

Quicksilver Quips

September 2022

*Happy
first day
of Fall...*



What's inside

President's message
Announcements
Redwood Ride Report
Just for fun
Top O' The World Ride Report
Fun Photo Corner & Trivia
In The News
Yosemite High Country Report
Board Meeting Minutes
Birthdays and Announcements
Market place
Join the club/renew

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

We made it through the “Dog Days of Summer” and now with the arrival of Labor Day Weekend, it's almost Autumn! Whew - time goes by so fast when you're logging those horse miles! With the arrival of Autumn of course comes the Annual Quicksilver Fall Classic – here are some updates:

- I did a walking tour of Harvey Bear last weekend - our Ride Camp area in good shape, the pavilion is clear and the fields have been mowed back pretty well.
- Most of the volunteers have been signed up – we could still use some pulse takers. Please consider signing up if you are not entering the ride!
- We are running slightly behind last year's entry numbers – so it might be a smaller ride in 2022. We have a little more competition this year with some of our NorCal riders attracted to the newly-scheduled American River Classic and the National Distance Championships in Idaho
- Our costs for staging the Ride are higher this year – inflation is for real! We are keeping a close eye on the balance sheet. Adjustments that we are making this year include finding sponsors for our rider awards, being a little bit less lavish with our Saturday post-ride meal plan, and we raised our entry fee this year by \$15 (for the first time in many years). I think that we'll be OK!
- September will be busy times . . . printing maps & vet cards, final coordination of volunteers and equipment, fielding those last-minute entries and changes . . . excitement building as we approach the date for our 50th running of the QS Ride!

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of our Club activities!

Jerry Wittenauer, 20 Aug 2022

2022 QSER Club Calendar

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

From Lori Oleson:

On July 28th, I will be moving to Greenwood and wanted to give out my new address:

It is 2641 Hoboken Creek Road, Greenwood, CA 95635.
My phone number and email address will stay the same.

Our condolences to Julie Suhr, who recently lost her mare Nudera.

Matthew Mackay-Smith said:

"There can be worse things for a horse than to die. When we domesticated the horse, we assumed complete responsibility for his life - and complete responsibility for his death"

We know Nudera had a long, wonderful life and was lovingly cared for up to her last moments.

Run free now and go play with the angels!

From Janice Frazier: Looking for a job?

Please help spread the word that we are hiring for an extra help park interpreter to focus on the Agents of Discovery and Juntos programs. This position will work on these department-wide programs as part of the Region 1 team out of **Almaden Quicksilver County Park** in San Jose and report to Parks Program Coordinator, Lynda Will. Elizabeth Evans (she/her) - Parks Interpretive Program Supervisor

Santa Clara County Parks

Cell: (408) 834-2578 elizabeth.evans@prk.sccgov.org



Would you like to help the Therapeutic Riding Center where I volunteer?

Please see below!
Thanks!!!
Elisabet



Divine Equine's survival is based on outside donations from grants, foundations, and donors. 80% of our annual revenue comes from donors to ensure that student costs are kept low, and access to lessons is equitable for all. All of this is at risk of going away. As you all know, rising costs have affected everyone and everything, and grants are not being awarded as regularly as they have been. These two factors have put DE in a precarious financial situation. To keep serving our students for the next year, we desperately need \$75,000. And we need that now. Our larger plan is to start an endowment that will ensure our financial security into the future. To do this, we will start a 2-year fundraising campaign to raise \$500,000. Your gift today will give us the gift of time to secure the future. Where will your donation go? Your generous donation will go towards the care of our horses, which includes hay, regular vet and farrier visits, and daily supplements. Donations will also pay staff for their hard work and the payment of our ranch lease. All of these needs culminate into the best possible experience for the students. They get happy and healthy horses, well-resourced staff members, and a property that serves the mission of providing safe, quality lessons. Thank you for making your tax-deductible donation today!

Gofundme link- <https://gofund.me/6463bb15> Please share this link far and wide!

Redwood Ride Report

by Jennifer Stalley

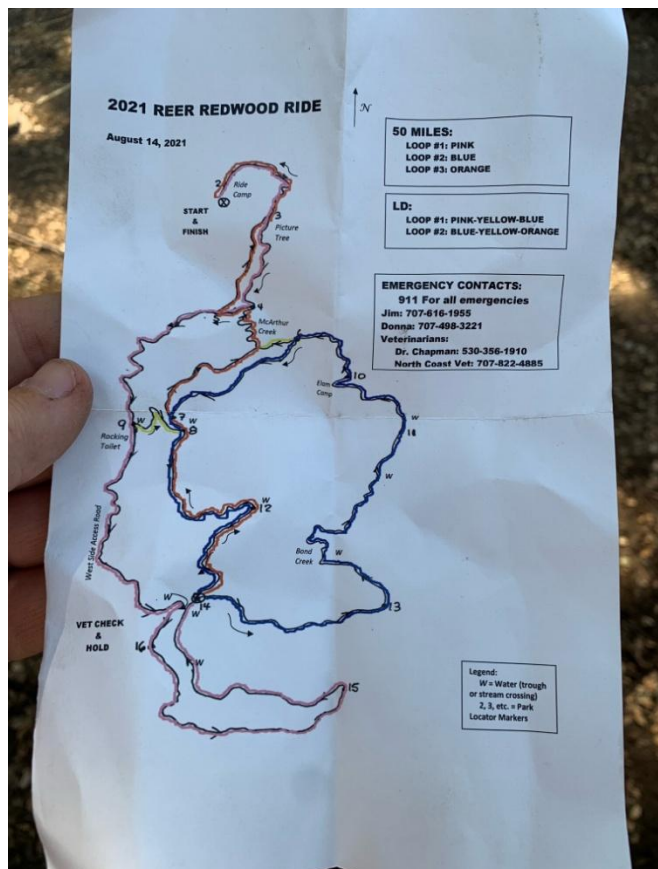
I went up to the Redwoods 50 last week with my 3 horses (2 Arabians and my daughter's mini). It was a long drive totaling almost 8 hours. It was our first trip with our RV and bumper pull from our place on Skyline, so also the first time through San Francisco and over the Golden Gate with our ginormous rig. All in all, it was rather uneventful Thursday night getting out the driveway, down the hill, through the city, across the bridge and up to Ukiah. I had planned to overnight at the Fairgrounds, but forgot to call ahead in the rush to get packed. The Ukiah Fairgrounds was closed up completely so we continued onto the Willits Rodeo Grounds which was also locked. We found a spot on the side of the road and just tied to the trailer to get some rest. Apparently, all of the fairgrounds are like this now because of COVID, so learn from me and call ahead.



The campsite at Redwoods is gorgeous! There is fresh green grass everywhere. The river runs along the west side of camp. My 3 year old daughter had the time of her life there. She "swam" in the water trough, played in the river, shared toys with the 3 other families in camp, went blackberry picking, and she even rode her mini around camp on Sunday morning. I always worry a bit about what my husband and daughter will do all day while I'm out zooming around the forest, but I knew they had a wonderful set up here and I returned to a huge bowl of fresh blackberries.

The trail was lovely. You cannot ask for a better start to a ride.

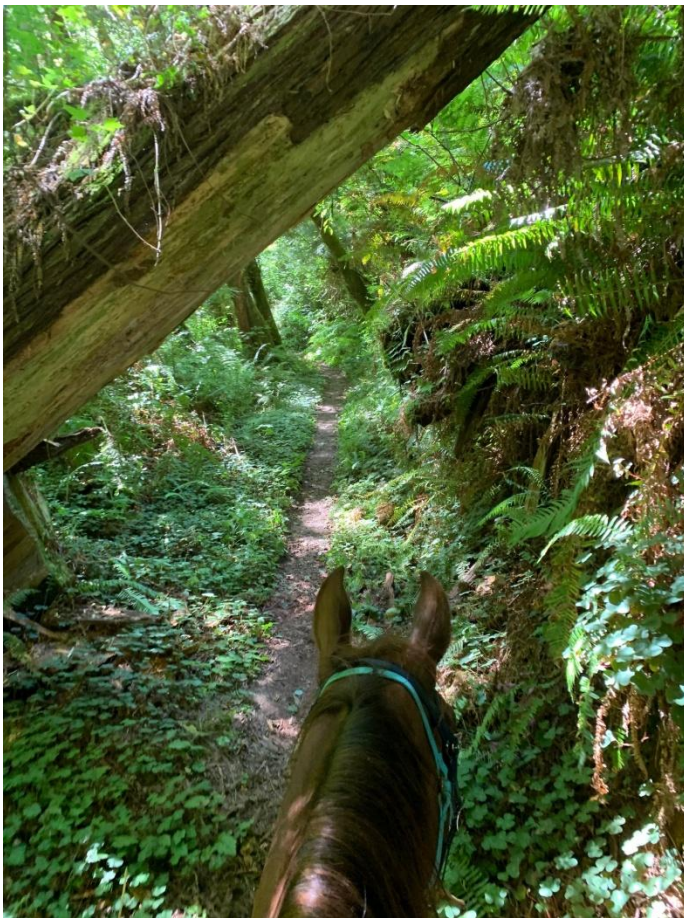
Within half a mile, you are on a single track trail climbing through the redwoods for at least 2 miles. The horses have to go right to work and focus on their job instead of any shenanigans that may cross their minds. The 50 had 3 loops all with an out vet check that we visited twice. The first loop was good going with a nice combination of trails and roads. The whole ride is so pretty that it just starts to blur together! Loop 2 is really tough. It's one giant canyon with a nice downhill that you could walk/jog down on the horse or on foot. The way up is incredibly steep, which I loved.





I came to the ride for the hills! I have a younger horse who is still building up his strength and I wanted some serious up-hills to build his hind end. I got what I came for!

There are several streams crossing the



trail on the way up and my older horse was smart and drank for each of them. We returned to the check for our 1 hour hold and then worked our way back down the mountain gradually towards camp.

The Saturday night dinner was to die for! Jim and Donna Biteman did a fantastic job managing the ride. They had everything we needed and more. The awards ceremony sounded like a great time, but I was already in bed by the time it got rolling. That's because I was so tired from our Thursday night camping situation, not because the awards ceremony was late to start.

Yes, it's a bit of a drive up there for us, but it is SO worth it.

I was wishing it was a 2 day ride driving up there, but by Saturday evening, I was good with just the one day ride.

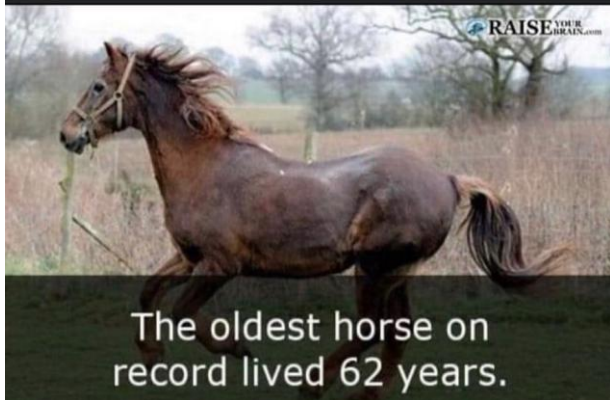
This is definitely a bucket list ride and it's worth the effort to get up there at some point.

Happy trails!



JUST FOR FUN...

HORSEY FUN FACT



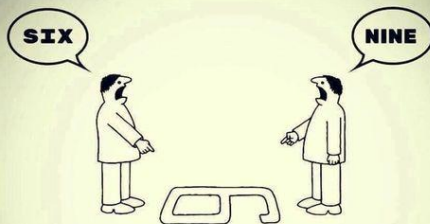
Old Billy was the longest-living horse on record. Old Billy was verified to be **62** at his death. Born in England in 1760, Billy adventured and became a barge horse that pulled barges up and down canals. Old Billy was said to look like a big cob/shire horse, and was brown with a white blaze. Billy died 27 November 1822.



Speaking of old... this miniature horse on wheels was found in a 2,100-year-old grave in Athens. Was it a toy, a funerary offering to the gods, or both? I'm going with toy!

The cure for boredom is curiosity.
There is no cure for curiosity.

Dorothy Parker



Just because you are right,
does not mean, I am wrong.
You just haven't seen life
from my side.

In a society that has you counting
money, pounds, calories and steps,
be a rebel and count your blessings
instead.

Lisa Heckman

*Public Announcement: It's important to lock
your car doors, especially now. If you don't,
your friends, neighbors, and even strangers,
will put zucchini in your car!*

You know what I like
about horse people?

Their Horses.



Carlos & I took the 2-day trip to the Idaho/Montana border in late July to ride in the Top 'O the World ride. With a Ride Camp situated at 7000 ft, we rode through a mixture of rolling sagebrush-covered hills and forested fire roads that climbed up to put us on the Continental Divide Trail separating Montana from Idaho. This was not too different of a climb from the sort of training we do here on the Peninsula, (2000 ft gain over 6 mi) so the course was not too stressing for us! It



Image Shown is the trail marker for the Continental Divide Trail. We were on this trail for about 4 miles each day.

was fun to ride along the Continental Divide, separating the watersheds of the Columbia River (west) and the Missouri (east), I stepped 5 feet to the east at one point just so I could say that I rode my horse in Montana!

The major thing that was novel for us on this ride was the amount of "cross country" travel. In our Endurance Rides to date, I've grown accustomed to traveling on established fire roads and single-track trails, but this ride was about 1/3 cross-country, simply running thru the sagebrush or across the high-mountain scrub with little to guide the way other than a periodic ribbon tied to a bush (or laying in the dirt!). I lost upwards of an hour each of the two days that I rode, riding extra or backtracking to get on course.

Our pace was easy, and fortunately the extra saddle time did not seem to take a toll on Carlos! It was beautiful country, the water was plentiful (streams every few miles), and there was ample grazing opportunity for Carlos on the entire ride.

The views from the spine of the Rocky's were great, and there were many times when I reflected on the apt name for this ride! I would recommend this to my fellow club members – well worth the drive!

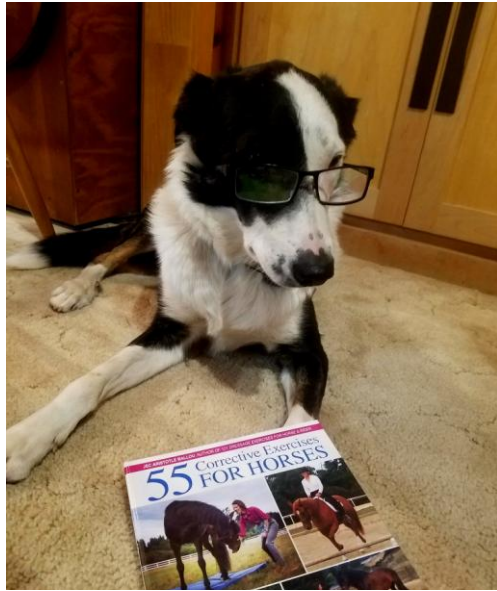
Travel Notes: 16 hrs of driving each way, we found a horse hotel in Wells NV going to the ride, and stayed at a horse hotel in Winnemucca NV on the way home. On several trips this summer, Carlos has proven to travel very well for up to 10 hr days in some pretty hot conditions.



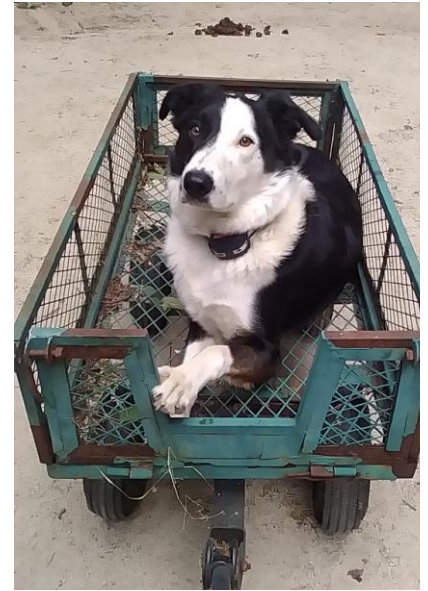
About Carlos: His breeders were big Santana fans, so his barn name is Carlos and his registered name is Supernaturahl

He arrives at the Ride camp seemingly fresh and ready to go. His ability to travel so well sure has opened up the ride possibilities for us this summer!

Fun Photo Corner... do you have a fun photo of your pet that you'd like to share with everyone?
Send it on! We'd love to see it!



Our dog, Lio, reads a lot and lets us know if he thinks a book is good or not. The good books get passed on to us, the bad ones get chewed up and buried in the manure pile. He also likes us to take him for a ride once in a while, and we have just the thing for that. Spoiled, you say?? *Elisabet*



Vietnam War Dog Handler Richard Deggans writes, "The 'Not Forgotten Fountain' speaks volumes to any Vietnam War era dog handler, but also for anyone who has ever loved and lost a dog. You can see your best friend in the body language of the dog and glory in the love expressed by the handler as he pours water into his helmet for his dog, as well as the dogs who visit the monument with their owners. The scene depicted in this inspiring bronze sculpture has been repeated many times by military working dog handlers. The gear may change, but the dog and its handler will be eternal. As the saying goes: All gave some, some gave all. Go give your dog a kiss.

In the news...

Santa Clara County Park Rangers (SCCP) with Volunteers from SCCP trail watch (including QSER and BAPT BOD member **Janice Frazier**) and Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association (SCCHA), staffed a trail user etiquette table on the morning of Saturday August 13, at Rancho San Vicente. This is a very popular trailhead in the Almaden Valley. It was a very successful event interacting with over 80 trail users that day. Interactions ranged from the etiquette discussions, to assisting with trail directions, letting people pet and feed carrots to the horses, and SCCHA having bells to hand out to bikers who didn't have one!



In Memoriam

Kitty Monahan, a beloved Santa Clara County preservationist, educator and historian who spearheaded efforts to protect the area's parks for decades, passed away on July 25. She was 89. She left behind a long list of accomplishments, most notably helping lead the county's purchase and preservation of the 4,000-acre **Almaden Quicksilver County Park**.

Monahan would continue in her preservation efforts, founding various groups like the Friends of Santa Teresa Park. She also served on the Citizens Advisory Committee of Santa Clara County's Open Space Authority and was a member of the Horsemen's Association. Altogether, she spent 14,000 hours volunteering for the county's parks, which she was recognized for in 2014 through a Presidential Volunteer Service Award. A service is planned for Sept. 4 at the county Horsemen's Association at a time yet to be determined.



Although not a QS member, her efforts are enjoyed by many of us. Submitted by Janice Frazier

Ride report: Yosemite High Country - Lyell Canyon to Vogelsang

by Rachel Miura



On July 1 Theodore the Wonder Horse and I got to do a fun and scenic loop in the Yosemite high country! We spent the night before in Groveland, then left early the day of the ride to drive two hours to Tuolumne Meadows. The National Park Service is doing extensive road work this summer, so in addition to the two hours of driving we also had construction delays of 45 minutes.

We parked in the Dog Lake lot, which had a few pull-through spots still available by the time we arrived. One of my biggest concerns about doing the ride was finding parking given that it's summer, and all the construction has closed many parking areas. For that reason we went on a weekday (Friday) and we started out extra early (we arrived at about 7:30AM).

We headed up Lyell Canyon on the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail, which is relatively flat and sandy and parallels the Tuolumne River. Sometimes this area can be muddy well into the summer, but given our dry winter that was not the case this year. After a few miles we headed towards Ireland Lake and the trail climbed via switch backs (from about 8,900' to about 10,600)'. Fortunately most of the climb was shaded by conifers,

and there were lots of small creeks to cross so there was plenty of water.

After the climb we spent a few miles traversing high alpine basins, each with their own lake. At this point we were near the tree line and sometimes traversing stretches of exposed granite, but we just went extra slow and Theo did fine. This section of the ride had the best views of many peaks in all directions!

After the basins we started to descend, passing the Vogelsang High Sierra Camp.

As the camps were closed this year there were very few people on the trail. But, there are not many horses in Yosemite, so everyone who we saw was excited to see us, including the rangers!

The last few miles from Vogelsang back to the trailhead were gentle single track punctuated by granite steps. All told the loop was just under 20 miles, and had 13,270' of total elevation change. We only walked, so the total ride time was about 7 hours. We also stopped every hour or so for Theo to munch on the copious meadow grass, so that added another 2.5 hours to the day. It was nice to have easy access to water and grass for most of the ride and Theo really enjoyed that aspect!

One thing he did not enjoy were the insects - really bad mosquitoes and horse flies. Next time I plan to ride with Theo in a fly mask and bring fly spray.

The ride was so scenic and relaxing - one of the best days out I've ever had! I can't wait to go back next summer and do the loop in reverse to get a whole new perspective!



Quicksilver Endurance Riders (QSER) Club August 13, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board meeting was held at the Santa Cruz County Horseman's (SCCHA) Clubhouse patio on August 13, 2022. Call to Order by President Jerry Wittenauer at 4:38 p.m. In Attendance: Jerry Wittenauer, Nick Warhol, Elaine Elbizri, Elisabet Hiatt, Judy Long, Michelle Herrera, Jill Kilty-Newburn and Margaret Hastings.

- Review of Committees and Reports:
- Technical
 - Website (Nick) – Nick contributed that there are 22 entries so far for the Quicksilver ride on October 1, 2022. The new entry form is working well. Ride maps will be posted soon.
 - QUIPS – Elisabet continues to do a great job producing the newsletter.
- Membership (Nick) One new membership (for 2 years) received.
- Goodwill – Julie Suhr recently lost her last horse, Nudera. Nick noted that Susan Coale with SCCHA just lost her husband and a card should be sent.
- Financial (Nick) – Ride entries total \$3,600 so far.
- Ride Committee Reports
 - Fireworks Ride (All)
 - The Club received a check for \$500 from Santa Cruz County Horseman's for our support at the Fireworks Ride. Several QSER Members were enjoying use of the SCCHA property for camping this weekend.
 - Plans & Prep for the Quicksilver Fall Classic (Jerry) – Plans for the ride are on track.
 - Budget Outlook - Jerry shared the budget sheet for the ride. Some expenses have increased substantially this year (Drug testing, Port-o-Lets and T-Shirts specifically). All vets have committed.
 - Volunteer Status - **Still need more pulse takers.**
 - Equipment Status – Brian Reeves is handling the water truck and plenty of troughs are available.
 - Awards – In addition to T-Shirts, there will be Trilby Blanket(s), and Purina Feed (Becky Hart). Western Saddlery and Ganado Feed have also donated to the ride. Recognizing our sponsors was discussed.
 - Hold Times for the 25 and 50 were discussed.
 - Meal Plan – Elaine has finalized the menu of Lasagna, salad and bread. Plan on serving at 1:30 p.m. (LD Riders) and at 5:45 p.m. (50 milers); We will also need to provide volunteers with a bag lunch.
- Recent and Upcoming Events
 - The Club Camp out at Santa Cruz Horseman's Association grounds August 13th-14th was attended by several members. Members were able to enjoy the nearby trails. It was nice to get together and catch up. The Club's monthly Board Meeting was held and allowed more members to join in the discussion. Thank you to Jerry for bringing the wine, charcuterie and your award-winning olives! A good time was had by all.
 - Elaine shared a draft copy of the Club history she is compiling for future publishing in the Quips and/or website.
 - Endurance Clinic (Nick) – September 17th – All coming along well.
 - Board Search Committee – Discussed outreach for Board positions that will need to be filled for the next cycle.
- Trails – No report
- Awards Committee Status (Nick, Elaine, Jerry) – Managing the Cycle of Activity - Summary of Award Criteria has been uploaded to the website. Nominations for Awards are due by November 1st to the appropriate Award Committee. Elaine is coordinating.
- The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 14th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Margaret Hastings

Treasurer's report:

Checking acct \$13,289

Trails fund \$1,075



September Birthdays

None that I could find!!!



Market Place

HORSE BOARDING FACILITY

20535 Rome Drive, San Jose, California. **Stalls: \$400.00, pasture \$330.00.**

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

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 Oqus

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

*My mind still thinks I'm 25
My body thinks my mind is an idiot...*

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: Hit Air vest. Size Small. Wore it a couple of times, now languishing in my trailer. Purchased from Smartpack less than a year ago. Warranty card has not been filled. The only thing missing is the plastic bag it came in!
\$400 shipped anywhere in the US.

Elisabet - Lazo@ucsc.edu or 831-234-4732

Hit Air (#19902)

Hit Air® Equestrian Super Light Weight Vest

★★★★★ (22) ♥ Save for Later

Our Price: **\$499.00**

FREE GROUND SHIPPING

<https://www.smartpakequine.com>

the Biggest little Farm



The Biggest Little Farm chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature.

Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts, the Chester's unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination.

Submitted by Janice Frazier

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 7:00 PM

FRIENDS OF MARTIAL COTTLE PARK FUNDRAISER

The Biggest Little Farm

Join us at Martial Cottle Park at the Edward Cottle Group Picnic site for a viewing of documentary The Biggest Little Farm. This movie is recommended for ages 12 and above.

This is a fundraiser for Friends of Martial Cottle Park. Minimum suggested donation is \$15 per person. Parking at the park is \$6. We will have a screen outdoors in the park and ask all attendees to bring low back folding chairs or blankets to sit on and a flashlight to help guide you after the movie. Refreshments will be available for an additional donation.

For more information, please go to the Friends of Martial Cottle website <https://fomcp.org/> or the [Eventbrite link](#).

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!!

