



The Ride and Tie Association
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Board Meeting
November 18, 2010 @ 19:00 Pacific Standard Time

Attendance: Melanie Weir, Ben Volk, Susan Smyth, Steve Andersen, Rufus Schneider, George Hall, Don Strong, Mary Tiscornia, Lani Newcomb and Ted Ruprecht

Absent: Reagan Volk, Greg Fellers and Steve Shaw

August 26, 2010 minutes approved.

Motion made by Ben Volk and second by Steve Andersen. Motion passed, unanimous.

Reports:

President: Melanie Weir

- Upcoming Board of director elections- Members for re-elections Melanie Weir and Ben Volk. Don Strong decline.
- Will be forming a Championship committee soon
- Old newsletters now online
- 2011 Ride & Tie calendars available through Feather Horse designs
- Horse of Distinction: Looking for new volunteer to gather and track data and work with the committee.

Vice President: Ben Volk

- We approved attending the AERC Annual Conference in Reno in March 2011 and PNER in January
- Passed on the article for the One Heart Ride and Tie to Carol Ruprecht. She was going to attach a "Ride and Tie 101" article and try to get that published in the AERC Journal. I have not heard from her whether she was successful in doing that. If she has not had time, I'll take the lead and get that published.
- Strategizing with Ira Hickman on the Sunrise Canyon Ride and Tie on March 26, 2011. We submitted the sanction on-line and Ira is working on a brochure. It will be held in Kennewick and we hope to get 7-10 teams like we did last year.
- Ira and I are also looking into hosting a ride & tie at the Washington State Horse Park in CleElum, WA. They appear to have some great trails and facilities and are located right off I-90. We are going to get up there and ride the trails and see how they would work for a R&T.
<http://www.washingtonstatehorsepark.org/>

Treasurer's Report: Steve Andersen (now living in Washington)

- Wells Fargo Account: Since last Aug 28th meeting,
- Start balance: \$21,592
- Income: \$34,297 (Includes \$31,669.68 transfer from Coast Central Credit Union)
- Outgo: \$34,240 (Includes opening account, Osterweis Fund with \$31,669.00)
- Ending balance: \$21,149
- Dodge & Cox fund: 751.611 shares, \$51,537.97

Race Statistics: Steve Anderson

- # of Race participants: 284
- # of Entries: 480
- Man/Man Teams: 23
- Woman/Man Teams: 64
- Woman/Woman teams: 94
- First Year Rookies: 122

Melanie asked Steve to begin comparing rider statistics year-by-year so that we can compare these over time. Pull as much history as possible, and track it going forward. Much of the information is in old meeting minutes.

Sponsorships and Education: Susan Smyth and Don Strong

- Development of participant survey to determine the product and educational interests of members so that we can target companies for sponsorship and educational contributions.
- Information provided on survey monkey, cost and design discussed and in motion.
- Western States horse expo-Sacramento, CA: June 10-12. \$700.00 non-profit booth price.

Horse Hall of Fame: Mary Tiscornia

- Magic Scirocco owned by Jim Howard in the 2011 selection.

Future Race sites: George Hall

- Bandit Springs, Southeastern Oregon
- Davenport (Big Creek Lumber and McCrarys) Central Coast, CA
- Truckee (Euer Valley) Lake Tahoe. CA

Championship Awards: Rufus Schneider

- Will continue this position-no report at this time.

Special Awards- Ted Ruprecht

- Brief discussion of end of year and special awards. Ted is looking for new ideas for the year-end awards so let him know your thoughts.

Old Business:

1. Further discussion needed on future ride & tie funding to support growth of ride & tie. Discussion to continue at next meeting.
2. Estimate to fix Ride and Tie trailer is \$200.00 for brakes and to check electrical. No prior maintenance known of to this date. Funds approved to \$300.00 for preventive and safety maintenance. Motion made by Lani Newcomb to approve funds to fix the trailer and 2nd by Ted Ruprecht. Motion passed, unanimous.
3. Jim Steere Award: Suggestion made to have Veterinarian Scholarship in Jim Steere's name to be awarded at Championships. Further discussion needed as to initial intention and funding of scholarship. Sue Smyth will speak to Don Betts and Leslie Yates. Smaller individual awards as determined by race directors to exemplify Dr. Steere's vision and character toward the sport of ride & tie. No motion made at this time.
4. Allocation of Resources: Growth vs. Championship – Melanie Weir. See new business.

New Business:

1. Consideration of One Day membership: The RD for the Coolest Run and Ride & Tie has asked the board to consider reinstating the One-Day membership so that their race can attract more runners. Runners don't want to join the Ride and Tie Association. Lani Newcomb gave history and pros and cons of "One-Day membership. Originally the idea was that the people who signed up for One-Day memberships would become Competitor members of the Association. But this never played out. Rather, they would do a one-day membership repeatedly, sometimes within the same year. This was more work for the race directors, and the Association was not able to market to these members through the newsletter. Ultimately the one-day membership failed to help Association membership grow. This is why the decision was made to eliminate it. In a separate but related issue, several board members raised concerns about Association insurance being used to insure people participating in non-ride & tie events held with the ride & tie (such as a trail run held with the ride & tie, where the runners are not participating in the ride & tie). The question is, "Does the Race Director need to have another insurance policy to cover people that are competing in an event other than the ride & tie, even if they have paid for a ride & tie membership when they entered. Will the Ride and Tie Association insurance cover competitors who are not in the ride & tie?"
2. Championship Entry Fee. Request made to increase entry fee for the championship course to \$125 and short course \$100. The event is quite expensive and while this small change won't make a large difference, it will help close the budget gap slightly. Discussion ensued and a suggestion to raise the entry fee to \$135. Lani Newcomb moved to raise the 2011 championship entry fee to \$135. Ted Ruprecht seconded the motion. Motion passed, unanimous.

3. Championship prize money. Motion to eliminate cash awards to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place made by Ted Ruprecht and second by Lani Newcomb. Motion passed, unanimous.
 - a. Discussion of Championship belt buckles. Several ideas discussed including using less expensive materials, and purchasing a generic buckle in larger quantities to cover several years and simply soldering on a “button” to modify for each year. No motion or resolution made at this time. Further discussion, alternatives and research of cost needed. Will have this information for the next meeting.
4. Meeting time. Proposal made to change meeting time back to 6:00pm.
 - a. A mixed response on the meeting. Some did not care others preferred one or the other, but all could work with either time. Let’s compromise and change to 6:30.
5. Meeting format. Proposed a change to have board members submit reports two weeks prior to the board meeting so that they can be sent out with the agenda. This will save time so that meetings can be more productive.
 - a. Those who responded to this were in agreement that it will save time. We will try this format going forward.
6. 2011 Budget. Proposed changes made to the budget.
 - a. Lani moved to approve the revised budget. Ben seconded. Motion passed, unanimous.
7. Growing Ride & Tie: Ideas put forward via e-mail to take action to push membership growth including contacting former members, making a more concerted effort to link up with AERC race directors including actively reaching out, presenting at the AERC convention, etc.
 - a. All agreed that building the relationship with AERC is a good idea.
 - b. Dr. Fellars proposed via e-mail that we approach AERC and see if AERC ride managers to encourage new races, and support those ride managers with people, time and other resources. We can present at the Ride Manager’s Committee at AERC. Melanie will pursue this.
 - c. In 2011 will actively contact AERC ride managers to encourage new races, and support those ride managers with people, time and other resources.

Meeting adjourned at 21:00.

Next meeting: February 24, 2010, 6:00pm.