



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

Montana selected to host 2005 race on July 9th

**October 11, 2004 – 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 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride & Tie World Championship will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2005. In a rare move, the sport's signature race will be held in Libby Montana, far from the originating state of California. In addition to California, the Ride & Tie World Championship has been held in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and now adds Montana to the roster.

Newly appointed president of the Ride and Tie Association, Don Betts, reports that the race committee will be inspecting the trail to determine the difficulty and distance for the 2005 race. Each Ride & Tie World Championship site is studied carefully to design a racecourse that can be won in approximately four hours. The Ride & Tie World Championship course is usually between 35 and 45 miles in overall length. With a new site, base altitude, overall elevation gain, and course ruggedness are assessed prior to setting the race distance. "It's ride and tie tradition to move the Ride & Tie World Championship at least every couple years. By varying the terrain, different running and riding skills come into play. Flatter, faster courses favor different teams than the more rugged courses" explains Betts.

Race site director Mary Beth Alkire describes "a challenging course with excellent footing for the horses." An experienced endurance ride manager, Alkire looks forward to hosting the Ride & Tie World Championship. "We hope competitors who are hauling their horses from out of state will make a vacation of it. It's a great opportunity for local runners and equestrians excited to have the chance to compete in a World Championship right here in Montana."

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In the past couple of years teams have come from Australia, Germany and Spain leasing local horses in order to represent their countries at the Ride & Tie World Championship. Race organizers hope to see more international teams in 2005, with teams from Austria, Brazil and England showing early interest. "With the big race open to all who wish to enter, it's a great opportunity for first time competitors from the neighboring states of Idaho, Washington and Wyoming as well as western Canada to try their hand at this great sport" invites Ride & Tie president Don Betts.

### **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).

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