

Quicksilver Quips

May 2022



*Happy
Mother's
Day!*

What's inside

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And random stuff here and there
just because I can :-)

Officers

2022 Board members are

Jerry Wittenauer - President
Elaine El-Bizri - VP
Nick Warhol, Treasurer
Margaret Hastings, Secretary
Carloyn Tucker - Board
Maryben Stover - Board
Vacant - Board

Newsletter Editor

Elisabet Hiatt

lazo@ucsc.edu

QSER on the Web:

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

President's message

Some Spring-time Thoughts **Jerry Wittenauer** **4/24/22**

Good News – EHV-1 Crisis Has Passed February and March had many of our riders on “high-alert” with the spread of the Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) among some of the boarding facilities in the Bay Area. With close monitoring by the CA Dept of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), biosecurity guidance, frequent updates provided by the CDFA, and heightened awareness among the equestrian community, the spread of this potentially-fatal ailment has been checked, and the Equine Health Alert is no longer in effect in any Northern California locations. For those that were under quarantine – welcome back to the trails!

Bad News – Another Boarding Facility Closing Down Several Quicksilver Members are impacted by the recently-announced closure of the Indian Hills boarding facility in Milpitas – home to some 160 horses. Anyone that can take on additional boarders, please put out the welcome mat! Our QS Vice President, Elaine El-Bizri is a good contact if you know of any openings.

Another Trail Advocacy Victory! There are some public equestrian trails that I ride periodically in the Town of Woodside that present possible riding hazards (barbed wire from an ancient fence, trail erosion, exposed water main), and I have negotiated these for several years of riding. Last week I took action and filed a written request with the Town of Woodside Public Works Dept. to upgrade this trail to mitigate these hazards. They quickly responded “Yes” and are scheduling the work to be complete by mid-May! Folks – it’s as easy as that! In my experience, the Land Managers have the budgets and the resources, and they want to help the equestrians. They just need to hear from the riding community where to apply their efforts – you too can be a trail advocate – don’t hold back!

Support Your Club! In the coming month, we’ll be reaching out to our members to start forming teams of volunteers to support our upcoming activities: manning the Tevis Cup Finish line (16 Jul), volunteer support to the Fireworks Ride (9 Jul), and volunteer support for the QS Fall Classic (1 Oct). Great opportunities here to learn, to give something back to the sport, and to have some fun along the way!

2022 QSER Club Calendar

25 Jun	Ice Cream Social (Trilby's, 1:00 pm)
9 Jul	QS Support to Fireworks Ride
11 Jul	"Go Live" for QS Ride Entries
16 Jul	QS Support to Tevis Cup
14 Aug	QS Camping at Santa Cruz Horsemen's
10 Sep	Kick-off Board Search Committee
17 Sep	QS-Sponsored Endurance Clinic
1 Oct	QS Fall Classic Endurance Ride
15 Nov	All Awards Nominations Due
18 Jan	Election of 2023 Officers

Hi everyone- The Quicksilver club helps support the SCHA put on the **Fireworks Endurance Ride** that's held on Saturday, July 9th this year. Its located a few miles east of Santa Cruz just off highway 17 at the showgrounds. They give our club a nice donation for the help, so I urge our members to volunteer and come out and help support the ride. If you want to join us in the fun, please let the Fireworks ride volunteer coordinator Kate Matthews know via email. Her address is kate@matthewsconsulting.com

Thanks, Nick

From Pat McAndrews....

New Trail connecting Calero and Santa Teresa Parks

Santa Clara County purchased a piece of land that connects Calero Park with Santa Teresa along Fortini Road for 8.5million dollars. The purchase furthers the county's overall plan to connect parks whenever possible.

The land had been purchased years ago by a developer who decided to sell the land which cannot be developed at this time.

This purchase is in addition to the project underway that connects Harvey Bear Park and Anderson Reservoir. It is such a blessing that we live in an area that is horse friendly and has goals consistent with our needs.

Happy 96th birthday, Your Majesty!



Queen Elizabeth celebrating with two of her horses, Bybeck Katie and Bybeck Nightingale



Public Announcement:
It's shedding season...
Proceed with caution!

HUASNA ride report

By Shannon Thomas



April 9th and 10th was the first ever Huasna ride 20 miles inland from Arroyo Grande in a beautiful lupine filled valley with fat angus bulls roaming freely.

The directions were good if you printed them, as there was no reception in camp. Camp was a large field next to cattle corrals.

Friday was in the mid 90's so the vet check was a bit hot. Someone had the bright idea to give us all numbers so we could wait in the shade with our horses as the attendance for this ride was pretty good! I'm recovering from yet another knee injury so decided the LD was enough miles for Sam and I. We had downloaded and saved for offline use the maps on the ride with GPS app and hoped that would work for me as I had never tried that. The ride meeting was a little confusing but we were warned there would be a lot of gates so our completion award would be this handy gadget to pull closed the cowboy gates using leverage rather than brawn.

The 50 started at six and I was up early to watch QS member Jill's horse Sophie start her first 50! Sam and I had a too exciting start at our last ride so I decided I'd get on at start time and ride the other direction. This didn't work as well as I'd hoped and I ended up hand walking him back to the trailer and starting the ride about 15 minutes after everyone else. This worked well and we had a calm start with so many flowers! We passed people calmly and the app worked really well telling me turns and keeping me on the right trail. The one detraction from the ride was the gates (27 on the 50). My horse is round and getting back on from the ground is a no-go. He will happily stand next to anything available to help mount but that only works if there actually IS something available.



I opened only three gates until I joined up with a group who had gotten lost but had a great gate opener. I became the navigator and rode with QS member Jeanine and her new Rocky "Wiley" and a Cal poly SLO student on a borrowed Rocky.

We gaited or cantered happily to the end of the 25+ mile ride with 30 minutes to spare and had great scores on the vet cards. The horses seemed to have at least as good a time as we did.



There was no dinner and my horse was missing his friends so we went home that afternoon happy and tired!

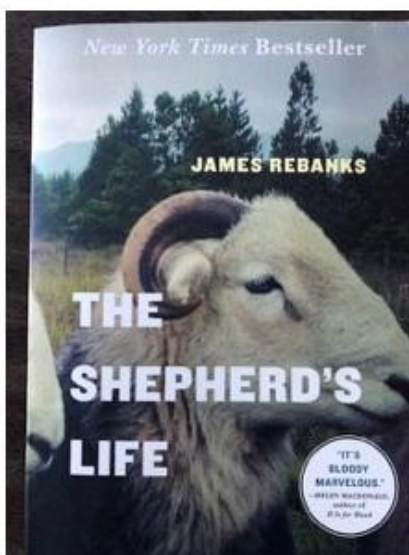
Book review by Julie Suhr

The Shepherd's Life by James Rebanks

Three hundred pages of caring for sheep and lambs in Northern England for over six centuries does not sound like terribly exciting reading. However this is a story that has been on the New York Times Best Seller list and, with literally no mention of horses, held my interest from page one. It is the story of hardship and rural poverty but love of the land that keeps generation of families from trying to escape. It is autobiographical. Although the author becomes an Oxford student he returns to the land where his sweat, blood and tears are given to his rural life and the hundreds of sheep and their struggling lambs who depend upon him.

His writing is eloquent at times. You are aware of personal family problems primarily with his father until it turns to admiration.

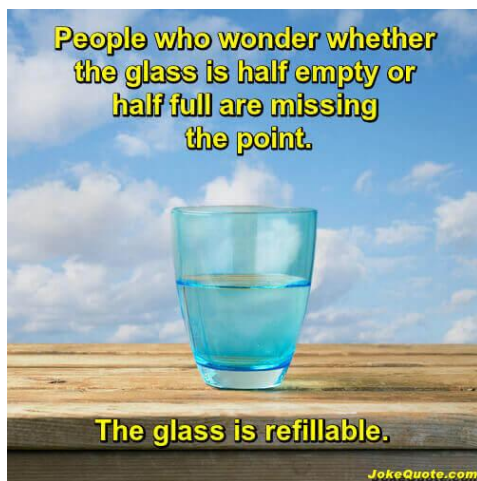
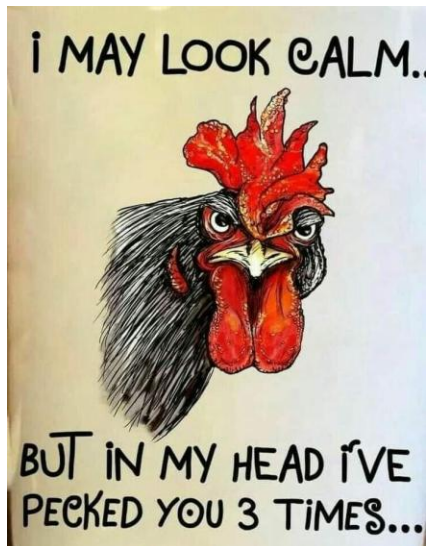
I think some of our Quicksilver members can relate to this story. Maybe a world cruise or foreign travel sound more desirable than cleaning horses corrals in mid winter or weeping over the loss of a beloved animal. We have made our choice much as Mr. Rebanks did. The soil calls to us, embraces us and we snub our noses at lives of leisure.



*There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation,
hard work, and learning from failure.*

Colin Powell

JUST FOR FUN...

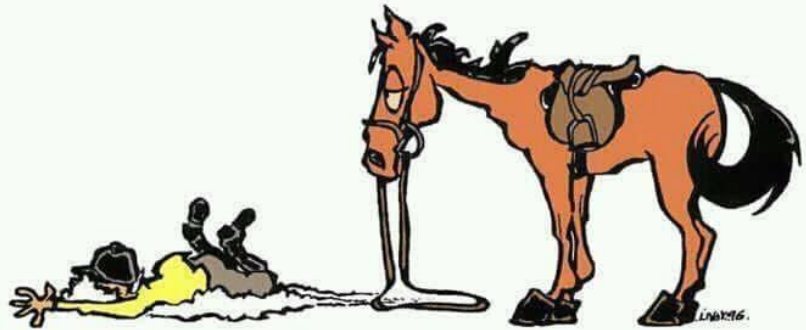


My Dog's Five Goals in Life

By I Might Be Funny

1. To protect me from my kind, elderly mailman, all packages delivered, and the tiny bird on my lawn. © I Might Be Funny
2. To never let me go to the bathroom alone
3. To stare at me longingly and make me feel guilty when I don't share my snack.
4. To plop himself down in EVERY SINGLE SPOT I need to get to in the kitchen when I'm cooking, so that I'll trip over him & die
5. To make sure I never, ever, forget that there is no unconditional love, loyalty and pure devotion like that of a dog. ❤️

THANK YOU FOR FLYING **AIR AMATEUR**



Exits are located at the front, rear and sides • You may experience some turbulence during your descent • Please remain on the ground until your body comes to a full stop • In the unlikely event of a water landing, your saddlepad may be used as a floatation device • Thank you for flying Air Amateur, and we hope you enjoy your trip.

What our horses want

Contributed by Laura Matthews

Some people want a confident horse yet are nervous in the saddle

An athletic one, yet, fail to visit a gym themselves

A well rounded one, yet won't take a lesson

A "dead broke" one, yet rides only on the weekends

A soft round horse, but yet sits rigid in the saddle

A forgiving, trusting horse, but punishes first, and asks questions later

Imagine if we were all the type of riders our horses wanted us to be. If we were all confident, athletic, well rounded, soft, patient and consistent riders?

It's a journey. A dance between two species.

Have conversations, not fights. Check in with them, give them credit, give them dignity, give them time, and above all else, give them love.

It's not so much about learning to speak their language, it's about quieting down and learning to listen...

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room....

Trail Report - Henry W. Coe State Park

by Alicia Stanton

Henry Coe, the largest state park in California, is best visited with a good friend, a great horse and an accurate map. Happily, when Elisabet and I visited there a couple of weeks ago I had all of those things.



A good friend is essential because you would never want to get lost or hurt alone in Coe. And only a good friend will forgive you for your foul mood when you feel like you have been pushed to the limit of what you can endure. Happily, Elisabet is a stalwart friend and we finished our ride with our horses sound and our friendship intact. I think it would be obvious to anybody why you need a really great horse for this ride. Unless you want to stick to one or two trails, you're going to be climbing, and climbing, and climbing. Because of the size of the park, I usually travel with at least two maps. One is pocket-sized and gives me the names of trails and the general direction that they're heading in, and the other measures 30 by 40 inches. That one shows the topography, the springs, mileage and every detail that I like to pour over when I have time, but which is almost impossible to unfold even when dismounted. On every ride at Coe I find I need my second big map to really figure out how we can get home. Truly without it, I could be seriously lost.

We started at The Hunting Hollow entrance on Hot Springs Road. Our plan was to catch up with the Monterey Bay Equestrian Club members who were riding somewhere out ahead of us. In truth, we were not overly concerned with finding them, we were simply out to explore and enjoy. Not knowing where they were heading, we had decided to go up a new trail that Elisabet had told me about previously, since it would be a much easier way to climb up to the upper ridge surrounding Hunting Hollow. Unfortunately we really didn't know where that trail began and so went right by the trailhead. This may have been fortunate in that, by going straight out Hunting Hollow, we did catch up with the rest of the equestrian group, but only stopped long enough to say hello and to conclude that we were going quite a bit faster and then head on down the trail.

Our ride took us to the end of Hunting Hollow Road, up Wagon Road to Wilson camp (where we stopped for a brief snack and water for the horses), from there we cantered along the Steer Ridge Road, eventually back to the top of Jim Donnelly Trail. This was the top end of the new trail that Elisabet had hoped that we would begin with. This trail is not entirely new, but rerouted to make a longer but much more comfortable way to get up or down the ridge. We wound our way down the serpentine route back to the Hunting Hollow parking area. Describing it this way, the ride sounds easy and straight forward. It wasn't. Coe is not for the faint of heart or the sore of hoof. The climbs are steep and seemingly endless, the down hills, which you expect to be easier on horse and rider, are just as brutal. Sections are so steep that I felt as if, at any moment, my horse and I might stumble off the edge and then tumble into the canyon. Although there are excellent signs at most trail intersections, it is easy to become turned around and lost. Trails wind around and then back on themselves so frequently that you may become disoriented and head in the wrong direction without realizing it.





While Coe is a challenging park to ride in, the good things make it worth the challenge. There are multiple springs, ponds, lakes and green meadows.

Awesome vistas take your mind off the fact that you've been out for hours and have no idea when, if ever, you are going to be able to make it back to your trailer.

Wildflowers, even with the scant rainfall of the last few months, are abundant and beautiful.

The colors are more intense than at any other coastal California park that I've been to. And though, this year,

there were no hillsides covered with either poppies or lupines, there were stunning carpets of flowers in pink, purple and pale blue.

Deeply purple lupines, irises, allium and owl's clover surprised us around all sorts of corners.

Delicate pale yellow swallow tail butterflies fluttered about among the trees. We found it hard to go fast because there were so many things to stop and enjoy. Why rush when you come down off of hillside into a canyon with a freshly flowing clear stream, lush grasses on either side, where both you and your horses can relax and appreciate the day?

For me, Coe is a magical place.



I have been going there for over 30 years and found little change in the trails or the terrain but much change in the flora. Two summers ago, fire swept through a good portion of Coe, blackening trees and changing the appearance of many hillsides. The good news is that most of the trees that I saw, although burned, were still alive and sprouting fresh growth. Under these blackened trees the grass was a vivid bright green. There's something about being with horses that allows us to share what they love, and so every bright green patch of grass appears delicious! I couldn't help but stop my horse and let him enjoy the sweetness there.

If you're thinking of going to Coe I'd advise going soon. It's still incredibly beautiful, green and lush with flowing streams, full lakes and spectacular wildflowers. The park is hot and dry in the summer and, while still beautiful, it becomes even more of a physical challenge. We are lucky to have it and always grateful to survive it!

Fond memories from Julie Suhr:

When I was very young, all ranch and farm produce was pulled out of the field by horses or mules. My father had two of each. He depended on them for his livelihood. His neighbors depended on theirs so nobody ever touched the others.

The Model A Ford had not been invented. After the Model A came alive around 1930, the two horses were useless and died of old age. Both mules were about forty when they died and I was not allowed to go in the corral with them. I would stand on the outside and offer treats and call to them but they never bothered to even flick their ears.

In about 1912 my father, along with two classmates, drove the mules from Santa Clara up through Yosemite, down by Lake Tahoe and thence home.

My father loved Greek history. He named the two mules Damon and Pythias after the Greek legends.



Will Weston and his trusty mules

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear."

- Mark Twain

How's this for a visual you won't soon forget?



This is how much stomach acid a horse's body produces each day. Two standard buckets full. Why does this matter? Your chosen feeding practices can have a direct impact on whether this stomach acid is beneficial to the horse's well-being, or not.

Horses produce saliva when they chew; the more the horse chews, the more saliva is produced. If horses have access to ad-lib forage (hay or pasture), they will produce two buckets of saliva each day.

Saliva serves a few purposes in the digestion process, one of which is to help buffer stomach acid. On the other hand, horses who are fed set feedings, with imposed fasting in between, have greatly limited chew time. They can't produce this same volume of saliva.

The horse's stomach is relatively small, and only lined with a protective coating on the lower two-thirds. Excess and 'unemployed' acid can splash up onto the unprotected top third of an empty stomach, resulting in pain, ulcers, and psychological distress for the horse. Such discomfort is a common cause of aggression at feeding time.

Regardless of the amount of chew time a horse has each day, his body still produces these two buckets of stomach acid - 1.5 liters every hour, 24 hours a day. It is our responsibility as the horse's caretaker to maximize 'chew time', and feed the horse as they have evolved to eat. What can you do to increase your horse's chew time, balancing out these buckets so-to-speak? PS - If your horse has metabolic issues, consult with a qualified equine nutritionist to find a hay with an appropriate nutritional profile that can be consumed ad lib.
L. Fraser, Equine Behaviorist.



In your gait we glimpse
the days of old,
In your majestic presence
the story unfolds,
Your eyes unearth wonder,
awaken our souls,
You're proof of God's beauty
in a world growing cold.



Ride Report: Whiskeytown 50 2022.

by Nick Warhol



I took Sorsha to the Whiskeytown 50 on April 16th in the midst of a freak rain storm. It rained so hard on Thursday afternoon I could barely see the road on the way to camp!

Friday was perfect, but it started raining Friday at 6pm, and it rained all night through the start at 6:30am. No problem since I have water proof clothes, and my wonderful camper again. The good news is the footing there is fine in the wet and was never an issue all day. We trotted through miles of water which was actually kind of fun! It stopped raining at 9am and was perfect the rest of the weekend.

The ride was tiny due to everyone canceling due to the weather, but that's fine with me. I rode all day with the leader, and we finished a few minutes apart with him in first and me second.

Sorsha got high vet score and best condition, which is the award I like. I did get first heavyweight, which is nice. She's just an astounding horse, and I'm honored and thrilled to say she's mine. It's just a thrill to be able to ride an animal like this.

Next stop- 2 days at chalk rock in late may!

Trailer breakaway system tips:

We are all eager to get our horses out and about, and we are trailering our horses to as many fun places and rides as we can... but **when was the last time you checked the breakaway battery in your trailer?**



When a breakaway system is working properly, it will lock the brakes automatically if the trailer becomes disconnected from the tow vehicle. To ensure your breakaway system is in good working order, USRider offers the following safety tips:

- Have a qualified mechanic test the system for proper operation annually.
- Have your battery load tested to check the current. A qualified trailer mechanic or personnel at most auto-parts stores can perform this test. Replace old and weak batteries.
- Regularly inspect the cable and switch for the breakaway system. Replace the cable if it is showing signs of wear.
- Keep the top of the battery and the battery terminals clean. A small wire brush and dielectric grease will help maintain an excellent electrical connection. Remove the battery when the trailer is stored or is not used for extended periods. If possible, store the battery in a warm area away from children.
- Use the proper battery for your breakaway system. Consult your owner's manual, or check with the trailer manufacturer.
- If your battery has removable cell caps, maintain acid levels by adding distilled water. Take care when adding water. Wear protective eyewear, and do not overfill.
- Maintain the charge. Do not allow a battery to remain discharged for extended periods. Twelve-volt batteries are considered totally discharged below 11.9 volts. Check voltage with a digital voltmeter.

Quicksilver Endurance Riders (QSER) Club April 20, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board meeting was held via Zoom on April 20, 2022. Call to Order by President Jerry Wittenauer at 6:00 p.m. In Attendance: Jerry Wittenauer, Nick Warhol, Elaine Elbizri, Carolyn Tucker, Maryben Stover and Margaret Hastings.

- Review of Committees and Reports:
- Technical
 - Newsletter – Elisabet continues to do a wonderful job on the Newsletter. Members are encouraged to submit articles.
 - Website (Nick) – Nick continues to make updates to the website and is working on improving the online entry to the Club's ride.
- Trails (Carolyn)- Trails are looking good and there are lots of spring flowers out.
- Membership – (Nick) – The Club is now up to 60 paid members. Those who have not renewed by June 1st will be removed from the member list.
- Goodwill (Maryben) – Nothing to report.
- Financial (Nick) – Nick reported \$7990 in Checking and \$1000 in Trails. Submitted the Club's Tax Returns.
- Ride Committee Reports
 - Support to Fireworks Ride (Carolyn)
 - Review & Approve MOU presented to us by Santa Cruz County Horseman's Association (SCCHA) - The Board discussed the proposed MOU and determined that it was beneficial to the Club to continue to support the Fireworks ride in exchange for 10% of the ride's net proceeds or \$500, whichever is greater, as well as a weekend of free camping for up to 22 QSER members at the SCCHA showgrounds.
 - Carolyn motioned, Elaine seconded and the Board voted unanimously to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between SCCHA and QSER formalizing the Club's support for and the sharing of profits from the SCCHA 2022 Fireworks Endurance Ride.
 - Plans & Prep for the Quicksilver Fall Classic (Jerry) – Plans for the ride are on track.
 - Permit Application for the ride submitted to SCC Parks April 10.
 - Outreach to Volunteer "Team Captains" – Jerry is reaching out to members interested in volunteering as "Team Captains" for various roles associated with the ride. So far Melissa and Charles have agreed to be in charge of the Mendoza Vet Check, Michael Moore will lead the Base camp/Timer site, and Nick will manage Trail Marking. Other key roles that need to be filled include Vet Liaison, Water Team, Hospitality and Meal Coordination. Jerry plans to have meetings with Team captains this summer in preparation for the October ride.
- Awards Committee Status – Banquet, Awards, Yearbook (Elaine) – On hold for now.
- New Business (All)
 - Trilby has offered to host an ice cream social at her place in June. Jerry will add to the calendar and send an evite to members so as to maximize attendance at this fun event.
 - There was a discussion on how to recognize long time members of the Club. Elaine and Carolyn will come up with a plan to invite these special members to the Campout on August 14th at the Santa Cruz County Horseman's show grounds.
 - The Club will also need to get an idea of how many will be attending the campout.
- Old Business - Upgrade at Harvey Bear – Jerry waiting to hear from SCC Parks.
- The Board meeting schedule will continue on the third Wednesday of the month with the exception of this May. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on June 15th, 2022.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Margaret Hastings

Treasurer's report:

General Account Balance: **\$7,990**

Trails account Balance: **\$1,000**

Paid members for 2022: **60**



Birthdays



May Birthdays:

Emma Orth 5/4, Bing Voight 5/5, Barbara McCrary 5/9, Peter David 5/16,

Market Place

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

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

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

Hi Everyone,

I bought these from Stateline tack for \$139.00 and decided they are not for me - I am just too short. But they are very comfy - I have not worn them at all they are in brand new packaging. it will cost me \$50 to return them so I'm seeing if anyone would like to buy them from me for \$130.00 and we can arrange to meet in person so you can have them. They are a size 7. I have wide feet and they seemed fine. The leg part is also roomy if you have ample calves. Please pass this on if you know anyone who would be interested. **Judith Ogus**
judith@randomarts.biz



For Sale:

Lance Camper 9'10" - Hardly Used!
Onan Generator used only 44hrs
Electric Jacks, Roof Resealed 2019
Full Refrigerator Serviced 2019
New Vents & Blinds 2019
All Maintenance Receipts Available
Micro Wave and Gas Stove/Oven
Air Conditioner
Large Pantry and Clothes Closet

JDPower BluBook - \$11,800.00
Asking \$ 10,000.00 or Best Offer
Carolyn Tucker 408-612-6846 cell



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 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!!

