

THE CALIFORNIOS TEJON FANDANGO

A hundred years ago, it would take fence riders eight days to complete the swing around the lands of Tejon Ranch, a distance of 198 miles. On September 21 - 23, 2007, a total of 200 riders had the distinction of becoming the first endurance riders to ride the interior of Tejon Ranch. Of the 200 riders who participated in the event, seven riders rode all three days on the same horse - a total of 155 miles.

Each day the riders saddled up before sunrise to ride either the 25/30 or 50/55 mile courses, with each day's ride featuring a different section of Tejon Ranch. The first day's ride of 25 and 50 miles took riders through the original Los Alamos y Agua Caliente grant, with high vistas overlooking the San Joaquin valley. The next day, the riders rode 25 and 55 miles on the Rancho La Liebre grant, with spectacular views of the Antelope Valley. And on the final day, the 30 mile and 50 mile riders ventured deep into the center of the ranch to ride through an old growth incense cedar forest in Lopez Flats.

All the riders were excited about riding on Tejon Ranch. Marge and Vern Biehl, ride managers, were honored to be the first to offer these beautiful mountains to endurance riders. With the help of Maddi Wheat and Bruce Ryan of Tejon Ranch, they were able to stage a very successful event.

The three-day ride attracted riders from both California and Arizona.

The overall winner was Pippa Davies, riding her Arabian gelding Warrior. She covered the 155 miles in a total of 15 hours, 33 minutes.

The Californios have more events scheduled for May, June and September of 2008, including trail trials, competitive trail rides and endurance rides. For more information, call Marge and Vern at 661-724-1060 or e-mail Californios100@aol.com