 Bryce Fiedler/Karen Camilli on BRR Far Dancer DNF

FORT VALLEY RIDE & TIE - Day 1 - 30 Miles Oct. 22, 2010 VA

Mary Tiscornia/Mark Richtman on Layla 4:36
 Carrie Barrett/Leslie Yates on Spectacular 5:34
 Janice Heltibridle/Lani Newcomb on Bubba 7:12

FORT VALLEY RIDE & TIE - Day 2 - 30 Miles Oct. 23, 2010 VA

Levi Hochstetler/Sandra Abe on Frisky 5:44

CUYAMACA RIDE & TIE - Day 1 - 30 Miles October 30, 2010 CA

Rufus Schneider/Beth Love on Koon (BC) 4:36
 Thomas Gey/Carol Ruprecht on Findefar 4:41
 Barry Grant/Aubyn Gominiak on Ron G 5:05
 Gunilla Pratt/Michael Whelan on Mark 5:06
 Melanie Weir/Rick Noer on LP 5:19
 Michelle McGorky/Roberto Carreon on Lucky Zipper DNF
 Tara Jordan/Jonathon Jordan on Chrissy DNF

Cuyamaca Short Course - Day 1 - 15 Miles

Jackie Brownlow/Yvonne Phipps on Trooper Thorn (BC) 2:22
 Betsy Mongrain/Glen Morgan on F.S. Any Question 2:23
 Wendy Turner/Michael Bustillos on Phoenix 2:45
 Sharlee Rushing/Cherie Vercoe on Pebbles 2:45

Cuyamaca Fun Course - Day 1 - 5 Miles

Kirsten Seyferth/Sandra Bartsch on Kadin 0:54:34
 Grace Brownlow/Robby Brownlow on Cody 0:55:33
 Jackie Brownlow/Elizabeth Brownlow on Flash 0:56:55
 Michael Bustillos/Tessor Bustillos on Mickey 0:59:32
 Melanie Weir/Kira Nelson on Justin 1:16:00
 Tara Jordan/Atticus Jordan on Flyer 1:36:00
 Elijah Jordan/Marlaina Kent on Kegan 1:37:00
 Kayla Rudd/Brianna Barker on CD DNF

CUYAMACA RIDE & TIE -Day 2 - 20 Miles October 31, 2010 CA

Tara Jordan/David De La Rosa on Chrissy 3:14
 Gunilla Pratt/Michael Whelan on Stryde (BC) 3:16
 Melanie Weir/Cheryl Domnitch on Hat Trick 3:41
 Thomas Gey/Carol Ruprecht on Feint Impact 3:41

Cuyamaca Short Course - Day 2 - 10 Miles

Kirsten Seyferth/Sandra Bartsch on Kadin (BC) 2:20
 Jessica Eskelson/Simone Aguilar on Chico 2:22
 Rick Noer/Laline Jensen on Justin 3:12

Specialized Saddles

- * Light Weight
- * Adjustable Fit
- * Close Contact

"Its about taking care of your partners"

Adjustable 3-D fit system maximizes horse and rider comfort.
 SpecializedSaddles.com
 575-882-3342



PAW PRINT Promotions

Apparel Awards Gifts

Silk Screen - Embroidery - Sublimation - Engraving

Let us help you put your  on your next Event.

RIDE & TIE We offer a wide selection of products with the Ride & Tie logo. Contact us for more details.

Kearson Strong, Owner
 Kearson@PawPrintPromotions.com
 (559) 641-5528
www.PawPrintPromotions.com

NeWbie CHRONICLES-PART 2

by ANDrea BOWden

Everyone will tell you a new horsewoman should never purchase a green horse. Most of us would take that advice. I, on the other hand, didn't. On September 2009, just before my 45th birthday, TJ, an eight-year-old Tennessee Walker who was a half-trained horse, joined our zero-trained family.

His quiet, easy-going nature and beautiful conformation captivated this wanna-be horsewoman and her husband. From day one he stood for grooming and foot maintenance. He gently placed his nose in his halter and waited to get buckled in. He patiently waited for me to move first after un-tacking. He even saddled well even though I wasn't sure he had ever been ridden. He was and is a perfect gentleman (almost). How could I ever have passed him up?

You might be appalled to know, I was so new to horsemanship I had barely ever led a horse from one end of a pasture to another. I didn't know how much space to put between my horse and me. I didn't know how to tie a quick-release knot. I didn't know how to put a saddle on, or certainly not reins. I only knew how to brush a horse and how to scoop manure. And that's no lie.

However, I knew that horses are smart and that this one wanted to learn. I knew that it was my first job was to reinforce TJ's calm nature. I knew I need to confirm to him plastic bags banging on his coat can be a fun game. Or ropes tangled around him are manageable. I knew he needed to know loud noises were not scary, or people running at him probably just want to love on him. I knew he should know that puddles aren't going to swallow him and that a hand or bit to the mouth won't hurt him. So that's what we did.

And, after a few months of training plus singing together and talking together and T-Touching together (Linda Tellington Jones T-Touch) I knew he knew this newbie really cared about him and wanted us to succeed.

Today, we are "this close" to actual riding. My dream is to compete in ride and tie races with TJ as soon as we're trained. We might have a long ride a head of us, but considering where we came from and how far we made it, maybe we'll be swapping trail dust before you know it.

Look for me, ok?

Far Right: R&T newbie-hopeful, Andrea, patiently schools her horse, TJ, in hopes of one day soon doing a ride & tie with him.

Right: Andrea and TJ. Where's their team-mate??

Photos: Warren Bowden



ANNOUNCEMENT! CANDIDATES NEEDED FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCIES!

It is time to elect three members to the Board of Directors. If you want to be a part of the inner workings of the sport of Ride & Tie and help shape its future, we need you! You must be a current member of the Ride and Tie Association.

If you want to toss your hat into the election ring, let us know! You can nominate yourself, or someone else, with his/her consent. All nominees must submit a short statement, 200 to 300 words, about themselves, describing their interest and experience in the sport of Ride & Tie. Nominations and candidate statements are due by March 15th. Send nominations to the Nomination Chair, Don Betts at rideandtiedon@aol.com or 146 Janssen Farm Rd, Sequim WA 98382

The 2011-2012 Nomination Committee are: lifetime Ride and Tie Association member, Leslie Yates, from Kentucky; former Association President, Don Betts, from Washington; and competitor member, Laura Lund from Texas. This committee will review all candidate nominations and approve the final list of candidates for election. Watch for candidate statements in the May issue of the newsletter!

Special thanks to the previous Nomination Committee members: Sue Smyth, California; Jane McGrath, California, and Annette Parsons, Oregon.

CLOWN - AN HONEST HORSE

By Steve Shaw

After a comeback year in ride & tie, Cougars Clown developed kidney cancer and was put down on Tevis day, 2010. Clown was 23. She did three ride & ties in 2010, including the Mt. Adams Championship long course.

Clown was a one-of-a-kind horse, with many unique qualities, one of which is that no one could ever steal her. There would be no way to hide her. She had a Harlequin face and hence her name, Clown. She was the offspring of a Mustang/Appy cross that Bernice Kalland got off the Apache Indian reservation in New Mexico, and her sire was Cougar Rock, the endurance Arab.

Clown had a great career after Vern Biehl put brakes on her. She completed many ride & ties in top ten, and numerous endurance rides. One year she was 4th at Tevis. But the best thing about her is, she was what Viri Norton used to call an "honest horse". Clown would give you what was possible and with no nonsense. She was calm, would load and shoe easily and waited somewhat patiently at ties. Many people could ride her at many levels of competition without danger. But she was a competitor too. She wanted to get the job done. Clown had a four and a half to five mile per hour walk that would go on and on.

One of my favorite stories about Clown took place when she was 6 years old and pregnant with her second foal, Shamrock. Bernice still owned her then. Clown was mis-diagnosed as not pregnant, and finished 3rd in a 75-mile endurance ride. Two months later, she gave birth to a healthy Shamrock. There are two others of Clown's offspring around as well.

Michele Roush wrote me these words when she heard about Clown's passing:

What is it to fly through the night on borrowed wings as steady and strong as the Earth itself?

What is it to run with the wind in your face, unencumbered by any frail human form?

What is it to feel the rhythm of harmony, and of ancient bedrock wisdom?

It is to have been carried by that irrepressible bald-faced, blue-eyed mare.

I will never forget how easy it was to spot Clown, looking up the trail for my horse during ride & ties. Her face was like a glowing light that you couldn't miss. We miss her now.



Left: Kerry Marshall on Clown at the 2010 World Championship Ride & Tie. Photo: Dennis Anderson and the Trout Lake Community Service Club.

Right: Clown was always eager to get the job done. Steve remembers, "She had that look! It was excited, intent and observant. She was in the race too, looking for me to come next. She was a true ride & tie horse. Her look embodies what ride and tie feels like to us." Photo: Unknown



www.rideandtie.org



Big South Fork - Continued from Page 4

at all on that loop. Janice got the glutton-for-punishment award for completing three back-to-back days of RATs.

Sara Boelt, the race director for the Biltmore RAT teamed up with Gil Furr for a 3rd place finish. The 4th place team was Shay Hanson-Gould and Emily Shouse, who did their first RAT at BSF last year. This year they sported their shirts from the 2010 championship in Washington state, hoping to psych out the other teams. Unfortunately, their mustang they had conditioned to use had an injury, so they dragged a pregnant-looking gelding out of the pasture. They hope to put on an event in Kentucky next year.

Lori Lyttle and Malyndia Long had some bad luck when their horse, Shere, somehow got a huge gash in her forehead. It took 14 stitches to patch her up, but the vet pronounced the mare good to go. Lori and Malyndia were stylin' in their matching pink tops. Lori got off course on the second loop, where a search party found her, running her little heart out. The junior team of Hannah White (age 11) and Katie Shouse (age 13) with Go Go Ladybug got the turtle award...kites in the shape of turtles!

Eileen Witt, race director of the One Heart Ride & Tie in Iowa was there, and she is **PUMPED** about Ride & Tie. She hopes to have two RATs in Iowa next year and is hoping to compete at Big South Fork. She is now horse-shopping for a small Arab. It is so nice to hear enthusiasm.

Many thanks to volunteers Bobby Mitchell and Lucy Scanlon, whose help was immensely valuable.

--Joanne

40 Years of Madness: A History of Ride & Tie Championships

A collection
of race results, posters,
photos, and anecdotes
from
1971 to 2010



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!

2011 RACE SCHEDULE

Mar 19, 2011, BAR H BOOGIE Ride & Tie Lake Matthews, CA

10 and 20 mile courses. Contact Kat Swigart 714-747-3563 katswig@earthlink.net

Mar 26, 2011, SUNRISE CANYON Ride & Tie, Kennewick WA

11 and 22 mile courses. Contact Ira Hickman 509-430-6288 or Ben Volk (509)521-6249 bvolk@jub.com;

Apr 2, 2011, HIGHLAND FARM Ride & Tie, Batesburg, SC NEW RACE!!

To benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Contact Lauri Livingston 803-920-7638 highlandfarmllc@yahoo.com

Apr 3, 2011, CHESAPEAKE Spring Ride & Tie, Fair Hill, MD

13 and 25 miles. Contact Cate Peloquin cpenguin57@aol.com 410-652-3454

Apr 9, 2011, NO FRILLS Ride & Tie, Star Tannery VA

12, 30 and 55 mile courses. Contact Mary Howell at 804-932-9328 or John Marsh at 703-556-0223 countshiloh@gmail.com or jjmarshiii@earthlink.net

Apr 16, 2011, FOXCATCHER Ride & Tie, Fair Hill, MD

25,10 mile courses. Contact Louisa Emerick at 410-398-7234 or Barbara Bateman at 302-598-3110 Louisaem@comcast.net

May 7, 2011, CACHE CREEK Ride & Tie, Williams, CA

10 and 25 mile courses. Contact Jennifer Stalley 530-755-6777 jdstalley@yahoo.com www.cachecreekridgeride.com

May 14-15, 2011, BILTMORE Ride & Tie, Asheville, NC

30, 15, 8 mile courses. Contact Sara Boelt lightermt1986@gmail.com

May 21, 2011, MT ADAMS Ride & Tie, Mt. Adams, WA

25 Miles. Contact Steph Irving, PO Box 200, Troutlake, WA 98650 509-395-2065 or Darlene Anderson or Veronica Glenn endrncrider@gmail.com or dichamps05@gmail.com

May 29, 2011, WILD WEST RIDE & TIE, Nevada City, CA

12 & 25 mile courses. Contact Melissa Ribley 530-268-1378 mribley@wildblue.net

May 29, 2011, RIDE THE DIVIDE Ride & Tie, Quemada, NM NEW RACE!!!

25 miles. Contact Lif Strand rtd@discovercatron.com

Jun 11, 2011, DESCANSO Ride & Tie, Descanso CA

15 and 23 mile courses. Contact Terry Howe 619-445-5443 terryhowe@hughes.net

Jun 18, 2011, 41ST ANNUAL RIDE & TIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Long course championship and short course. Humboldt Redwoods State Park, CA

(Cuneo Creek Horse Camp) Contact Sequoya Ward (707) 845-6039 duncme2@gmail.com

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 donnairенера@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 oneheartrideandtie@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

Sep 18, 2011, THE COOLEST Ride & Tie, Cool, CA

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 10 miles. Bring your costumes! Contact Melanie Weir 714-321-3695 melaniew@socal.rr.com

Founding Members

Lon Clearwaters, Clark & Bradley Davis, Warren Hellman, Wayne, Robin, & Allison Hinrichs, Mike & Cynthia Jepsen, Bud & Fran Johns, Aileen Johnson, Lud & Barbara McCrary, Leah Mirsch, John Osterweis, Kirsten Peterson, Steve Shaw, Jim & D'Ann Steere, Eric Thompson, Lars Thompson, Mary Tiscornia, Ralph & Peggy Wadsworth, Brian Zuniga, and Levi Strauss & Co.

Lifetime Members

Chris, Linda & Steve Anderson, Carrie Barrett, Nancy Beacon, Lee Betak, Don & Andrea Betts, Marge & Vern Biehl, Kathy Broaddus, Pat & Nita Browning, Liz Carey, Ruthann Conklin, Doyle Eggers, Jack Garnett, Thomas & Carol Ruprecht Gey, Guy Goddard, Barrie Grant, Byron Grant, Debbie Hansen-Bernard, Dawn Hartsock, Janice Heltibridle, Tom Highland, Carl Hill, Lew & Hanne Hollander, Jim, Sara & Elaine Ruprecht Howard, Tom Johnson, Jonathan Jordan, Jan Kahdeman, Peter & Martha Klopfer, Skip Lightfoot, Mo, Nori & Whitney Livermore, Gabrielle Mann, Kent McLaren, Lani Newcomb, Chris Nitz, Jaret Owens, Anita Parra, Annette Parsons, Calvin Paulette, Gunilla Pratt, Lisa Preston, Brian Purcell, Barbara Ravizza, Chet Relyea, Mark Richtman, Curt Riffle, Emmett Ross, Tom Rotkis, Dale Roush, Ted, Joan & Louis Ruprecht, Kirsten Seyferth, Lari Shea, Marcia Smith, John & Helen Stacy, Godfrey & Suzanne Sullivan, Judith Teichman, Kathy Thompson, Kevin & Ann Townsend, Jeff Townsend, Alina Vale, Sydney, Don & Bryce Vale, Jean Whitman, Laurie Wilson, and Leslie Yates

RIDE & TIE MENTORS

CALIFORNIA:

Auburn: Cheryl Domnich, cdefpe@aol.com 503-748-4305
Fresno: Don Strong, 916-402-5226 dons@deanshomer.com
Topanga: Kirsten Seyferth, 310-882-6388 scatris@hotmail.com
Newcastle: Susan Smyth, 916-663-9410
 susansmythjackson@gmail.com

Orange County:

Carol Ruprecht & Tom Gey, 949-263-1772
 cruprecht@rideandtie.org
 Melanie Weir, 714-321-3695 melaniew@socal.rr.com
Napa Sonoma: Peggy Smyth, 707-965-3441
 peggy@dburnsinc.com

Redding: Karen Deaver, 530-275-8570 kdeaver@suhd.net

San Diego: Rufus Schneider, 619-445-2060

Santa Cruz: George Hall, DVM, 831-426-9337

Gandjhall@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Karen Wolfsheimer, wacahoota@att.net

IDAHO: Sid Sullivan, Sids@cableone.net

KENTUCKY: Shay Hanson 502-600-3733

Adalynn.shay@hotmail.com

Emily Shouse 502-598-6433 medstoppharmacy@bellsouth.net

MICHIGAN: Heather Huggins, hhuggs@umich.edu

OREGON: Annette Parsons & Jim Clover, aparsons@apbb.net

Beth Brinkley, 541-899-2088 cactusclanaz@hotmail.com

TENNESSEE: Joanne Mitchell, 423-337-6194

JFGMhorse@gmail.com

TEXAS: Sherrie Reimers, 830-303-0004 SKReimers@aol.com

UTAH: Dave & Debbie Wagner, 435-658-3065

Ddwags@redrock.net

VIRGINIA: Lani Newcomb, give2bute@aol.com

WASHINGTON:

Western WA: Lisa Preston, lpreston@hotmail.com

Steve Anderson 360-588-1730 steve.anderson1@juno.com

Eastern WA: Rachel Toor, racheltoor@earthlink.net

RIDE & TIE ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

Head Veterinarian: Greg Fellers	gregnkathy220@gmail.com
Endowment Chair: John Osterweis	johno@osterweis.com
Media Relations: Carol Ruprecht	cruprecht@rideandtie.org
Statistics: Steve Anderson	steve.anderson1@juno.com
Newsletter Editor: Annette Parsons	newsletter@rideandtie.org
Sponsorship/Advertising: Susan Smyth	susansmythjackson@gmail.com
Ride & Tie Office: Melanie Weir	melaniew@socal.rr.com
Ride & Tie Association:	8215 E. White Oak Ridge #41, Orange CA 92869

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melanie Weir, President	melaniew@socal.rr.com
Ben Volk, Vice President	bvolk@jub.com
Steve Anderson, Treasurer	steve.anderson1@juno.com
Sue Smyth	susansmythjackson@gmail.com
George Hall	gandjhall@sbcglobal.net
Lani Newcomb	Give2bute@aol.com
Ted Ruprecht	jlruprecht@suddenlink.net
Rufus Schneider	619-445-2060
Don Strong	dons@deanshomer.com

MEMBERS EMERITUS

Steve Shaw	sshaw@pacbell.net
Mary Tiscornia	MLT580@aol.com



Cool Riders
 804.798.2852
 www.coolriders.biz

*Innovative hot weather riding and running apparel to maximize cooling, whether you're in the saddle or on the ground.

*Soft, moisture-wicking fabric. U-center seam leaves the sides of the legs seam-free.

*Cool Riders boot socks are made from CoolMax and BlisterResister fibers.

*The knee-length shorts, tank top, and boot socks make a complete set.

Great for Ride & Tie!
 Are you cool?



THE RIDE & TIE ASSOCIATION

8215 East White Oak
Ridge #41
Orange, CA 92869

www.rideandtie.org



March Mystery

Do you know WHO?
WHERE?
WHEN?
WHAT?

Email Annette at
newsletter@rideandtie.org

November Mystery

No one sent any guesses as to who or where this was. The photo came from Jim Steere's collection, and was labeled "Two riders on trail, 1972". If anyone wants the jpg file to zoom in for a closer look, let me know and I will send it. Maybe with that a n d t h e "40 Years of Madness" book someone can figure out who it is.



NEWSLETTER AD RATES

Do you have a favorite company that might like to advertise in our newsletter?
Per issue ad rates are:

	Cash	or Merchandise
Business Card (3" W X 2" H landscape)	\$15	\$30
Quarter Page (3.75" W X 5.5" H portrait)	\$30	\$60
Half Page (7.5" W X 5.5" H landscape)	\$45	\$90
Full Page (7.5" W X 10" H)	\$70	\$140
Back Page (2/3 page) (7.5" W X 6.5" H)	\$250	\$500

NOTE: 10% discount for 4 or more ads

This is the cost for a color ad in one issue. The Newsletter comes out in March, May, July, September, and November. If you would like your ad to run in all five Newsletters we will include your ad in the Championship Participants Guide at no extra cost.

Contact: Annette Parsons newsletter@rideandtie.org
or Sue Smyth susansmythjackson@gmail.com