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New Prize Money at Ride & Tie World Championship Top Teams and Amateurs Targeted for Recognition

April 24, 2005 – Libby, Montana – The Ride and Tie Association, the organization dedicated to promoting the combined running and equine endurance sport of ride and tie, announced the 35th Annual Ride & Tie World Championship, held on July 9th 2005, will offer open division prize money for the first time since 1998. The sport's signature race will be held in Montana, in a bid to introduce the event to new competitors outside the originating state of California.

Prize money of \$1000 will be awarded to the top team in each category: man/man, man/woman and woman/woman. An overall first-place win by a pro-am team will double the team prize to \$2000.

Brothers Con and Tod Wadsworth, of Utah, the most successful team in the history of the sport with five World Titles spanning from 1982 to 2002, won the overall prize money in 1998. The team is planning to make it to the 2005 Ride & Tie World Championship if they can get a horse ready in time. Con Wadsworth says they are looking forward to "giving her heck" on race day.

William Emerson, of Washington, USATF 2004 Masters Ultrarunner of the Year, comments he "would welcome the chance to team up with a horse and rider for the Ride and Tie Championship event in July. The combination of overall and Pro/Am cash purse make this the year to go for the win."

The challenge is that it takes two good runners, who can also ride, plus an excellent horse, and good strategy, to capture this race. An amateur in 2001, Emerson teamed with a former Ride & Tie World Champion to capture the world title and Pat's Purse, the pro-am cash prize. No pro-am team has won the title since; in the past three years all members of the Ride & Tie World Champion teams were also former World Champions. The sport favors the experienced competitor.

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Laurie Wilson and Carrie Barrett, both of California, have declared their plans to race as a team in Montana this summer. Wilson is a multiple female world titleholder who in 2004 broke to the highest finish for an all-female team in the thirty-four year history of the sport: second place overall. Barrett is an amateur, but the team has no plans for an overall win to double the prize money. They have their eyes on the teams who will be giving them a run for the top female team prize. Wilson's declared aim is to "run a clean course with no major screwups."

Sid Sullivan, of Idaho, and Mary Tiscornia, of California, plan to defend their title. They hold two Ride & Tie World Champion titles as the highest placing man/woman team in 2002 and 2004. Most recently the team placed fourth overall. Tiscornia is the only person to race in every Ride & Tie World Championship since the inception of the sport in 1971. Sullivan says the title in 2005 is less of a goal for him than "the competition ... excitement, and watching my body go through the stages of fatigue and pain."

International teams have been declared from Canada and Great Britain for the 35th World Championship Ride & Tie. Trisha Dowling, who, with her partner, will be representing Canada in 2005, asserts the "most important part of the team is our horse – Reyna the race pony... she goes like stink. However, she appreciates stopping even while other horses go roaring by. So she's the ultimate Ride & Tie horse."

Invitations to nominate are out to endurance riders around the world. With the option to lease local horses making it easier for teams from overseas to participate, riding talent is a must, running talent is optional. Interested parties are invited to contact the Association for details.

About the Special Prize Money

Pat's Purse is a prize money challenge set at \$1000 for the 2005 Ride & Tie World Championship. The Purse will be awarded to the winning team if at least one of the team members is an amateur: has not completed more than two sanctioned ride and tie races, nor a previous Ride & Tie World Championship. Established by veteran ride and tie competitor Pat Browning, the prize money has not been awarded since 2001. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage experienced athletes to team with new competitors to the sport of ride and tie.

The Corkey Award, named after a high point ride and tie horse, is a \$300 cash award to the top placing pro-am team if the pro-am team does not win the overall event and Pat's Purse.

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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.

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