



Quicksilver Quips

December 2006

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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

We had a great meeting and got a number of things accomplished. (See the minutes published elsewhere in the Quips.

Many thanks to Steve for once again cooking and also to the others who just happened to bring food.

The Awards Banquet date is tentative for 2/10/07, depending on availability of Harry's. I will know for sure on December 2.

Christmas Party will be December 13, 2006. (See info details on page 2.)

Officers elected were at November meeting:

President: Sandy Holder
 VP: Kathy Brayton
 Secretary: Margaret Graham
 Treasurer: Trilby Pederson

Board:

Jennifer Voight
 Darran Ross
 Steve Lenheim (the lone man on the board)

Thanks for a great year.**MB**

WE WON!

We have good news to share! The Partners in Preservation on-line voting contest has tallied its winners...because of your willingness to vote every day, the department was awarded \$75,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express for the restoration of the Casa Grande. In deciding how to divvy up the money, the panel considered the site's relative historic significance and the project's potential to benefit the community. The prize money of \$1 million was split among 13 of the 25 historic sites, with Casa Grande placing 10th in the contest.

Thanks to everyone for voting and putting Casa Grande on "the map". We not only received \$75,000, we also received visibility and recognition from the media and many in the preservation industry. This is only the beginning!!

Lisa

P.S. if you'd like to see a listing of all the winners, go to:

www.partnersinpreservation.com.

QSER MEETING MINUTES

11-15-2006

In Attendance: Maryben Stover, Steve Lenheim, Tribly Peterson, Darran Ross, Kathy Schmidt, Sandy Holder, Jen Voight, Jean Bauer, Mary Anderson, Heather Reynolds, Jeremy Reynolds, Ildy Nasdasy, Margaret Graham

The Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Maryben presented the Treasurer's report.

For the general account: starting balance	\$6,798.58
Deposit (dues)	\$100
Expenses	\$423.37
Balance	\$6466.21

Nominations: Ildy nominated Margaret Graham for the position of secretary. Sandy seconded the nomination and her name was added to the slate of officers previously approved.

Awards/Banquet: Maryben proposed the following budget for the Awards Dinner at Harry's Hofbrau House:

Harry's Room Fee	\$200
Awards	\$1500
Calendar	\$500
Decorations	\$100
Cleanup	\$150

A discussion of the proposed budget took place and the budget was approved.

The following award committees were formed:

- Eleanor Norton: Doug White, Kathy Schmidt and Mary Anderson

- Hall of Fame Horse: Jen Voight, Bing Voight and Steve Lenheim

- Hall of Fame Rider: Hugh Vanderford (needs two more QSER members)

- Horse of the Year: Barry Waitte, Heather Reynolds and Jeremy Reynolds

Goodwill: Cards will be sent to Pam Villa's husband, Ron, and to Julie Suhr.

Spring Ride: Doug Reynaud will not be holding Diablos Pistoleros in 2007 therefore Henry Coe Park would be available for the QSER spring ride. He will be called in regards to using his campground if the ride is held at Coe. There was discussion of moving the date of the ride to 5-15 instead of 6-2. This decision will need to be addressed when a ride manager comes forward.

QSER Mission Statement: Maryben read the proposed mission statement which has been floating around for member comment since May. Jean Bauer made a motion to accept the mission statement as read by Maryben. Margaret Graham seconded the motion and the mission statement was approved.

No new or unfinished business was introduced and Maryben adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 13th, 2006

At the Almaden Community Center

6:00 p.m.

Club will provide Turkey with all the trimmings and also will provide drinks. The dinner is a pot luck – please bring a side dish!

Bring a wrapped gift for a Gift Grab for those who want to participate in that. And of course, we always have special surprise gifts.

See you all there!!

Any questions, call Trilby at 997-7500. She is the person in charge.



PONY EXPRESS

By Erika Browne
Forbes.com Magazine

It is just before dawn on a September morning in California's Chabot Regional Park, and a thick fog blankets the Oakland hills. Barry Waitte, a former AOL executive, hoists a saddle onto the sinewy back of his horse, a chocolate-brown Arabian named Omni, and climbs aboard the half-ton beast. Soon they are tromping through sagebrush, leaping over fallen branches and kicking up dust, which they do for the next 50 miles, in a race against time and 30 other teams of man-and-steed.

"That first hour is stupendous," says Waitte. "You watch the sky emerge, full of colors, and you feel the passion of your horse beneath you. It's beyond joy, happiness or elation. It's all those things."

Omni trots at first, Waitte holding him back. But seven hours later, Waitte squeezes his knees, drops the reins and shouts, "Let's go!" Omni bolts. "It's invigorating," says Waitte. "You get goose bumps. You feel like you're gonna win, even if you don't."

Waitte and Omni arrive back at the starting line to finish in third place, eight hours and 22 minutes after they set off, behind Waitte's ranch manager and one of his trainers.

So-called endurance horse races are tests of strength, stamina and resolve. Unlike track races, which last for just minutes, in these events riders and their steeds wrestle the rigors of nature and test their own physical limitations for hours--sometimes days. They climb mountains meant for downhill skiing and scale deep ravines; they ride injured and exhausted; they ride blind through the dark of night; they are tossed from their perches and trampled by competitors. In one race in Uzbekistan, riders chase each other for 310 miles from Khiva to Bukhara, across the Kyzyl-Kum, a desert populated by wild boar, two-humped camels and giant lizards.

The races occur almost daily, across deserts, plains and mountain ranges, from Arizona to the United Arab Emirates. According to the International Federation for Equestrian Sports, 350 endurance races took place around the world in 2005--18 times as many as in 1995. At the World Endurance Championship this past August, 159 riders from 41 countries raced 130 miles through Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Competitors are not in it for the purse--a giant belt buckle, a trophy, a few thousand bucks--but for a venerable challenge, a visceral thrill, evidence that they are alive and free.

Working the animals so hard might seem to border on abuse. But with track races veterinarians are required solely for reparative purposes; endurance vets focus on prevention. Horses are examined before, during and after each race. "Vet checks" occur every 15 miles or so, depending on terrain, weather, distance and other variables. To participate, horses must be well hydrated, have no significant wounds, sprains or cramps, have a healthy heart rate and be in good spirits.

Barry Waitte first felt the pull of endurance horse racing in the summer of 1999, just months after he retired--rich and early--from America Online, before it merged with Time Warner (nyse: TWX - news - people). Waitte had spent 12 years at

Apple Computer (nasdaq: AAPL - news - people), then helped Barry Schuler build a software company called Medior. In 1995, AOL bought Medior for \$31 million in stock. Schuler went on to become chairman; Waitte held various management roles. AOL's stock multiplied by 13 times from mid-1995 to mid-1998, and Waitte decided to cash out at the age of 41.

Godfrey Sullivan, an old friend from Apple and chief of software maker Hyperion, invited Waitte to join his crew for a 24-hour race near Lake Tahoe. The Western States Trail Ride, also known as the Tevis Cup, spans 100 miles of brutal, back-country California turf from Truckee to Auburn. The race takes riders up steep mountain trails and through cavernous valleys, and is so trying that only half the riders who begin it are able to finish.



"I thought the people who were doing this race were crazy," says Waitte. Yet he couldn't resist Sullivan's invitation. Waitte had been an athlete his whole life--he ran marathons, played baseball and football--and was looking for a new competitive sport, one he could share with his wife and daughter. He saw the families hanging out around the trailers at Tevis, gearing up the horses and riders for the race, and thought it might be a good fit. When he sensed the raw nerves of the racers and the intensity of the competition, he was hooked.

As soon as he returned home to Los Gatos, Calif., Waitte bought his first horse and started riding with his wife, Carol. After a few weeks, she learned to let her husband ride in front. If she didn't, his horse would show up without him. "I considered it a good day if I didn't fall off my horse more than once," Waitte jokes.

Two years later Waitte competed in his first Tevis Cup with a horse named Sam. At about 2 in the morning, after 21 hours of riding, the duo came to a remote valley. Waitte jumped off to take a break and started slipping down the edge of a hill. He grabbed Sam's tail to keep from falling and the horse shot off, dragging Waitte, screaming, for more than 200 yards. When Waitte finally let go, Sam bolted. Bloody and exhausted, Waitte ran a mile in the dark to catch up with Sam. And then he climbed back on.

"The first time you ride your horse in the dark, you're not OK with it," says Waitte. "It's scary as hell. It's toward the end

(Continued on page 7)

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...

Call me M'lady from now on, or risk being speared through with... a pink pool noodle?

My horse Solo (AKA "The Brave Little Arab") and I had a chance to play "Medieval games" this weekend. Can you say FUN? Oh, boy!

Safety was paramount, the volunteers very nice, and the games challenging, yet doable for just about any level of riding and breed of horse. All it took was patience, some control and a willing equine partner.

All "pointy things" (which abounded!) had rubber balls or some other blunt object on the tips to prevent injury. We also had plenty of Styrofoam "weapons" to play with. The period-dressed volunteers were knowledgeable and gave us great step by step guidance on what to do and when to do it. The games ranged from weaving through a line of poles while holding a sword (walk, trot and canter), to jousting (with pool noodles), shooting arrows with a regular and a cross bow, to using a lance on a target. We had plenty of opportunity to desensitize our mounts to the articles being presented, as well as trying out the "real" things for weight and feel. Soon enough, it seemed like everyone was having a blast.

One of the most obvious things I noticed was how important it is to be able to control your horse's speed and direction in more than one way. They told us that the Mongols used to shoot arrows behind them at a full gallop... hmmm, not sure I'm ready to try that quite yet, (and I'm pretty sure I can't twist that much anyway). Just sitting on my horse, at a walk and shooting at a slight angle was challenging enough, since one cannot do that while holding on to the reins. Yep,

so now you technically have a "loose" horse while trying to hit a target (and hopefully not your horse's ears) with your arrow. Oh, and by the way, the string on a crossbow makes a pretty darned loud "twang" when you release the trigger... needless to say, it was a real bonus to be able to stop my horse by leaning back and saying "whoa".

For those who ride English style two handed reins, the challenge of holding a sword while weaving poles is obvious. I certainly used a lot more leg and body cues than usual, especially at the canter. On our next games, we'll get to "chop" our enemies heads off... I wonder how the horses will react to that?! Something to practice and think about at home, I guess. Any volunteers? I need some heads!

I love doing different things with my horse, and this certainly qualified. The interesting part is that no matter what I do, if I do it correctly, patiently and kindly, it always results in a better horse to ride. How can you beat that if you are having fun at the same time? Besides, if you ever need rescuing of a damsel in distress or a dragon slain, you can now call me, "The Pink Pool Noodle Knight" and I'll be there with my trusty steed to help you out!!

More games coming next year, I hope. If interested, check out the Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association web page. There is also a link and information on the "West Kingdom College of Equestrian Art" in the Events section.

http://www2.cruzio.com/~candg/SCCHA_Webpage.htm

Elisabet Hiatt

TWENTY MULE TEAM

This ride in 2007 will be changing ride managers. Robert and Melissa Ribley will be the new managers. The ride is on February 3, 2007. They will not be mailing out entries unless one is requested however, entries will be available on the AERC on-line ride calendar. Robert and Melissa always put on a well run and fun ride. Don't miss this one. (Southern California) for those of you who don't know the location. **mb**

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As an additional update the Twenty Mule Team ride (100 miles) will be sanctioned as an FEI\*\*\* event (as it was for several years), and thus it is recognized as an international course. Robert and Melissa have kindly allowed Michele and me the dual sanctioning and we have lined up a world class team of officials and some awesome prizes for the FEI participants. West Region international riders will now have the opportunity to ride two FEI\*\*\* 160 km events (Twenty Mule Team in February and Git R Done in April) in California and the chance to COC for multiple horses in addition to FEI rides in other AERC regions.

We look forward to your participation in both events,

**Dom Freeman**  
(AERC #6335, FEI # 10014041 GBR)

## SUN, SAND, THE SEA AND YOUR HORSE

Every time my horse and I visit the beach to ride - it's different. In an earlier visit - with storms on the horizon coming and others just past, the tide was high and lashing at the dunes just a few short feet away. The sea was rough and riding was difficult. The strong wind spooked my horse and he danced away from the surging tide. There was no one on the remnants of the beach but us.

Yet just a few days ago on a beautiful fall day in November, the sea was a different entity altogether. The tide was so far out that a performance could have been held on the smooth open sandy beach with no one even noticing my horse and me.

There were a few older black or Hispanic fishermen with their multiple poles standing straight up out of the sand all facing out to sea - the men - drinking, talking, and some just sitting looking out to sea with their own thoughts. A motorcyclist was sitting on the dunes well away from his cycle gazing out to sea.

We'd pass them all by with a slow single hand raised salute that was equally returned.

The beach homes were already shuttered for the winter looking forlorn in the bright sun. The beginning winter storms have swept all the sand back to the sea - sand brought by a caravan of trucks during the summer to build up the beach

## ARMADILLO RIDE

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, semiarid plateau, ranging in elevation from 5000' on the northwest to less than 3000' 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 a 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 2900 feet. With the cliffs and hills we climb up to 3500 feet 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 5 1/2 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 6 states. One of the riders (Monica Chapman) 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 (Virginia Conner) 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 dessert. 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 2 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

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## SIERRA AZUL/BEAR CREEK

Public workshop on Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods OSP Master Plan

This is a Plan Alternatives Public Workshop and is key to voicing keeping/opening trails - in this particular area, there is much input from bicyclists much less from equestrians. The more we input the more likely to get a good situation for all users!

Tuesday Dec 5 6:30-9:30 pm Los Gatos Neighborhood Center Mian Hall, 208 East Main St., Los Gatos, CA 95033

More info is also on [www.openspace.org/masterplan](http://www.openspace.org/masterplan) (including a stakeholders report and all past info from workshops).

Ana Ruiz is the Project Planner at (650) 691-1200. You can also comment by email [masterplan@openspace.org](mailto:masterplan@openspace.org)

front that protects these homes.

While we perceive the sea as unchanging – the place where it meets the shore isn't. I can see how much the beach moves by looking at the foundations rising out of the sand between us and the sea. These used to be beach side homes before the waves took the beach back to the sea. Now there's a new set of beach homes and perhaps in the future those will become just foundations too.

As we trot in the surf, the water splashes up and falls back in drops that flash like small diamonds in the bright sun. We pass crabs stranded high on the beach from the ebbing tide and I wonder if they will make it back to safety. My horse is surprised to see the remains of an old pickup rising out of the sand near the water – the top of the hood, the steering wheel, the headrests, and I wonder what happened too.

Looking out to sea – the sun reflects off the water like a sheet of silver. Flocks of large seabirds take wing as we approach. Small sea birds skitter along the beach in front of me as if trying to lead me away from something.

On the other side toward the dunes, I see our shadows pacing us on the sand. I can see how my horse moves and how his lips flop as he enjoys what we are doing together. I see his tracks as we return – single tracking and with two small scuff marks between as he does his daisy clipping trot on the smooth flat beach.

On this quiet early fall day on the beach, my horse and I move in unison, leaving a few hoof prints that will be gone with the next tide. We enjoy the day knowing that the next time we visit – it will be different.

We'll enjoy it then, too – whatever it is.

**Mike Maul**

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## IRONMAN DEB SELL

*I knew that QSER member Deb Sell was doing the Ironman Triathlon (2.4-mile swim followed by a 112-mile bike ride thru the lava fields and a 26.2-mile (marathon) run) and asked her if she had indeed gone and how it was and this is the answer I got....Wow, Marvin and Deb in the same club.....And now Jeremy is starting to follow their example.....Just goes to show, endurance is endurance, with or without the horse.*

**MB**

Well, I have returned from the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon. If you saw my times online, you know that something went very very wrong (I finished 4 hours later than my usual Ironman time!).

Weatherwise, it was an odd week. It started with a 6.3 magnitude earthquake hitting Kona the day before we arrived. The media coverage we received in California made it look like total devastation. When we got there, you couldn't tell there was anything out of the ordinary. A few boulders on the roads and a few cracked water pipes, but that was about it. The night before the race I was literally awakened by rain, LOUD hard rain!! I was not amused!! But when I woke up at 3:30 am to get ready to race, the skies had

thankfully cleared ... for now!

Looking out at the water of Kailua Bay, it seemed an idea day for a swim ... it looked deceptively rather calm. When the cannon went off and all 1800 athletes started churning the water, it was another story! When we got out a ways, the swells hit, in addition to strong current on the return as well as a slight undertow (not to mention the tiny stinging jellyfish!!). I was swimming strong and doing well under the circumstances thru 3/4 of the swim until .... I started getting dry heaves (sea sick). I later found out that many others were sick and about 20 didn't make the time limit for the swim cut-off, so their day was over.

I got out on the bike feeling better, but never felt quite right. My stomach was queasy over most of the 112 miles and my legs just had no power in them. I couldn't eat much but forced myself to eat some. I drank over eight bottles of water/electrolytes ... it was very humid. It also rained for about 20-25 miles of the bike ... hard stinging rain (oh joy!). Long story short ... I had a very rough time on the bike and came in about 2 hours behind schedule .... stomach still a few paces behind me :(

Thankful to be off the bike, I took off on the run which is my strength. I ran well (despite still misbehaving stomach) thru 15 miles and a torrential downpour for about 5 of those ... then I started getting really queasy. I looked at my watch and realized I could walk it in and still finish. I opted for walking as opposed to trying to run and getting more queasy and risk not finishing. It was a lovely night for a stroll!! The clouds cleared and I could see the stars (it was pitch black out there on the road by then). Oddly enough, I enjoyed the walk .... quite peaceful. I got a chance to reflect on my day and how lucky I was to even be in the Hawaii Ironman.

I have competed in nine Ironman Triathlons and this finish was the sweetest one yet due to all I had to endure to get to the finish line.

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## TRAIL CLOSURE POLICIES

The Santa Clara County Parks is adopting a policy similar to the Mid-Penn and other agencies related to winter weather trail closures to help preserve the trail treads.

There will be 2 types of closure: Seasonal and Temporary.

Seasonal trail closures will be done from first main measurable rain fall till May;

Temporary closures will be done as Rangers see fit on other trails.

In addition, as was seen with new trails done in last couple of years at Rancho Del Oro and Bear Ranch all new trails will sit the winter to set/pack properly.

For Santa Theresa Park under Seasonal closure will be Stiles, Rocky Ridge, and Boundary trails, as well as the new trail near Heaton Moor..

For more information and detail on all parks as rain comes look at [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org) or call 355-2200 opt 7.

## COYOTE CREEK PARKWAY

County Parks has completed an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Coyote Creek Parkway Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Master Plan (Integrated Plan). The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is a public document that assesses the environmental effects of the Integrated Plan, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and in compliance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15000 et seq.). It serves as an informational document to be used in the local planning and decision-making process; it does not recommend approval or denial of the project.

Members of the public are invited to review the Proposed Negative Declaration and offer their comments. Public comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of this Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received on or before the close of the public review period on December 5, 2006. Such comments should be based on specific environmental concerns. Written comments should be addressed to the Elish Ryan, Park Planner, County of Santa Clara, Department of Parks and Recreation, Administration Offices, 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032, (408) 355-2236.

The complete text of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is available at:

- Parks website
- Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Dept. Offices, 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos
- Santa Clara County Clerk Recorder's Office, 70 West Hedding Dr. San Jose
- Morgan Hill Library at 17575 Peak Ave, Morgan Hill
- San Jose Public Library, Santa Teresa Branch at 290 International Circle, San Jose, 95119.
- Printed copies are also available upon request

To review the complete text and all maps of the Initial Study/Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, please visit our Coyote Creek Parkway Master Plan webpage and the Parks Department's website: [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org)

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## PONY EXPRESS

(Continued from Page 3)

of a long day of riding, you're tired and you're hurting so badly. There is no light but for the stars, and every now and then there is a small, green glow stick hanging from a branch."

How do you know where you are going? "You don't. You have to trust your horse. You just hang on. You hear rocks underfoot, or you hear just hooves."

Waitte and Sam finished the race at 4:30 a.m., in 56th place.

The next year at Tevis, Waitte rode a horse named Streak. While going downhill, Streak tripped and his front legs buckled under his body. Waitte was tossed over Streak's head and smashed onto the dirt, helmet first. He survived the fall, but Streak then flopped on top of him, pegging his left arm and shoulder. Then Streak fell on Waitte's head. The horse finally

rolled off and Waitte slowly stood up. At first Waitte just walked alongside Streak, holding onto the reins, regaining his balance. And then he got back on again.

Streak and Waitte crossed the finish line around 12:30 in the morning, in ninth place, ahead of 240 others.

"I've done Tevis now three times, on three different horses," says Waitte, "and at the end of each ride, I've broken down crying, just utterly exhausted."

Waitte has completed 50 endurance races and logged nearly 3,000 competitive miles. Last year he was invited to join the U.S. Equestrian Training Team for endurance. A few years ago he bought a 100-acre ranch in Los Gatos, Calif., as well as ten horses and lots of riding equipment. In all, he has spent some \$5 million on the sport.

Last weekend at a race in Oroville, Waitte flew off his horse, Cambridge, and into a ditch. Next weekend he is racing in the Mojave Desert. Is he nervous about getting tossed off again? "I'll just get back on," he says. "You're going to have to break my neck to keep me from riding toward that goal."

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## TRIVIA TIDBIT

Few of you have spent much time wondering why the **rocket boosters on the side of our space shuttles** are the size they are. NASA would like to make them bigger and more powerful, but they cannot because of a Roman who lived two thousand years ago. When the Romans overran Europe and England centuries ago, they knew their chariots made very deep grooves and so they standardized the axle size at 4 feet 8 1/2 inches, the width of the two horses side by side that pulled the military chariots and wagons. That way the wheels stayed in the grooves of the vehicles that went before them rather than getting stuck in grooves of various widths. When our country was young, chariots and wagons from England came with this standard axle width. Our buggy trails were designed with this in mind and the tunnels used by the horse and buggy were made to accommodate this width. When the railroad tracks in America were being built, they used these same tunnels and the rails were put down at the same axle width of 4 feet 8 1/2 inches. The rocket boosters on our space shuttles are made in Utah while the shuttles they thrust into outer space are launched from Florida. In order to get the boosters there, they must travel by train and therefore they cannot be wider than the tunnel whose width was determined by some Roman thousands of years ago. So next time you watch a space launch, think about how you can edify your fellow observers with the bit of trivia that the boosters are the width of two horses standing side by side.

## TRIVIA QUESTION

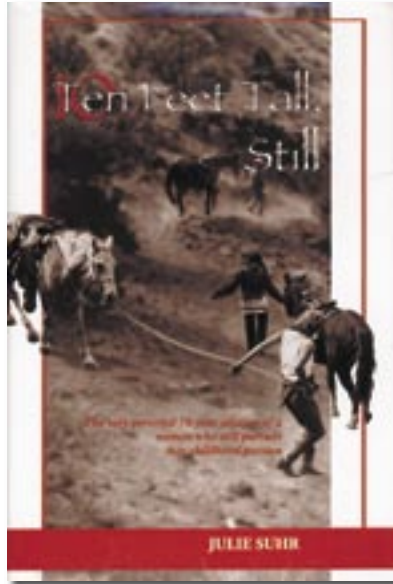
What two well-known FEI riders managed to get their feet caught in their sponge leashes while attempting to dismount? This happened on the same ride although not at the same time.

Answer in next month's QUIPS.

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Every copy of *Ten Feet Tall, Still*, when bought through Julie at 831-335-5933, the AERC or WSTF, puts \$24.95 into our trails. Amazon take 55% so that is not as good a deal for our trails. This book is a good way to explain to non-understanding parents, relatives and friends why we do what we do.



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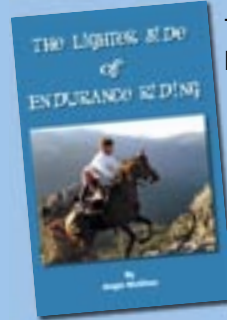


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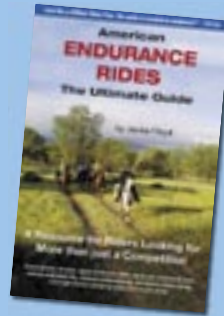
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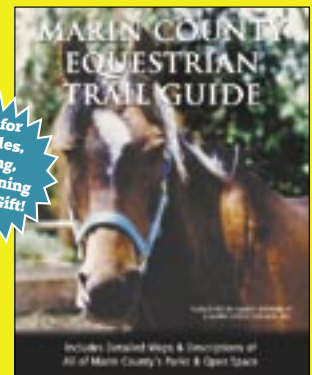
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## CLASSIFIED

### 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. [01-07]

**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 [02-07]

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**'96 DODGE 3/4 TON PICKUP TRUCK**, 2 door club cab, 118K miles, ex. condition, new tires, camper shell, too much to list. \$5,600. Dave Fanara (408) 779-7085 (h) or (408) 427-4031. [02-07]

**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. [01-07]

**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). [02-07]

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**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. [02-07]

**LIVE WITH YOUR HORSE!** Room for rent at Trilby's \$450/month. Includes use of laundry room. Horse boarding extra. See rates in previous ad. Call Trilby at 408-997-7500 [02-07]

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### 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) [02-07]

### MISCELLANEOUS

**TAX SERVICES.** Need your taxes done? Call Trilby Pederson Tax Services - 408-997-7500. [04-07]

**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@cbtnorcal.com](mailto:nlamb@cbtnorcal.com) [1-07]



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Mail to Membership Chairperson:

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San Jose, CA 95125-3535  
408 265-0839

May your and your horse(s) have a wonderful Year 2007 riding together as members of the Quicksilver Endurance Riders!!!



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