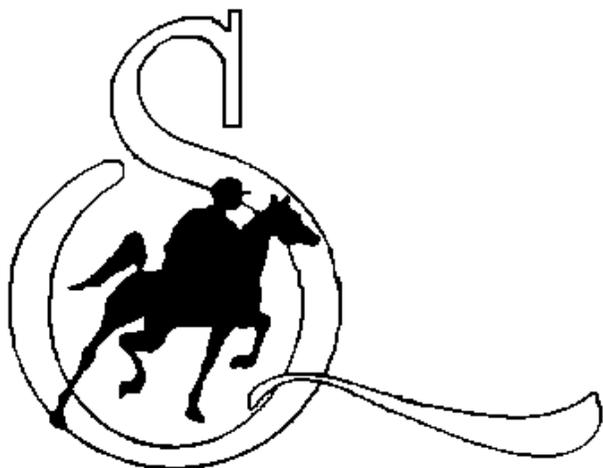


# QUICKSILVER QUIPS

J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 3



President:	Lori Oleson
Vice President:	Jill Kilty-Newburn
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Treasurer:	Kathy Miller
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Board Member:	Trilby Pederson
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**Published by the Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.**  
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# President's Message

The December Christmas Party was a success as usual. The Almaden Community Center (our new meeting place) was a cozy setting. Good food, good friends, and lots of fun gifts to go around. Maryben presented Marvin with a very special Christmas gift; an entry for the 2003 Western States 100 Mile Run. Marvin was surprised and almost speechless. Now he gets the opportunity to defend his title, the oldest person completing the run.

There are plenty of items to work on this New Year. Updating the by-laws is at the top of the list. More on this in the coming months. Scott is helping put together guidelines on managing an endurance ride. This will be helpful to all of our future ride managers.

Our regular meeting location has changed along with the date. We are now meeting at the Almaden Community Center (on Bertram Road next to La Foret Restaurant) on the third Wednesday of the month. The board meetings will be at 6:30 PM and the general meetings at 7:30 PM. The community center seems to meet all of our needs (central location, parking, low cost) but was not available on our regular meeting date.

Our awards banquet will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Harry's Hofbrau. Maryben is busy gathering up awards so make sure that you get your points in to her so you will be eligible for an award. We see more of our members at this function than at any other, so plan to be there!

Don't forget to give your horse a hug and a carrot. Lori

Meeting minutes

There are no minutes for this month as there was no meeting last month!

**Editor's, well, former editor's message:**

**NOTE FROM FORMER EDITOR**

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving!

I have struggled over getting the Quips out over the past few months, and when Judy Etheridge mentioned that she would like to be Quips editor, it just seemed to make more sense that I pass on the Quips. I have mixed feelings about giving up my editorship. Julie Suhr was right, it is very rewarding to be the editor of the Quips. But it requires time.

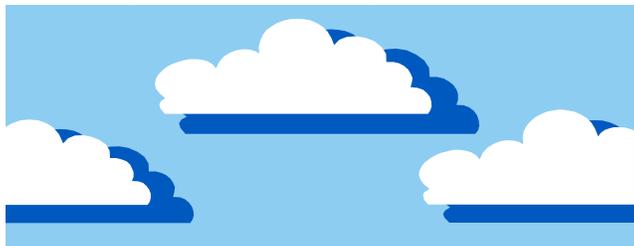
Club members have been wonderful about contributing to the Quips. Let's keep that up and give Judy some more great ride stories for the newsletter. Hopefully I'll be able to go to more rides, so I will have something to write about!  
Kathy

**Thanks, Kathy, for taking on the job for 2002. You did good in spite of many obstacles☺**

**Current editor's message:**

I am so glad the weather, as of 01/02/03, has improved and that I finally got the chance to ride yesterday for the first time in three weeks.

The Greenbelt Alliance worked with the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors who recently voted to keep urban-scale churches and schools (so-called Large Group Assembly Facilities, or LGAFs) out of city spheres of influence. County staff has been directed to work with cities, particularly San Jose and Mt. View to encourage them to find good locations inside city limits where large churches and



schools will best serve the residents.

Future of Alum Rock Stables

We experienced a lot of damage (horse shelters blew completely away, amazing, no phone, power, water) from the storm on December 16. There are good points and bad points to living at 2,000+ feet in the East Bay hills. Good, I can ride right into Sunol Regional Wilderness, bad, 100+ mph winds and horizontal rain!

**TRAIL NEWS**

*Any trail-related information will be published in this new column so if you have any please send it to me. je*

Here is some good news from the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has after 9 years of negotiation has agreed to allow access to the Crystal Springs watershed. The approximately 11 mile trail, basically a fire road, goes far to close the gap between Sweeney Ridge and Purissima Open Space Preserve.. Trail access will be limited to 3 days a week by reservation only and will be docent-led. Information for equestrian docent training should be available soon.

This bit of news is not strictly speaking about trails but will be of interest to rural county residents.

Several years ago the stable closed when long-time leaseholder Paul Templeton retired. Bay Area Barns and Trails (BABT) is mounting an effort to save the site from being sold for development. BABT is a new non-profit land trust whose mission is to raise money and form partnerships to preserve publicly accessible barns, stables, pastures, horse camps and trails in the region. BABT director, Barbara Weitz, is coordinating efforts to save the site and its access to Alum Rock trails. For more information, call 415 383-6283 or visit BABT website at [www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org](http://www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org). I would be happy to mail BABT newsletters to anyone who is interested. je

**Classified Ads**

## Equipment

### For Sale:

Set of Dick Hansen Portable corrals, powder coated, will not rust – 8 panels (normally comes with 6). In great shape., \$300. Jan Jeffers, Morgan Hill, CA..

[sleeeker@garlic.com](mailto:sleeeker@garlic.com)..

## Truck/Trailer

### For Sale:

RV: 1976 Ford Roll-a-Long 22 ft.. Low miles on 3-year old engine. Propane stove/oven, gas/electric refrigerator, sink, bathroom/shoer, overhead sleeping area, table/foldout bed in back, awning, A/C, heater.

\$4,000. Horse Trailer: Logan Coach Malibu 1990 2 horse trailer, step up, powder blue, \$2,500. Call Janice 408 256-4931 or E-mail

[frazzle@almaden.ibm.com](mailto:frazzle@almaden.ibm.com).

## Horses

### For Sale:

23 year old Palomino Quarter/Arab cross, Gold Fever, Has done it all. Tevis, cow work and pack horse.. Needs experienced rider, loves to go, very healthy. \$800 OBO.

3 year old Arab filly Amadea, bay, very sweet and mellow. By PS Cooper Sage. Related to Saamson. Had injury, might be perfect, might not. Would be good for trail pleasure or breeding. Good 4H prospect. \$800 OBO. Call Heather 408 997-1239 for both.

Registered Morgan filly born 02/08/02. Mom is only 6, but we think she has endurance potential and will be competing her some this year. Wonderful conformation and bloodlines. Very cute head. Lead, clips, ties, ponies, trailers. Has been to one Morgan show. Contact Karla@ [karperk1@attbi.com](mailto:karperk1@attbi.com) or [karla@perkinsmorgans.com](mailto:karla@perkinsmorgans.com).

Nine year old gelding big, strong, deep heart and loin girths, great bone. Has completed one 25 and one 50.

Seven year old mare trail savvy, very correct, great bone and deep heart and loin girth, a real power house. Call Judith Ogus and Becky Hart at 408 997-0814 or contact us at [randomrio@earthlink.net](mailto:randomrio@earthlink.net) for both horses.

## The Sport of Endurance Riding and the AERC 2003 Calendar

Here is some information that Mike Maul recently put on the net about how to order The Sport of Endurance Riding and the AERC 2003 calendar published by Knights of the Golden Horseshoe. and AERC Trails Chair, Jerry Fruth. I just received my calendar and am struck by how little early endurance riders carried on themselves and on their horses, and by how slim most everyone was, too. There are plenty of pictures from the old days as well as modern times. Barbara and Lud are a featured item. Profits will be divided between the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe and AERC Trails.

The calendar can be ordered for \$15 including shipping,



from Michael O'Daniel, 87 Lee Hwy #13, Warrenton, VA 20186. Phone # 540 349-7744, fax 540 349-7722, e-mail [onegooddoc@starpower.net](mailto:onegooddoc@starpower.net)

## Speaking of Calendars!!!!

Steve Lenheim is busy preparing the 2003 Quicksilver Riders Calendar. He is wishing and hoping for YOUR photos. Write any info you want for a caption on the back. Please snail mail them to him by January 15 or bring them to the January meeting.

Steve Lenheim  
Campbell Mortgage  
2100 South Bascom Ave.. #4  
Campbell, CA 95008

Steve will return your photos.

# It's That Time of Year!!!!

Your QUICKSILVER Riders membership fee is due by January 1, 2003.

We need your name \_\_\_\_\_

And then your address \_\_\_\_\_

And your phone number, Fax, e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

And last we need the names of the other members of your family.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

And then we need your money! Individual membership is \$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership is \$ 35 \_\_\_\_\_

**BUT** if your dues are postmarked before Jan 1, 2003, you can deduct \$ 5 from your membership fee... \$20 individual or \$30 family.

Why join the Quicksilver Endurance Riders? You will have the opportunity to participate in poker rides, moonlight rides, endurance rides, trail projects as well as attend monthly meetings, the Christmas party and the annual awards ceremony and saving the best for last, you will meet the best friends you will ever have!

How are our dues spent? Annual Yearbook/Calendar; monthly Newsletter; a representative voice in horse politics locally; trail maintenance and improvement projects; year-end awards and monthly meetings.

Send your 2003 dues, checks made out to: Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.

Mail to Membership Chairperson: Maryben Stover  
1299 Sandra Drive  
San Jose, CA 95125-3535

May you and your horse have wonderful Year 2003 riding together as members of the QUICKSILVER ENDURANCE RIDERS.

## Ride Story

### Tecopa Hot Springs

Two QSER members were at the ride. Jan Jeffers on Astro came in 7th and Mike Maul on Rroc came in 8th.

The Tacopa Hot Springs ride on December 7 is the first true ride of the 2003 season in the west. The Silver Springs ride the previous weekend bridges the past ride season and the one to come by one day.

Tecopa Springs is a new ride in the desert near Death Valley put on by Steve and Michele Shaw. It's starting small with a combined 32 riders in the LD and 50 mile ride. On the way to the ride I'm reminded that highways in the West always have interesting signs. There's "Win a free trip to Greece" at the Mad Greek Cafe with the world's best Gyros 40 miles ahead. Then there's Peggy Sue's 50s diner to consider. Everything out in the desert area of the west seems like it hasn't changed in many years - and will be the same 20 years from now. There's no homes, just RVs, trailers, and gas stops. Once you get off the Interstate, the roads are lonely with only an occasional RV or pickup on the road going straight off to the distant horizon and the blue mountains at dusk.

Ridecamp is in the town of Tacopa at a hot springs resort. There's good parking with RV hookups, hot showers, and the hot springs. At the ride meeting, Steve has the local BLM staff tell us about the endangered species with specific instructions about the Desert Tortoise. He describes the local animals and birds, which live in the area. The area is unique with hot springs and a stream where date palms and alfalfa can be grown at nearby China Ranch. Other speakers talk about how the area came to be when oases of water and greenery like China Ranch became cut off from each other, like islands of life in a sea of barren desert. In some places unique types of plants and animals evolved and adapted to the circumstances of their particular "island." These oases also became important stop over points, and sometime destinations, for many species of migratory birds. At China Ranch more than 225

species have been logged, some coming from as far away as Central and South America. The ranch is also home to a large variety of other desert animals, including gray and kit foxes, bobcats, kangaroo rats and pack rats, coyotes, and cotton tail and jack rabbits. In all - the ranch we will ride thru the next day is not your normal desert.

The ride starts at the civilized hour of 7 AM with a loop of 7 miles out, around, and back thru camp for a trot by. Then it's out to one vet check at 38 miles and back to camp. We pass thru the vet check twice even though we only have to vet once. It gives us a chance to rest the horses before the 18 mile loop back to the same point. It's relatively flat in the valley with high hills around us which we don't get into much during the ride. We pass a lot history on this ride - from the China Ranch to the Tonopah & Tidewater railroad to the Old Spanish Trail to the old abandoned mines that made the town grow - then fade as the lodes played out. The only recent mining, for gypsum, finally left in the 1980's.

The trail takes us along a steep walled road with abandoned mines to the China Ranch. It's a family owned and operated small farm, a lush piece of greenery in the forbidding Mojave Desert of Southern Death Valley. There are towering cottonwoods and willows by a wandering stream, date palms and abundant wildlife, all hidden away in some of the most spectacular scenery the desert has to offer. The dates grown here will provide us with our completion awards in the form of date bread and assorted kinds of dates.

The trail is rocky at times - sandy at others. It's moderate in difficulty. The abandoned rail tracks had steep washouts at times where we pick our way carefully. Occasionally we can see other riders far across the desert - more by the dust rising from the horses trotting than from seeing the riders themselves. In most places - there's excellent water except for the one 18 mile loop in the middle. We pass the old gypsum veins running thru the clay hills and see many of the old wooden structures used in mining in the past.

On the way into camp near the end of the ride - we pass the "wild" hot spring which is open to anyone

who wants to drive out and use it. There are several old battered pickups parked there and as we pass - I see a head visible above the waters sporting a cowboy hat. Steve mentioned at the ride meeting that we might see some naked people out at the wild spring but I'm just as happy that all we see is the cowboy hat this time...

After the ride - there's a potluck dinner with great barbecued chicken and ribs provided by ride management. There's a nice large fire for everyone to gather around for the awards. I've always liked this but most places in California are too dry to risk one in the summer. Our completion awards are the dates and date bread from China Ranch. The first and second place riders were Cheryl Dell and Linda Morelli with Linda's horse taking BC.

After the awards dinner - the hot springs were a very nice way to relax and loosen up some of the kinks in tired muscles from the ride. The family in the next tub had scented candles floating on the water when all five went in.

This first ride was one to convince the BLM staff that a 50 mile event could take place in their area safely and without damage to the environment. It went well and the ride managers plan to put the ride on again next year with a varied set of trails.

Driving back home I pass Zzyxz Road and wonder whether it's a sign of humor in the desert or something real. It turns out to be real and a fellow named Doc Springer chose the name Zzyxz for his resort on Soda Lake. The resort is now a research

lab for Cal State University. Even out here in the desert with no one for miles there's always something to catch your eye along the road.

Steve and Michele - this was a nice first ride and a good start for the 2003 ride season. I plan to see you again next year in this unique setting.

Mike

## 2003 January-February Rides

Date	Region	Ride Name	Distance	Manager	Phone #
01/18	PS	Fire Mountain	30/50	Mike Benson	760-371-3285
01/18	W	SASO	25/50	Becky Hart	408-997-0814
02/15	PS	20 Mule Team	35/65/100	Jackie Bumgardner	760-375-8915
02/22	W	SASO	25/50	Becky Hart	408-997-081

**Next meeting—Wednesday, January 15 at 7:30 PM at the  
New Almaden Community Center, Bertram Road, San Jose**

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