



The Ride and Tie Association
8215 E White Oak Ridge #41
Orange, CA 92869
e-mail: contact@rideandtie.org
www.rideandtie.org

Board Meeting

August 26, 2010 @ 1900 Pacific daylight time

Attendance: Melanie Weir, Ben Volk, Susan Smyth, Rufus Schneider, George Hall, Don Strong, Greg Fellers, Mary Tiscornia and Steve Shaw

Absent: Ted Ruprecht, Lani Newcomb, Steve Anderson, Reagan Volk

Meeting called to order at 19:05

June 17th 2010 minutes approved

Reports:

Presidents report- Melanie Weir

- Championship follow-up almost completed
- Working on website. Current projects building the newsletter archive (anticipated completion late October or early November) and loading race results on line. Eventual goal is to build the function so that members can look up their race stats online. Additionally, we will eventually maintain all statistical reporting in the centralized database to streamline and simplify the process to make Steve Anderson's life easier.
- Liz Perkins is maintaining the Facebook page with the help of Sue Smyth and others.
- Melanie will mentor Eileen Witt, race director for "One Heart Ride and Tie" in Iowa. Association cost \$330.00 for airfare. The objective is to increase success of a new ride in new area.

Vice President and Promotions Report- Ben Volk

- Exploring ways to promote Ride and Tie. Suggestions for horse expos/conventions: Board approved funds for: Equine Affaire in Pomona, S. CA (Organizer-Melanie Weir), Horse Expo in Sacramento, N CA (Organizer- Sue Smyth) and Pacific North West Endurance Ride Conference in Northwest (Organizer Ben Volk). Discussion to include AERC convention in Reno Nevada held in March.
- Suggestion made to put ride and tie ads in AERC magazine to aid in visibility.

Promotions and Education- Don Strong

- Discussion on educational programs such as Webinar to promote ride & tie, share research and expertise provide by sponsors, veterinarians, members and others. Webinars would allow vendor to promote products linked to Ride and Tie and allow sponsors to present educational forums without intentional endorsement. Examples: Ask the expert, Sponsor spotlight etc.

Treasurer's Report-Steve Anderson (not present)

- Wells Fargo Checking: \$22,017
- Dodge & Cox Fund: \$46,629.00
- Coast Central Credit Union: ~\$31,000 (not sure)

Statistics (Steve Anderson)

Teams:

- M/M 11
- W/M 33
- W/W 42

Number of Participants: 159

Number of Horses: 85

Championship Awards 2011- Rufus Schneider

Rufus agreed to continue her handling of championship awards.

Future race sites- George Hall

- Cuneo Creek 2011- Must reserve at least 6 months in advance

Future sites:

- Jack Brooks Horse Camp in La Honda CA. (near Redwood City) or Big Creek Lumber Company (Barbara and Lud McCrary) in Davenport, CA. This site has served for prior Ride & Tie Championships.

Horse Hall of Fame and Horse of Distinction-Mary Tiscornia

Magic Sirocco, owner Jim Howard, is probably the next candidate.

Head Veterinarian- Dr. Greg Fellars

- \$1000.00 Scholarship awarded to Logan Potts. Logan is a first-year student at Washington State and was chosen out of 3 applicants. Dr. Fellars will write letters to all applicants.
- Discussed aligning organization with other organizations. This would help with camping and usage permits. Consider forming partnerships?

Old Business

1. Committee for Future Ride & Tie Funding.

Melanie reported that the committee did not meet prior to the board meeting, but will be communicating via e-mail over the next couple of months and will have a report for the November board meeting. The purpose of the committee is to anticipate funding needs, and secure the revenues in order to stay solvent and to promote growth of sport. Board will continue discussion at next Board meeting. Current donated funds are usually designated by the donor and are therefore restrictive, but donations can also be made to the Association to spend as the board determines, or can go toward the endowment. Discussion also includes Association self-sufficiency.

New Business:

1. Change Sanctioning Fee to \$10 per team

Melanie asked the board to consider changing the sanctioning fee from \$100 up front back to \$10 per team. This may bring back some races, and encourage new ones. Some board members feel that is unable or unwilling to pay the \$100 then perhaps the race is not viable. On the other hand, if we try to push into new areas, in conjunction with endurance rides, for example, it is likely that races will only have a few teams. Melanie noted that Lani Newcomb has weighed in via e-mail that she felt that most race directors would prefer to go back to \$10 per team and was supportive of this.

Steve Shaw made a motion to change sanctioning fees to \$ 10.00 per team and not to exceed \$100.00 per event. 2nd by George Hall. Motion passed, unanimous.

Melanie will communicate decision to Lani Newcomb. Race directors need to be notified, and sanctioning packet updated to reflect the change.

2. Approval of funds to repair ride & tie trailer

Ride & tie trailer needs maintenance on brakes. There are also apparent electrical issues. Sequoya Ward is keeping the trailer at her place, and agreed to obtain a quote, but has not been able to do so yet. The board decided to get estimate on repair and vote on repairs next meeting.

3. Jim Steere Award

Discussion on developing memorial award in Jim Steere's honor that would signify his dedication, generosity and spirit of ride & tie, to be awarded at championships and smaller events. Questions of funding and appropriate award explored.

Sue Smyth will develop proposal and present at next meeting for a vote. Will consider family's ideas of what would be fitting.

4. On-line Education Program

Don proposed developing online educational programs - Motion made to poll members via Survey Monkey to obtain areas of interest. Cost to use Survey Monkey is approx. \$50.00. Also will put something in newsletter so that people can request a paper survey if they don't have access to e-mail and internet. Motion to proceed made by D. Strong and 2nd by S Shaw. Motion passed, unanimous.

Don and Sue will conduct the survey and report the results at the next meeting. They will also discuss the idea with ride & tie donors and advertisers.

5. Horse of Distinction Committee Member

Melanie wants to identify a person to replace her on the Horse of Distinction Committee. This individual would gather the nominations and arrange for the committee to discuss and make selection. The board discussed that this person does not need to be a board

member, and in fact identifying more members to participate in Association activities is a good thing. But rather than simply offering it to someone, we should put the information out to the membership.

Melanie will send an e-mail out to the membership to see who would like to participate, and select someone.

6. Allocation of Resources: Growth vs. Championship

Melanie asked the board to discuss how to approach the question of allocating Association resources toward growth of the sport into new geographic areas versus spending on Championship. With the recent e-mail discussion, and decision to assist the new race in Iowa, it has raised the question of how to balance these two competing priorities. Can we put forth some new thinking about how we do this, whether it is calling on AERC race managers and asking them to put on a race until they say yes, then provide the resource to make it happen. Do we pay for board members and/or experienced race directors to attend these new events? How do we convince ride & tie race directors to do this, can we pay them a small stipend? Sue raised the issue of budgets. How do we fund the activities? Most championship expenditures are covered by certain donors, and the use of the funds is restricted to that purpose. We might approach the donors for

Steve Shaw asked what is the vision? We need a vision and some clear action steps. Melanie will prepare a brief proposal to present at the November board meeting.

7. Generator

Steve Shaw informed the board that the Ride and Tie Association owns a generator, and it is currently being stored at Pat Browning's place. He wanted to know whether the board wanted to get that generator to the Championship. It is large, and we've had some trouble getting it to work, but it is working now. Steve offered to help get it to the championship site.

Discussion on what to do with the generator will be postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 20:30

Next meeting November 18, 2010, 7:00pm P.S.T.