

## 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride & Tie National Championships at Mt. Adams

June 19, 2010

### Written Trail Descriptions

#### 35 milers

1. Blue 12 miles
2. Yellow 12 miles
3. Orange 11 miles

#### 19 milers

1. Blue 12 miles (may elevate at this vet check only)
2. Pink to Orange (short course only): 8 miles
  - a. Note: if you choose to elevate at your first vet check then do not use the pink shortcut. You must ride the entire orange loop.

#### Yellow loop. 12 miles.

This loop leaves from the southern end of the field. It is a gentle loop. No major climbs or descents. Good footing, two short rocky areas. Starts at 2500, over the next seven miles or so it rolls its way down to 1900 (once you get to the water troughs you'll be heading back up again). This loop is one of the original trails that has been used for the Mt. Adams Endurance Ride for the past 15 years; however, you won't find this trail on FS maps because although it begins on USFS territory, most of it is actually on state land. As you wind your way back up toward camp you'll be following along the upper reaches of the White Salmon River.

#### Blue loop. 12 miles.

Head north out of horse camp from the northern corner of the field, and then head east toward Big Tree. You'll pass the biggest Ponderosa (in the country?) but it will look tiny compared to those Redwoods you rode through last year (it's deceptive though as it does take 6 people with arms outstretched to circle the base. Okay, enough sightseeing. Not long after Big Tree you'll merge on to the Yellow loop and follow along common trail for about two miles and then splits off from yellow. In general the blue loop alternates between trail, FS road, and old logging roads (with soft footing). Just when you've had enough road, you're diverted to a trail, and just when you've had enough down, it goes back up again. And so it undulates like this through the woods for about 13 miles. Part of it uses a ski trail (without the snow ☺) that loops back to the Snow King Sno-Park (popular with skiers and snowmobilers in the wintertime). There will be water at Snow King, after which you can stretch out on a westbound road for about a mile, until the trail dives left off the road and down a trail. You'll pass an old water trough on this part of the trail which is left over from an intricate water system that used to run through the woods for the range cattle. Then up on a road, and down on a trail again. You get the picture. When you get to double trail (blue ribbons on both sides) you will be just about a mile or so from camp.

#### Orange loop (long course). 11 miles.

This is a glorious loop through the woods, where you cross over a number of streams (on solid, horse friendly bridges) and through some grassy openings in the forest. Start this loop, the same way yellow started, out of the southern end of the field. Shortly after you leave the field, the trail breaks off from the yellow loop when you take a right at the "trail" sign. Descend about a mile and a half until it joins back into the home stretch of the yellow trail. Orange follows yellow for about another mile and a half. When the yellow loop shoots straight up a short steep hill (just before it returns to camp), the orange continues north across its first bridge. If your horse is not used to bridges, you might want to go across this once before the ride. (It's safe, it just might be a little challenging to a novice horse/rider). The rest of the bridge crossings are a piece of cake. After you cross the second bridge, check out the creek. Do you notice anything unusual? This is also where a good little climb begins, but fear not there will be water (about mile 7) just when you want it, near the top when you hit the road. You'll climb a little more after this road crossing and when you turn right on to trail #39, you'll be sailing about 4 more miles—and one more beautiful bridge—down toward the finish.

#### PINK to Orange loop (short course). 8 miles.

This is Steph's favorite trail run. And the FS has granted R&T the opportunity to ride on it. Only the short course participants have permission to shortcut the Orange loop by following the PINK-RIBBONS-ON-RIGHT out of camp until you run into the Orange flagging, at that point, just start following Orange where you'll encounter your first bridge over Wicky Creek. If your horse is not used to bridges, you might want to go across this once before the ride. (It's completely safe, it just might be a little challenging to a novice horse/rider). The rest of the bridge crossings are a piece of cake. After you cross the second bridge, check out the creek. Do you notice anything unusual? This is also where a good little climb begins, but fear not there will be water (about mile 4) just when you want it, near the top when you hit the road. You'll climb a little more after this road crossing and when you turn right on to trail #39, you'll be sailing about 4 more miles—and one more beautiful bridge—down toward the finish.