



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ride and Tie Association Sponsors International Teams at  
34<sup>th</sup> Ride & Tie World Championship**

**April 5, 2004 – El Cajon, California** – The Ride and Tie Association, the national sports organization dedicated to promoting the combined running and equine endurance sport of Ride & Tie, today announced a program to extend the reach of the sport internationally. The association is inviting each national distance riding organization outside the USA to identify a team to represent their country at the 34<sup>th</sup> Ride & Tie World Championship. Each national team receives a free entry to the Championship event, a mentor to answer questions about preparing for the race, advice on gear, travel, camping and leasing a capable horse locally.

"We don't have any doubt foreign teams can come here and do well," stated Curt Riffle, president of the Ride and Tie Association. He cited the man/woman team from Barcelona Spain who finished the 2003 World Championship race in 13<sup>th</sup> place overall, on a horse leased in California. One of the team members had no prior experience in the sport; he trained under the advice of American competitors who coached him by e-mail. "Because the sport is seldom seen outside the USA, there will be no qualifying criteria for international teams this year," Riffle stated.

While invitations are still going out this week, initial response has been strong. The invitation is reaching potential competitors around the globe. Athletes in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Norway, South Africa and Sweden have received invitations. Contact in other countries is still being sought. Teams representing Germany and Australia are entered, and a potential competitor from Monterrey, Mexico is seeking a qualified partner.

Kirsten Seyferth and Barbara Boehnke, representing Germany, were the first international team to apply for the complimentary entry to the 2004 Ride & Tie World Championship. Seyferth began competing in Ride & Tie last year. When she heard about the sport she knew it was perfect for her horse Slim, and she decided the running would be good for her as well. For Boehnke, who started riding horses at

Page 2 of 3/ RIDE & TIE INTERNATIONAL TEAMS SPONSORED

age six, this will be the first cross-country combined riding and running competition. In selecting her partner, Seyferth explained "I discovered that she now also runs, much better and more than me. Plus I know she's not the whiney type, so I told her about the championships."

"Getting this invitation to the potential international riders has been a slow process because we don't have regular contact with every long distance riding club around the world" observed Riffle, "but the word is starting to spread." Individuals who are interested in representing their country at the 34<sup>th</sup> Ride & Tie World Championship are encouraged to make themselves known to their national organization, or to contact the Ride and Tie Association directly at [media@rideandtie.org](mailto:media@rideandtie.org).

The 2004 Ride & Tie World Championship takes place on the Mendocino Coast, north of Fort Bragg, California. The closest international airport is in San Francisco, four hours south of the remote race site. The 38-mile course is both rugged and spectacular, positioned between the Pacific Ocean and the Redwood forest. Race Director Lari Shea offers on-site clinics prior to the Championship, designed to develop horse skills and ride and tie technique. The racecourse will be open a full week before the race, with primitive camping.

### **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

More ->

Page 3 of 3/ RIDE & TIE INTERNATIONAL TEAMS SPONSORED

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) or call (650) 949 2321.

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