



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

35th Annual Ride & Tie World Championship Preparations

Free clinic at World Championship site April 30th 2005

March 22, 2005 – Libby, Montana – The Ride and Tie Association, the organization dedicated to promoting the combined running and equine endurance sport of ride and tie, has announced a free, pre-race clinic to be held April 30th at the site of the upcoming 35th Annual Ride & Tie World Championship which will take place in Libby, Montana on July 9th 2005.

Everyone interested in trying the sport of ride and tie is welcome to participate in the free clinic. "It's a calculated risk, moving the Ride & Tie World Championship event to Montana, far from our participant base in California" explained Ride and Tie Association president Don Betts. "We are making every effort to introduce the sport to riding and running enthusiasts in Montana and the surrounding region, and this pre-race clinic is part of that effort."

The April 30th clinic will include a presentation by experienced ride and tie competitors, an eight to ten mile practice to demonstrate safe tying, exchanges and technique, an explanation of the veterinarian checks required in a race setting, followed by questions and answers. Horses are not provided. Participants should bring a horse and a partner to the clinic.

The July 9th Ride & Tie World Championship is open to all who wish to enter. The course will be thirty-five miles in length. Prize money of \$1000 will be awarded to the top finishing teams in each category: man/man, man/woman and woman/woman. A completion belt buckle will be awarded to each team member who completes the Championship event. A prize sponsored by Montana Horse Magazine will be awarded to the top team from Montana. There is also an introductory short course of fifteen miles, for those not ready for the full event this year.

The clinic is free, but advance registration is encouraged. Contact race site director Mary Beth Alkire by telephone at (406) 293-4022 for directions, start time and registration for the clinic.

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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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