

**RIDE & TIE**  
and EQUATHON  
JANUARY 2025



*2024 Man/Woman Points Champions Chris Lang and Carrie Baris  
and 2024 Horse of the Year Speedy Blue floating into 2025!*

*photo: Becky Pearman*



**THE  
RIDE & TIE  
ASSOCIATION**  
Board of Directors and Officers

<b>President:</b>	Chris Amaral (2027)	trots4long@yahoo.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Sarah Boelt (2027)	lighterrat@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Carrie Baris (2026)	cbaris@rideandtie.org
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Steve Anderson (2027)	steve.anderson1@juno.co

**Directors**

Bob Heltibridle	(2025) Statistician, Communications	bobheltibridle@gmail.com
Lani Newcomb	(2025) Vet Scholarship, Nominating	give2bute@aol.com
Rhonda Venable	(2025) Sanctioning Officer	RunsALong@hotmail.com
Barb Mathews	(2026)	bjdmathews@gmail.com
Janice Heltibridle	(2026)	janiceheltibridle@gmail.com

**Board Members Emeriti**

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

**Head Veterinarian**

Greg Fellers	gefellers35@gmail.com
--------------	-----------------------

**Newsletter Editor**

Courtney Krueger	ckrueger@rideandtie.org
------------------	-------------------------



**RUN, DON'T  
WALK!!**

*Renew your  
Ride & Tie  
Membership  
TODAY*



[www.rideandtie.org/membership](http://www.rideandtie.org/membership)



## Where you have been, where you are, where you're going

As you enjoy another great Ride & Tie newsletter from our superb writer, editor and publisher Courtney Krueger we get a chance to look back on so many great aspects of our sport.

The passing of one of the early leaders of Ride & Tie, Ted Ruprecht has special meaning for me since Ted was the person who got me introduced to the sport in 1983. As a young guy who had no experience with horses much less competing on and alongside them I had no idea what I was in for. As it turns out, I was about to learn about the most fun that can be had running and be intoxicated by the speed and endurance of Ride & Tie horses. Truly, thank you Ted.

As you turn the pages you will see photos and read about some of the great accomplishments by our association members. A standout on so many levels is board member Carrie Baris. With partner Chris Lang the duo has raced and accumulated mileage like no other. Literally.

There are great articles as well by the winner and runner up of the Ride & Tie Association Veterinary scholarship. The scholarship review committee led by Dr Greg Fellers had more than 40 submissions. We think these contribute greatly to our knowledge about our equine partners.

The title of this article speaks to our own competitor journeys and to the sport of Ride & Tie in general. For me, thinking back to those early races when I was fleet of foot and started races with more than 100 crazy horses fearlessly is the "*where you have been*" part.

It has been a couple of years since I have been able to compete in a race...best laid plans and that sort of thing and I have had broken parts for all of that time. That is the "*where you are*" portion." Always hopeful, I look forward to crossing a Ride & Tie finish line in 2025. This will be comeback #817 and I am excited to start it.

The sport of Ride & Tie deserves the same sort of reflection. The brainchild of Bud Johns and initial support by Levi Strauss gave us 50 years of madness and the legacy of all the miles of all the ride and tiers. All the times they have missed a tie, or missed a turn, or had a race go perfectly according to plan. (Did that ever really happen?) is the "*where you have been.*"

The "*where we are*" is expertly documented in this newsletter. The "*where we're going*" is the part the Ride & Tie Association is making plans for now. Be a part of that. Give us your ideas, your dreams, your imagination on where Ride and Tie should go the next 50 years. What do we do to keep young competitors coming and finding new ones? What changes, additions, simplifications should be made to capture the interest of more and more people so they can experience the elation we do? How can you help Endurance Ride Managers include Ride & Tie in their events (hint: see page 31)?

Here's to my comeback #817. I hope your Ride & Tie new year's resolutions all come true.

All the best.

*Chris Amaral*

President - Ride & Tie Association

## Ride & Tie's Power Couple

In politics it might be Barack and Michelle Obama. In Hollywood it could be John Krasinski and Emily Blunt. In professional sports it may be Simone Biles and Jonathan Owens. And of course we are required to include Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift in any list of power couples.

Ride & Tie has had a number of power couples as well. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a tribute to the late **Ted and Joan Ruprecht**. Power couple **Lani Newcombe and Kathy Broadus** are third and fifth respectively in career miles. **Peter and Martha Klopfer, Annette Parsons and Jim Clover** surely qualify as Ride & Tie power couples. **Dave and Rhonda Venable** are a power couple who have won nearly every superlative Ride & Tie has to offer. **Alyssa and Nick Gonzalez** won the 52nd World Championship.

In 2024 a new power couple joined the club. **Chris Lang and Carrie Baris** have the following 2024 accomplishments as a team and as individuals:

- \* In 2024 they are number 1 and 2 in both individual miles and points.
- \* They are the 2024 Man/Woman Points Champions and have more points than any other team regardless of classification.
- \* Chris' horse Speedy Blue is the 2024 Ride & Tie Horse of the Year.
- \* In 2024 Carrie's horse Comet's Kurino earned entry in the Ride & Tie Horse of Distinction club.
- \* Chris won the 2024 East Coast Championship short course with Kelly Pults and Speedy Blue.
- \* Carrie has the fourth most career miles in Ride & Tie history at 4086.
- \* Chris has the twenty-first most career miles at 2303.



Photos: Becky Pearman

Venable. Not a rider at all, remarkably, that win came after only having had one training ride before the race! Ride & Tie hooked him and he is now the owner of a horse (Speedy Blue) a truck, and horse trailer. Now he and Carrie are actively shopping for a farm.

When they began their Ride & Tie Careers, Carrie and Chris had no idea just how much their lives would change. Unlike other Ride & Tie power couples, Carrie and Chris met through Ride & Tie. Fellow Ride & Tier Alison Zeytoonian accidentally played matchmaker and they began dating in 2023. In October of 2023 they got engaged. There are Ride & Tie precedents however. In the archival article in this newsletter you will read about two more Ride & Tie engagements! Bob and Janice Heltibridle have their share of Ride & Tie romance as they got married the same day Janice completed a 100 mile Ride and Tie!

To see a two-part interview with Carrie and Chris as well as interviews with Nick and Alyssa Gonzalez, Peter and Martha Klopfer, and Annette Parsons and Jim Clover go to the Ride & Tie YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/@therideandtieassociation1531](https://www.youtube.com/@therideandtieassociation1531) or use the QR Code. Scroll through the list of videos to find each of these interviews.



Ride & Tie YouTube Channel

## Ted Ruprecht: A Legendary Father Figure of Ride & Tie

August 1, 1928 – December 14, 2024

By Annette Parsons

There is so much to be said about Ted Ruprecht, a legendary figure in the sport of Ride & Tie. In fact, much has already been written about Ted and his wife, Joan, and their large family in pages 284-289 of the book *50 Years of Madness: A History of Ride & Tie Championships* (Parsons, 2021).\*

Now, in the weeks since his passing at the grand age of 96, it seems a great time to recap some of Ted's Ride & Tie achievements and his out-sized role in the sport in the late 1970s through the mid-2000s. Because Ted and Joan and their family are so closely interwoven into the Ride & Tie story, it is hard to talk about Ted without also including some details of his family members.



Ted and his wife Joan, along with all of their children and grandchildren – and possibly in a few years, their great-grandchildren – have been very active in Ride & Tie through the years. It was Joan who first got them started in the sport. She was already an endurance rider and learned of this wild and crazy sport where you had to get off your horse and run. Ted was an economics professor at Humboldt State University (HSU) and Joan was the Public Health Lab Director for Humboldt County at the time. She wanted Ted to team up with her to try the sport, but Ted had not much use for horses. His economist/farmer practical assessment said horses were not a good investment since they served no positive economic role or practical function. So Joan teamed up with another HSU economics professor, Bob Dickerson for the 1978 and 1979 Levi's races. Bob was already a runner and Joan sweet talked him into the biathlon sport of Ride & Tie. In 1980, however, Bob had a conflict with the Levi's race date, so Joan convinced Ted this time and they were off to the races, literally. That was when Ted gained an appreciation of the horse as an athlete, being one himself, and he loved to try to strategize a race to optimize the relative strengths of the team members. He had also been convinced by Joan that a commercial horse operation was a good tax write-off, and that appealed to his economist side.

They went on to complete 15 Levi's/Championship races together, and many other races with various other partners, including grandchildren, sons-in-law, and myriad friends and new recruits. Daughter Carol began teaming up with her father in 2000 at Big Creek, CA, as Ted had realized after the 1999 championship near Klamath Falls, OR, that he had to run too hard to offset Joan's more casual approach to training and racing, especially as they were well into their 70s by then. Carol and Ted went on to partner together for seven consecutive championships, culminating in his last race at the age of 78 at the 2006 championship near Santa Ysabel, CA on Ted's beloved horse, Olympian. In all, Ted accrued 25 completions. Joan has 23.

Ted also has 12,000 endurance miles to his credit. He was an active member of the local endurance club, Redwood Empire Endurance Riders, served as president for a number of years, and he and Joan were ride managers for many endurance rides in the Humboldt County area.

Ted served on the board and as treasurer for the Ride & Tie Association for many years after its formation in 1988. He and Joan and their family hosted and directed two championships in Humboldt County, the first in 1983 near Eureka, CA and another in 1990 near Trinidad, CA. He served on the board of directors of the Association for years, and was influential in helping guide the direction of the sport through the early 2000s.

His service and dedication to the sport and the people who participate is matched by few. Ted and Joan and their clan were always a hive of activity and laughter and Ride & Tie war stories whenever they showed up in camp. Often it was pitch dark near midnight or the wee hours of the morning when they rolled into ride camp, along with their kids and grandkids and puppies and kittens, and even a rooster and a duck! They almost always brought quite a menagerie, and they always welcomed everyone to join them in their camp for a meal, or just swapping stories...and boy, do they have some good ones!



Ted, Joan, and Sunkist

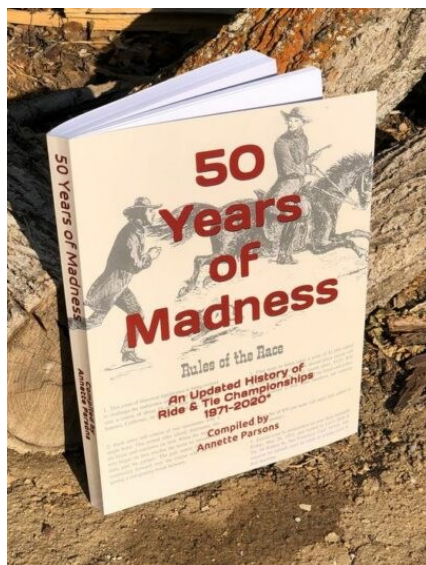
All of their children, Janet, Carol, Phillip, and Elaine have competed in Ride & Tie over the years. Their sons-in-law and grandchildren have been recruited into the sport by Ted and Joan and have some mighty impressive Ride & Tie stats themselves. You can read about renowned runner Jim Howard (Elaine's husband) who has 37 championship completions and Sara Howard (their daughter) in the *50 Years of Madness\** book.

Prepare to be impressed! Elaine (28 championship completions) and her sister, Carol (12 championship completions), and Carol's husband Tom Gey (26 completions) have racked up top stats as well.

Ted and Joan have recruited so many people into the sport of Ride & Tie over the years it is hard to fathom their reach and influence on the sport. My husband, Jim Clover, and I met via the Ruprechts and we were each recruited into Ride & Tie before he and I knew each other. Chris Amaral, past and current Association president is another Ruprecht recruit. I could go on. Ted was always a friendly and welcoming face at a race, a serious competitor, and a good friend. He lived a wonderful and long life, and he will be greatly missed.



Ted on his Charger



\* NOTE: *50 Years of Madness: An Updated History of Ride & Tie Championships. 1970-2020.* Parsons, 2021. This compilation of all 50 years of race results, race posters, and photos from 1970 through 2021 is available from the Ride and Tie Association ([www.rideandtie.org/store](http://www.rideandtie.org/store)) or on Amazon. Proceeds benefit the Ride and Tie Association.



Ride & Tie Store

## From the Ride & Tie Archives

In 1983 Bud Johns asked Marion “Mo” Sproul to give a motivational talk at a seminar to introduce the sport to would-be competitors before the Levi’s World Championship in June. Here is Bud’s account of that evening and the race:

“It’s doable,” Mo assured the would-be participants who might have been getting a bit overwhelmed. “It’s an adventure and life should be a series of adventures. The excitement level is so much higher in Ride and tie than any other athletic event,” said the young woman who that summer would run the Western States 100 within the allotted 24 hours as well as being its race director. “It’s a monumental effort by three team members with the horse as the pivotal factor.” And with a smile she warned, “When you select your partner, take your vows because it’s for better or worse.” Despite her abilities as a runner and participant in other sports, Mo showed that she is a horsewoman first when she gave her formula for Ride and Tie success:

“**Homework**

*Optimism*

*Roll with the punches*

*Safety, Sportsmanship, Spirit*

*Effort*

*Go for it!”*



### **Start of the 1983 Levi’s World Championship in Eureka, CA**

This start is the holds the record for largest starting lineup at 187 teams!

[At] the start of the Eureka three months later, with a record field of 187 teams, there was a flat three-quarters of a mile before the trail turned sharply up a narrow logging road. Over part of that flat we had to funnel the horses around a tight turn between a hillside and a deep gully so, for safety, we gave the runners a different route for a third of that distance and had them cross the gully twice.

There was a moment of drama at the start that we didn’t learn about until after. Jon Root, seeking to defend the co-ed title, was starting on horseback. He leaned down and asked Robyn Dubach, “Will you marry me?” She looked up, answered “Yes” and as the race starter I said, “Go!”

“That explains a lot,” Ron Whitney said after the engagement was announced during the awards ceremony. “I was running with Robyn on that first hill and she was babbling on excitedly about something. I couldn’t understand her so I just said ‘That’s nice, Robyn’ and kept running.”

I’ve never thought of a race being a particularly romantic time. Later I decided I’d better reassess that when Jim Howard told me he’d gotten engaged—not to his partner, who that year was Dave Poston— before the start of the Levi’s at New Almaden.

Jon and Robyn, the fiancés, finished fourth, just 31 seconds behind the third place team of Chuck Stalley and Butch Alexander and only 8 minutes behind the winning team of Con and Tod Wadsworth.

*What is this Madness?* by Bud Johns pp 136-146

## When a boy becomes a Man/Man Champion

Courtney Krueger

Both my horse Coda and I literally limped into 2024. I tore the meniscus in my left knee at a Ride & Tie at Broxton Bridges in SC in November. Coda strained a tendon at an Endurance Ride at the same venue in December. Coda was out for several months while I underwent knee surgery in June. At my post-surgery follow-up appointment I casually mentioned to the surgeon that my next Ride & Tie would be in August. “No it won’t,” he said, “I don’t want you competing again until at least October!” I snuck in a 4 mile fun run in September at Big South Fork and another 6 mile one at Biltmore a few weeks later (the only race of the year in which Coda competed). A bent axle on our trailer kept us from going to the East Coast Championship in October. It was looking like my season was going to be a 22 mile year.

As newsletter editor (and let’s be honest, also as a pretty intense competitor) I was looking over the team points standings a few weeks after both the World and East Coast Championships ended. I immediately noticed that 2024 was a year with fewer than usual Man/Man teams. I did the math and realized that 11 year old Matt Child and I had a shot at winning the Man/Man Points Championship. Ride & Tie does not award points championships unless the winning team has at least 125 points. We were sitting at 50 points (25 points each for the two races we completed that were less than 10 miles). A single 25 mile race would put us at exactly 125 points (50 points for the double mileage and 25 points for the completion.). I asked Matt if he was willing to try the longest race of his career. He was definitely game! The Carolina Race is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. I talked to my wife about me leaving her family’s Thanksgiving gathering on Friday and going to compete. She reminded me that if I did I would miss her mother’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and that would not be OK! I reluctantly agreed that she was right. The last opportunity we had would be the Winter Ride in the Pines race in December. Matt’s mom Chris was already planning to go for the Endurance ride and agreed to take their horse Ginger for Matt and me to use. This 26 mile race would be the longest either Matt or Ginger had ever attempted.

As we discussed strategy, I reminded Matt that to finish would be to (literally) win. When the trail opened, Matt sprinted ahead of Ginger and me and to the front of the pack, passing speedster Chris Lang. I yelled out, “Matt, don’t blow yourself out in the first mile, remember we just want to complete.” He slowed up a bit and we got into a great rhythm and switched every half mile for the duration.

Matt was incredibly consistent, running at a great pace the entire race. Because it was December with shortened days, I began the race afraid we might finish in the dark. Matt’s performance ensured we would finish mid-afternoon with plenty of daylight left! We played leap frog with another team for most of the 17 mile first loop. About a mile from the end of the loop Matt surprised me with his competitive spirit when he said, “Are they ahead of us or behind us?” I answered, “I was just asking myself the same question. I am pretty sure they are ahead of us.”

About two miles into the 9 mile second loop we caught and passed them. I told Matt, “Here’s a Ride & Tie secret: if we work real hard for the next mile or so and get out of sight of them, they will slow down and we can come in ahead of them.” We did just that, but because the course had a number of turns and long hills, we kept seeing them behind us. We talked about the fact that if they caught us that would be OK. Our goal was a points championship. However, we did manage to hold them off and felt like we had achieved a double accomplishment for the day!

This was my lowest mileage year since my very first year of competition. It was the lowest point total of my nine points championships. But winning with an 11 year old who is all heart made it one of my favorites. Matt was the 2023 Junior of the Year and is now the 2024 Man/Man Points Champion. Who knows what is next in Ride & Tie for this outstanding young man?

To hear about the season from Matt’s perspective, go to the Ride and Tie YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/@therideandtieassociation1531](http://www.youtube.com/@therideandtieassociation1531) or use this QR code:



photo: Hannah Bartnick [feralphotography.net](http://feralphotography.net)



Ride & Tie owes a huge debt of gratitude to **Bob Heltibridle** who is our statistician. All of the statistics in this issue and on our website are thanks to Bob's tireless work.

Here are a few fun facts from 2024 that Bob pulled out of the data for us:

<u>Ride &amp; Tie Teams</u>	
Women/Women	88
Man/Women	33
Man/Man	8

<u>Ride &amp; Tie Individuals</u>	
Men	35
Women	157
Juniors	36
Horses	100

<u>Ride &amp; Tie Events</u>	
East	58
Mid West	17
West	18

6,393 miles    What is the distance that was covered by the total number of runners in 2024?

3,266 miles    What is the distance that was covered by the total number of Horses in 2024?

52,375 miles    What is the career milage for all of the Ride & Tie members that rode in 2024?

<b>Ride &amp; Tie riders with over 500 career miles</b>	<b>Career</b>	<b># who competed this year</b>
500-999 miles	97	4
1,000-1,999 miles	50	6
2,000-2,999 miles	16	4
3000-3,999 miles	5	2
4000-4,999 miles	3	2
5000-5,999 miles	0	0
6000+ miles	1	1

<u>Equathon Teams</u>	
M/M teams	2
M/W teams	19
W/W teams	17
# Iron Persons	
Iron Women	36
Iron Men	2

<u>Total Equathons</u>	
Equathons West	4
Equathons East	37
Equathon Mid West	
# Events	41

<u>Equathon Participants</u>	
# of Women	78
# of Men	24
Total	102

# of Horses	70
-------------	----



Bob Heltibridle



The Ride & Tie Association offers annual Awards in 11 potential categories\*:

- 1 Ride and Tie Horse of the Year (high mileage horse)
- 2 Ride and Tie Woman/Woman Team point champions of the Year
- 3 Ride and Tie Man/Man Team point champions of the Year
- 4 Ride and Tie Woman/Man Team point champions of the Year
- 5 Ride and Tie Individual point champion of the Year
- 6 Equathon Horse of the Year (high mileage horse)
- 7 Equathon Woman/Woman Team point champions of the Year
- 8 Equathon Man/Man Team point champions of the Year
- 9 Equathon Woman/Man Team point champions of the Year
- 10 Iron Equathon Individual of the Year
- 11 Top 10 Junior Competitor Mileage

\*To be eligible for annual year end awards for any of the categories offered for either Ride & Tie or Equathon, individuals must be a current or lifetime member of Ride & Tie. The winning equine, individual, or team must also have competed in at least 2 sanctioned races and have accumulated a minimum of 125 points for that particular category (this does not apply to Junior Mileage awards). Awards are based on points accumulated that year. In the event of a tie, the award will be presented to equine, individual or team with the most miles. In years when the individual points champion is also on a points champion team, no individual award will be awarded.

#### **How Annual Competition Points are Calculated**

##### **Races 20 miles in length or more:**

25 points for completing the race,  
Plus points equaling 2 times the number of miles completed, plus  
5 points for each team you beat to the finish line

##### **Races between 10 and up to 19 miles in length:**

25 points for each team member,  
plus points equaling 1/2 the number of miles completed,  
plus 3 points for each team you beat to the finish line

##### **Races less than 10 miles:**

25 points for each team member

Equathons are scored in the same manner as Ride and Tie, meaning both competitors and horse will receive individual points and miles, and the competitors will receive points and miles as a team to determine the Overall Team winner. Iron person will be scored in a similar manner: competitor and horse will both receive Individual points and miles, but the competitor will receive points equal to 2 (rider/runner) but miles equal to one competitor. To determine the Overall Iron person winner, both Team and Iron will be scored together as "Individual" for an Overall equathon winner.

Current and historical Race Results and Points can be found by going here [www.rideandtie.org/ride-results](http://www.rideandtie.org/ride-results)  
or by using this QR code:



## 2024 Ride & Tie Horses

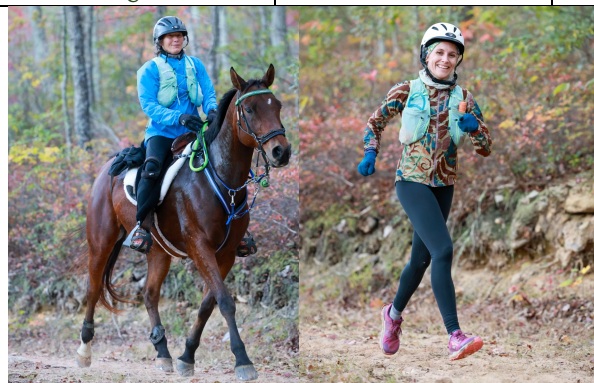
Owner	Horse	Miles
C.Lang	Speedy Blue (Blue)	365
J.Heltibridle	Rush Creek Bobby	293
B.Mathews	Riding Under the Influence (Dream)	242
C.Baris	Comets Kurino	234
M.Landers	Kevlar	136
S.Boelt	Arne	96
A.Zeytoonian	VooDooo Child (Jimmie)	88
R.Venable	Moonlyte El Legato (Legacy)	87
L.Broyles	Leo	76
B.Mathews	After While Crocodile	65
C.Shoemaker	Ginger	65
H.George	Sombra de Fuego	63
S.Boelt	SHF Baasro	55
R.Venable	Ray	50
L.Bilsky	Argo	50
H.George	Pepper	47
L.Miller	Willow	47
M.Harris	Solar	47
S.Boelt	In Your Pocket	46
K.Stephens	Crockett	37
C.Federighi	Lily Creek Piper	30
A.Rodieck	Bucket	26
G.Pratt	Mika	25
S.Finstone	Fancy Pants	25
A.Johnson	Leonidas Shooting Star	25
E.Ruprecht	Peter Sam	25
S.Steward	Pete	25
D.Triscell	Dixie	25
K.Campbell	MM Cody	25
A.Stalley	Kona Tiki	25
A.Plaxco	Pegasus	25
D.Glasgow	Momma Mia	25
A.Woodford	Jobi	25
T.Lewis	Sherri	25
C&G.Hollis	K man	25
R.Miura	Shagya	25
A.Papillaud	Badger	25
E.McChesney	Memory	25
H.Kerr	Coto Bluegrass	24
R.Miura	Theodore the wonder horse	22
K.Kane	Haldor	20
L.Lytle	Ulyuzzez	20
R.Venable	Rumor Has It	20
M.Demsen	GJR Theeses of Fiona	16
S.Boelt	Teaoka Bopp	15
L.Tumblin	Lester	15
L.Bilsky	Miss Sugar	15
S.Willetts	Scout	15
H.Wilkerson	Nevada	15

Owner	Horse	Miles
E.Farina	Estrella	15
A.Oliver	Serappy	15
B.Sullivan	M Fancy and Armed	15
A.Evans	MV Audacious	15
J.Heltibridle	Maverick (Mac)	13
K.Stephens	Belize	13
S.Amedure	Jacob	13
O.Ison	Bar Nothing Otto (Sheriff)	13
T.Valliant	Maverick	12
T.Dollyhite	Shooting Star	11
L.Lytle	Slate	10
E.Walton	SC Signs of Greatness	10
D.Beierl	Jimmy	10
C.Kelly	Snickers	9
P.Drucker	Minnow	9
S.Bertch	Santana	9
L.Gunzburger	Marcel	9
J.Reed	Hot Pockets	9
P.Drucker	Clouser	9
H.Hall	Bogus Thunder	9
C.Breeden	Goose	9
S.Smyth	Sybrina	9
L.Wheeler	Willow	9
B.Kaufmann	TP Al Rojo Vivo	9
E.Greulich	Luka	9
D.Kuntson	Martin	9
S.Burke	Banderas	8
L.Krueger	Dakota Charm	6
A.Williams	Ferdinand	6
R.Farinholt	Charm	6
I.Bryant	Ziggy	6
C.Tabony	Crescent	6
S.Davis	Chisme	6
B.Estevas	Alli Teke	6
J.Best	Afira	6
M.Montgomery	DeeDee	6
A.Erwin	Luca	6
K.McCrary	Jack Thorg	6
K.Stilwell	Remi	6
M.Zimmerman	Luca	6
A.Philip	Mighty Quinn	6
E.Harris	Finding Nemo	6
K.Harris	Qfmarzio	6
S.Bertch	Santana	5
M.Murray	Chief	5
N.Gonzalez	Hazel Hatfield	4
A.Meiners	Prince Louie	4
M.Hinklemen	Gunny	4
J.Stanley	Toby	4

## 2024 Woman/Woman Teams

Rider 1	Rider 2	POINTS
Janice Heltibridle	Ellen Hart	520
Rhonda Venable	Renee Brachfeld	331
Barbara Mathews	Martha Nelson	315
Lisa Broyles	Megan Lapkoff	237
Sara Boelt	Maci Robbins	209
Rachel Miura	Katie Hull	174
Janice Heltibridle	Lauren S Bilsky	160
Barbara Mathews	Renee Brachfeld	160
Alison Zeytoonian	Chelsea Zeytoonian	154
Peyton Robinett	Melissa Harris	154
Carrie Baris	Catherine Gray	150
Rufus Schneider	Gunilla Pratt	120
Sabrina Van Horn	Debbie Glasgow	115
Lessie Skiba	Tiffany Dunkelbeck	110
Diana Triscell	Meghan Randal	110
Carrie Baris	Alison Zeytoonian	105
Agathe Papillaud	Diana Lammer	105
Phoebe Cowlin	Tristan Bunderson	95
Shelly Stewart	Karen Henderson	90
Annabelle Unguris	Addy Hartman	79
Amanda Rodieck	Khrystynna Hunsinger	77
Annabelle Unguris	Adalyah Osteen	75
Janice Heltibridle	Amelia Young	75
Barbara Mathews	Carrie Baris	75
Leigh Wayne Miller	Marissa Muscat	75
Kelly Pults	Nora Jodrey	75
April Johnson	Lindsay E. Gunzburger	75
Carrie Baris	Lisa Broyles	70
Helena George	Megan Lapkoff	70
Heather B. Madden	Madison Smith	70
Janice Heltibridle	Alayna Hay	70
Kate Kane	Tiffany Dunkelbeck	70
Julianne Routten	Lessie Skiba	70
Carrie Baris	Judie Artman	65
Lori Lyttle	Ashley F Calvin	61
Lea L Krueger	Jennifer Stanley	58
Susan Bertch	Elsie J. Gunzburger	50
Lindsay E. Gunzburger	Leonie S. Gunzburger	50
Alison Zeytoonian	Raynee Richard	42
Lily Braden	Adalyah Osteen	42
Janice Heltibridle	Quinn Roske	41
Jacqueline Null	Stevie Brown	41
Olivia Ison	Magnolia Cody	41
Renee Brachfeld	Helena George	39
Carrie Baris	Elizabeth Farina	39
Addy Hartman	Zinnia Ahlgren	39
Kimberly Stephens	Adrienne Diehl	38
Helena George	Rachel Dollaway	35
Jennifer Thomas	Lilyanah M. Thomas	35

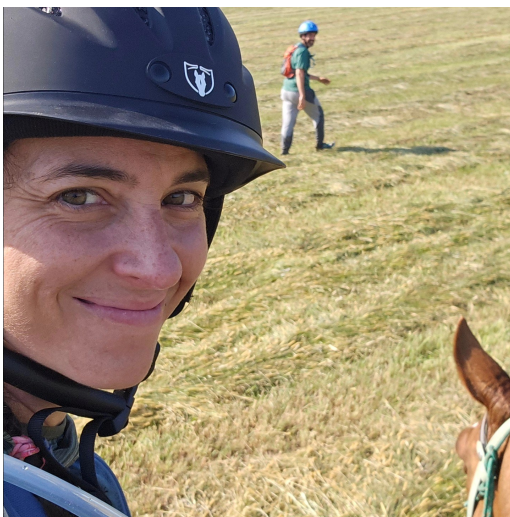
Rider 1	Rider 2	POINTS
Mallory Clayton	Heather B. Madden	34
Annie H. Madison	Cecilia Madison	33
Kimberly Stephens	Erin Teigen	33
Lauren S Bilsky	Jamie Martines	33
Mia Clegg	Audrey Evans	33
Sarah Amedure	Anne Amedure	32
Theresa L Valliant	Penny Markle	31
Adalyah Osteen	Courtney Robbins	30
Lauren S Bilsky	Rachel Salvador	30
Tiffany Dunkelbeck	Katie Beierl	30
Maci Robbins	Adalyah Osteen	27
Beth Gingold Kauffmann	Liana McGill	25
Sandy Smyth	Elizabeth Kelly	25
Colleen Kelly	Shannon Pogue	25
Page Drucker	Ellie Drucker	25
Christy Breeden	Maddie Breeden	25
Alejandra Sequeira	Lauren Plumer	25
Jaclyn Reed	Ashlyn Reed	25
Erica Greulich	Annie Erwin	25
Alexis Wheeler	Heather Wheeler	25
Danielle Knudson	Sharon Smith	25
Renee Brachfeld	Cierra Tabony	25
Helena George	Brittany Beck	25
Bernadette Grismer	Margaret Manion	25
Carrie Holben	Annette Phillips	25
Anne Williams	Kailey Williams	25
Elizabeth Harris	Anne Harris	25
Katie Harris	Beverly Vreeland	25
Annie Erwin	Christine Lundy	25
Monica Farinholt	Gianna Farinholt	25
Lauren Long	Ana-Elisa (Isa) Bryant	25
Quincy Esteves	Haley Esteves	25
Meaghan Shaffer	Julie Best	25
Tracy Wheeler	Kelly D. McCrary	25
Karen Stilwell	Ava Stilwell	25
Stella Stilwell	Aspen Siebold	25
Maisyn Murray	Elizabeth Picou	25
Carrie Baris	Sharon Smith	25
Sandra Strong	Eliana D Meiners	25



Janice Heltibridle and Ellen Hart at the East Coast Championship. photo: Becky Pearman

## 2024 Woman/Man Teams

Rider 1	Rider 2	POINTS
Carrie Baris	Chris Lang	750
Barbara Mathews	Chris Lang	305
Katie Ruth Tucker	Mark N. Landers	262
Kelly Pults	Chris Lang	246
Alison Zeytoonian	Chris Lang	165
Nora Jodrey	Chris Lang	160
Carrie Baris	Mark N. Landers	124
Lauren S Bilsky	Jordan Helmick	117
Marie Smidstrup	Drew Buechley	100
Alyssa Stalley Gonzalez	Nick Gonzalez	95
Makenna Jentgen	Ken Campbell	85
Alice Falkenstein	Erin McChesney	80
Martha Nelson	Chris Lang	75
Penny Bonhaus	Judah Landers	75
Leigh Wayne Miller	Zac Yarger	69
Carrie Baris	Richard Koup	65
Kimberly Stephens	Cristopher Stephens	64
Hannah Kerr	Daniel Kerr	62
Chris Shoemaker	Matthew Child	55
Heather Wilkerson	Mattie Compton	36
Brenna Sullivan	Brandon Kennedy	33
Kathy Tumblin	Larry Tumblin	33
Susy Willetts	Bo Willetts	33
Elise Walton	Jordan Helmick	30
Sarah Krueger	Matthew Child	25
Zinnia Ahlgren	Steve Ahlgren	25
Sonia Burke	Tim Burke	25
Alison Zeytoonian	Courtney Krueger	25
Renee Brachfeld	Penelope Wong	25
Megan Zimmerman	Eric Pulver	25
Ciara Donohue	James Esteves	25
Lori Lyttle	Penelope Wong	25
Nicole C Gonzalez	Austin Estes	25



Kimberly and Cris Stephens  
at Chesapeake Fall

## 2024 Man/Man Teams

Rider 1	Rider 2	POINTS
Courtney Krueger	Matthew Child	127
Bob Crowley	Hal Hall	100
Jim Howard	Thomas Gey	90
Andrew Gerhard	Curtis Ullerich	85
Tom Lewis	Clifford Lewis	80
Mark N. Landers	Judah Landers	65
Courtney Krueger	Judah Landers	25
Benji Zavala	Manny Villagomez	25



Andrew Gerhard and Curtis Ullerich with horse Chando  
at the 52nd World Championship



Mark and Judah Landers with  
horse Kevlar at Yellowhammer



Drew Buechley and Marie Smidstrup finish  
the 52nd World Championship

## 2024 Equathon Horses

Horse Owner	Horse	Miles	Horse Owner	Horse	Miles
K.Osborne	Lady of the Chesapeake	184	M.Oliphant	Syda	20
A.Bear	Levi Stoltzfus	114	J.Gilman	Socks	20
R.Venable	Rumor Has It	75	J.Gauthier	True Heart	20
T.Dollywhite	Shooting Star	75	K.Evans	Paris	20
A.Bear	Moses Yoder	75	C.Abernathy	GJR Anara (Tantrum)	20
M.Gibbs	Shawnee Sail Away	56	E.Kamberg	Miss Josie Mule (Josie)	20
L.Gunzburger	Huni	32	M.Landers	Kevlar	19
M.Hinklemen	Gunny	30	G.Orth	One Tough Tiger	18
T.Dingman	Tanner	30	C.Holben	Cody	18
A.Moody	Ringo	26	T.Langsdale	Aye Mac Zepher	18
E.McCardell	Esme	25	E.Walsh	Rocket	18
H.Hall	Bogus Thunder	25	S.Roberts	Melekh	18
J.Helmick	Sonny	25	C.Tabony	Crescent	18
S.Finstone	Fancy Pants	24	H.George	Pepper	16
A.Ware	Hawk	24	S.Bertch	Santana	16
K.Dutcher	Mojave Blace	24	L.Lyttle	Slate	16
P.Peace	Maverick	24	H.George	Sombra de Fuego	16
J.Chandler	Frankie	24	N.Gonzalez	Hazel Hatfield	16
R.Miura	Shagya	24	M.Johnson	Jake	16
A.Papillaud	Badger	24	E.Korson	FC Laya	16
A.Gerhard	Chando	24	S.Hodges	Taco	16
L.Oleson	Legacy XP	24	C.Young	Buck	16
C.Wesley	Sugar	23	H.Tuttle	Rotti	16
R.Kamberg	Shariff	20	S.Steward	Pete	14
R.Venable	Ray	20	H.Smith	Secret Liason	14
E.Kamberg	Kalli	20	P.Jackson	Aul	14
A.Young	Hasan Al Azak (zak)	20	K.Vanderbilt	Jessie	12
H.Aloor	Napoleon HCV	20	S.Amedure	Jacob	12
C.Shoemaker	Blue	20	E.Greulich	Luka	12
R.Venable	Moonlyte El Legato (Legacy)	20	P.Jackson	Aul Saba	12
I.Bryant	Ziggy	20	?	Neigh Slayer	12
M.Filiaggi	OoH La La	20	C.Bailey	Betty Boop	9
I.McLaughlin	SSF Murrels Chole	20	A.Murray	Merlin	8
C.Nicholson-Price	Cayna	20	M.Murray	Chief	8
C.Balieu	Ellie	20	E.Henderson	Molly	8



Kira Osborne and Lady of the Chesapeake

*photo: Hoof Print Images*

## 2024 Equathon Points

Rider 1	Rider 2	Type	Points	Rider 1	Rider 2	Type	Points
<b>Kira Osborne</b>		<b>IRON</b>	<b>871</b>	Jenna Chandler		IRON	73
Richard Noer		IRON	395	Patricia Jackson		IRON	72
Mary Gibbs		IRON	272	Sharon B. Wellman	Anthony Walker	M/W	71
<b>Ashley Bear</b>	<b>Mike Christopher</b>	<b>M/W</b>	<b>240.5</b>	Melissa Filiaggi	Megan Gerlings	W/W	70
Hannah Dollyhite		IRON	210	Kira Osborne	Josh Malin	M/W	70
Christina Bailey		IRON	210	Nora Filiaggi	LeAnne Dornick	W/W	70
Kathy Evans		IRON	180	Catherine Gray	Heather Aloor	W/W	70
Rhonda Venable		IRON	170	Hannah Kerr		IRON	68
Renee Brachfeld		IRON	170	Ashley Bear	Kat Carter	W/W	67
Julie Gauthier		IRON	170	Stephanie Bonhaus	Sharon Wolfersheim	W/W	65
Cyd Ross		IRON	160	Megan Lapkoff		IRON	65
Robert Kamberg		IRON	160	Cody Clark	Cynthia Abernathy	M/W	65
Elicia Kamberg		IRON	160	Mary Oliphant	Shanaya Morales	M/W	65
Jane Gilman		IRON	160	Sarah Amedure		IRON	62
Erin L McCardell		IRON	150	Emily Korson		IRON	45
Ana-Elisa (Isa) Bryant		IRON	150	Sabrina Hodges		IRON	42
Ilyssa McLaughlin		IRON	150	Cindy Young		IRON	39
Ashley Bear		IRON	148	Heidi Smith		IRON	37
Sarah Delia		IRON	146	Gerritt J Vreman	Gulia Orth	M/W	37
CoDee Wesley		IRON	142	Lindsay E. Gunzburger		IRON	36
Connie Nicholson-Price		IRON	140	Nicole C Gonzalez	Austin Estes	M/W	36
Alex Finston	Verna Falk	M/W	88	Hilary Tuttle		IRON	36
Rachel Miura	Katie Hull	W/W	88	Katie Ruth Tucker	Stephanie Bonhaus	W/W	34.5
Emma Walsh		IRON	86	Carrie Holben	Anthony Larranaga	M/W	34
Manuela Hinkleman	Christina Muller	W/W	85	Ashley Bear	Ally Rudy	W/W	34
Taylor Dingman	Ryan Curran	M/W	85	Teru Langsdale		IRON	34
Robert Finston	Karon Dutcher	M/W	83	Silvia Roberts	Jennifer Gift	W/W	34
Jordan Helmick	Jamie Martines	M/W	80	Lori Lyttle	Ashley F Calvin	W/W	33
Helena George		IRON	78	Hannah Dollyhite	Margie Johnson	W/W	33
Suzanne Amsbaugh	Pam Peace	W/W	78	Susan Bertch	Roger Bertch	M/W	33
Ali Ware		IRON	78	Susan Bertch	Lindsay E. Gunzburger	W/W	33
Lori Oleson	Marlon Torio	M/W	78	Shelly Stewart	Andy Burton	M/W	32
Elizabeth George		IRON	78	Kathy Martin	Kathleen Vanderbilt	W/W	31
Shannon Lucas	Amanda Moody	W/W	77	Christine Lundy		IRON	31
Richard Noer	Hayden Harrison	M/M	75	June Ruse	Clifford Lewis	M/W	31
Andrew Gerhard	Pablo delAguila	M/M	73	Andrew Murray	Elizabeth Picou	M/W	25
Agathe Papillaud	Ry Johnson	M/W	73	Blake Patterson	Holly Wormsley	M/W	25
				Meggan Graves DVM	Elizabeth Henderson	W/W	25

**NOTE:** No 2024 Man/Man or Woman/Woman Equathon Teams met the 125 point requirement.  
 Kira Osborne won the Equathon Iron Points Championship  
 Ashley Bear and Mike Christopher won the Equathon Man/Woman Points Championship



# EQUATHON

## 50+ Career Miles

Name	Miles
Rhonda Venable	396
Richard Noer	383
Alison Zeytoonian	335
Mary Gibbs	305
Lori Lyttle	281
Ashley Bear	270
Carrie Baris	255
Carrie Gale-Wroblewski	240
Gerritt Vremon	190
Kira Osborne	184
Mike Cortez	166
Dave Venable	162
Diana Lundy	145
Carrie Holben	144
Janice Heltibridle	128
Kevin Townsend	127
Hannah Dollyhite	115
Erin L McCardell	115
Heidi Smith	106
Susan Smyth	100
Hannah Kerr	99
Kelsey Bradanini	96
Mike Christopher	96
Kerry Lowrey	94
Natalie Rogers	92
Pam Peace	88
Holly Wormsley	83
Robert Finston	82
Kate Kohagen	81
Chelsea Zeytoonian	80
Bradley Hinton	80
Laura Odabashian	78
Denise Meehan	73



Rhonda Venable  
photo: Becky Pearman



Ashley Bear  
photo: Dom Turner

Name	Miles
Scott Walker	73
Lessie Skiba	72
Andrew Murray	71
Marlena Gerhard	66
Lisa Cundall	66
Lisa Haynes	66
Lea L Krueger	65
Suzanne Amsbaugh	65
Keith Pronske	63
Blake Patterson	63
Courtney Krueger	62
Madeline Isaacs	62
Alex Finston	62
Gulia Orth	61
Maci Brede	61
Jeanne Abbott	60
Cristine Grey	59
Lisa Broyles	59
Stephanie Bonhaus	59
Jeanine Wolf	58
Sharon Finston	58
Bryna Stevenson	58
Roger Yohe	57
Steve Bardos	56
Karen Grove	56
Jim King	52
Cathy Mason	52
Matthew Gary	52
Nicole Gonzalez	52
Nick Gonzalez	50
Liz Begovich	50
Jiri Vlach	50
Dianna Chapek	50



Hannah Dollyhite



Stephanie Bonhaus



Susan Smyth and Jennifer Monioz



Alex Finston 16





# RIDE & TIE

## Junior Awards

Ride and Tie loves our Junior Competitors and offers an award to the top ten Juniors in mileage (ties are broken by points).

14 year old Maci Robbins is this year's Junior Mileage Champion. Sara Boelt, her trainer and coach says of her accomplishment: *"I'm so excited for Maci. She's been one of the kids that has been at all of the conditioning rides and has worked hard on her horsemanship!"*

### Here is Maci's account of the year.

This year has been so much fun, and I am so happy that I am Junior Champion for 2024!!! This year was full of fun and exciting new things in Ride and Tie, and I learned a lot too. This year I partnered with Sara Boelt and rode her two horses named Aastro and Arne. Aastro is sometimes very chill but can also be your typical spicy Arabian. Arne is more laid back. At Iron Mountain Jubilee, I rode Aastro first. The first thing that came up on our trail was a pretty steep down hill. He was already kind of excited to go, but I was trying to keep his mind off of it by keeping him behind Arne. Somehow we got in front of him and he was just trotting at first, which I was okay with, but then that moved up into a canter downhill (which can be very bouncy sometimes) and then into a faster canter which made him harder to control. Luckily I was able to turn him into a very tight circle and get him behind Arne again and the rest of the ride went beautifully.

Another fun thing that happened is that my Mom got to join me at Broxton Bridge and got to see what Ride and Tie is all about. She hadn't ridden in a long time, but we had a lot of fun and helped her along the way. She partnered with Adalyah Osteen on TBopp and I partnered with Sara Boelt on Arne. Ride and Tie has been so fun, bonding more with the horses, friends, and family along the way. I always learn so many new things about the sport at every event. I am so excited for the 2025 season and hope I will be able to do even more than I did in 2024!

Junior Rider	Miles	Place
Maci Robbins	86	1
Adalyah Osteen	71	2
Annabelle Unguris	63	3
Matthew Child	49	4
Addy Hartman	47	5
Peyton Robinett	47	6
Judah Landers	44	7
Zinnia Ahlgren	23	8
Nora Filiaggi	20	9
Elizabeth George	16	10
Cecilia Madison	16	
Lily Braden	15	
Mia Clegg	15	
Audrey Evans	15	
Mattie Compton	15	
Quinn Roske	13	
Olivia Ison	13	
Magnolia Cody	13	
Maddie Breeden	9	
Ellie Drucker	9	
Alejandra Sequeira	9	
Penny Bonhaus	9	
Ashlyn Reed	9	
Lauren Plumer	9	
Kailey Williams	6	
Monica Farinholt	6	
Gianna Farinholt	6	
Stella Stilwell	6	
Ava Stilwell	6	
Aspen Siebold	6	
Maisyn Murray	5	
Elizabeth Picou	5	
Sandra Strong	4	
Leonie S. Gunzburger	4	
Elsie J. Gunzburger	4	
Eliana D Meiners	4	



Maci and her mom Courtney at Broxton

## Horse of Distinction

The Horse of Distinction award is given to horses who meet a set of criteria in the following 8 categories:

- Number of Ride & Ties completed
- Number of different riders/teams the horse has competed with
- Overall career mileage
- Number of Ride & Tie Championships completed
- Number of Best Conditions
- Number of career years participating in the sport
- Number of First Place finishes
- Number of Top Ten finishes (less any First-Place finishes)

More details can be found here: [www.rideandtie.org/awards/horse-of-distinction](http://www.rideandtie.org/awards/horse-of-distinction) or by using the QR code



### Two Horses earned the Horse of Distinction award in 2024



Comet's Kurino  
owned by Carrie Baris  
at Old Dominion in 2023  
*photo: Becky Pearman*

Rush Creek Bobby  
owned by Janice Heltibridle  
at Muckleratz in 2024  
*photo: Dom Turner*



Two people, a horse, and one tough race!

**RIDE & TIE**  
and EQUATHON  
**CAREER MILES**

Name	miles
Janice Heltibridle	6370
Barbara Mathews	4276
Lani Newcomb, D.V.M.	4101
Carrie Baris	4086
Kathy Broaddus, D.V.M.	3800
Rhonda Venable	3575
Dave Venable	3513
Ellen Rinde	3132
Courtney Krueger	3118
Pat Browning	2820
Warren Hellman	2772
George Hall	2761
Mary Tiscornia	2741
Mark Richtman	2655
Chris Turney	2585
Thomas Gey	2577
Rufus Schneider	2567
Dennis Rinde	2499
John Osterweis	2313
Curt Riffle	2303
Chris Lang	2303
Jim Howard	2202
Steve Shaw	2106
Jon Root	2019
Don Betts	2011
Wayne Hinrichs	1977
Tom Johnson	1976
Russ Kiernan	1945
Dave Andreotti	1880
Skip Lightfoot	1858
Frank Lieberman	1830
Richard Noer	1781
Karen Isaacs	1765
Mark N. Landers	1755
Steven Anderson	1705
Ellen Hart	1690
Carol Ruprecht	1680

Name	miles
Lon Clearwaters	1666
Beth Brinkley	1642
Elaine Ruprecht	1628
Paul Robinson	1617
Tim Hinrichs	1614
Gary Webb	1609
Byron Grant	1577
Gunilla Pratt	1563
Ben Volk	1540
Michael Whelan	1537
Lew Hollander	1465
Jean Whitman	1464
Arleene Foster	1460
Laurie Wilson	1434
Dan Barger	1426
James Clover	1397
Robert Eichstaedt	1353
Jonathan Jordan	1334
Tom Christofk	1314
Ted Ruprecht	1276
Lira Gonzalez	1265
Chuck Stalley	1250
Leslie Yates	1249
Melissa Hoose	1245
Jeff Windeshausen	1240
Jeff Townsend	1232
David Foster	1230
Gino Pomilia	1192
Dennis Tracy	1186
Annette Parsons	1185
Melanie Weir	1183
Paul Rink	1177
Alison Zeytoonian	1117
Cindy Webb	1104
Kate Kane	1064
Richard Koup	1049
Susan Simons	1025
Cheryl Domnitch	1002

**Closing in on 1,000 miles**

Name	Miles
Robin Hinrichs	997
Gail Lynch	974
David Tarpinian	958
Lanny Brown	957
Judy Teichman	948
Chet Relyea	948
Susan Smyth	928
Joan Ruprecht	926
Jim Remillard	917
Barrie Grant	913
Bill Johnson	913
Jim Brown	901



The Ride & Tie Association awards a patch and mileage chevrons to athletes who achieve milestones.

To check your career mileage go to <https://app.rideandtie.org/rt/ms/> or use this QR code:



Competed in 2024  
Moved up a category in 2024

## Kira Osborne is the 2024 Iron Equathon Points Champion. Here is her account of her incredible season and her incredible mount

### About Chessie:

Lady of the Chesapeake, aka Chessie, is a 8 year old off the track thoroughbred mare. I purchased Chessie, then named Flatact, in 2020 about 2 weeks after her last race at Mountaineer. Since coming off the track, we have dabbled in a little bit of everything from low level dressage, jumpers, and eventing to parades and trail riding. A fun fact about Chessie is her absolute favorite snack is oatmeal cookies. In fact, she will refuse most other treats (apples, carrots, sugar cubes, peppermints, you name it) if she thinks you have an oatmeal cookie. Her love of snacks proved very helpful while adjusting to life off the track as the majority of her retraining was fueled by oatmeal cookies.

### Our 2024 Season:

I first learned of the Ride and Tie Association while taking Chessie to our first ever endurance event at the Foxcatcher in Fairhill, MD. Growing up nearby, I had heard of the Foxcatcher before but never participated. When they offered an intro distance in 2023, I figured it would be a good chance to try out something different. We had a great time at that ride, despite the pouring down rain, and I knew it was something I wanted to do again. I had seen people running at the event, but did not know the specifics of Ride and Tie until discovering it online a while later.

When I saw there would be Ride and Tie events offered at the Foxcatcher in 2024, it seemed like a natural choice to give it a go having ridden and run at Fair Hill for many years. Reading up on the rules, I discovered two barriers. The first was the fact that I would need to find a teammate who was willing to both run and ride. While a very good girl, Chessie can get hot and excited which scared away any that runners I knew. The second barrier is that she is pretty tall (16.2 hands) and not easy to mount from the ground. Luckily, I stumbled upon the "What is Equathon?" page of the Ride and Tie website and found that I could still partake in the sport in a slightly different format.



For our first Equathon, I signed us up for 15/15 long course as an Iron team. We had a great time and learned so much from all the experienced competitors, staff, and volunteers. Something I noticed at that first event was how different the atmosphere was than that of other horse shows. Everyone there was helpful, welcoming, and seemed to be there to have a good time. After loading Chessie up and heading the 20 minute drive home, I realized that my legs were so sore I had to pick them up with my hands to get out of the truck. While I hobbled to put my tack away, my boyfriend Josh, who occasionally doubles as a Chessie scratching post, unloaded Chessie all the while hearing how tired I was but planning for the next one. Thinking back on the season as a whole, some of the most memorable moments include hurdling a dead snake at Muckleratz, my sponge trying to sail down the creek at the Horseshoe Bend Boogie, and Josh partaking in his first, and last, so he claims, Equathon as our runner for day 2 of the Chesapeake Fall event. The East Coast Championships was definitely the most memorable event from the last minute switch back to an Iron team, waking up in the freezing cold to a dead truck battery, and finishing the brutal course to find Josh and Chessie waiting with only one Scoot Boot on her hooves for some reason. All in all, we had a fantastic season, met some amazing people and horses, and cannot wait to hit the trails again in 2025!



# EQUATHON

Ashley Bear and Mike Christopher  
A 2024 Equathon M/W Points Championship Season in photos



# The 2024 Jim Steere Ride & Tie Veterinary Scholarship

Melinda Newton

This is the 7th year I've managed the scholarship. I think this is the 11th year of the scholarship!

In 2024 we had applicants from 17 different veterinary schools

- ⇒ Cummings School at Tufts
- ⇒ Cornell
- ⇒ Texas A and M
- ⇒ University of Minnesota
- ⇒ Virginia Maryland college of Vetmed
- ⇒ The Ohio State university
- ⇒ NSCU college
- ⇒ University of Montreal
- ⇒ Colorado State
- ⇒ UC Davis
- ⇒ Tribhuvan University (Nepal)
- ⇒ Kansas State
- ⇒ Western University
- ⇒ University of Pennsylvania
- ⇒ Iowa State
- ⇒ Washington
- ⇒ Wisconsin-Madison



I don't keep the detailed stats that I did the first few years just because it became too time consuming, but I've noticed that we get essays from a wide variety of school with students distributed fairly evenly across the schools. When I first started managing it, it was heavily represented by Davis, Western, and Oregon students. In 2024 we didn't have an Oregon or Nebraska but in the past there have been strong contenders there.

As far as the winning and runner up schools....

- ⇒ North Carolina
- ⇒ UC Davis
- ⇒ Cornell
- ⇒ Michigan
- ⇒ Western College (Canada)
- ⇒ UPenn
- ⇒ Kansas State
- ⇒ Virginia-Maryland
- ⇒ Western State University
- ⇒ Colorado
- ⇒ Cummings School at Tufts
- ⇒ Texas A and M

This is the first year that Tufts makes the list!!!

We had 44(ish) entries in 2024, which is similar to what we've had for most of my history with the scholarship, but I no longer have to drum up entries on social media and multiple emails to school - everything is pretty much on auto pilot. People are so excited to enter I will get a few entries in August even before we announce!!!!

Our winning essay was from Emma Bender, a first year vet student at Texas A&M University. Emma's essay is titled, *The Equine Endocrine Enigma*.

Our runner-up was Morgan Leighton, a first year vet student at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. Morgan's essay is titled, *My Experience with TMO*.

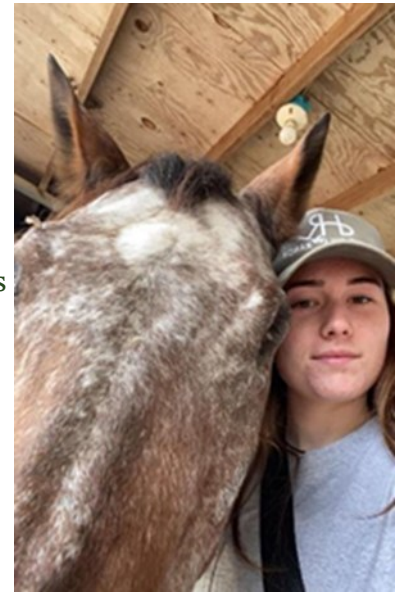
**Both essays appear on the following pages.**

Howdy,

My name is Emma Bender. I am a first year vet student at Texas A&M University from Plano, Texas. I am primarily interested in small animal medicine but have a special interest in equine. Most of my horse experience is in a non veterinary setting as I started working at a barn during my undergraduate career at TAMU and have continued through my vet school journey as well.

What started as a job quickly became a passion as I developed good horsemanship skills and came to adore the horses I was caring for. Flash, one of the older geldings, quickly became my favorite (and still is). Not long ago, he was diagnosed with PPID, which at the time I was incredibly unfamiliar with. I just knew I was required to give him a new medication everyday.

In the endocrine unit of physiology class during my first semester of vet school, we briefly talked about PPID and I was immediately able to connect the dots to Flash. As we talked about clinical signs I pictured Flash's thick coat, remembered the recurring infection that led to enucleation of his eye, and recalled the pergolide pill he gets at each meal. As I was learning, it was awesome being able to connect these concepts to a horse that I have bonded with and care for regularly.



## The Equine Endocrine Enigma

It is not uncommon for geriatric horses to “slow down”. However, if signs of lethargy are accompanied by other abnormal symptoms such as pot belly, fatty deposits, and delayed shedding, it may be wise to call a veterinarian. Among other symptoms, these are all signs of Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysregulation, a condition that affects about 25% of horses over the age of 15 and often goes unnoticed.

### What is PPID?

Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysregulation, commonly referred to as equine Cushing's disease, is one of the most common endocrine disorders affecting older horses, usually over the age of fifteen. Although PPID can occur in younger horses as well, it is more rare. PPID is characterized by the dysregulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis leading to an abnormal metabolic state and dysregulation in various body systems.

### The Anatomy and Pathophysiology Behind the Disorder

In the horse, the pituitary gland is suspended just ventral to the hypothalamus via the infundibular stalk. The hypothalamus and pituitary communicate by direct innervation and via the hypophyseal portal system, which delivers hormones released by the hypothalamus directly to the pituitary. The pituitary gland has various lobes that take on different functions and different methods of communication with the hypothalamus.

Unlike in other species, the pathophysiology of pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism is poorly understood as it is marked by an increase in plasma ACTH rather than cortisol, despite the relationship that these two hormones have. PPID is characterized by a hyperplastic pars intermedia lobe of the anterior pituitary caused by the degeneration of dopaminergic neurons that connect the hypothalamus and pars intermedia.

In the normal equine pituitary, corticotropin releasing hormone (CRH) is delivered from the hypothalamus to the pars distalis lobe of the pituitary via the hypophyseal portal vessels. CRH initiates secretion of adrenocorticotrophin hormone (ACTH) which then acts on the adrenal gland to stimulate synthesis and secretion of glucocorticoids. The pars intermedia is involved in the negative feedback of this axis to prevent over secretion of ACTH. Upon a negative feedback signal, the dopaminergic neurons that directly innervate the pars intermedia release dopamine which has an inhibitory effect on the transcription of POMC. POMC is altered by the enzyme prohormone convertase 1 in the pars distalis to produce ACTH, thus the inhibition of POMC by dopamine prevents further release of ACTH from the pituitary.

In PPID horses, this “check” on the pituitary is severely altered due to a lack of dopamine. The dopaminergic neurons of the hypothalamus degenerate, leading to the breakdown of this endocrine axis characterized by the overproduction of POMC derivatives including ACTH. However, the ACTH released by the par intermedia is less biologically active and does not stimulate the adrenal gland.

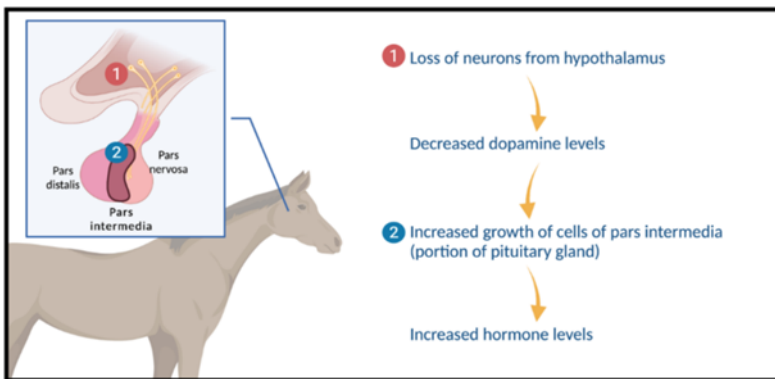


Figure 1:

<https://vetmed.umn.edu/equine/research/equine-genetics-and-genomics-laboratory/projects/equine-pituitary-pars-intermedia-dysfunction-ppid>

## Clinical Signs and Diagnosis

Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysregulation has a plethora of clinical signs, many of which go unnoticed by owners especially in mild cases of the disease. Signs include hypertrichosis/delayed shedding, muscle atrophy, polyuria, polydipsia, lethargy, laminitis, recurrent infection, insulin dysregulation, abnormal sweating, and abnormal fat deposition.

Recognition of these clinical signs is incredibly important in diagnosing PPID as it may initiate the process of diagnostic testing to clearly identify the disease. There are a few specific tests used in diagnosing PPID. The first of which is the baseline ACTH test. This test requires a blood sample that is used to determine the amount of ACTH in the patient's plasma. It is necessary for the patient to be restricted to grain for at least 12 hours prior to acquiring the blood sample. There are numerous factors that influence ACTH levels that must be taken into account when analyzing the results and make this test suitable only for moderate to severe cases of the disease. These factors include seasonal changes, breed differences, stress, diet, illness, and exercise. The TRH stimulation test is a more accurate tool used to diagnose PPID. This test measures plasma ACTH levels before and 10 minutes post administration of IV thyrotropin-releasing hormone. In horses with PPID, ACTH levels post TRH administration will be elevated whereas in a normal horse, glucocorticoid negative feedback restricts the release of ACTH from the pars distalis. Similar to the baseline ACTH test, seasonal influences on plasma ACTH levels should be considered when interpreting results.

Imaging is another powerful tool to be exploited in diagnosing PPID. CT and MRI technology can be used to evaluate the pituitary gland in great detail making this a great option for early detection. Financial limitations and lack of accessibility make this option less popular, however.





**Figure 2:**

<https://vmc.usask.ca/care/equine-health/resources/ppid.php#Treatmentandmanagement>

### **Is My Horse at Risk?**

If you own a horse over the age of 15, PPID is something you should be on the look-out for. Age seems to be the only significant risk factor of PPID. Currently, there are no known predispositions for PPID on the basis of breed or sex.

### **Treatment**

While there is no cure for PPID, it can be treated to manage clinical signs. The only drug that may be used as treatment is pergolide mesylate, a synthetic dopamine agonist. The dopaminergic inhibition reduces the amount of POMC and its derivatives produced by the pars intermedia, thereby improving clinical signs. The recommended starting dose of pergolide is 1mg per 500kg. After a month of therapy, baseline ACTH levels should be tested to ensure proper dosing.

### **References**

Kirkwood, N. C., Hughes, K. J., & Stewart, A. J. (2022). Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID) in Horses. *Veterinary sciences*, 9(10), 556. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci9100556>

Morgan, R. A., Keen, J. A., Homer, N., Nixon, M., McKinnon-Garvin, A. M., Moses-Williams, J. A., Davis, S. R., Hadoke, P. W. F., & Walker, B. R. (2018). Dysregulation of Cortisol Metabolism in Equine Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction. *Endocrinology*, 159(11), 3791–3800. <https://doi.org/10.1210/en.2018-00726>

Young, A. (2020, March 23). Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID). UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Center for Equine Health. <https://ceh.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/health-topics/pituitary-pars-intermedia-dysfunction-ppid>

I am Morgan Leighton. I am a 2027 DVM Candidate at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. My passion has always been working with horses. I'm a third-generation horse woman and barrel racer. When I started competing at a professional level in barrel racing I became interested in performance horse medicine. After working as an LVT for almost 20 years in a small animal clinic in my hometown I decided to pursue my dream of vet school. I am currently in my first year at Tufts and am so thankful for the wonderful care and education they provided me with throughout my recent experience with my talented gelding Rocko.

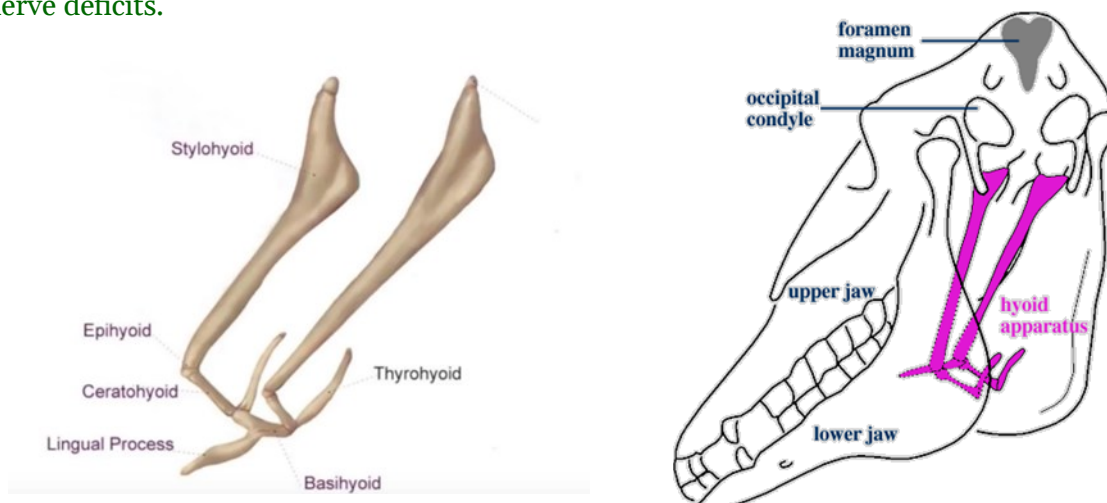


## My Experience with THO

With a history of Equine Protozoal Myelitis (EPM), I didn't panic when my 12-year-old Quarter Horse gelding Rocko started to exhibit mild neurological deficits. At first, he moved his jaw in a way that looked like something was stuck in his teeth. He would occasionally flip his head upward toward the right and eventually the right side of his face appeared droopy. He was started on EPM medication and an anti-inflammatory and the neurological deficit did not progress any further. He seemed to be improving and didn't appear uncomfortable, so we waited, giving the medications time to work. In the past his EPM episodes had responded to medications within 2-3 days. During this time, I was away attending vet school in Massachusetts and Rocko was being cared for by my family in Maine. My daughter sent me a photo of Rocko's eye one evening and that's when I panicked. A severe corneal ulcer had formed on his right eye. He was seen by a veterinarian the next day and it was recommended his eye be removed. At first the vet thought he had hit his head in the pasture and the paralysis, since it seemed mild was secondary to that, so she wasn't overly concerned. The next day just before his enucleation, before more anti-inflammatories had been given, the paralysis was worse, and the vet took radiographs of his head. The radiographs showed an enlarged right stylohyoid bone. Endoscopy of the guttural pouch confirmed the thickening of the bone, leading to a diagnosis of temporohyoid osteoarthropathy (THO).

### What is temporohyoid osteoarthropathy?

THO is a progressive condition that leads to the thickening of the stylohyoid bone where it articulates with the temporal bone of the skull. The temporohyoid joint eventually fuses to the skull because of the bone remodeling, reducing the movement of the joint and the mobility of the hyoid apparatus. The hyoid apparatus is made up of the stylohyoid, epihyoid, ceratohyoid, basihyoid, and thyrohyoid bones. The hyoid apparatus has attachments to the tongue and larynx. Restriction can lead to pain, and possibly fractures that cause nerve deficits.



### How common is THO?

THO is relatively uncommon, and signs can mimic those of EPM or other neurological disorders. When it does occur, it commonly affects middle aged horses, but horses of any age can present with this condition.

### What are the clinical signs of THO?

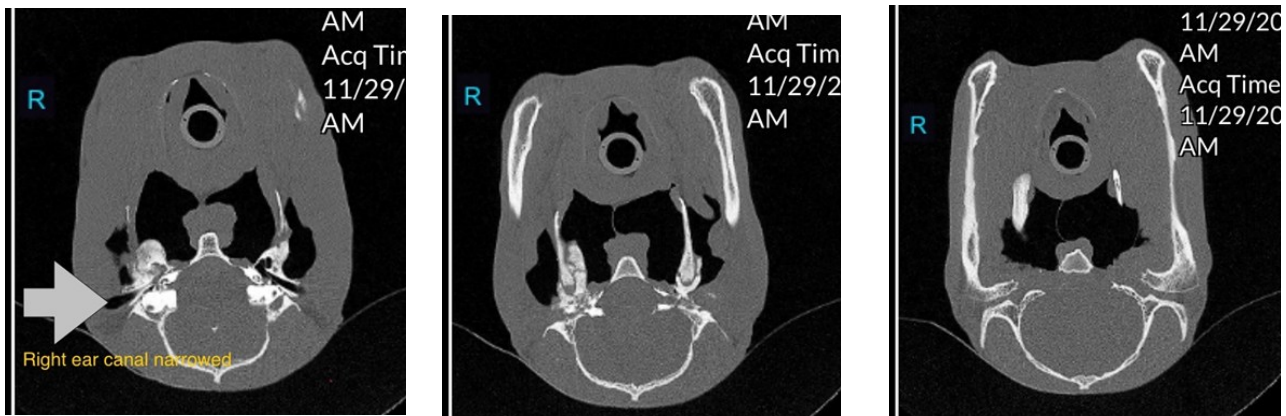
Head shaking, difficulty chewing food, resistance to the bit, behavioral problems, and ear rubbing are early signs. Neurological signs such as loss of balance, head tilt, and nystagmus may develop as the disease progresses. Facial paralysis, including deviation of the muzzle to one side, droopy ear, and inability to close the eye lid may be observed. Corneal ulcers can form due to damage to the nerves that are responsible for tear production and blinking. One of the first and most common nerve deficits is hearing loss, but this often goes unnoticed.

### How is THO diagnosed?

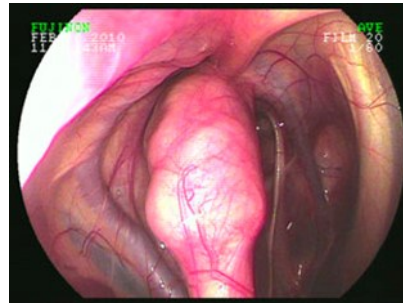
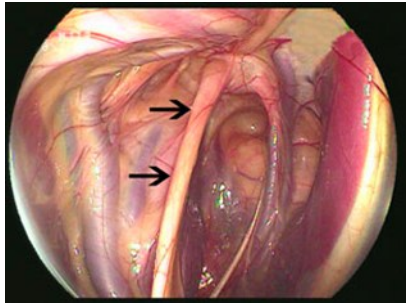
Diagnostic imaging including radiographs, endoscopy, computed tomography (CT) and MRI are used to aid in the diagnosis of THO. Endoscopy is used to visualize the temporohyoid joint via the guttural pouch. The proximal end of the stylohyoid bone will appear enlarged. CT while anesthetized is commonly used as a definitive diagnosis for THO. It is common for both stylohyoid bones to be affected, however one side is usually worse.



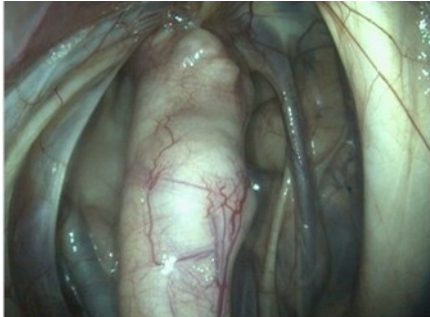
“Computed tomographic appearance of the hyoid apparatus in a clinically normal horse and in two horses with temporohyoid osteoarthropathy. (A) grade 0—normal hyoid and auditory apparatus bilaterally. (B) grade 1—mild thickening of the right stylohyoid bone and temporohyoid articulation and grade 2—moderate thickening of the left temporohyoid articulation. (C) grade 3—severe thickening of the right stylohyoid bone and temporohyoid articulation with a fracture through the proximal aspect of the right stylohyoid bone (arrow).” [3]



Rocko's CT done at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine



Endoscopic view of normal guttural pouch and stylohyoid bone (arrows). Endoscopic view of callus on the stylohyoid bone at the roof of the guttural pouch where it articulates with the temporal bone of the skull. [4]



Right



Left

Endoscopy of Rocko's guttural pouch done at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

### How is THO treated?

THO can be approached medically or surgically. Surgery includes the removal of bone from the hyoid apparatus to reduce stress and pressure, and the risk of fracture. The removal of the ceratohyoid bone is the recommended surgical procedure. This detaches the stylohyoid from its connection with the tongue and larynx. Many horses go back to their normal lifestyle after surgery and with time, nerve deficits totally resolve in most cases. Some horses have mild deficits that remain permanently. Medical management is done using anti-inflammatories to reduce inflammation and pain and antibiotics if there is an infection present or suspected. The prognosis for horses treated medically is not as good as those treated surgically.

### Can THO be prevented?

THO isn't well understood and a definitive reason for it hasn't been found. Causes have been speculated to include infection or inflammation of the middle ear or guttural pouch, degenerative osteoarthritis, and repetitive trauma to the structures from cribbing.

Rocko underwent surgery to remove the ceratohyoid bone at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. Rocko's CT showed us that his left stylohyoid bone was abnormal too and the decision was made to remove his left ceratohyoid at the same time as his right to prevent future complications. Rocko had active post-operative hemorrhage after surgery, which is a rare complication. He had a tracheostomy because of the swelling associated with the bleeding. He couldn't swallow for 4 days after surgery and was unable to eat anything. As the swelling decreased, his nerve deficits improved, and he has continued to improve rapidly. He is doing very well, and we are hopeful the remaining minor neurological deficits will resolve, and he will go back to performing as a barrel horse. His ear is still slightly paralyzed, and his muzzle is deviated to the left just a bit, but he is acting normal in every other way.

## References

- Phyle, V. P. (2019, February 4). The Equine Hyoid apparatus. VET PHYSIO PHYLE. <https://vetphysiophyle.co.uk/2019/02/05/the-equine-hyoid-apparatus/>
- Equine, M. (2018, June 25). What is Temporohyoid Osteoarthropathy (THO) In Horses? - Mid-Rivers Equine Centre. Mid-Rivers Equine Centre. <https://www.midriversequine.com/temporohyoid-osteoarthropathy-tho/#:~:text=THO%20is%20relatively%20uncommon%20and,removal%20of%20the%20ceratohyoid%20bone.>
- Temporohyoid osteoarthropathy (THO). (2023, July 28). School of Veterinary Medicine. <https://ceh.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/health-topics/temporohyoid-osteoarthropathy-tho>
- Hilton, H. G., Puchalski, S. M., & Aleman, M. R. (2009). THE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHIC APPEARANCE OF EQUINE TEMPOROHYOID OSTEOARTHROPATHY. *Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound*, 50(2), 151–156. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1740-8261.2009.01508.x>
- Guttural pouch Diseases » Large Animal Hospital » College of Veterinary Medicine » University of Florida. (n.d.). <https://largeanimal.vethospitals.ufl.edu/hospital-services/surgery/guttural-pouch-diseases/>
- Divers, T. J., Ducharme, N. G., De Lahunta, A., Irby, N. L., & Scrivani, P. V. (2006). Temporohyoid osteoarthropathy. *Clinical Techniques in Equine Practice*, 5(1), 17–23. <https://doi.org/10.1053/j.ctep.2006.01.004>



## Important Announcement:

The Ride & Tie Association made changes to our season beginning in 2025 which affects the way we score points:

This year, our season will only be 11 months long: January 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025.

Our 2026 season will be from December 1, 2025 - November 30, 2026.

This will more closely align us with our partner organizations.

Our 2025 ride calendar can be found by going to [www.rideandtie.org/ride-schedule/](http://www.rideandtie.org/ride-schedule/)  
or by using this QR code



## A 100 Mile Equathon Year

Hanna Dollyhite

2024 was a wild year to say the least. At the beginning of the season my plan was to go to at least three rides and complete safely. I did not plan to reach one hundred career miles in only my second year of Equathon. The year started off great with both Star and I in fantastic shape. However, in February that all came to a halt. Star and I had a bad riding accident. Thankfully Star was okay. I ended up with a sprained shoulder and in a sling for 3 weeks, which meant no riding or running.

Once I was cleared to ride I had three weeks to get both of us ready for Ride in the Pines. I wanted to ride both days but due to being unable to train consistently I was worried Star wouldn't be able to safely compete on both days. My friend, Margie Johnson wanted to try Equathon on her mule, and needed a runner. I told her I was only riding one day so I'd be able to run for her on Saturday. I rode Star on Friday with my friends, Carrie Baris and Chris Lang until the last two miles when we parted ways. This was our first Iron Equathon of the season. Saturday I was the runner in my first and last team Equathon of the season. It was a lot of fun teaming up with such an incredible duo, even when I had to face my fears when I came across two snakes on the trail, one of which went across my foot.

After training hard over the summer, Iron Mountain rolled around. I entered for three days of Iron Equathon. Friday's mileage was 17/8. Star felt great all through the ride. She vetted out with flying colors. I felt great at the start of the run. The last two miles I started cramping and feeling more tired than usual. Once I crossed the finish line, I sat down and felt weird. Two ladies stopped to help me, and after a few minutes more people showed up to help. These lovely people helped me get back to camp and found my dad. One of the people who helped said I had heat exhaustion. Once we got food and electrolytes in me, I was okay. At the end of the day I found out that not only did I complete I beat my old time from 2022 by an hour.

Saturday's mileage was 8/8. We started out great, but at mile four Star came up lame and I chose to pull her in case it was something serious. Thankfully she had just nicked her fetlocks, she was passed by the vet and farrier for the next day.

I decided it was not a good idea for me to attempt a third day and decided to pull. This worked out as Carrie and her partner needed a horse for the eleven mile Ride & Tie. I offered for them to ride Star and they said they would. This would be Star's first Ride & Tie. She did good other than being a bit restless at the first tie. I was so proud to hear that as I had been working with her on standing tied for over a year.

The next 3 weeks flew by. I knew if I took it slow and steady at Biltmore, Star and I would be able to complete both days happy and healthy. That's all that mattered to me. Friday was great, Star felt good and continued that way for the entire ride and completed in great spirits. I also felt great during my run, and even got lost, oops. That's just what happens when you get in the running zone. I completed day one with a time of five hours thirty minutes, not too bad for getting lost.

Saturday all I wanted to do was complete. Star and I rode with a lovely lady, Lindsay and her horse, she planned on going the exact speed I wanted to go, slow. Star as usual passed with flying colors and extra pizzazz this time. I think she wanted to keep going. I started my running and before I knew it five and a half miles were gone in one hour, fourteen minutes. Not only did I ride and run my fastest Equathon time ever, four hours and fourteen minutes, I also hit one hundred career miles! This was a huge achievement for me as I didn't think I'd get to ride this season

I have some people to thank for helping Star and I get here. My biggest fan, supporter, friend and teammate Margie, she also gave me the nickname Iron Woman, my dearest friend and supporter Helena for telling me about Equathon and encouraging me to give it a try. My mom and dad for being my biggest supporters of all time, helping me get through difficult training days, being the best crew members and making sure I stay alive by getting enough to eat and drink.

Every single person who keeps me going on trail, worries about me when I get totally lost, cares for me when I get heat exhaustion, and is there at the finish line to make me smile. You all know who you are. There is no way to ever thank you enough for being a second family to me and making me feel like I belong.



## Help us grow our sport.

### Let an Endurance Ride Manager know how easy it is to include Ride & Tie in their event.

Ride & Tie uses the same trails, vets, etc. as the Endurance Ride.

It is basically “free money” for them and lots of fun for both the Ride & Tie competitors and the Endurance Riders who love seeing enthusiastic Ride & Tie folk on trail.

### Hosting a Ride & Tie at an Endurance Ride

*Ride & Tie races* and *Endurance rides* are basically the same sport with one important twist: Ride & Tie adds an extra human to the human/equine team. For the Ride Manager, most other details are the same including the course and vetting criteria. If you have already gone to the trouble and expense to put on an Endurance ride, then adding a Ride & Tie is a great way for you to increase interest and participation. Your only additional costs are insurance and completion awards which you can recoup through ride fees.

Our website [www.rideandtie.org](http://www.rideandtie.org), our Facebook page, and our YouTube channel all have a number of resources including a Ride Manager’s manual to assist you. Below is a checklist to help you know the steps you will need to take to successfully offer a Ride & Tie along with your Endurance ride:

\_\_\_\_\_ It is very common for the Endurance Ride manager to designate someone else to be the Ride & Tie Race Manager. This person can do all of the communication and coordination with the Ride and Tie association and assist you in ensuring that the other items on this checklist are coordinated to ensure a great race.

\_\_\_\_\_ As soon as you decide on the date and place for the ride, contact the Ride & Tie Sanctioning Officer at [events@rideandtie.org](mailto:events@rideandtie.org) **Ask any and all questions you have. The Sanctioning Officer’s job is to help you.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide a race flyer (dates, race lengths, directions, camping information, etc.) and an entry form for posting on the Ride & Tie website as soon as possible. This may be the same documents you use for your ride or slightly altered specific ones to Ride & Tie

\_\_\_\_\_ For a Ride & Tie to be a sanctioned race, you must offer at least one course with a minimum of 20 miles. Note that you are not required to have any team compete in that course. You are then welcome to offer other courses of any length. All miles in Ride & Tie count for career mileage and for the annual points competition.

\_\_\_\_\_ You must be officially sanctioned through Ride & Tie at least 60 days before the event. Sanctioning involves filling out a form and agreeing to pay \$10 per team up to \$100 a day for insurance. This insurance is required even if your Endurance event is also insured. Your endurance event insurance likely does not cover Ride & Tie, so sanctioning is vitally important. If you do not receive any Ride & Tie entries, you will not have an insurance cost.

\_\_\_\_\_ You must join the Ride & Tie association in order to host a Ride & Tie. **Ride Managers are given complimentary annual memberships, so this will be at no cost to you.**

\_\_\_\_\_ You must ensure that all competing team members are members of the Ride & Tie Association. You can do this utilizing the Ride & Tie website.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include Ride & Tie in all Ride Briefings, Award ceremonies (including providing completion awards), and Activities (such as meals). This greatly enhances the experience for both Endurance riders and Ride & Tiers

\_\_\_\_\_ Your head veterinarian sets all criteria for Ride & Tie as he/she does for Endurance. Typically the criteria are identical to the criteria for the Endurance horses with a couple of exceptions.

Ride & Tie does not require a hold at mid-race vet checks. Once the horse has successfully passed the vet check, it is allowed back on the course.

Because Ride & Tie does not require holds, veterinarians typically allow horses to go through mid-race vet checks without removing tack. The head veterinarian, however, may require that tack be removed for all horses or for any horse he/she deems in need of an exam requiring the removal of tack.

Ride Managers and Veterinarians often ask Endurance riders to allow Ride & Tie horses to “break” in line at the vet checks because they do not have a hold time making the vet check more time critical for them since the other human partner will already be back out on trail.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ensure that your timers know the rules of Ride & Tie. The race does not end until all members of the team have crossed the finish line. That is the final time. Mid-race times (in and out) may be recorded for both horse and runner in order to keep track of the teams, but that data is not used by Ride & Tie. Unlike Endurance, there is no time limit for a race unless specified by the Ride Manager or the head veterinarian.

\_\_\_\_\_ Post-race: provide race results, submit money for insurance, and turn in membership forms to Ride & Tie.



*The “Back” Cover  
Eight year old Penelope Butts and her pony Bullseye  
at the 52nd World Championship in Cool, CA*

*photo: Calla Gold*



Ride and Tie



The Ride and Tie  
Association



Ridentie