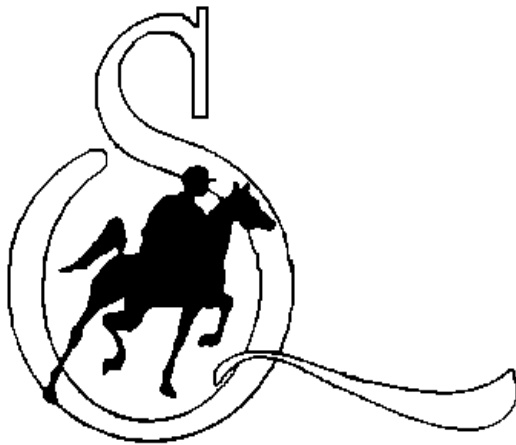


QUICKSILVER QUIPS

February 2005



OFFICERS

President Steve Lenheim
Vice President Scott Sansom
Secretary Elaine Alton
Treasurer Trilby Pederson

BOARD MEMBERS

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Lori Oleson
Maryben Stover

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President's Message

I'm sitting here working on the calendar for the 2005 season and decided that it would be a great time to write this little message to the members.. January 26, 2005 7:00 pm. As I work on the calendar I can follow one of our members on the internet as she races across the desert thousands of miles away. It seems so strange that Michele and Tallymark are competing in the WEC while I sit here in the night. Mile after mile the race goes on, I, thinking about all that it takes to make such an event happen, the people, the equipment, the travel, the time...everything that an endurance race of such caliber requires. Yes, endurance rides are going on all the time, everywhere in the world. But this, a friend, a member, one of our own, go, go, go!

Someday we will watch such an event on our screens (aka tv) and be able to thrill to the excitement just as we do to other events. Superbowl, big deal, heck, I'd rather watch Michele. Kind of like Hildago. Now that would be exciting. Soon we may be able to watch Tevis, maybe the Old Dominion, maybe just a local 50 miler that we couldn't go to. What possibilities with the computer. Hmm, I think I'll go to the kitchen and make some hot chocolate; it's raining outside.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE! THE AWARDS BANQUET IS COMING, WITH LOTS OF PRIZES.

The club is starting off well. The January meeting gave us direction and lots of things to do. We will be in need of help for our Spring (May 21) endurance ride so contact Trilby. At the present we are in

need of someone to put on the Poker Ride and possibly the Fall Classic. We reserved Oct. 1st which will be a great date. Step up and do the do (or something like that). Also, we are in need as always of a guest speaker. My thought is that if you are somewhat out of the area and want to have the meeting at your choice with a speaker then let me know. We are open to any idea that will get people motivated to enjoy our company for a Wednesday night.

SEE YOU AT THE AWARDS BANQUET - HARRY'S HOF BRAU, 6:30 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

EL PRESIDENTE

**Quicksilver Endurance Riders
BOARD AND GENERAL MEETING
01-19-2005**

Present: Steve Lenheim; Elaine Alton, Maryben Stover, Trilby Pederson, Kathy Miller, Lori Oleson, Scott Sansom, Mary Anderson, Marvin Snowbarger.

Meeting was called to order at 7.20p.m. Elaine read the minutes of the last meeting which were approved by all.

President's Report

Steve thanked Trilby for putting on a nice Christmas party.

Treasurer's Report

General Account	\$ 775.10
Trails Account	1007.56
Junior Account	775.10

Committee Reports

Membership

Lots of dues are still outstanding. Send checks to Maryben (adult \$25, junior \$15).

Program

Steve will call Elaine Willis from Nutrena to organize another presentation on horse nutrition in April, 2005. If anyone has any other ideas for a speaker, please call Steve.

Rides

Scott offered to put on another Desert Gold multi-day ride over Thanksgiving 2005.

A moonlight ride was discussed. We need to know how many people would be interested. Call Steve (or any Board Member) if you are interested in this type of event.

We need volunteers for ... Ride Manager for Fall Ride 1st October 2005. Ride Manager for Poker Ride (anytime 2005)

Spring Ride

There is some conflict over the date of **May 21st** since both QS and Ride & Tie want that date (we already have it booked). It was suggested that we have both rides together on the same day.

Trilby will call Steve as soon as she hears from the Ranger.

Trails

Both Quicksilver and Calero trails are still closed at the time of this meeting.

Awards

Awards Banquet will be held at Harry's Hoffbrau **12th February, at 6.30 p.m.**

Thank you to **Don Brown** for a really big contribution in prizes.

Newsletter

If you have any articles or stories you want to share, please get them to **Judy Etheridge** before the end of the month. Her email address is Misxfire@aol.com, phone 925 862-0232.

Meeting closed at 8.15p.m..

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.

HORSES FOR SALE/FREE/LEASE

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

Reg. Fjord gelding. Cute and sweet, bright and inquisitive. Born 2/1/04. \$3,500 or will trade for board on two other horses. Call (650) 941-4412.

Draft horse mix mare. 28 years old. Needs a retirement home. The old girl is one of the sweetest horses I have met – a beautiful old draft cross. Call (650) 941-4412.

Arab gelding 9 years old, bay fast walker and good attitude. He is boarded now at Trilby's and she can show him to you. Sonny has done several 50's and a couple of multi day rides with Trilby. Wants someone to ride him pleasure or endurance. Call Carla at 408 569-6600.

SADDLES & TACK FOR SALE

Big Horn Endurance Saddle, brown, style #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. E-mail Janice at Janice.Frazier@sbc.global.net or call (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., CC tree. Well-used, well cared; no longer fits my horses. \$500, has 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.

Supplements & Hoof Protections

Wild Eye Arabians is now supplying FASTRACK Probiotics (paste & powder) HOOF -IT Pour in Pads, Kentucky Equine Research products, ENDURAMAX Electrolites (Paste & Powder) & Neigh Lox (Prevent Ulcers) Associated Feed products – EQUUS (complete feed) Auburn Labs – APF (Adaptogen)

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 in FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, 2/5 & SUNDAY, 2/6

Grant Ranch monthly Trail Days -9 am-1 pm

SATURDAY, 2/12

Vasona Park Cleanup Day, 8 - 11 am

Uvas Canyon Invasive Plant Removal at - 10 am - 3 pm (2nd Saturday, Feb. - April)

SATURDAY, 2/19

Sanborn, Monthly Volunteer Project - Exotic plant removal at, 9 am to noon

SATURDAY, 2/26

Villa Montalvo Trail Day - 8-11am. Please RSVP in advance, **408-355-2254** so enough supplies and refreshments will be provided

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Awards Banquet

Please join us at Harry's Hofbrau for the Annual Awards Banquet, 6:30 PM on Saturday, February 12. Due the generosity of club supporters there will be lots of nice awards.

MEMBER NEWS

FIRE MOUNTAIN—JANUARY

Maryben reports that quite a few Quicksilver members participated in the ride. The three first riders, **Jeremy on Saam**, **Heather on Aleclipse**, BC! and **Barry Waitte on Cambridge** all rode together and did the Quicksilver Riders proud☺

Pam Villa, Mary Anderson, Robert and Melissa were there.

Mike Maul sent these sympathetic and perceptive observations from the WEC written by the founder of Ridecamp, Steph Teeter.

I still haven't finished my ride day story - too much running around chasing OC/FEI stories and getting Argentina riders and horses ready to ship back. But I will finish it - these individual ride stories are very important to understand. The 'viewers' tend to lump the whole event into a completion rate analysis, and moody reflection on the big picture - but just like 100 miles is composed of one hundred miles, with each mile having a story to tell, Each rider has their own story - some sad, some amazing, some surprising, - each story the culmination of years of hope and preparation, whether it be the Sheikhs of the UAE who snap their fingers for the best horse, or the grooms from Argentina who never ever in their life would have imagined riding the sands of Arabia, with 180 other horses from around the world.

One has to remember what it is like to saddle up in the dark, anticipating the start, riding loop by loop - high energy and hope in the morning, afternoon slumps and worry, and for the lucky ones, a final loop where now there is nothing but to finish - in a flash, or step by step protecting the investment, reducing the risk of making a mistake so late in the day.

There is an enormous amount of pressure to succeed, or to not fail, to perform well for the sake of the friends and family that are here to help you - that you brought from your home country to help, to crew, the friends who have been at your side for weeks, leaving their own lives back home for friendship and adventure. It's not all about ego and racing - to insinuate that this is so, is to forget what it means to ride 100 miles. For some, the win is everything, but for the vast majority - simply to be here wearing your country's colors, riding the event of a lifetime, piloting the horse that will do it all for you - this can't be reduced to a 'completion rate' analysis. The 80 mile story, the 30 mile story, is still a very, very big story for each individual.

Tina McGurran, a new Quicksilver member, who rides with Heather tried her first ride at Fire Mountain and was doing fine when her horse choked at the last vet check (I think that it was the last check). The vet said it was just bad luck. Darn...she was doing really well too.

But - regarding the US - riders and horses - I'll see if I can do a recap:

The real star of the day was Becky Harris and her tough little mare Honey. They had been plagued by problems in Florida (truck, colic, shoeing), but eventually everything was resolved, and good to ship. Again shoeing issues popped up here in UAE - but resolved in time for trot in. (so everybody hoped). Becky had a roller coaster ride during December and January, but on ride day she and Honey had a perfect day. She wasn't named to the team because of the previous shoeing issues, so rode as an individual. I don't know the sequence of events, regarding riding together as a team, and eventually splitting up to ride in groups of twos - probably by midmorning it was obvious that some horses were not having a good day, and the others would need to ride their own ride at that point. Becky and Honey rode faster and stronger as the day progressed, with a final 18th place finish – ride time under 9 hours. Her smile was blinding...

The other sleeper was Carolyn Hock and Sando. They had been on the reserve squad, assuming that they would have their day 3 weeks later at the President's Cup ride. When Meg Sleeper's horse, Troilus, started developing a subtle lameness, presumably related to shoeing, Carolyn was put on call. Both Troilus and Sando were vetted in, and both were sound at the trot out, but the decision was made to have Carolyn and Sando start. Meg and Troilus would have their turn at the President's Cup. Carolyn and Sando had a solid ride, finishing in 11 hours. Apparently the high strung Sando had some difficulty accepting water handoffs on the trail, not unusual for first time horses at UAE events, or horses that see something threatening about having two-legged creatures attacking them with shiny water bottles... but they had no real issues, and rode a steady ride, for a solid finish.

Bev Gray and Paladin's story was the saddest. Pal was not having a great day, Bev felt that he wasn't performing the way she knew he could, but all of his veterinary parameters were normal - all of the clinical signs were normal.

After the 4th loop (at around 80 miles) they came into the hold, passed the veterinary inspection, but just afterwards he began to tremble, and eventually stagger. They sent him to the hospital area where he got worse fast, seizures, and unable to stand. He was in critical shape for close to 24 hours, but there was no clinical evidence of a problem –blood work was normal, no significant deficiencies in hydration or glucose levels. There was some speculation that it might have been some sort of stress related stroke. At this point Paladin is fine, he is bright, grazing, all seems normal. He's going to stay 3 extra weeks here for continued observation and will ship back to the US with the horses that are staying for the President's Cup.

Michele Roush and PR Tallymark were not able to do the ride they were capable of. Tallymark never fully settled into the new environment and change of routine, and wasn't eating as well as hoped prior to the ride. Michele said that he ate and drank well during the ride though, and was doing well - until the 80 mile point, where the heat and miles took their toll. He was pulled for elevated CRI, and diminished gut sounds. Michele thought that the fundamental problem was dehydration, but it was a surprise - since he ate and drank well during the day. But, here, nothing is the same as it is back home...

Carol Giles and Stranger never quite got off the ground. He started in great shape, no problems, but didn't eat or drink well during the day – unusual for Stranger. At the final vet check, with 12 miles to go, Carol opted to retire him. There was no reason to continue in her mind - the team medal was not to be, Stranger was tired - basically there was nothing to gain.

Dennis Summers and Rosie - another great disappointment. Rosie had had a few minor shoeing issues, and a heel bruise from shipping in Easyboots to continue treatment of a prior abscess, but none of it was considered serious, and Dennis and Rosie started in good shape. I saw them on the trail, headed into the 88 mile vet check, looking great - her energy level was high, and she was picking up speed during the day. Dennis and Becky were riding together at this point. Rosie vetted lame at this vet check - they're not sure, but speculate that the heel bruise may have gotten worse with the miles in the sand.

This event was a bit of a 'show'-the home court advantage was significant-most felt that the UAE-trained horses would be impossible to keep

up with. But when it comes right down to it 100 miles is 100 miles. You can't fake it. The course was not that difficult-there was sand (hey, Florida...) and a fair amount of flat firm footing (hey, forest roads) but nothing really challenging for a sound, fit horse. Certainly horses that were capable of sustaining an easy rolling gallop were the horses that did the best here. But IMO the challenge to the riders of the Nations is not the course, it is keeping one's head on tight. The stress, excitement-both in the months leading up to and on the day of the race is often the biggest challenge. Many try to ride their fastest ride ever or fail to listen to their horse, missing subtle clues that would not have been missed on a 'normal' ride back home. It's 75% mental at these events.

There may be ways to obtain unfair advantages through drugs-I suspect that drug enhancement (e.g. beta blockers) could shave minutes off a ride time or recovery times, or possibly mask a lameness that might otherwise eliminate a horse—but drugs can't make a silk purse out a sow's ear. The bottom line is that the UAE really, really knows how to train and condition their horses, and they have some awesome horses.

There were some other amazing performances by French, Italian, Australian, USA and Argentinian© horses and riders. There are certainly plenty capable of selecting and training horses and riders that can compete with the UAE on their own turf. No excuses, really, we're talking about an extreme sport, and extreme performance-and that level of achievement is probably not going to diminish at this level.

It is most certainly a different sport from the one that most of us participate in most of the time-so be it-but this should not be seen as a threat to the pleasure/challenge sport that predominates in the USA. There is certainly greater risk to the horses-with increasing speed and miles comes increasing risk-but this risk can be diminished by being better educated-on the risks, and on how to avoid injury and extreme fatigue. It's not something that should be taken lightly, but neither is it something to be shunned. As the level of competition increases, so must the level of preparation and education-and so must the quality of the horses.

I'll continue to do my multiday rides and continue to do FEI rides-for me it is all a worthy challenge. I so love the International friendships that develop with the FEI level events, and the

intensity of the challenge-the need to stay sharp and watchful, and keep learning, keep asking.

Many of us will write down our thoughts, observations, and suggestions to send them along to USEF. If you/we want to stay involved in this sport, at this level, we need to open up the process again-listen to everybody, ask hard questions. There are some good heads out there. I have my own observations and opinions...I'll make sure they are heard by the USEF, as will others, and then...Insh'allah.

How many horses does it take to change a light bulb—a bunch!

THOROUGHBRED: Who ME?? Do WHAT? I'm scared of light bulbs! I'm outta here!

ARABIAN: Someone else do it. It might get my silky mane dirty and besides, who's gonna read me the instructions?

QUARTER HORSE: Put all the bulbs in a pen and tell me which one you want.

STANDARD BRED: Oh, for Pete's sake, give me the damn bulb and let's be done with it.

SHETLAND: Give it to me. I'll kill it and we won't have to worry about it anymore.

FRIESIAN: I would, but I can't see where I'm going from behind all this mane.

BELGIAN: Put the Shetland on my back, maybe he can reach it then.

WARMBLOOD: Is the 2nd Level Instruction

FROSTBITE EXPRESS

His breath hangs like silk in the still morning air

As he patiently waits by the gate.
He must think it's a beautiful day for a ride
Nevermind the chill winds that I hate.

I watch from the window and he knows that I'm there.

Guilt is his weapon of choice.
He watches the house, watching me watching him.

His desire to go needs no voice.

Only for him do I visit his land.
Of desolate, frost ridden fields.
For I, unlike him, am not armored by hair
I loathe the wind and the snow that it wields.

He craves the sharp crack of ice neath his feet,
The cadence of hooves on the ground,
The chill whip of his mane in the wind,
It whistles, his favorite sound.

I'm like a hothouse flower,
But he's more the evergreen tree
He dreads the heat and I hate the cold
Spring's the only time we agree.

Packet in English? Doesn't anyone realize that I was sold for \$75K as a yearling, but only because my hocks are bad, otherwise I would be worth \$100K? I am NOT changing light bulbs. Make the TB get back here and do it.

MORGAN: Me! Me! Me! Pleeese let me! I wanna do it! I'm gonna do it! I know how, really I do! Just watch! My parole officer said it's okay, really! And when we're done we can go over to the neighbor's and chase their cats!

APPALOOSA: Ya'll are a bunch of losers. We don't need to change the light bulb, I ain't scared of the dark. And someone make that damn Morgan stop jumping up and down before I double barrel him.

HAFLINGER: That thing I ate was a light bulb?

But only for him, I reach for my coat
and pull on my long underwear
Stuff my hands in my gloves, find my warm hat
and take him up on his dare.

He nickers to me as I leave the house
Knowing he's getting his way
He's right..... if it weren't 20 billion below
It'd sure be a beautiful day!!

The neighbors, they call us "The Frostbite Express"
When down the lane we flee
leaving hoofprints behind us, in the deep snow
This big, hairy horse, and me.



It's That Time of Year!!!!

Your QUICKSILVER Riders membership was 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**

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

Quicksilver club events

Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony

6:30 PM on Saturday, February 12, 2005 at Harry's Hofbrau

Harry's is on the corner of Saratoga and Keily (just off 280) in Santa Clara

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