

Ride and Tie Board Meeting January 27, 2026 5pm PST/8 pm EST

1. Call to order - 5:05pm/8:05pm
2. Roll call - Carrie Baris, Bob Heltibridle, Janice Heltibridle, Chris Amaral, Steve Anderson, Sara Boelt, Rhonda Venable, Chris Shoemaker, Lani Newcomb, Barb Mathews, Nick Kohut, Greg Fellers, Steve Shaw. Absent: Mary Tiscornia. Special Guest: Luis Escobar.
3. Approval of minutes from November 11, 2025. Motion to accept minutes: Lani. Second: Steve A. Motion passed.
4. Welcome to Nick Kohut – New Ride and Tie veterinarian. Acknowledge Greg Fellers and his years of experience and intelligence. Designated as board member emeritus.
5. Luis Escobar joining as Ride Manager for the West Coast Championships at Cool, California on June 6th. Planning ride and tie short and long course, equathon short and long course, and a 10k run. Has registration on Ultrasignup.
5. Courtney Krueger is requesting \$700 for photography for the newsletter. \$500 for Becky Pearman and \$200 for other photographers. Motion made by Lani, second by Rhonda. Motion passed.
7. Scholarship Updates – High School essay contest two essays already submitted. Greg has about 40 essays from the vet scholarship program. Greg, Lani and Chris A. are on the evaluating committee for the vet scholarship essays. If anyone else would like to be included on the committee, let Greg know. They would welcome your help.
8. Board Member Voting – need to publicize asking for nominations. Courtney emailed us a schedule. We need to create a nominating committee tonight. It will be Chris A, Barb, and Chris S. Janice Heltibridle, Carrie Baris, Barb Mathews at end of their term. Steve S. requested that the nominating committee include a least one or more individuals from the west coast on the list of nominees.
9. Treasurer’s Report – Steve Anderson briefly reviewed the 2026 budget. We will review further before next meeting and solidify then for passage by the board. Steve A, Steve S. and Bob Heltibridle will work on the 2026 budget submission for the board's review.
10. Erika Eckstrom reached out in response to the email blast offering to put materials in swag bags for the Schuyler Equine Conference on February 14th. Janice will try to print more newsletters, but if that doesn’t work, will resurrect our informational pamphlet.
11. At the upcoming GiddyUp event, the Board would like to present Joanne Mitchell with a plaque for her many years of service as a Ride Manager for R&T. Chris S. will provide the

dates of Joanne's service to Bob Heltibridle so he can work on draft verbiage for the plaque for the Board to review.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 17th 5pm/8pm

Meeting Adjourned: 5:59pm/8:59pm