



RIDE & TIE

50TH ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

September 2022



Erin Lohmeyer races through the redwoods on Troika

Photo by Dream Team Photography

The 50th World Championship R&T by Gunilla Pratt

The 50th World Championship R&T took place in Humboldt County at Cuneo Creek Horse Camp. The camp was absolutely beautiful. Campers were not alone. We had resident bears and deer that frequented the campsite.

I was impressed how so many new people participated; both R&T and Equathon. I was happy to see all the new faces. To my surprise we also had a lot of ride and tiers from the 70's and 80's who attended the championship. Some competed and others came to show their support. One of the oldest people who competed was Pat Browning at 83 years old. Yes he did run but his partner Rufus took on most of it. Pat did his first R&T in 1975

Sequoia Russ did an amazing job putting everything together. It could not have been any better than it was. If there were any hiccups, I did not see them. She had the most amazing food and plenty to go around for seconds. Thank you Sequoia.

Susan Smyth was instrumental in getting so many new people involved from her race in Cool, CA. Great Job Susan.

Rufus Schneider once again did an amazing job with the prizes.

All the volunteers were so happy and it rubbed off on everyone there. People seemed to be more friendly than ever before.



Pat Browning and Rufus Schneider



Jen Titus and Priscilla Anderson



Dr Greg Fellers

First place winners were Jen Titus and Priscilla Anderson on Missy. I had the pleasure of camping next to them. They had an entire group of supporters with them, including their dogs.

I was working the vet check the day before the race. When Jen and Priscilla presented Missy she was a little off. Dr Greg Fellers said it was not much and left it up to the team to decide if they wanted to compete.

When I went back to my trailer I stopped by and talked to Jen. She was about ready to scratch. Since Missy was older she was not sure she wanted to take the chance. I gave her a bit of advice I learned over the years. I suggested that since her horse was older and she had a long drive that maybe she was just a little stiff. I encouraged her to have Dr. Fellers check Missy out in the morning before making a final decision. Well this story has a great ending because Missy was amazing and brought her team into first place. The bonus of this story is that this was the first championship for the team of Jen and Priscilla, though this was Jen's fourth time competing in a Championship.

Dr. Greg Fellers has been vetting R&T for many years and is our head vet. His passion and love for R&T and horses has kept him coming back. I would have to say that he gets the award for the most dedicated veterinarian to R&T. I found out the first R&T that he vetted was in 1974 at Browns R&T.

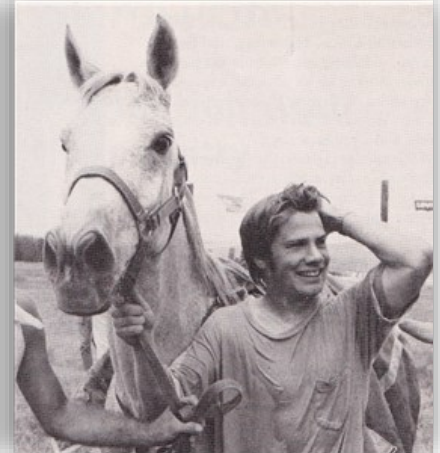
Chuck Stalley has to be one of the most amazing people I know. Not only did he do the very first R&T, in 1971, but he was at the 50th to support his daughter, Alyssa. Chuck has worked very hard over the years for endurance and R&T. It was so amazing to have an icon like Chuck at the 50th. Chuck and I got to talking about his first race and he told me that Levi's put up big money for the winners. He said that he was running on the track team in college so they were not allowed to accept money. When he did his first race he used a different name that was later changed to his real name!



Nick Gonzales and Alyssa Stalley Gonzales riding KL Astral Symphony who was winner of the coveted "Best Conditioned" Award



Chuck Stalley today



Chuck Stalley in 1971

I have always loved how the Ruprecht family has supported R&T over the years. Ted and Joan Ruprecht started all of the madness of R&T which continues in their family. I had the opportunity to talk to both Joan and Ted. Ted is 90 years old and still moves around with ease. His mind is sharp and he has a great sense of humor. It was so nice of them to come in support their children and grandchildren. Sarah Howard Landrum (Ruprecht) and her husband Wyatt Landrum came in second place for the long course.



L-R: Wyatt Landrum, Jim Howard, Ted Ruprecht, Elaine Rupecht Howard, Joan Ruprecht, Sarah Landrum in front.



L-R: Cathy Mason, Jim Howard, Jim Clover and Drew Buechley.

Individuals who have completed at least one R&T World Championship, One Western States Trail Ride (Tevis cup), and one Western States 100 Mile Ultra Run are known as members of the "Triple Crown of Riding and Running." There are 39 people in this group. We had 4 of them at the championship. By completing the 50th championship Drew Buechley became the newest Triple Crown member.



33 mile Long Course Ride and Tie Results Saturday, July 30, 2022

Place	Div. Place	Time	Division	Horse	Horse Owner	Rider 1	Rider 2
1	1	4:26	W/W	Missy	Jennifer Titus	Jennifer Titus	Priscilla Anderson
2	1	4:31	M/W	Penny	Wyatt Landrum	Sarah Landrum	Wyatt Landrum
3	2	4:43	M/W	KL Astral Symphony	Rob Lydon	Alyssa Stalley Gonzalez	Nick Gonzalez
4	3	4:45	M/W	George	Michael Cortez	Michael Cortez	Meghan McNamara
5	2	4:46	W/W	Mojave Blace	Karon Dutcher	Carolyn Latham	Sherrie Reimers
6	4	5:09	M/W	Peter Sam	Elaine Ruprecht	Jim Howard	Elaine Ruprecht
7	3	5:12	W/W	Masterfol	Melissa Montgomery	Melissa Montgomery	Alissa Ware
8	5	5:17	M/W	Dixie	Diana Triscell	Diana Triscell	Drew Buechley
9	6	5:32	M/W	Troika	Erin Lohmeyer	Erin Lohmeyer	Tim Tubra
10	4	5:56	W/W	Kirby	Alison Dubois	Alison Dubois	Kayla Erler
11	7	6:00	M/W	Charlie	Pat Browning	Pat Browning	Rufus Schneider
12	8	6:00	M/W	Tucker	Jenny Bloor	Ben Westling	Jenny Bloor
13	9	6:06	M/W	Fortune	Chris Amaral	Chris Amaral	Carol Aron
14	5	6:46	W/W	Fritz The Kat	Siiri Berg	Pat Highlander	Siiri Berg
15	1	7:26	M/M	Little Joe	Geroge Hall	Steve Anderson	George Hall
16	6	7:35	W/W	Willow	Leigh Wayne Miller	Leigh Wayne Miller	Liz Begovich
17	10	7:44	M/W	Mika	Gunilla Pratt	Gunilla Pratt	Mike Whelan
18	7	8:05	W/W	Astano	Susan Smyth	Susan Smyth	Jennifer Monioz
19		PULL (lameness)	W/W	Jackson	Gunilla Pratt	Liz Perkin	Jessica Jacobs

22 mile Short Course Ride and Tie Results Saturday, July 30, 2022

Place	Div. Place	Time	Division	Horse	Horse Owner	Rider 1	Rider 2
1	1	3:38	W/W	Pegasus "Peggy"	Amber Oliver	Megan Zimmerman	Amber Oliver
2	2	3:59	W/W	Goose	Lauren Sizemore	Lauren Sizemore	Antonia Gorog
3	1	4:07	M/W	Cody	Carrie Holben	Carrie Holben	Kyle Bakewell
4	3	4:15	W/W	Minnow	Page Drucker	Page Drucker	Ellie Drucker

10/10 Long Course Equathon Friday, July 29, 2022

Place	Div. Place	Finish Time	Division	Horse	Horse Owner	Rider	Runner
1	2	2:36	M/W	Mojave Blaze	Karon Dutcher	Robert Finston	Carolyn Latham
2	3	2:45	M/W	Bodhizafa	Jennifer Bloor	Jenny Bloor	Ben Westling
3	6	2:49	W/W	Troika	Erin Lohmeyer	Erin Lohmeyer	Jodie Wood
4	4	2:51	M/W	Nefuso Grande RSI	Alex Niehaus	Alex Niehaus	Logan Groth
5	7	3:02	W/W	Anabelle	Sharon Finston	Sharon Finston	Carolyn Latham
6	1	3:03	IRON	Domino Black Jack	Stephanie Schlerf	Stephanie Schlerf	N/A
7	11	3:20	W/W	Pegasus 'Peggy'	Amber Oliver	Amber Oliver	Megan Zimmermann
8	8	3:45	W/W	Nic	Kelly Chadbourne	Jorie Chadborne	Iris Ward
9	5	3:46	M/W	Ivy	Annette Parsons	Annette Parsons	Jim Clover
10	2	3:48	IRON	Radio Flyer	Jon Niehaus	Jon Niehaus	N/A
11	3	3:49	IRON	Moniettassloar	Jennifer Niehaus	Jennifer Niehaus	N/A
12	4	4:09	IRON	Maverick	Pam Peace	Pam Peace	N/A
13	9	4:36	W/W	Astano	Susan Smyth	Susan Smyth	Cathy Mason
14	1	4:41	M/M	Kahana	Gunnilla Pratt	Mike Whelan	Gary Mason
15	10	4:59	W/W	Cody	Carrie Holben	Carrie Holben	Suzanne Amsbaugh
NA	NA	PULL	IRON	April	Marissa Bonivert	Marissa Bonivert	N/A

Short Course Equathon Friday, July 29, 2022

Place	Div. Place	Time	Division	Horse	Horse Owner	Rider	Runner
1	1	1:29	IRON	Sassy	Jessie Brewer	Jessica Brewer	N/A
2	1	1:53	W/W	Rushcreek Stu	Ruth Waltenspiel	Ruth Waltenspiel	Joyce Sousa

The Horse Stops Here

by Courtney Krueger

President Harry Truman was famous for having a sign on his desk that read, “*The Buck Stops Here.*” No Ride & Tie, least of all a World Championship, is held without lots of help. Many people are needed from start to finish. But ultimately the buck (or is it the horse?) stops with the Race Manager.



The race manager for the 50th World Championship was Sequoya Russ. By all accounts she did a wonderful job. Part of having the job of “*The horse stops here*” is that you have to be flexible and roll with any problems that occur. Sequoya may have had to be more flexible and “*stop more horses*” than any race manager in the fifty years of World Championships!

In 2019, after agreeing to manage the 50th World Championship scheduled for 2020, Sequoya began the process of reserving a venue, securing vets, and making all of the other necessary arrangements. She also attended all of the Ride & Tie board meetings in 2019 so the board could be informed and helpful. Then along came a little thing called Covid-19. By April, we knew that the 50th Championship and the 50th year would not coincide.

Iris Wards , Chet Chadborne , and Sequoya make plans

But Sequoya was flexible. If she couldn’t manage it in 2020, she would manage it in 2021. However, Covid wasn’t finished with us and by early 2021 it was clear that the championship wouldn’t be held that year either.

Once again, Sequoya remained flexible and committed. She continued to come to the Zoom board meetings and agreed to give it another try in 2022. Just how much she was doing really came home to me at a board meeting when someone asked if the Specialized Saddle company had already delivered the saddle that we were going to auction. Sequoya laughed and said, “*That saddle has been at my house for two years!*”

As 2022 rolled on, she encountered some problems with venues and dates. Fears began to mount that it might not happen this year. Sequoya put her head down and practically willed it to happen. She changed venues. She changed dates. She kept it moving.

Finally, the Championship arrived. Sequoya scheduled the events in such a way that people could compete in the Equathon Championship on Friday and the Ride & Tie Championship on Saturday. That little bit of flexibility meant that seven people were able to participate both days!

Even though the big day had finally come, Sequoya still had to practice her flexibility. As she was doing the initial ride briefing, her husband Eli was unloading a porta potty from a truck behind her! It had to be done and it had to be done right then! Sequoya simply told the crowd, “*I promise you this isn’t a skit!*”

When one of the competitors for Equathon was unable to compete at the last minute, Carolyn Latham asked if she could run TWO legs so that everyone would get to compete. After conferring with a couple of board members and others, Sequoya decided that it wasn’t against the rules and was definitely within the spirit of Ride & Tie. Carolyn was cleared to be the first “double runner” in Equathon history!

At the ride briefing the night before the Ride & Tie Championship, the competitors asked if they could start the race at 7:00 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m. The forecast was for 95 degrees and they wanted an extra hour of cooler temperatures. She had them take a vote and it was agreed that they would start at 7:00. However, that meant that the Humboldt Search and Rescue team was going to get to the trail an hour late. It couldn’t be helped, so Sequoya just hoped they wouldn’t be needed and especially not in the first hour!

In so many ways Sequoya embodies the best attributes of Ride & Tie: stay flexible, figure out how to fix it when something goes wrong, stay persistent and keep going in the face of obstacles, and make sure you do all you can to make Ride & Tie one wonderful fun-loving family.



Thank you Sequoya for a fantastic three + year job of managing our 50th World Championship

Perfection When It Comes Together
The 50th Championship Winning Team
by Courtney Krueger

Less than a year before the 50th Championship Priscilla Anderson had never heard of Ride and Tie. Today she, along with her partner Jen Titus are the overall champions. In reflecting on her team's win Priscilla says, *"It is perfection when it comes together."* They are only the second woman/woman team to win the World Championship. The first woman/woman team champions were Susanne Rowland and Michelle Andreotti in 2009, also in the California Redwoods. Susanne and Michelle's horse Over a Mile was a gelding, so the team of Jen, Priscilla, and Missy is the first ALL female team to win the world championship!

Because Priscilla is a runner someone mentioned the sport of Ride and Tie when she bought a horse in August of last year. It sounded intriguing, but she didn't know how to pursue it and essentially forgot about it. In March of this year she took her horse to an equine dentist who had come to Jen Titus' ranch. Priscilla and Jen were acquaintances because their kids compete on separate teams in cross-country. Jen knew that Priscilla was an amazing runner. She has completed the Boston Marathon as well as a number of ultra runs. *"And we are the same height"*, says Jen. *"We wouldn't have to worry about stirrup length."* Almost on the spot, Jen asked Priscilla if she would be interested in partnering in the 50th. Priscilla was and a partnership was born. The championship was Priscilla's first Ride & Tie, but not Jen's. Jen attended a clinic held by Annette Parsons and Jim Clover in 2012. After that she and her son competed in a Ride & Tie in Prineville, OR. They had so much fun that they went to the 2012 Championship in Bandit Springs, OR. Unfortunately, her barrel racing horse Stu was pulled for lameness. In 2014 Jen entered five Ride & Ties including the



L-R: Jen Titus, Missy, Priscilla Anderson. Photo: Priscilla Anderson

Championship. Stu was, again, pulled for lameness. Jen was now 0-2 in Championship completions. In 2015 she notched her first Championship completion finishing 9th out of 21 with partner Dick Root and horse OFW Alivia. Jen came to the conclusion that she needed an endurance horse. She and her daughter Emmie found and bought Missy who had an impressive Endurance career including a Tevis completion under her girth. *"Missy was a game changer"* says Jen. However life intervened and Jen didn't manage to compete in any Ride & Ties after the 2015. championship.

Now that Jen had a human partner for the 2022 championship, she began to worry a little bit about her equine partner. Missy is now twenty-five years old. Jen took her to the vet to make sure that the old girl could compete. The vet checked her out and said, *"She is super-sound. Go for it!"* So all was set for the championship.

When they got to camp after a six and a half hour drive, Missy was a little bit off. After encouragement from Gunilla Pratt and others, the team decided that they would at least try the first loop. Winning the race was not their goal. They were just hoping for a completion.

Race day dawned and the intrepid team headed out. At the first vet check their crew told them that they were in third place. They later learned that they actually were in second place as one of the teams ahead of them was running the short course. Jen told Priscilla not to run out of the vet check without water in case Missy got pulled. Missy was still a little off, but the vet assured Jen that it was *"Old lady mechanics and not young horse tendon issues."* They were cleared for the second loop.

At the second vet check the vet said that Missy was better than at the first check. Jen laughed and told Missy, “Old lady, it just takes 28 miles for you to get all of the kinks out.” As the day wore on the team was really starting to click. Priscilla ran many of the more technical sections sometimes bombing down hills and making Jen wonder if she and Missy could catch her! Jen keeps bells on Missy because their training trails have a number of mountain bikers and elderly pedestrians. The bells ended up becoming part of the team’s strategy. Jen said that a couple of times she was worried that she had tied Missy too far off trail. Would Priscilla see her? But then she would hear Missy’s bells jingling and knew that Priscilla would have no problems. Once Priscilla thought she had gone the wrong way. She was about to turn around and run back when she heard Missy jingling behind her. At one point when Jen was riding and about to



tie, Priscilla heard the bells and yelled out, “Keep going. I want to run a little further!”

The battle between first and second became quite fierce. At one point the team came to a turn and were a little confused about which way to go. They spent a couple of minutes deciding and the second place team of Wyatt and Sarah Landrum caught them. They were able to pull away a little bit by the end and finished in first with a final time of 4:26.

Priscilla says, “I’ve done the Boston Marathon and Ultra running races, but it hurt to breathe this time!

The only saving grace was that I knew that it was only a mile or so I would have to run at a time before getting to ride. I couldn’t walk for about three days after though because everything hurt! ”

By Steve Shaw’s calculation, they averaged 8:06 a mile including vet checks. Congratulations to a team that came together and achieved perfection!

L-R photos above : Jen and Missy, Priscilla.



“More Than” Participation Award

by Carolyn Latham

The author’s account of how she ended up participating more than she intended at the 50th!

I participated in the R&T World Championships although, I ended up “participating” a little more than I anticipated! Back in May my mom Sharon Finston and I agreed to compete in the long course Equathon. My step-dad Bob Finston then decided to do the Equathon with my step-brother Alex Finston. Then I thought, well, since we will be there with two horses, why not do the R&T the next day as well? The one problem was, I didn’t have anyone in my family or friend circles who were available and who could ride and run 33 miles. Race manager Sequoya Russ came to the rescue! Within a couple of hours, I was making plans with a woman who lived in Belize and was in need of a teammate who had a horse. Enter Sherrie Reimera: my new Ride & Tie Partner!

I was ready to race in two events over two days! It was going to be a tough weekend but nothing I couldn’t handle. But then things got a little spicy. My step-brother, Alex, informed us on the Tuesday before the race weekend that he had started feeling a little crummy, and with a quick nasal swab that we are all too familiar with, my step-dad, Bob, no longer had a teammate; Alex was COVID positive.

With Alex out, the rest of us started brainstorming on how to get Bob a partner this late. At first, Bob said he would do the Iron Equathon on his own because he wanted to be out there participating with us. Bob is a runner but he has been focusing on a goal of completing his first century road biking race. He hadn’t been out for a run in over six months. It was a courageous offer but I thought it would be quite a shame if he got injured from running 10 miles after not training.

So, I got an idea: what if I ran two Equathon laps; the first lap time would be added to my mom's riding time and the second lap would be added to Bob's riding time? I knew I could physically do it, but the question was, would they allow me? We decided to wait until we got to the campground to ask Sequoya as opposed to emailing her so she could see the crazy...cough cough...sincerity in person and hopefully allow it. We pulled into camp and walked over to registration: the moment of truth. We explained the predicament to the lovely volunteers and they were enthusiastic about the idea, albeit slightly surprised that I would WANT to do two laps, but said that they could give me a conditional "yes" but Sequoya would have the final say. Twenty minutes later, we had the go ahead!

Equathon Race morning was filled with fun excitement. I said farewell to my two teams and watched them ride up the hill and out of sight and then waited for my turn with the rest of the runners. I knew I was racing against the heat and that my second "lap" would be significantly warmer than the first. We were off and running when I caught my toe on a rock within the first mile and went all the way down. Not the greatest way to start a triple-race weekend but also, at least I got it out of my system early and came out virtually unscathed. After the stumble, I found my stride and was feeling great. I didn't



know what the elevation change would be like... blissful ignorance! The main climb was LONG but the descent was beautiful, fast and FUN. I came into camp as the first runner in. I quickly found my mom and Bob. Unfortunately, my mom's horse, Bella, hadn't felt great on the climb so my mom walked her for a majority of the 10 miles. Bob, riding Mo, on the other hand had had a great ride and was in a close second place based on his P&R time. He gave me a pep talk and told me if I ran a negative split on my second lap, we could win! Woof...that wasn't exactly what I expected to hear nor was I feeling like I would run my second lap FASTER than my first. I chugged some water, grabbed a Gu, checked out with the out-timers, and gave them a friendly reminder of my



situation, and I was off for lap two. I encountered some confused faces of runners coming in, obviously wondering why in the world was I running back OUT. I just waved and kept running! The second time up the climb was tough for sure. My legs were not happy with me but I dug deep and had a great second half of the run. I got myself to the finish line just a couple of minutes slower than my first lap (I did not run a negative split). We were anxious to find out the results so we hovered around the timer table and to our delight, the timers told us Bob's riding time and my running time combined was the fastest time overall: we had won!

A quick trip to the river to cool off and drive to town to get ice and milkshakes and then it was time to strategize and prep for the Ride & Tie. I was in training for the Waldo 100K in August so Sherrie and I decided that I would run a good majority of the R&T. It was glorious! We ended up having amazing weather with misting fog during the first 15 miles. One of the ridges we rode/ran along was a Redwood rainforest with sun rays coming through the fog and tree branches. A fellow competitor rode by me exclaiming that this ride was, "so f#%king beautiful!" and I couldn't have agreed more! My legs were tired from the day before but I was there to race and racing we were. For most of the day Sherrie and I were battling between 4th and 5th place with Michael Cortez and Meghan McNamara. They were valiant competitors and in the end, they took 4th, but not without us nipping at their heels! The last eight miles of the race my legs were screaming at me. I was tired, had run over 40 miles in two days and it was getting hot! Sherrie and I finished the race a little before noon and were ecstatic. We had accomplished our goal; finish the 50th Anniversary Ride & Tie World Championship Race!

L-R photos above: Sherrie and Mojave Blace, Carolyn.



Leigh Miller on Willow, Steve Anderson



Liz Begovich



Amber Oliver, Megan Zimmerman and Pegasus



Melissa Ware on Masterfol



Thanks to *Dream Team Photography*, the official 50th Championship photographers

The 50th World Ride and Tie Championships: View from the Vet

By Greg Fellers, DVM

After 2 years of delays and planning and re-planning, it was with great anticipation that we gathered in beautiful Humboldt Redwoods State Park in northwest California. The venue is an old working orchard nestled in a valley surrounded by miles of wooded trails climbing to ridgeline tops. It seemed like everyone was just so happy to be there and participate in this historic 50th. Many old timers and new volunteers came out to help with all the preparations like trail prep, camp set up, water troughs, porta potties, etc.

We started Thursday afternoon with the Equathon check in. We ended up checking in a total of 18 entries, 16 long course (10 mile ride, 10 mile run) and 2 short course (6 mile ride, 3 mile run).

Friday 8 am was the start of the largest Equathon I've ever been a part of! Dr. Laura Weintraub joined the vet team and, with the additional help from Laura and several experienced pulse takers, all went smoothly. The horses pulsed down quickly as they all wisely walked to the finish having to come down a paved incline to cross the finish line at camp. All the horses completed but one. The staged start at 8 for horses and 8:30 for runners allowed almost all to complete before it got too hot.

Congratulations to Robert Finston and Carolyn Latham who beat out Jenny Bloer and Ben Westling but just by 9 minutes.

Friday afternoon, we checked in 23 Ride & Tie teams, 19 championship and 4 short course. It was exciting for me to greet so many of our "veteran" West Coast R&Ters: Jim Howard, Elaine Reuprecht, Pat Browning (the oldest competitor), Rufus Schneider, Gunilla Pratt, Mike Whelan, George Hall and Steve Anderson (the oldest team), Chris Amaral, and Susan Smyth.



Dr. Fellers hard at work at the 50th.

We welcomed Dr. Rob Lydon to our vet team for Saturday. In spite of adding early logistical stresses onto Sequoya, she agreed to start Saturday am early at 7am to try to avoid as much heat as possible. The out vet check area was laid out well with plenty of volunteers to help with pulsing, timing, feed and water, crew support and all those little urgent needs. It allowed Laura, Rob and me to concentrate on vetting the horses immediately as they pulsed down and presented for exam. The front running teams' horses all looked very good. Per plan, I left to get back to the finish in camp for the short coursers. It wasn't long after that before the first championship coursers started coming in and pulsing down and completion exams were passed. Rob came back to help with remaining completion exams while I started on the BC judging of the top 10. Having the treatment truck, Laura stayed at the out vet check until all horses were accounted for. One horse was held out with a tendon problem.

Congratulations to the winning woman/woman team of Jennifer Titus and Priscilla Anderson, who rode Missy coming in ahead of the second place team of Sarah and Wyatt Landrum riding Penny.

Best Condition ended up very close with KL Astral Symphony, ridden by Alyssa Stalley Gonzalez and Nick Gonzalez, winning the award. You might notice that name "Stalley" as Alyssa is Chuck's daughter, and he was there to help crew and cheer. Check him out in "50 Years of Madness" as he's all over the early years of the Levi Championships. I want to give honorable mention to the BC runner up, which was Missy, the first place horse, and 25 years of age!

39 of 41 weekend event starters completed. The one tendon horse was given an injection to help with swelling and inflammation. Nothing else needed treatment by Laura, our designated treatment vet. It was a pleasure to work with these accomplished equine athletes and their human teammates who appreciated and cared for them.

And it was such a pleasure to be, once again, with my fellow ride & tiers who all enjoy the challenging competition for themselves and their horses that our sport has to offer. But maybe, just as important in this time, is being part of a group of people who, flat out, really enjoy each other's company.

My Journey BACK to Ride & Tie

By Jennifer Monioz

I completed the 50th Anniversary World Championship Ride & Tie with my partners Sue Smyth and Astano. It took me 5 years to get here although I have been doing Ride & Tie since 2011, with several Championship races under my belt.

At the 2017 West Coast Regional Championship in Oregon we were approaching the starting line when my mount spooked. I landed on my feet then lost my balance and fell onto my butt. It must've been a harder landing than I thought because when I looked at my left foot, it was facing the wrong direction and I could see bones poking out of my gaiter at the inside of my ankle. Yikes!



I was stabilized and taken to the nearest big hospital in Bend, then had emergency surgery for multiple bones broken plus a dislocated foot. I woke up in recovery with a metal plate and half dozen screws holding everything together. I had to learn to use crutches and stay off the foot for six weeks. I then had to learn to walk again and was given the ok to ride again 4 months after the accident. I started running (run-walk) lightly another month later. Then I had some soft tissue issues arise which gave me additional setbacks. A slow healing bone where one of the cracks was took its sweet time to fill in, according to the x rays.

In 2018 I was only able to run or ride a couple miles max at a time and unfortunately was attending a funeral on the same date as the Championship race in Georgetown so I couldn't even attend as a spectator and hang out with my R&T family.

In 2019 I wasn't able to make it to any Ride & Tie races, but I was hitting the trails every chance I could on foot and horseback.

Then the pandemic hit in spring of 2020. All the races I had planned to compete in were cancelled, I lost my job, found a new one (eventually) but kept running & riding whenever possible.

2021 brought back some races so I did a few here & there. My boss is also a runner so we ran a few half marathons together. I also rode out with friends, horse camping in Cuyamaca at the same camp and riding the same trails as the 2016 Championship which brought some great memories.

Flash forward to 2022 and the 50th Anniversary Ride & Tie Championship is finally happening! I saw Sue Smyth's Facebook post looking for a partner so I threw my hat in the ring. After chatting together about her young horse and race strategy, it was on! We agreed to stay together the whole race switching running and riding rather than tying. Young Astano would likely rub while tied and take his bridle off as he's demonstrated before. Plus we would both need assistance mounting the 16+HH "baby" giraffe. The only times we were apart during the race was when I rode 1-2 miles into each vet check.

I want to give a *HUGE*

THANK YOU to Sue for

trusting me to ride Astano in his first ever Ride & Tie race. We had many great conversations on the trail, saw some amazingly beautiful scenery and were really able to build up young Astano's confidence in a positive manner as he's only been under saddle for a year and this whole experience was brand new to him. He was a rockstar with the narrow trail, steep drop offs, long uphill climbs, giant trees and logs, misty dripping fog in the "rainforestry" section, creek crossings, wild turkey sightings, vet checks and everything else out there. Together we got the race completion with a happy horse, our buckles, the Turtle Award, AND we finished 1-2 hours faster than we had guesstimated!





The 50th Championship Finally Happened

by George Hall

After two years of delay due to Covid, the 50th Ride & Tie Championship finally happened. It was great seeing many old timers and many new faces. The weather was perfect. Sequoya Russ and friends did a great job putting on the race. Many thanks to Rufus Schneider for getting the awards together. I always tell people that they called it the “*World Championship*” because everybody in the world is invited but hardly anybody shows up anymore. This year there were only 19 long course teams, approximately 1/10th the number of teams at the 1983 Levi's R&T in Eureka.

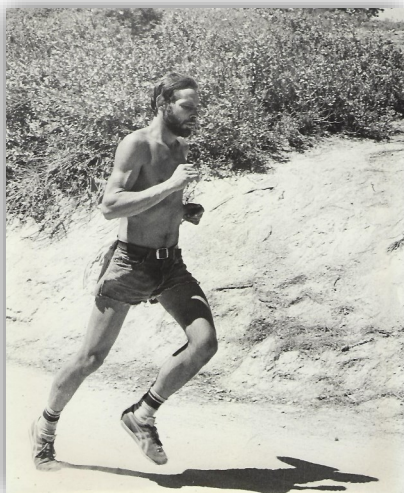
Annette Parsons, author of “40 years of Madness” and “50 years of Madness” was there with her husband, Jim Clover, doing the Equathon. Jim and I teamed up together for the 2019 Regional Championship at Bandit Springs, Oregon. Our combined ages was 143, but this year Pat Browning (83) and Rufus Schneider (61) topped that with a combined age of 144! Way to go Pat and Rufus!

Mary Tiscornia and I were honored to have our images on this year's shirt due to our having competed in more championships than anyone else...46 for Mary, 40 for me. Jim Howard is not far behind with 35...on his new knees! I only wish I had known about Ride & Tie earlier.



George in his famed Levi's shorts on Little Joe

My first exposure to R&T was the 1978 Levi's in Big Creek Country, near Santa Cruz, CA. I worked for the McCrary family who hosted the race and drove the vets around to the vet checks. It looked like so much fun, I started running so I could do it. However it was not until 1980 that I did my first. I showed up at Brown's R&T at Quicksilver Park in New Almaden (San Jose) on Mother's Day without a horse or partner. I asked the girl at the registration table if anyone was there with a horse looking for a partner. She directed me to the old baby blue school bus parked over in the corner of the lot. Inside was Darrel Nielsen taking a nap after having worked a double shift as a roughneck on the oil rigs in Buellton, then driving 250 miles to get there hoping to find a partner. We teamed up together and came in second place, 3 minutes behind Sherode Powers and Russ Kiernan. Two weeks later we did the Big Creek 30 mile R&T and came in second again, 7 minutes behind the same team. I was hooked! Then came Levi's at Big Bear. Our 8th place finish was 9 minutes behind the same guys. In those days, Sherode and Russ were the only people wearing helmets...bicycle helmets. Darrel and I teamed up together in 1981 for 11th place at Dog Valley and '82 for 7th place at New Almaden. The memories of all the races I have done, the partners I have had, the horses I have ridden and the people I have met is what has kept me coming back.



George at the 1980 Championship (note his shorts)

I urge everyone to strike up a conversation about Ride & Tie with anyone you meet on the trail or anywhere else you can get a plug in for R&T. My horse, Little Joe, always wants to stop and sniff and get petted by every hiker and runner he meets on the trail. That is when I start asking if they have ever been on a horse, and encourage them to go on YouTube and watch the 1995 Championship and 1973 Levi's as a good introduction of what the sport is like. I always carry 40 Years or 50 years of Madness in my vehicles so I have it handy to whip out to show people what it is like. Thank you Annette. And lastly, what really gets people interested and helps them relate is when I ask: “*you have heard of hitch hiking, haven't you?*” Well...take it from there.

I don't know if my arthritic ankle will hold out long enough for me to out-do Mary Tiscornia as far as number of Championships run, but you can be sure I will keep doing R&T as long as I am able and I will promote our sport to anyone who will listen. I encourage you all to do the same.

I hope to see you next year at the 51st Ride & Tie Championship September 22-24 in Asheville, NC.

A Story of Adventure and Love by Courtney Krueger

At this year's Championship, Drew Buechley joined what some would call, an elite club: the Triple Crown of Running and Riding. Members must complete the Tevis Cup (Western States Trail Ride), the Western States 100 Mile Ultra Run, and a Ride and Tie World Championship. Drew is the 39th inductee into this exclusive club of 30 men and 9 women.

Drew Buechley's story of his triple crown is an interesting modern-day story full of adventure and a love of running, horses, competition, and his wife!

Some years ago, he was running Triathalons when he was introduced to the Endurance world while running in the Bay Area Headlands. He bought Rooster, a Morgan stallion, met his future wife, Nathalie Guion all in a very short time. He and Nathalie started doing more horse camping and endurance rides. Shortly after he started a breeding company and called it *"Running Man Morgans."*

The pieces were now falling into place for this adventure love story. He says, *"I loved the trail time running next to my horse(s) for training and loved being on the trail and loved the physical and emotional connection with the horse. Every time we are out, it's an adventure."*

Rooster had done quite a bit of endurance, driving, dressage, 3-day eventing, so Drew felt he was ready for Tevis in 2007. Nathalie rode one of Potato Richardson's horses. They had such a great time on the trail together that Drew says, *"I still credit 2007 Tevis for my marriage to one of the most fun and sincere, women I have ever known."*

Although Drew didn't yet know about the Triple Crown of Running and Riding, Rooster inspired him to work toward the Western States 100 Mile Trail Run. *"Again, it was such an incredible adventure. I was so inspired by the fun we had, my horses grit and performance as well as the rugged, historic and beautiful WS trail, that I wanted to do the WS100."*



A close friend, Diane Marquard, a legendary endurance rider in her own right, introduced him to Gordy Ansleigh as encouragement. Gordy literally invented ultramarathon trail running on October 3, 1974 when his lame horse was unable to compete in the Tevis Cup. He had just completed the Levi's Ride and Tie Championship in Klamath Falls, Oregon and decided if he couldn't ride Tevis, he would run it. He completed the run and birthed the Western States 100 Mile Trail Run. He also became the first member of the Triple Crown Club that day, though the connection and the club did not yet exist.

While doing trail maintenance on the WS trail together, Gordy shared lots of stories with Drew about both Tevis and the WS100 run. He said that a select few had done both in the same year. Drew immediately set that as his goal. He worked hard and got his ticket for the WS100 Mile Trail Run for 2010 just after the birth of his and Nathalie's daughter.

His friend Jerome Lourme, a seasoned ultra-marathoner, put him through his training rigorous regimen, and Drew finished the WS 100 run strong. However, only weeks before Tevis his horses were not meeting conditioning goals. Fearing that he could not meet the 2010 goal Diane Marquard came to the rescue, finding him a mount the day before the ride. Wanting to ensure that he didn't override the Amazing Kahn, his borrowed horse, he ran a lot of the high country and canyons.

The 2010 goal now met, Drew learned about another sport he could love. Gordy told him about Ride & Tie. With Drew's love of running, riding, and running with horses, Ride & Tie was a perfect combination and yet another sport to catch his heart. Gordy let him know that it also provided another goal: the Triple Crown.

Life, however, got busy and the dream faded for a few years. Then he met Chuck Mathers, a Triple Crowner who through sharing some of his stories with Drew, relit the fire. After a conversation with Sue Smyth, she paid a visit Sonoma Coastal Equestrian's barn to give a talk about Ride & Tie. Sue's talk inspired a mock Ride & Tie event at the barn which led to several teams for the Coolest Ride & Tie and a great new group of friends.

After the delays and uncertainties of the pandemic, Drew finally finished the third leg of the Triple Crown this year with partners Diana Triscell and Dixie.

Congratulations Drew! You encourage us to follow our hearts and chase our goals!



Pat Highlander on Fritz the Kat
photo by Siri Berg



Make time when you can!
image from video by Alison Dubois

While still savoring the 50th, we now turn our gaze ahead:

2022 Ride and Tie Calendar: October-December

10/1	Cooler	Cool, CA
10/1	Weaver's Bend Stomp	Del Rio, TN
10/14-10/15	Fort Valley R&T	Fort Valley, VA
10/15	Hunting For Bigfoot	Wiggins, MS
10/29	Bar H Boogie	Perris, CA
11/11-11/13	Trace the Trails	Athens, TX
11/26	JD's Carolina	Patrick, SC
12/1	Cayuse Ranch	Santa Margarita, CA
12/29-12/31	Gallop on the Greenway	Ocala, FL

Go to www.rideandtie.org/race-schedule
For entries and more information



The “Back” Cover



Gunilla gallops on Mika

Photo by *Dream Team Photography*



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