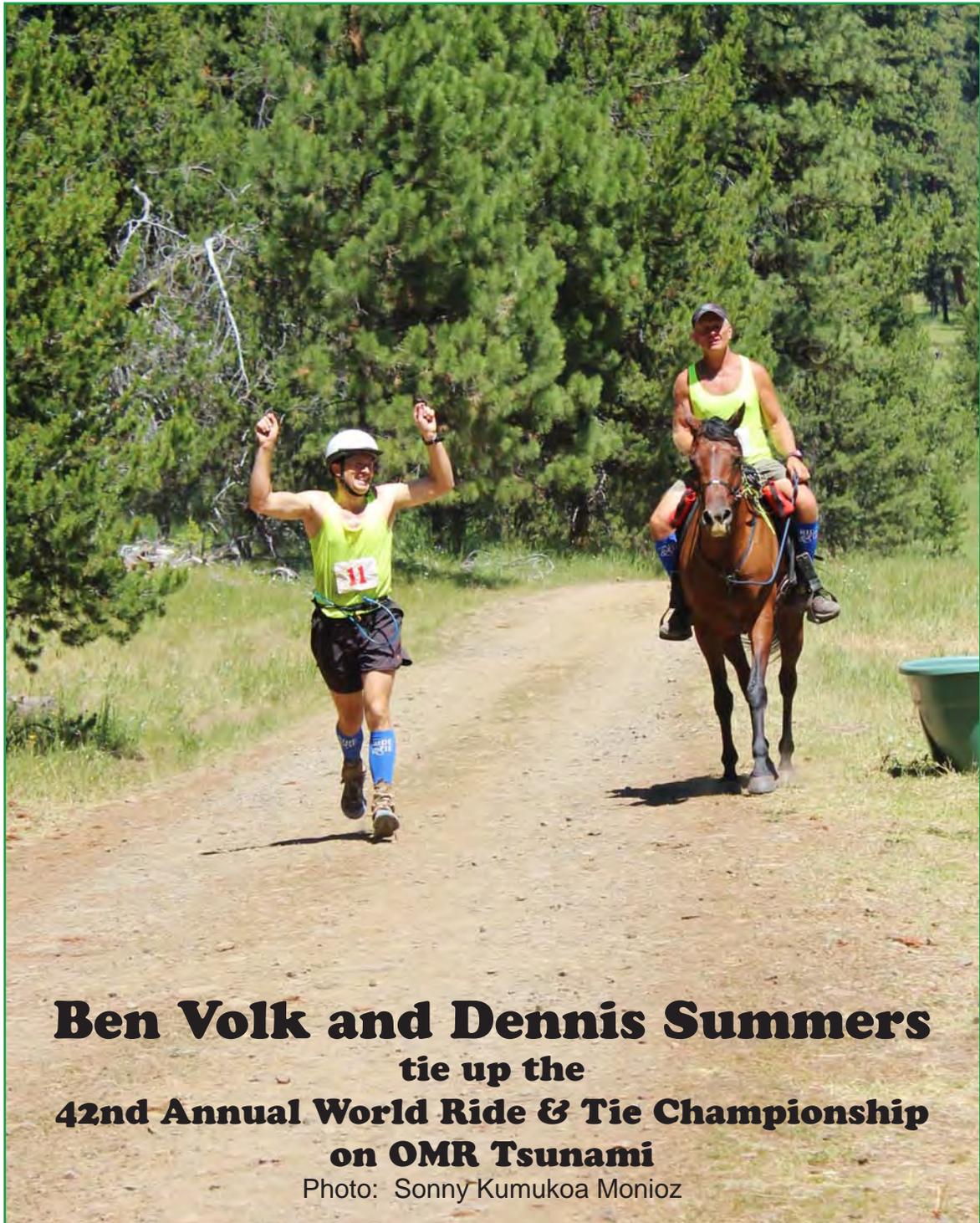


# RIDE & TIE



## NEWSLETTER

July 2012



**Ben Volk and Dennis Summers  
tie up the  
42nd Annual World Ride & Tie Championship  
on OMR Tsunami**

Photo: Sonny Kumukoa Monioz

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ben Volk, Ride and Tie Association President

**H**oly cow, or should I say 'horse'? What a whirlwind I have had over the past several weeks getting ready for and winding down from the 42nd Annual World Ride & Tie Championship. I was thrilled to see 35 teams compete for the top prize this year. It was truly an honor to compete with the great legends of the sport including Jim Howard, Mark Richtman, Mary Tiscornia, John Osterweiss, Tom Gey, Elaine Ruprecht, Russ Kiernan, and I could go on and on. You are all an inspiration to me and I look forward to competing against you for many years to come.

Next year let's get 70 teams at the Championship, okay? I think if you tell all your friends what an awesome sport this is we can meet that goal. As I said at the Championship, "I have a dream....that dream is to return Ride and Tie to the glory days of the 70s and 80s!" I may have stolen the "I have a dream" quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., but I do indeed have a dream. I think it would be incredible to start a Ride & Tie with a meadow filled with 70, 80, 100 or more horses and riders. I look at those pictures of the Levi's Championships from the 70s and 80s and I wish I could have been there. Old Bud Johns' heart must have been racing as he dropped the hat and 200 galloping horses flew from the meadow to the trail. I look at the winning times from those races and say to myself, "My God, those people must have been absolutely flying." I also noticed that many times the Top 10 finishers were within minutes of each other. I want that excitement back and I'm bound and determined to do my best to make it happen.

Martin Luther King, Jr. also quoted the following: "A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus". We are searching for consensus on where to hold the Championship in July 2013. Will it be Mendocino or Fort Brag in northern California? Or Aspen Lake or Lily Glen in southern Oregon, or Big Bear, or San Bernadino in southern California? We will mold our consensus into the best location where we can find a great race director and get permits. But in the end, I think it will be like the Field of Dreams...if we plan it, they will come!

*-Ben Volk*

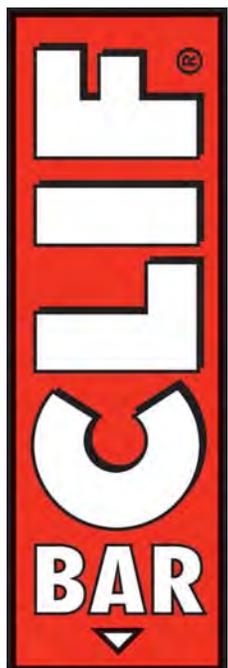


Ben rouses the crowd at the pre-race meeting on Friday evening. Photo: Sonny Kumukoa Monioz

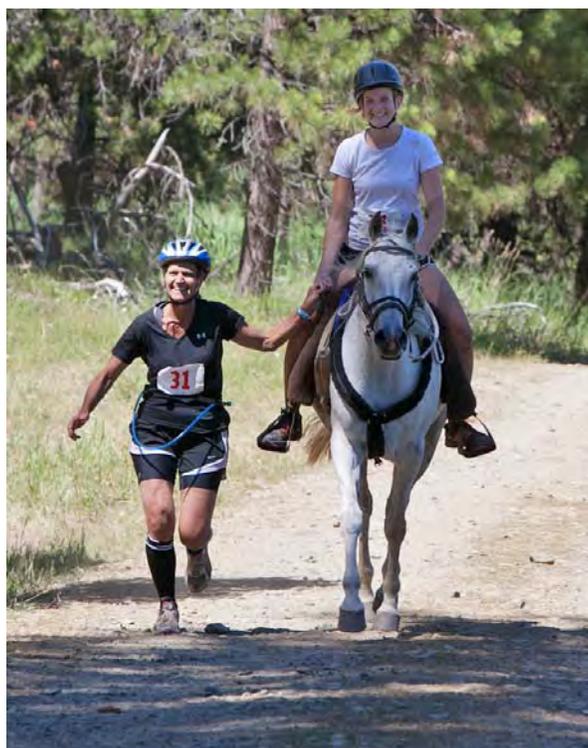
# WANTED: JUNIOR EDITOR

If you are 18 years old or under and would like to contribute to your favorite sport of Ride & Tie, WE NEED YOU! We want to hear from our younger ride & tiers...what is ride & tie like for you? How do you train? How did you get into it? What can we do to get more young people involved? Stuff like that....

Please contact us at [newsletter@rideandtie.org](mailto:newsletter@rideandtie.org) and let us know you are interested. We will be very happy to publish your contribution in each issue. The newsletter comes out 5 times a year, and you can be FAMOUS!



[www.clifbar.com](http://www.clifbar.com)



Left: Laura Queen (riding Cinder in the photo at left) was this year's youngest Championship finisher, at 15 years old. Laura's mom, Lisa Schuller, was her partner. Lisa's older sister, Melissa, completed in Top Ten with her team! A true Ride & Tie family! We hope to see lots more of Laura and her family in the years to come. Young people are the future of the sport. If you love Ride & Tie, recruit or mentor a young person!

**"40 Years of Madness: A History of Ride & Tie Championships" is still available for purchase!** You can purchase this book from online booksellers such as Amazon or Barnes & Noble and others. All proceeds benefit the Ride & Tie Association. Check it out!

## New Members Get a Chance to Try Ride & Tie at Clinic in Southern Oregon!

On June 6th, The Josephine County Equestrian Coalition (JCEC), along with Rogue Riders, Brushriders, and Rogue RATs, hosted an endurance and ride & tie clinic on the beautiful grounds of Pacific Gardens near Williams, Oregon. Some 25 newcomers learned about endurance riding and about ride & tie. Several new teams and a few experienced teams got a chance to practice R&T on the 6-mile course. A good time was had by all, and Jennifer Titus and her son, Barret went on to give it a try at the championship at Bandit Springs! We hope they will be back for more, as they are clearly awesome runners and riders! Tom, Maureen, and Loreli, we hope to see you all at a R&T in the future as well!

New member, Tom Cooper, on foot, with partners Jm Clover and Spirit, as they cross the finish line at the 6-mile course at the Ride & Tie clinic in southern Oregon. Photo: Beth Bliss



# VETERINARIAN'S CORNER

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE 2012 WORLD RIDE & TIE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Now that this year's Championship results are in the books, I wanted to share a few "observations". My initial thoughts run through beautiful scenery, great base camp with plenty of room, wonderful trails with good footing, perfect weather, an able and funny race director in Jannelle Wilde, helpful volunteers, and re-visiting with good longtime friends.

Checking horses in on Friday, we kept remarking that there were a number of very competitive teams here with primed horses ready to go. We started 35 teams (31 championship course, 4 short course), and we ended up with only 4 DNFs. 3 horses were pulled for lameness (2 at the 1st vet check, 1 at the 2nd). We had one horse at the 2nd vet check that couldn't recover within the 30-minute requirement.

The horses that presented for BC looked very good as a group, better than in the last few years that I've been involved in the judging. They looked ready to go out for more. That is testimony to the care taken all through the day to monitor and pace for the best outcome. The top 2 horses were so close in the judging that time of finish was what decided the winner.

We ended up treating 2 horses after the race, and I wanted to describe the 2 cases, because there's always something to be learned. The first one is the horse that failed to recover at the 2nd vet check. When initially presented, the heart rate was in the 80s. We continued to check the HR every few minutes, and it would appear to be coming down close to 68 only to shoot back into the 70s on the next check. A non-straight line descending recovery is a critical early indicator that something is amiss. This horse additionally had marginal gut sounds and a less than enthusiastic

*Continued on next page.*



Dr. Greg Fellers (green hat and shirt, left) discusses Abby's scores at the pre-race vet exam.

Photo: Sonny Kumukoa Monioz.

*Veterinarian's Corner: Continued from preceding page.*

appetite. After watching the horse remain in this ambiguous state for about an hour, we recommended IV fluids to help the horse along. The owner readily agreed and 10 liters made the needed difference, as gut sounds and appetite almost immediately picked up. Recovery proceeded uneventfully through the evening.

The second horse we treated had finished the race in apparent good shape, but started showing colic signs about 1.5 hours after finishing. The horse was lying down but was too agitated to just be resting. She had a distressed look on her face, showed little appetite and had poor gut sounds. Fortunately again, the owner readily agreed to start fluids. This horse also needed some pain relief so she would be comfortable enough to stand while the fluids ran. For those of you who might be tempted to give Bute or Banamine post competition for various aches and pains, remember to shave the dose to 1/3 to 1/2 of normal until your horse is fully re-hydrated (probably 12 hours). Otherwise, you might add kidney damage to the list of the horse's problems.

The horse rallied somewhat in the evening, but then got painful again in the early morning hours. She needed additional pain relief and fluids in camp. The decision was made to stop at the veterinary clinic in Redmond before starting the trip home for another look and possible additional treatment. Everything eventually was fine, but it took a while.

The blood flow to the musculo-skeletal system expands from 5% total capacity to as much as 40% in competitive exertion. The GI tract is the system that gives up its share to answer the need. Dehydration from sweating further complicates that reduce blood flow and also leads to drying out of the intestinal contents. The resulting stasis of the intestines leads to accumulation of gas and painful expansion of segments of the bowel. This is a slowly progressing phenomenon, and it is why it is not surprising to not see signs of trouble until well after the horse has finished the competition.

If the small intestine loses its motility, then fluid and gas accumulate in the stomach. The horse won't eat or drink enough and slowly gets worse. Gastric rupture and death is too often the sad end game in these cases. Early and continued IV fluids are the critical answer for these cases.

I firmly believe that horses have bad days just like us. Lack of early water consumption, a less than enthusiastic appetite at early stops, a heart rate that doesn't recover like you're used to seeing, gut sounds that are not up to par; these are all little red lights that should turn on in our consciousness. Our equine partners deserve our care and attentiveness for all they do for us.

Lastly, I want to thank Dr. Rob Lydon and Dr. Cassee Terry for being on our team this year. They were great to work with and made the day that much more enjoyable from my standpoint.

It was great to see you all and share good times.

-Greg Fellers, DVM



Things go smoothly at the first Vet Check as teams pass through on their way to leg #2 of the race. Photo: Sonny Kumukoa Monioz.

# 2012 WORLD RIDE & TIE CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS

## Championship Course - 33 Miles

Place	Time	Names	Horse	Category	Team #
1	4:22	Ben Volk/Dennis Summers	OMR Tsunami	1 MM	11
2	4:32	Jim Howard/Sara Howard	Magic Scirroco	1 MW	1
3	4:36	Mary Tiscornia/Mark Richtman	Nero	2 MW	29
4	4:44	John Osterweis/Sean Pont	Quick Sands	2 MM	32
5	5:00	Tom Gey/Elaine Ruprecht	Findefar	3 MW	2
6	5:29	Rufus Schneider/Moses Vaughn	Temperance	MW	3
7	5:37	Chris Amaral/Sequoya Ward	Fortune	MW	7
8	5:40	George Hall/Michele Rousch	Clown's Courage	MW	19
9	5:42:25	Gunilla Pratt/Michael Whelan	Stryde	MW	6
10	5:42:40	Jim Clover/Melissa Queen	Rosie	MW	9
11	5:56	Byron Grant/Lee Agur	Tess	3 MM	5
12	5:57	RaeAnne Wadey/Shannon Giebelhaus	Ladybird	1 WW	21
13	6:01	Liz Perkin/Peggy Smyth	Phyliss	2 WW	20
14	6:06	Susan Smyth/Melissa Montgomery	Joe Peshi	3 WW	15
15	6:10	Paul Johnson/Brent Johnson	Ron G	MM	26
16	6:12	Heidi Talbott/Belinda Bucholz	Levi	WW	25
17	6:16	Annette Parsons/Charles Conrow	Spirit	MW	10
18	6:17	Jennifer Tiscornia/Victoria Ordway	Rocket	WW	28
19	6:27	Carol Wadey/R. Wadey	Gypsy	WW	14
20	6:29	Russ Kiernan/Jim Brown	Rush Creek Thor	MM	16
21	6:42	Lisa Schuller/Laura Queen	Cinder	WW (Youngest)	31
22	6:48	Hillary Bates/Jennifer Weaver	Flyaway Joe	WW	23
23	6:51	Debbie Hansen-Bernard/Steve Anderson	Abby	MW	17
24	6:56	Lew Hollander/Doug Madsen	Kayla	MM (Oldest)	33
25	7:13	Rick Noer/Tara Jordan	Jerry	MW	27
26	8:12	Kirsten Seyferth/Julie Thomas	Kadin	WW	12
27	10:20	Jennifer Monioz/karen Perkins	L.P	WW	30
DNF		Merry Law/John Hall	Sweet Gypsy Rose		5
DNF		David DeLaRosa/Amy Betzelberger	Bubba		8
DNF		Tom Noll/Cindy Davis	Frank		22
DNF		Jennifer Titus/Barret Titus	Stue (Ima Tuckin Cash)		24

## Short Course - 20 Miles

Place	Time	Names	Horse	Category	Team #
1	2:58	Dick Root/Ira Hickman	Will	MM	104
2	3:31	Steph Irving/Rachel Toor	Cosmos	WW	103
3	3:35	Elizabeth Adams/Iris Ward	Irish Magic	WW	101
4	4:13	Pat Browning/Dennis Rinde	Bud	MM	102

# Ride & Tie Legends

## Scenes from Bandit Springs



A: Paul Johnson, the hamonica man in the Hawaiian shirt, rides out at the start alongside runner Jim Howard. Jim has been on the Championship winning team twelve times, more than any other competitor by far. This year marked Jim's 30th completion, and was Paul's 19th.

B: Lew Hollander leads the wild group out from the start, with Melissa Queen close behind. Lew is 82 years young, the oldest ever to complete a Championship, and this was his 26th Championship completion. Melissa is 21 and this was her 6th Chamionship, and her 3rd Top Ten.

C: Byron Grant heads out for his 27th Championship completion on his horse, Tess. Byron was race director for the 1993 Championship at Arroyo Grande, CA.

D: Left: Ride & Tie legends, Mary Tiscornia (on Nero) and Mark Richtman are all smiles as they finish third in this year's Championship. Mary is the only person to have competed in all 42 Ride & Tie championship since the sport's inception in 1971. This was her 38th completion. Mark has 23 participations with 21 completions, 7 of those were first place! The black & white photo shows Mary (right) in the early days as she and her partner, Dawn Damas win the W/W division at the 1972 Levi's Ride & Tie near Alturas, CA. She was all smiles then, too! We love you, Mary!

E: Peggy Smyth, with her horse, Phylliss. This year marked Peggy's 10th Championship completion. Her first was in 1976, and throughout the 70s and 80s Peggy and her partners were top competitors in the W/W division, and this year's race proves she still is!

F: Pat Browning is still going strong as he recieved his 29th completion at Bandit Springs this year. Pat was training a green horse this year so he and partner Dennis Rinde participated in the short course.

There is obviously something about Ride & Tie that grabs you and won't let you go! It keeps all these folks still competing after so many years. Today's young competitors have a lot to live up to, in keeping the sport going and growing, and racking up those Championship buckles! Knowing the young people in Ride & Tie today, I am fully confident they are up to the challenge! Our sport depends on them! Go Ride & Tie!



All photos on this page are by Sonny Kumukoa Monioz, except for the 1972 photo, which is from the Bud Johns collection.



# New Editor On Board Soon!

by Annette Parsons

After two years as Ride and Tie Association Newsletter editor, I must take a break. I have enjoyed tremendously putting together the news piece for all of us ride & tie fans, but life circumstances demand I cut back on some commitments, at least for a while. I do not do this lightly, as I have learned a lot and have met many new ride & tiers, at least via email, whom I would not otherwise have connected with. I have loved getting all your exciting stories and photos, and feeling the passion you all have for our beloved sport. Ride & Tiers are an amazing group of people, and I am honored to consider many of you friends, almost family!

The plan is for new editor to take over with the November issue. His name is Dal Burns. He is a friend of long-time ride & tier, Peggy Smyth, hotshot in the W/W division during the 1980s. (Peggy made a ride & tie comeback this year at the championships and it was great to see her back in the sport!) Dal brings to the Association a strong background in publishing and editing. I am confident he will continue to carry the newsletter torch according to the high standards set by Annie Betts, and I look forward to receiving the newsletters and seeing them from a member perspective once again. I thank you all for your support and contributions during my tenure as editor, it has truly been a fun adventure.

And who knows? Maybe when Dal needs a break, I will be ready to step back in. I just love Ride & Tie. Never say never!



Above: No, it's not one of the Bandits from the Springs, just little ole' slooow me, bringing up the dusty rear of the pack at the start of the race. This year was my 16th Championship completion! Slow but sure! Photo: Sonny Kumukoa Monoiz.



Left: Soon-to-be Ride & Tie Newsletter editor Dal Burns (front rider) may bring a whole new meaning to the term "Ride & Tie". Here he is, cowboyin' up at the 2011 Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive. Photo: Cheri Reni Humphreys



**1976 Levi's Ride & Tie Documentary Now Available for purchase!** You can own a DVD copy of this rare archive film, a documentary about the sport of Ride & Tie. Written by Bud Johns, the father of Ride & Tie, and produced in 1977, this 21-minute film features the 1976 Levi's Northstar-at-Tahoe race. All proceeds benefit the Ride & Tie Association. Visit [www.rideandtie.org](http://www.rideandtie.org) and click on "Store" or visit [www.featherhorsesdesigns.com](http://www.featherhorsesdesigns.com) and look for "1976 Levi's Ride & Tie DVD"



Photos: Sonny Kumukoa Monoiz

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# RIDE & TIE: IT REALLY IS "THE MOST FUN YOU CAN HAVE WITH YOUR CLOTHES ON!"

By Hillary Bates

*Title quote is an oft-repeated Ride & Tie-ism from years ago, attributed to Dal Burns, our soon-to-be-new newsletter editor.*

My dream of completing a Ride & Tie World Championship started last summer when I was introduced to the sport by Susan Smyth. I knew I was hooked after my very first race. But I was new to the sport and didn't have consistent partners, not to mention a horse, so the hope of Championships and Belt Buckles seemed like a far off dream some years to come. Little did I know, my shot at the great race was right before me.

Early this year I started working with one of Sue's horses, Flyaway Joe. Fly was recouping from a back injury that had caused him to miss the entire 2011 season. I knew it was imperative that we bring him back carefully and slowly to assure he didn't re-injure himself. Since it was his first year back, and I like to play it safe, I planned to enter the short course race. I found a partner who worked well with Fly and we entered a few races with him this spring to prepare.



Author Hillary Bates runs beside her partners, Jennifer Weaver and Flyaway Joe as they exultantly cross the finish line with a time of 6:48. Photo: Sonny Kumukoa Monioz

Fly was getting stronger and stronger and continued to amaze us. The idea that he might be ready for the long course started to creep into our minds. The horse was ready, but then came the next challenge. Just a few weeks before Championships, I learned that my partner wasn't going to make it to Bandit Springs. Thanks to Sue Smyth's networking skills, I had started running with a new member of the Ride & Tie family who was interested in heading to Oregon, Jennifer Weaver. She had completed a few short courses, and was enjoying the sport, but we hadn't practiced together with Fly. Oh well, we reasoned. There will be time for a test ride in Oregon during race week. We committed to team up and had faith that all the little details would come together.

Jennifer and I had not quite conditioned ourselves like we "should have" for running a 35 mile course. But Fly was ready for it, and as race week loomed closer, the challenge of the long course and the highly coveted Ride & Tie completion buckle grew more and more tempting to us. "What the heck!" we agreed. "Even if we have to crawl, we know we can finish that race. We may not be fast, but we'll finish!" And so it was decided – we registered for the long course, and started packing our bags.

Next thing I knew we were in Oregon, setting up camp at the amazing Bandit Springs ride camp. What an incredibly beautiful place to call home! We arrived on Wednesday evening and went for light training rides and runs to check out the course trails on Thursday and Friday. Fly and Jennifer had a chance to get acquainted. Ready or not, the Championship was upon us!

The Championship experience runs much deeper than any other race I've experienced. It's a whole week of camping and spending time with fellow Ride & Tiers. Although I had only participated in three previous races, I was quickly able to locate familiar faces, and made new friends as well. Everywhere I went, I was in the presence of world-class athletes (horse and human). We shared meals and campfire songs together. We exchanged stories of past Ride & Tie adventures. And we were graced with the inspiring presence of so many of the Ride & Tie Legends: Mary Tiscornia, Peggy Smyth, George Hall, Jim Howard, Mark Richtman, Lew Hollander, and the horses, Magic Scirocco, Cougar's Courage and others! Being surrounded by so many talented and interesting people from so many walks of life is more than half the fun!

The air at camp was calm and mellow when we arrived on Wednesday. But with each passing day, the excitement and energy built. By Friday, you knew something exciting was about to happen. Teams were scurrying about adjusting tack, packing saddle bags with energy snacks for the race, and vetting horses.

Saturday morning came with a start – tack up the horses, secure the gear to send with crew to the vet checks, pin on our

*“The Most Fun...” Continued from preceding page*

numbers... Before I knew it I was mounted up in the saddle, walking Fly out, trying to stay calm while every cell inside me screamed with anticipation. It was a perfect race morning - starting off a little crisp, but warming to a comfortable temperature. As 8:00 am approached, the horse and human athletes gathered at the start line.

The hustling and bustling of the busy morning stopped, and for just a moment, you could have heard a pin drop. But then the hat was dropped, and just like that, we were off! The world around me narrowed as I slipped into a tunnel vision, blurred with rising dust from the commotion. All I could see was the horse immediately in front of me. All I could feel was the rush of a thousand-pound beast galloping beneath me. All I could hear was my breath – which I tried to steady, “deep breath in – deep breath out.” That first mile might have been the longest of the entire race. All I could think about was pacing my horse, staying calm (staying ON!) and finding my first tie.

And there he was! “Bill!” I shouted as we approached the first mile marker. I leapt from Fly, assured that my crewman, Bill Jackson, had hold of him, and took off running down the trail, leaving my faith in the sturdy hands of my crew, and in my running partner Jennifer, who I knew was not far behind. My breath had calmed and I felt I was soaring, not running, over the single track trail that opened into a beautiful green meadow. There were runners and horses everywhere. In the famous words of Bud Johns, it truly was “madness!” Horses passing left and right – teams calling out to each other – all of us headed down a trail that we would follow for hours. It was in this madness at the start of the race that I made a less than ideal decision; somewhere around mile 2, I was running along and began to hear shouts behind me, “Loose horse! Loose horse!” Pumped up on adrenaline and the excitement of the start of the race, I foolishly tried to stop this horse by grabbing his reins. Of course, he broke free and ran right past me. My right thumb was burning and stinging from the jolt, and for a split second I thought I might have just cost myself the race. But I put it out of my head, deciding to focus on the trail ahead of me. After all, I only need one hand to ride! It wasn’t until I was home in California on Monday that I learned I had broken my thumb.

Around mile 5, I was finally settling into a good rhythm. The open meadows had transitioned into a cool sanctuary of tall evergreens. What wonders we see on these races! The beautiful forest lands we race on are known to so few. I always savor these sacred views we get to behold – they are one of the greatest prizes we win for daring to compete in a Ride & Tie. We were moving along at a good clip – Fly and I out in front of a few other horses. At this moment Paul Johnson, on his horse, started playing his harmonica behind me. Harmonica! Yes, in the middle of our race through the forest, as we steadily worked our way around trees, and over little creeks and rocks, this joyous happy little tune rang out. I couldn’t help but shout out “I love Ride & Tie!”

Headed into the first vet check I came upon Lew Hollander and was able to run alongside him for a few miles. Sharing the trail with Lew and so many other world-class athletes was a privilege and an honor! These tireless folks continue to inspire me to dig deeper and push my limits farther with every step.

The hours and miles rolled on. At mile 15 I rode Fly up alongside Jennifer who was looking weary. She had turned her ankle. “Can you finish?” I asked, as Fly and I walked alongside her. “Yeah,” she answered. There was doubt in her voice, but I knew if Fly and I kept the team spirits up, that our positive energy alone would carry her in. Riding hurt almost more than running, so Jennifer had to walk most of the rest of the course. But she didn’t give up. Coming up behind her in the last 3 miles, I noticed her skipping down the trail!! She knew a strong finish was important, and she was determined to keep moving in spite of that pesky ankle.



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*Continued on Page 17*

# 2012 RIDE & TIE RACE SCHEDULE

- Jul 21, 2012, 42nd ANNUAL RIDE & TIE CHAMPIONSHIP, Ochoco Natl Forest, OR  
35 and 20 miles. Contact Janelle Wilde jwilde@wildevents.info
- Jul 28-29, 2012, OLD DOMINION Ride & Tie Weekend  
6, 12, 20 miles, clinic also. Contact Lani Newcomb 540-554-2004 give2bute@aol.com
- Aug 11, 2012, SANTIAM CASCADE, Sisters OR  
10, 30, 50, 80 miles. Contact Anna Sampson 503-829-6002 sampson@molalla.net
- Sep 1, 2012, ONE HEART BENEFIT Ride & Tie Maxwell, IA  
5, 12, 21 miles. Contact Eileen Witt 515-290-2306 oneheartrideandtie@gmail.com
- Sep 7-9, 2012, BIG SOUTH FORK Ride & Tie, Jamestown/Oneida, TN  
8,15,30,50 miles. Contact Karen Isaacs 423-474-3024 thomaskaren@embarqmail.com
- Sep 16, 2012, BIG BEAR Ride & Tie Big Bear, CA **NEW RACE!!**  
17, 23 miles. Contact Kat Swigart 714-474-3563 katswig@earthlink.net
- Oct 13, 2012, COOLEST Ride & Tie, Cool, CA **DATE CHANGE!!**  
Distance TBA. Contact Linda Shaw-Lieberman 530-886-0890 coolgallinda@sbcglobal.net
- Oct 20, 2012, FOOTHILLS OF THE CASCADES, Mollala, OR  
25 miles. Contact Anna Sampson or Mary Nunn 503-839-5321 flyingn@molalla.net
- Oct 26-27, 2012, FORT VALLEY Ride & Tie, Fort Valley, VA  
18, 30, 50 miles. Contact Susan Trader 703-556-0223 susntrader@aol.com
- Oct 27-28, 2012, CUYAMACA Ride & Tie Weekend, Julian, CA  
4, 14, 22, 27 miles (varies by day). Contact Melanie Weir 714-321-3695 melanie.weir11@gmail.com



Photos: Sonny Kumukoa Monioz

## Don't Miss Out on Any

## Ride & Tie News!

**Be sure to let us know if you change your email or snail-mail address... otherwise you won't get the newsletter and email bulletins that come out from time to time. If you change either of these, let us know at [contact@rideandtie.org](mailto:contact@rideandtie.org)**

## RACE RESULTS

<b>STRAWBERRY FIELDS Ride &amp; Tie - 20 Miles June 24, 2012 UT</b>	
Andy Bown/Christina Long on Tucker	3:00
Erik Langhorst/Bruce Burnham on Jabears Liberty	4:14
<b>WILD WEST Ride &amp; Tie - 25 Miles June 24, 2012 CA</b>	
Elaine Ruprecht/Sara Howard on Findifar	2:44
John Osterweis/Sean Pont on Tiki Toma	2:50
Heidi Clare Lambert/Mary Tiscornia on Win	3:45
Thomas Gey/Carol Ruprecht on Feint Impact	3:45
Cheryl Domnitch/Merry Law on Gypsi	4:02
Curt Riffle/Michael Zeliger on Sabell	4:28
<b>WILD WEST Short Course - 12 Miles June 24, 2012 CA</b>	
Regina Duplesse/Amrita O'Leary on Flyaway Joe	1:40
Jec Ballou/Siobhan Saunders on Freyja	1:53
Susan Smyth/Jennifer Weaver on Joe Peshi	1:56
Michele Roush/Dale Roush on Clown' Courage	1:58
Kelli Greaves/Desirae Corbett on Sage	2:01

**Whenever you can, please let our sponsors know how much you appreciate their support of Ride & Tie!**

## Shamrock Has Irish Vigor

by Lari Shea (1985)

*Editor's Note: Lari Shea identified herself and her little horse, "Sham", at the 1985 Foresthill Levi's Ride & Tie in the May Mystery Photo. Lari and Sham teamed up with Catherine Davis that year. Lari says "That one was a hot, dusty son-on-a-gun, but we placed 4th woman/woman team, which in those days was good enough to win us a bundle of hard cash! I worried that we were no longer amateur Ride & Tiers, and might not be able to some day compete in R&T in the Olympics!" Lari fondly remembered Sham from his glory days in the early- to mid-1980s and sent this story she wrote about him in 1985. The story about Sham, the Wonder Horse, was originally published in TrailBlazer magazine. I remember Lari and Sham from those three consecutive Cuneo Creek 50-miler wins, as they went blazing past me in a cloud of dust!*

Shamrock's Flame is a 12-year-old Arabian/Welsh-cross gelding who weighs in at 625 pounds and stands 12.2 hands tall. But you better not let him hear you call him a pony. Sham drives that point home by terrorizing any unsuspecting Shetland within hoof or teeth distance.

Born on a Welsh breeding farm in Eureka, California, Sham sold for a pretty penny the first time around and charmed everyone with his quick intelligence and bright disposition. Sham showed his athletic ability early on, winning many blues in gymkhana, western performance and jumping classes. However, various families' teenagers thought they had outgrown the diminutive warrior, and he passed from hand to hand.

Along the way, Sham decided he'd been whipped one time too many to make a faster barrel run, and his willing attitude began to sour. Matter of fact, he taught himself to be just as proficient at bucking, kicking, striking and biting as he had been at key-hole and pole pending. He was on his way to "tour the world in a can of Alpo" when I received a phone call from one of his first owners after dark one night, beseeching me to save the life of a truly unique athlete. I pulled up in my "green machine" at 11 p.m.. and by flashlight I ascertained that Sham had four legs and the appropriate appendage at each end. I talked his owner out of sending him to the canner the next day and hauled out within the quarter hour, \$150 worth of horse flesh richer.

Sham seemed less than appreciative of being saved from a nasty fate and darn near dumped me the first few times I rode him. Listen, it's harder to stay on a bucking pon..whoops, I mean, little horse, than on a big horse.

As the years passed, however, Sham more than earned his keep at Ricochet Ridge Ranch, packing trail riders and teaching riding students all he knew in the arena. In 1981, Amy Perkins, then 12, captured second place on the Masonite 25-miler on Sham's first distance ride. In October of that year, my son, Rafferty, then 7, flew down the trail on Sham to complete the Cow Mountain 25. Cries of "wait for mommy" could be heard for miles.

In May of 1982, when my Arabian went lame just days before the Cuneo Creek 50, Sham was recruited. People thought I was kidding when I led Sham up to the pre-ride vet check, thinking one of my kids would hop on at the last minute. But low and behold, we won the race, 31 minutes ahead of the second-place horse.

*Continued on Page 17*



Lari and Sham in the early 1980s.  
Photo: Shea collection.

# SCENES FROM THE 42ND ANNUAL WORLD RIDE & TIE CHAMPIONSHIP





Scenes from Bandit Springs: pre-race registration, meetings, tack repairs, warm-ups...all part of the scene at a ride & tie race. Children and dogs were abundant, as was the meadow grass. The weather could not have been better, and water and ties were plentiful. What a glorious site for a championship! Big thanks to race director, Janelle Wilde, and her family and volunteers for putting on a great race!

All photos on these pages are by Sonny Kumukoa Monioz. Sonny took over 900 photos, including finish photos of all teams and in-race photos of all competitors. You can contact Sonny about purchasing photos from his website or get all 900+ photos on a CD for \$20. Visit [www.areaphotos.com](http://www.areaphotos.com)



## Tough Giddyup and Runners Tackle Tennessee Heat

by Joanne Mitchell

The first ever Giddyup and Run Ride & Tie went pretty smoothly! The race was held in Tennessee at Bakers Creek, and the race site lived up to its name as competitors were baked in the 102 degree heat till well done. Our vet, Mellissa Hamilton cautioned everyone, horses and humans, to drink plenty of WATER!



The 20-mile teams start out after getting the word that trail flagging had been repaired.

Photo: Dee Dee Turaski.

Things were proceeding smoothly with registration, but when the point rider went out early and came back almost immediately asking if we had changed the course, I knew we were in for some challenges. The course ribbons had been sabotaged! This was not the way I had hoped to start the day. We held the pre-ride briefing while the point rider rode out and replaced the flagging. Competitors already had received their maps via email, and we were ready to Giddyup and

Run. By 7:20 a.m. the 20-milers were able to start, with the 5- and 10-milers following shortly.

About 10:00 a.m., as some riders were cooling their horses in the lake near the boat launch, a troop of Boy Scouts arrived with their canoe trailer. They launched about half a dozen canoes into the lagoon and were practicing rolling their canoes. We could hear "One, two, three...ROLL!" Then came a SPLASH followed by a WHOOP and a HOLLER! Most of the horses wanted no part of that ruckus.

Joe and Renee Belafato, of Chelsea, AL won the 20-miler. Lily Turaski of Friendsville and Kathleen DiRosato of Decatur, GA took 2nd place, on Freedom, who also received the Best Condition award in the 20-mile race.

Amy Betzelberger from Delevan, Illinois received the award for the "Farthest Traveled"...she had driven ten hours to come and do our race! Lori Little and Malyndia Long won the "Best Dressed" team award. There was a tie for the youngest competitor, both were 7 years old! We also presented turtle awards for the hardy souls at the back of the pack, and we sang Happy Birthday to BZ, Tykey's horse who turned 11 on June 30th.

We had a good turnout, with five teams in the 20-miler, 3 teams in the 10-miler, and two teams in the 5-miler. We hope to hold the race again next year at Baker's Creek, but we may change the date to avoid such heat.

Our volunteers included my absolutely wonderful husband, Bobby Mitchell, along with Nelia Rueter (10-mile point rider), Debbie Lashley and Kathy Blair (check point D and 5-mile point riders), Nelia's daughter Melissa and her son Gage (check point A), Melissa's husband, Patrick (check point E), Tykey's son-in-law Steven Turaski (check point C), Sherry and Ellis Neidich and their daughter Holly at race headquarters, and DeeDee Turaski (Tykey's daughter) as our race photographer.

No vehicles were used in preparation of this event at the stipulation of the land managers. All the weed eaters and chainsaws were packed in by mules. There was so much poison ivy!

Sherry Neidich was surprised that you don't actually have to run! As a grandmother, her hard-core running days are mostly behind her but she can do forward motion and has several grandchildren. Hmmm. Another



Eden Carnes, one of two 7-year olds competing in the 5-mile race. Photo: Dee Dee Turaski.



marketing aspect we had not considered. Battling grannies!

Many thanks goes to the trail manager, Tykey Truett, who is fast approaching 7 decades on this planet but still has ENTHUSIASM for Ride & Tie. She got the goody bags together and most of the stuff like the pedometers and sample things that went inside. From the evaluation forms we learned that most everyone was pleased with the event except for the HEAT which we could not control.

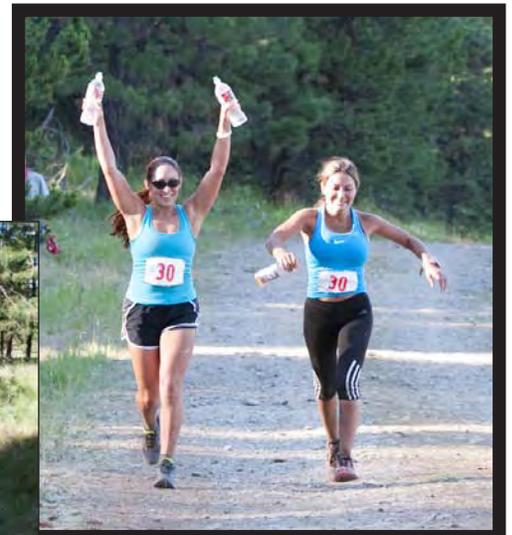
Big thank-yous to all who came and raced! You are what make it worth the effort!

Left: Long and Little received the "Best Dressed Team" award. Photo: Dee Dee Turaski

# ...More Championship Photos....

# TrailRunner

One Dirty Magazine



Photos: Sonny Kumukoa Monioz

### ***Shamrock Has Irish Vigor*** (Continued from Page 12)

Some thought Sham's win was just a fluke, but when I brought him back in 1983, I'd been conditioning him to prove it was no accident. That year Sham crossed the finish line 37 minutes before Fred Emigh's fantastic stallion, Mon Surbo, proving he could win against the toughest competition. He also took best condition.

That fall, Summer O'Redwoods, age 11, delighted in riding her first 50-miler on the sure-footed little steed.

In 1984, possibly none except Sham and I thought we could win the Cuneo Creek Endurance Ride for the third time. That year, the grueling course through magnificent virgin redwoods had been altered, putting the most difficult 18-mile loop first instead of last. This made the trail faster and easier to ride. I knew that Sham had won in the past because that little tiger personifies the cliché "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." The question in my mind was whether Sham would be able to win on this easier course against horses who would always be faster than him with their vastly longer legs. The question was answered when Sham galloped across the finish line nearly an hour and a half before the second-place horse. We finished in five and a half hours, cutting an hour's riding time from the previous two year's harder course. Sham was literally dragging me at the end of his lead rope when shown for best condition, which he won hands down.

My daughter, Kyala, at age 6, took over Sham's reins in the summer of 1984, sailing through the Briones and Mendocino 25-milers, with Rafferty and Summer on new mounts. The pair also won at hunter hack and assorted tamer events. They'll be beginning their endurance partnership at this spring's Steam Donkey 50. But I hope she doesn't mind if mommy steals him back for another go at Cuneo Creek every now and then.

*-Lari Shea, 1985*

### **...More Championship Photos...**



Photos: Sonny Kumukoa Monioz

### **"The Most Fun..."** *Continued from Page 10*

determination. We passed some teams and were passed by many others. But before long, we were rounding that last turn – together, two runners and our horse. A little bruised, broken, and covered in a mixture of sweat and dust, we still wore those same wide smiles we started the race with. Crossing that finish line gave me such a high, I was almost ready to keep racing on! We quickly cooled Fly and got him through the final vet check, where he received an "A" on his back condition! We couldn't have been more relieved and proud of the amateur horse that so effortlessly carried our team to a successful completion.

I know the thoughts that must wander through the minds of the spectators and crew: "What goes on out there, all those long quiet hours, while we wait back at camp?" The answer is pretty simple: Trust, hard work, and dedication to team. And a whole lot of madness!

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### MAY MYSTERY

I figured there would be many who would know that cute ride & tier in the cowboy hat was Lari Shea on her wonder horse, Sham, and that it was the 1985 Levi's race at Foresthill. But I hoped someone would know who the runner was. Lari says it was not her partner (she was a W/W team that year). George Hall thinks it is Ad Vandenhooogen; Marge and Vern Biehl guessed Ad or Lud McCrary. Both were in the 1985 race. Steve Shaw thought it was Vandenhooogen also. See story about Lari and Sham on page 12 of this issue.



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