

RIDE & TIE



NEWSLETTER

May 2012

42ND ANNUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

RIDE & TIE



Photo taken at Bandit Springs Ride & Tie, 2008 by Annie Betts

JULY 21, 2012

BANDIT SPRINGS--OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST

Board Elections! Vote Online!
See page 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, we started the Ride and Tie year off right with nine teams racing the 3rd Annual Sunrise Canyon Ride and Tie in Kennewick, WA. We were happy to recruit 12 new Ride & Tie members, and we hope to see many of them at the Ride & Tie Championship on July 21, 2012 at Bandit Springs, OR near the town of Prineville, OR.

Legend has it that there was some gold hidden in those hills in 1863 by some marauding bandits. Apparently the bandits were being chased by a posse and fled into the Ochoco Mountains to hide out. The legend notes that they were forced to hide the gold from the Indians at the base of a tree. The six bandits were never heard from again, but the bones from their horses were discovered 50 years later. You never know, maybe the tree you tie to at the 42nd Annual World Ride and Tie Championships will be the location of the buried treasure! Our race director, Janelle Wilde, has been holding the Bandit Springs Endurance Ride there for 20 years now. We figure one of these years she'll stumble upon the gold, and we'll never hear from her again! You may want to even get a head start looking for the gold, and a preview of the Championship course, by showing up for the Bandit Springs Endurance Ride on July 14-15, 2012. Janelle will be hosting a Ride & Tie on Sunday, July 15th for your enjoyment. Then you can camp out all week and check out the trails for the Ride and Tie Championship.

On a sad note, Ira Hickman and I lost a great R&T horse, Dartanion, in early April. Ira was kind enough to write an article about the tragic accident for the newsletter. By sharing his experience, he hopes that the untimely loss of any other horses can be prevented.

We've got a slew of R&T coming up with races from North Carolina to Utah and California to Washington. Get out there and recruit some new members to this awesome sport! We have placed ads in Northwest Runner, Trail Runner Magazine, and the AERC News in an attempt to recruit trail runners and endurance riders to the sport of R&T. But we need you as ambassadors out there preaching the righteous benefits of doing a R&T.

See you on the trails!

-Ben Volk

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Ben on Bubba at Sunrise Canyon Ride & Tie near Kennewick, WA Photo: Libby Volk

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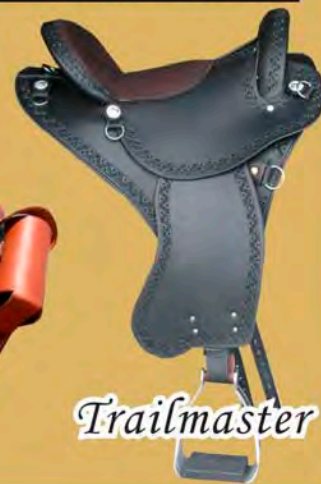
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VETERINARIAN'S CORNER

AIMING FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

At the time of this writing, we are some 2 months from the 2012 Ride & Tie Championships to be held at Bandit Springs, in central Oregon. There is a large group of people who have been working in concert for months to make this event a successful one. They include your Board members, our Ride Manager, Jannelle Wilde, and her team, myself, serving as head veterinarian and other folks as well.

Our veterinary team for the Championships will be Dr. Rob Lydon, from Manton, CA, Dr. Cassee Terry, from Redmond, OR and myself. Many of you probably know Rob, as he is a veteran ride & tier. Cassee is our local connection, has vetted several endurance rides in that area, teaming up with Jannelle, and will be our designated treatment veterinarian, if needed. We have been in communication with Jannelle about the course and have the loops all laid out, with the locations set for the different vet checks. It feels like plans, from our perspective, are progressing well, and I'm very pleased with the vet team we will have for this year.

So how are your plans progressing? For most of us, by far the most important and most time consuming issue is conditioning. And that's for both horse and human. Make an honest assessment of where you and the horse you will be teamed with are realistically at right now. Know that you can only increase mileage safely about 10% per week. Work backwards from a week before July 21st and do the math. One of the keys to an enjoyable and safe competition is coming in knowing you both are prepared to meet the physical challenges of a championship course.

For the horse, coping with the mental demands of the competition can be as challenging as the physical ones. There're lots of strange horses around. Is your horse prepared for that whole package of taking off with the pack, stopping and being tied while watching the world rush by, rushing off again, then having to stand still for a P&R and a vet check, quickly eating and drinking, having their buddy take off without them, and all that stuff? From my observations, difficulties in this area cause more problems than do possible fatigue, dehydration or metabolic stress.

There are other areas of planning to get in order and not leave until the last day before leaving. What is the shoeing cycle for your horse? Do you have it set up so that the last shoeing is about 2 weeks before the competition? The same should be said for vaccinations and worming. Annual vaccines should be done in the spring, but make sure they are given at least one month ahead for optimum protection and have the time to recover from any possible side effects. Consider "rhinopneumonitis" among your vaccine arsenal, as there have been at least 2 outbreaks of the neurological form of EHV1 in different parts of California this year. UC Davis issued a very informative White Paper on Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM), dated May 26, 2011. Although there are no vaccines labeled for use against EHM, they discussed the possible benefits of some of the brand name vaccines (Calvenza, Rhinomune, Pnuemabort K, Prodigy).

Check on Oregon's requirements for transport of horses into the state. There are no requirements for horses coming from Washington. For most of the western states, a health certificate is good for 6 months and a Coggins test is good for a year. The common standard from other states is a Health Certificate within 30 days and a negative Coggins test within 12 months, but double check with your vet so you don't get caught with a surprise.

Speaking of travel, most of us will be coming from quite a distance to get to central Oregon. Don't underestimate the stressful impact on our horses of riding in a trailer for many hours or even more than 1 day. Simply riding in a trailer requires constant rebalancing, so it's far from restful. Eating and drinking are completely changed from normal routines. A rule of thumb is that the horse will need at least as many hours to recover, rehydrate and re-establish normal gut function as the trip took.

Speaking of eating and drinking routines, how does your horse do when asked to drink different smelling/tasting water in different containers in any location? Is your horses used to drinking any time along the trail? Bring with you the hay and feed they are accustomed to eating. Same with vet checks for that matter. What are

Aiming For the Championship (Continued from preceding page.)

they used to during competition at vet checks? What is your plan concerning electrolytes? Have you practiced that plan during training rides? Or before and/or after riding?

I think I've offered more questions than answers. However, my main objective is to get you to consider a lot of this and to try to address as much as you can with the time remaining.

Best of luck to each of you. I'll see you at Bandit Springs in July.

Greg Fellers, DVM
Head Veterinarian



Rut Roh, Green Team and Superman Are Back?

by Dennis Summers

At the Mt Adams Championship I crossed a big one off my bucket list. I have been an endurance rider for longer than I care to admit. Always try to do what groundwork possible to help the horse at rides. Often people comment " you should ride & tie." Got that monkey off my back when Ron Sproat and Superman got 'er done at Mt. Adams.

In spite of everything we did wrong, (I know those loops up there really well and know I ran the first 7 miles of loop 2 before we made a flying exchange, oops). Superman carried us to a 4th place overall, first MM and first Pro-Am. A great place to end my short ride & tie career, eh? I thought so, at least until they scheduled the championship near home on the great Bandit Springs trail. Here's your fair warning - Superman and I are back, with a partner who runs like a deer and rides like a Banshee!

Just to make it a little more fair to all I wrote an Ebook especially for you, well kind of. The title is **4th Gear - Power Up Your Endurance Horse**. It touches on horse selection, horse prep, rider skills, fitness and such. The info will cross over well to Ride & Tie. It will rock yer world. Check it out at www.4thgearendurance.com or on Amazon and lulu ebooks.



Superman with partners Ron Sproat and Dennis Summers placed 4th at the 2010 Championship at Mt. Adams, WA. Photo: Trout Lale Community Service Club.

See you at Bandit Springs for the Championship!

-Dennis

SUN RISES ON SUNRISE CANYON

by Ben Volk



Long-course winners, Rachel Toor on Will, and Dick Root.

WOW! What a great showing we had for the Sunrise Canyon Ride & Tie on March 24, 2012. We had eight teams complete the Short Course (11 miles) and 1 team complete the Long Course (22 miles). As a direct result of this race, we had 12 new R&T members and have three or four of the teams committed to doing the Championship. All of the finishers received a custom wood frame and a photo from world-famous photographer Libby Volk. (All right, she's not world-famous yet, but some day she will be!)

The race started with the usual excitement from ride camp in Sunrise Canyon, located next to Ira and Leslie Hickman's house. True to the ride name, the sun came up through the canyon about 8:00 a.m. and took the chill off the air. We still faced a 5-10 mph wind throughout the day, but the sun seemed to help keep the chill out of the air and made for perfect race conditions. Despite the lack of trees, all of the teams noted that they were able to find ample tie points.

The long course was dominated by the dynamic duo of Dick Root (68 years young) and Rachel Toor (50 years young). With well over 100 years in the saddle, this seasoned team even challenged the short course winners, Shelly Yorgesen and Ben

Volk, on their first two loops of the course. The course consisted of an 8-mile loop with a 1500 foot climb and a 3-mile loop with 300 feet of climbing. With both teams riding horses Will and Bubba, highly trained by Dick Root, this was bound to be an exceptionally fast day. Shelly, Ben and Bubba made it to the finish with Rachel, Dick, and Will right on their heels. As Rachel and Dick headed out for the next 11 miles, the 2nd through 4th place short course teams came steaming into camp. It was literally a photo finish as all the runners came in together followed by all three horses finishing within seconds of each other. All of the teams finished and Kadin, ridden by Kirsten Seyferth and Liza Linda, won the coveted Best Condition Award. All of the teams had a blast and vowed they would be back for more. Fair warning to those "Century in the Saddle Teams": Dick Root and Rachel Toor are teamed up for the Championship!

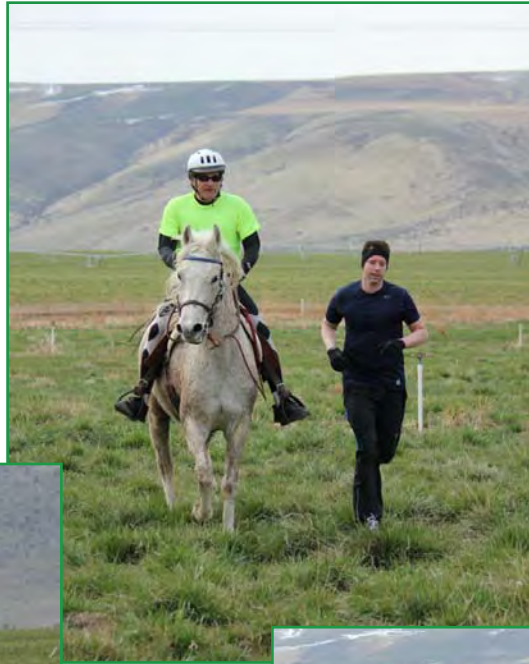


Long- and short-course teams heading out onto the race course at Sunrise Canyon.

All Sunrise Canyon photos by Libby Volk.

Sunrise Canyon (continued)

We'd like to thank the following people for putting the race together: Dr. Jen Strelkauskas, Head Veterinarian; Ira Hickman and Ben Volk, Co-Race Directors; Riverwood Feed, Prizes for Best Condition; Libby Volk, Photographer; Regan Volk, Eagle Mountain water supply and tie point; Susan Volk, Photo preparation and maintaining co-race director's sanity; and Leslie Hickman for making us fresh-baked cookies. Also thanks to Ira Hickman for giving up his ride on Dartanion so Steve Anderson could participate in the ride. Steve was supposed to ride Tia, one of Ben and Susan Volk's horses, but she was lame that day. Hearing that Steve drove 5 hours to get to the ride, Ira graciously gave up his ride so Steve could participate. As it would turn out, this was Dartanion's last Ride & Tie, as he had to be put down after a training ride accident on Easter Sunday.



Above left: Ben Volk with Shelly Yorgeson on Bubba tie up 1st place in the short course.

Above middle: Steve Anderson on Dartanion with Corey Meehan.

Right: Liza Linde on Kadin (Best Condition) with Kersten Seyferth.

Board of Directors Nominee Statements

George Hall



George on Cinder, 2011 Championship.
Photo: Barry Thorpe.

For the last three years I have been on the Board of Directors of the Ride and Tie Association. We meet to help keep the Ride and Tie Association functioning; making decisions about the logistics of keeping our sport alive and helping it thrive. Decisions need to be made about how to use our resources to promote our sport, encourage new participants, organize the Championship race, facilitate and sanction local races and help keep the momentum going. I would be honored to continue to help guide the Ride and Tie Association for another term and provide my perspective as a three-decade competitor and veterinarian.

George Hall has been riding and tying since 1980 and has 29 Championship completions to his credit.

Steve Anderson



Steve and Abby share a joke.
Photo: Polly Elliott

I have been on the Board since 2006. Before that I was managing all the race data for the Association. I am still doing this and am also the Treasurer. My goal is to monitor the Members funds and maintain easy access to every one's miles. I would appreciate your vote.

Steve Anderson has been riding and tying for many years and has 11 Championship completions under his belt.

Lani Newcomb

Spreading the gospel of Ride & Tie is one of my main missions in life. I have been competing since 1983, and some day plan to get it right. Until then my goals are to continue working to firmly establish Ride & Tie in the East; and to increase the numbers of events available across the country. As a current Board Member, I am in charge of sanctioning and scheduling races. My partner and I, both lifetime members, valiantly struggle away in the back of every Ride & Tie we can get to. We get slower every year but still have more fun than most.

Lani Newcomb is a long time Board of Directors Member. She is the Chairperson of the Sanctioning Committee.

Vetericyn®

The Ride and Tie Association Board of Directors is comprised of nine members each serving three-year terms. Each year, three board members come up for re-election. The Board meets five times each year by phone conference and once in person at the Championship. If you would like to become a member of the Ride and Tie Board of Directors, contact any Board member. They are listed on the inside back cover.

VOTE ONLINE!!

It is Ride and Tie Association Board of Directors election time again. Exercise your right to vote! Active members in Competitor and Family membership types, as well as Lifetime and Founding members are eligible to vote. Family memberships get two votes.

To vote online, simply go to the Ride & Tie website at www.rideandtie.org and click on "VOTE HERE" on the home page. This will take you to the Vote Page, where you can identify yourself by membership number. Note that if you use your name, there may be more than one person with the same last name, so be sure to select the correct one.

Once the system has "found" you, a ballot will appear. Simply click the "YES" button next to the name of the person you are voting for. You can vote for up to three candidates.

Note: Only active members can vote. If you have not renewed for this year you will receive a message stating "Our records show that you are not a current member. If you believe this is in error, please contact us at ContactUs@rideandtie.org".

If, for some reason, you are unable to vote online, you may clip or copy this ballot form and send it to:

Sue Smyth, Secretary, 211 Gold Crest Ct, Newcastle, CA 95658-9486

Board of Directors Election, 2012

Vote for three:

- Steve Anderson
- George Hall
- Lani Newcomb



www.clifbar.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR CHAMPIONSHIP !!

The Ride and Tie Association needs volunteers to help with registration, vet checks, and finish line timing and photos. Volunteers working 3 hours or more get FREE T-shirt and Dinner. If you can help us please let us know. Please contact Race Director Jannelle Wilde at 541-849-2460 or jwilde@wildevents.info

TrailRunner

One Dirty Magazine

Championship Week Schedule

Sunday, July 15		Camp opens
Sunday through Wednesday		Explore the area, ride the trails, visit with old and new friends!
Thursday, July 19	11:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting (all welcome)
	3:00 pm	General membership meeting and 2011 Point Awards
	5:00 pm	Potluck BBQ and jam session (bring your instrument!)
Friday, July 20	12:00-4:00	Registration
	1:00 pm	Horse Vet-In begins
Saturday, July 21	8:00 am	42nd Annual World Ride & Tie Championship!
	6:30 pm	Banquet followed by awards
Sunday, July 22		Camp closes



Photo: Annie Betts

Camp Information

Camp Opens Sunday July 15th and is located in Central Oregon's beautiful Ochoco National Forest, 28 miles east of Prineville, OR - Ride Camp GPS coordinates: 44-28-00 N 120-22-19 W

The camp is in a large, grassy meadow dotted with old growth ponderosa pine and aspens. Horse water and porta-potties provided. Please bring your own people water. Cell phone service is spotty.

Bag and remove all horse poop and hay!

ALL DOGS ON LEASHES

The U.S. Forest Service mandates that all feed used on USFS lands be **certified weed seed free**. We are required to have weed-free hay in ride camp. You are welcome to bring your own if it has the special yellow and purple strings indicating it is certified. We will also have bales for sale from a local grower.

1. Please do not tie your horses to trees in camp. There are hitching posts, steel pens and your trailers for that.
2. Dogs are allowed **ONLY** in camp. A dog out on the trail could jeopardize the event.
3. Dogs in camp must be on a leash and under the control of the owner at all times. This seems pretty clear. **No loose dogs.....ever.**
4. And please, don't throw your dog in the trailer and ride off for two hours leaving it there howling. The park ranger comes looking for me to find out which part of the rules I didn't understand.

Check the Ride and Tie website for updated information on camp and services.
www.rideandtie.org Click on "World Championship"

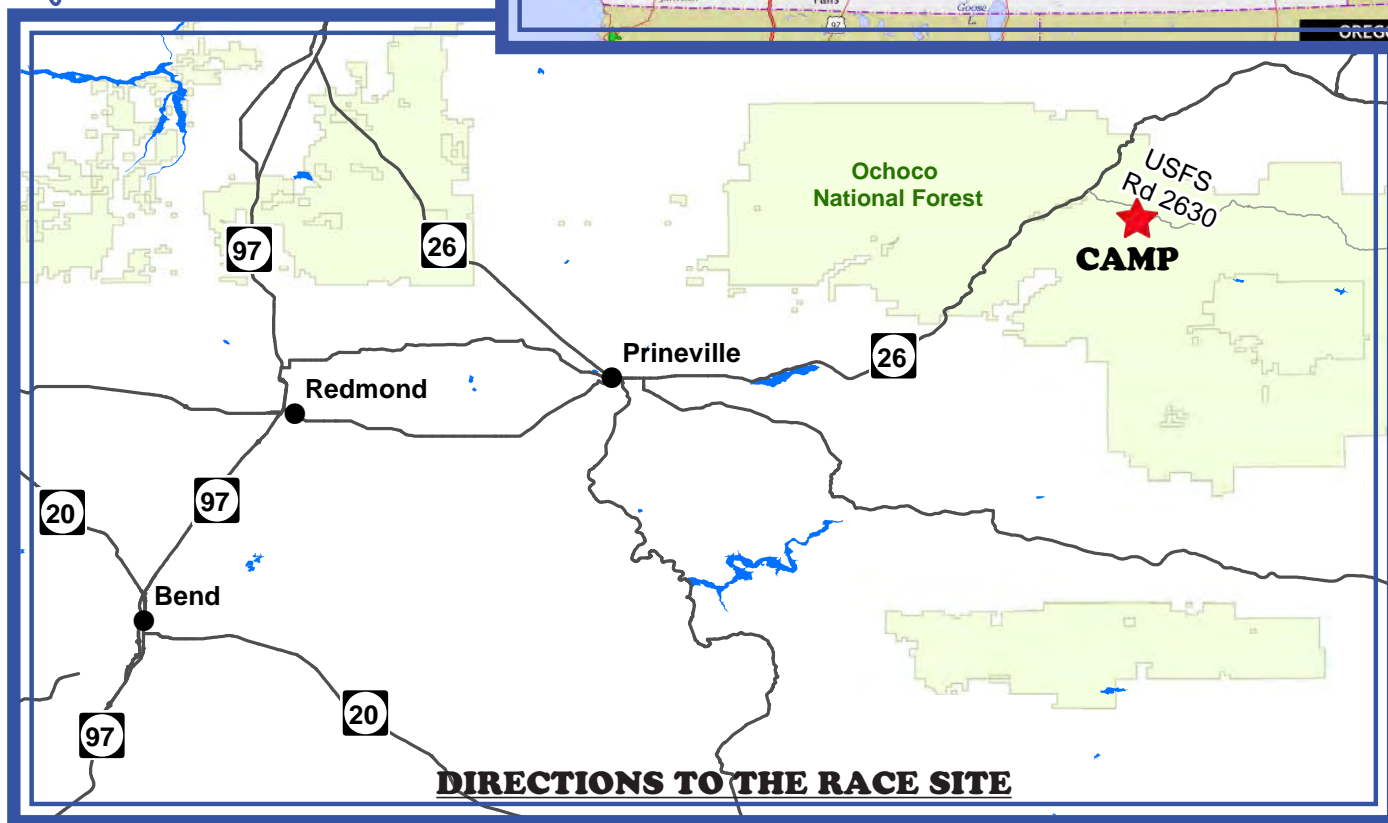
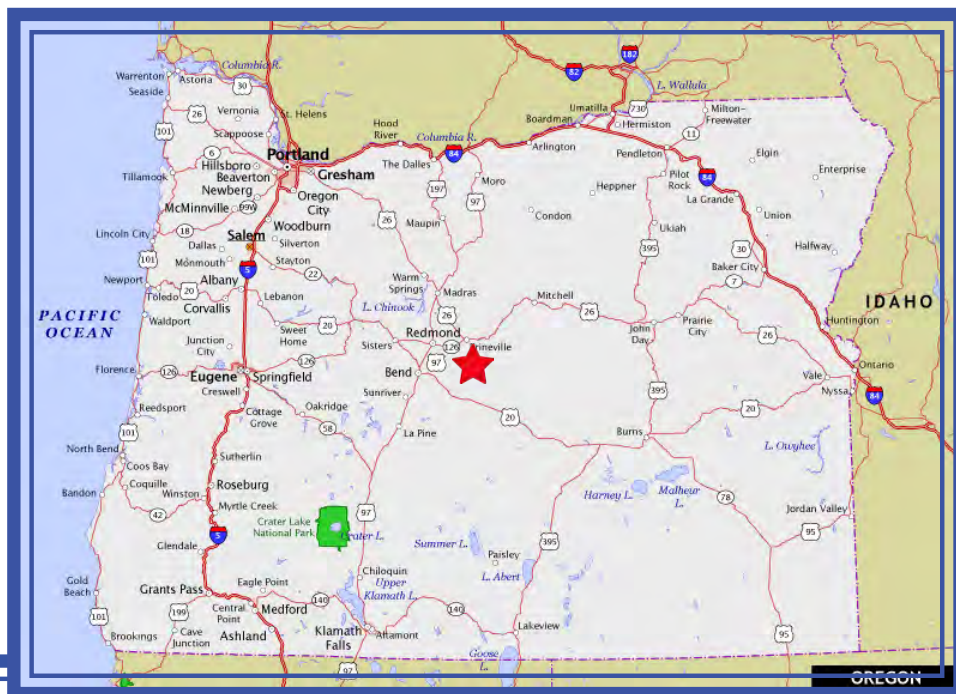
GETTING TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Gorgeous Meadows!
Plenty of trees!
Wild Horse Country!
Beautiful Trails!

Bring Weed-Free Hay.
Please keep dogs on leash!

Come early and explore!

Contact Race Director
Janelle Wilde if you have
questions. 541-849-2460
jwilde@wildevents.info



Race camp is located east of Prineville in the Ochoco National Forest, off Highway 26.

GPS coordinates: 44-28-00 N 120-22-20 W

Take Hwy 26 east from Prineville about 30 miles to mile marker 48.

If you are coming on I-84 or other points northeast, take Hwy 395 south to Hwy 26. The turnoff is about 19 miles southwest of Mitchell.

Turn southeast off 26 onto USFS Road #2630 (watch for signs and ribbons) and go about 2.5 miles. Look for ride camp on your right.

2012 RIDE & TIE RACE SCHEDULE

- May 12, 2012, BILTMORE Ride & Tie, Asheville, NC
4, 8, 15, 30 miles. Contact Sara Boelt lighter1986@gmail.com
- May 12, 2012, CACHE CREEK Ride & Tie, Williams, CA
15 and 25 miles. Contact Jennifer Stalley 530-755-6777 jdstalley@gmail.com
www.thecachecreekride.com
- May 19, 2012, MT ADAMS Ride & Tie, Mt. Adams, WA
25 miles. Darlene Anderson or Veronica Glenn endrncrider@gmail.com or dichamps05@gmail.com
- Jun 9, 2012, RUN n RIDE 4 RESCUE, Hamilton, MT **CANCELLED**
8, 20 miles. Contact Kelly Carper Polden info@westernmontanaequinerescue.org
- Jun 9, 2012, DESCANSO Ride & Tie, Descanso CA **DATE CHANGE**
15, 23 miles Contact Terry Howe 619-445-5443 terryhowe@hughes.net
- Jun 17, 2012, LLANO ESTACADO CHALLENGE, Amarillo, TX **NEW RACE!!**
9, 20 miles. Contact Lorie Van Ongevalle 806-676-1339 VOArabians@aol.com
- Jun 24, 2012, WILD WEST RIDE & TIE, Nevada City, CA
12, 25 miles. Contact Melissa Ribley 530-268-1378 mribley@wildblue.net
- Jun 24, 2012, STRAWBERRY FIELDS Ride & Tie, Park City, UT **NEW RACE !!**
25 miles. Contact Howard Kent. 801-580-7036 HK@SLIcom.net www.strawberryenduranceride.com
- Jun 30, 2012, SNOW TENT SLIDE Ride & Tie, Nevada City, CA
10, 20 miles. Contact Cheryl Domnitch 530-748-4305 cdefpe@aol.com or
Susan Smyth 916-663-9410 susansmythjackson@gmail.com
- Jul 14, 2012, BANDIT SPRINGS Ride & Tie, Ochoco Natl Forest, OR
10, 15, 30 miles. Contact Janelle Wilde jwilde@wildevents.info
- Jul 15-21, 2012, FORT STANTON Ride & Tie, Capitan NM
25, 35 miles (varies by day, check website) Contact Roger or Sue at roger_sue@prodigy.net
- 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 16, 2012, BIG BEAR Ride & Tie Big Bear, CA **NEW RACE!!**
17, 23 miles. Contact Kat Swigart 714-474-3563 katswig@earthlink.net
- Sep 17-19, 2012, BIG SOUTH FORK Ride & Tie, Jamestown/Oneida, TN
8,15,30,50 miles. Contact Karen Isaacs 423-474-3024 thomaskaren@embarqmail.com
- Sep TBA, COOLEST Ride & Tie, Cool, CA
Distance TBA. Contact Susan Smyth 916-663-9410 susansmythjackson@gmail.com
- 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

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

RACE RESULTS

SUNRISE CANYON Ride & Tie - 22 Miles March 24, 2012 WA
 RG Root/Rachel Toor on Will 3:09

SUNRISE CANYON Short Course - 11 Miles March 24, 2012 WA
 Shelly Yorgeson/Ben Volk on Bubba 1:23
 Samantha Arnold/Catie Cejka on Lexie 1:31
 Laura Kolokowski/Trisha Spiering on Johnny 1:31:01
 Kirsten Seyferth/Liza Linde on Kadin (BC) 1:31:02
 Steve Anderson/Corey Meehan on Dartanion 1:33
 Julie Lemberg/Tanja Menks on Habib Desparado's Oro 1:37
 Jessica Griffin/Jill Reineccius on Drummer 1:57
 Mark Thorn/Meghan Thorn on Tucker 2:28

FOXCATCHER Ride & Tie - 25 Miles April 44, 2012 MD
 Rhonda Venable/Dave Venable on Tanner 3:59
 Janice Heltibridle/Laynee Baris on Shawnee Sail 4:03

FOXCATCHER Short Course - 10 Miles April 44, 2012 MD
 Wayne Heffelfinger/Beth Heffelfinger on Chili Pepper 9:00

CACHE CREEK Ride & Tie - 25 Miles May 12, 2012 CA
 Rufus Schneider/Beth Love on Temperance (BC) 3:01
 Aaron Rund/Moses Vaughn on Cisco 3:13
 Gunilla Pratt/Michael Whelen on Stryde 3:28
 Susan Smyth/Emily Gragg on Joe Peshi 3:52
 Jennifer Monioz/Rick Noer on L.P. 3:54
 George Hall/John Hall on Courage 3:55
 April Moore/Jorey Brundy on Filly 4:51
 Cybele Douglas/Karen Camilli on CP Seeya 7:13

CACHE CREEK Short Course - 15 Miles May 12, 2012 CA
 Diane Logan/Bill Logan on Tucker 1:47
 Hillary Marrs/Amrita O'Leary on Flyaway Joe 1:55
 Jennifer Tiscornia/Victoria Ordway on Rocket 2:00
 Mary Tiscornia/Beth Goudreay on Win 2:00
 Jennifer Weaver/Kelsey Giles on JJ 2:03
 John Osterweis/Sean Pont on Tiki Toma 2:05

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



While I certainly cannot complain about Charles Conrow's fantastic talent and effort as a Ride & Tie partner (he is AWESOME!), I do worry a little about his training techniques. He still seems to be struggling with the concept of multiple horses and one human vs multiple humans and one horse! :-)

CINDER IS FOR SALE!!!

Cinder, the very experienced and beautiful grey registered Arabian mare, 15 years old, is for sale. She is our most experienced, most reliable ride & tie horse. She has completed 32 ride and ties including 7 championships. She finished 3rd in the 50 mile Capitol Climb Endurance ride. We can think of only one event that she didn't complete due to lameness at the end. She is a extremely sure footed and easy to ride. She does best in a bitless bridle. Want references? Talk to George Hall, Lisa Preston, Dave Riffle, Katherine Adams, Dennis Grow, Josh and Erika Steffen, Mark and Martina Kyle, Bill Mintiens, Tim Rubin, Ben Volk, Steve Anderson, Lisa Schuller, Brook Page, Kathy Broadus, Lani Newcomb, Liz Perkin, Blake Kimball. They've all had good experiences with her during a ride.

Why are we looking for a new home for her? We've got too many horses and since Don isn't doing many ride and ties anymore, it is time to find her a home where she can do what she was trained for.

See her at the Ride and Tie Championship! Lisa Schuler will be teaming up with her daughter and Cinder! For more information contact Don Betts, rideandtiedon@aol.com (360)681-5218 Make offer.



Cinder has carried many teammates to Ride & Tie glory, including the world-famous George Hall. Photo: Barry Thorpe

Farewell, My Friend

by Ira Hickman

Note: The following was written by Ira Hickman in early April of this year, just after he lost his beloved Ride & Tie horse, Dartanion, to injuries sustained in a serious accident while out on a training ride. Here, Ira bravely shares his experience in the hopes it may save another horse from a similar tragic fate.

I had a bad wreck on Dart today. I'm okay but I had to put him down. I took several pictures with my phone because I knew this would be the last time I would see him. About two miles from the house he got his hind leg caught in a single strand of barbed wire. It was flat on the ground and the remnant of an old fence line. I was dismounted and leading him over it. I've done this a hundred times on at least six different horses. I won't do it again. He hooked the wire with his foot somehow, even though I was standing on it just in case. I tried to hold him back but he bolted over me and dragged me underneath him with the wire. He dragged me about 20 yards under him in the wire and crossed back through the fence line which was still standing farther down the hill. I never let go of the reins in an effort to keep him from hurting himself and for fear of getting dragged in the wire that I was also in. I got stepped on several times, and kicked in the head a few times. I'm a bit cut up from the wire but seem to be fine. Dart severed both tendons in the front of his left hind leg and more. Ironically, I usually carry wire cutters but had untied them from my saddle a week ago when I loaned it to someone during a ride & tie. It probably wouldn't have mattered in the long run. I got on my cell phone and called my neighbor, Ken Egli, to help me and bring some wire cutters. I also called Dr. Dick Root, the vet. By the time they got to me I had already gotten Dart free. It took about 25 minutes or so to work the loose end of the wire back through the cinched up knot around his leg. He was sitting on his butt and laying over against me. The wire was stretched tight back to the last post and looked like a combination clove hitch double timber hitch around his leg. His tail was also tangled into the whole bloody mess. I didn't think I'd ever get it off him. Ken and Dick showed up about 15 minutes after I got it off. The only good news was that I didn't really get hurt. Dart was a great horse and a good friend of mine. I feel like I really screwed up. I wish I could have done more for him and kept him out of trouble in the first place. I spent a lot of time traveling with him and on him. I already miss him. I'm glad I had the privilege of spending time with him the last few years. I told him I was sorry and I would see him on the other side. Then we put him down.



The last photo of Dartanion and Ira together.

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MARCH MYSTERY

I was surprised how many folks guessed correctly on the March mystery photo of handsome young cowboy Pat Browning. Of course, Nita Browning got it, but so did Marge and Vern Biehl, Moses Vaughn, George Hall, and Barbara McCrary. Many thanks to Steve Shaw for digging up that wonderful old photo!



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