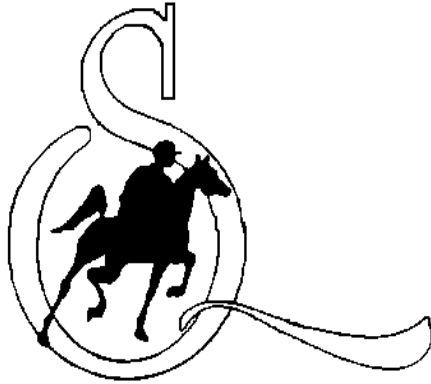


QUICKSILVER QUIPS

April 2003



OFFICERS

President Lori Oleson
Vice President Jill Kilty-Newburn
Secretary ???
Treasurer Kathy Miller

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeannette Brown
Steve Lenheim
Trilby Pederson

Chief Mover and Shaker Mike Maul

Newsletter editor Judy Etheridge
P. O. Box 62, Sunol, CA 94586-0062
(925) 862-0232 misxfire@aol.com

President's Message

April 2003

The ride season is well under way. Quicksilver members are accumulating miles and points at all distances. A bunch of us just got back from Cuyama Oaks XP. What a beautiful ride it was with the warm weather and carpets of flowers. If you are thinking of doing this ride next year, sign up early.

There was a lot covered at our last meeting. Our website has a new domain name that is easier to remember...www.qser.net. Our by-laws were discussed and voted on. The final version is posted on our website, or if you would like a hard copy, please let me know and one will be mailed to you.

The Spring ride at Coe Park (May 17) is coming along. Scott has secured a wonderful place to camp that will not include driving through creek beds. He also should have entry forms ready very soon.. Jill Kilty-Newburn has volunteered to be our Fall ride manager. The date is October 4th with the location yet to be determined. More details on our Fall ride in the coming months.

At our next general meeting, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Area Superintendent, Michael Newburn will be talking to us about Open Space trails and giving us an overview of what they are all about.

We are still in need of a Secretary! Someone please come forward and join the Board. It's not that bad, really.

Lori

**Quicksilver Board Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2002**

President Lori Oleson called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

Correspondence

Some dated material was shared.

Treasurer's Report

<u>\$6412.00</u>	Beginning balance
710.00	Deposits- dues
2340.00	Checks written
<u>4571.47</u>	Ending balance
<u>901.32</u>	Trails Account
<u>770.32</u>	Junior Account

Some checks written last month

Postmaster	24.00
Lori Oleson	46.00
AERC	35.00
Kay Allison	30.00
Maryben	340.00
Judy Etheridge	363.00
Secretary of State	20.00
Brown's	1459.00

Total **\$2,317.00**

Steve presented invoices for 2003 calendar

Printing of calendars and by-laws	\$203.06
Software – calendar creator	54.11
Toner and drum	113.64
Postage	15.75
Paper supplies	129.63
Total	\$ 516.19

Membership Report

Maryben reported that a number of folks have not paid their dues.

Goodwill

Jackie Bumgardner responded to our condolence note.

Newsletter

No report from Judy.

Awards

Banquet was great. Approximately \$1700 was spent on awards and \$500 on the calendars.

Trails Committee

Lori had information about the Bear Ranch. Steve talked to Bob Enea from Monterey Horse Park and will invite him to speak at the June meeting.

New Business

By-laws to be discussed at the general meeting.

Website address info was presented. A change would cost us \$8.95 per year, or \$6.95 per year for 10 years and a forwarding from our current address is included in this. Hosting the site costs \$5.95 to \$12.95 per month. (Mike currently does this for \$35 a year). Addresses we will try to get are QSER.net or QSER.org.

Spring Classic update Scot says base camp will be at the Stevenson Ranch. We may need to buy a road mirror for one of the neighbors to increase visibility around one of the corners going in to the ranch. We will need three vets, whom he has lined up, and the vet checks will be at Wilson.

Fall Ride Jill has volunteered to manage the fall ride and will present a plan to the club next month.

Next month's meeting topic Lori will talk to Michael Newburn about making a presentation about MROSD land issues. Maybe we could get someone from County Parks to come talk to us in May.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P. M.

QSER General Meeting Minutes

Lori called the meeting to order.

Correspondence

Some material was shared.

Treasurer's Report (see Board Meeting minutes)

Membership Report

Maryben reported that a number of folks have not renewed their memberships. If you are one of these folks, please pay your dues.

Goodwill

Jackie Bumgardner responded to our condolence note.

Awards

Banquet was great.

Trails

Lori had information about the Bear Ranch.

Spring Classic Ride Update

The ride will be held at Henry Coe State Park on May 17. Ride camp will be at the Stevenson Ranch. Scott and Maryben will update the registration form. Folks can contact Scott to volunteer; some brave souls even volunteered on the spot!

New Business

By-laws Revision Much discussion ensued and the By-laws were revised. New copies will be mailed to all current members.

Website Address Change (See Board Meeting minutes)

Secretary Position

Our club secretary office is currently vacant. Here is your chance to get involved and help out your club! If you would like to volunteer, contact Lori.

Fall Ride (see Board meeting minutes)

Poker Ride Bing will cook—but we need someone to organize this so we can enjoy Bing's cooking!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Editor's Note

The only thing I have to say this month is to be careful where you chose an outdoor outhouse. Poison oak on one's derriere is unbelievably uncomfortable and it takes forever to heal☹

Want Ads

Wanted: Local training partner for weekday rides. Call Marilyn at 408 779-9900.

For Rent: Two separate rooms plus bathroom for rent...\$675.00. Call Steve at 408 997-0368.

Farrier Service:

Jeremy Reynolds is farrier now and in the hard copy edition of the Quips his very attractive card is in this space. He can be reached at 408 687-7083.

Marvin's Corner

In your next life, you'd probably like to come back as a bear...and here's why.

- When you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that.
- Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that, too.
- When you're a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you're sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that.
- If you're a mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too. I could deal with that.
- If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling and EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat.
- Yup...gonna be a bear.

And a blonde joke...

A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting! Realizing that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, the trooper cranked down his window, turned on his bullhorn and yelled, "PULL OVER!" "NO!", the blonde yelled back, "IT'S A SCARF!".

Ride Results

Thanks to **Karen Chaton** here are some preliminary results from the **New Cuyama** 3-day ride held on March 14-16 where **QSERs** shone. Do So La ridden by **Michele Roush** won overall fastest time and BCed at least 2 of the 3 days. **Jeremy** riding JS Raisa and **Heather** on Silvermen were second and third respectively and **Lori** riding WRA Flaming Fire finished 7th overall for the three days. Other **QSER** members completing all three days were **Mike Maul** and Roco My Sol, 11th, **Jan Jeffers** and WA Mi Mystic, 14th, **Nancy Elliot** on Sequoia, 21st, **Melissa Ribley** and Oak Hill Rambler, 27th, **Katee Owens** and Malika Bee, 34th, **Barbara White** and Rebecca, 36th, **Laney Humphrey** and Arrowdynamic, 37th, **Carla Ambriz** and Sonny, 57th and **Trilby** and Beau, 58th.

Robert Ribley, Doug White, Karen Chaton, Pat and Bob Verheul, Scott Sansom, Jill Kilty-Newburn, Julie Suhr and Kathy Mayeda rode too, for a grand total of **22 QSERs** at the ride! Jan reported that the wildflowers were to die for!

Judy Reens and **Dennis Tracy** triumphed at the new **Rides of March** held on March 22 in Nevada. Judy and Benjih rolled in first and Dennis and Leah weren't far behind in third place. **Jeff Luternauer** and **Hugh** and **Gloria Vanderford** were also seen at the ride.

Hot off the press—results from the March 29 **SASO** 50 miler showed that among the top 10, **QSER** members **Robert Oram** and Traveler came in 2nd, **Mike Tracy** and Aron Moon 5th, and Rick **Gomez** on Monterey, 10th. Other **QSER** teams were **Gloria** and Competition Sunny, 13th place, 1st Junior, **Hillary Graham** and Sabaku Tono, 17th, **Jeff** on Dakota Dusk, 20th sponsoring **Stephanie Beebe**, 2nd place Junior on Treasure, 21st place and **Trilby** and Clay bringing up the rear in 23rd place ☺

Upcoming Events

On **Sunday April 6** (1st day of Daylight Saving Time) there will be a **poker ride** at Ed Levin Park sponsored by the Arabian Trail Riders Association. Check in 9:30-10:30 AM and lunch is at 1 PM. Ride costs \$25, preregistered, \$30 otherwise. For more information call Cheryl Lawton at 925 831-3246 or e-mail her at cheryllawton@hotmail.com.

Don't forget about the **Endurance Clinic** being held on **April 12** 10 AM-4 PM in Chowchilla. Julie, Becky, Michele and Maryben are among the featured speakers. Call Leisa Belser 559-665-3382 for more information.

A reminder about the Pride Project's **gastric ulcer study**: Judy Reens will be hosting a clinic on **April 26** in Brentwood. Call or e-mail her for info: (925) 240-5809, JReens@aol.com.

Michele Roush Shaw and Steve Elliott have clinics scheduled on **April 27-28** at the Auburn Fairgrounds. Michele (530) 292-1902, docshaw@pacbell.net, Steve (530) 889-0657, egperform@jps.net.

The third annual **Western States Horse Summit** will be held in conjunction with the Western States Horse Expo, **May 30-June 1** at the Cal Expo in Sacramento. The WSHS will be located at the Olive Grove in front of the Main Market Place. There will be continuous speakers and exhibits each day from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily. The WSHW purpose is to help protect, better inform, educate and assist in the distribution of data, research and information for the continued use of and expansion to multi-use trails for and by equestrians.

The WSHS agenda and list of speakers can be found at www.horseexpos.com, click on Events, then Summit. For more information, call Rita Schlim (510) 657-5827 or e-mail rschlim@juno.com.

Here is a useful internet site that provides local information about horse-related subjects and activities.

Horsinaround1@horseNpony.com

"Horsin' Around! Calendar is a free e-mail calendar for the Bay Area Equestrian Community inviting you to join a club, find an event, try something new and at the same time support your fellow horsemen."



**Bar H Boogie – PS in the California
Spring, March 1**
Story by Mike Maul

Spring in the nicest time of the year in California-it's cool, there's water, and it's very green. And the wildflowers are lovely. Such was the setting for the first time ride, Bar H Boogie, in Riverside County near LA put on by Lynne Glazer, best known for her tropical Norco Riverdance ride in August.

There was almost too much water for the ride what with El Nino giving the area rain for 4 days preceding the ride date of March 1. But drainage was excellent, the sun came out and 136 adventuresome endurance riders showed up to do this new 25/50 mile ride in the Gavilan Hills area near Riverside.

The area is close to LA but other than the glow of lights on the horizon at night – you feel that you're are way out in the country. Ridecamp is up at 2,000 feet with the trail going up to 2,700 feet. In the dawn of morning we can see the real mountain to the east 40 miles away – the snow covered peak of the San Bernardino Mountains floating in the clouds covering their bases. The sunset on Friday had painted the sky over the hill toward the ocean with hues of molten gold.

Our ridecamp is courtesy of a local landowner, Chris Herron, who is developing part of the area and has cleaned out a huge space for our camp from the apple trees that used to cover these hills. There's a large tent in case of rain for dinner and awards put up based on the theory that if you prepare as it will rain – it won't. The theory was proven in practice, as it was a lovely day. Head vet was Dr. Dave Nicholson assisted by local vets Drs. Hewitt and Florio.

A very nice feature of the evening ridecamp was the large fire where people hung around and talked – something that Californians can't afford later in the year when things get dry. It's nice to see old friends from northern California and new friends from the southern part. For me, rides are as much a social event as they are a competition.

When we start out at 6:30 AM, the trails are soft due to the rain but not slick. There are "chocolate" puddles everywhere in the road for extra water for the horses. The trails range from bridle trails with small rocks outlining the edge to single-track through the brush to wide fire roads. At the start the front-runners take off and most of the other riders are waiting for everyone else to go so they can be in the back of the pack. This is almost like a multiday ride. Everyone is saying, "after you".

Horses are always excited at the start – we can see them silhouetted in the dawn light on the trail ahead with steam coming off their bodies. A horse stops at a

small stream crossing – then spooks as we come over the hill – dumping his rider off backwards – and taking off along the trail. The rider trudges along after his horse and when some brings the horse and asks if he's hurt – you hear – “I'm just embarrassed at getting dumped”.

There are wildflowers all along the trail this time of year. There's yellow-orange California Poppies, blue brush lupine, orange blossoms on the trees, California buttercup, Indian paintbrush, and small white popcorn flowers all along the trails and hills. This is the green time for California, which so quickly dries to brown for the rest of the year.

The trails are well marked and there are a nice variety of trails leading to our vet check at the equestrian center. There are clearly a lot of horse activities in this community. We ride through large arrays of satellite antennas aimed at outer space while we focus on finding our own way here on earth.

As I ride along with someone – it's normal to start up a conversation. You trade information about where you're from – first names – and then something about what you do. It's surprising how often you find that you know the same people or have lived in the same area...This time it turns out that we both went to universities in the same town in the east, are both in technical fields, and know some of the same people in our field. It's sometimes said that there's only 6 degrees of separation between anyone in the world. I think it's even closer for endurance riders.

There's a continuing thread involving water that goes through California from the past to the future. I've written about the Owens Valley water and Los Angeles at the past Coso Junction ride. At this ride – apple trees covered the area where our ridecamp is until recently. Then the cost of water went up and it became unprofitable to raise apples. Now the land's being developed and equestrians are competing with homes for open space. Clearly there's a very good attempt to keep horses in the community here that benefits riders like us. But water continues to shape the land use for all Californians.

The trail up to the lunch vet check is moderate with the more difficult portions afterwards. The FEI-type PR boxes work well with there being no delays anywhere. The 'significant' hills lie after the lunch check with a firing range thrown in for variety. The shooters seem courteous and stop firing when the horses are passing. Over all, it's a 'moderate difficulty' ride especially with the cool weather.

There are all sorts of people at this ride – from riders in buckskin chaps with fringes to a rider with 37,000+ miles who rides while listening to “books on tape”. There's some Standardbreds that are huge compared to our Arabs with necks that 3/8 the length of their bodies. They did just fine, though, on the limited distance ride. Somehow the word giraffe kept coming to mind...

The awards dinner is excellent and music fills the air. There was supposed to be a live band but due to muddy roads reaching the ride site – they are unwilling to risk it. Recorded music works almost as well and a good time is had by all. There were 9 teams in the 50; 55 of 64 finished the 50 and 67 of 72 completed the LD. Suzy Kelley on Ernie Lohman's Karahy Mystique was first in 4:39 with Audrey Scott on Fire Mountain Blaize in 4:40 as a close second. John Parke on his Icelandic, Remington, was in a full 25 minutes before the last riders in 9:27. QSER riders Robert Oram and is 8th in 5:35, Robert Ribley, 23rd on Monique in 7:17 and Becky Hart on Aleclipse, 7:52.

Mike Maul and Thor pulled at the second vet check after almost disappearing into a sinkhole in one of the “chocolate” puddles in the road. Something under the surface left a 3-inch scrape above Thor's stifle and that was it for the day for us. He was fine several days after the ride is looking forward to Cuyama next weekend.

This is another excellent first time ride put on in the PS Region. There were 44 cancellations due to worries about the rain but these riders missed a really excellent new ride in the spring in California.

Lynne – another ride in the tradition of the Norco Riverdance.

Nancy Elliott sent us this poem for those tough times!

When your day seems out of balance----

*.....”When your day seems out of balance;
and so many things go wrong...
When people fight around you and the day drags on so long...
When parents act like children, in-laws make you think
“Divorce”...
Go out into your pasture...
And wrap your arms around your horse.*

*His gentle breath enfolds you, and he watches with
those eyes.
He may not have a PhD, but he is, oh so wise!
His head rests on your shoulder.
You embrace him, oh so tight.
He puts your world in balance, and makes it seem all
right.*

*Your tears, they soon stop flowing.
The tension is now eased.
The garbage has been lifted, and you're quiet and at
peace.*

*So when you need the balance from circumstances in
your day...
The best therapy that you can seek..
Is out there eating hay!!”*

THE HORSE'S BEHIND
or
Why the Width of a Horse's Behind Is So Important

Submitted by Jeri Scott-Ayers

Here is a look into the corporate mind that is very interesting, educational, historical, completely true and hysterical all at the same time.

The US standard railroad gauge (width between the two rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots first formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

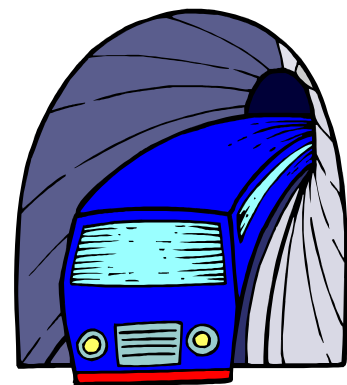
Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a

specification and wonder what horse's behind came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

Thus, we have the answer to the original question.

Now, the twist to the story....

There's an interesting extension to the story about railroad gauges and horses' behinds. When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are built by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds. So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's behind!



Cathy Kauer is writing new column and may be calling or e-mailing members for interviews about

The Idiosyncrasies of our Horses

Taking a closer look at our horse's personalities is always interesting. The following stories may make you smile.

Chatting with Judy Etheridge, I found out about the robust personality of **Orion**. Orion may go slow down the trail one day and fast another, but when he's peeved, he just lies down on the trail. Voting with his feet, I guess. In addition, if he's really indignant, he'll snort and grunt to underline his point.

On hot days, Orion is also found of curling up as close as possible to a water trough, to help himself to a bath, Judy thinks. Lots of tail swishing, foot stamping and wriggling accompanies this...if you didn't know him you might think he was having a fit. Also he has a charming way of telling you to get going—a good nudge with his head should do it.

When he is haltered or bridled, he takes part of the halter or bridle in his mouth, and rolls it round, savoring its fine quality no doubt, then drops it so it can be put on. If he can't go as fast as he thinks he should on the trail, he grabs the shank of his hackamore with his lips in frustration.

Vivian Beebe recounted some stories about **Zak**, whom her husband, Chuck, had ridden. Zak turns 24 this year. He does like to tease people apparently. When Chuck would try to take a pit stop on the trail, Zak would wait until a good moment presented itself and shove his head in Chuck's backside, pushing Chuck over. He likes to get going back on the trail.

At the Fireworks Ride in Santa Cruz, Vivian was working at the finish line table when Zak appeared and took one look at her, came over and flipped the table and her papers up in the air with one easy movement. Vivian says he just has a sense of who is around and what is happening. He was very tolerant of a novice sister-in-law who rode him. Right now he job is coaching Stephanie, the Beebe's granddaughter. He is tolerant of her high jinks and seems to love little kids.

Trail News

News from Bay Area Barns and Trails about efforts to save the Alum Rock Stables from development

BABaT director, Barbara Weitz, reports that political support is building. San Jose Councilperson Reed even offered \$\$\$ for acquisition and operation. Barbara responded to the offer by explaining that the project is still in the 'due diligence' phase and that here are some problems to overcome including obtaining guaranteed legal access to Alum Rock Park as well as establishing the legality of the dirt road to the stables. She wrote, "At this time we are building political, city, and count staff support for our efforts to purchase and restore the property. Simultaneously, we are building community support; our 'steering committee' includes 15 San Jose residents...equestrians, historians and families."

The purpose of Bay Area Barns and Trails is "to acquire, protect, preserve, and maintain stables, trails, pastures, staging areas, and horse camps in the San Francisco Bay Area." For more information visit the website at:

www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

The following information is from east bay horseperson and supporter of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail, Marilyn Terstegge

Trail Riders! There's good NEWS!

A new Equestrian Group Camp is being created at Lake Camanche (near Pardee Reservoir) South Shore by the East Bay Municipal Utility Water District (EBMUD). The camp is nestled in 16 acres of mature oak trees adjacent to Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Staging Area and has 7 sites to accommodate up to 32 persons and 8 vehicles with trailers. Sites have picnic tables, barbecue/fire rings, paddocks, high line poles, hitching rails and water close by plus a wash rack and manure bins. There are 7 miles of trail at the campsite and 10 miles at nearby Pardee. Contact Steve (209) 772-8260 or sdiers@ebmud.com for more information.

Dams in Coe Park, NOT!

Your editor is following this issue and is on the Water District e-mail list for information and public meetings. A public meeting may occur soon and will be noticed to the QSER newsgroup.

