



Quicksilver Quips

January 2019

President's Message – January 2019

There will be no president's message this month. Jeanine has been, and still is, ill in bed with influenza.

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Officers

President.....Jeanine McCrary
Vice President.....Katie Webb
Secretary.....Shannon Thomas
Treasurer.....Lori Oleson

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Kathie Brayton
Melissa Broquard

Newsletter Editor

Barbara McCrary
bigcreekranch@wildblue.net

Quicksilver on the Web

<http://www.qser.net/>

Treasurer's Report

General Account \$14,184.40
Trails Account \$1,074.64

Quicksilver 2018 Calendar



QSER Awards Banquet



February 2, 2019 at 5:00pm
Cocktails/Meet and Greet
DINNER will be served at 5:30pm
Westside Grill
8080 Santa Teresa Blvd
Gilroy, CA
408-847-3800

\$30.00 Steak/Salmon
Either mail a check or RSVP to Mary Anderson
130 Old Ranch Road
Hollister CA 95023
408-891-8878

Or pay online QSER...see Lori Olsen for any questions about paying on line.
We have a special activity planned so RSVP as soon as you can . Deadline is
January 10, 2019!

Membership Renewal

You can now renew your membership through our website (<https://www.qser.net/>). Click on the button that says 'Join the Club' and it will easily walk you through the process. The website format is new, so check it out.

There is still the option of renewing by sending your check to Maryben Stover at 1299 Sandra Drive, San Jose 95125.

Upcoming Rides

PS Region Fire Mountain 30/50/65 January 12
PS Region Laurel Mountain 30/50 January 26, 27
PS Region Eastern Mojave Pioneer 20/30/50 February 7-10
PS Region 20 Mule Team 35/65/100 February 23

2018 Hall of Fame Rider Nominations Needed

Please send your nominations to Pat Verheul via email before Jan. 3rd and include a paragraph or two as to why you think the person you are nominating should receive this award. The award is in recognition of a person who has contributed endurance riding over a period of time. Our website states that is goes to:

"Quicksilver members have excelled at the sport of endurance on a local, national and international level. We recognize those riders that have stood out above the rest with the QS Hall of Fame award."

Pat Verheul
patverheul@gmail.com

Eastern Mojave Scenic

By: Sandy Holder

It's been almost a year since I started this . . . and even though it's not complete, thought it might be interesting!

GOING TO AND DAY 1: I've never traveled 7 hours to get to a ride, but with the desire to get my younger 'Bash Brother' (Ghost Lightning, aka "Bolt" or "Bubba" depending on the day) off to a good start for the year...and possibly Tevis next year, the ponies and I headed out for a long drive to the High Desert – Eastern Mojave XP Ride. We were blessed to meet up with a good friend (nice rider too!), Robin Barsaleau Chriss, to get a "two-fer" over possibly 4 days, her riding Q and me riding the younger rascal. We reached ride site Tuesday, late afternoon with the plan to let them relax, rest up from the trip and give ourselves a full day of rest before commencing the ride. Robin and I got there within 10 minutes of each other (she lives in San Diego), set up camp and put the flag out (yes, "It's 5 o'clock Somewhere".) The boys settled after we used the manure fork to remove a bunch of rocks. We finally settled, jumped into the LQ for some hors devours, a home cooked meal and some 'adult beverages'.

Glad we showed up early, we got to sleep in a bit and look out the window as the morning was dawning, watching the rascals take turns at who was lying down. I love it that my boys lie flat out and rest up before rides. One full container of water drunk down to the bottom and the 2nd one half-way. Seems the hydration idea was one they happily took to! We'd saved camp sites next to us, and after walking the boys in their blankets, we came back to find Lauren Horn by herself (I rode 2017 Tevis all the way to Redstar Ridge with her husband and a friend), hobbling around trying to set up camp. It was nice to repay the favor of her hubby helping me out at the start of Tevis by setting up their camp – driving in electric fence stakes, etc. before her hubby showed up later that evening. Their mares would be a few feet from my boys and her darling Mustang "Special" was a really good-looking horse – it was love at 1st sight for the Bash Brothers!

A pre-ride to check out the start mid-day revealed a rodeo king instead of my curious big couch for a mount. Nothing I couldn't handle but definitely did NOT want that for the next day – ARGH! Robin loved riding Q who was a perfect gentleman. A few tack adjustments when we got back and it was off to share our dinner with the Duck and his beautiful bride, then the ride meeting, walking the boys and putting heavier blankets on (good idea because it definitely got colder), and we were off to bed.

Day 1 of the ride went off with a rocky start for us – Bolt having saved a few of his rodeo antics for the first mile. Just when I was thinking this day wasn't going to be a great one, we hooked up behind 3 lovely riders that laughed when I asked if my rodeo king could be sandwiched between their last horse and his brother. The response was classic – 'yeah, we had that 4 years ago'...and 'my mare will keep him in line if need be'. PERFECT – new friends and one "look" from Bob's mare and Bolt was suddenly a new man! We rode with Bob and Carol Bischoff along with Steve Downs almost all the way to lunch. Robin was enjoying the ride from the back of the pack on a loose rein, and a grin on her face almost a mile wide. A lovely ride with Steve and Carol swapping the lead in front of us – Steve's horse walked fast and Carol's set a lovely 8.5 mph trot when we weren't in deep sand. Bolt stopped in the middle of a dry, sandy riverbed midway to the vet check to relieve himself and Q followed his lead – GREAT color and volume (LOL - the things we endurance riders smile about). 15.8 miles and a bit of deeper sand, we walked the last ¼ mile into the Vet Check. Steve and Bob grabbed some water and went on to finish the 50 that day, and we immediately pulsed down for our 30-minute hold for lunch. Carol headed out a few minutes before us (we'd walked in while they trotted), knew the trails and we literally lost sight of her before we even had a chance to catch up. No worries, Q was suddenly in "game on" mode and pulling on Robin. Seeing that she was getting more

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than she bargained for, I put Bolt in the lead position to see how he'd do. WOW – fantastic riding in a magical bubble – two horses, two riders, all the way to the finish line. BTW, any of you thinking the Duck's rides are "short", my GPS watch said 25.89 miles start to finish for the 25-miler!! Oh, I almost forgot...with Robin behind us, as we were trotting into the finish line to meet Annie (who had amazing sandwiches waiting for us), we were about 20 yards from the finish and I hear Robin go "Oh, NO, NO you AREN'T"...seems the pussycat she was riding decided he wanted to canter past his brother to finish in front, and when she politely told him 'not today', he showed his displeasure by throwing a bit of a buck – BAD BOY! I still can NOT believe he did that! Luckily it was a one-time temper tantrum and Robin being a lovely rider, didn't even move in the saddle. HMMMM...Bolt pulsed in IMMEDIATELY (this horse has the fastest recoveries of any horse I've ever known, including Justice and his much fitter older brother Q).

We were in before noon...a beautiful ride on a beautiful day with no wind, just the perfect temperature, and warming up so that we could wash the boys off and let them roll (not necessarily in that order) before vetting them in for a finish. Annie mentioned that we were 6th and 7th but it wasn't my plan to Top 10, just finish with good parameters and rest up for the next day so we agreed having a cocktail was better than showing for BC, so we didn't even weigh in. The Luxury Distance was PERFECT...we relaxed the rest of the day, walked the ponies down to the dry river bed to let them roll, ate a fabulous dinner made by the amazing Annie, and off to bed at 9 PM

DAY 2 and beyond: With the plan of riding all 4 days of LD's to prepare Bolt for his 1st 50-miler on Day 1 of Cuyama, we started the Day 2 30-miler of EMS out finding Carol, Bob and Steve again. Bolt had transformed overnight (and 25 miles) from a rodeo king into a darling prince, carrying himself in quite a lovely fashion behind Bob's mare. The three in front knew the trails well and we enjoyed their company until about 1/3 of the way into the ride when they decided to walk because of a 'deceptive climb' (being from the flatlands, it probably was). Given the footing was great, Robin and I decided to continue moving along and I put her out in front – the first time she'd been given the opportunity to be in the lead. She loved riding Q on a loose rein and Bolt was doing quite well, having managed to up his game – trotting effortlessly. I looked at my GPS – 10 mph, oh no, no, no, no!!! The realization dawned on me that my 16.1 hand boy had finally figured out how to collect his wits and use his body correctly on flat ground. So amazing to find he had this gear, because he wasn't really working – still we slowed down!

The 'climb' turned out to be probably a 500-foot change in elevation over 3 or so miles, something my little mountain goats didn't even feel. So off we were, in another amazing bubble by ourselves, enjoying each other's company. The desert had its own beauty too, ever changing rocks around us, different vegetation than I'm used to, and we often found ourselves riding next to the road on little single-track paths to avoid the deeper sand. It made for easy moving and we both enjoyed the flexibility of our mounts to 'slalom' around the cactus, finding trails that others had probably used for years before us. We made it into lunch much as we had the day before, but THIS TIME, our Vet Bag was there!!! (Hint: we'd been a few minutes late to the 1st ride meeting and missed the 'all LD's need to take their Vet Bags out of the trailer and leave them to the side, so you'll have them at YOUR vet check'...oh well, Walt had been super nice and helped us out when we had none the first day – sharing as only XP riders do sometimes). Today we got to repay the favor, leaving some good vittles behind as the boys really favored the dry grass over finishing the last vestiges of their magic mash. The fun of arriving into the lunch hold was that we'd been able to trot most of the last mile, stopping about 20 yards short of the Duck. I hopped off, pulled Bolt's bit and looked at my watch – AMAZING!! He was already below 60 bps!!! I walked the 20 yards and mention that I thought we were down...the Duck kind of grinned and said something about 'can't trust those darn watches', put his stethoscope to Bolt's big chest and smiled – "yep, you're down"!! WooHOO!! We put Q's nose into Bolt's belly and got a repeat result. Amazing!! Ironically there were many more riders who'd

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come in before us still trying to meet criteria (same as the day before)...pretty sweet for us!! Leaving after the 30-minute hold by ourselves, Bolt really became a man and acted like 'been there, done that, know the drill', leading most of the way back to the finish, until about a mile away when I asked Robin to let the Big Guy go in front...only fair, but with the comment to PLEASE not canter into the finish!! We trotted in, let our thirsty ponies drink their fill and both were down to 52. EXCELLENT!!! Another Luxury Distance of 32.1 miles in the books...6th and 7th again, and with cocktails waiting to be made, we left their saddles on and declined again to weigh in. Another fabulous afternoon, cleaning ponies and tack, letting them roll, washing them, stopping to chat, and that's when it was pointed out to us that Bolt was missing his left front sneaker?!!! He'd had it on when we finished and vetted him out. Searching all over camp, I swear they must have buried it in their pen. Unable to find Bolt's sneaker, Robin gave me a hug, then looked at me directly and said, "You need to do the 50 and win it." I laughed heartily, knowing Alan Horn was planning to do that himself, and sharing with her I never go out to intentionally win a ride for good reason. The one and only time I thought that I could, ended in disaster and me in the ER!! So the plan was made for me to do the 50 the next day on Q and she would help watch baby brother. Finally...dinner, ride meeting, smiles on our faces and lights out. ■



News Notes...

Hi—Merry Christmas Barbara!

Not much happened in December but I enjoyed the Rest! Making plans for my Moab, Utah vacation in March... Includes riding in the beautiful Arches/Canyonland area. :)

Happy New Year!

See you at the Awards Dinner...

Carolyn Tucker



By Barbara McCrary

She also grew up with dogs, goats, pigs, and horses, so she is pretty savvy with livestock. She put about 1,000 miles on my (former) horse, Banner, who tossed me a few times, so I gave him to her. He tossed her, too, but she bounced more easily than I.

After spending a summer in NE Oregon, counseling at a camp for girls who needed training in independence and self-confidence (Aleksey has plenty of both!), she took a little time off and drove into Montana to check out an available job at the Clearwater Vet Clinic in Absarokee.

She got the job and has been there ever since. Every once in awhile, she calls home about a particularly ugly case and seeks some soothing parental and grandparental comfort. But, by and large, she's one strong woman!

See Valo on next page...

This is a sign we gave to our granddaughter, Aleksey Huff, who celebrated Christmas in Absarokee, Montana. When I saw this in a catalog, I just knew this was the perfect gift for her. She has a dog she adopted from a shelter—a McNabb/Bluetick Hound cross she named Valo (Finnish for "Light") in honor of one of her best college friends who is from Finland. Valo has a great sense of adventure and humor, and Aleksey uses the "Badass" expression frequently. Obviously, a great choice of a gift for her.

Aleksey graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in animal science, specializing in cattle.





Aleksey & Valo—Christmas Eve 2018—in Montana

Quicksilver Members Out for a Christmas Ride

By Elisabet Hiatt

After his terrible fall and subsequent 3 months off, Echo is finally recovered and we are picking up where we left off. He is maturing and learning the ropes of being "out there" on the trail, with interesting things such as donkeys, bikes, puddles and traffic. I love this horse's personality...he pretty much looks at things (sometimes for a little too long!) and then decides what he will do about it. I've only had two times in the past year where he actually reacted before he thought about it, and both times were warranted...the last encounter was with a biker coming at us around a blind curve, which ended up with the biker falling off while trying to avoid hitting us...guess it was better than a head-on collision! QS member Shannon Thomas and her trusty steeds, Sandy and Fawkes, as well as Milton Burro have been a wonderful influence on Echo's view of the world!

If all goes well and we don't have any more weird accidents, my goal is to do an LD at Cuyama in March. Fingers crossed, and see ya on the trail!



Salinas River beach



Fort Ord with Shannon

Beautiful day, crisp weather, and the horses were stepping lightly.



Carol on Paiute, Jenny on Roaster and Jayne Perryman on Augie in the hills near Morgan Hill



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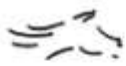
For Quicksilver club ride managers. Our club now has a color duplex printer that is located in the home of Becky and Judith. You can do the printing at the cost of 25¢ per page color and 6¢ per page B&W, if you provide the paper. If you e-mail the printable files to Becky, she will do the printing for you at the cost of 27¢ per page color and 8¢ per page B&W, including the paper.

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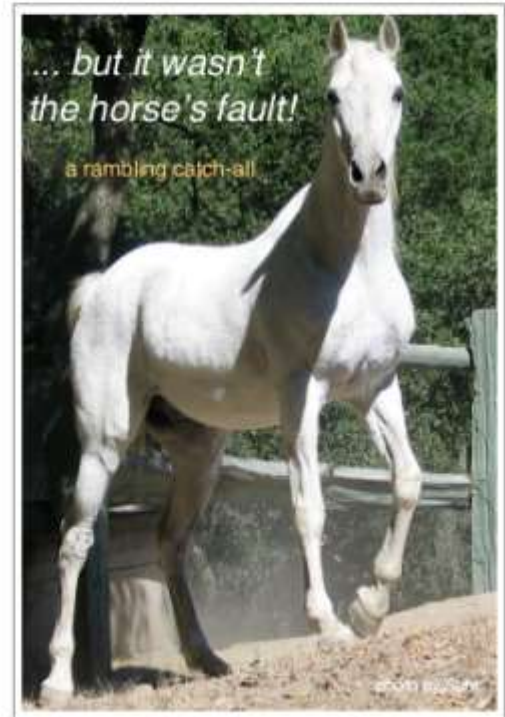
To benefit our trails and our horses, I have written two books. They are entirely different in style.

1. **Ten Feet Tall, Still** is out-of-print, but available as an e-book from Amazon, Barnes and Noble and others. All proceeds to **AERC Trails Fund** and **WSTF Trails Fund** for preservation of horse trails. \$9.99
2. **...but it wasn't the horse's fault!** Available from Marinera Publishing, www.marinerapublishing.com All proceeds to **CENTER FOR EQUINE HEALTH**, School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, California \$24.95



by
Julie Suhr

*You are never
quite the same
after you ride
a good horse.*



"TEN FEET TALL, STILL"

My first book, *Ten Feet Tall, Still*, is out of print, but is now an e-book for downloading at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and some other places. One Hundred Percent of the proceeds go to the AERC Trails Fund and the WSTF Trails Fund.

Julie Suhr (831) 335-5933

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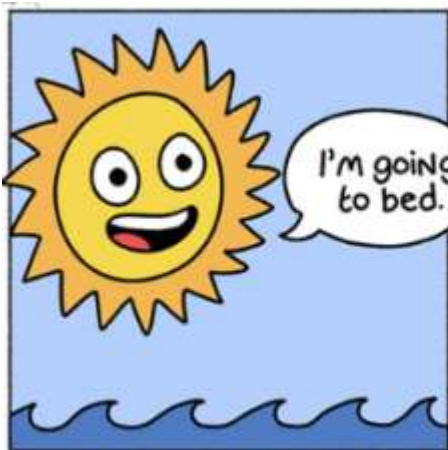
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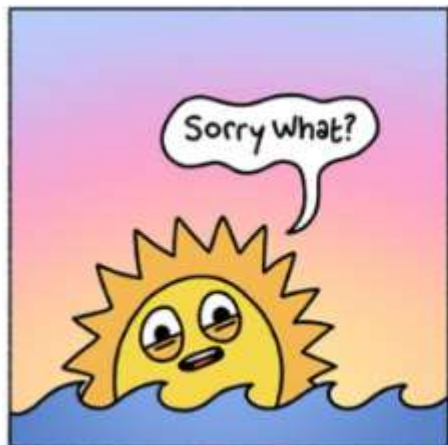
96' X 48' uncovered outdoor arena. We clean. Shavings available. 1.25 miles to entrance to the Quicksilver County Park (3600 acres and 19.2 miles of manicured trails). I provide my trailer for use to boarders. My place borders Quicksilver Park.

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Humor and Birthdays



Happy January Birthdays
to our Quicksilver Members
and Endurance Friends



Robert Ribley	2
Elaine Alton	3
Jeremy Reynolds	16
Doug Spilman	16
Kathy Miller	18
Bob Verheul	23
Ann Plaggmier	23
Pat Verheul	27
Holly Bergantz	27
Tieran Rashid	28
Mike Maul	30



QUICKSILVER ENDURANCE RIDERS — MEMBERSHIP

Club Mission—Quicksilver exists to promote the sport of endurance riding by conducting endurance rides and advocating for equestrian trails. It seeks to provide a model for the highest levels of sportsmanship and horsemanship within the context of this sport. It supports and provides educational events and leadership in each of these areas.

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Senior Membership \$30

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Go to our website at www.qser.net to join with PayPal or send a check made out to Quicksilver Endurance Riders and mail to:

Maryben Stover, 1299 Sandra Drive, San Jose 95125

"There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse." -R.S. Surtees

"To ride on a horse is to fly without wings" -Unknown

"Life outside of endurance? I don't think so" -Dave Rabe

We would love to have you join the Quicksilver Endurance Riders!!

Mission Statement of Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.

QSER exists to promote the sport of endurance riding by conducting endurance rides and advocating for equestrian trails. It seeks to provide a model for the highest standards of sportsmanship and horsemanship within the context of this sport. It supports and provides educational events and leadership in each of these areas.

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

