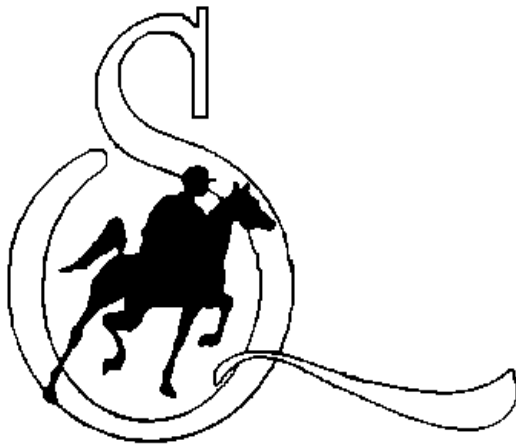


QUICKSILVER QUIPS

december 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

December 2003

The year is quickly coming to an end. The horses are fuzzy and it's a good thing with the cold days and nights we have been having. Quite a few of our members are very high in the standings with AERC, but that is not unusual. Quicksilver has such a large number of top, dedicated riders that it would be odd not to see them dominate.

Reflecting back over 2003, I think about the success the club has had in putting on two quality endurance rides, doing a much needed update to the by-laws and having several fun BBQ's. You can't look back on the year and not think of the friends and members that were lost, Richard Vargas, Ernie Elliot, Kay Allison, and most recently Joanne Evans. It is hard to imagine that any one of us has escaped the affects of losing one of these people.

december 2003 Quicksilver Quips

On a lighter note, our Christmas Party is December 10th at the Almaden Community Center at 6:00pm. It is always a lot of fun, so I hope everyone is able to make it.

Everyone have a safe and happy holiday season!

Lori

Board and General Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 6.35 PM.

Officers present were: Lori Oleson, Jill Kilty-Newburn, Steve Lenheim, Jeanette Brown and Kathy Miller.

Also attending: Maryben Stover, Elaine Alton, Trilby Pederson, Pat McKendry, Marilyn Orlando and Kathy Mayeda.

CORRESPONDENCE

No Mail

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Checking Account | \$4026.92 |
| Deposits | 9260.00 |
| Wrote checks | 3580.55 |
| Trails Account | 904.04 |
| Juniors Account | 772.21 |

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Membership

There was a discussion about new membership fees. Last year we had Family membership, now we have senior and juniors membership.

It was agreed the new fees would be \$15. per senior and \$5. per junior member.

2. Goodwill

Sadly, Joanne Evans passed away Friday 14th November. Maryben will send a card to Don on our behalf. Maryben will also send a card from us to Dave Fanara who is having surgery on his shoulder.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. QS Fall Classic Wrap Up

Jill reported that were 88 entries. It was a tough course and a warm day. The rider who fell and was hurt is now doing well. There were many volunteers

who did a great job. The park re-routed the trail which made things difficult. Complaints were made about the lack of water at Bull Run. The crew at McAbee did a great job of cleaning up - Thanks Ken.

[Financial summary]

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| IN - | \$9000.00 |
| OUT - | 5800.00 |
| NET - | 3200.00 |

Half the proceeds will go to Bay Area Ridge Trail. There was a discussion on what to do with the rest. Steve suggested a special project e.g. a water tank. Maryben suggested improvement to Sierra Azul.

2. Horse Welfare

There has been some concern regarding a particular rider. Jill wrote to the Horse Welfare Committee who will speak to the rider in question.

3. AERC

Jill said that the AERC had requested elapsed ride times. This will be discussed later with Maryben.

4. Spring Ride

This ride is not yet sanctioned.

5. Christmas Party

The party will be held at the New Almaden Community Center on Bertram Road (just behind La Foret) On December 10th at 6p.m. A-L please bring vegetables (Elaine will bring mashed potatoes) M-Z desserts/salad.

Trilby needs help decorating the room for the party. Elaine suggested that the juniors help her. The adults thought this was a good idea. Juniors to liaise with Trilby. Please bring a gift, wrapped and under \$15.

6. Elections

Trilby nominated herself for the Board. Lori said this was OK.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Awards Banquet

Gifts for the awards banquet were discussed. Maryben talked about approaching organizations such as State Line Tack.

2. Calendar

Everybody wishing to be in the calendar needs to send photographs to Steve as soon as possible. Steve also stated that he was looking for some ideas for the format - how can we make it more interesting. Send ideas to Steve.

3. Year End Committees

A discussion took place about who should call members. It was agreed that Steve would call Mike Tracy re: Hall of Fame, Jill would call Brian Reeves about Elinor Norton, Kathy would call Michelle Roush about Horse of the Year and Maryben would call Bob Suhr about Personal Hall of Fame.

ELECTIONS

Elaine Alton was elected Secretary, Pat McKendry, Trilby Pederson and Maryben were elected to the Board. Lori Oleson is the outgoing President and Steve Lenheim is the incoming President. Jill Kilty-Newburn will continue as Vice-President and Kathy Miller will continue as Treasurer.

OTHER BUSINESS

Everyone thanked Lori for a great job as President. Pat moved to adjourn, Marilyn seconded. Meeting closed 7.45 PM.

Notes from Maryben

Dolly Decair [recently] lost Kharaty. He was age 25. Sounded like a ruptured aorta. He didn't suffer and went very fast. Please go out and kiss your horses tonight, you don't know when it may be your last.

Long time member Dave Fanara is having shoulder surgery and has decided to close down his Morgan Hill Auto Repair shop. He has been there for over 30 year I think.

I sent a get well card to a lady in Washington from the club and got a very nice thank you note.

Maryben and Quicksilver Riders. Your "duct tape" get well care, sent this summer was greatly appreciated. It was especially awesome to hear from people I don't even know but who cared. I had just

started chemotherapy and was not feeling so great physically or mentally. The timing was perfect. It really warmed my heart and made me laugh.

I am back on my horse now and am planning for next year's endurance rides, of course. I was born and raised in Santa Cruz. I would love to meet endurance riders from my old stomping grounds. This next year I'll be staying in the Pacific Northwest but in 05- who knows. I hope I get to meet some of you in person someday. Thank you again, Patty Betts.

PS, a good friend of mine, Lisa Leask in Santa Cruz says she helped condition local endurance horses. If any of you know of her, I would love to hear from you....

WANT ADS

Horse for Sale

Cody is a bay 11 year old Arab out of the Bask line. \$1,500. Contact Shirley King at Rvgette@aol.com.

Saddle for Sale

Arabian saddle, Solstice model.16 inch seat \$750.00 925-240-5809 or Jreens@aol.com

Stalls with Paddocks/Pasture for Rent

Brand new 12x12 stalls with 24x12 paddocks, shavings; we clean. \$250, pasture \$180. Feed twice a day, high grade oat and alfalfa hay. 96x48 outdoor arena. Direct access to 3,600 acre Almaden Quicksilver County Park with 19 miles of manicured trails. Call Trilby at 408 997-7500 for more information.

Room for Rent

Room with bath in Trilby's barn, \$450 per month.
You can now live with your horse ☺

Dynamite Products Distributor

www.dynamiteonline.com

Jan Jeffers, sleeeker@garlic.com

408 779-4722

FASTRACK Probiotics at a direct discount from the Manufacturer. If you are interested in trying daily and supplemental probiotics now is the time. Promote health, increase performance, ensure a healthy digestive tract at a low cost. For more information contact Wild Eye Arabians, Kirsten and Michael Berntsen at 831-623-2120 or kirstenzazz@hotmail.com or www.conklin.com/wildeyearabians.

Some seasonal humor from Jill Kilty-Newburn ☺

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A: Frostbite

Q: What do you get when you divide a pumpkin by its circumference?

A: Pumpkin Pie

A CTR friend send me this; I confess that I did rather poorly ☺

How's your aging intelligence? Take the following test here and determine if you are losing it or are still "with it." The spaces are so you don't see the answers until you have made your own.... OK, relax, clear your mind and.... begin.

Question 1. What do you put in a toaster?

The answer is "bread." If you said "toast," then give up now and go do something else. Try not to hurt yourself. If you said, "bread," go to.....

Question 2. Say "silk" five times. Now spell "silk." What do cows drink?

Answer: Cows drink water. If you said "milk," please do not attempt the next question. Your brain is obviously over stressed and may even overheat. It may be that you need to content yourself with reading something more appropriate such as "Children's World." If you said, "water" then go to Question 3.

Question 3. If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a greenhouse made from?

Answer: Greenhouses are made from glass. If you said "green bricks," what the devil are you still doing here reading these questions?? If you said "glass," then go on to Question 4.

Question 4. If the hour hand on a clock moves 1/60 of a degree every minute then how many degrees will the hour hand move in one hour?

Answer: One degree. If you said "360 degrees" or anything other than "one degree," you are to be congratulated on getting this far, but you are obviously out of your league. Turn your pencil in and exit the room. Everyone else proceed to the final question.

Question 5. Without using a calculator -- You are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales. In London, 17 people get on the bus. In Reading, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In Swindon, two people get off and four get on. In Cardiff, 11 people get off and 16 people get on. In Swansea, three people get off and five people get on. In Carmarthen, six people get off and three get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. What was the name of the bus driver?

Answer: Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember? It was YOU!

TRAIL NEWS

Fall Trail Days Santa Clara County Parks

*I am **again** repeating this from Janice's information in October; we **need** to get out and work on the trails we use so much!!!!*

Come on out and help repair, restore or build the following trails on these dates:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Dec 6 | Rocky Ridge Trail and Stiles Trail at Santa Teresa |
| Dec 13 | Great Eastern at Almaden Quick |
| Dec 20 | Rocky Ridge Trail at Santa Teresa |
| Dec 21 | Table Mountain Trail at Upper Steven's Creek Park |
| Jan 3 | Stiles Trail at Santa Teresa |
| Jan 10 | Prospect #3, Almaden Quicksilver |
| Jan 18 | Table Mountain Trail at Upper Steven's Creek Park. and snacks are provided. For more information and to sign up contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (408) 355-2264 or the Trails Program at 408 629-9367 or visit parkhere.org. |
- Work begins at 8:00 AM. Tools, gloves, water and snacks are provided. For more info and to sign up contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (408) 355-2264 or the Trails Program at 408 629-9367 or visit parkhere.org.

Decade Teams

"In the 1960s, when endurance riding was in its infancy, the conventional wisdom was that horses were tough and that is the way we approached them. I don't think it ever occurred to any of us that you actually kill a horse by overriding. I know now they are very fragile. I think the longevity we are seeing now with horses with ten plus years in this sport still

going down the trail speaks volumes of how far we have come. So I now consider that the goal rather than having to win." *Julie Suhr*

Quicksilver member, **Karen Chaton**, is compiling the stories of the horses and their riders who have ridden endurance for at least 10 years. Starting in January, interviews and more will be published in *Endurance News* about the 50 horse and rider teams who have been together for a decade or more, through the 2003 ride season. The first interview with Karen Bumgarner about her horse Zap is already online at www.aerc.org/long_karenb.asp.

Do your Christmas shopping at Kathy's

A month ago, I was riding on the Butano Fire Road in Pescadero, which is just down the road from my house, with my friend, Gertie. As we came near the bottom of the trail, we saw a female hound dog that looked like she had just delivered pups. Well, low and behold, she led us right to seven newborn puppies, which she delivered right off of a side trail.

Mom, who we are calling Sally, was skin and bones. So, we brought the horses back home and I got my boyfriend, Bill. Bill and I headed back with a box and a dish full of dog food. It didn't take much to convince Sally that we were taking her to a safe place.

Sally is a very sweet dog and so are her adorable, mostly black (with some brown and white) pups. Sally is 2-3 years old and is most likely a Walker hound (she is approx 35-40 lbs). She and her pups will be available for adoption (to a good home) the week of December 22nd.

It appears that the pups are half hound and half black lab. Some of pups have already been spoken for, but there are a few left, so call or e-mail me and I can e-mail photos to you. 650.879.1115 or kwebster@southcoast.net

Sorry this is so long, but I had to share their amazing story. Thank you, Kathy Webster

Thank you, Kathy and Bill, for being such caring people.

QSERs Rule! *Mike Maul sent this information.*

Here are the point standings for W region QSER members as of rides reported by 11/25/03. QSER regional overall standings are 2, 4, 7, 10.

Div Rider Equine Breed Sex Miles Div. Ovrll Ovrll

Pl Name Name Pts. Pts. Place

Featherweight Division

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|---------|---|-----|-------|------|----|
| 3 | Michele Roush | Do So La | Arab | G | 560 | 1605 | 1430 | 2 |
| 4 | Michele Roush | Tallymark | 1/2 Ara | G | 350 | 129.5 | 1120 | 10 |
| 5 | Trilby Pederson | Beau | Arab | G | 100 | 1075 | 1005 | |
| 6 | Karen Chaton | Rocky | Arab | G | 600 | 1065 | 645 | |

Lightweight Division

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|------|---|-----|------|------|---|
| 1 | Dennis Tracy | San Francisco | Arab | G | 450 | 1625 | 136 | 4 |
| 5 | Heather Reynolds | LF Master | Arab | G | 355 | 1239 | 1155 | 7 |
| | | Motion | | | | | | |
| 7 | Judy Reens | Benjih+// | Arab | G | 300 | 1055 | 855 | |

Middleweight Division

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------|-------|---|-----|------|-------|--|
| 7 | Jeremy Reynolds | LF Al | Arab | G | 450 | 1180 | 957.5 | |
| | | Zarka | Sudan | | | | | |

Div Rider Equine Breed Sex Miles Div. Ovrll Ovrll
Pl Name Name Pts. Pts. Place

Heavyweight Division

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|------|---|-----|--------|-----|--|
| 3 | Michael Berntsen | Padrons | Arab | M | 660 | 1865.5 | 897 | |
| | | Cruising | | | | | | |

Juniors

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|--------------|------|---|-----|-----|--|--|
| 9 | Hillary Graham | Sabaku Tono | Arab | G | 250 | 390 | | |
| 10 | Megan Doyle | LF Silvermen | Arab | G | 150 | 370 | | |

Pacific South Heavyweight

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|----------|---|-----|------|-----|--|
| 1 | Michael Maul | Rroco- | 1/2 Arab | G | 620 | 1474 | 645 | |
| | | My-Sol | | | | | | |
| 4 | Michael Maul | Monterey PF | Arab | G | 225 | 550 | 240 | |

National 100 Mile Championship

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Rank | Rider | Region | Equine | Breed | Sex | Miles | Points |
| 4 | Dennis Tracy | W | San Francisco | Arab | G | 300 | 1005 |
| 7 | Heather Reynolds | W | LF Master | Arab | G | 200 | 900 |
| | | | Motion | | | | |

Bill Stuckey Award

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--|--|--|------|--|
| 3 | Trilby Pederson | W | | | | 1155 | |
|---|-----------------|---|--|--|--|------|--|

Pioneer

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Rank | Rider | Region | Equine | Name | Breed | Sex | Miles | Points |
| Featherweight Division | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Michele Roush | W | Do So La | | Arab | G | 560 | 1605 |
| 2 | Trilby Pederson | W | Beau | | Arab | G | 855 | 865 |

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

Mike also reports that the AERC Endurance Riders Handbook has been updated by the Education Committee and is online now at the AERC home page.

<http://www.aerc.org/> under the Education Menu or at http://www.aerc.org/AERC_Rider_Handbook110303.asp.

There is useful information both for the beginner and tips for the experienced endurance rider in the

updated document. It has a checklist of things to take to a ride and the Preventing Treatment material recently developed.

The Education Committee was responsible for this update of the 1991 document. Committee members are Stagg Newman, Co-Chair, Maggy Price, Co-Chair Connie Caudill, Susan Garlinghouse, **Jan Jeffers, Barbara McCrary**, Ann Cofield, Stan Eichelberger and Steph Teeter.

A friend sent me this story; the Dempseys are interested in putting on an endurance ride.

Bench Creek Cattle Drive

I have just returned from the adventure of my life! My husband Mike and I spent three days as the guests of Pat and Linda Dempsey on their west-central Nevada ranch, helping move 200 head of cattle 25 miles to their winter range.

It all started when I was looking on the web for dressage events and stumbled instead on Pat's ad for his cattle drive. It seized my imagination. After numerous e-mails and phone conversations with Pat, and lots of fast-talking to convince my husband, we decided to go for it.

At last the date came for our trip. We arrived with our horses at the base camp in Middlegate, Nevada to a warm welcome from the Dempseys and their crew, a roaring fire built by Dennis McJunckin—who proved to be a master fire-tender—and a tasty dinner cooked over Dennis's fire by Tootie Power, cook and hostess extraordinaire. There were five of us going along as guests.

While the others camped out for the night, Mike and I enjoyed a last bit of convenience at the Old Middlegate Station Motel, just off Highway 50 (the loneliest highway in the world), along the path of the Old Lincoln Highway. Middlegate is a "town" consisting of a bar and grill, motel, chicken house, and a trailer park of about a dozen or so trailers. The total population is around 14. When you get there, you truly are entering another world, and everyone makes you feel as though you've been part of their "family" forever.

We awoke to the sound of the chickens that owners Russ and Fredda Stevenson keep to supply their restaurant, and quickly drove over to join the group at base camp and gobble down a hearty breakfast. They made it easy on us that first day,

planning only a five-mile ride north along Bench Creek. This was the day we started learning the ropes, where to position ourselves, how to bring back a stray cow, when to stay out of the way, etc.

It was a family operation. Tootie's husband Jim, along with Dennis, went ahead of us with the vehicles (water and hay trucks, Tootie's kitchen-on-wheels, etc.) from camp to camp, and had each camp ready for us when we got there. Pat and Linda's son Jake was the lead cowboy, along with his friends Cody, Wayne, and James. Linda cooked with Tootie, and Pat drove a team of draft horses pulling a beautiful bright green chuckwagon that he'd built with his own hands.

At the end of the day, as we approached Second Camp at Bench Creek Well, the first thing we could see was a huge tee-pee, which we soon learned was part of a program that had been specially arranged for us. That evening, we were entertained by a marvelous demonstration given by Bill Burleigh, a flint-knapper and expert on Native American crafts. After another great dinner and evening of friendly chat by the fire, we gratefully hit our bedrolls.

Everyone was incredibly helpful. When my horse was too excited the first morning to let me pick up her feet, Cody came over and cleaned them for me. He took his time and worked in some patient training while he was at it. The second day, Mike was getting tired of riding and his horse Toby was misbehaving a little. Pat gave him a quick lesson in driving the draft team, put him in charge of the chuckwagon, and took off on Toby. He rode him skillfully, got his attention on his job, and returned him to Mike a better horse.

When the weather suddenly turned too snowy and cold to use the camp shower and latrine, Linda graciously opened her home for all to use the bathroom and take showers. Jim helped us with our horses in various ways, and he and Tootie housed them in their barn at Middlegate while we were at the motel. Jim and Tootie also lent one of their horses to a guest whose horse wasn't able to continue the ride. Dennis was a perfect gentleman, always making sure we had a chair and a choice spot by the fire. The cowboys gave us lots of helpful advice, and were tactful and patient with our amateurish mistakes. Tootie not only fed us but also had a knack for bringing everyone together and making us all feel like old friends.

The cowboys gave us lots of entertainment. They tackled their work with great energy, galloping up and down the lines of cattle, whooping, hollering, and whistling. They rode hard, and one would expect them to drop with exhaustion during breaks. Instead they would start playing and putting on a rodeo show for us—chasing down and roping calves. The cowboys rode mostly two-year olds, green horses that

had been ridden perhaps only a few times. They changed mounts often, roping and saddling a new horse, and riding out the bucking until the horse settled into the work. These boys were hard working, polite, cheerful, and professional. If they're the future of America, we're doing all right.

As we became accustomed to the work, the rides got longer. The second day we did about ten miles, ending up at Bench Creek Ranch headquarters. Another great dinner, another great fire. The wind came up, so we all went to bed early and awoke the next morning to news of an arctic storm moving in. We had to wind up the drive that day or risk getting stranded at a remote camp in a snowstorm.

That day was the most challenging ride, but also the most scenic. We drove the cattle about ten miles through the roughest country I'd ever ridden in. The views were spectacular, the landscape constantly changing as we wound our way over the alpine hills to Horse Creek Ranch and on to deliver the cows to the hills above Dixie Valley. Then we turned our horses around and they carried us the ten miles back to Bench Creek Ranch. The next morning we awoke to a carpet of snow veiling everything in sight. It was lovely, but we were sure glad we weren't riding that day.

Instead, we returned to Middlegate Station and stayed on for the Halloween party that night. Boy, those Nevadians sure know how to party! We enjoyed dancing to the fiddle music of two-time Nevada fiddle champion, Jake Wise. The Halloween costumes were clever and hilarious. It was an unforgettable time with great company, good food, and lots of laughter.

Looking back, there are many things I learned from this experience. I learned there are still communities where strangers are welcomed with a generosity beyond words. I learned a little bit about the cattle business, and gained a lot of respect for the ranchers and cowboys who do this work. I learned that Nevada is more gorgeous than I ever imagined, once you get off the highway. I learned my horse can be trusted to carry me safely through country rougher than I would ever have dared to ride.

As I mentioned before, I had to twist Mike's arm to get him to go with me. After we'd been home a few days, imagine my surprise and delight when he said, "I'm glad you made me go. It was a very worthwhile experience and I had a great time."

—Jill Owens, November 2003

For more information:

<http://www.extendinc.com/benchcreekranch/>
Pat and Linda Dempsey--775-426-8244.

Welcome to the 2004 Quicksilver Officers

| | |
|----------------|---|
| President | Steve Lenheim |
| Vice-President | Jill Kilty-Newburn |
| Secretary | Elaine Alston |
| Treasurer | Kathy Miller |
| Board Members | Pat McKendry Trilby Pederson Maryben Stover |

Reminders

Steve Lenheim is putting together the 2004 Quicksilver calendar and is looking for photos of you and your horse and some new ideas for the format. Please mail your photos by December 31 to Steve at:
19201 Barnes Road, San Jose, CA 95120.

Maryben redesigned the annual points form included in this issue. Please mail them to her by December 31. Snooze, you lose!

Also Michele is still looking for nominees for the Horse of the Year.

And the most important of all

ΑΝΔ ΤΗ ΜΟΣΤ ΙΜΠΟΡΤΑΝΤ ΟΦ ΑΛΛΤΗΕ
ΧΗΡΙΣΤΜΑΣ ΠΑΡΤΨΑΣ

The Christmas Party

which will be held at the New Almaden Community Center on Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00 PM. Please bring a wrapped gift, value \$15 or less.

A-L bring a vegetable dish or appetizer
M-Z a dessert or salad.

ΑΝΑ ΤΗ ΜΟΣΤ ΙΜΠΟΡΤΑΝΤ ΟΦ ΑΦΛΑΤΗ
Ε ΧΗΡΙΣΤΜΑΣ ΠΑΡΤΥΑ

Javelina Jundred

By Marvin Snowbarger

Pat McDonald and I had signed up for the Javelina 100 M run to be held in Fountain Hills, Arizona (a community outside of Phoenix), on November 8, hoping that we would have good weather and a course-friendly event. Overall, our expectations were met: The weather was mild and about 80 degrees; the night portion of the run was beautiful with the eclipse and then a full moon; and the race director executed the event perfectly.

The Javelina was the last ultra of the season that could be used as a qualifier for the Western States 100 M Run next summer. Pat and I decided to give it a try because the course had about 700 feet of elevation change within a closed loop trail. From the start, the course climbed 700 feet and then descended 700 feet, coming back to base camp where we could access our supplies. This was an ideal course for us because we had no crew. If we could finish within the 30 hour cutoff, we could qualify for the Western States Lottery this December 6.

The daytime temperatures were a little warm for Pat. In spite of monitoring his food/liquid intake, he became nauseous and lost considerable time at base camp. Additionally, his feet blistered, requiring taping and constant attention. Toward the end, he just ran on the

blisters and kept his eyes on the finish line. Overall, in spite of the heat, the nausea, the blisters, and the lost time, he finished in 29 hours, 28 minutes – his first-ever 100 M completion. These runs ain't easy.

My experience was more benign and uneventful. I just kept plugging along, making sure to project my finishing time under the 30 hour limit. Facing no real problems, I crossed the finish line in 29 hours and 37 minutes – chalking up my third 100 M completion. No matter how you cut it, these things ain't easy.

But I did have one experience that caused me to shake my head in disbelief. Early Sunday morning, somewhere after 75 miles, and under a full moon which lit up the desert as though I was running in the middle of a movie set, I moved off the trail about 10 yards to find a friendly bush. Just me and the coyotes, or so I thought. With my shorts around my ankles, I heard a low humming noise and looked back to the trail to see a ranger's truck slowly cruising along with only the parking lights on. For some reason the truck stopped adjacent to my location, and I asked myself how this could be out here in the middle of the Arizona desert that I'm attracting attention? Well, I wasn't. Three runners were coming up the trail and they and the ranger met for a friendly exchange. So, it's the ranger, the runners and me (hidden) behind a bush in the middle of nowhere, but randomly assigned the same place in time and space. I smiled and thought to myself that the problems of modern life know no boundaries: CONGESTION IN THE DESERT.

After comparing war stories Sunday evening, Pat and I flew home on Monday and used the remainder of the week recuperating from our efforts and getting our lives back to normal. For me, that meant that I wasn't going to be running an average of 37 miles per week and wondering whether I could finish a 100 M run on such low mileage.

I sent in my Western States entry to the lottery and will go to Auburn on December 6th to see whether I'll be "rewarded" with another opportunity to run a 100M. Pat and I agreed

that the race director had put together a fine run for a first-time event.



december 2003 Quicksilver Quips

NAME OF RIDER _____

NAME OF HORSE _____ BREED _____ AGE _____

TOTAL CAREER MILES RIDER _____ TOTAL CAREER MILES HORSE _____

MILESTONES THIS YEAR _____

LIST ALL RIDES COMPLETED FROM

1/1/02 TO 11/30/03

YOUR WEIGHT DIVISION _____

REMEMBER CREWING MILES AND RIDE AND TIE MILES COUNT TOO.

| NAME OF RIDE | LENGTH | PLACING IN YOUR WEIGHT DIVISION | DID YOU WIN BEST CONDITION | DID YOU SPONSOR A JUNIOR |
|--------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
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PLEASE USE A SEPARATE SHEET FOR EACH HORSE/RIDER COMBINATION. USE THE REST OF THIS FORM AND/OR THE BACK TO TELL US ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, YOUR HORSE, CREW, FAMILY, GRANDCHILDREN, ETC. ALL FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31, 2003. NO EXCEPTIONS MAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO MARYBEN STOVER, 1299 SANDRA DRIVE, SAN JOSE CA 95125-3535 408-265-0839

2004 January Rides

| Date | Region | Ride Name | Distance | Manager | Phone # |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 01/10 | PS | Warner Springs | 25/50 (140 rider limit) | Terry Woolley Howe | 619-445-5443 |
| 01/17 | PS | Fire Mountain | 25/50/75 | Mike Benson 1539 N. China Lake Blvd. Ridgecrest, CA 93555 | |

Horse of the Year

Calendar Photos



december Quicksilver Potluck Party
Wednesday December 10, at 6:00 PM

Last names A-L bring a vegetable dish or appetizer
M-Z a dessert or salad. Please bring a wrapped gift,
Value up to \$15 to put under the tree.

The party location is at the New Almaden Community Center on Bertram Road just
behind La Foret.

Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.
P. O. Box 71
New Almaden, CA 95042