



# Quicksilver Quips

January 2022



*Happy  
New  
Year!!*

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## **Officers**

2022 Board members are

TBA - President  
Jerry Witenauer, VP  
Nick Warhol, Treasurer  
Margaret Hastings, Secretary  
Carloyn Tucker  
Maryben Stover  
Trilby Pederson  
Dick Carter

## **Newsletter Editor**

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QSER on the Web:  
<http://www.qser.net/>

## *President's message*

To our fearless leader for the past three years, we want to say

**THANK YOU!!!**

A big Thank-You to Jill! A wonderful, efficient, kind, patient, energetic,  
wise and diplomatic President! We will miss you!



## Building a dream barn... it's so much fun!!

*News from Jennifer Stalley*



Wasco and Copper, my chestnut Arabians will live in it. Copper especially will appreciate it as he's been cold every day of his life, except for Tevis of course!

The barn is an MD Barnmaster prefab and arrived Tuesday this week. It should be built within a week. The hard part was the permitting process and has taken me several years. Obviously the pandemic hasn't helped move things along, but that's understandable.



I'm putting rubber pavers in the aisle way (they look like bricks, but are 1.5" of rubber tire recycled) and those won't arrive until January. Then it will be done!



If you are wondering how Copper feels about having a new barn to keep him warm this winter, this photo should be a very good clue!





**Getting to know you....**

**Liz Carey and Basia:**

I am a Quicksilver member who is not particularly active, but I love reading the "Quips" every month.

I thought that I would send to you the humorous picture of my horse, Basia, looking inside the tack room door and begging for cookies!

Basia is a 26-1/2 year-old Polish Arabian mare who is a retired ride-and-tie horse.

She lives at Webb Ranch in Portola Valley in a big hilly pasture with 15 horsie friends. We still ride every week around the ranch, and in the summertime we ride up in the local regional parks (including Quicksilver). Life is good!

Liz Carey



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**HOLIDAY PARTY!**

Thanks again **Trilby** for hosting our Holiday party!! The turkey, dressing and more - incredibly scrumptious!! It was wonderful seeing the few members that dared to attend.

Dave enjoyed bringing home a wonderful present (stolen of course) from the gift exchange and I hope those that ended up with the Gold Medal winning WildEye Zinfandel enjoy it immensely.

While it was the smallest in # of members to attend, the evening was relaxing and I'm sure everyone went home with full bellies and great stories (did you know Maryben LOVED the Fremont Drag Strip??!!)

A great time was had by all!!

Sandy & Dave



## JUST FOR FUN...

This will make your barn party complete !



Amazing to see these majestic creatures drinking from a watering hole.



THESE ARE THE BEST PRESENTS EVER!

HOW DID SANTA KNOW??



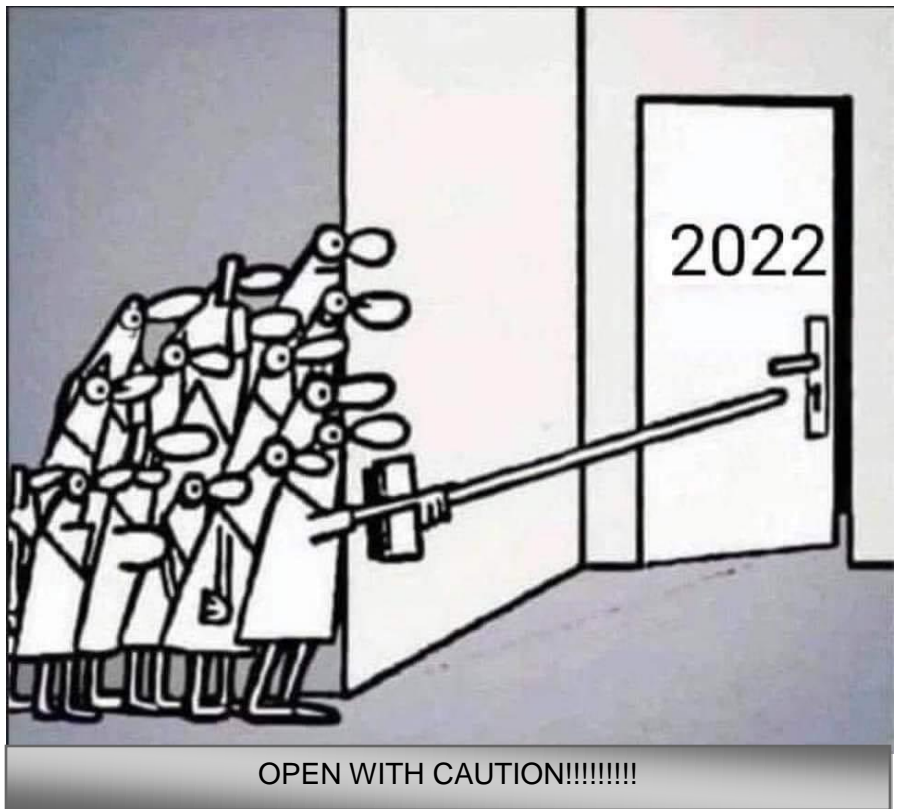
## BREAKING NEWS!!!!

In a press release today, the National Institute of Health has announced the discovery of a potentially dangerous substance in the hair of horses.

This substance, called "amo-bacter equuii" has been linked with the following symptoms in female humans:

- Reluctance to cook
- Reluctance to perform housework
- Reluctance to wear anything but boots
- Reluctance to work except in support of a horse
- Physical craving for contact with horses
- Reluctance to spend money on home or car repairs until after "baby" has trimmed hooves, pad, blanket, tack, grain, hay & supplements.
- Usually results in long hours away from home and exhaustion which may lead to a loss of physical contact with other humans.
- Thought to be addictive, driving the need for additional sources – this may lead to a "herd mentality" or, like the potato chip commercial, "you can't have just one".

Beware! if you come in contact with a female human affected by this substance be prepared to talk about horses for hours on end. This was a public service announcement.





## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!!!**

*Hello Everyone,  
It's that time of year again. Please send your nominations for  
Hall of Fame 2021 to me. Please include their Name and a  
short statement on why you are nominating them.*

*They must be a member of the club.*

*Thank you,  
Valorie Reeves  
valncopper@hotmail.com*

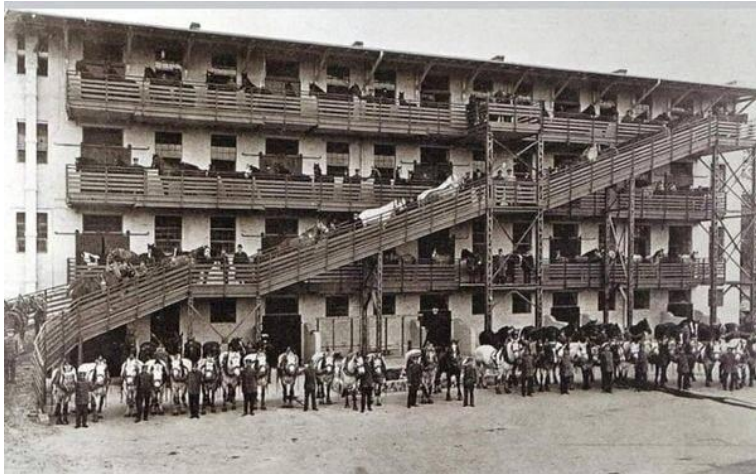
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**Be like Bob....**



Bob Suhr climbed on a horse for the first time in his life at age 52. At age 58 he did his first endurance ride ever. The Tevis. He finished. His fifth ride ever was the Castle Rock Challenge Ride. He was first place. His eighth ride ever was the Virginia City Hundred Miler. He won BC. He rode his last ride at age 84 with a record of 232 completions (14,450 miles) out of 240 rides. Maybe this will encourage some who think they are too old to enter the sport to give it a try. I hope so. Julie

Less than 100 years ago, all over the world, horses were so present in daily life that it is hardly imaginable. The big cities were crowded and horses were used as the main means of transport. But where did all these beautiful animals sleep at night in the cities? Horse dorms on shelves! Real small apartments with ramps, and some even had elevators! These photographs were taken in Berlin sometime between 1900 and 1920.



Speaking of 100 years ago... ahem... between the two of these, they probably have at least that many years of endurance experience! Last Summer, Dick Carter and Sandy Holder paid a visit to Julie Suhr and enjoyed a nice, sun filled visit on her deck. Ah, the stories they could tell! Does anyone else besides me want to be like them when we grow up? *Elisabet*



*"Pain nourishes courage. You can't be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you."*

*- Mary Tyler Moore*



## Cayuse ride

By Shannon Thomas

Sam is my new horse. Well... I just realized that I've actually had him for two years, but between COVID and all of the pandemic pets that I now care for at work, I've not had enough time to train for 50's.

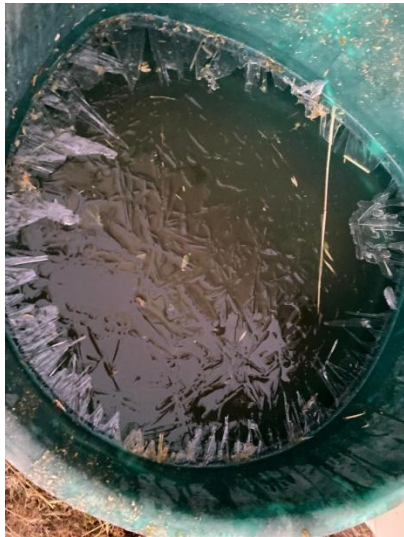
We had two LD's with a day in between last month at Sesenta Años with Elisabet and Echo (see last month's quips) but the Cayuse ride would be our first ride alone.

The drive up to the ride was around 2hrs 45 minutes and gorgeous!! Green grass and leaves turning, bright and sunny!

As we pulled in the mowed meadow surrounding a small, rocky hill, we were met with parking volunteers who took a few rigs at a time to designated spots to make sure there was plenty of room and all could leave when the time came. We vetted in quickly and set about to wait for the 7:30 ride meeting. I boiled some water for the hot water bottle in my bed and blanketed and fed Sam and myself (with a little help from Juan's Tacos).



There was a nice camp fire and a well organized ride meeting. With the beneficiary of the ride being an oak conservation group, we had a talk from a member about saving the massive oaks that were succumbing to drought. Then it was bed time!



While the hot water bottle helped, my camper soon became too cold to breathe in so I decided around midnight to fire up the heater and got several hours of heavenly sleep except for one trip outside to **break the ice** on Sam's bucket and make him some warm mash! Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

I try to get up an hour or so before the ride starts to make some coffee and avocado toast, tack up my horse and be ready.

I had tried to do a tack ride the day before but Sam was so wound up I ended up just lunging him so I was pleasantly surprised when I hopped on a mellow guy.

That all changed when we hit the start line and I had to just hang on and go! It was hairy! At one point I lost control and had to yell to the couple who just passed me that I was coming by out of control...fortunately, as soon as we passed Sam slowed and I jumped off to walk him until his mind was back. We soon got into a groove of happily trotting by ourselves.

The ride was an out and back along the scenic Santa Margarita lake with a side trip on the way back.



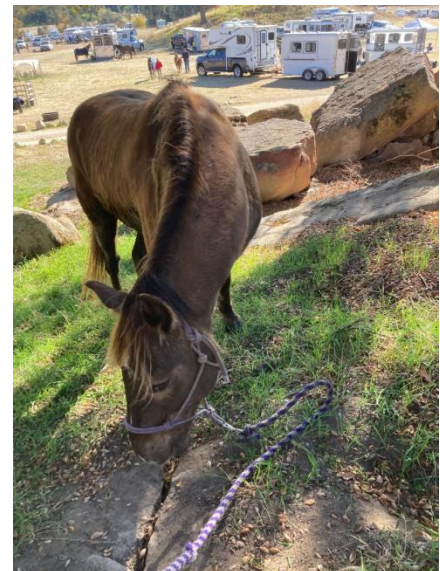


In training, Sam tends to pace with who we are riding with. With Arabs he tends to trot but when we started training on our own, he brought out his gaiting!! It's slower but steady and we intermittently cantered to make up the difference. When we caught up to people, usually on the down hills, we calmly passed and when they caught us, on the up hills, he was ok about it.

Did I mention that this ride was COLD? I had my backpack with my water bladder in the camper so it started out warm but when the ride started and I felt like drinking there was ice in the mouthpiece. I crunched that but when there was still no water I reached up to feel the tubing and it was solid ice! It defrosted after an hour or so, but I've never had that happen before!

We had a brief vet check on the side of the road and Sam did great then we were on the way home. We got in before noon, vetted and we were done. A nice collapsible bucket was our completion award. Sam's vet score card was all A's at the finish, and that made my day even better.

I decided to leave in the late afternoon to avoid another cold night.



All in all this was a great ride and I would highly recommend it!

The last picture is the nap that happened at home the next day.

My donkey Milton is making sure no one disturbs Sam's well deserved rest!



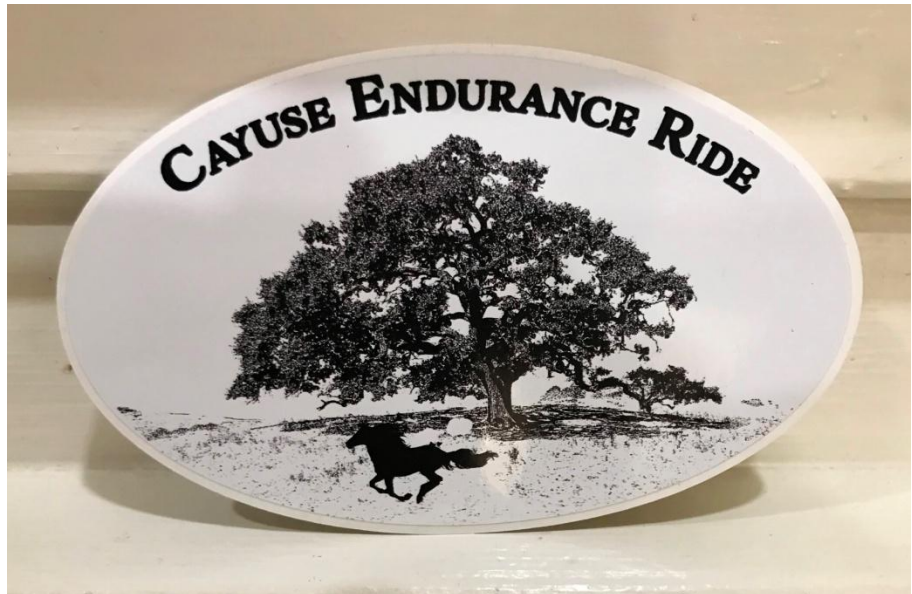


The benefit of crawling out of a tent at 4:30 am on a frosty morning is that the tent flap instead of being dripping wet from the night's dew it is frozen solid and can be tossed over the side of the tent, opening a space to creep out to a world of hoarfrost coating everything: on trees and grass, on tables and chairs, on trucks and trailers. Bella's water was frozen.

Ride to start at 6 am, I have everything in place with time to mount and move out. I fitted Bella's boots the night before, fitted a warm blanket, gave her a large wet feed with electrolytes and plenty of hay for her to munch through the night, which she did. I ate as much as I could find too and planned to sleep in my riding clothes. In the morning I had time to make a hot coffee, drink my smoothie packed with all the nutrition I needed for the day and take electrolytes. I slid off Bella's blanket – she was warm, quickly on with the saddle, it is hard to tighten a girth when your hands are frozen! I stayed focused 'never hasten, never tarry'.

Never having ridden Bella in the pitch dark I spent the night before wondering how the start would go. I rarely get a good night's sleep before a ride it is just too exciting and tossing in a sleeping bag it always seems necessary to repeat the morning process over and over in my head. Just like counting sheep it does not bring sleep.

I mounted and immediately knew that Bella knew what this was all about; in the frozen darkness we left the start at exactly 6. There was one rider ahead of us, we kept them in sight and Bella followed the glow sticks. She miraculously headed from one stick to the next like this is what we did every day of our lives, Bella was our guide, while I hung on with my fingers rapidly freezing to the reins. My mask steamed up my glasses, I pulled it down so I could see and it quickly froze around my neck, no worries I could pull it back over my very cold face and my breath quickly thawed it out.



We were moving fast and that first hour soon passed, the sun appeared, I felt a bit queasy when my fingers rapidly thawed out but wow there we were amidst this beautiful oak woodland. The climbs seemed easy, the trail was well marked and we kept other riders in sight. I followed a group of 4 riders for a while then managed to pass them then they chased after us I think this happened through most of the ride. But somewhere I met up with Lori Oleson and Fargo, and we stayed together for most of the ride.

At the first 15 minute hold we were greeted with lots of volunteers, one offering blankets others happy to hold our horses and help in anyway. We got through the vet check quickly, Bella got good scores, and she hastily grabbed carrots and some alfalfa but was not drinking – too early in the morning. Lori and I nodded to each other and we were off again. Most of the trails were

easy wide access roads when we left these roadways there were no single tracks. We just followed the ribbons across untrammled land, and sometimes it seemed we were headed off course. I was mystified for a while but realized that this was private land and a brand new ride there was no usage of this wild land, no trails had been created.

The sun was bright but the air stayed cool, we kept up a fast pace and Bella drank well at the next water stop. All was smooth and easy at our one hour hold. Bella kept her high scores at the vet check, I loaded her with electrolytes and she ate and drank till it was time to get moving again. Lori moved out a little ahead of us but we soon caught up and we found ourselves juggling with the 4 riders again but managed to move ahead of them and claimed the trails for ourselves.

All this time we are racing through views of wooded mountain ranges that go on forever, amongst miles and miles of wild spreading oaks. When we neared camp and the finish both horses were bothered because the trail did not go into camp but circled around it on the trail that we had taken at 6 in the morning.

Bella led the way as we trotted fast around the perimeter turned a corner and a few yards ahead was the finish line. I shouted to Fargo to move out while Bella and I picked up a gallop over that line with friends and volunteers cheering us along.



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**To Quicksilver Members - Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you!!!!**

*By Elaine Elbizri*

I have had a great fun and successful year of endurance rides and as I try to put my thoughts about it together many quicksilver members come to mind. You have been with me since before I got my first horse in 2008. I'm not going to mention any names – because you know who you are, there are too many to mention and I don't want to miss anyone out. But I have reflected on why I have had such an extraordinarily successful year of endurance rides.

All these years I have seen myself as a newbie, a beginner and this is true. From first time in my life riding 20 miles, first time owning a horse, first time buying a trailer, first time keeping a horse in a stall, and in a pasture, first time caring for a horse with pigeon fever, with ligament injury, with silicosis and osteoporosis, first time out on trails with just my horse, first time conditioning and riding an LD then a year later my first 50. First time owning a truck and hauling horses for miles and miles. These firsts are still going on and all the way there have been Quicksilver members and others who have encouraged and shown me how to do so many things, given me new ideas and helped me through my mistakes.

This year's rides were another first for me; it has been a super fun year of endurance. With learning something new at each ride I have completed 8 rides in 2021.



Bella and I began with a multiday of 3 LDs at Cuyama, Santa Barbara County in March, where Bella's excitement and speed amazed. For the first time since I started this folly with her she stepped out with a huge trot I could hardly keep up. Cuyama was followed by two grueling rides where I thought I had ruined my horse's enthusiasm for endurance. At Cache creek ride, Yolo County, in May I was not well prepared for a 6 am start and left camp well behind the main pack of riders. We rode alone, Bella was not ready to move out and many riders passed us. We did have one exciting moment when a large bear emerged from bushes only 50 feet away. Bella was fascinated but walked on and when both animals were satisfied with their new acquaintance the bear disappeared back in the bushes. Cache creek was a slow difficult ride after the excitement of Cuyama.

Our second struggle was Cooley Ranch in Sonoma County. Reviewing the ride back at camp, a long time endurance rider named Potato said "If anyone wants a challenge after Tevis they should take on Cooley." It is hilly, steep and in June hot!!!! Bella was over excited, and overheated, she was fearful of putting her head down to drink and gave signs of dehydration. She did not want to leave the one hour hold and made me think we would be walking to camp in the dark!



After Cooley we went to the Redwood ride in Humboldt County.

Quite a different terrain close by the ocean. After a day of deliberation boring my neighbors with my indecision and fear I had overreached my horse's tolerance for endurance I chose to do the 35 LD. It was a blast, steep and humid along narrow switch back trails among some of the tallest Redwoods to be found anywhere. Bella moved out and was determined to get through the ride. My worries dissipated and I knew I still had a forward fit endurance horse.

This was confirmed by completing Harvey Bear and finishing in 7<sup>th</sup> place. From HB we went to Camp Far West – fast and fun - another 7<sup>th</sup> place. At Kristina Chesterman ride, Bella was forward, alert, comfortable and careful, but this ride was slick. It had rained 4 days before - the first rain of the Fall. The entire ride was on a slick surface with hard ground underneath though I heard of no injuries it did slow us down and many riders completed in the dark.

AT our 8<sup>th</sup> ride Cayuse, San Luis Obispo County in December, Bella's enthusiasm and energy only improved. There can be little better in endurance riding than developing understanding and trust between yourself and your horse through a progression of endurance rides.

I can no longer claim to be a newbie though there are still lots to discover about horses and this wild sport of endurance. Thank you Quicksilver for being with us all these years, all the best to you for the New Year and let us find even more treasures in 2022.



in fast  
running rivers  
of choice and chance  
time  
stops  
here

[David Crosby, Delta](#)

In the be-careful-what-you-wish-for scheme of things, our drought pout has been answered by the atmospheric river flooding Northern California. "Current" events indeed roll us in the rapids of choice and chance. We make New Year's resolutions as if, our past petered-out promises notwithstanding, *this* is the year we can will our way into a tidy and correct existence. Then come the rains, physical and metaphysical, and to them we concede, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And so it goes, when all our best laid plans meet the forces of inner and outer nature. Do we clutch at control or do we let the river take us?

Last week, the herd of lesson horses moved to winter pasture. They run in the downpour, mud flying from their hooves. When we trudge out there in our big rubber boots and our layers of Patagonias and Pendletons and GORE-TEX, we find horses rolling blissfully in the muck. They are our shining-while-soiled illustration of the meme that **life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain**. A horse wallowing in mud is the picture of harmony between circumstance and self-determination, weather and Will.

The words from *Delta* are not, strictly speaking, haiku. However, the Will frozen in time in the eddy of choice and chance, agency and surrender, is truly a haiku moment.

*Horsensei wishes you happy holidays  
and millions of beautiful, memorable haiku moments in 2022.*

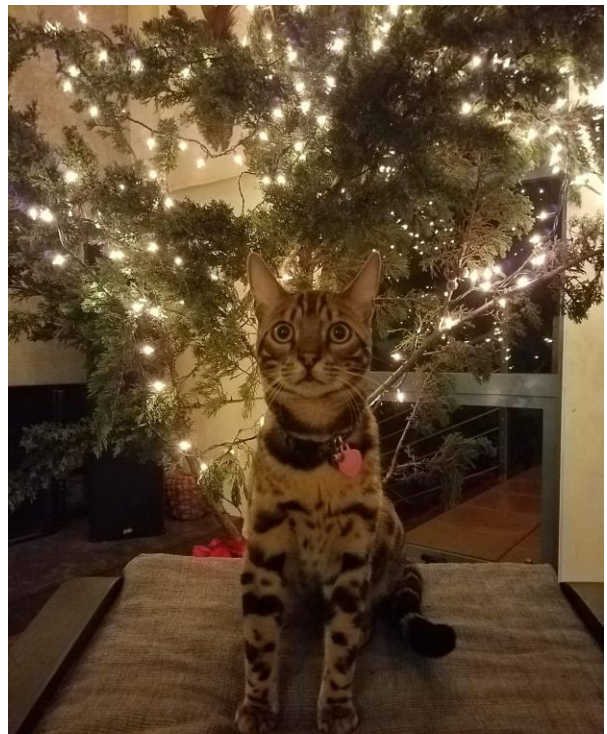


## Christmas photos....



My dog, Lio Messi, could not wait to open his Christmas present! Elisabet

Carolyn Tucker's puppy Sadie is quite pleased with her decorating abilities!



Alicia Stanton's kitty Ziggy Wilder was eagerly waiting for the ornaments to go on the tree, so he could play with them while everyone slept!



Melissa Broquard's mare Pollyanna hopes that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!



Shannon Thomas's donkey Milton Burro got a special treat on Christmas morning AND a new blanket!

## Quicksilver Endurance Riders (QSER) Club Board Meeting Minutes

*There was no Board meeting this month, thus, no Board Meeting Minutes!*

**The first board meeting of the year will be held on January 19 @ 7 pm via Zoom**

### Trea\$urer's report:

General Account Balance: **\$11,480**

Trails account Balance: **\$1,075**

*24 people renewed for 2022 so far and are eligible for the drawing.*

# THE AWARDS BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2022 AT 5PM AT WESTSIDE GRILL IN GILROY

### News from Melissa Broquard:



*Wishing Pollyanna a speedy and full recovery! Hoping to see you both on the trail soon!*

Pollyanna (my five year old Haflinger) had bilateral stifle surgery in late October. We're doing slow and steady rehab work now. I finally started riding her again the week before Christmas. We have a long ways to go. This isn't the young horse path I thought we'd be on, but I am learning a lot.

I sent Polly off to training this summer. Groundwork went well, but as soon as they started adding a rider's weight, she looked lame. Their local vet took a look and at her recommendation, they did a month of strengthening work, thinking it was perhaps sticky stifles. She got stronger! She was still lame with a rider, and still very happy to work. We worked with two of their local vets for more diagnostics and they concluded surgery was our best option, as ultrasound showed some "stuff" around both stifles that shouldn't be there. It's not something they see often in very young, very green horses who have done very little work. She had the surgery done at Los Caballos in Galt, and the surgeon cleaned up the menisci and tightened the ligaments on both sides. Getting to watch the surgery, complete with pony on her back and fully anesthetized, was quite the experience! I hauled her home the next day right before the "atmospheric river" hit Santa Cruz in October.

The rehab plan (so far) is 8 weeks of stall rest with hand walking, then another 8 weeks of stall rest while slowly increasing our walking and then trotting time under saddle. Polly is being very good. Not perfect, but manageable. We don't really know what the long-term prognosis is, how sound she'll be, what she'll hold up to. I'm hoping I have a good trail horse. I'd love to do endurance with her if mind and body are willing. We'll see!





## *Birthdays and other announcements*



**Robert Ribley - 1/2, Pat Verheul - 1/27, Mike Maul - 1/30**

**A note on birthdays:** I don't have a complete list of Quicksilver member's birth dates. If you feel inclined (and don't mind having your birthday date published), please send me a note. I don't want the year, just the month and day. Thanks! Eijsabet

## *Market Place*

### **HORSE BOARDING FACILITY**

20535 Rome Drive, San Jose, California.  
Stalls: \$350.00, pasture \$280.00, fed twice a day high-quality orchard-alfalfa mix hay.  
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. **Trilby – (408) 997-7500**

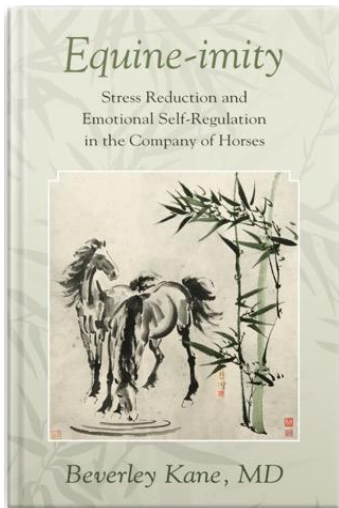
### **CENTERED RIDING® LESSONS**

Help your horse use him/herself effectively while going down the trail. Take the stress out of your body and your horse's body. Find out how to have a better seat and make your horse more comfortable.  
Centered Riding® lessons available with Level 3 Centered Riding instructor. Clinics available upon request. **Becky Hart (408) 425-5860**

**Books by Julie Suhr --- Ten Feet Tall, Still and ...but it wasn't the horse's fault!** are available for sale. All proceeds go to AERC Trails Fund and Center for Equine Health at UC Davis. Please contact Julie Suhr at: **(831) 335-5933**

**Books by Lori Oleson --- Enduring Memories and Endurance... Years Gone By** are available for sale. Re-live the adventures that tell the stories of horses and riders who made their way down the trail in the 1960s through the 1990's. Books are available by contacting Lori at **(408) 710-5651** or [lorioleson@alumni.cpp.edu](mailto:lorioleson@alumni.cpp.edu)

**From Trilby:** Part time job available feeding and cleaning. at horse stable. A couple of hours in the am and about half hour in pm. You can keep your regular day job. \$350 a week. There is a trailer for rent on property if you want to live there. 12 horses. Call 408-997-7500



New book by Dr. Beverley Kane

***Equine-imity—Stress Reduction and Emotional Self-Regulation in the Company of Horses*** by Beverley Kane, MD

*Equine-imity* teaches moving meditation in the form of qigong, a tai chi-like practice, with, and optionally on, horses. Based on our Stanford program of the same name. Written with non-equestrians in mind. Share your love of horses with friends and family! Purchase paperback or e-book on Amazon and other outlets. Learn more and download free Introduction at <http://equine-imity.com>

***Illustrations by Judith Ogus***

**From Judy Etheridge:** I am looking for a short, smooth, safe and sound horse. Julie Suhr described such a horse some time ago so here I am, too. Hard to find in the Bay area it would seem. Please contact Judy at: [misxfire@gmail.com](mailto:misxfire@gmail.com)



**More famous movie horses...**

Jimmy Stewart rode Pie for a total of 22 years. The chestnut colored gelding was Jimmy's favorite horse, and he tried to purchase him on multiple occasions but was unable to persuade the owner to part with him. The actor referred to Pie as his friend, and never shied away from talking about how amazing his hoofed costar was.



The uniquely named Dollor was much loved by John Wayne. The famous Western film actor even rewrote the script for *The Shootist* in order to mention Dollor's name more frequently. Dollor was never owned by the famous star, but his contract stated that he could only be ridden by Wayne

*More famous movie horses coming up in the next edition. **Maryben** sent me a pretty good list to work on!*

*She said:* "I used to have a notebook with all the info about each cowboy. If I could remember the names of the people, I could remember the horses. I even kept track of things like sidekicks and their horses and dogs and jeeps. Pat Buttram was with Roy and Dale. His jeep was Nellie Belle. The German Shepherd was Bullit. The sides of Champion's bit were little six shooters. I was a horse nut. My grandfather even called me Maryhorse for most of my life."



# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN THE QUICKSILVER RIDERS!!!!

**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 level of sportsmanship and horsemanship within the context of this sport. It supports and provides educational events and leadership in each of these areas.

FIRST: We need your name \_\_\_\_\_

And then your address \_\_\_\_\_

And your phone number and e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

And then we need your money! Senior membership is \$ 30 \_\_\_\_\_

Junior membership is \$ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

(a junior is under 16 years of age)

Family Membership is \$45 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailed Quips (paper copy) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can go to our website at : [www.qser.net](http://www.qser.net) to join, OR send a check made out to: **Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.** to: Nick Warhol, 3664 Old Quarry Road, Hayward CA 94541

**THANK YOU!!**

