

# Quicksilver Quips

October 2006

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Mike Maul

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Jackie Floyd  
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## Quicksilver on the Web:

<http://qser.net/>

Deadline for submission of QUIPS material is the 25th of the month for 1st of month distribution. Exceptions made for late-breaking news and individual pre-arranged deadlines. Photos can be emailed or snail mailed. Word docs preferred for stories material, but not a prerequisite.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### OCTOBER MEETING 10/18/06 COMMUNITY CENTER

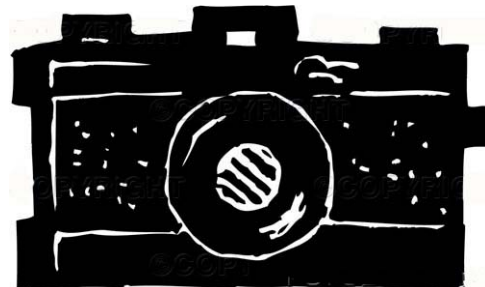
That time of year is here again. Time to nominate officers and board members at the October meeting, to be voted on in November.

Also need to be thinking about committees for Hall of Fame, Horse and Person, Eleanor Norton Award and Horse of the Year award. If you want to be on one of the committees, please let me know.

I did not receive any feedback about the awards banquet so I guess we will do the same. I plan on buying a few less awards this year and the people we get the blankets from don't seem to make them anymore. We are looking for another manufacturer. Never fear, we will find one.

Come to the meeting!

..... MB



## CALLING ALL PHOTOS!!!!

Get those photos for the calendar. Its that time of the year! Send to Steve Lenheim at 2100 S. Bascom #4, Campbell, CA 95008. or call me if you want to send them another way.

Anyone want to design the cover? Create some artwork?

Steve-0

## DO-DO RUN-RUN

Jeremy Reynolds ran his first 100 mile RUN over the 9/23 weekend. Out of 80 runners, he came in 3rd Overall and 1st in his division. Wow, and this was his first run.

- MB

## RIDING IN TUSCANY

By Elisabet Hiatt

My husband Ron and I just returned from three lovely weeks in Italy. We reek of culture, ancient ruins, pizza, cannoli, limoncello, high fashion .... and horse manure. Of course, no vacation of mine would go without at least ONE horse back ride, and after 30 years of marriage my poor husband has pretty much resigned himself to suffer the abuse.

Three lovely days were spent in the hills of Tuscany, far from any city, at a lodge that offers rides through the beautiful hilly country. I opted for the all-day ride and picnic (about 6 hours of actual riding) and my husband joined us at noontime and rode back with the group after lunch. The horses were a varied mix of thoroughbred-type and something else. We were told they are the "Tuscan" horses ... probably left over from ancient wars and conquests. Maybe something like our mustangs? Sizes, shapes, colors and attitudes were quite varied. I got a pretty little palomino mare called Azia. Built like a tank, and even harder to steer. A few minutes in the warming arena and we established go, stop, disengage and "I will reward you with release of pressure if you listen to me." Smart little horse, she figured it out pretty fast. Goes to show you that there are not hard-mouthed horses, just hard-handed riders ... but I digress.

town, smiling and shouting "buongiorno!" to everyone. The horses seem quite used to all this, and take it in stride. We have a group of about 10 riders, and people come out of their houses to watch us go by. I feel I'm part of a parade ... 300 years ago!

We ride on old, comfortable English saddles, snaffle bits. Most people in our group are pretty good riders. I hear German, Italian, English and French spoken around me in addition to the universal language of a soft nicker and horse hooves on the ground.



On our way to the trails, we ride through the small village of Montieri. If it weren't for the occasional car parked on the side of a far-too-narrow road, one could imagine oneself having been transported to another time, long, long ago. Cobble stones streets, sunset color houses with orange roof tiles ... laundry hanging to dry from balconies next to planters overflowing with multicolored geraniums. Church bells ring at 10 to the hour and the priest walks through the

Once past the village, the trails are mostly dirt roads that lead to old farms. Hills and forests make me feel we are home in California, just the trees are different. As we ride, we are able to pick bunches of wild grapes growing on the side of the trail. Tough-skinned, sweet, dark and ripe, they are best suited for wine making, but the novelty is wonderful none-the-less. Suck the juicy insides and throw out the shell. Wild berries are also in season, so once in a while we stop and munch on those, both humans and horses enjoying their ripeness.

Lunch is a picnic by the side of a clear running river. We gallop through the water to our destination and, slightly wet and exhilarated, we dismount, tie our horses in a grove of trees and sit on the grass. I am a little disappointed at the amount of trash I see, but it's a public place, after all. We feast on cheese, cold cuts, homemade ravioli, fruit, salad and a number of other goodies. While the horses rest, unsaddled, we take a side trip to an old abandoned convent on top of a hill. I am frustrated because I know I can take one hundred pictures and not capture its beauty. Nevertheless, I try.

## DEL VALLE VULTURE VENTURE

Welcome All QuickSilver Members,

We are putting on a Endurance/Fun Ride at the Del Valle Park in Livermore on the 14th of October. Will be having a 50, 30 and 15 mile fun ride. There will be great food, beautiful campground and plenty of fun for you and your horse.

You can access the entry at:

<http://www.nickwarhol.com/files/dellvalleentry06.htm>

We would love to see everyone out there for some horse fun.....

Kirsten Berntsen

Phone: 408-416-8432

Email: [Kirstenzazz@hotmail.com](mailto:Kirstenzazz@hotmail.com)



The ride back is a little more sedate. We have a few short gallops, but the horses are getting tired. It rains for a few minutes and it feels good in the hot day. The clouds are beautiful and the thunder makes us think we are running away from cannons waging a far-away war. The sun comes out and we see steam rising from the horses rumps. I worry about ruining the tack, but in reality it looks like it has seen many of these rains before, so I just enjoy the moment.

When we get back, I feel a pang of sadness for the horses. Who will ride Azia next? Will they be gentle with her mouth as I was? Do her owners realize her saddle doesn't really fit her that well? Who is their farrier? Between all the horses we lost two shoes on our day trip! The hay they feed (in great, big rolls taller than I am) doesn't look that good ... I'm pretty sure they don't supplement with grain or use electrolytes or vitamins.

They tell me it's nearing the end of the season and the horses will be put out to pasture for several months to recover and fatten up from this year's rides. Still, I realize how much attention I, and the people I ride with at home, give to our horses. We work them hard, yes, but we care for them just as hard. It's the bittersweet feeling I always get when I ride a "rental string" horse. They are mostly tools to their owners. To us, our horses are members of our family. It was an unforgettable experience, but I'm glad to be home, riding my own saddle and trusty horses again. Somehow, I now appreciate them and the beauty around me even more.

You are on a horse, galloping at a constant speed. On your right side is a sharp drop off, and on your left side is an elephant traveling at the same speed as you. Directly in front of you is a galloping kangaroo and your horse is unable to overtake it. Behind you is a lion running at the same speed as you and the Kangaroo. What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

Answer: Get off the merry-go-round!

### WHEN I AM AN OLD HORSEWOMAN:

I shall wear turquoise and diamonds,  
And a straw hat that doesn't suit me.  
And I shall spend my social security on white wine  
and carrots,  
And sit in my alley-way of my barn  
And listen to my horses breathe.

I will sneak out in the middle of a summer night  
And ride the old bay gelding,  
Across the moonstruck meadow  
If my old bones will allow.

And when people come to call, I will smile and nod  
As I walk past the gardens to the barn  
and show instead the flowers growing  
inside stalls fresh-lined with straw.  
I will shovel and sweat and wear hay in my hair  
as if it were a jewel.

And I will be an embarrassment to all,  
Who will not yet have found the peace in being free  
to have a horse as a best friend,  
A friend who waits at midnight hour  
With muzzle and nicker and patient eyes  
For the kind of woman I will be  
When I am old.

~Author Unknown

## HORSE SHOOTING

Some of you may have read the article in the San Jose Mercury news on Sat. 9/23. If not you can go to their web-site and look it up.

For the most part that covers it. What it didn't say was that the police and especially the Animal Control were not interested. If not for the fact that the officer (police) was the son of the owner I doubt much would have even been looked at. Animal Control was (personal opinion) more of an "oh well, nothing we can do."

It was left to the owner to have an autopsy done to discover if the horse was shot as they only looked for a spent cartridge or whatever in the area. Animal Control will do nothing that may cost \$\$\$ and so listed it as a mysterious death which is the end of it as far as they are concerned.

Steve-0

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## MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2006

\* Present: M. Stovers, K. Brayton, H. Graham, K. Miller, T. Pederson, J. Bauer, J. Voight, H. Reynolds, J. Reynolds, E. Alton, M. Snowbarger

Meeting began at 7:04

### Treasurer's Report:

- Beginning Balance: \$2,532.73
- Ending Balance: \$6,798.58

### Committees/Membership

- the club currently has about 100 members

### Good Will

- Little Earl passed away
- Randy Coleman
- Owners of shot horse

### Trails

We need to sign up for a date to clean our adopted trails at Calero.

### Spring Ride

We need to find a date for our spring ride that doesn't seriously conflict with other rides in the region. Heather said she would look into this and get back to us.

We also need to pick a location. It is suggested that we have the ride at Quicksilver.

### Business

- MOTION (Trilby): The club offer a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons who shot the horse on Sunday, September 17, 2006 in Almaden Valley.

- This motion was passed unanimously by present members.

Trilby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously at 7:31.

## FALL HORSE FAIR AND USED TACK SALE

DreamPower provides Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy and Therapeutic Horsemanship programs and services to children, teens and adults with mental, emotional or behavioral problems. DreamPower is affiliated with the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA). The Founder/Director, Martha McNiel, is a licensed marriage and family therapist. They currently have four riding programs: Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy, Therapeutic Horsemanship, Confident Rider Clinics and the Therapist/Instructor Training Program.

It appears to be a very worthwhile foundation, with a real benefit to the people it serves. Using horses to facilitate mental, emotional or behavioral problems just makes sense to me. All of us ride (or have ridden) and know the how wonderful it is to ride or just go out and give your horse a big hug when things are not going well.

– Lori Oleson

Saturday, October 21

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### Taylor Made Farms

560 Church Avenue - San Marin

(Corner of Church and Murphy close to 101 and the San Marin airport)

*New, Used and Antique Western Saddles (\$25-\$1800)  
Jumping, All Purpose, Dressage & Trail Saddles (\$100-1,000)*

*New and Used Jeans & Breeches (Sizes 0-18)  
Saddle Pads, Bridles, Horse Blankets and  
Lots of Miscellaneous Horse Tack*

**This Sale will Benefit  
DreamPower Horsemanship**

### Also Featuring:

Equine Artist and Jewelry Designers,  
Elaine Jadrach and Sandy Boklund.

Ohlone Riders, Backcountry Horsemen of California will have information about BHC and Leave No Trace Camping

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## HORSE TV

I recently discovered that I can watch the Horse TV Channel on my computer. It costs \$6.95 a month. Even if you don't want to subscribe you will enjoy the preview commercial which is several minutes long. <http://www.horsetv.com> I am unable to watch the Horse TV Channel on my TV because it is not available in my area so this is a nice option. I think others in the club might be interested in this option.

– Jeri Ayers-Scott

## LLANO ESTACADO CHALLENGE

By Mike Maul

It's a long way from south of Houston to the Texas panhandle so before leaving for a ride that far away with a name like "Llano Estacado Challenge" I decided to look it up on the world wide web.

"The Llano Estacado is part of the High Plains, straddling the Texas-New Mexico border between Amarillo and Midland-Odessa, Texas. It is bounded on the west by the Pecos Valley, and on the east by the red Permian plains of Texas. It's an area of 37,500 sq. mi. The Llano is a very flat, semi-arid plateau, ranging in elevation from 5,000 ft. on the northwest to less than 3,000 ft. on the southeast. The Llano is dry and treeless, the prevailing wind is from the southwest, and mirages are a frequent occurrence under the hot sun." Llano is pronounced "Yano."

Coming out of Amarillo near the ride, it certainly looked like this. But just a few short miles from ridecamp at Plum Creek in the Lake Meredith Recreation Area, you come to the top of a steep hill and wow! You drop down sharply enough that your ears pop, into a huge basin with cliffs that match the translation of the Llano Estacado as a Palisaded Plain.

Ridecamp is an large open meadow surrounded by Cottonwood trees with plenty of room for large rigs and lots of grass for your horses because there had been rain recently. The camp is at an elevation of 2,900 ft. With the cliffs and hills we climb up to 3,500 ft. during the ride. At sunset the surrounding eroded cliffs glow red and pink in the setting sun.

The ride is hosted by the Crown of Texas Arabian Horse Club with Doug Blashill as the ride manager. There's a great group of volunteers including radio amateurs and the county sheriff with some of his staff. It was clear that there was a very good interaction between the club and the Park Service which provided excellent support by mowing the ridecamp area and some of the more grassy trails.

The weather couldn't have been better for the ride – high 40's at night and high 60's during the two ride days. The ride can be very warm depending on the weather but we were lucky this year. It is a ride where you need to bring mosquito repellent but the chill at night combined with occasional wind kept the bugs away for the most part.

The ride was a 2-day combined 25/50 with about 35 riders the first day and 25 the second day. Starting time was shortly after sunrise at 7:30 with the first loop for the 50 milers an out and back of 25 miles on the basin floor. The terrain was mostly grassy dirt roads mixed in with technical sections of single track and more difficult sections with

names like the "Goat Trail" up above the stream and lake bed. Winning times for the 50 were about 5½ hours so it was a challenging ride.

The second and third loops of 15 and 10 miles respectively were more technical with lots of short ups and downs with great views out over the basin from the tops of the hills. One hill – called Big Bertha – was very steep but mercifully short. The ride also has a mini Cougar Rock section and another called the Chute where you go up a short rocky area then turn sharply up and left to reach the top. The LD riders did the more challenging second and third loops of the 50 mile ride. There were some colorful wild flowers due to the recent rain and a few deer bounding across the trail at times.

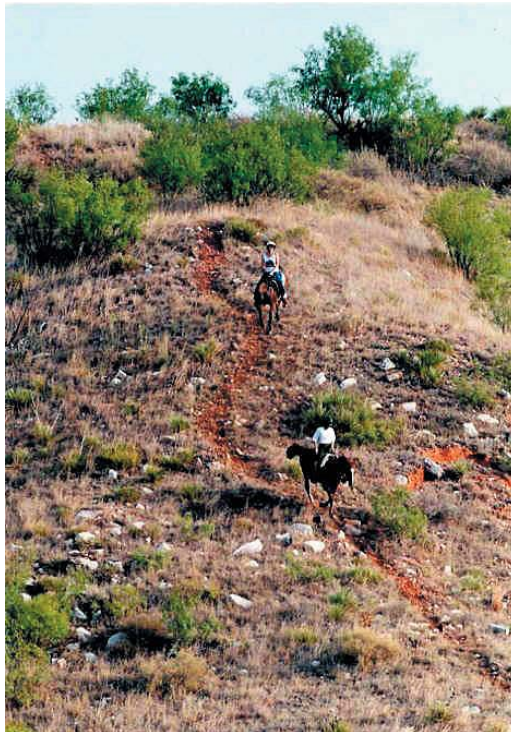
Riders came from as far away as Galveston, from near

Kansas City, and from six states. One of the riders has the goal of completing a ride in every state – she's up to 17 now and reached 5,000 miles at the ride. Another rider from Louisiana is trying to be the first LD rider to reach 1,000 miles in a season. She's on track for that now. One very focused rider was with her husband at the end of the second loop when his horse stumbled. He ended up going to the hospital and once she was sure he was safely off – finished the ride that day and the next.

Dinners were excellent each night with peach cobbler as desert. The awards were very nice with completion awards of T-shirts and for top ten – nice windbreakers, 5-gallon buckets, ice boots, and mini-leatherman tools. The volunteers found a real terrapin and kidded about giving it as the Turtle award but the flora and fauna in national parks are well protected.

I can't say enough about the volunteers. They took tires to the nearest town to be repaired, brought back fuel for some of the drivers who were short, and made sure that one of the trucks was fixed that had a problem. The ride was very well organized with treats for your horse, packages of trail mix, and local coupons in the rider packet when checking in. I haven't seen a better marked trail than the ones we were on with ribbons, pie plates, and colored chalk on the ground.

Last year I couldn't get to the ride because I was evacuating from Hurricane Rita at two miles an hour along with 2.5 million other Houston area residents. I missed the ride that year but I'm glad to have attended such a great ride this year. It's well worth the drive to see a part of Texas that's so different with challenging and interesting trails and a great group of volunteers.



## CASA GRANDE

Hello everyone - I'm inviting all of you to vote (everyday if you can!) in favor of funding for the Casa Grande restoration from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Please check out the website [www.partnersinpreservation.com/bayarea](http://www.partnersinpreservation.com/bayarea) and vote for this outstanding project. Your vote may make the deciding difference for an incredibly important building in Santa Clara County, state and national history.

So what is Casa Grande? Considered the second most historic building in Santa Clara County (after the courthouse), Casa Grande was built in 1854 in the town of New Almaden. Currently known as the Mining Museum for Almaden Quicksilver County Park and formally called Club Almaden in the resort period of the mid 20th century, Casa Grande was also the site of the mining manager residence during the mercury mining heyday (early 1850s to 1927). It is listed on the National Historic Landmark District register (one of the very first in the country!) and it is just a gem – check out the Department's website for more information

– [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org). After the County Parks Department purchased Casa Grande in 1997, it set out to restore the building. A restoration plan has been completed and the Department is currently drawing up detailed plans for the restoration. But the actual work will take a lot of money (\$5M at last count) and we are very much dependent on getting outside funding to help complete the work.

Your vote will definitely make a difference and if you could spend just a little time registering at the website – and then voting everyday until October 31 for this very, very worthy project, I sure would appreciate it. A lot of folks at the Department, the County and in the Town of New Almaden would also appreciate it.

If you could spread the word to your network of friends, family and colleagues – that would also be great. Your time spent voting for this project will pay back dividends for many years to come.

Thanks for your consideration -- Lisa Killough

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## CALLING ALL MEMBERS ... MORE MEMBERSHIP PROFILES NEEDED!

Please fill out the questionnaire below and email or snail mail it to me with a photo of yourself and your horse. Have an endurance riding family? Let's see 'em!!!

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### MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

Horse(s) name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been riding? \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you been doing endurance? \_\_\_\_\_

Where to you train? \_\_\_\_\_

What distances do you ride? (LD, 50, 100) \_\_\_\_\_ What are your career miles? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Decade Team Member? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite ride and why? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your "claim to fame"? (I.e. endurance awards) \_\_\_\_\_

What are you goals? \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else you'd like to contribute about yourself (spouse, children, do they ride, what you do for a living, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Email the answers to [typenf@comcast.net](mailto:typenf@comcast.net) or cut out and send questionnaire to:

Jackie Floyd, P.O. Box 1045, Lodi, CA 95241

**DON'T FORGET A PICTURE OF YOURSELF!**

## SENATE BILL 1915

I would urge all Quicksilver members to write their Senators their views of how they would like them to vote on S 1915, the horse slaughter bill.

In my book I quoted Matthew Mackay-Smith as saying "There can be worse things for horse than to die. When we domesticated the horse, we assumed complete responsibility for his life and complete responsibility for his death."

I know this is not a political forum, but I feel strongly enough about this issue to risk offending some.

You can go to [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us) to let your Senators Boxer and Feinstein know how you feel.

Thanks, Julie

## SADDLE-UP FOR ST. JUDE

October 8th, 2006

Sponsored by SCCHA, this is a 5-15 mile trail riding event to support the children's hospital. It will be in the Davenport area around where they hold the Swanton Pacific ride. Cost is \$25 per person, bring your lunch and arrival time is 9:00 to 10:30 am. You are encouraged to get pledges for miles that you ride. Make checks payable to St. Jude Hospital.

Ride coordinator is Mary Sullivan-White at 831-331-6227. Call for more info and specific directions.

See you there! Alex North

## CLASSIFIED

### HORSES FOR SALE

**REGISTERED SHOW HORSE (½ SADDLEBRED, ½ ARAB).** Brave Heart is 10 years old. Current on his shots. Very healthy (could use some exercise). BraveHeart won a few ribbons as a show horse in the Hunter/Pleasure category. We had him trained for 3 months at Coyote Ranch, and he's been doing very well on trails—goes thru water, doesn't spook, etc. His siblings have sold for over \$7k and some a lot more. His grandsire, Bask, is the all-time winningest Arab ever; his sire, The Chief Justice is also one of the winningest. \$3,500. Also 4-horse stock trailer for sale. Call Maryben for info. [11-6]

**16-MONTH-OLD CHESTNUT FILLY FOR SALE.** Sired by CF Sorcerer. Filly is half sister to 2005 AHA Distance Horse of Year Granite Chief/+. Smooth gaits and a looker. \$3500. Lisa Welch 831-674-3309 [11-06]

### FOR SALE MISCELLANEOUS

**LOOKING FOR A TRAILER TO HAUL HAY?** I have a boat trailer in very excellent condition with double axle that could carry a ton or two. \$750.00 (for a 20' boat). Steve 997-0368. [12-06]

**SUPPLEMENTS/HOOF PROTECTION.** Wild Eye Arabians is now supplying FASTRACK Probiotics (paste

& powder) HOOF -IT Pour in Pads, Kentucky Equine Research products, ENDURAMAX Electrolytes (Paste & Powder) & Neigh Lox (Prevent Ulcers) Associated Feed products – EQUUS (complete feed) Auburn Labs – APF (Adaptogen). For more information contact **Wild Eye Arabians**, Kirsten or Michael Berntsen at 831 623-2120. [kirstenzazz@hotmail.com](mailto:kirstenzazz@hotmail.com) or [www.conklin.com/wildeyearabians](http://www.conklin.com/wildeyearabians). [11-06]

### FOR RENT

**SINGLE FAMILY 3-BEDROOM/3-BATH.** Extra Extra Large Living Room w/fireplace, Dining Room, Central AC/Heat, 2 Car Garage, Swimming Pool. With your portable fencing a large area in front for 1 horse. MAIN BOARDING AREA NOT INCLUDED WITH RENTAL. 20110 Almaden Road, San Jose CA 95120, located just down the street from Brown's Feed Store. \$2600.00. For more information contact Mary Anderson (408) 891-8878 [11-06]

**STALLS/PADDOCKS/PASTURES FOR RENT.** Brand new 12x12 stalls with 24x12 paddocks, shavings; we clean. \$250 pastures, \$180. Feed twice a day, high-grade oat and alfalfa hay. 96x48 outdoor arena. Close to 3,600 acre Almaden Quicksilver County Park with 19 miles of manicured trails. Call Trilby at 408 997-7500. [11-06]

### RIDING LESSONS

**WANT TO LEARN TO RIDE WITH LESS STRESS AND FATIGUE?** Do you want your horse to move properly so that he can minimize wear and tear on his body for the long haul? Mary Fenton, Senior Centered Riding instructor, has lesson spaces on Thursday p.m. at "Lightfoot" Stables (McKean Road, San Jose). I've taken many lessons and several clinics from her, and feel that it's been real worth it. She coached Becky Hart to her Stockholm World Championship on Rio! You can contact Mary at (831) 761-2819. [11-06]

### STALLION SERVICES

Introducing **CF SORCERER** - now standing at stud. Sire of TBR Granite Chief+/, 2005 AHA Distance Horse of the Year, 2004-2005 AERC National Mileage Champion and 2004 XP Horse of the Year. Visit his website at <http://www.spanisharabian.net/> or contact Wizard Arabians, Jackie and Jim Floyd, P.O. Box 1045, Lodi, CA 95241, 209-334-1981, [typenf@comcast.net](mailto:typenf@comcast.net) [11-06]

### MISCELLANEOUS

**I'M LOOKING FOR A COMPANION HORSE** for my 16 year old Arab gelding. Covered stall. 3/4 acre turnout. Calero area. \$200/month. Call Niki Lamb 408-323-9953 or e-mail [nlamb@cbnocal.com](mailto:nlamb@cbnocal.com) [11-06]

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN THE QUICKSILVER RIDERS!!!!

FIRST: We need your name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Junior membership is \$ 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
(a junior is under 16 years of age)

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 local horse politics; trail maintenance and improvement projects; year-end awards and monthly meetings.

Send your 2006 dues, checks made out to: **Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.**

Mail to Membership Chairperson:

Maryben Stover  
1299 Sandra Drive  
San Jose, CA 95125-3535  
408 265-0839

May your and your horse(s) have a wonderful Year 2006 riding together as members of the Quicksilver Endurance Riders!!!



**Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.**

P.O. Box 71  
New Almaden, CA 95042