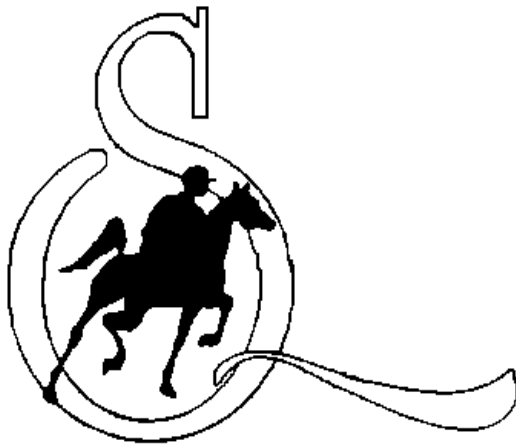


QUICKSILVER QUIPS

NOvember 2003



OFFICERS

President Lori Oleson
Vice President Jill Kilty-Newburn
Secretary ?????
Treasurer Kathy Miller

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeannette Brown
Steve Lenheim
Trilby Pederson

Chief Mover and Shaker: Mike Maul

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

President's Message

The 2003 Quicksilver Fall Classic is history now. We had an excellent turn out and beautiful weather. I don't have many details as far as the number of riders, QS members riding or working, since I rode drag the last 20 miles. Thank you Jill for the time and effort you & Michael put into the ride to make it a success.

I'll make this short. At this writing I'm in the process of moving and it's a lot of work. It is all worth it when I look out the window or walk out the door and see my horses' happy faces.

Be sure to attend our next meeting at the Almaden Community Center. We will be electing new Officers for 2004 in addition to a new Board. We will also be discussing our Christmas Party to be held in December.

Lori

Board and General Meeting Minutes
for
October 15, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Officers present were: Lori Oleson, Jill Kilty-Newburn, Steve Lenheim, Jeanette Brown and Kathy Miller.

Also attending: Maryben Stover, Mike Newburn, Ken Cook, Kirsten Berntsen, Alec Berntsen, Kathy Mayeda, Pat McKendry, Marilyn Orlando and Jan Jeffers.

Treasurer's report:

Balance as of October 15, 2003

Checking Account: \$ 4026.72
Trails Account: \$ 904.04
Junior Account: \$ 772.71

Newsletter Report:

Judy is always in need of ride stories.

Committee Report:

- **Trails:** There will be a dedication of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and Santa Clara County Parks parking lots, now under construction, at Hicks Rd and Mt. Umunhum Road on October 25, 2003.

Unfinished Business:

- QS Spring Classic – Jan purchased the mirror and gave it to State Parks for installation.
- Almaden Days – Kathy Miller talked to Kitty regarding our plans to help raise money for the Almaden Community Center at next years Almaden Days by running a food booth.
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Benefit Ride is scheduled for October 25, 2003 at Swanton north of Santa Cruz. It is

a 5-6 or 15-mile loop ride to benefit the children being cared for at St. Jude's.

- QS Fall Classic Update – Jill was looking for a few more people to fill needed spots for the day of the ride. 80+ riders were currently entered in the 50 and 25 combined.

New Business:

Nominations for next year's officers were held. Those running are:

President – Steve Lenheim.

Vice-President– Jill Kilty-Newburn.

Secretary – Elaine Alton, Jeanette Brown and Kathy Mayeda.

Treasurer – Kathy Miller.

Board Members – Maryben Stover and Pat McKendry.

- It was decided to sanction the Spring Ride for May 15th at Henry Coe Park. We are still in need of a ride manager.
- The Christmas Party will be held at the Community Center on December 17th. Trilby will be in charge.

The next meeting is at the Almaden Community Center on November 19th. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Lori Oleson

Absentee Ballot for November, 2003
Quicksilver Endurance Riders election

President	Steve Lenheim	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	Jill Kilty-Newburn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Elaine Alton	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jeanette Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kathy Mayeda	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Kathy Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>

Board Members	Pat McKendry	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 members	Maryben Stover	<input type="checkbox"/>
	???	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you can't come to the November meeting and you want to vote, cut this ballot out and mail it to Lori Oleson at her new address:

15930 Foothill Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Want Ads

Saddle for Sale

Arabian saddle, Solstice model.16 inch seat \$750.00 925-240-5809 or Jreens@aol.com

Stalls with Paddocks/Pasture for Rent

Brand new 12x12 stalls with 24x12 paddocks, shavings; we clean. \$250, pasture \$180. Feed twice a day, high grade oat and alfalfa hay. 96x48 outdoor arena. Direct access to 3,600 acre Almaden Quicksilver County Park with 19 miles of manicured trails. Call Trilby at 408 997-7500 for more information.

Wanted: corral panels. I am looking for 12 or 24 foot sections in good condition. 4 or 5 rail is fine. I also need 12 foot sections with gates. Give me a call at my new phone number (408) 710-5651, if you know of any. Lori

Horses to Exercise Wanted *or the answer to every endurance rider's dream—from Julie S.*

Sheila Kumar of Saratoga (408) 741-8843 would like to help exercise somebody's horse or horses. She has a horse that she thinks is only a Limited Distance horse and wants to eventually go to 50 milers. She can ride M-W-F mornings and until 3 PM.

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

TRAIL NEWS

On Saturday October 25, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council dedicated 11.8 miles of trail from Lexington County Park to Hicks Road in MPROSD's Sierra Azul Open Space. QSER members, Ken, Judy and Janice plus Orion's sidekick, Richard, participated in the very well attended ceremony at the Hicks Road MPROSD staging area. Hikers, some who hiked all the way to Lexington, mountain bike riders and horseback riders, Judy, Janice and Richard hit the trail for outings of various distances—it was a pretty hot day and there is little horse water on the trail so I have to admit we didn't make it to Lexington☺

In March there will be a dedication ceremony for the Ridge Trail in Quicksilver Park at the County Park's large new staging area off Hicks—will keep you posted!

Fall Trail Days Santa Clara County Parks

I am repeating this from Janice's information last month; we need to get out and work on the trails we use so much!!!!

Come on out and help repair, restore or build the following trails on these dates:

- Nov 1 Vallecitos Trail at Calero
- Nov 8 Rocky Ridge Trail, Santa Teresa
- Nov 15 Stiles Trail at Santa Teresa
- Nov 22 Vallecitos Trail at Calero & New Almaden Trail
- Nov 30 Table Mountain Trail at Upper Steven's Creek Park
- Dec 6 Rocky Ridge Trail and Stiles Trail at Santa Teresa
- Dec 13 Great Eastern at Almaden Quick
- Dec 20 Rocky Ridge Trail at Santa Teresa

November 2003 Quicksilver Quips

Dec 21 Table Mountain Trail at Upper Steven's Creek Park

Jan 3 Stiles Trail at Santa Teresa

Jan 10 Prospect #3, Almaden Quicksilver

Jan 18 Table Mountain Trail at Upper Steven's Creek Park.

Work begins at 8:00 AM. Tools, gloves, water and snacks are provided. For more information and to sign up contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (408) 355-2264 or the Trails Program at 408 629-9367 or visit parkhere.org.

Quicksilver Fall Classic report from ride manager, Jill Kilty-Newburn

I just wanted to get out a big thank you to all who turned out to help or ride at the Fall Classic. I do hope that I got everyone listed, as I know there were a lot of you out there! I got several nice notes from folks saying that they had a great time and all mentioned the friendly help out on the trail. While it does take everyone to put the whole event together, I would offer an extra big thank you to a few folks; Jan Jeffers and Michael Newburn who did all of the trail marking on Friday; and Scott Sansom and Kathy Miller who came back on Sunday morning after riding to help clean up camp. (Boy, was I glad to see them!) Also a special thanks to Trilby for making the blankets we gave as awards.

Club members who helped were:

Carla Ambriz	Drag rider
Hillory Bachman	P&R McAbee
Kirsten Berntsen	Timer Hacienda
Mike Berntsen	P&R Hacienda
Jeanette Brown	Timer McAbee & Hacienda
Ken Cook	Rescue trailer McAbee-as needed
Judy Etheridge	P&R McAbee & Mockingbird
Hillory Graham	Finish line
Becky Hart	P&R McAbee
Helen Harvey	P&R McAbee
Jan Jeffers	Trail marking/

Jill Kilty-Newburn	Vet secretary Ride Manager
Kathy Mayeda	Finish line timer
Pat McKendry	Timer McAbee & Hacienda
Kathy Miller	Pick up poop on Bertram, donated 4 bales of hay & she RODE the 50
Chere Montgomery	Mockingbird problem-solver
Michael Newburn	Trail marking and #1 pinch hitter☺
Alexandra North	New Member , vet secretary
Lori Oleson	Mockingbird drag
Marilyn Orlando	Vet secretary Hacienda
Frank Orlando	P&R Hacienda
Trilby Pederson	Made awards
Judy Reens	P&R Mockingbird
Heather Reynolds	Everywhere
Michele Roush	Head vet
Scott Sansom	Camp cleanup
Maryben Stover	Ride secretary
Ken Snetsinger	Rescue trailer
Julie Suhr	Donated 11 th place award
Carolyn Tucker	Drag rider
Barbara White	Camp, helped sponsor 1 st place awards
Doug White	Parking at camp

Non-club members who helped:

Jo Cremitson	Veterinarian
Laura Brinton	Veterinarian
Kiki & Peter Leuther	Finish line
Deb Bombachi	Mockingbird#taker
Gillian Tabb	Hospitality, Mockingbird

And last but not least, club members riding were:

Katie Alton
Haily Daeumler
Gloria Vanderford
Jeff Luternauer
Kathy Miller—Wonder Woman
Robert Oram

Jeremy Reynolds
Melissa Ribley
Robert Ribley
Scott Sansom
Julie Suhr
Mike Tracy
Barbara White
Doug White

CLUB BUSINESS

Elections for 2004 Officers

At the December meeting the officers for 2004 will be elected. At the October meeting these members were nominated for the office of:

President Steve Lenheim.
Vice-President Jill Kilty-Newburn.
Secretary Elaine Alton, Jeanette Brown and Kathy Mayeda.
Treasurer Kathy Miller.
Board Members Maryben Stover and Pat McKendry.

If a member cannot attend the November meeting to vote, an absentee ballot is on page 2 of this issue of the Quips.

Horse of the Year Award

This award is given to a horse owned and/or ridden by a current Quicksilver member separate from the Hall of Fame Award. The Horse of the Year shall demonstrate outstanding achievement in a single ride season in one or more of the following categories:

1. Outstanding performance at high profile endurance riders.
2. Outstanding accumulative record for the year (high mileage, numerous wins, numerous best conditions or top ten).
3. Multiple offspring of a broodmare or stallion showing outstanding performance in a single ride season.
4. Any horse able to overcome adverse conditions (orphaned, serious illness or injury – not race related, etc.) and able to begin or continue an endurance career.

Please send nominations to: **Michele Roush, 13054 Folsom St, North San Juan, CA 95960**

Marvin's Corner

Subject: Men's rules

We always hear "the rules" from the female side. Now here are the rules from the male side. These are our rules! Please note ... these are all numbered "1" ON PURPOSE!

1) Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us complaining about you leaving it down.

1) Sunday = sports. It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides. Let it be.

1) Shopping is NOT a sport. And no, we are never going to think of it that way.

1) Crying is blackmail.

1) Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one: Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints do not work! Obvious hints do not work! Just say it!

1) Yes, and No are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.

1) Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. That's what we do. Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.

1) A headache that lasts for 17 months is a problem. See a doctor.

1) Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 days.

1) If you won't dress like the Victoria's Secret girls, don't expect us to act like soap opera guys.

1) If you think you're fat, you probably are. Don't ask us.

1) If something we said can be interpreted two ways, and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one.

1) You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done. Not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.

1) Whenever possible, please say whatever you have to say during commercials.

1) Christopher Columbus did not need directions and neither do we.

1) ALL men see in only 16 colors, like Windows default settings. Peach, for example, is a fruit, not a color. Pumpkin is also a fruit. We have no idea what mauve is.

1) If it itches, it will be scratched. We do that.

1) If we ask what is wrong and you say "nothing," we will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.

1) If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, expect an answer you don't want to hear.

1) When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine. Really.

- 1) Don't ask us what we're thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as hockey, the shotgun formation, or monster trucks.
- 1) You have enough clothes.
- 1) You have too many shoes.
- 1) I am in shape. Round is a shape.

2003 Fall Classic Ride Stories

Dear Lori,

Hugh and I would again like to thank you for picking up Haily as her sponsor. It was late, her horse Sasha is old and Haily is nine years old but you didn't hesitate a second saying yes. Add to the fact you were riding a four year old horse and taking another Junior on a horse of unknown behavior. You brought the girls in not five before cutoff or five minutes after but at 6:30 on the dot. What a way to go. Hope we can reciprocate in some small way in the future. By the way I was hauled out of Mockingbird by Carla in your truck and trailer.

Love,

Gloria

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Boy, I just get back from Quicksilver and find RideCamp has been a sea of discussion. It's taken me an hour to wade through 300 emails! Some days there's hardly anything and then WHAM!

Just wanted to give a quick thank you to the ride managers for the Quicksilver Fall Classic. Even though we were overtime on the 25, we had a great time, enjoyed the very challenging trail and really couldn't be happier. Well, ok, we could be a little happier ... we would like to have finished in time! that the discussion on LD's over the weekend reads like ME completely in the fact that the 25's are for me at this point. I know my horse can do 50's as he

1) Thank you for reading this; Yes, I know, I have to sleep on the couch tonight, but did you know men really don't mind that, it's like camping.

AMEN

did 8 of them last year with his previous owners. I, however, am completely trashed at the end of a 25, although this being my third one this year, my body is starting to cooperate and I didn't hit the wall until about mile 20. At my first one last year (of which I was only able to do two), I hit the wall at mile 10. So I'm getting better. I don't think my horse cares one way or the other. I might still be doing the 25 but am hoping to move up to the 50 by Lake Oroville on Nov. 1st. I readily admit

So, THANK YOU Jill Kilty-Newburn and your very capable helper Maryben Stover, for a job well done. And also, to Trilby Pederson for making the absolutely gorgeous horse motif lap blankets for all the finishers. Now that's something to cherish!

:) Jackie Floyd and Tank

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Hello,

This past weekend I participated in my FIRST LD ride. This was at the Quicksilver Ride. I was just amazed at all the help and friendly people that were there to help. I was treated no different from any of the 50 milers. Jill Kilty-Newburn, Maryben and the rest of the crew were just fantastic people. Unfortunately I was the one that got very sick on the last of the trail and got to "ride" back to camp in a jeep. But not even that dampened my weekend. It was one of the best experiences of my life and

look forward to the next ride. I would also like to thank my wonderful riding partners, Kathy and DeDe for also being patience with me. And when I'm not riding I will be bundled up in my beautiful

Is FEI Your Goal?

by Gloria Vanderford

Probably not. While talking to endurance riders in general, if you mention FEI, they kind of shrug and say at the least, that's not for me. Maybe it's not for everyone but some of us need goals to keep centered. I had tried before, in the early nineties and it was to say the least, not a good experience. When Vermont came on the calendar in 2000 Beaulieu (BA Dardanelle) and I were having a great year so we nominated to go. All hell broke loose the minute the papers were in. We couldn't finish a ride. Behavior on Beaulieu's part was causing so much trouble I withdrew the Nomination. For about four years during the period of March through September I gave her Regumate a hormone that kept her from coming into season. Somehow giving her the hormone things went wrong and she was becoming an ill-mannered stallion. My first clue was she would strike out at a friend 's horse when he got into the trailer. Since then I have read of several cases of this behavior in mares, mainly in a book about a three-day event mare. 2002 we were gearing up to qualify for the Pan Am in Washington state. We had done several rides and were planning a good ride at Washoe. Late in April we were riding at Spenceville (Camp Far West area) when Beaulieu came up flat tire lame. She had a small drop of blood on the leg but we couldn't see anything else. It turned out to be a barbed wire prick that eventually caused a slight bowed tendon.

In January 2003 we started training at a very slow pace. Everything looked good so we nominated to go to Washington. We entered the Rides of March, of course in March. Everything looked good until about 40 miles, going uphill in the sand we fell into a hole. Beaulieu fell to her knees; I looked at everything, it looked good so we went into the Vet. check about 2 miles more. She was very lame at the trot out after she cooled down. It was not the leg previously injured. We had nominated, hadn't we.

Trilby Pederson blanket (which I treasure).

Tamra

Kept my cool and took her to the Vet. when we got home, diagnosis; sprained fetlock. Let it rest for a month and everything should be fine. Decided Beaulieu wasn't ready for the Washoe 100 in May so we entered the 50. We were leading into lunch but knew we wouldn't keep the pace. Surprisingly we came in about fourth to the last Vet. check and the first place horse was just coming down. I thought she looks good maybe we have a chance. Beaulieu wouldn't come down it took her ten minutes to reach 60. I trotted her out and she was off. They let me out and we did it at a walk, finishing ninth. Our Veterinarian took X-ray's, and ultrasound and found nothing but he said there was some slight swelling in the front of the fetlock; put her up for three four weeks and she should be okay.

In order to do a Pan Am you must do several things: finish a hundred within the stated time (COC Certificate of Completion), have the selection committee see your horse at least twice at 100 milers, have some kind of ride history for the past year, and in general have a horse finish rides looking good. We didn't have any of these requirements but we trudged ahead. The next ride was Sunriver in Oregon supposedly a medium 100. We were doing good, right where we should be with our limited fitness and I became sick (some potent arthritis medicine that was not for my body). At 75 I was ready to pull but Hugh encouraged me to go on and met me on the trail to make sure I was still on top of the horse. I just wanted to get this over with and I let Beaulieu go at her rate that was too fast for the climb we were doing. Beaulieu wouldn't come down for almost 30 minutes; she trotted out good and everything seemed okay. Told Hugh I was walking the last eleven or so miles to the finish. It was really cold about 29 degrees, thought it's not worth a sick horse COC or not. It took us two and half hours and we just made the COC time. Jim Brown trotted her out and she looked great. After each 100 a form had to be filled

out by the Vet. as to her status graded 1-10. She got 6 & 7 even with her great trot out.

Thought this isn't looking good. Next ride TEVIS. This had to be my top demonstration ride because I didn't have any others. The selectors asked me my plan for the ride. I have a hard time racing in terrain like TEVIS but I would do my best. They asked us to top 20. We had a great day. No way was I going to top ten I had to ride to carefully, remember I had a post Vet. evaluation to go through. Besides there were a lot of horses as good as and better than Beaulieu in front of us. At the Quarry I said, "Okay babe, take us in"; this was her fourth completion. We came in 19th and she trotted out with this big floating trot looking and acting just great. We forgot the form for post ride evaluation but Jamie Kerr who did the check said he would fax it to me the next week. It came back with super high scores and the most generous comments we have ever received. We had done our best under the circumstances and we would just have to wait and see. On August 15th we received the e-mail that we made the squad.

We arrived in Trout Lake, WA on Sunday before the ride; a whole week in camp. Corrals were mandatory but Beaulieu picks them up with her head so we sky hooked and corralled. Monday I took her out for a slow walk planned about six miles. About three miles out she starts bucking and is frantic, I see the yellow jackets and circle her trying to get control. It was getting worse every second so I heaved off my knees, never hit the ground because I was afraid she would step on me, no fear, she was out of there at a dead run. The Yellow Jackets were swarming me, never have I seen anything like it, they had tenacity going in for the kill. I started running but they stayed right with me. Tried putting my head between saplings and shaking them; they were still swarming. About a mile they started dropping back and I heard people calling. I yelled I was all right; they had Beaulieu. The riders went on (still don't know why). I got on and the bees that I had smashed inside my jacket and shirt were coming back alive. Got off, dropped about 20 dead bees and started back to camp. I had somewhere between 25 to 50 bites so I

knew I was in trouble. My throat was dry and I wondered if I was having a reaction. So I put Beaulieu into a fast trot back to camp. The Browns had antihistamine for the bites on me and Beaulieu had some swelling maybe 20 bites but both of us survived. After that the rest of the week went by fairly uneventfully.

Ride day was about 70 degrees and beautiful. At the start it was so exciting seeing all the different teams by color. There were hundreds of spectators. We started off. Pretty calm, actually nothing like at TEVIS. The terrain and footings were spectacular. We rode in groups all mixed up with Mountain, Canadian, etc., Regions. I was surprised to see how many riders I knew. We made it to the first Vet. Check; everything looked good. There was a check about every twenty miles until the last one that was 9 miles to the finish. At the second check my crew lead by Hugh told me they were pulling quite a few horses. We were still looking good. At the 60 mile check everyone went with me, 3 crew members, the Chef d' Equipe and the team veterinarian because the vet looking at my horse had pulled the last 5 horses. We made it through but before you went out at 60 & 80 miles you must pass another CRI. We were riding our ride and didn't know what place we were, I figured in the first thirty horses. We kept our pace all day. It was not a difficult ride; the difficulty came from riding too fast. We came in 30th place followed by the first place foreign rider from Belgium. He followed Sue Summers and me through the dark last 9 miles. He thanked us as he had not ridden in the dark before. We had a ride time of about 12.5 hours.

Nothing worth doing is easy. I learned patience from this experience which is one of my short falls (not having any). Took instructions and criticism from people who knew more than me and people who knew less. Would I like all rides to be structured as FEI, no way? When it came to race day it wasn't any different out there on the trail then on a regular AERC Ride. The excitement and anticipation from opening ceremony to closing ceremony was a true fun experience. What is unusual, is that 98 horses started and only 51 horses finished.

I would think that with all the experience things would go better.

Pacific North won the team gold medal. Without the help of Cindy & Jim Brown none of us would have done so well. They were

Swanton Pacific 75/100

From the pen of Julie Suhr, first published in the October 2003 Endurance News.

I became a Gershwin fan when I first heard “Rhapsody in Blue” long before United (or is it American?) Airlines adopted it as a theme song. Gershwin toys with you. His songs saunter and race; they reach great mounting crescendos and then plunge rapidly only to rise again in sweet harmony. His “Concerto in F” is Gershwin at his finest.

Swanton Pacific is endurance riding at its finest. It also toys with you. It raises your hopes, dashes them with one more mountain, returns you to utter bliss when you top a ridge and look over the towering redwoods-these oldest of all living things-to that of all oceans to the west.

It takes you from tunnels of darkness into great open fields. It mixes single-track forest trails with logging roads, uphill that challenge your horse, and then gifts you with the surcease of a downward slope. Though the body may be starved for respite, the eyes still feast like the ears that embrace a Gershwin tune. It becomes better each time it is experienced. Familiarity does not breed contempt. It breeds a greater appreciation of why we do what we do-endurance ride.

Twenty-one years ago generations of the McCrary family, headed by Lud and Barbara, put on their first 100 mile Swanton Pacific ride. In 1986 the first international FEI ride, precursor of today’s Pan Am, was hosted by the McCrarys on this loveliest of all trails. Now three generations cut trail, mark trail, build bridges, lug water and do the million other things that end in the grand finale when the trailers pull out after a thrilling weekend.

both dedicated and self sacrificing for the good of the whole squad.

One thing you can be sure, if you have confidence in your horse and yourself, you can do FEI. Just look at my tale of woe just getting to the race.

Amenities on a 100 are not gifted to you by Mother Nature but are provided by the hard work and sweat of many volunteers. These volunteers are graciously thanked by some riders, but are frequently taken for granted by those lost in their own thoughts.

The prelude to the 21st Swanton Pacific ride was the briefing conducted by Barbara. Some trail changes made it less demanding the last six miles by cutting out Power Grade. Steep and unforgiving, riders were pleased not to have to ask their horse for this one last contribution before the chord was struck-crossing the finish line!

Swanton Pacific has its loyal camp followers. It is a ride that does not satisfy you with one completion. Its riders return year after year to savor what is billed as “the world’s most beautiful trail.” I think, as with a Gershwin tune, it is the variety that leads you through the woods, over the mountains, across the creeks and into the meadows.

The trail starts in a large open field, climbs up to Last Chance road, enters Big Basin State Redwood and winds to Lud’s first water stop at 15 miles. There the 75 milers and the 100 milers part with the shorter ride taking switchbacks to the Old Haul Road that leads to the first vet stop at Bloomquist Flat at 25 miles. The 100 milers have a long stretch of “knee knocker” trail, then they also follow the Haul road into Bloomquist, their first one-hour old at 36 miles.

This year, perhaps for the first time ever, all 61 riders cleared this checkpoint. A mile on a paved sleepy town road follow, then a creek crossing and the ascent to the top of the world-the old firefighter airstrip where Butch and Susan McCreary Huff and daughter Agnes greet you with smiles that embrace each rider and horse. Another daughter, Aleksy, is Grandmother Barbara’s sidekick for the day. Their careful

ministrations to your horse's and your needs are met instantly and the 15-minute hold goes much too quickly. To demonstrate how doable this ride is, if ridden properly, all 61 horses cleared this stop as well at 39 miles for the 75 milers and 50 miles for the 100s.

Further down the undulating ridge-top road, Lud has changed position and once more water and goodies for horse and rider make you linger though there is not vet check or timed hold here. The long descent from the highest point to near sea level delivers Cascade Ranch to your horse's hooves for another hour hold at mile 56 for the 75 milers and 67 miles for the longer distance riders.

Not everyone was as lucky here. Suzy Kelley, the front-running 100 miler, was out with a lame horse and the lead was taken over by Dabney Finch who left this vet stop 50 minutes before the second place horse. Life was not kind to Dabney either and her strong lead was lost when she missed a turn. Carol Miller, the second finisher, also went astray and ended up behind the third place horse who now led. Linda Dollar took the win on the grey Arab mare CA Misty Myvanwy. The fourth place horse, Aleclipse, a 7-year-old Arabian gelding owned by **Becky Hart** and ridden by **Lori Oleson**, went home with the BC award.

The 75 milers' front-running team, Joyce Sousa and LV Integrity, were the ones to beat and nobody was able to do it. Leading all the way, they were never seriously challenged. The strapping chestnut mare, CV Butter Bea, with **Alexandra North** in the saddle, let the world know it was a piece of cake out there with a BC win. No sweat.

The third generation of McCrarys was represented on the 75 miler by 13-year-old Katie Webb, whose parents, Steve and Janet McCrary Webb, filled in where needed. Katie was joined by two other juniors, Kirsten McKillop and **Katie Alton** (who was the first junior to finish, riding Jazon Wonders' horse Hy Time). All three gals finished for a 100% junior completion rate.

No horses required metabolic treatment which saw 89% of the 75 milers and 68% of the 100 milers completing. But back to the main chorus: the trail after Cascade is arduous, but maybe less smothering of the spirit than the earlier climb. Cresting out on the chalk ridges with breathtaking views in all direction, you gaze down at Waddell Creek and the canyon a thousand feet below. You roller-coaster along their tops a few miles and then start the descent to the narrow valley floor and the trip through the Big Creek Lumber Company yard to the Sawmill vet check.

A 20-minute hold puts the 75 milers near victory with only three miles left. The 100-milers take a longer 45-minute break and then venture out into Siberia with the near full moon reflecting off the ocean surface less than a mile away. The ride undulates as you head toward the Swanton no-hold vet check.

Leaving it, your spirits soar, for 92 miles lie behind you. There can be no better feeling than emerging from the woods into the lovely open pasture from which you departed earlier in the day. The moon is full and the meadow filled with sounds of crickets, a sonata to delight the senses. You look down its broad expanse and the goal that once seemed so distant is just yards ahead. The first 10 riders find the finish line there, but those following cross the little creek and the camp bonfire picks up their outlines as they emerge from the moonlit meadow.

You lead your horse back to your trailer for his well-earned finale to a great ride and this wondrously beautiful ride is over like a melody's final note. Through the body my be starved for respite, the mind still feasts in much the way the way a Gershwin tune keeps returning-you can't get it out of your mind.



2003 november Rides

Date	Region	Ride Name	Distance	Manager	Phone #
11/07	W	Smokey Killen Mem.	55	Kathy Lewis	775-577-9693
11/08	W	Smokey Killen Mem.	25/50	Kathy Lewis	775-577-9693
11/09	W	Smokey Killen Mem.	50	Kathy Lewis	775-577-9693
11/15	PS	Sunland	25/50	Roxanne Greene	808-352-7363
11/28	PS	Silver State Pt. to Pt.	30/55	Fred Toomey	702-658-2008
11/29	PS	Silver State Pt. to Pt.	50	Fred Toomey	702-658-2008
11/30	PS	Silver State Pt. to Pt.	50	Fred Toomey	702-658-2008

november Quicksilver meeting
Wednesday, November 17 at 7:30 PM

Board meeting at 6:30 PM. Members are welcome to attend.

The meeting location is at the New Almaden Community Center on Bertram Road
just behind La Foret.

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