

RIDE & TIE



NEWSLETTER

May-June 2005

PICTURE YOURSELF HERE!

Sheldon Mountain and the site of the 35th Annual Ride & Tie Championship camp.



Picture yourself on the top of Sheldon Mountain looking down at Lake Kooconusa on one side and the Ride & Tie Championship Camp on the other. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there on July 9th. This is the last newsletter before the Championship race. Thanks to those of you who have already let us know that you are coming. It has helped with the planning of this event. Now is the time to start sending in those entries.

Plans for the Championship are coming along. We are excited about the Gaston Mercier saddle valued at \$1700 which was donated by Hi-Tack. The saddle will be custom made to fit you and your horse. It will be won by a participant or volunteer by drawing after the awards. We still need volunteers to help at vet checks, sales of merchandise, at the finish line and registration.

I held a practice ride at the Championship site in April. We used most of loop two. The trails are great. There will be two concentric trails both starting from the camping area at 2000 foot elevation. The first trail will climb to 4700 feet, before reaching the trot-by at 11 miles (3500 feet.) The trail then returns to camp and the only full vet check, at the 21-mile point. The second loop will take a different trail to the area where the trot-by was held on the first loop. It will be easier getting there the second time. From that point you will follow the same trail as loop one back in to camp. This loop is 16.5 miles. About half of the trails will be single track. The rest will be dirt roads except for about 3 miles of gravel surface on the first loop. There will be plenty of trees for tying your horse. Because of the gravel roads and a few rocky areas on the ridge, if your horse has tender feet you may want to add pads or boots. At the least you should probably carry a boot with you. There are no water crossings, but there will be water available for your horse on the trail and in camp.

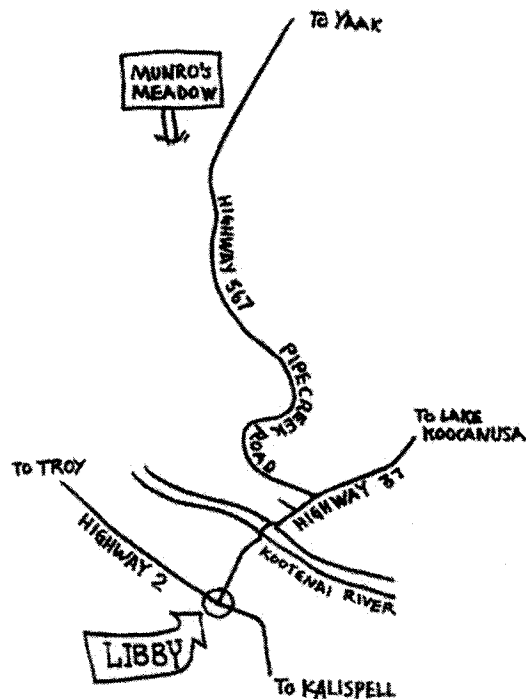
There are 4 positions open on the Board of Directors. The candidates and their statements are in this newsletter. Your ballot is the postcard in your newsletter. Please vote for up to 4 candidates. Make sure each family member of the R & T Association votes for the candidates of their choice. The winners will be introduced at the General Membership Meeting at the race site in Libby on Thursday, July 7th.

See you in Libby,
Don Betts
President, Ride and Tie Association

IN THIS ISSUE: Letter from the President, Directions to the Championship, Championship Schedule, See You in Libby!, 2004 World Endurance Championships by Michele Roush, Traveling With Your Horse, Etc., Candidates for Board of Directors, My First Ride & Tie-Grizzly Mountain by Tim Rubins, Ten for Ten at the Swanton Pacific by Carol Ruprecht, Whiskey Chaser by Karen Deaver and Traci Evans, Race Results, In the News by Carol Ruprecht, Mystery Photo, Mentors, Race Schedule, Race Results, 2005 Race Schedule, 2005 Point Standings, Championship Sponsors, Championship Entry Form!

DIRECTIONS TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The highway which runs through Libby is Highway 2. It runs sort of east and west (easterly and westerly?) through Libby. Highway 37 runs north-ish out of Libby between Main and Mineral Avenues. Take Highway 37 north across the Kootenai River and about half a mile further to PIPECREEK ROAD (highway 567). Left on PIPECREEK ROAD for about 4.4 miles. Watch for RIDE & TIE signs. The camp is in Munro's Meadow.



Emergency Contact Phone Numbers
 Don Betts Cell Phone: (360)670-3018
 Beth Alkire: (406)293-4022

SCHEDULE FOR LIBBY CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY, JULY 2
 Camp opens.

SUNDAY, JULY 3
 10 AM-Clinic/Practice R&T using loop 2

THURSDAY, JULY 7
 Merchandise on Sale
 Registration begin
 General Membership Meeting
 Barbecue and pot luck, we supply the meat.
 Bareback riding hatchet and archery demonstration.

FRIDAY, JULY 8
 Vet in your horse
 Farrier (available by phone)

SATURDAY, JULY 9
 Championship Ride & Tie 9:00 AM
 Ultra Trail Run 9:00 AM
 Short Course Ride & Tie 9:30 AM
 Farrier will be available all day
 Judging for Best Condition
 Roast Pig Banquet
 Awards
 Montana Old Time Fiddlers for your entertainment

SUNDAY, JULY 10
 Biathlon 10:00 AM
 Camp closes

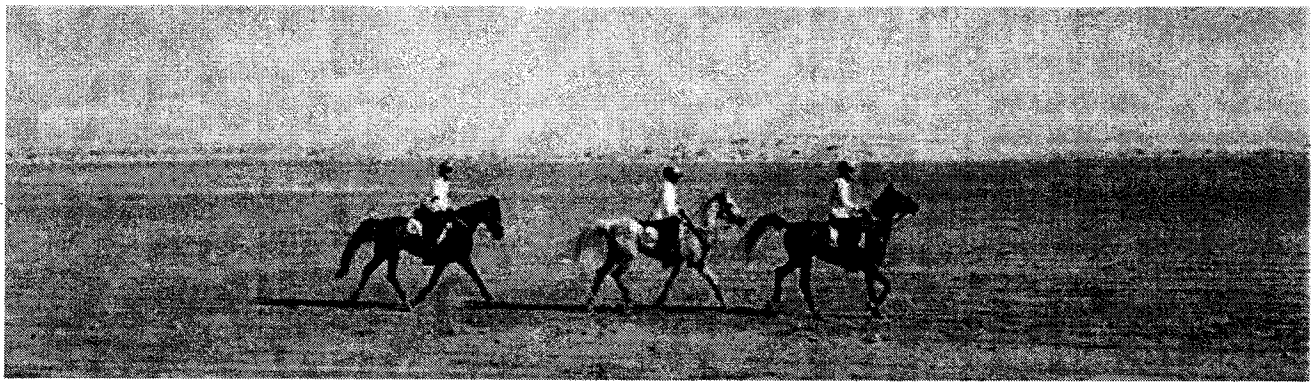
ON GOING ACTIVITIES
 Desert potluck Saturday through Wednesday evenings
 (Bring your voice and instruments, we will be playing tunes)
 Horse shoes, volleyball, and badminton available
 Gaterer- Wednesday through the weekend
 (Coke, coffee, pancakes, burgers, hotdogs, all the good stuff)

WE'LL SEE YOU IN LIBBY!

The following folks have committed themselves to compete at the Championship: Steve Anderson/Liz Carrey, Carrie Barrett/Laurie Wilson, Don Betts/George Hall, Jim Brown/Russ Kiernan, Pat Browning/Chris Turney, Kaci Calloway/Sherrie Calloway, Tim Calloway, Cowman/Cory Foulk, Jim Clover/Annette Parsons, Pru Critchley/Sybl Soulsby, Jane Depner/Linda Riley, Doyle Eggers/Sara Kelly, Kim Fehir/Susan Gilford, Arlene Foster/Dave Foster, Barrie Grant/Dannie Grant, Byron Grant/Paul Johnson, Dawn Hartsock/Dave Riffle, Warren Hellman/Jeff Townsend, Danika Hummel/Nile Neu, Jonathan Jordan/Tara Jordan, Peter Klopfer/Martha Klopfer, Ann Langstaff/Rufus Schneider, Frank Lieberman/Don Strong, John Osterweis/Thomas Schreck, Lisa Preston/Josh Steffen, Juanita Rose/Denise Schwartz, Don Roth/Steve Shaw, Carol Ruprecht/Ted Ruprecht, Sid Sullivan/Mary Tiscornia, Alina Vale, Tod Wadsworth/Con Wadsworth, Karen Wolfsheimer



When you are traveling to or from the Championship along Highway 90 in Washington, stop at the rest area on the Columbia River near Vantage, WA and look south east to see the "The Wild Horse Monument" on a nearby hill!



Left to right: Michele Roush and Tallymark, Bev Gray and Pal, and Carol Giles and Stranger. Photo by Lisa Schneider

2004 World Endurance Championships, Dubai, UAE By Michele Roush

The world of International endurance racing is on one hand, vastly different from our own homegrown variety, and on the other hand, very similar. It is a different game out there in FEI, around the world. Endurance began right here in our backyard, with a bet about whether or not a horse and rider could go the 100 miles of what is now known as the Western States trail, but the rest of the world has taken the sport to a new, professional level. It could possibly better be labeled "long flat track racing," but it still pits horse and rider against 100 grueling miles. The winning times for this event in the United Arab Emirates have closed in upon 7 hours. Professional trainers have strings of 100 or more horses that they train to canter around the desert, and attempt to peak for the various races during the winter months. With temperatures regularly 120 degrees in the summer, not much riding goes on at that time of year. Europe then becomes the playground of these rich and powerful Sheiks.

On the other hand, while these feats of endurance racing seem unattainable to most of us (and perhaps they will prove to be!), it might astonish you to realize that the US riders who can compete at this level are regular old riders, some of whom even got their starts in Ride & Tie! I am one of those people who never, ever, expected to compete at the World level, yet there I found myself, in January, in Dubai, a part of the four-person team riding for the US. While the results of the race were not as any of us had planned or hoped, the experience was priceless.

It all started way back in 2002, when I rode PR Tallymark, bred by our own Sherode Powers and owned by Steve Shaw, in his first 100 mile race. The horse was a natural, and after careful training, many prayers, several layers of bubble-wrap, and a team gold

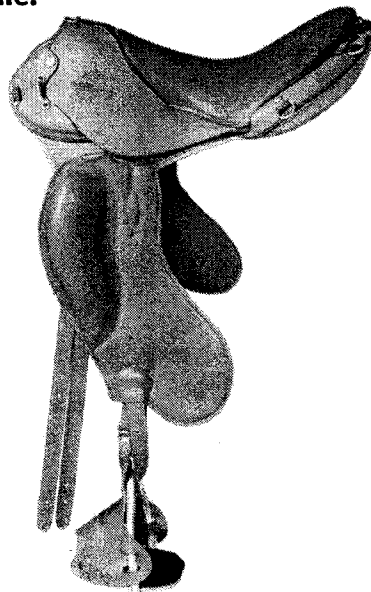
medal for the Pacific North squad at the 2003 Pan American Championships, we were named to the 15 person US Endurance Team in October of 2003. We went on to training camp in Florida, as guests of Larry and Valerie Kanavy, in December 2004, along with 11 other teammates and their horses. Tallymark got to fly via FedEx to Florida, as I could not see subjecting him to the rigors of a cross-country drive at that time, with so much at stake. I actually got to fly on the airplane with Tallymark, and that

was a blast. It is really strange to see your horse loaded with two others into this little box of a converted cargo container, and get lifted up into the bowels of an airplane. The airlines and airports are not at all set up to handle horses, as there are no quiet places to offload them from the pallets during layover time. Once they are in the pallet, that is where they stay until the destination is reached, whether that be five or fifteen or twenty hours later. The takeoff and landing

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WIN A SADDLE!

Championship entrants and volunteers will all have a chance to win this exceptional 8 pound saddle (15 with fenders and stirrups) custom made for you and your horse. This Gaston Mercier saddle is valued at \$1700. Value of saddle could be applied toward purchase of another Hi Tack saddle.



The Gaston Mercier No Flap saddle gets you closer to your horse than any other available, providing comfort and stability for you, and protection for the horse. The No Flap is the purest form of the Gaston Mercier saddle, built by adding a large fender with incorporated knee rolls to replace the leathers. The No Flap allows riders to wear light clothing, and non-traditional footwear, making it the perfect choice for Ride and Tie competitors. Your choice of stirrup attaches directly to the fender. Hi-Tack recommends purchase of a closed stirrup for extra safety.

www.hitack.com (208)338-9384

TRAVELING WITH YOUR HORSE

by Annie Betts

In an informal survey I asked people experienced in traveling with their horses questions about what works best for them. I also interviewed Jim Steere, DVM, the head veterinarian for the Ride & Tie Championship, and he sent me several articles about stress during transport of horses. Following is a summary of the information I gathered and the information the articles offered.

BEFORE TRAVELING

I asked Dr. Steere to research this since most of our Championship competitors will be traveling out of state to get to Montana. He reported that before traveling get a Coggin's test for equine infectious anemia and a health

certificate from your veterinarian. Montana and several other states require a 'travel permit.' The vet issuing the health certificate can call the Montana State Veterinarian at (406)444-2976 for a permit number which will be posted on the official health exam.

Dr. Steere recommends that your horse's vaccinations be up-to-date. (tetanus, western and eastern encephalomyelitis, rabies, influenza, rhinopneumonitis and West Nile Virus.) He also recommends that your veterinarian checks the horse for soundness at a trot before beginning the trip.

DIET AND SUPPLEMENTS DURING TRAVEL

The majority of the repliers feed their horses electrolytes before or after travel but not during travel since the horse would not have water available. A few restrict grain before traveling. Many feed wet grain and hay to avoid dehydration. Carol Giles, a pacific northwest rider, ties a bucket of water and a bucket of wet beet pulp in the trailer for her horse to munch on while traveling. Dr. Steere, suggests that since so little energy is used during the trailer ride, there is no need to feed grain while trailering. Carolyn Stull, PhD, from UC Davis, suggests in her paper "Trailing: A Stressful Situation" that quality hay, free from mold and dust, should be offered on a free choice basis during transit. She reports that moldy or dusty hay will "contaminate the air and overwork the mucociliary system in the respiratory tract." 1

REST STOPS

About half the respondents stop after 3-5 hours of travel. A few don't stop at all and a few stop more frequently. Of the people who do stop to let their horses have a break from traveling, most take their horses out of the trailer and let them walk around and graze. Others find that just stopping, and offering water through the window without taking the horse out of the trailer is sufficient. Those people who take

their horses out, do so at rest areas, gas stations, in empty lots and along country roads. In "Avoid Shipping Stress," an article in John Lyons' Perfect Horse Newsletter, (December 1999) it is recommended that you should not travel with your horse more than eight hours. Jim Steere recommends rest stops at least every six hours which include taking the horse out for some exercise and cleaning out the trailer so that there is not a build up of ammonia and other irritants from the manure and urine.

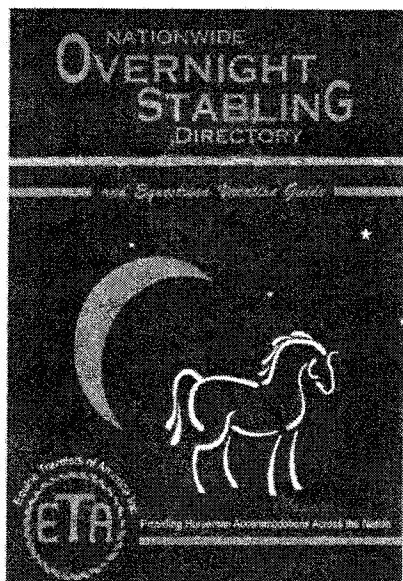
THE TRAILER

Most of the travelers with horses do tie their horses in the trailer. Several tie long so that the horse can put his head down and eat from the floor, clear his nasal passages and get out of the wind. Dr. Steere reports that it is important that horses are able to put their heads down during long trips so that they don't get dust and ammonia into their lungs which can set off 'shipping fever pneumonia'. Dr. Stull, in her previously mentioned paper and James H. Jones, Ph.D., D.V.M. in his article "Effects of Transport on Stress and Disease in Horses" also mention the importance of allowing the horse to lower their heads while traveling: "The common practice of tying horses by their halters in transport vehicles has the potential to act as a stressor and contribute to the development of transport-associated respiratory disease." 2

Karen Wolfsheimer, DVM, began hauling her horse backwards in the trailer after noticing that when hauling in a trailer without dividers the horse would turn around and face backwards. Hauling backwards is noted in the Jones article also: "Anecdotal evidence suggests that rear-facing horses in transport vehicles may be more relaxed than those that are forward-facing. A number of researchers have

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LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY WITH YOUR HORSES ON THE WAY TO LIBBY? This very helpful stabling directory is available at www.overnightstabling.com.



etc.

THE RIDE AND TIE ASSOCIATION trailer needs to be towed back to California after the Championship. In return the Association will reimburse you for gas. Contact Don at RideAndTieDon@aol.com or (360)681-5218.

Calamity Jane Margulis is looking for someone to share travel expenses to the Championship from California. If you are interested contact Jane. jbmargulis@hotmail.com or (415) 454-1132.

Paul Johnson, outside of Moscow, Idaho, welcomes Ride & Tiers to stay at his place on their way to the championship!! Call Paul at (208)883-3809. Paul says his place is about five hours from Libby.

WARNING: Keep those articles and photos coming! Don and I have some very cute granddaughters and if we don't have ride and tie stuff to fill the pages here, we're going to start using their photos!

HANDY HINT learned from a Washington Trail Rider: Put a luggage tag on your saddle so if you get dumped or otherwise lost from your horse, whoever finds your horse will know where to take him!

FOUND! When cleaning out the R&T Association trailer we found the Lost and Found box from a previous championship. In it were: A bike helmet, two pairs of glasses, two cameras and a pair of running shoes! Think they might be yours? Email us at RideAndTieNewsletter@yahoo.com!

Deadlines for articles and photos for the next newsletter will be delayed until August 1st so that we can get your articles and photos from the championship into it! Don't delay on sending them in!!!

