



Janice and Bobby with "all four off the floor" at the 51st World Championship Photo: Becky Pearman

In 2023 Janice Heltibridle surpassed 6,000 career miles, won the 51st World Championship, completed two 100 mile races, and was on the Top Points Championship team.

Is she the GOAT, the Greatest Ride & Tie Athlete Of All Time?



In the world of sports we love to argue about who is the GOAT—Greatest of All Time. It often becomes an argument because it can be hard to compare athletes from different eras, especially when there are significant rule changes. What makes a person a GOAT is unparalleled success in a particular sport. That can be measured in milestones such as points scored. It can be measured in number of victories, particularly championship victories. It is sometimes measured in how much the individual gave back to the sport.

In Ride & Tie we can have a good natured argument over who is our GOAT. Our sport evolved from one race a year to a twelve month sport. That makes comparing different eras difficult. Annette Parsons lists a number of "Ride & Tie Notables" in her book <u>Fifty Years of Madness</u>. They include Gordy Ainsleigh, Mary Tiscornia, Jim Howard, and George Hall. Rhonda and Dave Venable have been formidable competitors over the past decade. All of these athletes have legitimate claims to GOAT status.

With no intention of diminishing those others, I submit that Janice Heltibridle is our GOAT. She meets all of the qualifications I listed above. In 2023 she became the first and only person to reach the 6,000 mile mark. Her closest challenger is Lani Newcombe whose amazing 4,101 career miles is still a staggering 2,001 miles behind Janice. She and Ellen Hart won the 2021 East Coast Regional Championship and the 2023 World Championship. They won the 2023 Woman/Woman Points Championship and had the highest points of all teams regardless of gender. In past years, she has given tirelessly to the sport through her service on the Board of Directors including serving as President of the Association. She has managed dozens of races. Even though she is currently not on the board, she kept many of her former responsibilities. Ride & Tie would struggle mightily were she to decide to "retire" from leadership.

You will find a wonderful first-hand account of Janice's 6,000+ mile career in this issue. What I hope you will notice is a theme that flows through her account and the entire issue. It is the theme of "grit." Ride & Tie takes a level of skill and athleticism. More than that, however, it takes simple grit. Whether it is training your body or your horse in less than ideal weather or pushing yourself and your team to keep up the pace to finish a race ahead of the team right behind you, Ride & Tie is a sport of hours and miles realized by gritting through seconds and feet. The old cliché "A thousand miles begins with a single step" is absolutely true for Ride & Tie. Janice reports that at the end of her third year, she had a total of sixty miles. With skill and athleticism, but mostly grit, she kept moving down the trail, year after year, until sixty became six thousand. Along the way she documents injuries and setbacks. She kept pushing, not to reach GOAT status, but in enjoyment of a sport that involved human and equine friends (with a little romance thrown in there as well!). And yet, she now she finds herself with a good claim to being our GOAT.

What I love about her story and the other stories in this issue is that they aren't about superheroes. I can't imagine what it would be like to have the athletic talent of a Michael Jordan. It doesn't matter how much grit I have, I would never truly "Be Like Mike." Frankly, I also couldn't really "Be Like Janice." But I have found some success of my own in Ride & Tie. I can grit it out and claim a National Points Championship (hint, guys: because ours is a female dominated sport, the Man/Man category tends to be the easiest one in which to win a points championship!).

I hope this issue inspires you—not necessarily to the 6,000 mile mark or to one day passing Janice to take the GOAT title. I hope it inspires you to grit out one race or two or a even a dozen this year. I hope it inspires you to see how all of those seconds and feet will turn into hours and miles. Keep going and you will be amazed at how far your feet, your horse, and your team will carry you!



Make A Plan

Some might call it a resolution, but I like to think of it as a plan for the year. With both an equine partner and my own running to plan for, a plan for the year helps strategize how to get to the goals I have set more effectively than random "what do I feel like today" training. Getting a calendar out and looking at events I want to compete in helps me set benchmarks to meet along the way for me and my horse. The tendency might be to just go out for a run as time allows, or take your horse out for a ride for the sheer pleasure of being horseback but you can do that and more when you make a plan for the year.

The hard/easy training cycle, a form of periodization, can bring your plan into better focus as you lay your plan out for the year. We know that hard work pays off, but the improvements in our fitness come in the easy or recovery phase of training. It is very effective to break the year into hard and easy periods, break the hard training parts of the year into hard and easy weeks and even those weeks can be broken down into hard and easy days. It goes without saying, since races are hard, there should be easy periods before to allow the best performance possible, and after to allow recovery and avoid injury. A plan for the year will help define those hard and easy days and help you avoid injury or getting mentally stale.



The hard/easy concept works great in preparing your

horse too. For my horse Fortune, this time of year is about long walks in the dunes near the ocean and short walks in the steep timberlands near our home. I don't want him to think every time I put my foot in the stirrup we are going to go like the posse is after us. He has plenty of "go" and I will work on his speed later. This process keeps him guessing whether it is going to be a hard day or an easy day and makes him easier to manage. Having a plan eliminates too many of those days when I wish I had done X instead of Y.

Don't be reluctant to get help with your plan. There are lots of running groups and apps out there to provide guidance if you are wondering how to set up a running plan for the year. There are equine mentors too to help you create a plan for your trusty steed. As your plan begins to take shape, write it down and update it as time goes by and you find the need to make adjustments.

I have started my plan for the year. I am coming back slowly from injury with modest running goals that will hopefully get through a series of ride and ties this year. I have started my plan for Fortune too, getting him ready for his 12th season of endurance and ride and tie.

Stay safe, see you on the trail.

Chris Amaral



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<u>Date</u>	kace	riace	
Jan. 14	River Rise Ramble	High Springs, FL	
Jan. 26-27	Broxton Winter	Ehrhardt, SC	
Jan. 27	Hokey Pokey	Dunellon, FL	
Feb. 2-4	FHA 100	Ocala, FL	
Feb. 24	Sugarloaf	Patrick, SC*	
March 8-9	Lizard Run	Bishopville, SC	A A Common A
March 23-24	Shanghai Trails	Pierce, TX	
April 5-6	Giddy Up and Run	Allardt, TN	DIDEXTUIE
April 6	Foxcatcher	Elkton, MD	RIDECTIE
April 14	Chesapeake Spring	Elkton, MD	52 nd WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP JULY 6-7, 2024
April 19-20	OD No Frills	Star Tannery, VA	at
April 19-20	Ride in the Pines	Cheraw, SC	N To Auburn
April 19-20	Yellowhammer	Fruithurst, AL*	The COOT IS STO
May 4	Still Prineville	Prineville, Or*	
May 4	Cache Creek	Williams, CA*	RID Eand I LE
May 18	Coolest Spring	Cool, CA	and EQUATHON
May 25-26	Jo Tate Memorial	Washburn, MO	Mr EQUATION
May 26	New York Adventure	New Berlin, NY*	_
June 1	Moonshine Run	Dawsonville, GA*	
June 7-8	Old Dominion	Orkney Springs, VA	A
June 8	Trout Lake	Trout Lake, WA*	
June 29-30	Brookfield Bonanza	New Berlin, NY	
July 6	Buck Mtn Boogie	Mad River, CA*	
July 6-7	Muckleratz	Halifax, PA*	
July 6-7	52nd World Champions	· ·	
July 13-14	Bandit Springs	Prineville, OR*	
July 28	Top O The World	Spencer, ID*	
Aug 9-11	Louise Riedell Memorial	Arkdale, WI*	
Aug 10-11	OD R&T Weekend	Orkney Springs, VA	4
Aug 14-16	Pine Tree Pioneer	Fryeburg, ME*	
Aug 16-21	Spanish Peaks Pioneer	La Veta, CO*	
Aug 17	Horseshoe Bend Boogie	French Town, NJ*	7002
Aug 23-24	Iron Mtn. Jubilee	Cripple Creek, VA*	RIDE & TLE
Sept 6-7	Big South Fork	Oneida, TN*	OCTOBER 18-19, 2024
Sept 7	Hector Half Hundred	Hector, NY*	FORT VALLEY, VA
Sept 14-15	Chesapeake Fall	Elkton, MD	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH
Sept 20-21	Biltmore	Asheville, NC	
Sept 21-22	Lava Cast Memorial	La Pine, OR*	
Sept 28	Coolest Fall	Cool, CA*	AV CANADA CONTRACTOR OF THE CO
Oct 5-6	Flamingle	Andrews, IN*	
Oct 12	Hunting for Bigfoot	McHenry, MS*	
Oct. 18-19	Spook Run	Henryville, IN*	
Oct. 18-19	East Coast Regional Cha		Valley, VA
Oct 26	Bar H Boogie	Lake Mathews, CA	
Nov 8-9	Trace the Trails	Athens, TX*	
Nov 8-9	Broxton Fall	Ehrhardt, SC*	
Nov 29-30	JD's Carolina	Patrick, SC*	
Dec 21	Winter Ride in the Pines	Cheraw, SC*	
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WHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHER BECOMES THE SUBJECT!

Most of the East Coast photographs in this issue were taken by professional photographer Becky Pearman. She is wonderfully gracious in allowing us to use her pictures at an incredibly steep discount. Both AERC and Ride & Tie competitors love seeing her sign out on trail alerting them that she is just ahead taking pictures. There is always a crowd of people around her rig at the end of a ride/race day looking at all of the pictures she took. For the 2023 Winter Ride in the Pines she traded in her camera for a horse and running shoes as she competed in her first ever Ride & Tie. Her human partner was her niece Amanda Steiger Rodieck. Their equine partner was Bucket. Amanda tells the story of their adventure:

For as long as I can remember I have been in the saddle thanks to my Aunt Becky. It became a way of life for me from the time I was little. I honestly had never thought about doing anything in endurance like she did, until my OTTB mare just enjoyed moving down the trail and I started doing LD's out in California. In 2017 I moved back out to NC and started my east coast endurance journey. I was so excited because now, my aunt would get to photograph me, after so many years of watching her take pictures of others. It has been so special getting to share all of this with her and all of her advice and encouragement. I have found something I love doing and getting to bond over all of it has been so special.

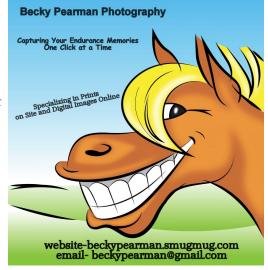
At this year's April Ride in the Pines Aunt Becky and I decided we were going to enter a Ride and Tie! I have only done distance rides in the past, but have always wanted to try one of these. We entered the 17 mile ride at the Winter Ride in the Pines and I am over the moon proud to say we

completed it. We switched off every mile and it worked for us. We had the best time, and couldn't have asked for a better event. Thanks to my mom Tricia Kirchner Steiger who took care of all 3 of us this weekend and to all of the managers, vets, and volunteers who made this as amazing as it was. Thank you to everyone who cheered on "Team Becky" it really helped push us on. Bucket was absolutely a ROCK STAR and took care of both of us and settled down into his "new job" VERY quickly, after not understanding why he wasn't going out with the other starters like normal. He also scored another straight A card. He's the best:)

We got 1st place in our distance (but also the turtle)!



Becky and Amanda in 1993





Becky (on foot) with Amanda and Bucket at the Winter Ride in the Pines

Photo: Hanna Bartnick

The Road to 6000 miles

Janice Heltibridle

My twin, Jean introduced me to Ride & Tie. It was something I had never heard of, but it sounded fun and challenging. I had been running road races for several years - 5Ks to marathon distance, but hadn't been on a horse for at least 20 years since we were kids. The first three years I participated in Ride & Tie, I only accumulated a total of 60 miles. For the longest time, it seemed like there were only 2 or three teams competing at the few events held on the East Coast. Jean and I shared a lot of time on trail with Dr. Lani Newcomb and Dr. Kathy Broaddus during that time. Lani was a fantastic mentor, constantly reminding me to eat and drink while out there, especially during the longer events. Then in 1996, I tore the ACL in my right knee while doing a Ride and Tie at the Marriott Ranch in Hume, Virginia. It was the beginning of the year of the knee. I had surgery to repair it and went to physical therapy 2-3 days per week, up to 3 hours per session for 6 months to regain the use of my knee. It was about 9 months before I was cleared to start running again. I went back to doing some trail ultras (easier on my knee than the pounding from road races) and shorter distance Ride and Ties. Jean and I continued to partner for several more years, but then split up to get more people involved here on the east coast.

In 2000, Lani, Kathy, Jean and I went to California to try the Swanton Pacific 100; up until now the longest Ride and Tie I had done was 50 miles. This was going to be twice that distance, on strange trails and a leased horse.

Our crew who consisted of Jean's husband Larry and my future husband Bob, could only meet us at several stops which were few and far between. The first time we saw them was around mile 30, then again around mile 60, and finally around mile 80. Ellen McCrary and her husband Dennis Rinde beat us to the finish, but we DID finish in a time of 21:45. Unfortunately, Lani and Kathy's horse came up lame and they didn't get a completion.



Lani Newcomb on Norm with Janice

In 2001, we went back to do the Swanton Pacific again; this time our crew was made up of Bob and my son Matthew. Jean was partnered with Bruce who hauled 3 of his horses from Utah for us to use. I was partnered with Jim (an ultrarunner), and Lani and Kathy were partners. Matthew and Bob met us around mile 30 at the Vet Check; things were going well and we were making good time. At one point after that, Bruce got a little disoriented and turned around, so we decided to stay together for the last part of the race to keep everyone motivated and heading in the right direction. That year we finished tied for first in a time of 22:27. After cleaning up and catching a couple hours sleep back at our hotel, we headed back out to ride camp for the awards ceremony and a special surprise Bob and I had planned. We had made arrangements for a Justice of the Peace to be at ride camp to marry us, so technically, I guess you could say the ride had a hitch in it.

I was ranked overall high mileage/high points in 2000, 2001 and 2002 and was part of the first-place woman/woman team. Over the next 4 years I racked up my first 1000-miles. Between 2005 and 2007, I hooked up with Kate Kane and we did a lot of back-to-back 30-mile R&Ts at multi-day events. In 2007, we headed out to California for the World Championship and finished 12th. I was ranked high mileage/high points again, and Kate and I were the first-place woman/woman team for 2 years straight. In 2008, work was getting in the way of my competing and I only managed to make it to 4 rides that year. I hit 2,000 career miles in 2009 and once again started focusing on introducing more people to the sport. I think I hit a high of 13 different partners in one year. Not that there is anything wrong with that, but Bob started affectionately calling me the Ride and Tie slut. In 2010, I started a new job so my commute wasn't 2 to 2 ½ hours one way and it was easier to get time off. I participated in 10 rides that year and finished the season with high mileage and high points again. The next 4 years (2011-2014) were fairly light years as far as competition went, but I was still putting miles on the board. Frisky and Bubba, my two main equine partners were starting to get up in years and several different pasture accidents sidelined them until I finally retired them all together. In 2013, I snagged a 3-year-old Old Dominion raffle horse Kestrel CS, aka Pete. Even though I wouldn't be able to use him for competition for another 2 years, I would still be able to work with him and have him ready when he became old enough. I hit 3000 miles in 2014,



Janice with Laney Baris on Pete crossing the Big South Fork River in 2015

I was always looking for a partner willing to try the longer distances; not too many folks are quite as crazy as me. In 2014, Joanne Mitchell and a few others started pushing to try to get the World Championship held on the east coast. After a little push back from the board of directors, they made us a deal - hold a regional championship to see what kind of turn out we could get. So, in 2015 the first East Coast Regional Championship was held at Big South Fork, TN. Twenty-one teams toed the line, just as many as they had at the $45^{\rm th}$ World Championship. We thought we were on our way, but the board said try it again next year. Guess they wanted to make sure it wasn't a fluke. So, in 2016 we did it again this time we had 12 teams compared to 19 at the $46^{\rm th}$ World Championship, but it was still impressive enough that the board agreed to holding the $47^{\rm th}$ World Championship on the east coast. The was a stipulation though, I had to be the ride manager.

The Road to 6000 Miles, continued



Janice on Pete at the Worlds in 2017

So, I started planning, got a team together to help me and the rest is history. The Old Dominion allowed us to hold the championship in place of their regular Ride & Tie clinic the third weekend in July. I was still working full time and as the event got closer, Bob suggested I go ahead and retire, which I did. The first World Championship held on the east coast occurred on July 27, 2017. Participants included several teams from California as well as a large number of what was heretofore strictly endurance riders. Out of a field of 28 teams, we didn't have any DNFs, my partner and I finished $8^{\rm th}$, and I reached 4,000 career miles, something only achieved by 3 other R&T members. It also became clear that there definitely was a growing population of R&T enthusiasts east of the Mississippi.

Towards the end of 2017, Bob told me about a rider he had met at the Fort Valley ride. She looked to be a runner and a pretty good horse woman, and he thought I should try to talk her into being my partner. Thus started the friendship with Ellen Hart. We hit it off immediately. I had a new partner and a "good" horse, Pete was ready; he had been doing events since 2015. Ellen was also willing to try the longer distances. We did a 25, a 50 and a 55 in our first 3 events together and kept working with Pete to have him ready for a 100-mile Ride & Tie attempt in June 2018 at the Old Dominion's "Beast of the East". It had never been done before, but she agreed. I pitched my plan to the Old Dominion Board of Directors with the caveat that we would abide by the endurance rules for cut off times into the vet checks so as not to interfere with the leap frogging of the vets to their next vet check. They agreed. The stage was set!

We started that morning just behind the 100-mile endurance riders and were staying right in their midst. I later found out that the husband of one of the front runners in the 100 was asking "How are those two keeping up with you?!" Haha. Ellen's pretty fast, and since we didn't have the mandatory 30-50 minute holds

at the vet checks, we were making up a lot of time and getting ahead of them on trail. But not to worry for Pete, he was getting plenty of snacks out on trail – Platinum Performance Equine bars, Oats N Honey Granola bars, carrots, and grass! It was getting late in the day and we had heard thunder and knew a storm was heading our way, but it had been "VERY HOT" all day and a little rain might help cool things off so we weren't worried. We were about 60+ miles in when Ellen tied Pete, just before it started to rain AND HAIL! My teeth were literally chattering I was so cold by the time I got to Pete. I knew he must be cold as well! His rump muscles had already tightened up. I tried just leading him to warm him back up and gave him a couple of doses of electrolytes, but my efforts weren't working. I hadn't tied a rump rug to the saddle before we started because it was going to be so hot I didn't think we would need it. My bad! When we finally made it into Big 92, the 70-mile vet check, Pete was off in the hind and was pulled. A few weeks later, we headed west for the World Championship. Bob and I got out there a couple of days prior so I could meet the horse and try my tack on the horse that Ellen and I had leased from Samantha Ellis. We started out making pretty good time and we were running in the top ten. Then it happened. We're not the first and will not be the last team that it's ever happened to. I ran by the horse while it was tied. We figured out later that she had tied on the right, just before a sharp left turn on trail and I never saw him because a couple of other teams were passing me right then. When I came running into the vet check and saw Bob and Ellen standing there with no horse, I knew something was wrong. I was getting ready to head back out to go find the horse, but Ellen said no, she knew where he was. She would get him. So, we went from possibly finishing in the top ten to finishing 14th, but we finished. And we had a good time.

Ellen and I kept partnering when her job didn't interfere. I still wanted to do a 100 with Pete. He was in shape and I just KNEW he had it in him. Lani told me to take him to JDs ride in South Carolina, Thanksgiving weekend to do the endurance ride. I really didn't want to RIDE 100 miles, so I talked with the Ride Manager and asked her if it would be possible to do it as a R&T. After I explained what R&T was and she checked with her vets and got their okay, we quickly got it sanctioned.

The first 2 hours were spent in a bone chilling rain. The first loop was 30 miles. I had told Bob to expect us in about 5 hours. It's fairly flat and sandy though, not what Pete or I was really used to. I came in to the vet check approximately 3 hours later hollering for Bob. He came out of the trailer asking what's wrong. I said nothing is wrong, but Pete is FLYING. When I came in from the next loop I saw a mule in Pete's pen!? I told Bob I don't know what that mule is doing in there, but I'm going to need that for Pete later. He explained why it was there and promised that it would be gone when we came back. We finished JD's in 18:03, about 30 minutes behind the third endurance rider (everyone else had been pulled earlier in the day). I was thankful and ecstatic! I had finally found a horse and partner who could go the longer distances and they were phenomenal. (Okay, in all honesty Pete could be a bit of a character.)

Ellen and I did several more 30s, 50s and a 55 early the next season before our next attempt at the OD 100. This time. Pete lost a shoe around mile 50. I put an Easy boot on and Pete was going well, but I told Ellen to take him to the farrier at Big 92 vet check (70 miles) to get another shoe tacked back on. That was it for him. He stiffened up while the farrier was working on him (had to rebuild his hoof with epoxy). The vets let him go on since he had already vetted out with all As and thought he might loosen back up once he started moving again, but he was still questionable at the next vet check so we called it a day. About two weeks before the 2019 World Championship, Pete got his hoof caught in a wire fence and ripped half of it off so that cut our season short. Ellen and I still finished first women/women and had high mileage/high points and I closed out the year with 5000 career miles. It took about 9 months for Pete's hoof to grow back before I could start putting him back to work. Unfortunately, while bringing him back, he was diagnosed with Kissing Spine and his short career as a Ride and Tie horse was over.

The Road to 6000 Miles, continued

In 2018 Bob won the Old Dominion raffle horse "Tamburitza" aka Ritz. It was her time to shine in 2020. With Covid still an issue, rides were far and few between. We racked up 112 miles that year and hoped 2021 would be a better year but it wasn't meant to be. Ritz got pulled for lameness, a torn suspensory in her right hind. Things were looking pretty bleak. I also had to put down another horse I had purchased at the end of November. Then Evelyn Baig called and made me an offer I couldn't refuse! She knew I really wanted to do the OD-100 again but didn't have a horse that could do it, so she offered to let me use one of her horses, "Rushcreek Bobby." He had never done a 100-mile but she was certain he had it in him. He was fit and ready to go. Our first R&T would be at "New York Adventure" with Jennifer Poling. It was a wet and cold weekend, but we finished 30 miles and he did awesome. He was smart and easy to handle. His next R&T was the OD 100 two weeks later, this time with Ellen and I. It had poured rain on Friday so the trails were very sloppy and slick. We made it into the Bucktail vet check (42 miles) and were right up with the front runners in the endurance ride. The vet thought Bobby might be a little off in his left front and had me take him to the farrier to put a pad put on it. Ellen, our crew and I were starting to sweat it, wondering if our day was going to end early. But after the farrier finished, we took him back for another trot out and the vet told us to get out of there! We headed off to a pulse and go at Waites Run, and then on to Big 92 (70 miles). Bobby was doing phenomenal, and we were vetted through "fit to continue." Next stop was Laurel Run (78 miles), then on to our second time through Bird Haven (94 miles). From Bird Haven to the finish line, the trail was extremely sloppy from all the rain and horses that had ridden it the day before as well as that morning. Ellen and I made the call that we were NOT going to risk Bobby slipping, falling or wrenching anything and we would make him WALK from there. When we got to the finish line, we had a good size welcoming committee! Ellen and I had finished the OD 100 again, this time in 22:27. I was overjoyed! Evelyn told me I could keep using Bobby the rest of the year. We were on our way to another ride in August when Evelyn called and offered to sell him to me if I wanted him. She had been talking with Jeff, her husband, and said that she just couldn't take Bobby back if I wanted to buy him because she knew how much I loved riding him and how happy he seemed with me. OMG, YES! I was totally shocked; I never saw

The 2022 season was rough for me, I had developed a bad case of sciatica so my running and riding was curtailed. Bob knew I would never listen to him when it came to running, so he had asked Ellen to give me the name of a running coach. The exercises and training program the running coach had me doing were helping a lot, so in late October I reached out to Ellen to see if she would consider attempting THREE (3) 100-mile R&Ts in 2023 and she said, "I would totally be up for that!!!!!!!!" I started looking at the AERC schedule and reaching out Ride Managers who offered the 100-mile distance to figure out and get approval for three that were spaced out far enough that I thought Bobby, Ellen and myself would have enough time to recover between them.

When we started the 2023 season, I was on the verge of achieving my goal of 6,000 R&T miles and had given Bob a list of the rides I was planning to do this season. To make sure Bobby and I were in shape, I signed up for several 50-mile endurance rides (Lizard Run and Biltmore) which about killed me! Who wants to stay in the saddle for that many miles!!!! We also did a 50-mile R&T at Foxcatcher the beginning of April. The start at Foxcatcher began with a lot of excitement – lightning, thunder and a runaway horse in the endurance ride. Wind and driving rain accompanied us for the majority of the day. We finished just in time to pull camp, pack up and get Bobby on the trailer before the tornado hit. It was still a white-knuckle trip on the drive home though – had to contend with downed trees, power outages and gale force winds that felt like they were going to blow us completely off the road, not to mention CRAZY drivers out there who didn't think twice about cutting off a truck and trailer! One small positive was that we didn't have a blowout and were oblivious to that possibility until the next morning when Bob was parking the rig, That's when we discovered the front tire on the driver's side of the truck had a HUGE, we're talking gigantic bubble on it!

Two weeks later, Bobby, Ellen and I did a 55-mile R&T at No Frills on Friday. I can't tell you how happy the three of us were to partake of the snacks, fluids and volunteer assistance provided at the Bucktail hospitality stop around mile 30. We were planning to do the 20 mile the next day on two of my other horses: Ellen and PJ riding Ritz; Dani and I riding Mac. This was to be Dani and Mac's introduction to R&T. That evening while Ellen and I were headed back to my house to take care of my other two retired horses, Ellen got a text from Dani saying she wouldn't be able to make it out Saturday. We quickly started racking our brains to figure out who else we might be able to find to partner with me. Terri Carol had sponsored several juniors in the LD ride on Friday and someone suggested that I talk to her to see if one of them might be willing to do the R&T with me. Quinn, a slight 12-year-old girl who had just started riding the year before, wasn't sure about doing a 20, but thought she could do 10 miles. It was already after 8:30 pm by this time, but after Terri and Suzanne, Quinn's mom, finished grilling Ellen and I, they allowed Quinn to partner with me if we tacked up early enough so Quinn could have a chance to ride Mac before we started. At the start of the 10 miles, we shooed everyone else mile out ahead of us so we could try to make it as low key and relaxed as possible for Quinn and Mac. PJ and I started off riding up the road and tied when we got to the top of the mountain (hoping to take some of the edge off of both our mounts). We quickly caught up and started passing some of the other participants, but thankfully Mac and Ritz behaved beautifully. Quinn and I finished first, a whisker ahead of PJ and Ellen. Quinn had a GREAT time, saying that she would be up to doing that again along with trying a longer distance. Woo-hoo!!!

Next on the list was the 50-mile endurance ride at Biltmore to dial in Bobby for the Old Dominion 100 in June. Yippee, another 100-mile completion. This was not without some anxiety though. A forest fire that started the day before the 100 forced the trail to be rerouted at the last minute and we had to ride among all the firefighters, dozers and equipment that were working to try to contain it. That was easy though compared to all the smoke that we had to contend with when we came back through that way approximately 12 hours later. I had a handkerchief I tied around my nose and mouth, but the smoke was starting to make me nauseous and it was so thick that Ellen had a hard time seeing anything other than the glowing embers on our right. I told her to let Bobby pick his pace and just take it easy till we got through it. The worst of it was only about ½ mile long, but it seemed much longer. Ellen was already taking Bobby through the last vet check, 6 miles from the finish when I made it in. Not sure who it was, but someone came up to me and said it looked like Bobby really enjoyed his job. I said I thought he did, but maybe it's just because of all the carrots, cookies, or sweet potatoes he gets when we tie him or do our exchanges! I was tickled when Dr. Hoyt gave him a huge hug after he finished checking him over at one of the earlier vet checks that day.

The Road to 6000 Miles, concluded

I had hoped to use both Mac and Bobby at the July OD R&T clinic, but Bobby had to pull double duty as Mac was out of commission with what the vet suspected and was treating for some tick-borne disease (something other than Lyme or Anaplasmosis). Iron Mountain (the inaugural Highlands 100) in August was next in the line-up. Talk about tough! The Old Dominion is considered the Beast of the East, but both Ellen and I felt that Iron Mountain was tougher...at least this year anyway. Those long climbs in every loop, especially in the last two loops were kickers. Based on feedback they received, Ride Management is considering changing some of the loops and/or at least the order they are done for the 2024 season.





Ellen, Janice and Bobby at Iron Mountain 2023

In September, I headed to Chesapeake for two 25-mile R&Ts. Ellen was not available, but Quinn was as well as Lauren Bilsky, another newbie who had also competed in the 10-mile at No Frills. Quinn and I were the only R&T team on Friday, so we stayed together for the most part and did the loops in reverse order from the endurance riders. I wasn't sure how Mac would do with all the "obstacles" there. There were huge cross-country jumps, tunnels, overpasses, concrete or wooden bridges, bicycles, runners, horse drawn carts, etc. I think Mac thought the concrete bridges were the scariest, but braved them all with a little encouragement or a friendly runner willing to lead the way across. We came and conquered, even amidst 30-60 mountain bikers whose path we kept criss-crossing for most of the second loop! Despite only being the second time Quinn had ridden Mac, it was apparent that he's smitten with her and they take excellent care of each other. Quinn was beaming when we finished. I do believe she's hooked! The next day, I achieved my 6,000 miles with Bobby and Lauren.

The following Friday was the 51st World Championship. All week leading up to the championship, Bob had been asking me why I didn't want to try to win the race. I told him that I didn't want to risk hurting Bobby because my main focus was on completing three 100-mile R&Ts and we still had one to go at JD's on Thanksgiving weekend. Ellen and I were on the second loop when we caught up to Chris Lang and he told us we could catch Lessie and Rob who were currently leading. Ellen, who can be slightly competitive (wink) said "Let's do this!" So, we picked up the pace, popped a few more electrolytes and passed them about 6 miles from the finish, maintaining our lead to win the Championship. Ellen and I followed up with another 50-mile R&T in October at the Fort Valley on the first day. On the second day, Ellen, PJ, Quinn and I paired up to do another 15-mile R&T where Quinn earned her third completion and another FIRST-PLACE finish in R&T. Woot!

Unfortunately, our third 100-mile attempt at JD's in November was cut short when Bobby came up lame at the 75mile vet check. I had ridden in, downed some soup and a drink and left him with Ellen and our crew of Bob, PJ and his sons and ran back out. When I got to the 2-mile mark where the first ham radio operator was, the Ride Manager was waiting for me. He'd driven out to intercept me and drive me back to camp. Thankfully it was nothing serious...but the deep sand finally caught up to Bobby which I had feared from the git go...especially since he was not use to it. He had been doing awesome all day and we actually got to share a little time together on trail where several of the loops converged with Jeremy Reynolds and his mare Treasured Moments, 2023 winner of the Tevis Cup. Ellen and I love sharing trail with the 100-mile endurance riders, but there needs to be more of them (and/or 100-mile R&T teams). They are so encouraging, supportive, considerate and patient with our butting in front of them at vet checks and constantly leapfrogging past them out on trail.



Ellen, Bobby, and Janice at the World Championship 2023

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and thank all my R&T partners, ride managers who have hosted R&Ts, as well as the countless volunteers, vets, family members, friends and my devoted husband, Bob who have sacrificed countless hours to put on these events, clear/maintain trail, help me condition my horses, loaned/leased me a horse to use, or have helped take care of my critters at home when I'm away playing. Thank you!



The Ride & Tie Association offers annual Awards in 11 potential categories*:

- 1 Ride and Tie Horse of the Year (high mileage horse)
- 2 Ride and Tie Woman/Woman Team point champions of the Year
- 3 Ride and Tie Man/Man Team point champions of the Year
- 4 Ride and Tie Woman/Man Team point champions of the Year
- 5 Ride and Tie Individual point champion of the Year
- 6 Equathon Horse of the Year (high mileage horse)
- 7 Equathon Woman/Woman Team point champions of the Year
- 8 Equathon Man/Man Team point champions of the Year
- 9 Equathon Woman/Man Team point champions of the Year
- 10 Iron Equathon Individual of the Year
- 11 Top 10 Junior Competitor Mileage

*To be eligible for annual year end awards for any of the categories offered for either Ride & Tie or Equathon, individuals must be a current or lifetime member of Ride & Tie. The winning equine, individual, or team must also have competed in at least 2 sanctioned races and have accumulated a minimum of 125 points for that particular category (this does not apply to Junior Mileage awards). Awards are based on points accumulated that year. In the event of a tie, the award will be presented to equine, individual or team with the most miles. In years when the individual points champion is also on a points champion team, no individual award will be awarded.

How Annual Competition Points are Calculated

Races 20 miles in length or more:

25 points for completing the race, Plus points equaling 2 times the number of miles completed, plus 5 points for each team you beat to the finish line

Races between 10 and up to 19 miles in length:

25 points for each team member, plus points equaling 1/2 the number of miles completed, plus 3 points for each team you beat to the finish line

Races less than 10 miles:

25 points for each team member

Equathons are scored in the same manner as Ride and Tie, meaning both competitors and horse will receive individual points and miles, and the competitors will receive points and miles as a team to determine the Overall Team winner. Iron person will be scored in a similar manner: competitor and horse will both receive Individual points and miles, but the competitor will receive points equal to 2 (rider/runner) but miles equal to one competitor. To determine the Overall Iron person winner, both Team and Iron will be scored together as "Individual" for an Overall equathon winner.



Ellen Hart & Janice Heltibridle

Woman/Woman Points Champions 1024 points 402 miles

> Rushcreek Bobby 2023 Horse of the Year 467 miles



Ellen, Janice, and Bobby winning the 52nd World Championship



Ellen, Janice, and Bobby finishing the 100 at Iron Mountain

This team did it all this year.

- They completed two 50 mile Ride & Ties (Foxcatcher and Fort Valley)
- They attempted three 100 mile Ride & Ties and completed two (Old Dominion in June and Iron Mountain in August).
- They won the 51st World
 Championship at Biltmore in August
- They were not only Woman-Woman Points Champions, but also were the top team in points overall.
- Their equine partner Bobby is the Ride & Tie Horse of the Year.

Congratulations to the Team of the Year

Photos: Becky Pearman



Chris Lang and Barb Mathews

Man/Woman Points Champions 912 points 321 miles



Barb and her horses are wonderful partners. She is the kindest person, and she always takes care of her two horses. Gator is a professional, and Dream has improved significantly this year. We started the season with the goal of winning the man/woman team category for the season. And I'm proud that we accomplished our goal.

Chris Lang

Chris Lang actually "won" an even better award this year when he and Carrie Baris got engaged! Carrie is the Ride & Tie Association's secretary. They met through Ride & Tie. The whole Ride & Tie family wishes them much happiness throughout the years.



A mid-race embrace at the World Championship at Biltmore. The rules don't prohibit kissing the competition as long as the competition is willing!



Courtney Krueger and Mark Landers

Man/Man Points Champions 798 points 274 miles



I am just really grateful because I get to do this sport that involves running and skill and riding and skill. I love that it includes beautiful animals, one of whom I own and I love. I love the family aspect of Ride & Tie. My wife, brother-in-law (and co-points champion), sister, daughter, grandchildren and other family members are all involved in one way or another. I get to go to settings that anyone would go to just to see and we get to go way up back there in them because of the distances our sport utilizes. I like the length of time that a race takes. I wouldn't like it as much if it was over in a hurry. I like it that you test your body, your partner's body, and your horse's body for levels of exhaustion.

Memorable races this year include

- Old Dominion in June. On the second day we really pushed to keep second place ahead of Rhonda Venable/ Renee Brachfeld, Carrie Baris/Chris Lang, and Martha Nelson/Barb Mathews.
- World Championship in September. I had much of my extended family at the World Championship. It was a fast and fantastic course. Unfortunately at about mile four, Coda (our horse) broke his bridle at a tie. We were among the front runners at the time. I was on foot and team after team kept passing me. I didn't know why Courtney and Coda weren't catching me. After Courtney was able to call me and let me know he was waiting for Lea (his wife, my sister) to come out and bring him a spare bridle, I was frustrated at first. We were not going to place as well as I hoped. Then I thought, "Are you really going to be mad right now? You are at Biltmore. Your family is here. It is a beautiful day. You're able to be out riding and running in this beautiful place."
- *Fort Valley in October*. At Fort Valley the leaves were at their peak. It was as beautiful as any ride I have ever done. There was such a riot of colors. I could see every color in the Crayola colors box!

Mark Landers

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Editor's Note: **The East Coast Regional Championship** will be at Fort Valley, VA this year. Make plans to come October 18-19 and experience this year what Mark did last year!

Photo: Becky Pearman

2023 Ride & Tie Individual Points

			20
Rider	Gender	Points	Miles
Chris Lang	M	2039	617
Barbara Mathews Carrie Baris	F F	1943 1700	
Janice Heltibridle	F	1303	482
Courtney Krueger	M	1261	400
Ellen Hart	F	1232	452
Mark N. Landers Martha Nelson	M F	1162 784	
Kelly Pults	F	784 750	
Rhonda Venable	F	679	
Lessie Skiba	F	589	137
Dave Venable	M	564	162
Renee Brachfeld Catherine Gray	F F	383 374	107 77
Rob Harris	M	309	52
Katie Ruth Tucker	F	295	66
Alison Zeytoonian	F	259	52
Kimberly Stephens Adrianne Diehl	F F	257 257	96 96
Richard Koup	r M	255	75
Sara Boelt	F	253	63
Katie Oden	F	250	80
Lisa Broyles	F	248	82
Lauren S Bilsky Reid Pomeroy	F F	225 219	67 51
Maci Robbins	F	219	51
Julianne Routten	F	189	57
Adalyah Osteen	F	178	37
Lily Braden	F	176	39
Bailey Estes Lilah Bleier	F F	176 176	39 39
Annabelle Unguris	F	176	39
Addy Hartman	F	176	39
Matthew Child	M	172	58
Quinn Roske Holly Wormsley	F F	159 153	50 35
Jacquelyn Morgan	F	153	35
Jordan Helmick	М	150	42
Trevor Cook	М	150	40
George Hall Andrew Gerhard	M M	146 143	48 44
Chris Wolfersheim	F	143	44
Liara Gonzalez	F	139	32
Cera owens	F	135	25
Chelsea Zeytoonian	F	135	20
Kat Fraboni Kimber Jones	F F	130 130	20 20
Meta Sadlon	F	127	48
Kristy Smith	F	127	48
Lori Lyttle	F	121	45
Ashley Calvin Kevin Townsend	F M	121 119	45 32
Farzad Faryadi	M	119	32
Sarah Krueger	F	118	36
Mary Gibbs	F	115	20
Mary Noble Braden	F	115	20
April Johnson Natalie Rogers	F F	104 104	32 32
Elianna D Meiners	F	100	17
Eliza K Meiners	F	100	17
Amy Kerrigan	F	89	27
Danielle (Dani) Sevel	F F	85	20
Katie Hixson Ethne Broyles	F	84 84	25 25
Parker Hixson	М	84	25
Mallory Clayton	F	80	25
Patrick Vaughan	M	78	25
Jennifer Owens Jamie Seaton	F F	77 76	24 23
Bryna Stevenson	F	75	25
Austin Teece	М	75	25
Curtis Ullerich	M	75	25
Kirsten Kanarr	F .	72	21



Lori Lyttle at Biltmore



Lauren Bilsky and Jamie Martines at Biltmore



Roberto and Page Drucker at Coolest



Steve Anderson at Coolest

Photos: Becky Pearman, Rick O'Donnell

Rider	Gender		
Brett Benzer	M	72	21
Steven Anderson Marlena Gerhard	M F	71 67	23 21
Marlene Moss	F	62	21
Anna Williams	F	50	18
Kailey Williams	F	50	18
Ellie Drucker	F	50	18
Peyton Robinett	F	50	18
Melissa Harris	F	50	18
Alejandra Sequeira	F	50	18
Abigail Picou	F	50	11
Susan Bertch	F	50	9
Lindsey E. Gunzburger Leonie S. Gunzburger	F F	50 50	9
Elsie J. Gunzburger	F	50	9
Ingrid Sander	M	43	12
Melissa Hoose	F	40	25
Angela Kemerer	F	37	12
Tiffany Hicks	F	37	12
Mari Smultea	F	37	11
Olivia Smultea-Bates	F	37	11
Jesha Marcy-Quay	F	36	15
Blake Patterson	M	36	15
Kate Kane	F	36	15
Liz Moran	F	36	15 10
Christian Meeder Jamie Martines	M F	36 36	10
Melinda Faubel Newton	F	35	13
Maya Tantuwaya	F	35	13
Hannah Kerr	F	34	12
Daniel Kerr	M	34	12
Stace Moss	F	34	11
David Steckler	М	34	11
Becky Pearman	F	34	17
Amanda Rodiek	F	34	17
Amelia Young	F	33	15
Melissa Filiaggi	F	33	15
Karen Grove	F	33	15
Emily Cortez	F	32 32	13 13
Charlotte Cortez Melissa Montgomery	F F	32 32	13
Mia Clegg	F	32	13
Cristopher Stephens	M	31	12
Michele Scheerer	F	31	12
Drew Enes	M	31	11
Tara Quinn	F	31	11
Yvonne Kuder	F	30	10
Charleen (Charly) Dugan	F	30	10
Ashley Peska	F	30	10
Page Drucker	F	25	9
Kellie Ramirez Jill Tobia	F F	25 25	9
Leslie Jenkins	F	25 25	9
William Jenkins	M	25	9
Emily Fry	F	25	9
Elijah Bokman	M	25	9
Kyle Sim	М	25	9
Anthony Larranaga	M	25	9
Ella Rose	F	25	9
Jennifer Weaver	F	25	9
Karen Chaton	F	25	9
Michelle Harris	F	25	9
Sofia Garden	F F	25	9
Holly Neu Easton Neu	M	25 25	9
Jaclyn Reed	F	25 25	9
Ashlynn Reed	F	25	9
Andrew Murray	M	25	6
Maisyn Murray	F	25	6
Brandi Picou	F	25	6
Wyatt Picou	М	25	6
Elizabeth Picou	F	25	6
Saia Harmon	F	25	5
Penny Bonhaus	F	25	5
Judah Landers	M	25	5
Alexa Hinson	F F	25 6	5 25
Ashley Bear Mike Christopher	M	6	25 25
		J	23

2023 Ride & Tie Overall Team Points

		_0_0	, 111	ac
Partner 1	Partner 2	Division	Points	Miles
Janice Heltibridle	Ellen Hart	W/W	1024	407
Barbara Mathews	Chris Lang	M/W	912	321
Courtney Krueger	Mark N. Landers	M/M	798	274
Barbara Mathews	Martha Nelson	W/W	694	202
Carrie Baris	Chris Lang	M/W	613	204
Kelly Pults	Chris Lang	M/W	314	92
Kelly Pults	Lessie Skiba	W/W	260	85
Kimberly Stephens	Adrianne Diehl	W/W	254	96
Dave Venable	Richard Koup	M/M	225	75
Carrie Baris	Catherine Gray	W/W	205	45
Rhonda Venable	Renee Brachfeld	W/W	190	45
Rob Harris	Lessie Skiba	M/W	189	52
Rhonda Venable	Dave Venable	M/W	189	62
Chris Wolfersheim	Matthew Child	M/W	172	58
Carrie Baris	Katie Oden	w/w	160	55
Janice Heltibridle	Quinn Roske	w/w	147	50
Holly Wormsley	Jacquelyn Morgan	w/w	138	35
Lily Braden	Reid Pomeroy	w/w	136	34
Mark N. Landers	Katie Ruth Tucker	M/W	131	41
Carrie Baris	Trevor Cook	M/W	130	40
Jordan Helmick	Lauren S Bilsky	M/W	127	42
Meta Sadlon	Kristy Smith	W/W	122	48
Sara Boelt	Annabelle Unguris	W/W	120	25
Bailey Estes	Maci Robbins	W/W	120	25
Lilah Bleier	Cera owens	W/W	120	25
Lori Lyttle	Ashley Calvin	w/w	118	45
Barbara Mathews	Carrie Baris	w/w	118	45
Alison Zeytoonian	Chelsea Zeytoonian	W/W	115	20
Kat Fraboni	Kimber Jones	W/W	115	20
Liara Gonzalez	Catherine Gray	W/W	109	32
Carrie Baris	Alison Zeytoonian	W/W	104	32
Elianna D Meiners	Eliza K Meiners	W/W	100	17
Mary Gibbs	Mary Noble Braden	W/W	100	20
Renee Brachfeld	Julianne Routten	W/W	99	32
Courtney Krueger	Sarah Krueger	M/W	98	36
Addy Hartman	Adalyah Osteen	W/W	95	20
Kevin Townsend	Farzad Faryadi	M/M	94	32
April Johnson	Natalie Rogers	W/W	94	32
Carrie Baris	Courtney Krueger	M/W	85	30
Rhonda Venable	Courtney Krueger	M/W	85	30
Mark N. Landers	Amy Kerrigan	M/W	79	27
Barbara Mathews	Lisa Broyles	W/W	79	27
Katie Oden	Mallory Clayton	W/W	75	25
Bryna Stevenson	Austin Teece	M/W	75	25
Rhonda Venable	Julianne Routten	w/w	75	25
Dave Venable	Courtney Krueger	M/M	75	25
Ellen Hart	Danielle (Dani) Sevel	W/W	75	20
George Hall	Curtis Ullerich	M/M	75	25
Janice Heltibridle	Lauren S Bilsky	W/W	75	25
Carrie Baris	Katie Ruth Tucker	W/W	75	25
Carrie Baris	Lisa Broyles	W/W	75	30
	,	,		50



Partner 1	Partner 2	District	D=!+-	N#:1
Kirsten Kanarr	Brett Benzer	Division M/W	72	Miles 21
Sara Boelt	Jennifer Owens	W/W	71	24
Andrew Gerhard	Jamie Seaton	M/W	71	23
George Hall	Steven Anderson	M/M	71	23
Ellen Hart	Patrick Vaughan	M/W	69	25
Andrew Gerhard	Marlena Gerhard	M/W	67	21
Lisa Broyles	Ethne Broyles	W/W	56	20
Katie Hixson	Parker Hixson	M/W	53	20
Susan Bertch	Leonie S. Gunzburger	W/W	50	9
Lindsey E. Gunzburger	Elsie J. Gunzburger	W/W	50	9
Ellie Drucker	Alejandra Sequeira	W/W	50	18
Peyton Robinett	Melissa Harris	W/W	50	18
Anna Williams	Kailey Williams	W/W	50	18
Sara Boelt	Lilah Bleier	W/W	41	14
Bailey Estes	Addy Hartman	W/W	41	14
Annabelle Unguris	Maci Robbins	W/W	41	14
Rhonda Venable	Melissa Hoose	W/W	37	12
Angela Kemerer	Tiffany Hicks	W/W	37	12
Jesha Marcy-Quay	Blake Patterson	M/W	36	15
Renee Brachfeld	Kelly Pults	W/W	36	15
Kate Kane	Liz Moran	W/W	36	15
Melinda Faubel Newton	Maya Tantuwaya	W/W	35	13
Ingrid Sander	Reid Pomeroy	M/W	34	12
Maci Robbins	Adalyah Osteen	W/W	34	12
Mari Smultea	Olivia Smultea-Bates	W/W	34	11
Hannah Kerr	Daniel Kerr	M/W	34	12
Becky Pearman	Amanda Rodiek	W/W	34	17
Amelia Young	Melissa Filiaggi	W/W	33	15
Renee Brachfeld	Karen Grove	W/W	33	15
Emily Cortez	Charlotte Cortez	W/W	32	13
Melissa Montgomery	Mia Clegg	W/W	32	13
Stace Moss	David Steckler	M/W	31	11
Tara Quinn	Marlene Moss	W/W	31	11
Cristopher Stephens	Michele Scheerer	M/W	31	12
Yvonne Kuder	Charleen (Charly) Dugan		30	10
Christian Meeder	Jamie Martines	M/W	30	10
Rhonda Venable	Ashley Peska	W/W	30	10
Drew Enes	Marlene Moss	M/W	28	11
Lisa Broyles	Parker Hixson	M/W	25	5
Katie Hixson	Ethne Broyles	W/W	25	5
Saia Harmon	Abigail Picou	W/W	25	5
Leslie Jenkins	William Jenkins	M/W	25	9
Kellie Ramirez	Emily Fry	W/W	25	9
Page Drucker	Jill Tobia	W/W	25	9
Ashley Bear	Mike Christopher	M/W	25	6
Andrew Murray	Maisyn Murray	M/W	25	6
Brandi Picou	Wyatt Picou	M/W	25	6
Abigail Picou	Elizabeth Picou	W/W	25	6
_		W/W	25	5
Reid Pomeroy	Addy Hartman	W/W		5
Lily Braden	Addy Hartman		25	5
Penny Bonhaus	Judah Landers	M/W M/W	25 25	5
Courtney Krueger	Alexa Hinson			
Kyle Sim	Elijah Bokman	M/M	25	9
Anthony Larranaga	Ella Rose	M/W	25	9
Jennifer Weaver	Karen Chaton	W/W	25	9
Sofia Garden	Michelle Harris	W/W	25	9
Holly Neu	Easton Neu	M/W	25	9
Jaclyn Reed	Ashlynn Reed	W/W	25	9

Dave Venable and Mary Gibbs model gear available in the Ride & Tie Store

www.rideandtie.org/store





2023 Ride & Tie Horse Points and Mileage

2023 Mac a Tie Horse I omes and whieage							
Owner	Horse	Points N	Viles	Owner	Horse	Points	Miles
J.Heltibridle	Rush Creek Bobby	1268	467	M.Sadlon	Secrets	33	16
B.Mathews	After While Crocodile	1510	450	A.Young	Hasan Al Azak (zak)	33	15
B.Mathews	FYF Riding Under the Influenc (Dream)	918	295	A.Murray	Just a Little More (Aries)	33	15
R.Venable	Dakota	804	222	K.Kane	Haldor	36	15
M.Landers	Kevlar	749	216	C.Wolfersheim	Thorn	32	14
C.Lang	Speedy Blue (Blue)	818	214	K.Hixson	Stormy	50	13
C.Baris	Comets Kurino	633	194	M.Faubel	TKR Triforta/Farley	35	13
L.Krueger	Dakota Charm	587	178	E.Cortez	Reno	32	13
R.Venable	Ray	604	139	M.Montgomery	Kit Kat	32	13
R.Venable	Rumor Has It	340	107	K.Hixson	Keven	34	12
S.Boelt	Teaoka Bopp	233	63	A.Kemerer	Rackin Randy	37	12
K.Stephens	Crockett	160	59	H.Kerr	Coto Bluegrass	34	12
S.Boelt	In Your Pocket	219	51	M.Smultea	Magic Prima	37	11
J.Heltibridle	Maverick (Mac)	159	50	T.Quinn	Al-Marah Cash Racer "Cash"	31	11
K.Stephens	Bellize	128	49) SA Alamo	31	11
G.Hall	Little Joe	146	48	Y.Kuder	Cue Ball	30	10
S.Boelt	Arne	194	46	C.Wolfersheim	Marley	30	10
A.Gerhard	Chndakas Advocate	143	44	J.Martines	Dulce	36	10
C.Wolfersheim	Ginger	135	43	L.Lyttle	Slate	30	10
L.Bannon	Ritz	133	43	J.Heltibridle	Tamburitza	39	10
L.Bilsky	Miss Sugar	150	42	L.Gunzburger	Marcel	50	9
A.Murray	Texas	181	40	K.Ramirez	Finnigan	25	9
S.Boelt	JJ	151	34	L.Jackson	Cash	25	9
C.Federighi	Lily Creek Bakari	139	32	J.Tobia	Flora	25	9
F.Faryadi	Eros BF	119	32	B.Guyer	Prince	25	9
A.Johnson	Leonidas Shooting Star	104	32	J.Brewer	Jassie	25	9
L.Lyttle	Ulyuzzez	66	26	J.Ainsworth	Song Singer	25	9
B.Stevenson	Mercury	75	25	K.Chanton	VG Ben Jovi "Jovi"	25	9
S.Boelt	Zack	135	25	M.Harris	Mandy	25	9
B.Benzer	Apollo	72	21	H.Neu	Oliver	25	9
C.Federighi	Lily Creek Piper	155	20	J.Reed	Hot Pockets	25	9
A.Zeytoonian	VooDoo Child (Jimmie)	135	20	K.Hixson	Anid AL Martrah	25	8
C.Wolfersheim	Blue	130	20	A.Bear	Moses Yoder	25	6
M.Gibbs	Shawnee Sail Away	115	20	M.Murray	Chief	25	6
P.Drucker	Minnow	50	18	B.Picou	Royal	25	6
M.Harris	Willow	50	18	B.Picou	Mica	25	6
A.Williams	Ferdinand	50	18	S.Bertch	Etta	25	5
L.Broyles	Leo	59	17	S.Boelt	SHF Baasro	25	5
A.Meiners	Prince Louie	100	17	S.Boelt	Hugo	25	5
A.Rodieck	Bucket	34	17	S.Bertch	Santana	25	4



Barb Mathews and Gator at Iron Mountain



R&T Head Vet Greg Fellers with Kevin and Ann Townsend At the 51st World Championship



Alison Zeytoonian and Jimmie at the 51st World Championship



Team Gunzburger at Big South Fork

2023 Equathon Horse Points and Mileage

	2023	Lqua	LII
Owner	Horse	Points	Miles
R.Venable	Rumor Has It	196.5	73
A.Zeytoonian	VooDoo Child (Jimmie)	231	68
M.Gibbs	Shawnee Sail Away	151	56
R.Venable	Dakota	184	52
A.Bear	Moses Yoder	140	45
E.Blumenfeld	Tux	193	44
E.Blumenfeld	Keen	173	44
M.Stein	Moutte	153	44
P.Peace	Maverick	138	44
N.Rogers	Tucker	136	43
A.O'Brien	Maple	77	36
A.Murray	Texas	112	34
C.Kenney	Ferguson	85	30
A.Llop	Kiss	90	30
N.Gonzalez	Hazel Hatfield	73	28
L.Lyttle	Slate	90	28
H.Stacy	Soczar SB "Chip"	78	24
A.Kemerer	HPF Magia Vizio "Sparty'	73	24
A.Murray	Merlin	60	22
S.Bowling	Rush Creek Swoosh	94	22
S.Finstone	Fancy Pants	89	22
S.Finston	Patricks Fire	74	22
0	Batman	69	22
M.Montgomery	Frosty	84	22
G.Orth	One Tough Tiger	79	22
C.Holben	Cody	69	22
C.Trinidad	Rhonda Jane	70	20
A.Bensfield	Pipers Glory TJH	65	20
A.Kerrigan	Baasha	70	20
0	Gunn and Roses	65	20
B.Stevenson	Whisper Streams Allie	65	20
A.Johnson	Leonidas Shooting Star	75	20
A.Townsend	Nessie	70	20
C.Wolfersheim	Thorn	130	20
A.Whelan	Moliero	125	20
M.Landers	Kevlar	120	20
C.Federighi	Lily Creek Piper	115	20
C.Baris	Comets Kurino	110	20
S.Newman	Shakir Al Shaqab	105	20





Owner	Horse	Points	Mile
R.Venable	Ray	100	20
B.Picou	Mica	90	20
B.Picou	Royal	75	20
J.Schoech	, Kit	70	20
S.Amedure	Jacob	65	20
L.Begovich	Prize	58	18
L.Begovich	Target	55	18
S.Smyth	Ac Zepplin "Steve"	52	18
S.Smyth	Evans Corinith "Cora"	49	18
C.Cherenson	Oreo	46	18
K.Vrablick	Rustyam	43	18
D.Chapek	DC Smokeless Wardance	40	18
S.Nelson	Ruby	37	18
C.Black	Echos Tango	34	18
H.Stacy	Levi Stoltzfus	37	18
H.Aloor	Napoleon HCV	40	18
C.Locker	Baltimores Raven "Wally"	40	18
K.Grove	Nimrod	37	18
A.Kemerer	Rackin Randy	37	18
J.Oshiro	Lady	49	18
T.Gray	Olly	46	18
C.Gray	Mystery	43	18
K.Vanderbilt	Jessie	40	18
P.Drucker	Clouser	37	18
M.Long	Blue Ceese	34	18
P.Jackson	Aul	86	18
J.Wolf	Stevie Nicks	80	18
M.Muscat	Charlie Brown	74	18
L.Miller	Willow	74	18
D.Smith	Baby	40	18
R.Howze	Belle	40	18
K.Lowrey	Spyder	37	18
K.Borst	Indy	44	14
A.Murray	Just a Little More (Aries)	38	14
L.Fletcher	Smart Sebastian	32	13
C.Downey	She's Got Charisma	31	12
L.Bayles	Rare Earth Xander	30	10
D.Borst	Smokey	25	8
	0 All Sba	25	8
	0 Jesse	25	8











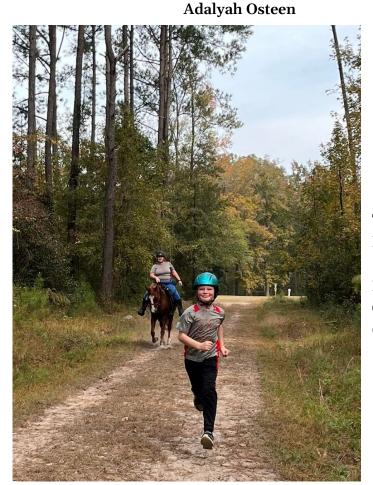
JUNIOR COMPETITOR MILEAGE AWARP

37

This is the first year we have offered awards to our Junior Competitors.

The Association is awarding hydration packs to the ten Juniors with the most miles

ompleted in 2023.	<u>Name</u>	<u> 2023 Miles</u>
	Matthew Child	58
	Reid Pomeroy	51
	Maci Robbins	51
	Quinn Roske	50
	Lily Braden	39
	Lilah Bleier	39
	Bailey Estes	39
	Addy Hartman	39
	Annabelle Unguris	39



Matthew Child Junior High Mileage Champion

The top junior in 2023 was ten year old Matthew Child. Matthew competed in seven races and amassed 58 miles.

Matthew now shares a neat distinction with his mother Chris Wolfersheim. Back in 2010 Chris earned the Overall National Junior AERC Champion Award.

Photo: Carrie Baris



2023 ANNUAL AWARDS

JUNIOR COMPETITOR MILEAGE AWARD WINNERS



Matthew Child



Adalyah Osteen (L) and Reid Pomeroy (R)



Maci Robbins



Addy Hartman



Annabelle Unguris



Lily Braden



Bailey Estes



Quinn Roske



Photos: Becky Pearman, Suzanne Roske



Lilah Bleier





Hannah, Ashley AND Mo are all smiles!

How did you first get involved in Equathon

BY ACCIDENT! Literally...

I (Ashley) always admired the runners, so I wanted to give it a try. I signed up for a 12 mile / 6mile Equathon at Old Dominion. Unfortunately, my horse Levi Stoltzfus (an ex-Amish buggy horse) was injured during the endurance ride the day before, and he couldn't compete in the Equathon the next day. But...Hannah was still there and had her horse, CO2. Hannah is always up for new things; she signs her poor husband up for new activities weekly and makes him participate (willing or not), so why wouldn't she want to do R&T!? She was all in and rode the 12 while I ran the 6. We loved it! Needless to say, we both went to the R&T weekend, and Hannah and I signed our husbands up to do the Ride and Tie with us. That was the only time our husbands said they would do it (although we are keeping them on our "family" R&T membership); here's to hoping.

Unfortunately, Hannah's horse Co2 was injured at a ride a few weeks later. As mentioned above, Hannah has nerves of steel, doesn't quit, and embraces new challenges. She volunteered to ride my new "green" 5 year- old halflinger/quarter horse, Moses ("Mo" for short). I said I'd run. We make quite an unconventional, buffoonish team, but it works for us and we both promise not to take ourselves too seriously.

What are some memorable races from 2023?

2023 was our first year out on the trail for R&T. We absolutely loved the R&T weekend at Old Dominion, where our husbands "offered" to compete with us. Upon coming back to camp, we dealt with a possible broken foot (my husband) after Mo stepped on him from a spook out on trail; and severe nipple chaffing (Hannah's husband), for which I gave him some cool-mint ChapStick to apply to the affected areas. One thing we learned about the R&T community: they have the best sense of humor and know how to have a good time!

We ended our R&T season at Fort Valley. Hannah rode Mo 15 miles and I ran 10 miles. It poured down rain that day. Hannah took it slow with Mo and when I got in about 90 minutes before her, I started to worry. We sent out an unofficial search party and found Hannah and Mo in deep conversation about manners and etiquette as they walked across the finish line. Mo is a "baby" after all.

We can't wait for 2024 season and hope to start off at Foxcatcher with Mo, Levi and CO2!



Top Iron Equathon 328 points 73 miles







Champions don't let the weather stop them

Rick switched from Ride & Tie to Equathon in 2020 after turning 70 and having two knee replacements. He says with a laugh, "I was too slow to be anyone's Ride & Tie partner." This year the now 73 year old earned the Top Iron Equathon Award. He says that the Championship race at Biltmore (the only "non-iron" race he competed in this year) was the most exciting Equathon he has ever been in. Eight horses cantered through nearly the entire twelve mile loop. Rick says his plan was to walk/trot Piper in to the Vet Check but because both he, Piper, and the "herd" were all so excited he cantered in with all the rest. He enjoyed the variety of courses that he competed on this year. Broxton and Ride in the Pines were flat and sandy. He enjoyed the flat but said that the sand makes it quite challenging to run in both for the horse and when on foot. Old Dominion is always "the Beast of the East." He says he really likes doing Equathon at Fort Valley (site of the 2024 East Coast Regional Championship) because with Equathon you don't have to run or ride on the very technical first loop! His mount for all of his Iron races this year was Rumor Has It owned by Rhonda Venable. He says "I love Rumor. We just connect. You will rarely see me riding him when I'm not smiling. "Rick's wife died in 2021. "At first I felt abandoned, but the Ride & Tie community was right there for me. The Venables, Alison Zeytoonian, and Karen Sclater have all let me ride their horses. When I ride, it is just really good for me."



EQUATHON
2023 ANNUAL AWARDS
HORSE OF THE YEAR
Rumor Has It
75 Miles

Rick Noer on Rumor at Ride in the Pines

21

2023 Equathon Team Points

EOI	TAT	TIC	TAC
EQU		П	JIN

2023 Equa		E	QUA	
Partner 1	Partner 2	Class	Points	Miles
Hannah Kerr	Ashley Bear	W/W	174	63
Eve Blumenfeld	Kelsey Bradanini	W/W	158	44
Hannah Firth	Marina Stein	W/W	148	44
Chris Lang	Chris Wolfersheim	M/W	90	20
Katie Ruth Tucker	Stephanie Bonhaus	w/w	90	20
Turner Boone	Quentin Llop	M/M	85	30
Amy Whelan	Jerry Whelan	M/W	85	20
Laney Baris	, Carrie Baris	w/w	85	20
, Heidi Smith	Kurtis Lawson	M/W	84	22
Marbie Kollath	Clarke Martin	w/w	80	20
Rhonda Venable	Rob Harris	M/W	80	20
Kyle Bakewell	Evelyn Mitsuda	M/W	79	22
Annette Phillips	Steven Clegg	M/W	79	22
Melissa Hoose	Lessie Skiba	w/w	75	20
Abigail Picou	Chase Perkins	M/W	75	20
Alex Finston	Charlotte Phillips	M/W	74	22
Rachel Miura	Kim Couch	W/W	74	22
Gerritt Vremon	Gulia Orth	M/W	74	22
Ashley Bear	Angela Kemerer	W/W	73	24
Christy Trinidad	Jamie Martines	W/W	70	20
Richard Noer	Dean Landers	M/M	70	20
Alison Zeytoonian	Chelsea Zeytoonian	W/W	70	20
Blake Patterson	Holly Wormsley	M/W	70	20
Sharon Finston	Robert Finston	M/W	69	22
Jalissa Michaelis	Alexandra Rogers	W/W	69	22
Steven Anderson	Carrie Holben	M/W	69	22
Nicole C Gonzalez	Meredith Parks	W/W	67	28
Ashley Bensfield	Rochelle (Chelle) Anderson	W/W	65	20
Brandi Picou	Zachary Picou	M/W	65	20
Stagg Newman	Joe Schoech	M/M	65	20
Lori Lyttle	Ashley Calvin	W/W		20
Liz Begovich	Brett Benzer	M/W		18
Megan Zimmerman	John Zimmermann	M/W		18
Audrey Hanson	Olivia Swift	W/W		18
Jordynn Oshiro	Kenzie MacPhail	W/W	43	18
Sandy Smyth	Gerritt Vremon	M/W	40	18
Kathy Vrablick	Sara Huntsman	W/W	40	18
Kelsey Purvines	Lauren Gervaise	W/W	40	18
Kayla Borst	Austin Estes	M/W	38	14
Cassidy Cherenson	Ryan Cherenson	M/W	37	18
Dianna Chapek	Michelle Brown	W/W	37	18
Tabetha Grey	Curtis Ullerich	M/W	37	18
Kathleen Vanderbilt	Helen Martin	W/W	37	18
Dayna Smith	Shanna Howze	W/W	37	18
Andrew Murray	Jacquelyn Morgan	M/W	35	14
Chloe Black	Daniel Cooper	M/W	34	18
Michaelea Benuzzi	Shannon D Nelson	W/W	34	18
Camryn L Downey	Carla Downey	W/W	34	12
Hannah Kerr		W/W	34	18
Mackenzie Hicks	Sandy Cook Michael Hicks	M/W	34 34	18
		M/W		
Page Drucker	Roberto Sequeira		34 34	18 18
Karinne Parker	Mackenzie Long	W/W	34	18
Robin Howze	Garrett Howze	M/W	34	18 18
Kerry Lowrey	Mary Anne Fryer	W/W	34	
Kara Telfer	Holly Wormsley	W/W	32	14
Blake Patterson	Abigail Picou	M/W	32	14
Lauren Fletcher	Dwight Bishop	M/W	32	13
Erin L McCardell Jamie Willburn	Lara Bayles	W/W	30 25	10
Jamie Willburn	Sierra Willburn	W/W	25	8



Brett Benzer powering his way to a win at Coolest in June

2023 Iron Equathon Points

Name	Gender	Points	Miles
Richard Noer	M	328	73
Alison Zeytoonian	F	219	48
Pam Peace	F	217	44
Mary Gibbs	F	188	56
Lessie Skiba	F	178	32
Natalie Rogers	F	136	43
Sarah Amedure	F	130	20
Patricia Jackson	F	111	26
Claire Kenney	F	85	30
Jeanine Wolf	F	80	18
Sarah Delia	F	78	24
Anna O'Brien	F	77	36
April Johnson	F	75	20
Marissa Muscat	F	74	18
Leigh Wayne Miller	F	74	18
Amy Kerrigan	F	70	20
Ann Townsend	F	70	20
ShaoLan Lew Smith	F	65	20
Bryna Stevenson	F	65	20
Heather Aloor	F	40	18
Casey Locker	F	40	18
Karen Grove	F	37	18
Andrew Murray	M	25	8
Donna Borst	F	25	8
Lori Lyttle	F	25	8

Photo: Rick O'Donnell





How did you first get involved in Ride & Tie? My sister got me involved in Ride & Tie back in 1994

What are some memorable races from your career? The events that stand out for me are my 100 mile completions/attempts: Swanton Pacific (2000 and 2001); Old Dominion (2018, 2019, 2021 and 2023); Iron Mountain (2023); and JDs (2018, 2023); as well as the 2021 East Coast Regional Championship and the 2023 World Championship.



How did you first get involved in Ride & Tie

My first Ride and Tie race was at Big South Fork. I had been doing endurance with AERC for several years and Ride and Tie presented a challenge. Over that 30-mile race I got hooked on the ever-changing dynamics of the race.

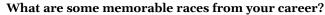
What are some memorable races from your career?

No single race stands out in my mind. The memories I cherish are those of time with my horses and friends on all the beautiful trails we have the privilege to compete.



How did you first get involved in Ride & Tie?

I was not an equestrian at all in 2010 until my then 14 year old daughter found out about Ride & Tie and approached me saying, "Dad, if you will learn how to ride, I will start running and we can be a team." I couldn't refuse an offer to be on a team with my teenage daughter. The rest is history!



In 2011 we nearly ended Sarah's and my career at our second-ever race when our horse Cruise got loose from a tie and disappeared into the Big South Fork Wilderness for more than six hours. A wonderful endurance rider happened to find him and ponied him back to camp. Two days later we tried again. About a half a mile from the end of the race, we caught the second place team of Liara Gonzalez and Stacie Boswell. They beat us to the finish by only five seconds and we were third out of eight. That's when the competitive Ride & Tie bug bit me!

In 2016 my brother-in-law and partner Mark Landers were vying for the Man-Man Points Championship. It all came down to the final race at Clemson. Our competitors were Perrie Summers and Jarvis Pickins. We didn't have to win the race, just finish ahead of them. I never have been so jacked at the start of a race before or since. Greg Quarles took a photo of Cruise and me leading the pack at the start of the race that ended up being featured on at least two championship posters. Mark and I pushed hard the whole race and came in with our first Man-Man title.



How did you first get involved in Ride & Tie?

I have always been a runner and had heard of Ride & Tie, but never thought it was something I would get a chance to do. After watching some friends compete at the OD night ride in 2013, my wife convinced Carol Federighi to give me riding lessons. I had never ridden before but Carol put me on Stetson, gave me some basic instructions, and then turned me loose to ride her horses whenever I wanted. I was hooked after my first R&T that year at Fort Valley but it took me a few years before I was more than just a passenger on the horse.



I think my most famous race was the OD in 2015 when, upon seeing Becky Pearman, my horse Miss Kris spooked and jumped up and away, allowing Becky to catch me in mid air as I did an unscheduled and ungraceful dismount. The first thing I said when getting back on my feet was "please do not print that picture". Of course Becky did not listen to me and I am glad she didn't. I think everyone else in the race that day bought a copy of that picture to give to me as a souvenir. The only consolation is that Renee Brachfeld and I went on to win the race that day.

In the 2017 World Championship at Orkney Springs, Lindsey Scherer and I were determined to finish well (after a DNF the year before at Big South Fork). After starting well, Lindsey went off course at mile 5.5 and I unknowingly passed her on Stetson. I rode much too far before realizing what happened and tying Stetson. That mistake cost us as I had to wait for Lindsey and Stetson at the first vet check while other teams came through. Despite this set back we spent the rest of the race slowly reeling in the competition. We finally caught and passed Mark Landers and Courtney Krueger with less than a mile to go. We ended up third, which was a victory for us, all things considered.





CAREER MILEAGE CLUBS

1,000 Mile Club

Wayne Hinrichs	1977
Tom Johnson	1976
Russ Kiernan	1945
Dave Andreotti	1880
Skip Lightfoot	1858
Frank Lieberman	1830
Richard Noer	1781
Karen Isaacs	1765
Chris Lang	1741
Steven Anderson	1705
Carol Ruprecht	1680
Lon Clearwaters	1666
Beth Brinkley	1642
Elaine Ruprecht	1628
Paul Robinson	1617
Tim Hinrichs	1614
Gary Webb	1609
Mark N. Landers	1587
Byron Grant	1577
Ben Volk	1540
Gunilla Pratt	1538
Michael Whelan	1537
Ellen Hart	1535
Lew Hollander	1465
Jean Whitman	1464
Arleene Foster	1460
Laurie Wilson	1434
Dan Barger	1426

Closing in on 1,000

Robin Hinrichs	997
Gail Lynch	974
David Tarpinian	958
Lanny Brown	957
Alison Zeytoonian	954
Judy Teichman	948
Chet Relyea	948
Susan Smyth	928
Joan Ruprecht	926
Barrie Grant	913
Bill Johnson	913
Jim Brown	901

James Clover	1397			
Robert Eichstaedt	1353			
Jonathan Jordan	1334			
Tom Christofk	1314			
Ted Ruprecht	1276			
Liara Gonzalez	1265			
Chuck Stalley	1250			
Leslie Yates	1249			
Melissa Hoose	1245			
Jeff Windeshausen	1240			
Jeff Townsend	1232			
David Foster	1230			
Gino Pomilia	1192			
Dennis Tracy	1186			
Annette Parsons	1185			
Melanie Weir	1183			
Paul Rink	1177			
Cindy Webb	1104			
Kate Kane	1044			
Richard Koup	1029			
Susan Simons	1025			
Cheryl Domnitch	1002			



2,000 Mile Club

Pat Browning	2820		
Warren Hellman	2772		
George Hall	2761		
Mary Tiscornia	2741		
Mark Richtman	2655		
Chris Turney	2585		
Thomas Gey	2552		
Rufus Schneider	2542		
Dennis Rinde	2499		
John Osterweis	2313		
Curt Riffle	2303		
Jim Howard	2177		
Steve Shaw	2106		
Jon Root	2019		
Don Betts	2011		

3,000 Mile Club

Kathy Broaddus	3800
Carrie Baris	3615
Dave Venable	3513
Rhonda Venable	3468
Ellen Rinde	3132
Courtney Krueger	3070

4,000 Mile	Club
Lani Newcomb	4101
Barbara Mathews	4001

6,000 Mile Club

Janice	Heltibridle	6102
Ottlite	ALCICIOTICE C	010

Competed in 2023

Joined the Club in 2023



HORSE OF DISTINCTION

The Horse of Distinction award was established in 2009 to honor horses who have distinguished themselves in the sport of Ride & Tie by making a significant contribution to the sport. In early 2021 it was brought to the attention of the Ride and Tie Board that it had been around 10 years since "The Horse of Distinction" award had been presented. It was agreed that some of the original criteria would need to be changed to accommodate the growth and changes in the sport, and the 8 categories below were agreed upon. The various categories merit points. 30 points qualifies for the award.

- Number of Ride & Ties completed
- Number of different riders/teams the horse has competed with
- Overall career mileage
- Number of Ride & Tie Championships completed
- Number of Best Conditions
- Number of career years participating in the sport
- Number of First Place finishes
- Number of Top Ten finishes (less any First-Place finishes)

You can see previous award winners at www.rideandtie.org/awards/horse-of-distinction

In 2023 Dakotas Charm (Coda) owned by Lea Krueger qualified to become the 19th Ride & Tie Horse of Distinction. Lea also owns Davana Tom Cat (Cruise) who is another Ride & Tie Horse of Distinction. The chart below lists horses who are approaching the criteria for the award.

Horse / Owner	Races	Teams	Miles	Championships / BC	Years	First Plac- es/Top Tens	Total Score
Coda/L. Krueger	36	9	871	5/0	5	20/15	30
Kevlar/M. Landers	36	8	838	3/0	5	12/24	27
Comet/C. Baris	27	12	712	2/0	5	9/18	25
Rush Creek Bobby/ J. Heltibridle	19	7	774	2/2	3	15/4	22
Rumor/ R. Venable	20	18	398	3/0	3	3/15	20



Coda with Courtney Krueger, Mark Landers, and Lea Krueger at the 2023 World Championship Photo: Becky Pearman



Newsletter Editor: Courtney Krueger ckrueger@rideandtie.org

Board of Directors

Officers

President:Chris Amaral (2024)trots4long@yahoo.comVice President:Sarah Boelt (2024)lighterrat@gmail.comSecretary:Carrie Baris (2026)cbaris@rideandtie.orgTreasurer:Steve Anderson (2024)steve.anderson1@juno.com

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Rhonda Venable (2025) Sanctioning Officer

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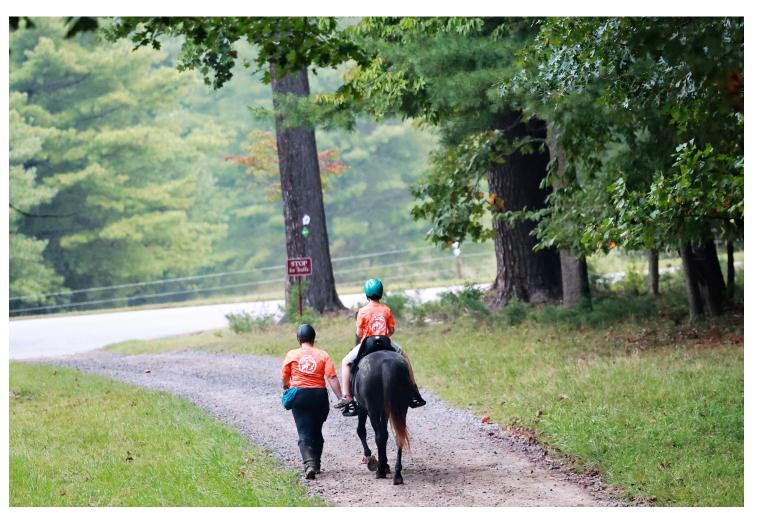
If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) to serve on the Board of Directors of the Ride & Tie Association, please submit a nomination to Ride & Tie Secretary Carrie Baris (cbaris@rideandtie.org) before March 12. For nominations to be considered they must include a picture of the nominee, a brief biography, and the reasons why you wish to serve/nominate this person.

The online election will be held from May 1—June 19.

The new Board of Directors will take office at the annual meeting on June 26.



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The "Back" Cover

Matthew Child, 2023 Junior Mileage Champion, with his partner and mother Chris Wolfersheim at the 51st World Championship at Biltmore

Photo: Becky Pearman





