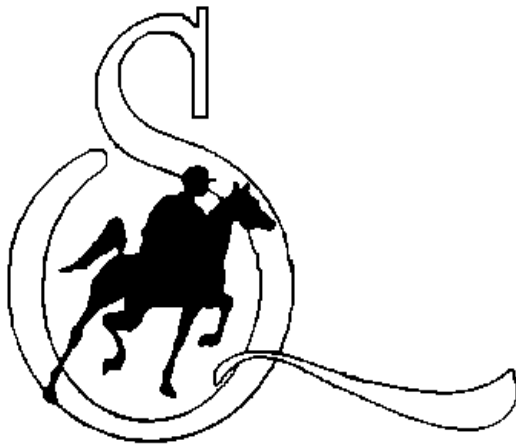


QUICKSILVER QUIPS

January 2005



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

President's Message

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!

I'M SITTING HERE AT MY KITCHEN TABLE LOOKING AT THE RAIN (JAN 2) AND THINKING ABOUT THE FACT WE HAVE A NEW RIDE SEASON AHEAD. ONE MONTH INTO IT AND IT'S NOW TIME TO PLOT AND PLAN. WHAT RIDE TO GO TO, WHICH HORSE, AND WHAT MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS I WANT TO ATTEMPT. SO FAR IT'S A BUST CAUSE MY FIRST CHOICE WAS DEATH VALLEY-I CHICKENED OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE WHEN I LOOKED AT THE WEATHER DOWN THERE. TO THOSE WHO WENT, "I TOAST YOU" WHILE I SIT HERE WITH A WARM FIRE GOING.

REMEMBER WE HAVE NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS. OUR NEXT MEETING SHOULD BE AT THE NEW ALMADEN REC. HALL BUT IT COULD CHANGE AT THE LAST MINUTE. DEPENDS ON WHO WILL COME. IF IT'S JUST THE BOARD THEN MAYBE AT MY HOUSE? WHY? BECAUSE I CAN COOK SOMETHING HERE (SOUP) IF ITS ONLY 6-7 PEOPLE.

THE JAN. MEETING, JANUARY 19th 6:30 PM, WILL BE MOSTLY PLANNING THE YEAR. WE HAVE AN ENDURANCE RIDE PLANNED FOR THE SPRING BUT NOT MUCH ELSE.

WE NEED SPEAKERS FOR MEETINGS, A POKER RIDE MANAGER, FALL ENDURANCE RIDE MANAGER, ETC. YOUR SUGGESTIONS ARE NEEDED. YES, YOU!

"THATS ALL FOLKS"

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 2005 quicksilver quips

SOMETIMES TO FINISH IS TO WIN—FIRST PLACE, 2004 DVE (*Scott and Honey were the only team to complete all four days on the endurance ride.*)

WANT ADS

COTTAGE/APARTMENT WANTED. Single woman is looking for a small place for herself and her horse, if possible. Call Jo Barrett at 831-469-3684.

HORSE FOR SALE

Anglo-Arab mare. 6 years old, 15'1". Lots of LSD, 2 50s, Natural Horsemanship, \$5000. Call Janine 831-423-4774.

SADDLES & TACK FOR SALE

Big Horn Endurance Saddle, brown, style no 120, 15" seat. Has normal as well as center rigging capability. Has padded leather seat, cordura skirts and fenders, and multiple tie locations as any good endurance saddle should. \$150. Send note to Janice at Janice.Frazier@sbcglobal.net (408) 268-2177.

Bob Marshall Treeless Sports Saddle, 16". Used one year in endurance riding, is like new. Comfortable saddle. \$800.00. Call Robert (530) 268-1378.

Sharon Saare 15 in., C tree. Well-used, well cared; no longer fits my horses. \$600, no fittings. Jill 650-949-0330.

Stubben dressage saddle, 17.5, black with leather girth and small felt pad, \$600. Call Judy 925 862-0232 or misxfire@aol.com

Foal blanket size 36 Weatherbeeta; water proof, light weight, hardly used - \$30. Foal fly mask perfect condition \$5. Contact dboscoe@pacbell.net

TRUCKS, CAMPERS, TRAILERS

1996 Lance Camper. 8'6" Squire Lite fits regular bed flush mount. Great condition. Fully contained with indoor/outdoor shower, 3 burner stove, refrigerator, heater; fan, sleeps 4 comfortably. Electric jacks and solar panel. \$6000. Pictures available. Contact dboscoe@pacbell.net, 831 423 6461.

94 Chevy Suburban "tow monster", 454V8, heavy duty tow package, 2wd AT/CC/Dual/AC/ABS, removable 3rd seat, tinted windows, AM/FM cassette. Good tires & brakes, 110k miles. Call Jan, sallijan@foothill.net or 530-745-9847.

Stalls with Paddocks/Pasture 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. 96 x 48 outdoor arena. Close to 3,600 acre

Almaden Quicksilver County Park with 19 miles of manicured trails. Call Trilby at 408 997-7500 for more info.

Ranch cats available for adoption

Fixed and current on shots. Contact janice.frazier@sbcglobal.net or 408 268-2177 or Denise.Lloyd@hitachigst.com 408 717-6196.

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, and 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.

Dynamite Products Distributor
www.dynamiteonline.com
Jan Jeffers, sleeeker@garlic.com
408 779-4722

TRAIL NEWS

Santa Clara County Park Dept. Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday, 1/8 & Sunday, 1/9

Monthly Trail Days - At Santa Teresa Park, 9 am - 1 pm. We'll be working on trail drainage maintenance, & switchback rehab. of the Stile Ranch Trail. Please meet at the Stile Ranch Trailhead located off of San Vicente Ave. by Fortini Road.

Saturday, 1/8

Vasona Park Cleanup Day, 8 - 11 am
Join Park Staff in keeping Vasona Park and Lake clean. Please meet at the Vasona Park Ranger's Office.

Saturday, 1/15

Monthly Volunteer Project - At Chitactac Adams, 9 am to noon. Join us for an overall cleanup of Chitactac Adams.

Please **RSVP** in advance so that we can provide enough supplies and refreshments. If you have any questions about any of these projects feel free to ask! (408) 355-2254.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Awards Banquet from Maryben

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The Awards Banquet is on for 2/12/05 at Harry's, again. We are short of money but we will have the banquet. If anyone wants to donate any awards, big or small, make sure I get them before the middle of January. If you don't want to get an award, send me \$\$ and I will buy it for you. And if you can't donate now, come to the banquet anyway...it will be lots of fun. So far I have some donations from people and more promised. Thanks...mb

Hall of Fame

Robert Ribley is accepting nominations for the **Quicksilver Hall of Fame** (person). Please mail or e-mail nominations to:

Robert Ribley
13061 Arbor Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95949

Ribleyendoftheroad@msn.com 530 268-1378

Previous Hall of Fame Members

Becky Hart	Julie Suhr
Maryben Stover	Ad Vandenhoogen
Carla Fanara	Robert Ribley
Jane Rothert	Lori Oleson
Nancy Elliot	Trilby Pederson
Heather Bergantz	Bob Suhr
Diane & Gerry Luternauer	

MEMBER NEWS

Pat McKendry got a new knee for Christmas (*what a present!*) and is recovering well.

Pat Verheul

Ken and I enjoyed Pat's Senior Recital at San Jose State's Concert Hall in December. I particularly liked the pieces by Satie and Chopin. We are very impressed at what she has accomplished in just a few years.

Pat had taken some piano lessons as a young child and played Christmas carols as an adult but that was about the extent of her experience until she returned to college. In the back of her mind was the desire to continue her musical education. Retirement provided the time and energy—not that she had been idle during her working years.

As we all know Pat has ridden thousands of endurance miles, many of them XP miles during the time she was studying music. She sort of had to conceal from her teachers the extent of her extra cirrucular activities; she was supposed to be practicing the piano©

She began in the Music Department of Cabrillo Community College known for its rigorous music program. After she completed her A.A. degree she transferred to SJSU. Pat was very fortunate to study with an internationally known pianist and teacher, Dr.

Gwendolyn Mok, at SJSU. Pat will be awarded her BA this Spring.

2004 Death Valley

In spite of the challenging weather conditions many QSERS participated in the DVE. **Katie** and **Tai** and **Karen Chaton** rode three days. **Robert** and **Melissa**, **Mary Anderson**, **Pam Villa** and **Kathy Miller** rode some of the days. **Hillorie** and **Lori** each completed a day.

Congratulations to **Bob** and **Peggy Eaton** who completed all 4 days of the LD on the same horses. That is quite an accomplishment for two teams!

And congratulations to **Scott Sansom** and to **Springdale Honey** (owned by **Michele**). They were the only team to finish all 4 days of the endurance ride! As result they cleaned up with prizes for fastest overall time, overall BC and 1st middleweight. **Connell**, Ken and other members crewed for the Quicksilver riders.

Messages from Michele

Thank you so much to those of you who continue to send notes and emails to me in support. If I do not reply to you personally, rest assured that it is not because your messages go unnoticed or unappreciated, but rather, because I have limited time and limited use of the computer. Thank you so very much. It REALLY helps to have thoughts from home. I now understand firsthand what it must be like for soldiers to have letters from home.

I'm not sure how much has been made public, but the logistics will go something like this: we have 12 horses in Florida now. 9 of those will ship to Dubai of those 9, 6 will compete in the WEC, the remaining 3 will stay another three weeks to compete in the President's Cup, thanks to the generosity of Abu Dhabi.

Since Christmas the weather has taken a turn for the better, so spirits are rising her. From what I have heard, that is not the case at Death Valley!

Well, we tried to take the horses swimming the other day. It is an interesting saga. It started with the staff telling us they had finally found a pond for swimming. The horses would go in 2 at a time and be towed around by a guy in a motorboat. Needless to say, this concept was not too well received. After several weeks and much negotiation, the pond was improved, with floating docks and a chute for entry. Sand was also put down for the entry and exit footing. We loaded up three

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horses (Tallymark, Raymond, and Rosie), and off we went, to the Halcyon Hammock Thoroughbred training center.

Raymond was to be our guinea pig, since he is an 18 year old been there, done that, sort of sensible guy. In he went, through the knee-deep sand of the entry, and around the 50 feet of beginner's loop swim. He swam very well, but upon exit, found himself belly deep in the sand. The poor horse had to struggle so hard to get out of the pond, he came out practically unable to move...lame both in front and behind. Tallymark had his shipping boots back on and was loaded in the trailer to go home again before anyone there could blink! Raymond, ultimately, will be fine. He had a couple of Charlie horses and stinger on a cannon bone. He got some bute and lots of carrots for his heroic effort. Tallymark will not be going swimming, now, even if we find the perfect place. Time to hunker down and be safe.

Happy New Year to all, and thanks again for your help and support. It has helped tremendously for me to know that I can afford a few extras for Tallymark to give him his best shot at doing well. He was dropping a little weight, so I actually had Scott FedEx me some of that great Almaden Oat hay. Tallymark was so happy to have it, he actually cleaned up his hay that first night, which is something he never does! Everyone from the west is drooling over it (no oat hay at all available here), and Maria, who is from Denmark but here working for Valerie, asked me why I was feeding my horse straw!

They ran a preride for WEC in Dubai. They only went 75 miles. 80-something staters, with 11 finishers. That's a 17% completion rate, and rumor has it that 35 or so horses wound up on fluids. Haven't heard what were the weather conditions. Yikes.

Thanks, everyone, for your good thoughts. It was an interesting ride yesterday. We split up into three groups. I seem to have drawn all the pros...Bev Gray, Dave Augustine (filling in for Meg Sleeper, who had to be at work), and Valerie Kanavy. Valerie is no longer on the list to travel to Dubai, and has, in fact, sold Shahdon, but she was up on Bearcat, promising to just ride along behind us and not interfere with the team dynamics we were trying to create. Well, that lasted all of 2 minutes, and I'm not kidding. After we got going, the three of us just pretended she was a French rider, riding as a rabbit, and we let her go off into the distance.

Tallymark did as well as his little brain would allow. He traveled down the trail very

nicely with the other horses, sometimes leading and sometimes following, as we have been directed. His recoveries were a tad slow, because he was very excited from the speed on the trail, and would not hold still. He has also bonded closely to Meg's horse, Troy. However, he was not the slowest to recover, and at the end he looked and felt fantastic. All the vets oohed and owed at our trot out. We wound up doing 15 miles at 12 mph, then a 30 min hold (we got only one bucket of water during the recovery phases of the vet holds....so if they drank the whole bucket, we were without sponge water...that was interesting!), then 15 miles at 15 mph, then a 30 minute hold, then 4 miles at 10mph, then a vet check. It was fun to finally get to really riding.

If you are reading this in the morning, send good thoughts East...we start our 30 mile test "breeze" at 10 AM eastern today. We will do three ten mile loops....the first 20 miles we are to do at 12 mph, then we have a 30 minute hold/vetcheck, and the staff will keep track of our recovery times. Then we do the final loop at 15 mph, and again, they will time us on recovery. The weather looks to be fine...sunny and in the 70s, with less humidity than we had four days ago. The staff had hoped for hot and humid conditions, to really test and stress the horses, but I am not complaining about the more friendly conditions we'll have today I'll let you know how it goes.... :->

It's so nice to finally have access to Carolyn's computer! I have been missing all of you. Scott, I know you're still trying to find a way out of going there, but calling it "Dubia" will not get you out of it! Flying with the horses was excellent! It was great fun, and I would definitely recommend that if ever you get the chance to do it, jump on it. left Scott's at 3:30 AM, to get to OAK by 4:45. Neither horse got tubed, as they both said no way to that. I did give them some ace IM before loading on the pallet, and I think that was a good idea. They both walked on no problem. The other attendant, who was wonderful and experienced, stayed with them on takeoff (and landing) even though he's technically not allowed to. That is the most important time to be with the horses. They did well. TM got a bit fussy on the ascent. He was shaking his head and yawning.

I think it must have been the pressure change in his ears. Then they settled down. On the first landing, into Memphis, Sando tried to start scrambling, but James was able to settle him. Then we had a four hour layover. The

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horses stayed on the pallet, but we were unloaded from the plane. The airports really have no horse facilities, so we were parked on a little corner in a warehouse, with lots of noise, and cargo containers going by. James had procured a gatorade cooler a while ago, so he had that set up for water for the horses. TM took a few sips, but Sando didn't drink at all. They both only munched lightly at the hay, but they were digging the carrots. Unloading was off a ramp, onto paved parking area...not too great.

TM was perfect. Sando tried to jump down the ramp, but all okay. Next time, it's best not to have any tack trunks in front of the stalls. All you really need is a small bucket, a haynet, and a large bag of carrots. The second flight, from Memphis to Orlando was a piece of cake. I am really glad that TM now has flight experience. They looked great the next day. Blood draw showed TM with a low white cell count and a slightly high fibrinogen, which Nancy Loving was immediately very concerned about...but he's been EDPP-MF with normal temp, no snots or cough, and looking great, so Beech released me to stop the handwalking

(45 min 4 times/day!) and get on his back today.

Everyone here is pretty uptight, so I am trying to remain in my own little cocoon of calmness. So far so good, but there are not enough beds in our apartment, so I either am in bed with Carolyn, or on an air mattress on the floor, which is tile and very chilly. It's kind of like being on the moon...one side toasty, and the other side cold! We also have no cook stove or oven, so I will be learning to cook everything in the microwave or the electric skillet.

Tallymark and I arrived safely in Florida, and are still settling in. We have been doing a lot of hand walking, as all the team staff are excessively worried about tie ups. The flight with the horses was amazing and fun. I feel so fortunate to have had the experience, and would highly recommend it, if anyone ever has the opportunity. My cell phone is not working well...very little service, so it is best to use email if you need to contact me.. I'll try to write more later, just wanted to let everyone know we arrived safely. Thanks again for all of your help, support, and donations!

HORSEY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- I CAN walk and poop at the same time. I can, I can, I can.
- I will NOT stop and poop or urinate every time I pass the same spot in the arena.
- I will NOT leave when my rider falls off.
- My stall is NOT my litter box. When I have free access to my paddock, I will NOT go back inside to pee.
- I will NOT roll in streams or try to roll when human is on my back.
- I will NOT leap over large nonexistent obstacles when the whim strikes.
- I will NOT walk faster on the way home than I did on the way out.
- I promise NOT to swish my tail while my human is cleaning my back feet.
- I promise also NOT to choose particular time answer Nature's call.
- I will NOT bite my farrier's butt just because it is there.
- I will NOT confuse my human's blond hair for really soft hay.
- I will NOT wipe green slime down the back of my human's white shirt.
- I will NOT blow my nose on my human.
- I will NOT try to mooch goodies off every human within a one-mile radius.
- I will NOT lie totally flat out in my stall with my eyes glazed over and my legs straight out and pretend I can't hear my human frantically screaming, "Are you asleep?"
- I will NOT chase the ponies into the electric fence to see if it is on.
- I will promise NEVER to dump the wheelbarrow of manure over while a human is mucking out my stall.
- I will NOT grab my lead rope in my mouth and attempt to lead myself.
- I will NOT have an attitude problem. I won't, I won't, I won't.
- I will not pull my new shoes off the very next day just to prove that I can.
- I am neither a beaver nor a carpenter. I promise I won't eat or remodel the barn or the new fences.
- I WILL forgive my human for a very bad haircut, even though I look like a freak.
- I WILL accept that not every carrot is for me.
- I will NOT to the Arab Teleport Trick when a bad/naughty/awful Horsasauras Monster breathes at me.
- I will NOT jump in the air and turn 180 degrees every time I see a bicycle.

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- I WILL understand that bicycles are not carnivorous.
- I will NOT shy at familiar objects just for fun.
- I will NOT bite the butt of the horse in front of me during a trail ride just to say "Hi"
- I WILL put my ears forward and cooperate when it comes to photos.

2004 RIDE POINT FORM

NAME OF RIDER _____

NAME OF HORSE _____ BREED _____ AGE _____

TOTAL CAREER MILES RIDER _____ TOTAL MILES HORSE _____

LIST ALL RIDES COMPLETED FROM 12/1/03 THROUGH 11/30/04

MILESTONES THIS YEAR

NAME AND DATE OF RIDE	NUMBER OF MILES	PLACING IN YOUR WEIGHT DIVISION (NEED # OF POINTS & YOUR DIVISION)	BEST CONDITION?	DID YOU SPONSOR A JUNIOR?

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH HORSE/RIDER COMBINATION. USE THE REST OF THIS FORM AND/OR THE BACK TO TELL US ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE ABOUT YOU, YOUR HORSE, CREW, FAMILY, GRANDCHILDREN, ETC.

MAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO: MARYBEN STOVER
 1299 SANDRA DRIVE, SAN JOSE CA 95125
 (408) 265-0839

2004 Death Valley Encounter A True Story

The DVE ride the year was truly a test of endurance for all horse/rider combinations that rode any day, any number of days, any distance, through any weather! Just getting out of bed in the freezing wind and rain each day to ride your horse, was an accomplishment in itself! Hats off to anyone who rode any part of the ride! And hats off to Jackie and her steadfast crew of volunteers! Most folks may have thought we were nuts for doin' it, and maybe we were, but boy.....it was a great adventure and lots of fun despite the challenging conditions....

O.K. - enough of that stuff and on to the ride details.... at least on the LD, which we both rode every day on the same horses...

My husband Bob and I, our wonderful horses Yahoo! and Dakota, had a GREAT time enduring all these elements - it had its moments, but it was worth it, after driving 6 hours from Carmel Valley and wondering what we were in for....

Day 1 began for us sometime after midnight when we awoke to the sound of pelting rain on the roof of our LQ.... at 5am we got a slight reprieve from it to get our horses fed and grained for the 7am start we were planning...well, unfortunately the rain returned with a vengeance. We watched as other riders toughed it out and saddled their horses in the driving rain.... it didn't look like much fun to us, so we were thinking of sitting this day out. Poor Jackie, who had never had to deal with RAIN, much less this MUCH RAIN during the many years she's done the DVE ride, was at her wits end on what to do! It was decided the 50's would

do the LD loop twice, instead of going over the Slate Mountain range, and on to Indian Ranch, as was usually done. The mountains were covered with snow and there was no way she was sending anybody out over them.

We watched as the bundled riders headed out at 7am, and it was amazing how many there were! The rain began to let up a bit and we decided our horses would be happier trotting down the trail than standing still in their pens in the nasty wind, rain and cold. We quickly saddled between raindrops and headed out down the trail, and soon the tracks were turning into streams and rivers....we crossed the highway, rode past the junkyard, past the horse corrals and turned into the wind. This is when the rain really began coming down and we both could feel our feet getting deeper and deeper in the water that was collecting in our boots. Lucky for me, I discovered that my battery powered heated socks still worked in the rain, and I soon had warm water sloshing around my toes! Those suckers worked all 4 days too! I will be e-mailing the manufacturer about these socks to tell them my endurance ride story! Can't remember everyone we saw that day, but we do remember seeing Dave Rabe trot by, in his shorts, plastic bags wrapped around his feet flapping in the winds.... smiling and just as happy as ever! Amazing man, he is! We also saw Judy Long and Lucy Trumbull riding together, equally sodden as us!

Getting back to camp with soaking wet clothing and gear was the biggest bummer of the ride. My new saddle was no longer new.... the sheepskin that covered it weighed near 100 pounds as I removed it and laid it out to dry...Hah! (It remained

off my saddle for the rest of the ride). We cranked up the furnace to maximum in our LQ and had everything hanging everywhere to dry....the weather held off a bit so we could put a few things outside to become "less wet". Bob's feet were frozen (he didn't have those battery powered electric socks which I must continue to rave about through this story...). I wrapped him in a down comforter in our 90-degree trailer and left him to "thaw". The weather got worse for a while in the pm and we really felt for those 50 milers that were still out there! But everyone returned safe and sound; most with smiles on their wet, wind-whipped faces and looking like a bunch of drowned rats! But we all were happy and felt good for our accomplishments! Yee Haw! On to Day 2!!!

Well, before Day 2 could begin, Jackie had to decide how the heck she could make a ride out of the day with the trail up the mountain buried in snow.... that was out of the question.... and the road between Ballarat and Indian Ranch was an inland lake. Then there was the fact that the rigs would probably get stuck in the desert mire at Indian Ranch, so one of the biggest changes right off the bat was that we would not be moving camp to Indian Ranch at the end of Day 1. Instead we'd all remain at Trona overnight, pack up and be on the highway to Ballarat by 6:30 am the next day, then in the saddle for an 8am start. That was kinda sucky to think about as there was a good chance we'd be packing our gear up in the dark, in the rain, freezing in the wind, early the next morning. That just really sounded awful...Bob and I had the added ordeal of loading our corral panels on top of our LQ, which majorly sucked...! Well, despite all these hitches, we all persevered and got it done. We even had time to pull our neighbor's rig out of the

bottom of a small riverbed they'd become a part of the night before.

We all caravanned behind the Duck's trailer through the darkness, north up the highway, passing a rather large boulder that was sitting in the southbound lane (thank goodness we weren't headed that way). We arrived at Ballarat and proceeded to park off the side of the road - giant parallel parking situation for our rigs. Katie Alton was just behind us with her parents, and looked just as beamy and happy as ever, and just as anxious to head down that nasty but exciting trail as we were! Overnight, the "inland lake" on the road between Ballarat and Indian Ranch had reduced itself to "inland lakelets" that we were able to negotiate just fine with our puddle-sloshing ponies!

There was no rain this day, but there was plenty of wind to make up for it - especially after the Indian Ranch vet check when we turned and headed into the wind and back to our temporary parking station along the road. We unsaddled, loaded our dry horses into the rig and headed out to Panamint Springs...a day earlier than we would usually arrive.

Day 3 was real easy and the weather was GREAT, sunny all day....we rode back down the highway we'd driven in on, turned right, and then did the jeep road back toward Indian Wells that we would usually do on the 3rd day, in the opposite direction.... to a vet check out off the road -the same one we got "buzzed at" by a jet fighter last year (some of you may so colorfully remember!)... no jets this year though! We LDers turned around and went back the same way...the 50's continued up the hill and did a loop out beyond, we believe it was the usual trail with the deep sand washes, and then returned back to camp the same way we did. We were lucky on the LD ride....we

heard stories of the 50 milers hanging onto their saddles - getting lifted out of them and blown sideways during some nasty gale force winds that developed in the afternoon. Back at camp, the afternoon went from balmy nice to nasty cold winds just before dark. The sky remained blue that day and we were able to get the last bit of moisture out of our soggy stuff from Day 1.

That night at the ride meeting, there was much discussion of what the heck we'd be doing for the next day. Jackie was busily reorganizing trails and volunteers with the talk of 6" of snow in Darwin and the even deeper snow out at the corrals that was the usual lunch stop for the 50's. Then there was the tragic news of the helicopter crash on the highway just beyond Panamint Springs which had it completely closed to traffic so the FAA could get in and do their investigation. They weren't sure they would have highway access to the vet check for an ambulance trailer and crews. It was decided they'd make a decision and let the 50's know what they'd be doing in the morning, but it didn't look so good to do the usual loop out to the corrals.

We went to bed to the sound of howling wind and knew the temperature outside was dropping as our forced air furnace was kicking on more often (man, we love our LQ!!!). It was tough to sleep that night, thinking of our poor horses out in the cold howling wind and thinking we'd have to endure it from the saddle in the early morning. I headed out for my usual chore of feeding the horses at 5am and noticed that not only was it extremely windy and cold...but there were no stars to be seen. That's when I felt a few drops of rain on my face and realized we were really screwed.... today we'd be heading higher in altitude, knowing we'd be hitting snow, and knowing that the

worst was not over and that it had probably just begun! Sure enough, the trail from Darwin out to the corrals was cancelled for the 50's. Instead they'd be doing our LD loop with us, and then heading back down the highway to do some of the trail from the previous day.

We bundled ourselves up, just as heavy as ever (BTW, I must share with you that I was never cold, - the secret to my success was silk thermal underwear, both top and bottom, those FABULOUS battery-powered heated socks, thermal riding pants, International Expedition rain pants from REI, a turtle neck, fleece coat, Carhartt jacket, fleece head and neck cover, polar fleece riding gloves that stayed fairly warm despite getting wet, International Expedition rain coat with hood from REI, and my Troxel crash helmet....I probably weighed another 30 pounds, but it worked! I had Ariat Terrains which I will upgrade to the waterproof kind.).

We headed up the highway to the trailhead. The highway had fortunately been reopened to traffic although it didn't matter so much to us as the 50's would no longer be going to the corrals. We climbed up that long rocky jeep trail though the scenic canyons.... lots and lots of rock as we remembered. It got colder, the higher we climbed. For a while the rains held back which made riding conditions more comfortable. Today, Bob and I were riding with Lucy Trumbull who was planning on riding fairly slow in order to finish on her young horse. I had the same plan with my youngster. We decided that Bob would part ways with us somewhere halfway down the trail, and that Lucy and I would ride the rest of the trail together, if I survived the "separation anxiety" that Dakota would subject me to when Yahoo disappeared from sight. Luckily he was vastly

improved from the previous time and it really wasn't a big deal. We started up the long trail next to the asphalt road, which was less than 1/2 way from Darwin. This was and always has been the most boring part of that day.... in the cold wind, it was even more of a bummer trail. We began to climb towards the top of the hill that would take us down to Darwin, and the rain began again. This time it was blowing straight at us, freezing cold and stinging your eyes when it hit. I resorted to my sunglasses to protect my eyes and then wished for little windshield wipers on them.....but it was better than the pain! I will add ski goggles to my riding attire if I ever have to ride in weather like this again!

The sloshy, wet ground turned to snow as we climbed. My first time riding in snow and it was pretty cool! My horse was born and raised in Eastern Washington so he didn't bat an eye at the change of footing. Yahoo's done Day 2 - and ridden the top of that mountain through deep snow so he didn't care either. We hit the top of the hill above Darwin and we agreed it was the nastiest moment of the whole ride, when that cold icy wind just ripped right into you. We braced against it, leaning forward against our trusty steed's necks - we could see the town of Darwin in the distance and that was all that mattered to us! Our last day of "enduring" was 1/2 through and the home stretch was in sight! Didn't see much of the town this year - we just braced against the wind and headed for the vet check. They told us there was no hold due to the nasty weather conditions.... what horse or human wanted to stand still and "rest" under those conditions!?

We quickly vetted, grabbed a sandwich and headed back down the trail. The horses must have sensed our thinking

and knew that this was the final trail home for 2004. We trotted along a nice flat sandy road and joined back up with the long winding rocky jeep road down to the highway. Lucy and I opted to walk on the ground for this part. The weather improved substantially and the sun emerged and steadily warmed us up to the point of being uncomfortable. We stopped and shed several layers each and tied them to our anxious steeds....they were totally onto us now and knew they were headed down the last trail of the ride. We hit the flats, remounted and began a steady trot home on our dry, happy horses!

Bob had arrived at camp about 1/2 an hour before me to the cheers of many supporters who knew he had broken the curse of being a 3 and 1/2 day rider! Now he would finally be getting that sweatshirt and we'd be returning next year for sure!

The party that night was great fun. Food was good, band was great; we danced and danced until the clock struck midnight and the beginning of a New Year! We celebrated the new friends we'd made over the course of the ride, the greatness of our mounts, the exciting and challenging moments on the trail, the conquering of the lousy weather conditions, the beautiful rainbows we saw among the dramatic cloud formations, the wonderful help and support of people who helped us get through those 4 days, and we appreciated the absence of 2 trail conditions the previous year....no dust to eat and no sand to blow in your eyes! Our only sorrow is that we have to wait a full year to do it all over again!

Thank you Jackie -

Bob and Peggy Eaton
Carmel Valley, California

It's That Time of Year!!!!

Your QUICKSILVER Riders membership fee is due on January 1, 2005

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 2005 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**

January 2005 quips

May your and your horse have wonderful Year 2005 riding together as members of the QUICKSILVER ENDURANCE RIDERS.

Quicksilver club New Year reminders

Nominations are due for:

Eleanor Norton Award (Sportsmanship)

Hall of Fame (person)

Quicksilver Horse of the Year

2005 DUES ARE DUE; SEE PAGE 8

THE 2004 RIDE POINT FORM IS ON PAGE 4

If you want a photo in the 2005 calendar, (NO 8 X 10s, PLEASE) 5 X 7s, A CD OR CALL ME

MAIL IT TO: Steve Lenheim, Campbell Mortgage

2100 S. Bascom Ave., Suite 4, Campbell, CA 95008

(408) 997-0368

January 19, 2005 Meeting

**will be at the New Almaden Community Center
on Bertram Road (around the corner from La Foret)**

Board meets at 6:30 PM (members welcome)

General meeting 7:00 pm

Come meet the new board members and officers. Bring your ideas for the club!

Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.

P. O. Box 71

New Almaden, CA 95042