



Steve Elliot is the winner of our Cover Photo Contest with this wonderful photo of Marsha Wadsworth riding Wendy Wagner's tough horse, Jimy. Horse and rider show great form as they move along the trail at the 1998 Easyboot Championship Ride & Tie. Together with partner Deborah Wagner, this team placed 7th overall in 3:27:34 and won First Place in the Woman/Woman division.

What is ride & tie? this sport is based on a means of transportation cited as far back as the 17th century, and later in the old West, that allowed two people with only one horse to travel great distances quickly without wearing down their horse. One story tells of a rancher who pursued cattle rustlers with his son and his one remaining

horse, taking the rustlers by surprise and regaining their property.

At the start of a ride & tie, one partner begins riding and the other runs. When the rider has traveled as far as he thinks his teammate can run, he dismounts, ties the horse to a tree, and begins running. When the teammate comes to the horse (which has had time to rest) he rides the next stretch, until

he either reaches or passes his partner (depending on the team's strategy). The team alternates running and riding throughout the race, until all team members cross the finish line.

Ride & tie teams can be comprised of men, women, or mixed teams. Previous contestants have ranged from a 68 year old to a 10 year old. Anyone who keeps moving can finish!

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President's Message

by Mary Tiscornia

I have a few brief comments about the Ride & Tie Association and Championship race. This will be followed by a Treasurer's message from Leah Mirsch (see page 4). For complete information, our Annual Report will appear in the next newsletter.

The Ride & Tie Association is run and basically breaks even with the membership dues it receives. Thanks to our present Association director, Judy Haulman, and our past Directors, Laura Christofk and Robin Hinrichs, we have a data base, a newsletter, an insurance program for races, a general information system for interested parties, a sanctioning and point system, and an annual awards program. The Association does not put any money into the annual Championship event.

While the Championship is our flagship event, it is very costly to put on, and must stand on its own financially. It receives funds from entry fees, sponsors and contributions, merchandise and banquet tickets. The Championship has survived because of enormous volunteer support and the generous financial support from some of our members (one in particular) and the recent sponsorship of EasyCare.

Frankly, it would have been impossible to put on much of a Championship race without them. At the present time, entry fees cover less than half the cost of the race. The Board would like to see the Championship become more self-sufficient and for that reason have decided to raise the entry fee for this year's race.

Some of you may know about the \$10,000 "challenge" grant that has been made by some of our major supporters. If the membership can raise \$10,000, our supporters will match that with another \$10,000 along with their already pledged \$18,000. These funds will go into the race budget, not the Association or Endowment Fund. (Curt Riffle will share have more news about this in the next newsletter.)

The Board of Directors is an

elected volunteer body run by our by-laws. The Board guides and manages the budget for the Association, the Championship, and all other Association-related activities.

The Board has made the decision this year – despite the expense – to hire Mary Ann Buxton as this year's race director. You'll be hearing a lot from her in this newsletter and in future publications and at the race itself. We feel that it is important to have a non-competing, hands-on person before, during, and after the race. We also believe this will create more consistency and continuity and a better quality race that will encourage more participation and sponsorship in the future. We're taking a chance with this and may not know the results for a few years.

Many of you have contributed and still contribute your valuable time and resources to both the Association and the races throughout the year. This does not go recognized or unappreciated; we can never give enough thanks for those who help Ride & Tie happen. We would not have a sport without all of our participation.

I hope this has been helpful and leads to better understanding about how things work, our problem, and some of the decisions the Board has made. Please feel free to contact me with any question you might have. See you at the races.

Until then, my warmest regards, and safe and healthy training.

Mary Tiscornia
Phone (415) 868-0771
Fax (415) 868-2563
E-mail escal@pacbell.net

THE RIDE & TIE ASSOCIATION

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Greetings from the 1999 Championship Director

by Mary Ann Buxton

It's very exciting to be involved with Ride & Tie again after so many years! I was first involved with Ride & Tie in 1977 as an employee of Levi Strauss & Co. Linden Barry (formerly Farrar) and I were the first Levi's employees to do the race. In fact, we resolved to not only do the race but to have a "decent" finish when Bud Johns was overheard commenting that he wondered if we would be able to finish at all! After all, neither of us had run much over 2-3 miles. Linden had ridden quite a lot but my first riding lessons were from Mary Tiscornia the winter before the race.

Thanks to Mary and the members of the 1977 Ride & Tie family who took us under their wing with training tips and lots of encouragement, we not only finished, but we surprised ourselves and Bud by finishing the Pt. Reyes/Olema race as the third woman/woman team! Bud added another category: The President's Cup Trophy for the first Levi's Employee team, and we were hooked.

Linden and I competed for several years. Before I married Tom "Bart" Barthold we made a deal: he would learn to ride so we could be Ride & Tie teammates, and I would learn to swim and bike so we could do the Ironman Triathlon. He learned to ride much better than I will ever learn to swim, and we did many Ride & Ties and have continued to do lots of Triathlons. It's been a few years since we've been in a Ride & Tie, but we've always wanted to stay in touch. This year I'll be more than "in touch" – I'll be inundated, consumed, compelled and completely involved as your 1999 Race Director!

My goal as your new Race Director is to make the 1999 Ride & Tie Championship a well-organized, well-attended, safe, fun event that is reasonably publicized and becomes a target for major sponsors.

Site information

The site for 1999 is The Rock Creek Ranch, just outside of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Many of you will remember that Klamath Falls was the site of the 1974

race. Bud Johns loaned me a file with wonderful memorabilia from that race, including an article from *Playgirl Magazine*, featuring our own Mary Tiscornia and Dawn Dimas! That race was a point to point event, but this year we will have the luxury of having the start, finish, vet checks and camp – all in one place. We are lucky to have the help of Tim Kerns and his wife Melissa. They know everybody in Klamath Falls! It is through Tim's friendship with Cam and Jennie Curtiss, owners of Rock Creek Ranch, that we will have such a great race site this year.

Some of you will remember Ron Kelley, who placed 2nd with Glen Jobe in the 1974 race, as well as the 1975 Paso Robles race. We were excited to learn that Ron is Cam's foreman at Rock Creek Ranch and have recruited Ron to set the trail for us! By the way, Ron is still in great shape! We are trying to find Glen Jobe so they can make a comeback as a great team – so if anyone knows how to contact Glen, please let me know!

The campsite is about 17 miles outside of Klamath Falls, about 10 miles from the Running Y Resort & Ranch, in a beautiful meadow on the site of Tomahawk, an old ghost town. The race will start and finish at the campsite, and the vet checks will be at the campsite, making it a good race location for spectators and logistics easier for crewmembers.

Accommodations

There is plenty of water for horses in the creek, but you will need to bring drinking water. Bring your solar showers as well. As Cam Curtiss says, "Cattle and dogs don't mix." We encourage you to leave your dogs at home. If you must bring your dogs, they must be on a leash at all times!

For those of you who don't like to camp, the following are suggestions for accommodations:

- Running Y Ranch and Resort (800) 244-6015 or (888) 850-0275. The hotel is currently booked due to a golf tournament, but you can put yourself

on the waiting list, as I am told rooms will open up. Identify yourself as part of the Ride & Tie for special rate of \$59.99 on availability. There are condos for rent: \$200 /night for 2 bedrooms and \$250 /night for 3 bedrooms.

Shilo Suites Hotel, (800) 222-2244 or (541) 885-7980. Special rate of \$89 for 2 queen beds \$99 for a king bed.

Econolodge (800) 446-6900 or (541) 884-7735. Special rate of \$38/ night or \$190 for the week for room with 2 beds.

Red Lion Inn (800) 773-5466 or (541)882-8864 regular rates \$74-\$99.

Best Western Olympic Inn (800) 528-1234 or (541)882-1200 regular rate \$61.

For the special rates, you will need to mention the Ride & Tie. July is a busy time for Klamath Falls, so please book early – at least by May1.

Practice

We are planning a clinic for locals interested in Ride & Tie on Saturday, April 24, weather permitting, about 10 a.m. at Rock Creek Ranch. The clinic will consist of a 10 mile loop.

Sponsorship search

The next topic is an opportunity I'd like to offer all of you: more participation in the annual championship event. Many people have contributed to the longevity of Ride & Tie, starting with Bud Johns. Bud gave the event life and a sponsor. Since the day Levi's stopped sponsoring the event, many people have given of their valuable time and money to keep the sport alive. In the last few years a few very generous people have made very large contributions. These people have chosen to remain anonymous. We have also had the generosity of Garrett Ford of EasyBoot.

While the anonymous benefactors continue to make an important contribution, and we will make every effort to find outside sources, the membership needs to know that if we are to continue to have this event, we will need to find other sponsors, or greatly increase the entry fees. We need your help to find sponsors! If you know any

continued on bottom next page

Treasurer's Message

by Leah Mirsch, Association Treasurer

As we begin efforts to help raise funds to stage the 1999 Championship race it seemed a perfect opportunity to share some information regarding the Association's budgeting process. Although our annual report for 1998 will be included in the next newsletter I would like to explain the *basics* of our financial structure now.

The Association has two separate bank accounts to fund their functions. The first account I refer to as the "Association" or "General" account. Monies put into this account include membership dues, insurance payments from race directors and any other non-Championship revenues. These funds are then used to finance all of the Association's expenses that are not related to the Championship race. Examples of those expenses include the newsletter, pro-am awards and sponsorships, annual point awards, insurance premiums and the administrative costs of running the Association (phone, postage, website,

office supplies, etc.). The goal is to have the revenues be sufficient to cover the expenses and for the past several years they have . . . just barely, and with conscientious efforts to scrimp on spending.

The other account is the Championship Race account. Monies put into this account include race sponsorship, entry fees, merchandise sales, banquet ticket sales and donations specified as race donations. All expenses associated with the Championship race are paid from this account. No money from the "Association" account is used to stage the Championship event. The goal of course is to have the Race be self-supporting, not subsidized by the limited Association resources. And for the last several years it too has done so, but not without the generous donations of some of our members.

I hope this information answers any questions you may have or clears up any misconceptions about what-pays-for-what. I hope it also helps in under-

standing the annual report in the next issue. If you would like to discuss any of these issues further I can be reached by phone (sorry, no e-mail) at 310-541-8641.

Wanted:

A Few Good Directors

Three positions on the Board of Directors of the Ride & Tie Association are up for election. Current directors Ellen McCrary and Steve Shaw will stand for re-election. The Board has nominated Russ Kiernan for the third position.

We are always looking for people who want to get involved with the leadership of the sport to consider serving on the Board of Directors. Directors are volunteers who serve a three-year term. Responsibilities include attending at least four Board meetings a year and the assumption of various projects and duties.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors please contact Leah Mirsch at (310) 379-2946.

Greetings from the Championship Director continued from previous page

companies or have contacts within any companies that might be a potential sponsor please let me know ASAP (415-456-9391). Sponsors who can donate merchandise for awards should call Laura Christofk at 530-268-8647.

The question arises, "Why would a company chose to sponsor an athletic event?" The answer usually has to do with what they will get out of it. Usually what a company will

get out of being a sponsor has to do with publicity associated with the event. There is another area of opportunity for you! Enclosed is a "grass roots" press release form. Please take a few minutes to:

1. Write down all the press contacts you have,
2. Fill out the form
3. Make as many copies of the form and the press release as you have contacts
4. Send the forms and the press releases out as soon as possible!
5. Send a copy of the completed form with your race entry to Leah Mirsch for future use.

YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD!

If you have become a new member or renewed your membership since the previous newsletter your membership card would be attached

HERE.

*We want to make your 1999 race season as carefree and rewarding as we possibly can.
Help us help you. Renew!*

You will be amazed at how effective this grass roots method of getting publicity is. It has been through the efforts of a wonderful crew of very dedicated individuals that the race is celebrating its 29th year in 1999. Can we count on you to become just a little more active part of that crew? It will only mean a better race for all.

Thanking you in advance for your help, and looking forward to seeing you all soon, I wish you happy training days and restful nights!

1999 Race Schedule

FEBRUARY 27

Cahuilla Heights Ride & Tie
Hemet, CA; 5/10/26 miles
Arleene Foster
38230 Lorenzo Lane
Hemet, CA 92544
(909) 767-1237

MARCH 20

Mustang Classic Ride & Tie
San Jose, CA; 25 miles
Dan Barger
PO Box 20113
San Jose, CA 95160
(408) 997-3581

APRIL 11

Mountainside Ride & Tie
Redding, CA; 15/25 miles
Mike Lynch
8069 Doodle Bug Lane
Shingletown, CA 96088
(916) 474-3439

APRIL 11

No Frills Ride & Tie
Herndon, VA; 25/50 miles
Jean Lichtenberger
1788 Seven Fountains Road
Fort Valley, VA 22652
(540) 933-6991

MAY 1

Quicksilver Ride & Tie (Pro-Am)
San Jose, CA; 11/23 miles
Curt Riffle
469 Casita Way
Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 949-0620

MAY 15

Big Creek Ride & Tie
Santa Cruz, CA; 30 miles
Ellen McCrary
318 Swanton Road
Davenport, CA 95017
(831) 423-6089

JUNE 12

Browning's Challenge
Grass Valley, CA; 22 miles
Pat & Nita Browning
21266 Pleasant Valley
North San Juan, CA 95960
(530) 272-8912

JULY 10

29th Annual Ride & Tie Championship
Klamath Falls, OR; 38 miles
Judy Haulman
PO Box 697
Forest Hill, CA 05631
(530) 367-2525

JULY 24

Pacific Crest Ride & Tie
Ashland, OR; 10/30 miles
Ann Swartz, DVM
3053 Deer Trail Lane
Medford, OR 97501
(541) 535-6509

AUGUST 7

Champagne Ride & Tie
Santa Cruz, CA; 30 miles
Steve Shaw
155 Baltusrol Drive
Aptos, CA 95003
(408) 685-3436

AUGUST 28

Rogue River Ride & Tie
Ashland, OR; 10/30 miles
Ann Swartz, DVM
3053 Deer Trail Lane
Medford, OR 97501
(541) 535-6509

AUGUST 28

Swanton Pacific 100 Ride & Tie
Santa Cruz, CA; 100 miles
Ellen McCrary
318 Swanton Road
Davenport, CA 95017
(831) 423-6089

SEPTEMBER 4

A Brief Nevada Ride & Tie
Gardnerville, NV; 25 miles
Gary Ceragioli
230 Shake Hill Drive
Markleville, CA 96120
(530) 694-2972

SEPTEMBER 18

Bloomfield Boogie Ride & Tie
Grass Valley, CA; 11/25 miles
Donna Jopnes
11017 Iron Clad Road
Rough and Ready, CA 95975
(530) 432-1371

OCTOBER 2

Cool Ride & Tie
Auburn, CA; 11/22 miles
Suzanne Remillard
1971 American River Trail
Cool, CA 95614
(530) 823-0973

OCTOBER 16

Marriott Ranch Ride & Tie
Hume, VA; 20 miles
Jean Lichtenberger
1788 Seven Fountains Road
Fort Valley, VA 22652
(540) 933-6991

OCTOBER 16

Carrillo Cheese Ride & Tie
Ortego Canyon, CA; 22 miles
Robyn Tustison
7522 Slater Avenue, # 101
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
(714) 728-0723

OCTOBER 30

Cuyamaca Ride & Tie (Pro-Am)
San Diego, CA; 24 miles
Arleene Foster
38230 Lorenzo Lane
Hemet, CA 92544
(909) 767-1237

NOVEMBER 13

Cowboy Country Ride & Tie
Hemet, CA; 25/50 miles
Arleene Foster
38230 Lorenzo Lane
Hemet, CA 92544
(909) 767-1237

OTHER EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

MARCH 27

Foster's Triathlon
Arleene Foster
(909) 767-1237

OCTOBER (pending interest level)

Almaden Triathlon
Dan Barger
(408) 997-3581

