



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride & Tie World Championship Results**

Previously competitors, top team combined running talent with champion horse

**July 28, 2005 – Libby, Montana** – Andrea Balch, 2005 Northwest Montana Pro Rodeo Queen, opened the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride & Tie World Championship race with the drop of a cowboy hat at 9AM on July 9th. Representing the western origins of the sport, Ms. Balch released the crowd of helmet and lycra-clad athletes onto the course. From base camp at 2500 feet elevation, the rugged course ran through the Kootenai National Forest rising to 4500 feet at the highest point. Total elevation gain was nearly 4000 feet, with the finish line at approximately 33 miles.

Defending Champion Jim Howard and his horse Magic Sirocco teamed with Mark Richtman to garner Howard an eighth win at the top of the sport. Richtman, another standout athlete, now boasts seven Championship titles. The two runners have often battled for the win over the years; this was the first time they combined their talents on one team, besting the next team by nearly thirty-five minutes with a winning time of 4:27:04.

In second place overall, riding Sal, the man/woman team of Sid Sullivan and Mary Tiscornia successfully defended their 2004 Ride & Tie World Champion title. Tiscornia is the only athlete to have competed in every Ride & Tie World Championship since the sport's inception in 1971.

In fourth place overall, riding the 22 year-old Cimarron, Rachel Toor and Elaine Ruprecht took the women's Ride & Tie World Champion title. Ruprecht, the wife of Jim Howard, brought Cimarron as a back-up horse: he wasn't slated to race until partner changes the night before the event resulted in this winning combination. In the only heated race for a world title, the Toor/Ruprecht team battled the next woman/woman team to finish the race with a 39 second advantage.

First place horse Magic Sirocco received the coveted Best Condition award from the panel of veterinarians monitoring equine fitness throughout the race. "Best Condition is highly prized as a reflection of the care given to the horse, both in conditioning for the event and on race day," explained race director and organization president Don Betts. "It is a testament to these guys' skills as horsemen that they hold a

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combined 12 Best Condition Ride & Tie World Championship titles between them” he added. “Two fast runners can save their horse” says champion Howard, explaining how strategy plays major a role in this sport.

The Howard/Richtman team set another first: at fifty years apiece, Century in the Saddle went to the first place team. Century in the Saddle, the top team with 100 or more years combined age, historically provided recognition to an older team no longer in the top ranks of the sport. The sport has evolved as veteran teams use strategy against faster younger athletes.

International teams representing Canada and Great Britain successfully completed the championship race. The top Canadian team of Linda Riley and Jane Depner riding Kittasha placed 23<sup>rd</sup> overall. While Linda had planned to be competitive, Jane’s goal from the outset was simply to finish. The Great Britain team of Sybil Soulsby and Prue Critchley placed 31<sup>st</sup> overall with a riding time of 9 hours 33 minutes on William.

The youngest competitors to earn their completion buckles were McKenna Steere and her partner Marguerite Davenport, both 16 years of age, riding Bombay. The oldest team, of Joan Ruprecht and Cowman A-Moo-Ha of Hawaii, boasted a combined age of 132 years. They also rode the oldest horse, Feather, at 24 years of age.

Montana was selected for the 35<sup>th</sup> annual race site in a bid to introduce the sport to competitors from the region. The town of Libby rolled out the red carpet with “Welcome Ride & Tie” signs everywhere from the local feed store to the Chamber of Commerce. The top team from Montana, husband and wife Scott and Nancy Creel were awarded a custom embroidered horse blanket. Riding Cassidy, they placed 9<sup>th</sup> overall for their first Ride & Tie race effort. The 2006 Ride & Tie World Championship will be held at an as yet undisclosed location in southern California.

The top team in each of the three categories won \$1000. Each team successfully completing the Championship course was awarded a custom designed belt buckle commemorating the event, date and location. Post-race celebrations included a pig roast dinner for all, and a Gaston Mercier saddle, donated by HiTack, was raffled to one lucky winner.

The Horse Channel (HorseTV) launching this fall with a 24-hour network will air coverage of the 35<sup>th</sup> Ride & Tie World Championship toward the end of this year. Schedule to be posted at [www.horsetv.com](http://www.horsetv.com).

### About the Sport of Ride & Tie

The sport of Ride & Tie combines trail running, endurance riding, and strategy. The goal is to get all three team members, two humans and one horse, across a 20 to 100 mile cross-country course by alternating riding and running. Everyone starts out together. The rider, being faster, rides ahead and ties the horse to a tree, and then continues down the trail on foot. The team member who started out on foot gets to the horse, unties, mounts up and rides past the runner, ties the horse ... and this leapfrog continues the entire course. When, where, and how a team exchanges riding for running is almost entirely up to each team to develop their own strategy.

### About The Ride and Tie Association

The Ride and Tie Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the sport of Ride & Tie and safe endurance horse management. Over 150 years old, Ride & Tie originated in the old West, where frontiersmen discovered two men could travel great distances at a fast pace without wearing down the horse if they traded off. Ride & Tie was invented as a sport and gained national attention in 1971 when Levi Strauss sponsored the first Levi's Ride & Tie. The Association offers a mentor program, partner matching, training videos, hosts practice Ride & Ties, and sanctions regional and national events. For more information about Ride & Tie, visit the web site at [www.rideandtie.org](http://www.rideandtie.org).

### 2005 World Championship Ride & Tie – Results

Place	Bib#	Runner 1	City, State	Runner 2	City, State	Horse	Time
1	1	Jim Howard	Applegate, CA	Mark Richtman	Novato, CA	Magic Sirocco	4:27:04
2	4	Mary Tiscornia	Larkspur, CA	Sid Sullivan	Boise, ID	Sal	5:02:00
3	5	Thom Steere	Mill Valley, CA	Jonnie Alper	Mill Valley, CA	Wesob	5:16:00
4	33	Rachel Toor	Missoula, MT	Elaine Ruprecht	Applegate, CA	Cimarron	5:18:00
5	37	Anne Langstaff	Alpine, CA	Rufus Schneider	Alpine, CA	Koona	5:18:39
6	3	Jim Brown	Healdsburg, CA	Russ Kiernan	Mill Valley, CA	N.L. Starfire	5:21:00
7	7	Warren Hellman	San Francisco, CA	Jeff Townsend	Los Gatos, CA	Sam	5:22:00
8	17	John Osterweis	San Francisco, CA	Thomas Schreck	Portola Valley, CA	Fire	5:23:00
9	26	Scott Creel	Bozeman, MT	Nancy Creel	Bozeman, MT	Cassidy	5:28:00
10	24	Doyle Eggers	Prunedale, CA	Jerome Beauchamp	Auburn, CA	Turtle	5:30:00
11	15	Sherrie Calaway	Bigfork, MT	Kaci Calaway	Bigfork, MT	River Lite	5:38:00
12	6	Dave Riffle	Woodinville, WA	Dawn Hartsock	Prunedale, CA	Tess	5:42:00
13	21	Byron Grant	Arroyo Grande, CA	Paul Johnson	Moscow, ID	Ron G	5:57:00
14	13	Annette Parsons	Grants Pass, OR	Jim Clover	Grants Pass, OR	Bones	6:01:00
15	16	Pat Browning	North San Juan, CA	Michelle Richardson	Helena, MT	Willey	6:09:00
16	36	Chris Degenhardt	Kalispell, MT	Lucy Beard	Kalispell, MT	Sir Gwalihad	6:09:30
17	38	Don Roth	Scotts Valley, CA	Steve Shaw	Aptos, CA	Clown	6:13:00

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18	39	Janet Dodd	Mead, WA	Becky Convery	Helena, MT	Rio Blanco	6:19:00
19	11	George Hall	Santa Cruz, CA	Don Betts	Sequim, WA	Cinder	6:24:00
20	19	Katie Mayberry	Kalispell, MT	Robert McMannamy	Spirit Lake, ID	EM Nasheed	6:29:00
21	28	Liz Perkins	Canby, OR	Jessica Jacobs	Arcata, CA	Paliddin	6:31:00
22	30	Carol Ruprecht	Newport Beach, CA	Ted Ruprecht	Trinidad, CA	Olympian	6:32:00
23	12	Linda Riley	CANADA	Jane Depner	CANADA	Kittasha	6:42:00
24	27	Lisa Preston	Sequim, WA	Josh Steffen	Port Angeles, WA	Abu	6:56:00
25	29	Rick Noer	Fountain Valley, CA	Melanie Weir	Orange, CA	Kamanche	6:58:00
26	32	Jonathan Jordan	Alpine, CA	Tara Jordan	Alpine, CA	Flyer	7:21:00
27	25	Trisha Dowling	CANADA	Dawn Crowley	CANADA	ZF Reyna	7:22:00
28	31	McKenna Steere	Mill Valley, CA	Marguerite Davenport	Mill Valley, CA	Bombay	7:23:00
29	34	Joan Ruprecht	Trinidad, CA	Cowman A-Moo-Ha	Kailua Kona, HI	Feather	9:25:00
30	14	Karen Wolfsheimer	Baton Rouge, LA	Carly Mecklenburg	Rancho S. Fe, CA	Fre Fre	9:31:00
31	22	Sybil Soulsby	Great Britain	Prue Critchley	Great Britain	William	9:33:00

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**Contacts:**

Carol Ruprecht  
Ride and Tie Association, publicity  
[media@rideandtie.org](mailto:media@rideandtie.org)  
(949) 263-1772

Don Betts  
Ride and Tie Association, president & race director  
[rideandtiedon@aol.com](mailto:rideandtiedon@aol.com)  
(360) 681-5218