

RIDE & TIE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE RIDE AND TIE ASSOCIATION

September 1995

Laura Christofk, Editor

I can't decide which was better, the race or the awards banquet. This years world championship race was the closest one yet, that I know of, for all three catagories.

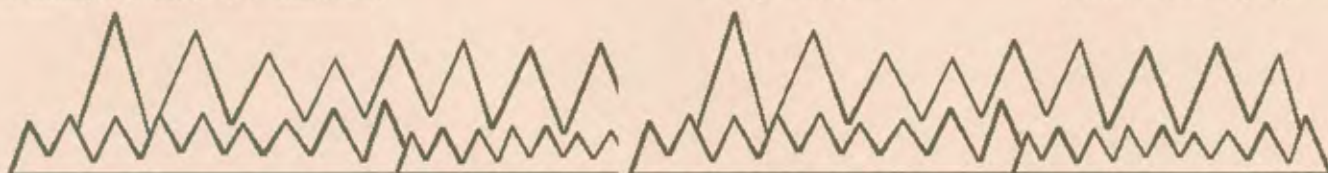
Man/man. If ever a course was suited for Con & Tod Wadsworth from Utah, this was it. Living and training in altitude, they had a definate advantage over most. They have always been tough as nails and this time was no exception. They kept a 2 minute lead on Mark Richtman and Tom Johnson the entire race until the last loop. Finally down to a breathable elevation, Tom was able to catch and pass the "Wad Squad" out of vet check 4. Mark, Tom and their horse Eli battled to keep their narrow margin winning by only 1:03 minutes.

Man/woman. This year, Jon Root and Michele Roush were on a mission. Beat Robin DuBach and her partner Steve Shaw. Mission accomplished, but not easily. Robin & Steve were ready for em'. Even on a borrowed horse they managed to keep within striking range of Jon & Michele the entire race, finishing only 5 minutes behind at the end of the long 36 miles course.

Woman/woman. Kathy Appleby (3 time division world champion) and her partner this year, Rufus Schneider were tough. Using Barry Grants' tough mare, "Finally," they have won the woman/woman division in every ride & tie they have entered this year. But as usual, the relentless Mary Tiscornia *(continued on page 4)*

IDAHO

IF YOU MISSED IT...
YOU MISSED A LOT !




Definitly... Better than anything we had anticipated

After miles and miles and hours and hours of driving we could finally see our destination.

Idaho. The Sawtooth Mountains. From a distance they were mere pointy jags on the horizon, but as we got closer it was evident that these mountains would be our true competition not our fellow ride & tiers. The closer we got the more intimidating they became. We had heard rumors of steep trails that followed the mountain tops. We trained for it, we thought, but these were not mere mountain tops.

These were SAWTOOTHs. Straight up and straight down, one after the other. More like sharks teeth. These mountains were the kind that bite, chew and spit you out if they didn't eat you alive. We're supposed to run 36 miles in these mountains? Noooo Waaaay! Adrenaline, butterflies, fear, panic, dread, amazement. Please tell me its a cruel joke. The consensus was, "It's gunna be a loooooong race." As we threaded our way on the valley floor

between towering mountains, the fear changed to awe as the scenery got more and more beautiful with each mile. At dusk we arrived at the race site which was situated along side a fast moving river in a grassy meadow with lots of pine trees. Exactly how I had imagined Idaho would be. Beautiful. But this was nothing compared to what we experienced on the course itself. *(Continued on page 5)*

THE VIDEOS ARE COMING 

It's a First!

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING was held in Sun Valley on July 20, 1995. Attendance was strong and participation was enthusiastic! Key topics of discussion included a request for detailed reporting of race expenses, Championship site selection, payment of Championship race directors, communication of schedule changes and improvements for pro-am races.



NEW DIRECTORS ELECTED

Mary Tiscornia, Dr. Jim Steere and Byron Grant have been elected to the Board of Directors for three year terms each. Mary and Jim were re-elected and Byron, a nomination committee candidate, replaced Pat Browning. Officers will be confirmed at the next Board meeting to be held on October 8 (tentative date.) Congratulations Mary, Jim and Byron. Thanks for stepping forward to help our sport of ride & tie!

Curt's Turn

Wow! What a celebration we had for our sport's 25th

anniversary! 82 teams entered the Championship this year. Our goal was 70 teams and we were going to be thrilled with 75! Thanks to all of you who traveled the great distances to attend the event. It was fun seeing many of you who are returning to the sport. And I am as anxious as you to see the video tapes (I just hope they didn't catch me walking . . .)

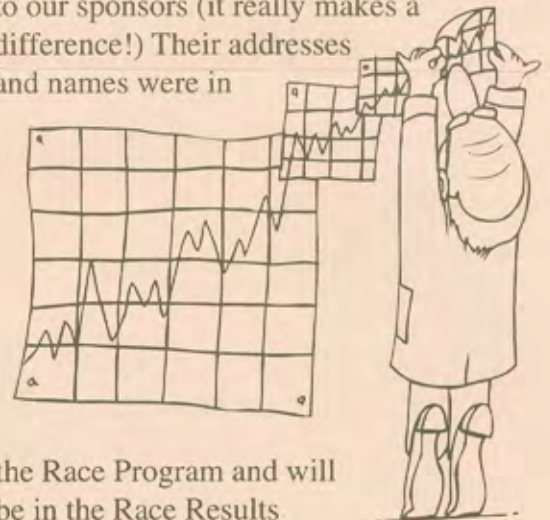
I was encouraged by the passion shown during our first annual membership meeting. People want this sport to prosper! A question came up about the direction of The Association.

The Association's three key goals for 1995 and 1996

- X Increase membership
- X Secure stable funding source(s)
- X Increase awareness of the sport.

You can help with all three, but we really need your help on the first one. Our goal is to reach 300 members by the end of the 1995 season (up from 212 at the end of the 1994 season). We are now at 214 as of July 31. Spread the word! We have the most active Fall sched-

ule ever, so bring your friends and new recruits. Most race directors will be voluntarily including a novice category. The winners receive a first year membership from The Association. Take advantage of the Cool Pro-Am on October 14, too. Also, please write letters of thanks to our sponsors (it really makes a difference!) Their addresses and names were in



the Race Program and will be in the Race Results coming in September.

Call me or any Board member with your suggestions, ideas or how you would like to volunteer to help The Association in reaching these goals. My home telephone number is 415-949-0620 and my FAX is 415-949-3778. Take time to fill out the evaluation which will be included in the Race Results packet and send it to me. We all love this sport. Let's put our energies into making it strong!

Written by Curt Riffle, R & T Assoc. President

CHAMPIONSHIP RACE VIDEOS

All participants of the 1995 Championships at Sun Valley will be receiving their race videos in mid-Sept. We hope to make additional copies available for purchase. See November newsletter for more details.

PAT & NITA



RETIRE FROM THE BOARD

Pat and Nita Browning retired from the Board of Directors as of July 20, 1995 marking the first of the original Directors to depart. Pat and Nita have given an incredible amount of their time, encouragement and energy to the sport of ride & tie. Thank you, Pat and Nita, we will miss you on the Board!

While Pat and Nita are no longer on the Board, they as well as all current members of The Ride and Tie Association are invited to attend the Board meetings. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10:00 AM on Sunday, October 8. Call Curt Riffle at 415-949-0620 for more details and the final location.

Have you ever wondered how the Ride and Tie Association's national point system works? Here is a brief overview of the method Ellen McCrary, the Association's Secretary, uses to track your accumulated points throughout the season. Major Divisions
The major divisions in which all members accumulate points in sanctioned races are as follows:

1. Top 20 Individuals: Individuals who accumulate the most points over the season (March through October) regardless of partner.
2. Top 5 Team Champions: Teams are divided in three categories (Man/Man, Man/Woman, Woman/Woman). Teams may use any horse but must obviously maintain the same teammates. Teams accumulate points by their place within their respective

THE POINT SYSTEM

HOW IT WORKS

- categories in each race.
3. Top 10 Championship Horses: Horses accumulate points by their overall place in the race regardless of their team.

Continued next page

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS June 20, 1995

The Ride and Tie Association finished 1994 with a total of \$58,686 in income and \$59,415 in expenses. Approximately 80% of The Association income came from donations (43%) and Championship race fees (39%). 74% of the expenses were spent on the Championship race and 20% were spent on administrative expenses of running The Association (printing, insurance, postage, pro-am awards, etc.) A more detailed financial report will be included in The Association's first Annual Report which will be included in the November newsletter.

- The 1996 World Championship will be held July 13, 1996 at the Big Creek race site in Davenport, CA (just north of Santa Cruz). This has been the site of previous Championships and has been a popular location.
- The Ride and Tie Association's Endowment Fund was officially created by the Board. Guidelines for spending the Endowment Fund monies will be determined at the next Board meeting.
- A novice team category will be required in all sanctioned races starting with the 1996 season. A novice team consists of two runners who have never competed in a sanctioned ride & tie event. Two first year memberships will be donated by The Association to each race director as one of the awards for the winning novice team.



You missed it *(continued from page 1)*

came well prepared with a new horse, a new partner, Cindy Mann, but the same ol' philosophy... take no prisoners. Neck and neck the entire 36 miles, Mary & Cindy squeaked in their victory with Kathy & Rufus only 4 minutes behind.

The awards banquet. Talk about loot! Man o' man. Talk about long! Man o' man. We were instant hostages when we were informed that you had to be *present* to win the brand new, gorgeous white horse trailer. After a great dinner, acknowledgment of all the sponsors, special presentations, awards, special awards, speeches and raffle it was finally time to give away the coveted trailer. The moment we had all been waiting for. Skip Lightfoot reaches into the hat, pulls out a name and ... who is the lucky winner? Calvin Paulette! Calvin, if you

are reading this, my hat goes off to you. Like the famous "Cowman," you are one of the unforgettable characters in the sport of Ride & Tie. You are a true die-hard showing up year after year sometimes with nothing more than a sleeping bag. No partner, no horse, no car, but always enthusiastic. I followed a Yellow Cab down the long road to Ranchita Estates to the 1992 World Championships. It was Friday evening, almost dark and who gets out of it?... Calvin Paulette. Wearing white jeans and a bright flowered shirt. He immediately began his annual search for a stray horse and partner. Is that determination or what? So when Calvin won the grand prize trailer I just had to laugh. The irony. He did have an edge on the rest of us though, I heard him admit. Just as Skip was reaching for the name, Calvin found a lucky penny in his pocket. So there you go. *Written by Laura Christofk*

POINT SYSTEM CONTINUED

4. Top 10 Mileage Champions: Individuals who accumulate the most race miles regardless of team and place they finish.
5. Hinrichs Award: Top team who completes the most miles regardless of place they finish.

Point Structure

This is the tricky part, so pay attention. I will type slowly so you get all the details (but it is OK to reread it - I did!). Remember, this only applies to Association members who finish sanctioned races. Points are earned by the individuals, the teams and the horses in the major divisions just described. For example, lets assume you just completed a 30 mile race with 25 starting teams and you finished in tenth place.

All finishers accumulate one point per race mile. So you just earned 30 points. You receive additional points for each starting team passed. Since you finished tenth, you passed 15 teams and your total so far is 30 plus 15 or 45 points. There's more! You earn bonus points for finishing in the top ten. If you finish first, you get to add 100% of your total. If you finish second, you add 90% to your total, and so on through tenth place. Since you finished tenth, you get to add 10% of your points. Your final point total for this race is 45 plus 4.5 (or 5) which totals 50 points. Not bad for a day's work!

So What's the Secret to Winning an Award? The best thing you can do is enter and finish as many races in a season as possible. In the above example, 60% of your points just came from finishing! Finishing as many races as possible in a season also helps you accumulate mileage. Participating with the same team member and/or keeping your horse healthy also help you qualify for more awards. So just go do it. More races means more fun and more points. Now that is a winning strategy!



INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

1	Mark Richtman	494	13	Wayne Hinrichs	265
2	Pat Browning	459	14	Steve Shaw	264
3	Michelle Roush	454	15	Lon Clearwaters	245
4	Dennis Rinde	434	16	Mike Lynch	225
5	Jon Root	429	17	Cindy Foster	219
6	Jim Howard	367	18	Con Wadsworth	213
7	Chris Turney	316	19	Tod Wadsworth	213
8	Tom Johnson	309	20	Skip Lightfoot	210
9	Dave Andreotti	289	21	Mary Tiscornia	210
10	Robert Eikstaedt	277	22	Curt Riffle	204
11	Kathy Appleby	273	23	Dan Barger	200
12	Rufus Schneider	273	24	Ellen McCrary	200
			25	Warren Hellman	196

Better than we anticipated *(continued from page 1)*

The course. The day before the race we drove to vet check 1. It took 45 minutes in a 4 wheel drive truck to get there. The road was the first 9 miles of the race course. It was continuously uphill, rocky, hard packed, with very few safe ties if any at all. But, in spite of that, this was the most beautiful countryside I have ever seen. As we neared the higher elevations the views became more and more spectacular. As far as you could see in every direction were snow dusted mountains. On their lower flanks and surrounding us were green meadows and patchworks of wildflowers. Yellows, blues, pinks, whites. Sometimes in solid mass of a single color, other times all mixed together. Their fragrance did not scent the air... it filled it. It was chilly up there. The smell of rain was confirmed by the gray and white thunder clouds that were slowly rolling our way over the horizon. Just below us, on the steep mountainside, was a large flock of sheep grazing in the tall, lush, green grass. Huge pine trees surrounded the meadow as if to fence it, protecting the animals from straying. Sheltering them from the elements. The only sounds to break the silence were the wind, the birds and distant thunder. This view, this single moment, this one experience was, undoubtedly, worth all the time and trouble it took to get to Idaho. Little did I know that it was going to get even better.

(continued on page 6)

Man / Man Division

1	Pat Browning / Dennis Rinde	225
2	Robert Eichstaedt / Wayne Hinrichs	148
3	Tom Johnson / Mark Richtman	140
4	Warren Hellman / John Osterweis	137
5	Con Wadsworth / Tod Wadsworth	131
6	Skip Lightfoot / Curt Riffle	127
7	Dan Barger / Jim Howard	122
8	Patrick Davies / Nick Larsen	114
9	Uri Driscoll / Jim Howard	110
10	Don Jacobs / Chris Schrock	106

Man / Woman Division

1	Jon Root / Michelle Roush	249
2	Susanne Andriotti / Chris Turney	164
3	Audrey Bostian / Paul Rink	159
4	Linda Mornell / Dave Tarpinian	159
5	Robin Dubach / Steve Shaw	114
6	Chris Wagner / Debbie Wagner	106
7	Ellen McCrary / Gary Webb	94
8	Mike Ferketich / Cathy McKee	93
9	Steve Becker / Vickie Patterson	84
10	Tom Guy / Elaine Howard	80

Woman/Woman Division

1	Kathy Appleby / Rufus Schneider	226
2	Lorie Rager / Gayle Snow	115
3	Cindy Mann / Mary Tiscornia	100
4	Fran Burkell / Lorie Riebling	86
5	Cindy Foster / Linnea Hearst	80
6	Laura Christofk / Melissa Ribley	73
7	MJ Jackson / Dana Landale	68
8	Liz Scott / Laura Vaughn	62
9	Val LaBel / Peggy Smyth	56
10	Jeanne Sherfey / Jennifer Tiscornia	50

Milage Points

1	Pat Browning	164
2	Ellen McCrary	139
3	Dennis Rinde	139
4	Michelle Roush	139
5	Chris Turney	139
6	Warren Hellman	133
7	John Osterweis	133
8	Kathy Appleby	116
9	Rufus Schneider	116
10	(tie)Cindy Foster and Jon Root	114

Horse

1	Willey (Browning)	434
2	Cimarron (Howard)	367
3	Eli (Richtman)	326
4	Balou (Root)	295
5	Scooter (Andriotti)	289
6	Miami Spice (Clearwaters)	245
7	Grab (Andriotti)	227
8	Finally (Grant)	220
9	Sir Amon (Wadsworth)	213
10	Court Decision (Lightfoot/Riffle)	210



AWARDS BANQUET

The Ride and Tie

Association's annual awards banquet will again take place at the AERC Convention in Reno, Nevada on March 1 &

2, 1996. Visit the AERC Convention vendor booths (including The Ride and Tie Association) and attend the Association banquet in the evening. A sit-down dinner will be followed by the annual awards for the 1995 season. Then enjoy the rest of the evening dancing or swapping race strategy with other Association members. Plan on it! More details in future newsletters!

Better than we anticipated *(continued from pg 5)*

Race day. Is there anything quite like the start of a ride & tie. The "Good lucks," and "Go get 'ems." The anticipation of the unknown. Semi-controlled chaos. The rush of adrenaline as Bud Johns says "On your mark... get set..." then... hours later... the gun. I'm sure you could light a stadium with the amount of energy that is released at the start of a ride & tie. Even spectators are affected by the outflow, feeling the cold tingling sensation surging through themselves. And the horses?... wired, amped, charged, whatever you want to call it, it's wild and it's dangerous! The first couple of miles were filled with the usual spills and thrills that ride & tie is so famous for. I know. I saw them happen. A guy on a run away horse came around the bend too fast to avoid our horses rear, clipped it, almost taking my partner out. It knocked him off, but instead of letting go of the reins he desperately held on only to be drug for many feet before the horse broke free. This commotion spooked another horse over the steep edge of the road, sending its rider head first in a 10 foot free fall into the shaley rocks then down another 50 feet, tumbling like a stunt person. The horse was stopped short by a pine tree and managed to scramble back up to the road, miraculously without a scratch. The rider was not so lucky. She slowly sat up, but that's it. It took her awhile to gather the nerve to turn and look where she had fallen from. Even longer to muster the strength to climb back up. It was obvious that we could not help her. It was too steep. She had to get out on her own. She slowly made her way up, slipping many times in the loose shale. Although bleeding from several spots including her head, nothing appeared broken, so we walked a bit till she got it together, I boosted her up in the saddle and never saw her again. Tying was a real challenge. The pine trees that grew along the edge of the

road looked substantial enough to tie a horse to, but were in fact made of rubber. Yes...rubber. Horses were bending them over at the base, thereby allowing the rope to slide along the trunk over the even more rubbery branches until it would slip off the tip of the tree then... Booouiiiiing. Back to its' original shape, branches and all. Many thanks to all the valiant efforts of the "hand tie" people left over from the front runners. If it were not for them, many a horse would have been loose on the trail. Mine was no exception.

The altitude. *This* was the enemy. The race started at 7300 foot elevation. It was tough breathing to vet check 1, I thought. I was wrong. Getting to vet check 2 and to the top of the mountain, a mere 9700 feet, just out of vet check 2, now that was hard. Not only were the climbs very steep, they were long and there were a lot of them. We trained for long steep climbs, we thought, but not without oxygen. Walking was the best most of us could do, and even then breaks were needed to catch your breath. Most of the climbs were too steep and narrow to do safe ties so there was no rest for the weary that day. The trail challenged your horsemanship as it crossed bogs, streams, logs, shaley ledges, shear rock. But... in spite of this, the slow pace gave us a better opportunity to enjoy the scenery. And what incredible scenery it was. The trail skirted around several large snowdrifts that were still hiding in the shadows of the dense pine trees, emerging abruptly into open green meadows then back into the shadows again. Along the ridges, the ground dropped off sharply from the left side of the trail, allowing views uninterrupted by nothing except the mountain next to us. Then the best part of all... the face, the top. The last real climb and of coarse one of the most difficult. This was not a "real" trail. Yes, there were ribbons, but no beaten path. It was long, narrow, winding and very, very steep. The last 50 yards traversed up a solid rock face to the summit where, magnificently, the entire earth slowly appeared in front of you as you crested the top. Was this the top of the world? The view was endless. Beyond incredible. Beyond description. The strong, cold wind and realization that we had made it to the top was more than exhilarating. It was a moment to be savored and remembered forever and ever. Better than anything we had anticipated. *This* was our reward. *This* was definitely worth it all.

The finish. From the summit to vet check 3 was mostly downhill, but still no oxygen. Several sections were treacherous downhills. Narrow, very steep, a lot of little, unavoidable bogs with rocks, logs, low branches and plenty of knee-knockers. The trail followed and criss-crossed a small stream. Actually, the stream was the trail for parts of it, until you finally reached vet check 3. If you made it to there you were home free. Only 6 gradual miles, all downhill on a smooth gravel road, to vet check 4. Breathing was getting easier with every mile. The only downside to vet check 4 was that it was at base camp. The horses were not thrilled when asked to leave. Nor were the runners. But with only 7 more miles of mostly flat road to

go, away we went. This last loop was an out & back with 2 -3 miles of common trail. The exchange of "high fives" and "hoots" of encouragement from fellow competitors on their way to the finish line were encouraging. Campers, not related to the race, watched the race from their lounge chairs, along the edge of the road, cheering us on as we trotted by. The course eventually veered from this nice smooth road and took a hard left to the "wild flower" loop. It was only about 2 - 3 miles then it dropped you back to the good road again, but... ask anyone who did it... this was the most grueling. A lousy 1.5 mile grade that seemed to take forever. Even down the back side of it was horrible. There were no shady trees. It was rocky, dusty and now it was hot. We had ridden **gratifying**. We had ridden **galvanizing**. Now we were into the **grueling** part. Luckily, we had a ton of horse left. He was still bending trees in half up to the very last tie. I would have liked to kill him but then I wouldn't get a completion buckle. Lucky for him! The last few miles in went fast. I was in shock that there were actually teams behind us as we passed them on the common trail. I offered my own "Lookin' good's" and "Almost there's." Everyone I saw looked pretty beat. I was no exception. My partner must have been holding out on me because she *flew* the last few miles in. Thankfully I could not catch her until the finish line. We did it. Two non-runner type chicks, against everyone's skepticism, including our own, finished their first world championship ride & tie. We had met our goals. Make

Caring & Sharing

By Curt Riffle

The 25th anniversary of Earth Day was celebrated in April which should remind all of us of our stewardship responsibility for this beautiful and fascinating place called Mother Earth. One of the many unique aspects of our sport is the opportunity to experience some magnificent areas with stunning vistas (for those of you who are not looking at your feet because to the three mile climb you just survived!) We should all consider how we can help in preserving our natural resources and our ability to use them for our sport. Many of our parks are suffering from funding cuts. Volunteer to help maintain trails or repair structures at a local park or green space, even if you don't use them for riding or running. Start by calling the city, county or state parks. They may be able to refer you to volunteer organizations who are working on projects for them. As you work on these projects, let people know you are a Ride and Tie Association member and tell them about our sport. Also look for opportunities to voice your support for continued use of our parks for equestrian sport. As more people look to our open spaces for recreation, conflicts between users are becoming more frequent. Without your voice and letters, trails may no longer be available for our use. And when you are on the trail either riding or running, be sure to extend trail courtesy to those you meet regardless if they are on foot or on a bike. Another simple example of sharing our facilities is to clean up hay, manure, etc. when you leave the parking lot. Finally, when you are out enjoying the trails, use common sense to avoid unnecessary damage to the ecosystem. For example, stay on the trails to prevent increased erosion. The combination of truly caring for our environment and working with others to share the experience open spaces provide is a form of investment to ensure we will be able to enjoy our sport for the next 25 years. Please make plans today to make regular deposits in whatever way you can.

no mistakes, finish... preferably healthy, have horse left over at the end and ...have fun. And there is **nothing** more fun than finishing. We both felt surprisingly good. The most sore part on me were the newly discovered muscles around my chest that had worked so hard to get oxygen in and out of my lungs at the higher elevations. What an experience. What an absolutely great time. It was sooooo worth the drive. If you missed it, you missed a lot. Whatever you do... **do not miss the next one!**

Written by Laura Christofk

THE RIDE & TIE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

- I am a Rider
- I am a Runner
- I need a teammate and a horse
- I have a horse, but need a teammate
- I have a horse to loan or lease

All categories of membership will receive The Journal of the Ride & Tie Association, information and applications for the annual World Championship Ride & Tie, advocacy for growth and competition in all aspects of the sport, inclusion and eligibility for the national point system and assurance of the continuance of the sport of Ride & Tie.

As a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, these membership contributions are tax deductible.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

(check your choice of membership)

- Lifetime member** (\$500)
Receive lifetime memberships for themselves and family as well as annual recognition for their contribution.
- Competitor Member** (\$50)
Provides access to the membership database which can link up teammates with horse, riders and runners.
- Competitor Family Membership** (\$75)
- New Member-1st Year** (\$20)
Offered at a reduced rate for those checking the sport out.
- Supporter** (\$100-\$400)
Receives a one year membership and special recognition for their donation to further the sport of ride & tie.
- Friend of the Ride & Tie** (\$20)
Not an actual competitor but would like to show their support for ride & tie.

Previous Ride & Tie, Running, and Endurance Riding accomplishments:

(List events, finishing places, stories for publication and interesting fact.)

How did you first hear about the Ride & Tie Association or the sport of ride & tie?

In what way could you volunteer to assist The Ride & Tie Association or the sport of ride & tie?

The Ride & Tie Association

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