



Quicksilver Quips



December 2020

What's inside

President's message
Nick Warhol's Red Rock Rumble
Slim Pickens and poetry
Coyote Valley land acquisition
Przewalski horse
Funnies and Poetry
First Aid on the trail, part 5
Pony Express history
The Grateful Page
Treasurer's report
Birthdays, Meeting Minutes and
items for sale
David De La Rosa update
20 Mule Team entry information
Join/Renew form

Officers

President- JillKilty-Newburn
Vice President- Dick Carter
Secretary- Shannon Thomas
Treasurer- Trilby Pederson

Board Members

Sarah Gray
Lori Oleson
Maryben Stover

Newsletter Editor

Barbara McCrary
bigcreekbranch@wildblue.net

Elisabet Hiatt
lazo@ucsc.edu

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

President's message

Cultivating gratitude is something that I find value in throughout the year, and it is top of mind as we celebrate Thanksgiving. Even as this has been a really difficult year for many of us, I can find much to be grateful for:

- family and friends who remain in good health
- good health care workers who can take care of those who are ill
- horses that inspire me and help ensure a good six foot bubble
- the chance to take a new horse on a first endurance ride
- the opportunity to serve the club along with some other great folks on the board.

As we approach the end of the year, I need to express appreciation for our current members who will be stepping off of the board this year – **Shannon Thomas, Mariah Gray** and **Lori Oleson**. Each of them has been willing to show flexibility and good humor as we have figured out new ways of working in this rapidly changing environment. The folks who will be taking their seats are **Jerry Whittenuer, Carolyn Tucker** and **Margaret Hastings. Dick Carter, Trilby Pederson, Maryben Stover** and I will be staying on for the 2021 term.

At the November Board meeting it was formally decided that we will not be awarding our annual Club Awards. As there have been so few rides for us to attend, it does not seem possible to have the best representation of candidates to choose from. So for those of you that won these awards last year – Horse of the Year, Eleanor Norton Award, Hall of Fame Rider – you are doubly honored as we ask you to keep these for another year and nominate new recipients next year.

I hope that you will be able to join us for a club holiday gathering on December 16 at 7pm – watch your email for a Zoom invitation.

Thankful for you-
Jill

Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

December 16, 7- 8pm – Club Zoom Holiday Gathering. While it may not provide the same satisfaction of sitting around a table together to enjoy Trilby's turkey, but it will provide a chance to connect with friends far and wide and enjoy a little holiday socializing.

January 20, 7-8 pm – January Board meeting and election of officers via Zoom.
February 17, 7-8 pm – Annual Awards Banquet via Zoom.

Red Rock Rumble 50, 2020

by Nick Warhol

Back in the saddle again! In 29 years of riding I have never gone 8 months between endurance rides, not even when I had my knee surgery 15 years ago. Finally, the long, covid caused draught is over. My last ride was the 20-mule team 100 in February where Sorsha had to stop for lameness at mile 80. This past weekend I went to the Red Rock Rumble, about 45 minutes north of Reno, with one goal in mind. Do a nice, moderate paced 50 and get Sorsha through sound. She picked a great year to get injured, (no rides, fires and smoke!) and has healed quite well from the slight bone damage she suffered in her right front hoof thanks to Dr Marty Gardner and the wonder drug Osphos. (\$\$\$!) I have been riding her regularly for the past 4 months and she's looked great so far.

There have not been many rides around the west, at least in my part of California. They thought the ride would be big- they were right! Ride manager Tami Rougeau and her gang did a heck of a job dealing with all the Covid rules. Quick summary from my point of view: 1) I missed the ride and awards meetings. 2) I liked the no rider card. That was nice! 3) the social distancing and masks were not an issue. 4) Not having a meal was bad, but heck, if that taco truck was at every ride, I'd be happy! That post ride taco truck meal was incredible!



Just for grins, Tami decided to offer an additional 75 and 100 mile ride to boot, providing a 25/50/75/100 mile choice. There were 150 total riders spread over the four rides, and more who wanted to come. As Lisa Schneider said: (who, along with Catfish Moe, drove 2 days from Socal to get here!) "It was like the rides in the old days. So many people, and everyone just thrilled to be out there." Lisa was right- there was this general positive, happy feeling all through camp. People were so excited to be back at a ride, myself included. Well, okay, there was a little challenge getting everyone into camp. The base camp was in a good spot, with local water and good parking for 50 or 60 riders, but with 150? Boy, it was packed. Tami asked me (and I asked Gretchen to help me) if I could help get people parked, and I said sure.

Gretchen and I had a great time spending Friday afternoon getting about 30 rigs parked in the space that should have held about 10. We used a special packing and compression algorithm that we made up as we went. There was a constant line of rigs coming in, so we asked each one the key questions: When are you leaving? How many horses? What side of the trailer do

they have to be on? Can they be on the same side of the trailer? A portable corral? Oh boy. (we even crammed them in) We asked each rig that was already parked when they were leaving so as not to block in the guys who needed to leave on Saturday afternoon. We even got a parked rig to move for us! We had the non-horse side of the trailers 3 feet apart, and trucks bumper to tailgate. We actually got a lot of trailers in there, and the rest had to just go park in the sagebrush outside of camp.

Gretchen and I went out for a warm up ride and found no rocks. Huh? This is Nevada! Apparently the Red Rock area and the trails around Virginia City are in two different states. The roads were soft sand, but not deep. We rode the first few miles on the trail and returned. There was no ride meeting, but there was a quick trail briefing with everyone socially distanced. We really did not need it since they had sent us everything we needed in email before the ride. Oh yes, our rider packets mysteriously appeared in our campers as if the ride management elves had delivered them. They did!

It was cold Saturday morning, but very clear and no wind at all. The bad air from the fires that

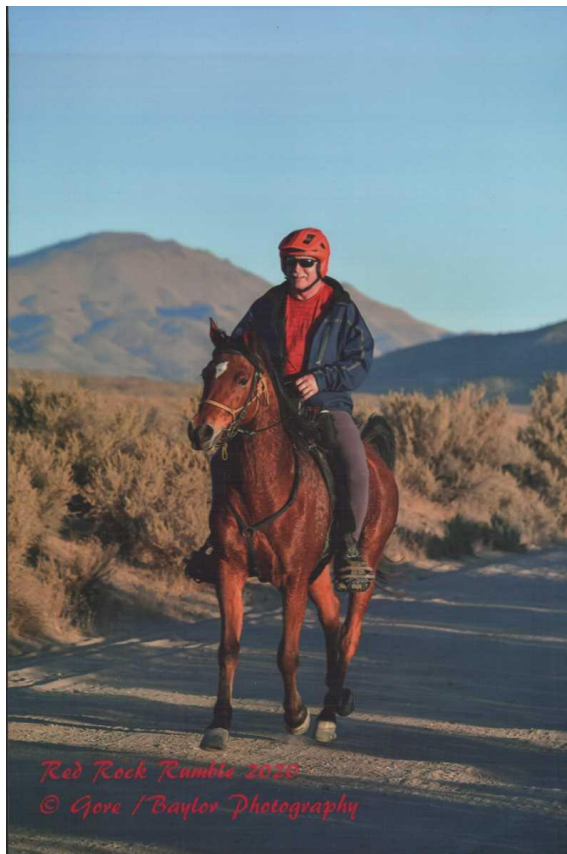


have plagued the area for a while was not an issue at all. The 50 started at 7am, so we headed out about five after and had our only real issue all day. Literally a hundred steps at a walk into the ride a woman was getting on a horse in the desert, just off the trail. She got up and the horse flipped out. It came at us, bucking and out of control.

The horse pushed Gretchen and Coquette out of the way and ran into me from behind, I mean literally ran into us! The woman was clearly upset and apologetic, but had no control. I did what I had to do and just jumped Sorsha off the road and out in to the desert to just get out of the way. Once I was off the road, the horse took off at a run, not a canter, a full run down the road, scattering horses as it went. The woman was screaming “Runaway horse! Look out!” we watched as the riders in front of us on the road scattered like bowling pins as the runaway horse ran up the road. Wow! At least neither Gretchen or I had any real problems from the event. I heard that someone up the road a way, Dave Rabe or Dennis Sousa stopped the horse somehow. Nothing like a little excitement to get the day under way.

We took a breath, reset, and started out trotting out from camp. The route headed out from camp on a nice soft dirt road for a mile or so before turning right and heading down hill for a couple of miles down a canyon into the big valley below. It was a nice road we trotted all the

way down. Sorsha was asking me if we could go a little faster? She likes to move out. It was already starting to warm up, so off came the jacket that I needed at the start. Once into the valley we hung a right and trotted on level roads past Bill and Diane, the photographers, for a few more miles on more level, soft roads and hung a left and headed up into the first of several climbs in the day. It was not long or steep, but was trot/walk/trot a couple of miles to a perfectly placed water trough at the top. There was also a truck tire buried halfway for a mounting block. The trail headed back to the east, I think, up higher in the valley on the edge of the forested hills on a nice, soft, road that did have some whoops in it from the off-road vehicles. It was not too bad, and gave us a really nice view off to the left.



The trail was marked really well, something I appreciate. Off to the left we could see the 15 mile vet check way, way down there, looking like a little city from an airplane. We took a soft wash-like road down from the hills to the valley, and hung a right on a long flat road across the desert for a few miles that took us to the check. There was no crew allowed due to COVID rules, but we did not need one. There were some ride helpers, one guy in particular, who was amazing. We walked in and he jumped over and got our crew bags for us, went and got hay, got us water, and kept coming back to be sure we did not need anything else. Nice! Sorsha was perfectly sound, yay, so after a quick 30-minute hold we headed out on some level roads until we crossed a big, flat, long, dirt road that spanned the valley. There was water there, and after a drink we crossed the big road and headed cross country on a cool trail towards our first really big climb. The first 17 miles of the ride had been really easy so far. That would change! We were walking up the start of the climb, about a half mile past that road

when we saw a full race Side-by-Side ATV who thought he was racing in Baja or someplace like it. That rig was going probably 80 miles an hour down that road, and it was loud! Boy, I hope the two horses behind us were not at that water stop when he went by.

The climb continued up a long, moderate hill that we walked up for a half mile, but it ended at a seriously steep climb that went straight up for a while. I hopped off and had Sorsha tail me up, and I was wiped out at the top. Dave Rabe laughed at me and suggested I carry the horse up! We found another perfectly placed water trough at the top, thanks again ride management! The horses drank so much I knew that with all these horses those two troughs would be empty soon.



We wound along the top of the ridge for a while, on nice, soft, non-rocky roads, then turned right on a downhill trail that was worth the price of admission. It was a soft, sandy, (but not deep sand) single track that was trotable just about all the way down to the valley floor. It was a couple of very fun miles of floating downhill, winding through the big sagebrush bushes like a slalom skier. Boy that was fun! The cool trail ended too soon and dumped us out into a neighborhood of ranches on Red Rock Road. We stopped at one big one where Meridith Mayeroff was there taking numbers. There was water for drinking and cooling- very nice. The weather was warming up, but still quite nice, maybe mid 70s.

We then headed into the green pastures section of the ride that caused some issues. There were green fields with some water and mud to cross, but nothing too bad until the deep one. There was a spot that had trail marking ribbons showing a way around it, but unfortunately you could not see them unless you turned your head backwards. Another ribbon was visible down the way a little, past the bog, but unless you saw the bypass you would just assume you should go straight. We got to the bog, looked at it, though “hmmmm,” and saw Dennis Sousa and daughter Jennifer taking the bypass to the left. That looks better. We avoided the bog, but unfortunately it caused problems for a few horses and people. The trail continued along the wet area for a while with no issues, past several big ponds, but then started yet another pretty long climb up to the left, back up to the top of the ridge. It was a long, steep walk, but after trotting for a mile or so on the top we saw base camp and headed down in to the stop at 30 miles for our hour hold. Sorsha was great, but even though Coquette got to the pulse criteria, unfortunately her pulse was fluctuating up and down more than Gretchen liked. It was still doing it after 40 minutes, so Gretchen pulled.



After our hour stop Sorsha and I headed out all alone to do the last 20 mile loop. We trotted out of camp back up the road we drove in for a mile or so, then turned out in to the desert on a soft road that dumped us onto yet another stellar trail. It was another perfect single track through the bushes, down a long canyon, just winding back and forth at a fast trot. We zoomed along all by ourselves to the bottom having another hoot. It's so funny- most times the horse can read the turns and does not need steering, but once in a while she would just blow through a turn and go straight. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line! The trail then got onto a long, wide, hard dirt road that headed down back into the big valley. Ho hum, I'd like that trail back, please. We trotted along, and trotted some more, and kept trotting, then trotted some more, The only good thing was I caught up to Dennis and Jennifer and rode along with them for an hour or so. We went all the way back across the big valley to the road that we had headed out in the morning, and turned left, heading back towards where camp was. It was a nice, trotable uphill road, but after a couple of water stops, it was time for the last climb.

We turned right and went up and up. And up. The we continued up. It leveled out at the first false top for a while, but then kept going up. It was not super steep like the first monster climb, but long and consistent. You would get a break and get some level, then more up. I ended up scooting away from Dennis and Jennifer since Sorsha... well... she does not know hills exist! She just powers up them as if they were level. It's kind of incredible, and sure fun to ride! I hooked up with a couple of other riders, then went on ahead and found some more riders, and finally, together we hit the summit, where we had been earlier on the first loop, and did indeed find those two same water troughs dry. Bummer! You feel bad when the horses drop their heads in to drink and frantically wonder where the water is. They know!

The trail continued on top of the ridge for quite a while, rolling up and down several long hills. We saw the guy in the water truck coming slowly up the hill to fill those troughs, but every rider that passed him going down the road, including us, stopped him and got a bucket of water for each horse. He said at this rate he will never get there! He was a great sport, and the horses sure appreciated it. As we headed up the climb to what looked like the last possible ridge, I was sure we would be able to see the camp in the valley. Sure enough, as we crested the hill the camp appeared down in the valley about 2 miles away. Down the hill we went, back to the valley floor and in to camp on the road we left on at the start. We trotted into camp at 5:05pm for a ride time of 8:35, almost exactly what I was shooting for. The final vet check was a breeze- Sorsha had a CRI of 40/40, and the trot was perfect. That's all I wanted to see! I was very relieved! I got a meal from the taco truck, and along with my pair of IPA's, that was the best thing I have eaten in a long time. But as someone said, after a ride, a cardboard box with catsup would taste great!

One issue with no ride or awards meeting is I had no idea how many riders there were on each ride, who won any of the rides, how many finished, who got BC, etc. That's okay- it's the ride that matters, and I had a stellar day. A lot of people were commenting on how tough the trail was, but I didn't notice. I just rode the horsey girl through it, and she did not really notice the effort. I had an absolutely perfect ride, other than the little mess at the start, and the fact that Gretchen did not finish. Her horse got right back to normal about 30 minutes after she pulled, but she did the right thing by being cautious. Some of those single-track trails were just splendid, and I liked the fact that there were almost no rocks all day.

Thanks to Tami and ride management for all the work they put in to make it work. I sure had a blast! Next stop is 2 days at fire mountain in January, and then, of course, back to the 20 mule team 100 in February.





YOWZA!!!

A fun photo of Slim Pickens. He was the real deal, grew up with horses on his family farm, and he REALLY could ride. This is his horse, 'Dear John' who is in many of the Western films with Slim Pickens. About 1963, California.

Slim signed this photo for world-class horse trainer and good friend, Clyde Kennedy. A tongue-in cheek autograph typical of Slim's sense of humor, it says, "Clyde, I taught you everything you know. Slim." This is actually Slim Pickens jumping bareback on one of his favorite appaloosa horses, Dear John. (The rider isn't a stunt-man and there was no PhotoShop back in 1963!) The shot is taken on a set from the TV show, The Outlaws, in about 1962 or '63. The lady in the wagon is a guy

in a dress. Both Slim and Clyde pulled off crazy stunts like this, jumping their horses over everything from wagons to unsuspecting people and cows. They did these stunts just for the sheer fun and amusement it brought to everyone - and because they could!

From here...

Things are a little less messy; things are a little more clear...
Things hurt a little less; things seem a little less scary...
Things are a little less sad; things are a little less heavy...
From here my heart thinks it's enough; and knows there are reasons...
From here uncertainly feels safe; and reasons aren't necessary...
From here my faith flows and my spirit is aligned...
From here I remember I am made for this time and space ...
From here I remember grace is my superpower...
From here I can let go, and love anyways...
From here I feel hope, and ease and loved...
I Wish I could stay here... where is your special place?.
Amber Lydic



More land acquired in Coyote Valley

Submitted by Pat McAndrews

A coalition of government entities purchased the Tilton Ranch which had been owned and operated as a cattle ranch by the family since 1917. The family wanted to insure that the land would be preserved and able to be enjoyed by all. The ranch is 1,861 acres and was purchased for 18 million just south of the Palm Avenue trail system off Santa Teresa Boulevard near Morgan Hill. The property will be transferred to the Santa Clara Valley Open

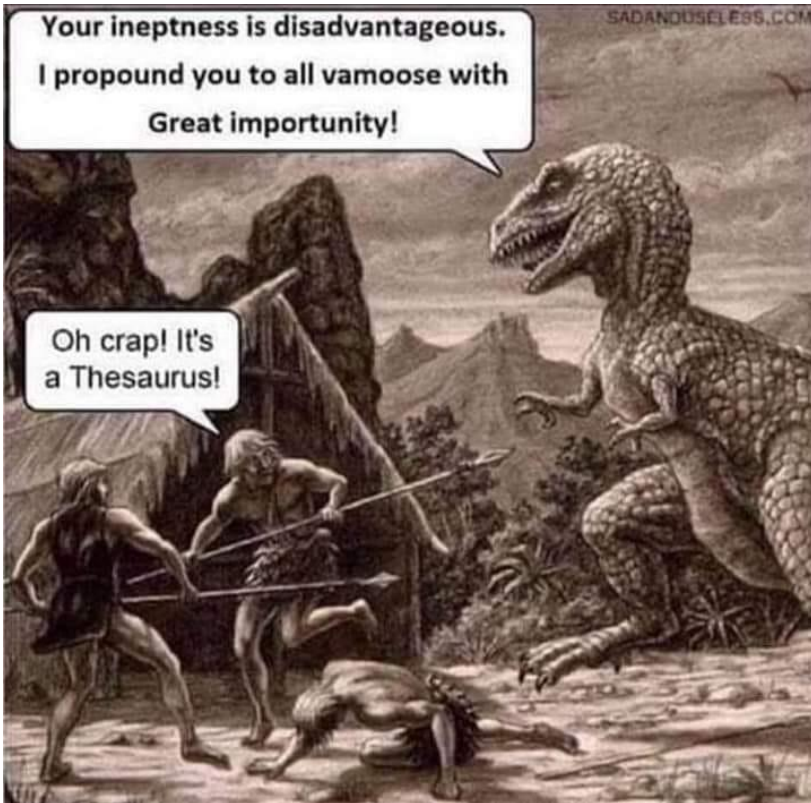


Space next year while the family is moving their cattle business to Montana. Trails will be open to hikers, bikers and horseback riders. Some areas will be preserved without trails, but the goal is to connect trails from South San Jose to Morgan Hill. The land consists of rolling grassland, oak trees and serpentine rock outcroppings. The land is close to Willow Springs Rd. and home to deer, mountain lions, bobcats, golden eagles and a variety of both endangered and threatened plant species. Another great facet of this property is that it will help facilitate movement of the elk herds from the Diablo Range over to the Santa Cruz Mountains, which is critical to their survival to restore diversity in their gene pools. At present the herds are small and inbreeding with no ability to breed with the other herd. The property will be available for enjoyment in about five years. This purchase follows on the heels of the acquisition of the Brandenburg property which is over 900 acres located on Santa Teresa and Bailey Avenue. Perhaps our dreams of traveling by horseback around the counties of Santa Clara and Sana Cruz will someday be a reality!

More good stuff from Pat: "Zoo scientists clone cells frozen for 40 years to produce Kurt, the first cloned Przewalski horse that once went extinct in the wild. Presently, there are 2,000 horses in captivity, making the primitive breed more than endangered. The colt was cloned from cells collected from the skin of a stallion in 1980. Every horse alive is related to twelve ancestors, which does not bode well for the species due to the lack of genetic diversity. The great news about Kurt is that his DNA is somewhat different from the others, and this will help insure the continuance of the species. Kurt will spend about a year with his surrogate mother and then will be socialized and learn how to interact with other horses. He will then go to Safari Park in San Diego where he will hopefully become a "ladies" man!



Ready for a laugh or two?



"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."-Theodore Roosevelt

Poetry corner

Bob Watson wrote this poem about his last ride:

A pioneer in life's sunset
To his pony sang this song
I am going west this time old pal
And can't take you along

I'm headed over yonder
To the happy hunting grounds
Where life's sorrows cannot follow
And peace and joy abounds

I've hung up the well-worn saddle
And laid aside my gun
Farewell my pinto pony
Our hunting days are done

The mountains and the valleys
Shall look for me in vain
The pines and dancing waters
I shall never see again

A phantom horse shall guide me
On the oldest trail of all
This the path that all must follow
When we hark the final call

The unknown trail is waiting
In that place where myriads dwell
The land where none returneth
The journey there to tell

Voices long forgot are calling
Life's sunlight fading fast
Life's trails are but faint memories
Life's hopes and dreams have passed

I'll be waiting over yonder
Just across the great divide
By the campfire I'll be watching
Good bye old pal I RIDE.

I am not old.. she said
I am rare.

I am the standing ovation
At the end of the play.

I am the retrospective
Of my life as art

I am the hours
Connected like dots
Into good sense

I am the fullness of existing.

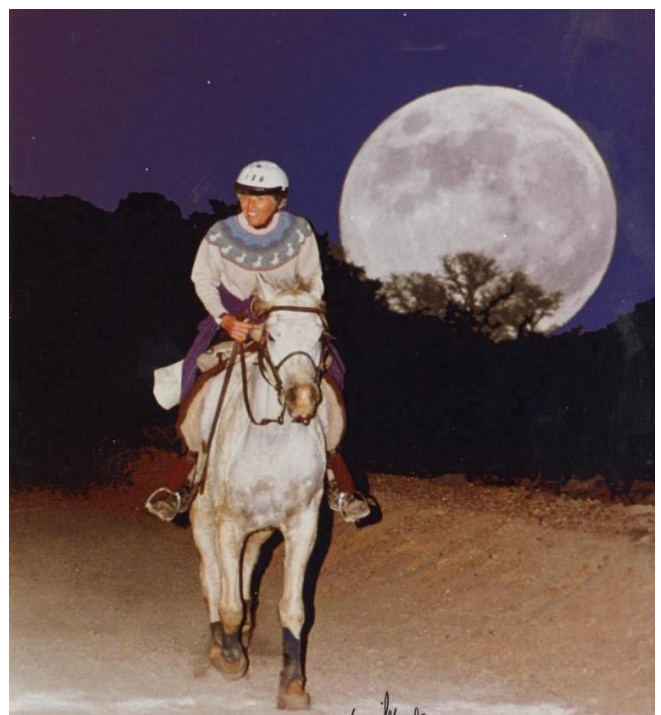
You think I am waiting to die..
But I am waiting to be found

I am a treasure.
I am a map.

And these wrinkles are
Imprints of my journey

Ask me anything.

~ Samantha Reynolds



First Aid on the trail, part 5

By E. Hiatt



Temperature extremes

OK, admit it... you've been there and done that. You were so involved in "The Ride" that you paid little attention to how the weather was affecting you. Sure, your horse was soaked, sprayed, blanketed, electrolyted, massaged, fed six different types of mashes and his vitals checked every 15 minutes... but what about you?

We humans can ignore our body's needs to the dangerous point. Before, during and after a ride, our focus is the horse, and sometimes, by the time we realize we "ain't feeling so good" we may be in "metabolic trouble" ourselves. This also applies to the person you are riding with, or the one you find sitting in the middle of the trail, not sure where they are or why...

Heat

There are three different heat ailments we need to pay attention to. They escalate in this order: Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke.

Heat Cramps are muscular pains and spasms that can be easily confused with being sore and tired. The loss of fluids and salt from exertion are generally the cause. You are dehydrated and your electrolytes are getting out of whack. Your best bet is to hydrate with some kind of drink with salt, such as Gatorade. Someone once told me Gatorade tastes like the best drink in the world when you need it, and like sweat when you don't... I find that to be totally true!



Heat exhaustion is more serious than heat cramps. It often happens when you exercise heavily in a warm, humid place and you lose fluids through heavy sweating. Fluid loss causes blood flow to decrease in the vital organs, including your brain. (Reminder: you need your brain!). The usual signs and symptoms are pale and moist skin, heavy sweating, dilated pupils, headache, nausea, dizziness and vomiting. If you find yourself in this state and your brain is still with you, stop what you are doing, go to a cool/shady place, drink fluids with electrolytes, take some clothes off and lay down if you feel dizzy. Ask for help... it's OK!

Heat stroke is life threatening. Your temperature control system (which controls sweating to cool the body) literally throws it's hands up in the air and quits on you. Your body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly. Heat stroke requires medical attention and 911 should be called! The common signs and symptoms are hot, red skin, constricted pupils, very high body

temperature, and IF conscious, the victim will be confused. While waiting for help, cool the person as quickly as possible. Use water, ice packs, fans... *anything* you have handy to bring the temperature down. Do not give any fluids by mouth, because they may not be able to swallow, and they could choke.

Oh, and by the way.... never, ever, ever leave your pets in the car in the sun! they can suffer from heat stroke too.

Cold

Low temperatures, high winds and humidity are not rare during a ride, and if you are not careful, you, or someone you know can suffer a cold emergency. There are some factors that increase your risk and harmful effects of cold: being very young or old, wearing wet clothing, having wounds or fractures, smoking, drinking alcohol, fatigue, emotional stress, and certain diseases and medications.

People exposed to severe cold can suffer from hypothermia or frostbite.

Hypothermia can cause shivering, dizziness, numbness, confusion, weakness, impaired judgment, impaired vision and drowsiness. Basically, you can go from shivering to not caring about being cold to loss of consciousness and to death in a relatively short period of time.

If you get so cold you can't feel your fingers or toes and your snot is turning into icicles, you may want to stop what you are doing and try to warm yourself up... same goes for your riding partner or the rider you find standing around, shivering and disoriented. Sometimes that's easier said than done, but getting out of the wind, adding some dry layers to your clothes, or even using your horse's saddle pad to keep you warm can help. If you have something warm to drink and are able to swallow, small sips are good.



Frost bite happens when ice crystals form in body tissues, usually the nose, ears, chin, cheeks, fingers, or toes. If it's frozen, leave it frozen until you have a place to warm up and stay warm... it's much harder on your body if your frozen part is thawed and then re-frozen.

The skin goes from slightly flushed to white or gray and progresses to grayish blue. The process is painful when it begins, but eventually the frostbitten part feels cold and numb. Gangrene may result from the loss of blood

supply to the area if not treated.

Treatment is to get the victim to a warm place and put the frozen part in warm (not hot) water. Be very gentle, don't rub or massage the frostbitten part. Yes, it's going to hurt like the dickens. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Both heat and cold emergencies can be avoided with some planning and common sense, but if you find yourself or someone in these circumstances, knowing that you can do something about it is very comforting.

A bit of history about the Pony Express

Submitted by Julie Suhr

Saddle bag mail pouches were never in use on the Pony Express system because of their unwieldiness. The normal large saddle bags could not be attached to a saddle efficiently and would cause much delay when switching from an exhausted horse to a fresh horse at a Pony Express station. In 1860, the Pony Express developed a fast mail delivery system using a special saddle mail bag cover called a *mochila* (which means backpack in Spanish) that made the Pony Express unique. The cover, which had four hard leather boxes to carry the mail, was transferred quickly and efficiently, usually in less than two minutes. If a horse was injured on the way from one station to another and not capable of further traveling, a rider would simply remove the cover with its mail from the injured horse and walk to the next station, where he would throw the cover on a new horse. The leather blanket cover was designed by Pony Express rider Jay G. Kelley.

The *mochila* also had four pockets, called *cantinas*, that were lockable with a type of small padlock and could only be unlocked by authorized people. Two *cantinas* were in front of the rider's legs and two were behind the rider's thighs. Documents to be transported in the *cantinas* would first be covered with oiled silk to protect them from water and sweat. This mail service was very expensive (between one and five dollars per half-ounce, an astronomical amount that only businesses could afford).



Most Pony Express saddles and *mochilas* were made by Israel Landis' shop in St. Joseph, Missouri. Israel made the entire saddle about one-third the weight of the ordinary Western saddle. The specially designed saddle with its mochila weighed less than 13 pounds. The saddles and *mochilas* were standardized so they would work from one horse to another. When full of mail and telegrams, the *mochila* weighed about 20 pounds. The rider would also carry a canteen of water, a gun and a small Bible that included the solemn Pony Express loyalty oath*.

No authentic Pony Express *mochilas* have survived. Replicas have been made for demonstrations such as Wild West performances and modern-day reenactments.

** "I, _____ do hereby swear, before the Great and Living God, that during my engagement, and while I am an employee of Russell, Majors & Waddell, that I will, under no circumstances, use profane language; that I will drink no intoxicating liquors; that I will not quarrel or fight with any other employee of the firm, and that in every respect I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties, and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my employers. So help me God.*



Original painting of a Pony Express rider... and the current Tevis buckle. Notice any similarities?



THE GRATEFUL PAGE *Did you know that in psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness? Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships... so even if it's hard sometimes, remember to be thankful for something every day!*

I'm so grateful for our resilient family of endurance riders; for the horses who teach me how to do, think, and feel better with their clarity, balance, and grace; and my human kids for whom I have a deep regard and in whom I trust completely.

[Julia Zanone Orth](#)

I am thankful for the quiet time that I have had that allows me to be calm and focus on what is important. [Pat Mc Andrews](#)

I am grateful for family, good friends, horses, a roof over my head, a warm bed and food on the table. I am thankful for health, hope, love and joy, which so often I take for granted, and God, who makes it all happen. [Elisabet Hiatt](#)

I am so thankful for my friends and family who make every day worth living, and that's of course especially my horses, whether I ride them or not, they relax and bring me joy. And this year I am exceedingly thankful for essential workers of all types, out there every day risking their health everyday doing their best to keep our infrastructure going and us healthy. [Janice Frazier](#)

I am thankful for public lands...for the generous people who donate them, for the fundraising that keeps them going, and for the visionaries in government who recognize their value to all of us. [Barbara White](#)

I'm thankful that I have a friend that I can call when I'm stuck by the side of the road with a broken horse trailer when I'm on my way to Davis for the removal of my horse's cancerous tumor. I'm thankful for her help, I'm thankful for my horse's recovery and I'm thankful for all the glorious hours that we've spent exploring our beautiful California. [Alicia Stanton](#)

I am thankful for my health which enables me to enjoy my family, friends and to ride my horse. I am thankful that I found competitive trail and endurance riding and was able to compete in so many memorable rides. [Judy Etheridge](#)

I am thankful to live in a democracy. [Judith Ogus](#)

Well the first thing that comes to mind and is also on the top of my list is having a horse and easy access to a park. I live in a small house with my husband (we are both in the elderly age group) my daughter, her husband and two grandchildren. If one of us gets sick we all get sick. So we stay at home. We recognized the risk early on. My daughter and son in law do the shopping once every two weeks. If we haven't got an item it goes on the list and we do without. I've spent more time organizing my garden than in any year ever - I'm thankful for that. We don't go out except to walk the dog - I'm thankful for that. My great escape from the confinement is the ranch, being with Bella, life would be very different if I did not have a horse to take me away into the hills - I'm very thankful for that ! [Elaine Elbizri](#)

Trea\$urer'\$ report:
 General Account Balance:
 \$9,906.36
 Trails account Balance:
 \$1,074.87

Your membership dues are pretty much the only source of income for the club, especially this year, since we had to cancel the Quicksilver Ride. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please consider doing that sooner rather than later! Thank you!

Birthdays!!

DECEMBER

Ruth Waltenspiel - 1st
 Lisa Schneider - 11th
 Larrisa Voight -21st



+++++

Quicksilver Endurance November Board Meeting Minutes

The board met via Zoom November 18th at 7:05pm. Present were Jill, Lori, Mary Ben, Shannon and Sarah Mariah. The Committee reports weren't noteworthy as there is not much happening due to COVID. On the topic of new business, we discussed the mailing of the Quips. Several years ago the Board added a \$10 Fee for those that wanted a printed version of the Quips mailed to their homes. The fee no longer covers the cost of printing and mailing these, and does not take into account the time and effort to print and mail these. The Board therefore strongly encourages members to access the Quips electronically. If after reading this you determine that you still really want a printed version mailed to you, please reach out to Elisabet and the Club President to make your wish known and arrange for the payment of fees.

We discussed membership renewal reminders and decided to offer a prize randomly given to one member who renews before December first. Shannon will put it on Facebook and Jill will send out an email. The awards banquet will be virtual this year and in lieu of our club awards we will be more fun in nature, dubbed "The Awards of Dubious distinction". If you have a nominee, please email Jill. The date for the event will be February 17th at 7pm. We will be mailing what were supposed to be our ride awards to members along with a small book of members and the pictures they have submitted put together by Lori. Lastly it was decided that our next meeting will be the 3rd Wednesday in December at 7pm, again on Zoom. Meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm --- Shannon.

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

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

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) 425-5960**

Take note... Final reminder!! The old Yahoo group no longer exists. Please make sure you change your email address for QuickSilver to: quicksilver-endurance-riders@googlegroups.com

Update from David De La Rosa: I'm thankful I paid for extra fire insurance two weeks before the fire and 1 day before the quake because I lost both homes, but I'm rebuilding with better views. Unfortunately, the CDF told me I had done such a great job preparing for fire that my home was safe... so I didn't take anything except my horses, dog, 1 guitar and a pair of sweats! I thought I was coming right back home. I'll be moving back asap in a Trailer and rebuilding.

Biggest pain to me is that the mountain bikers have no respect and have been trespassing, so I'm going to do what is necessary to protect my land and assets. Thinking of getting another bigger meaner dog. Two should give them reason to run.

People in Santa Cruz have gotten so bad I'm considering moving... but I'll take time to decide.

People in Hollister are normal horse people. Very polite, no hippies. :-)

GOD Bless You,

David

**Twenty Mule Team 35, 65 and 100 Mile
AERC Endurance Ride
15 Mile Introductory Ride**

**Entry Form
Saturday, February 27, 2021**

Ride Subject to Change Due to Covid Protocols

35 Mile

100 Mile

\$110.00 Discounted Entry

\$205.00 Discounted Entry

\$145.00 after 2/15/21 postmark

\$240.00 after 2/15/21 postmark

65 Mile

15 Mile Introductory

\$160.00 Discounted Entry

\$50.00 Discounted Entry

\$195.00 after 2/15/21 postmark

\$70.00 after 2/15/21 postmark

\$_____

Division: Junior FWT (up to 160 lbs) LWT (161-186 lbs) MWT (185-210 lbs) HWT (211lbs and up)

(Weight is with tack)

AERC Non-Member Fee \$15.00 (Applies to all rides except Introductory Ride)

\$_____

Junior Riders all rides (except Introductory Ride) \$100.00

\$_____

Additional meal tickets (one meal ticket included per entry that can be used for Sun Breakfast) \$20 each

\$_____

Ride Managers discount -\$20.00 (ride managing in 2021 _____) Does **Not** apply to 15 Mile

\$ - _____

Stall (\$30.00) **per night:** How many nights: _____ 20 stalls available first come first served

\$_____

Camp/Stall Clean Up (you will need to make one pile - **manure only**) \$10.00

\$_____

Team: Yes No (No fee charged, enter at ride office)

Total enclosed: (Checks will not be cashed until after the ride)

\$ _____

Refund policy: Full refund for cancellations prior to 2/22/21 For cancellations after 2/22/21 and for horses not passing the pre-ride exam, a **\$50.00 ride management fee will be withheld. No shows receive no refund.**

Rider Name _____ Region _____ AERC # _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Horse Name _____ Horse AERC # _____

Horse owner name and address _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Make checks payable to **Brian Reeves**
Mail prior to 2/15/21
mail entry to:
Brian Reeves 32883 Puma Ln. Squaw Valley CA 93675
For more information, call (559) 332-9229 or (559) 903-2811

email: reevesranch@hotmail.com

Release must be signed - Please contact Brian for more information!

Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride

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 _____

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: Maryben Stover, 1299 Sandra Drive, San Jose, CA 95125-3535

THANK YOU!!

