

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Judy Etheridge, Jan Jeffers, Steve Lenheim, Pat McKendry, Kathy Miller, Marilyn Orlando, Trilby Pederson and Maryben Stover.

Member absent: Kathy Mayeda.

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM at Trilby's residence. Thank you, Trilby, for all your hospitality and yummy dinners, too!

Minutes: The November 2002 Board meeting minutes were approved.

Correspondence: Two letters received; a receipt from Coe Park for the ride fees and an address change request from Dick Carter.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: Jan announced that the QSER meeting date will be changed, and beginning January 2003 the club will be meeting at the New Almaden Community Center, Bertram Road, San Jose.

Treasurer:

Junior Account	\$ 766.00
Trail Account	848.00
Previous Checking Account Balance	4,357.43
<u>Deposits</u>	
Ride entries	6,879.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Ride costs	4,792.33
Fee for ride wrap up meeting room--New Almaden Community Center	20.00
Web site maintenance--Mike Maul	20.00
Newsletter--Kathy Mayeda	218.89
Service charge--bank	20.00
Current Checking Account Balance	\$ 6,175.27

Steve would like a full financial report of the ride to be published in the Quips. He also suggested that the Club's yearly finances be summarized and published.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: No new members. Steve would like an updated membership list.

Goodwill: Condolences to Corrine Stewart for the loss of her older mare and to Julie Suhr for the loss of HCC Gazal, 7,900+ miles and 3 time Haggin Cup winner.

Trails and Awards: Vehicles have been broken into at the Mt. Madonna Sprig Lake parking lot.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws: Steve reminded the Board that the revised by-laws need to be published for approval.

Newsletter: Newsletter editor, Kathy Mayeda, has resigned. Judy Etheridge volunteered to be the editor for 2003 and to do the December 2002 issue.

Meeting place: Maryben reported that the Community Center may accept yard work in lieu of a charge for use of the meeting room. Due to uncertainty about the work requirements the Board decided that paying for the room would be preferable. The Center is not available on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; changing the date to the 1st Wednesday was rejected because the January meeting would fall on New Year's Day. According to the club by-laws the meetings are supposed to be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Jan will call the Center to see if that date is available and to determine the cost.

Calendar: Karen Chaton has offered to do the calendar; Steve will coordinate with her. Jan and other Board members offered to help, too. Steve wants a notice in the next newsletter requesting that calendar photos to be mailed to him. Judy mentioned that members should know which photos will be published.

Fall Post ride meeting: Jan reported that good suggestions were made and that Scott Sansom will manage the spring ride. Maryben reported, though she has the date reserved, the ride still needs to be sanctioned. Jan will ask Scott to apply for sanctioning.

Christmas Party: It will be held at the Community Center on Wednesday Dec 11. Members with last

names beginning A-L bring a salad or dessert, M-Z side or main dishes and a gift per person of no more than \$10 for the gift exchange. Trilby is working hard on the special sheath cleaner present.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Party entertainment: Judith Ogus and a friend would like to perform a skit and to display artwork and a CD for sale. The Board decided that since the party is on a week night there would not be enough time for entertainment. There is barely enough time for the pot luck and gift exchange. The skit and sale of items of interest is a good idea for a general meeting program.

Membership Dues: Dues for 2003 are due and payable. They are \$25.00 for an individual, \$35.00 for a family and \$5.00 off for each category if paid by Dec 31, 2002.

Worker Awards: Steve recommended that members who work at the club events receive points towards the year end awards.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by president Jan Jeffers. Carla Ambriz moved that the minutes from; the November meeting be accepted; her motion was seconded and approved.

Announcements:

- Kathy Mayeda has resigned as newsletter editor and Judy Etheridge has volunteered to take over the job for next year and will do the upcoming December issue.
- The Christmas party will be held on Wednesday, Dec 11 from 6PM-10PM at the New Almaden Community Center on Bertram Road, next to La Foret restaurant. Steve wants no parking in front of the Center door. Members with last names from A-L please bring a salad or dessert, M-Z main or side dishes. Each member and each guest please bring a gift costing no more than \$10 for the gift exchange.
- Beginning January 2003 the QSER club will meet at the New Almaden Community Center. The meeting date will be changed because the Center is not available on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. According to the by-laws the club should be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Jan will check with the Center to see if that date is available. The Board will continue to meet at 6:30 PM and the general membership at 7:30 PM.
- Scott Sansom will manage the Spring ride at Henry Coe State Park. Steve Lenheim mentioned that Scott should prepare a ride plan. Hillorie Bachman said that she interested in managing the Fall ride and is looking for a mentor.

Old Business: Steve requested funds with which to make the calendar. Maryben Stover requested \$2,500 for awards, \$500 of which she said would be for the calendar. The request was approved.

New Business: Maryben made a motion that she write a letter from the Club to the Santa Clara County Park Department about the difficulty of parking horse trailers after 11:00 AM on weekends at the Hacienda entrance to Almaden Quicksilver County Park. The trailer parking area is not honored by other vehicles which causes the trailers to block those vehicles. The motion was seconded and approved. Jan will review the letter. Maryben made a second motion that she write a letter from the Club to ask Mid Peninsula Open Space District to install a water trough at the Hicks Road crossing. The Club would offer to pay for the trough and installation. The motion was approved and seconded.

ELECTIONS

Nominations for Officers--President--Lori Oleson, Vice President--Jill Kilty-Newburn and Trilby Pederson, Secretary--Carla Ambriz, Treasurer--Kathy Miller.

Ballots for Vice President were passed out to the members. Jill Kilty-Newburn was elected.

Nominations for the Board--Jeanette Brown, Steve Lenheim, Kathy Mayeda, Pat McKendry, Marilyn Orlando, Trilby Pederson. Ballots were distributed. Jeanette Brown, Steve Lenheim and Trilby Pederson were elected.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Etheridge, temporary secretary.

Notes from the editor

The Quips has a new editor, me, Judy Etheridge. I would like the Quips to reflect the interests of the club so please send me ideas about what you want to see here or you will be reading my recipes and restaurant reviews☺

The big news is that the QSER meeting date and location will change as of January 2003. We will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the New Almaden Community Center on Bertram Road. The Center is just around the corner from the La Foret restaurant. Mmm, a subject for a future column.

Members can get some practice going to the Center in December because that is where this years Christmas Party will be! Directions to the Center are on the Christmas party announcement in this issue of the Quips.

Items for Sale, Barter or Trade: None.

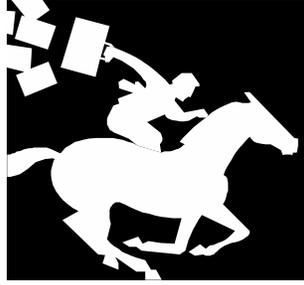
If members want to advertise in the Quips, please send a notice to Mixfire@aol.com or to P. O. Box 62, Sunol, CA 94586 or call me at 925 862-0232.



Junior Story

Katie Alton sent in the following story to introduce herself to the Club.

I first started riding when I was 6. Since then I took lessons with Becky Hart to learn centered riding. I was into the whole lessons thing until I started to ride Heather Bergantz's horse Tyler. Now I like the "Endurance Riding" sport, and so I talked to Heather if she knew anyone I could ride with. That's when I met the best sponsor in the world, Maryben Stover, (She made me say that). Now I am doing endurance rides and loving it, and soon I will have my 500 miles and be able to ride as a lightweight. Now I am attending Maitin Murphy Middle school and I am in 8th Grade. I live in San Jose, California. Besides riding, I am on the track and cross country team and I am looking for a Ride and Tie partner.



Adult Story

Jennifer Kurtzhall sent this account:

Well, my new horse, Banoss, has claimed his second victim. A few months ago he unloaded me in Chamberlain Creek and today he sent my novice boyfriend flying. I am happy to report that Mikey did a fabulous tuck and roll dismount, and came up looking for his horse, unharmed.

It was biker on a blind corner that did it. I'm a very **BAD** girlfriend for making him go in front. <vbg> I actually felt a little sorry for the guy on the bike, he felt **VERY** bad. He wasn't even coming that fast down the hill; we were trotting up around the corner.

Michael is now a full member of the "Been dumped good club." I told him it may be the first time, but it certainly ain't the last☺ Congrats Mikey!! Hey, I figure if my snorkel lesson can be all over the internet, so can this! I'm sooo bad. <g>T

Coso Junction Jam - Wind, rain, the desert, and Chinatown By Mike Maul

The weekend of Nov. 9 started off with rain throughout California - much needed rain but not what you want for a ride weekend. Los Angeles had a record 1.84 inches for the day, which allowed the reopening of the national forests for other rides. In the case of the PS Coso Junction ride, put on by Sue and Mike Benson with Head Vet Dr. Fred Beasom, it rained Friday and during the night. The first day of the ride was clear but very windy with the weather turning excellent for the second day.

Ridecamp is at the Coso Junction rest area, 24 miles north of Ridgecrest on Highway 395, and is an unusual setting for a ridecamp. There's a small store and even a Taco Bell next door for those not wanting the standard dinner at ridecamp. Ridecamp is at 3300 ft in a valley surrounded by mountains that we can't see because of the rain. Wind shakes the trailer throughout the evening and night underneath starlit skies with alternating rain and clouds.

Saturday dawns clear overhead but with dark rain on each horizon. Attendance is down due to riders worried about rain. It turns out to be good riding the first day with 35 riders starting the 50 and 8 riders starting the 30 mile LD. The trails are a combination of single track, jeep trails, and cross country over desert land administrated by the BLM and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The trail takes us up to 4800 ft with a view over the South Haiwee reservoir.

The weather makes this day of the ride interesting - it's sunny and very windy in spots, yet quiet in others, with rain out of a sunny sky all mixed together. We start in the flat desert - then travel up into gently rounded foothills, then by jumbles of rocks covering the hills, through saddle areas,

by a working pumice quarry, and back into basecamp.

It's windy - really windy - at times. When we are heading into the wind it feels like you are climbing a hill even though it's flat. When the wind is coming from the side, all the horses out in front of me turn into weathervanes with the tails streaming out parallel to the ground, indicating the wind direction. The gusts reached 65 mph according to the weather reports. In one spot we could hear a noise like a approaching freight train. then a blast of wind hit, and the gust raced on by with the noise so localized that you could track it's progress over the desert as it left us. In other sheltered spots, nothing disturbed the silence of the desert except the sounds of our horses hooves.

The occasional rain came down as little pellets driven hard by the wind but under a sunny sky. In some parts of the country, rain and sun together are called "the devil beating his wife". A web lookup says the 'The devil beating his wife', which originated in Hungary, is actually only one of many proverbs that describe rain during a sunny sky. Some of the others include "foxes are on a marriage parade," "witches are doing their wash," and "a tailor is going to hell". However it's described, the weather is never boring on our ride.

The rain in the distance provided spectacular rainbows stretching across the foothills to the distant mountains, sometimes with a faint second one outside the first. You can see for great distances in the desert and the bright red, yellow, green, and blue jackets on riders ahead form another rainbow of colors beneath the one arching overhead.

After the ride in camp, the winds picked up again and continued throughout the evening. One of the people at the ride had a Jack Russell puppy in a pet carrier that the wind picked up and sent tumbling down the parking lot with the owner in pursuit. The skies were clear with deep blue overhead and lighter pale blue where the sky met the snowcapped peaks in the distance. At night the half moon sank toward the mountain peaks and shone brightly thru a cleft before disappearing, leaving us with the sharp bright stars of winter.

The second day of the ride took us out across the desert again headed towards the mountains. We detoured around a small lake that two days earlier was a dry lake bed with the trail going straight thru. It was a beautiful day with no sign of rain or wind. We crested a sharp climb and saw below two reservoirs reflecting the snow-capped mountains in the far distance. It was an absolutely spectacular view out over the valley with the white covered mountains in the background.

This view has a lot of history in it for the people of southern California. The Owens Valley was part of the plot for the 1974 Academy award-winning movie "Chinatown", set in the 1930's and starring Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, and John Huston.

The story backdrop for the movie is that in 1906 there was a scandal in Los Angeles known as "The Rape of the Owens Valley." Los Angeles was essentially built on a desert, and as the city started to expand, water was in short supply. Soon enough, a full-fledged drought was in effect. City planners needed to get water from a source other than Los Angeles and the closest body of water they found (besides the Pacific Ocean) was the Owens River, about 250 miles north. Prospectors, politicians and others decided to buy up the rights to the river, and the land outside of L.A. (the San Fernando Valley) and create a lush, green oasis in the valley, meanwhile leaving the city to dry up. They would later propose a bond to the Los Angeles city council to feed the river into the city via aqueduct, in turn selling off the irrigated San Fernando land at enormous profit. Until the bond was passed, the prospectors virtually created the drought by pumping excess water from the river out to the ocean, knowing that when the bond passed, they would

make a fortune. Sending the water away to LA killed the agricultural community that the Owens valley had at the time. Today more than 70% of Los Angeles' water passes through the Haiwee reservoir. Once the water leaves the reservoir it passes through conduit, tunnel and pipe, never seeing open air and daylight, all the way to Los Angeles. In the West, control of water is power and that power struggle was part of what Chinatown was based on.

None of this goes through our minds as we jog the long winding muddy downhill into the valley and admire the huge reflection pools for the distant mountains but it's nice to think about the history we've passed by on this ride after we're done. We're told there's an eagle nest somewhere along this downhill but we just focus on staying upright in the muddy terrain.

Of the 35 starting the first day 50, 29 complete. On the second day, 31 of 36 complete the 50. Seven of eight on the first day and 10 of 11 complete the second day LD. The first day 50 was won by Ernie Lohman whose horse also took BC. The second day was won by Charlene Lewis Stueve with Lisa Belser in second. A longtime endurance rider told me that this would have been her 9,000 mile mark today but she pulled 16 miles out and hand walked her horse in. He just didn't seem right. The completion awards are very nice for a first time ride, a folding chair for the first day and a folding table for the second day with the ride name and logo as well.

Sue and Mike Benson have put on several rides this year. They put on Fire Mountain earlier in the year with the first-time Coso Junction closing out the ride year for them. They put on an excellent ride with well marked trails, nice volunteers, good vets, and great scenery.

The weather made this a smaller ride than it could have been, but hopefully Sue and Mike will be putting it on next year with Mike still out on the trails during the ride on his little motorcycle with the license plate AERC MC.

It was a very nice first ride for Coso Junction and I'm assured the pre-ride weather will be better next year. See you then.

Mike Maul

DON'T MISS THE

QSER CHRISTMAS PARTY

ON

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2002

6:00 P. M. - 10:00 P. M.

AT THE

**NEW ALMADEN COMMUNITY CENTER
BERTRAM ROAD, SAN JOSE**

BRING YOURSELF, FRIENDS, RELATIVES, A TASTEFUL JOKE GIFT (\$10 max) FOR EACH AND YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE.

**A-L SALAD OR DESSERT
M-Z MAIN OR SIDE DISH**

