

Ride and Tie Board Meeting June 28, 2018

Members present: Janice Heltibridle, Steve Anderson, Susan Smyth, Steve Shaw, Gunilla Pratt, Liz Perkin, Carrie Baris, Courtney Krueger, Chris Amaral (joined at 4:09), Lani Newcomb (joined at 4:14)

Members absent: Mary Tiscornia, Greg Fellers

Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm PST by Janice Heltibridle

1. Board Minutes/Treasurer's Report from May 9, 2018 meeting: Smyth **made motion** to accept minutes as read, Pratt 2nds, **minutes approved**
2. Committee Reports
 - a. Technology Committee: Perkin brings up that whoever becomes the voting czar needs to communicate with Trish to make online voting more clear, but we can give someone who is familiar with web design to make changes themselves. It is a good idea to have someone familiar with web design more responsibility so we don't have to pay Trish for little updates or if something big that needs to be done quickly happens. Pratt volunteers.
 - b. Treasurer's Report: no major change in three accounts from last meeting. Anderson brought six checks with him to championship to pay vets. The check for the Specialized Saddle will get sent out when Anderson gets home.
3. Old Business
 - c. Championship updates:
 - i. World: Smyth—probably about 30 ride and tie teams, 24 teams right now but some still need to register. 22 equathon teams, 4 as iron man. 2-5 teams in each of the short course events. Has most goodie bags made up, will make up some extra quickie ones for people who didn't pre-register, they won't get everything. Lots of runners staying over between equathon and ultrarun on Sunday. Runners aren't paying anything to Ride and Tie Association, but they are paying for port-a-potties, and are contributing to some permit fees. Equathon people are really helping pay for the event, since their awards are less expensive. There has been a key equathoner who has been instrumental in growing the sport and encouraging others to give it a try who will be here at the championship. If there are 2-day events (ride and tie on Saturday, equathon on Sunday), then there needs to be a little extra money for vets, but still a money maker.
 - ii. East Coast: Heltibridle—estimated losses is down to \$700, don't have a feel for how many teams are going to show up, will run across a variety of properties
 - d. Elections
 - i. New Board Members: Pratt—three positions and four candidates, fairly large voter turn-out, probably due to online voting, Steve A., Rufus Schneider, and Sara Boeldt are the Board Members for the next

3 years. Rufus really wants to get Southern CA built back up again, so hopefully this board position will help achieve that goal.

- ii. Officers – will vote at next meeting (July 11) with new board members in place
 - e. Deadlines for newsletters: hard to get content on-time to fill out a newsletter, and Pratt likes to do one right after the championship, need to harass people to provide more pictures and stories (through email and facebook)—people really enjoy reading those stories. And they like seeing kids. January/February for handbook.
 - f. Godfrey Sullivan request/donation for R&T specific prizes to all R&T participants. (R&T store, RM budget - \$10-\$20/team...?): Ben Volk says Sullivan wants the money spent to attract new members to the sport, specifically that every person who gets a completion is given a RAT-specific completion award. Sullivan does NOT want this money stashed away for a rainy day. Shaw: how many awards (roughly) would we be giving out if we give out completion award. Maybe we need to put together an ad hoc awards committee. Would probably go to 500 people/year. He also likes paying entry fees for new members. Volk would like us to order enough hats/bumper stickers so that everyone who enters a ride and tie this year gets an award. Maybe give money to ride managers to put on a new ride and tie to encourage them to hold those new races. The ride and tie hats were ~\$13 that Amaral bought. Discovery committee to look into getting the cheapest prices for swag for the July meeting (Ben Volk, Steve Shaw, and Chris Amaral). Keep in mind that ordering lots of stock can be less valuable, as someone needs to store it and it can be destroyed
 - g. 2019 Championships
 - i. World: August 17, 2019 at East Fork Stables in Tennessee
 - ii. Western: Cache Creek won the vote over Bandit Springs, but Chuck Stalley backed down on being ride manager. Janelle Wilde is happy to combine it with Bandit Springs Endurance Ride in mid-July (could have its own day), but this may be a good way to advertise the sport (especially for 50th anniversary) and to keep costs down. Maybe have ride and tie one day and equathon the next. We need to have our own race manager (Ben Volk volunteers) to work with Janelle.
 - h. Campaign to update/validate membership information: Bob Heltibridle is working on a form to post on facebook/website/and email to make sure that everyone's information is updated, and correct. Maybe have 10 names a month of "old timers" to find out where they are and what they are up to, this could also help Annette updating 40 Years of Madness to 50 Years of Madness.
 - i. Board Member Description of Duties – official and unofficial: And not just Board Members, but Ben Volk, for instance, who does media relations, or Annette Parsons being historian. Janice will put these together and send them out next week.
4. New Business
- j. Voting Czar – a point person who makes sure that everything gets done on time, people running are getting photos and bios in the March newsletter so that voting runs smoothly. Also contacting either Trish or taking on posting to

the website themselves. Pratt volunteered to officially do this (she's done it unofficially).

- k. Head Veterinarian for the Association – additional position on board (not just advisory position). Shaw wants to keep a small, tight board. The by-laws would need to be changed. Amaral actually changed his mind—if people don't like him, they could vote him out. Perkin: we want the vet to be above politics. Steve Anderson motions that Greg Fellers put forward his own replacement in the case he needs to step down, Pratt seconds. Amaral makes the point that there may be someone out there that Greg might now know about. Bring this back up in July meeting, hopefully when Greg is present.
 - l. Vet Scholarship – increase amount, ambassador for program (Melinda Faubel), evaluation team (G.Fellers++): Pratt got very little response when she was handling the applications. This would also have to be budgeted for, since it used to be underwritten by Don and Annie Betts. How it benefits the ride and tie association is through the writing of the article that then gets published in the newsletter. Pratt motions to bring back vet scholarship for \$2000 with Melinda Faubel and funds from the Osterweis fund. Smyth seconds. Motion passed.
 - m. Criteria for mentors (i.e. participate, crew or manage at least one R&T event per year): For example, Sid Sullivan is still listed as Idaho mentor, but has no miles for past 9 years. Mentors need to stay active, Smyth has the idea to contact mentors and have them explain what they've done to be active with the sport.
5. 50th Anniversary Race: Ben Volk feels strongly about going all-out and thinking of saving up for the event to make it a big deal. Mt Adams is a potential location, but maybe a more central location would be better. Cuneo Creek would be a great location, and Chris Amaral is in contact with Sequioa Ward and see if she's willing. Perkin: start contacting big-name ultrarunners with big social media following
6. Long-term awards: only World Championship or World and Regional. Heltibridle asks if we should keep it to just only Worlds counting towards long-term. Majority in favor, there was one against.

Next meeting – July 11, 6:00 p.m Pacific/9:00 p.m. East Coast

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm PST by Janice Heltibridle