Meeting was held by Phone Conference.

ATTENDANCE:
Present: Lani Newcomb, Steve Shaw, Nita Browning, Rufus Schneider, Jim Steere, John Osterweis, Don Betts  
Absent: Sid Sullivan, Mary Tiscornia, and Tom Steere  
Meeting called to order at 6:04

MINUTES: The minutes were reviewed. Discussion ensued about the wording of ‘novice’ and ‘amateur’. Novice refers to a person who has never done a ride & tie race. Amateur refers to a person who has done 2 or fewer races of 20 miles and has not done a championship. Steve Shaw made a motion that the minutes would be approved pending Don’s rewording of them. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT by Don Betts
Mentors: Don Strong in Sacramento will be a mentor along with Michelle Jay-Russell in the area. Karen Wolfsheimer, DVM will be the mentor in Louisiana.

Board Elections: Candidates will be announced in the May/June Newsletter. Mary Tiscornia and Tom Steere are seeking reelection. Dawn Hartsock, Ted Ruprecht and Laurie Wilson are seeking first time election. All candidates have submitted a statement for the newsletter except for Tom Steere. He knows about the newsletter statement but has not sent a statement in. Voting will take place by post card ballot included in the newsletter. Votes must be postmarked by July 15th. We will know the results by July 20th and they will be announced at the general meeting at the Championship.

CHAMPIONSHIP RACE REPORT:
Sponsors: Don (as race director) reports that he is negotiating with Clif Bar and Hi-Tack as a sponsor. Clif Bar seems to be losing interest. Hi Tack has promised us a saddle worth $1700 for a drawing.  
Race Mileage: Don reports for Mary Beth Alkire, onsite race director, that the last count of mileage for the championship is 34.98 miles.  
Participants: Don reports that entries are trickling in but we have over 25 teams who say they are coming. Among them is a favorite competitor, Cowman.  
Volunteers: We still need volunteers for the race. Beth Alkire had not realized there was an endurance race in Montana on the same weekend as our championship and that most of her volunteers would be participating in that.  
Veterinarians Report by Jim Steeres: Jim reported that he has arranged for three veterinarians for the championship. He reported on travel permits and requested that rest stops and overnight places be posted on the website or in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS:  
FINANCIAL REPORT: Since the financial report from the last meeting was never resolved, the report was discussed as old business. After some discussion the report was accepted as read.

AWARD FOR PAST PRESIDENT: Steve Shaw suggested that an award of some sort should be given to Curt Riffle for his years of service. Discussion followed at to what would be appropriate. Since Curt will not be attending the championship this year, the decision on what award to give him was postponed until after July.

NEW BUSINESS:  
AWARDS FOR THE POINTS AND MILEAGE CHAMPIONS FOR 2004: Don Betts asked for $350 to spend on awards for the Points & Mileage Champions for 2004. The awards will be chrome license plates with Ride & Tie above the plate and the appropriate title under it: “2004 Points Champion” “2004 Mileage Champion” etc. The board voted on and accepted this idea.
CREATING A PROMOTIONAL DVD: Don requested $2000 to use toward creating a promotional DVD by having the Championship filmed in Libby. Laurel Anderson from Arjuna Media is considering producing the production on her own if other resources are not available. Vita Productions originally considered it, but they have decided not to pursue it. The race director has been told by Carol Ruprecht that Horse TV will be at the race filming for their own production. The board approved $2000 to be used at Don’s discretion toward creating the DVD.

POSTING MINUTES ON THE WEBSITE: Don suggested that the minutes from the board meetings be posted on the website and in the newsletter. Discussion about whether or not that would help the organization followed. It was decided that since website space was free that the minutes should be posted there.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE RIDE AND TIE MEMBERS: The General Meeting of the Ride and Tie association will be held Thursday July 7, 2005 at 1 PM at the Championship Race Site.

PUBLICITY: Nita Browning reported that the article in Western Horseman was exceptionally good. Carol Ruprecht was commended for her good work at promoting the sport.

RACE INSURANCE: Lani Newcomb reported the difficulty that Curt Riffle had obtaining insurance for the race at Quicksilver. Due to the wording of the insurance policy, Almaden Park, where the race was held, was unable to accept it. Curt obtained insurance from an outside source.

The next meeting will be held on July 8, 2005 at a restaurant in Libby, MT at 12 PM.

The meeting ended at 7:12 PM.