

Quicksilver Quips

November 2020

What's inside

President's message
Lori and Fargo's adventures
Camping at Wright's lake
Horse health article
Sandy Holder's babies
Beginner safe horse?
Does my horse need a blanket?
Sometimes you are the Wolf
Birthdays
Meeting minutes
Ads & notices
A note from Barbara McCrary
Sheri Sedam tribute
Funnies & 20 Mule team entry
Join the club/renew

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President's message

On Oct 21 we held another virtual club meeting via Zoom. As our speaker Karen Hassan was sidelined with a Veterinary emergency, we ended up devoting the bulk of the meeting to sharing some of the new things we have been doing with our horses, since not many of us are able to get out to the few rides that are happening. One of the most common themes was members taking steps to improve their horsemanship and equitation by taking riding lessons. It was good reminder that no matter where we are in our journey with horses, there is always more to learn.

As I mentioned in our last issue of the Quips, we will not be holding our annual awards banquet this year and will be creating some sort of virtual event to substitute for this annual gathering. As we have not had many folks who have been able to go to rides this year I would like to propose a special class of awards that we can call the 2020 Awards of Dubious Distinction - or the 'ADDs'. Full disclosure: this idea is directly pilfered from the Coe Park Mounted Assistance Unit's annual meeting where the 'Awards of Dubious Merit' are presented.

The way that you nominate a club member for a 'ADD' is send me an email with ADD in the title, and include a brief story about an incident that inspires you to nominate an individual and a proposed 'prize' that represents the incident. By way of example - we might choose to nominated my horse Sophie for what we could call the Halter Houdini Award, for the day that she got untied form the trailer twice and completely out of her halter on one of these instances only to go blissfully trotting off across the Harvey Bear Parking lot on her own. The 'prize' might be a magicians wand (or a busted halter!) and we can present these at the virtual banquet either by posting a picture or by sending a very inexpensive, dollar store style, trinket to the winner. I welcome your ideas and look forward to hearing from you.

Be safe, be well, and have fun out there-

Jill

Lori Oleson and Fargo's adventures...

2020 has been a crazy year, to say the least. COVID-19 hits early spring and shuts down everything. The whole world has been turned upside down because of it.

At the end of May, I added RC Fargo to my family of horses. Unfortunately, just a few weeks later, I lost my wonderful Rosie to thickening of the small intestinal wall (could have been cancer) and a severe abdominal infection. She was 21 years young, staying strong and sound to the end. The plan was to ride her in another 50 this year in order to have 15 seasons of 50 miles or more. She was ready to go in the spring, but because of COVID-19, there were no rides to attend. I had her for the entire 21 years of her life and she completed 3,130 miles over 14 seasons.

I'm so grateful to have Fargo. In July, things started to open up, at least in Nevada. We were fortunate to get into the Tahoe Rim Ride at Spooner Summit, on the east side of the lake. The scenery and views were beautiful. NASTR sponsored the ride with management providing a well-marked, challenging trail. Fargo and I finished 7th with a bit under 8 hours of riding time.

Next up was the Redwood Ride, just north of Eureka. It was quite a drive, so Fargo and I drove up on Thursday in order to relax and enjoy the day on Friday. What a nice day we had, pre-riding some of the trail, playing in the river next to camp, picking blackberries and visiting with people. The ride was well marked, excellent footing for most of the day and was held all in forest. It did get hot and humid, but not as bad as weather at home. Some of the trees we rode past were upward of 2,000 years old! They were quite impressive. We finished 9th and Fargo felt great at the end of the day.

To finish off the 2020 season, Fargo and I headed back to Nevada for the Red Rock Rumble in mid-October. We had been all ready for Virginia City 100, but air quality/fires caused the ride to cancel. I wanted to increase Fargo's mileage, so we opted for the 75. It was a good decision, rather than attempting the 100 at Red Rock because this ride was HARD!!. Most of the footing was good, but there was a lot of elevation change. Our ride time was 11:35, longer than I expected. Fargo and I were okay but tired. We finished first and he looked good the next morning. He looked good enough to win BC.



Fargo is growing up and I look forward to a more normal 2021 ride season. I guess we will all have to wait and see what happens. **Lori**

Camping at Wrights Lake

by Carolyn Tucker & E. Hiatt

Carolyn spent some lovely days camping with her horse at Wrights Lake. As she puts it:

"Spent some days camping in the beautiful high Sierras with Pat McAndrews, Linda Heywood, and Monterey Bay Equestrian club. Wonderful time, Good trails, Nice Weather, Catered meals and big screen movie every night!! Lots a Fun!



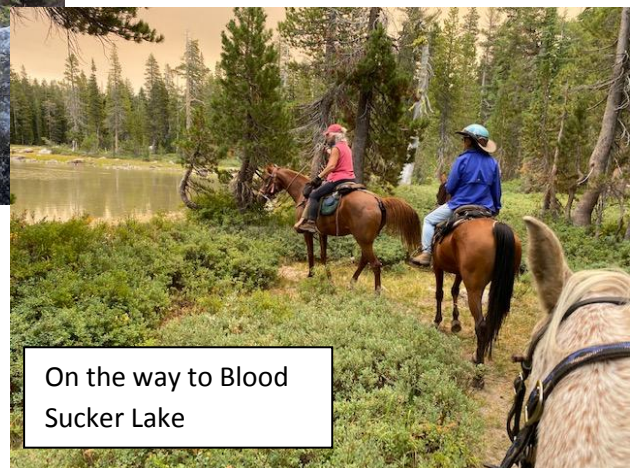
Camping group



Wright's Lake

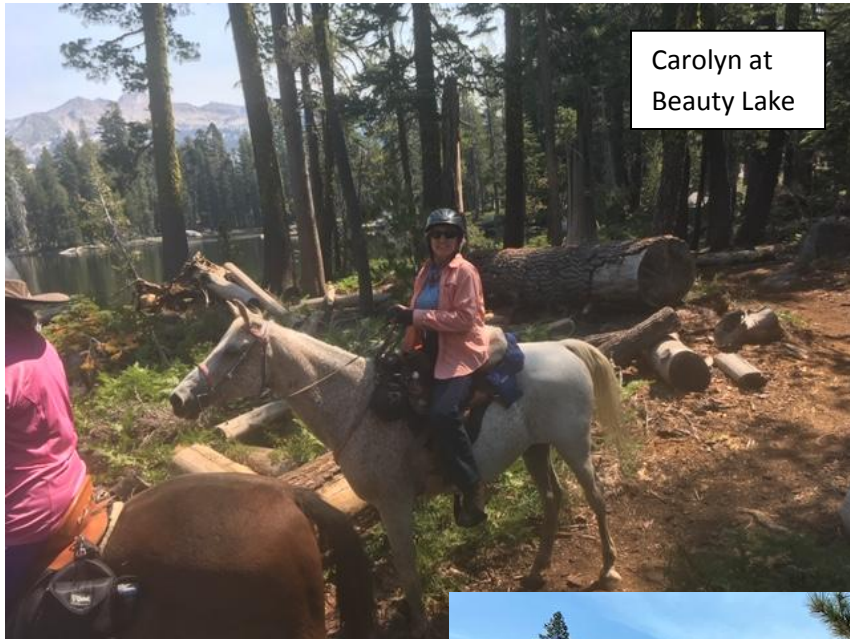
You can ride 1-8 hours on the surrounding mostly well marked trails. Camp is in a big meadow with trees, water & restrooms."

The camp is at 7,000 feet elevation and situated in the timber belt, close to the lake shore, looking up at the majestic rocky peaks of the Sierra Nevadas, west of Lake Tahoe and Desolation Wilderness. The area is well-known for its hiking, wildflowers and birding.



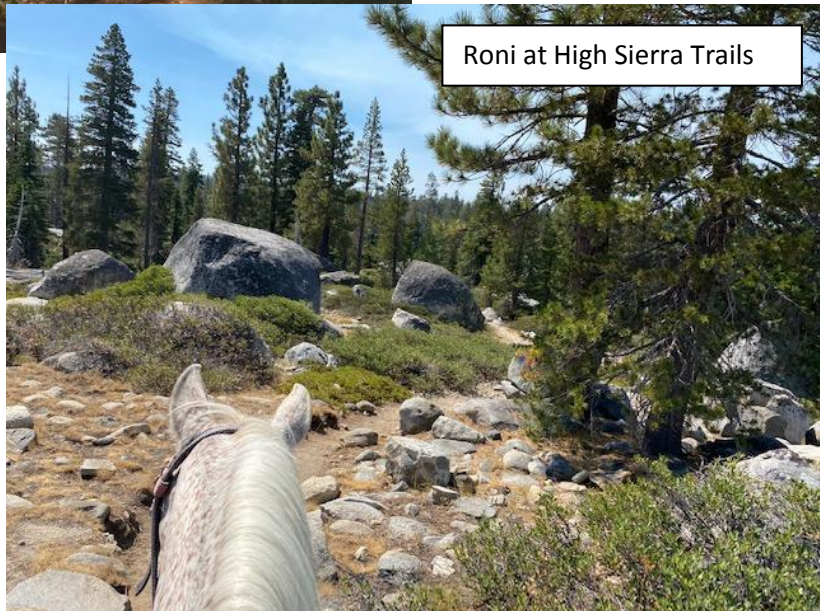
On the way to Blood Sucker Lake

It can be reached via Wrights Road off U.S. Route 50 and the Ice House Road. It provides hiking access to the western portions of the Desolation Wilderness via the Twin Lakes trailhead. Cost is \$20.00 per night.



Carolyn at Beauty Lake

The area is now closed for the season, but will re-open on 5/28/2021



Roni at High Sierra Trails



High Sierra Lake

For more information and reservations information, visit:

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/251578>

From The Horse Magazine:

Q: I've always been taught to not ride a horse right after it's been fed. However, I have a mare who has gastric ulcers, and my veterinarian recommended that I feed her prior to riding (specifically, alfalfa). So which is it—feed or don't feed before riding?

A: While it's true that it is typically best to avoid feeding horses concentrates (especially those high in starch) within a couple of hours of riding due to the effect this can have on available metabolites during exercise, allowing access to forage has a number of benefits. Remember horses are designed to eat fibrous plant material almost constantly, while at the same time traveling considerable distances.

As a result of this constant forage consumption, horses have evolved to secrete gastric acid into their stomachs on a continuous basis. Acid is secreted whether they are eating or not and is needed to activate enzymes involved in protein digestion. The act of chewing causes the release of saliva, which contains sodium bicarbonate and calcium—both of which act to buffer stomach acid. It's a brilliant system, because the constantly secreted stomach acid is buffered by the continuous release of saliva from chewing.

But what happens when, instead of continuous access to forage, we meal-feed our horses? The stomach acid is secreted as always, but there is no longer a steady saliva supply. That's because most horses finish their allotted hay meal in at most a couple of hours unless eating out of a slow feeder. This leaves the stomach environment to become increasingly acidic and raises ulcer risk.

If we happen to come and ride our horses at this time, not only is there a more acidic environment in the stomach, but there's also less fiber to prevent movement of stomach fluid. The stomach is never completely full, and the fluid portion of the stomach contents sits at the bottom of the stomach with the larger feed particles such as chewed hay floating on top, forming a sort of mat. This mat helps to prevent the stomach acid from sloshing around. The mat is particularly important because the area of the upper stomach, above the level of the stomach acid, is the most at risk of ulcers and has very little protecting it other than this mat suppressing acid movement.

The glandular cells in the lower two thirds of the stomach that secrete acid also secrete mucin and bicarbonate, so they are protected (note that ulcers can still occur here but they are less common). But the cells of the upper squamous portion don't secrete acid and therefore have very little protection. They're not designed to come in to contact with stomach acid. As we ride the stomach acid sloshes about and—if there is not a good



fibrous mat—it will come into contact with those unprotected squamous cells, leading to an increased risk of ulceration.

If it has been several hours since your horse last had access to hay or other forage, I recommend offering some hay prior to riding. Researchers have showed that feeding small amounts of hay or grazing prior to exercise doesn't negatively impact performance. If you have a choice in hay available, I recommend offering access to alfalfa before exercise. The reason for this is that studies have found that alfalfa's high calcium and protein content have additional buffering capacity, which researchers believe help further reduce ulcer risk over other forms of hay.

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Sandy Holder is the proud momma of a lovely filly, Midnight Sand WR - Sand Victor by Burning Sand x Midnight Diva WSF, a purebred Arabian. The other baby (a rescue) is Prada. Her dam is Mora (Lusitano) and sire is Andalusian.





**“But this horse was advertised as beginner safe!”**

If you spend any time on horse message boards or social media, you’ve read stories about horses that were sold to someone as “beginner safe” and then, within a few months, started offloading their riders regularly, became hard to handle, stopped doing things they used to do peacefully, etc. Frequently the new owner posts

to complain that the previous owner must have drugged the horse, because they don’t understand any other way that the calm, mellow “packer” they tried out has now turned into a nightmare.

I’m not going to say that the drugging of sale horses doesn’t go on, but it is more rare than all the stories would have you believe. But, generally, this is what happens when a very mellow calm pony (or any other kind of horse!) is sold to a beginner home and things don’t go well — and the only drugs involved are the painkillers the New Owner ends up needing to take!

**1. New Owner changes the horse’s entire lifestyle.** He was living in a pasture in Wyoming, and now he’s living in a box stall in Los Angeles. He goes from eating unlimited quantities of grass and plentiful hay to the typical boarding barn’s 2 or 3 flakes a day. Then, when he starts to lose weight, New Owner compensates for the lack of hay by adding more and more grain. Doesn’t really matter what kind – oats, corn, sweet feed, even senior feed can and will crank up a horse’s energy level. Also, lots of grain and not enough quality forage combined with stall life can cause ulcers to flare up.

**2. Old Owner had horse on a serious exercise regimen.** The horse got ridden most days, hard enough to work up a sweat. As a result, anyone could hop on him with a lead rope and pony four more without issue. New Owner doesn’t really want to pay for a groom or exercise rider and thinks he can just ride the horse himself, but he misses Wednesday because of Lisa’s birthday party and Thursday because he has to work late, and Sunday because his buddy comes to town unexpectedly. And so on... Because the horse is boarded, the horse stands in a 12 x 12 box getting progressively more irritated.

**3. New Owner comes out to ride.** The horse doesn’t want to pick up his foot, so after a struggle, New Owner decides that hoof does not really need to be picked. The horse starts to get pushy to lead, because he’s been in the stall for 2 days and he’s eager to move. New Owner permits the pushiness; the horse stops leading nicely and starts circling around New Owner or dragging him around like a kite. New Owner goes to tack up the horse and cranks up the girth tight all at once,



something Old Owner, who was more experienced, knew better than to do. Horse flies backwards and breaks the cross ties. Now New Owner starts to become fearful of the horse. New Owner goes to get him out of the stall and the horse swings his butt to New Owner and threatens him. New Owner gives up and leaves and the horse sits in the stall yet another day.

4. When New Owner finally does manage to get the horse out for a ride, New Owner doesn't understand why the horse has become pushy and resistant. New Owner doesn't start by turning the horse out or longeing; he just hops right on. Maybe he pokes the horse in the side good and hard with his toe as he mounts, or kicks him in the butt accidentally with his right leg, either of which can lead to a wreck before the ride has even begun. If he gets on successfully, the horse is a whoooooole lot more horse under saddle than he was when he tried him out, due to the confinement and diet changes. New Owner doesn't call Old Owner yet. Nor does New Owner consult with a competent trainer in his discipline. New Owner allows himself to get advice from everyone he doesn't have to pay, including the boarding barn's official busybody who likes to give everybody unsolicited training advice, a couple of Natural Horsemanship followers who think all of these issues can be solved by playing games and, of course, everybody on his Facebook. The end result is that New Owner buys a \$150 bit and \$300 worth of training videos.



5. But none of that helps. In fact, the \$150 bit leads to a new behavior – rearing! Now New Owner is good and scared but not willing to quit just yet. He is going to ride that horse. The horse, on his part, can sense New Owner's fear which of course scares him (Horses are not capable of perceiving that they are what's scaring you. Horses feel your fear and perceive that perhaps there is a mountain lion nearby which you have seen and they have not – so it might be a good idea to freak out and/or run like hell to get away from it). The behavior gets worse and worse until New Owner, quite predictably, gets dumped and gets injured – possibly seriously.

6. New Owner, from his hospital bed, writes vitriolic posts all over Facebook about the sleazy folks who sold him a horse that was not beginner safe and lied about it and probably drugged it. Old Owner fights back, pointing out that his 6 year old kid showed the horse and was fine. Everybody else makes popcorn and watches the drama unfold. Bonus points if everybody lawyers up. Meanwhile, the poor horse gets sent to slaughter by New Owner's angry spouse.



I'm not even making any of that up, although I did combine elements of different situations to protect the guilty. It's a scenario that gets played out time and time again.



So now, let's look at a constructive direction to go with this:

### **How do I keep my beginner safe horse beginner safe?**

Here's your answer:

**1.** The vast majority of calories should come from forage (grass, hay or hay pellets).



**2.** Never ever let him sit in a stall for 24 hours. Think about it – would you like to be locked in your bathroom for 24 hours? It's just not fair. If you can't get the barn you're at to turn your horse out, you need to make arrangements to have him ridden or ponied daily. Yes, you may have to pay for that. The ideal is pasture life but I know it's just not an option everywhere. Just do the best you can and be fair to the horse.

**3.** Beginner horses should be “tuned up” by a competent, experienced rider at least twice a month, if not more often. Lesson barns know that they have to have their advanced students, or the trainer, ride the school horses periodically in order to fix beginner-created habits like stopping at the gate, refusing to take a canter lead, and cutting the corners of the arenas. Learn from this.

**4.** A bigger bit in beginner hands solves nothing and creates a variety of dangerous behaviors. Avoid any solution that involves a thinner bit, a bit with a twisted mouth, or one with longer shanks/more leverage.



**5.** Learn the difference between abuse and discipline. None of us wants to be the idiot beating his horse – but that doesn't mean discipline is always wrong. If your horse's ground manners are melting down and he does not do things he used to do (like picking up feet, getting into the horse trailer, bridling) or has started doing things he didn't used to do (like kicking at you, biting, trying to smush you against the wall in the stall), please get help from a competent trainer. It may be that your body language is all wrong, but it also may be that you've established yourself as, well, a doormat and need to learn when it is appropriate to re-establish yourself as the boss. This involves a lot of timing, correct body language and feel – none of which you can learn from your friends on Facebook or a training video. You need an actual trainer or other very experienced horseperson to work with you, hands-on and in-person.

### **6. TAKE LESSONS.**

Truer words were never spoken!

The better you ride, the better horses will behave for you.



7. Call the vet and make sure the horse is not simply trying to tell you he has a pain issue. Horses can't exactly text you and say "hey, dude, my back hurts." They will simply resort to things like biting you when you tighten the girth or bucking when asked to canter in a desperate attempt to convey the message.

8. If you've changed a lot about the horse's lifestyle, try to change it back and see if that fixes the problem. Find a barn where

the horse can be pasture boarded, for example, instead of stall kept. If you started feeding a lot of grain, replace it with hay pellets.

9. Don't keep a horse you are terrified of. If the behaviors are truly scary or you're hitting the dirt regularly – the horse is just not for you. You're not in the running for the PRCA bronc riding and no one cares if you look cool or not. It's probably more important to remain uninjured and able to, like, work and pay your mortgage, right? Turn the horse that is way too much for you over to a competent trainer to sell. Yes, this may cost you some money up front but it's the right thing to do and once he's sold, you are free to buy a more appropriate horse.

10. Increase your odds of not having these problems in the first place by (a) buying a horse who is regularly ridden by beginners, like a lesson horse; and (b) buying a horse that is a lot older than the one you think you need and bear in mind that appearance should be your LAST concern when shopping for a beginner horse.

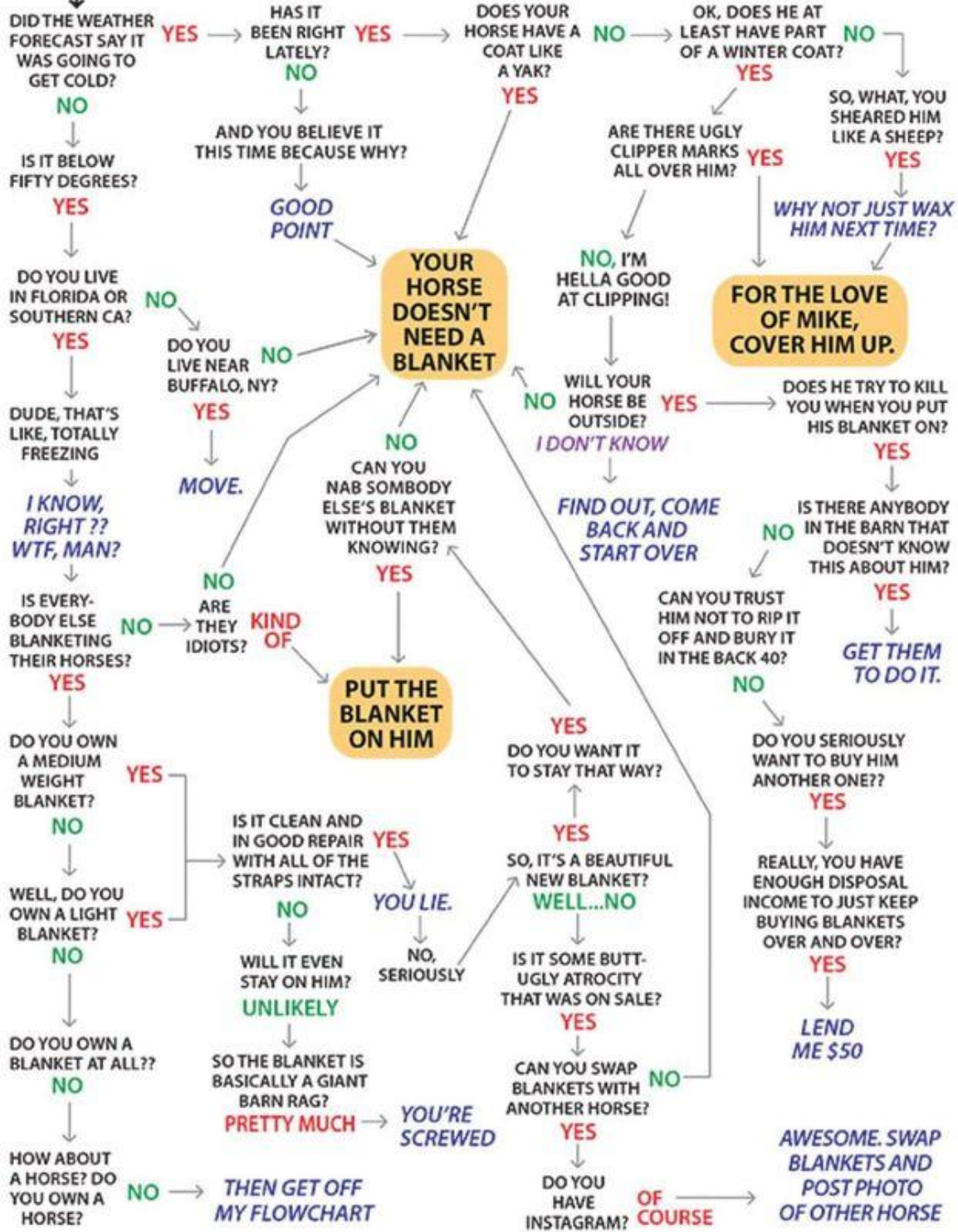
But he's so PRETTY! And they'll let me make payments! Keep in mind that a lot of sellers don't know how a horse will behave with a beginner because they simply have not ever had a beginner ride the horse long-term. So they weren't maliciously trying to mislead you – they didn't know. The world is absolutely packed full of horses that ride beautifully for experienced riders and turn into utter bronzes within 2 weeks of being ridden by beginners who bounce on their backs or have inconsistent hands. Some horses are not very tolerant! Call the seller! Have them come out and ride the horse to see if they can figure out what's going on. Many sellers will take a horse back or help you sell it – give them a chance, don't assume every seller is a sleazy used-horse salesman who has taken your cash and run with it and couldn't care less what happens to the horse. (Yes, some are – but like I say, give them a chance).

And remember, if you want to buy a horse that will act the same every single ride and never act up with anybody, you can buy them on E-bay... they are usually made of plastic or stuffed!



**START HERE**

# How we REALLY decide if our horse needs a blanket...



## ***Sometimes you are the wolf...***

***By Julie Suhr***

Having been sheltered in place for about eight months now I have had a lot of time to reflect on life and all of its ramifications. I was brought up in the country where animals were as much a part of my life as my siblings. Having nearly a century behind me now I have zeroed in on some thoughts that I want to share. I do not expect everyone to agree with me but maybe some will.

So here goes. As with most animal lovers, we like to brag about how long our animals lived. It signifies we cared for them well with affection, probably good veterinarian care and tears as they moved ahead. It was sort of patting ourselves on the back. While maybe we thought extending an animal life that bore daily pain that could not be corrected a sign of great love on our part, in reality not the best choice for the animal.

I figure my wake up call came much later in life than it should have. My Buddy horse was thirty-seven years old, fit, sound and vigorous where a run across the pasture with his wispy white mane flying high off his neck was pure delight for me. There were just a couple of problems that were troubling. He was deaf. He was blind in one eye and cataracts in the other. As a result I would see him startle in fright when he felt something he could not identify. He could sense so much he could neither hear nor see. The vibrations of a truck coming up the driveway, a stable mate running by, a low flying plane would cause this prey animal to circle in his paddock in confusion as he tried to zero in on the location and reason for a disturbance he could perceive but not see or hear.

My awakening came when I read an article by Dr. John Crandell which I quote below with his permission.

“Lingering is not a natural state for horses. Wild herds always appear vigorous because nature provides them with an exit on the earliest loss of soundness and vitality. When we remove that element from their existence by holding them in domesticity, we owe them the honor of making our judgments as similar to their nature and ethos as possible. We serve them best by “taking the role of the wolf” when being their FULLY ACTIVE partner is no longer possible, indeed it should be considered the ultimate term of the partnership.

I want to be able to say that my horses had an average level of happiness in their total lives not much worse than those wild horses. I don't want to string on a lot of melancholy days in the end that only pull that average level of happiness in their lives down. When we take on the responsibility of horse ownership, we also take on the responsibility to be the wolf.”

I decided long ago that with the time I had I would rescue animals that maybe needed a little more from life than they had been dealt so far. One dog in particular who had been chained up outside for eight years came to me by way of the Senior Dog Rescue in Aptos, CA. He had to learn that my reached out hand was meant to stroke, not to punish. The first six months with me, this dog who never once barked which I assume is the result of some clicker training, finally learned how to wag a tail and accompany me joyously to the barn. But in the back of my mind I did not feel things were really right with him. A thorough exam by my small animal veterinarian proved that indeed I was correct. He had advanced cancer and I was told “he has about a month.” I said “no, he has twenty-four hours.” I would play John Crandell's wolf. My veterinarian who makes house calls came the next morning and it was all over very quickly. I justified my decision by convincing myself it was an act of compassion on my part. The personal pain and sorrow of losing a treasured animal cannot compare with the pain and suffering of the animal by keeping the wolf away too long. Sometimes there is a better choice.

# Birthdays!!

## OCTOBER

Debbie Boscoe - 14th (we missed it... retroactive good wishes!)

## NOVEMBER

Dewayne Brown - 5th  
Vivian Beebe - 8th

## DECEMBER

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



+++++

### Quicksilver Endurance October Meeting Minutes

10/21 at 7pm via Zoom

In attendance: Jill, Lori, Elisabet, Jerry W, Maryben, Shannon, Janet, Margaret, Elaine, Val and Brian.

Committee reports:

Treasurer: Trilby was not present but Lori reported there was \$10,029 in main account and \$1074 in trails.

Goodwill: Maryben reports that there was not much to report.

Technical: Barbara is still unavailable as she lost her home in the fire but Elisabet has stepped in temporarily and is doing a great job with the Quips. She reports we have lots of stories for November!

Val and Brian will include an entry form for 20 Mule team!

Next on the agenda everyone reported what fun things they had been doing with their horses. Looks like horses are a good COVID plan!

Old business:

We discussed our virtual banquet for the club. We still need someone to make a yearbook or calendar (volunteers choice). With that the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

### Books by Lori Oleson ---

**Enduring Memories and Endurance... Years Gone By** are available for sale.

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

### 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) 425-5860**

**Take note... guilty as charged...** I was reminded that the old Yahoo group no longer exists. Please make sure you change your email address for QuickSilver to: [quicksilver-endurance-riders@googlegroups.com](mailto:quicksilver-endurance-riders@googlegroups.com)  
If you didn't get the October Quips, please let me know and I will send it to you. Elisabet

### **A note from the McCrarys:**

For all who are wondering where...and how we are doing, here's a brief update: We were driven out of our home by a firestorm so terrifying that it's hard to describe. We lost everything except one John Deere Gator, my car, Lud's truck, our two horses (who now have new homes), and our dog. Sadly, we lost my beloved cat. This firestorm came in so fast and violently that we just got out in time.

We are now living in a 10 foot residential trailer parked at our sawmill site on the coast.

We drove up Last Chance Road, and up to Pescadero to see what was left of the Swanton Pacific trail. There is nothing left of a single mile...or even a single foot...of the 100 miles of trail. We couldn't even find part of the trail that we built between Bloomquist Flat (Vet #1) and the Butano Creek road, the one that dropped down to, and crossed Pescadero Creek and climbed up to our timber property, proceeding on to the Airstrip vet check. Last Chance Rd. is stripped of it's trees. It's so hard to relate to Swanton anymore.

We will be re-building our home, but it will take a long time. More later...

Barbara

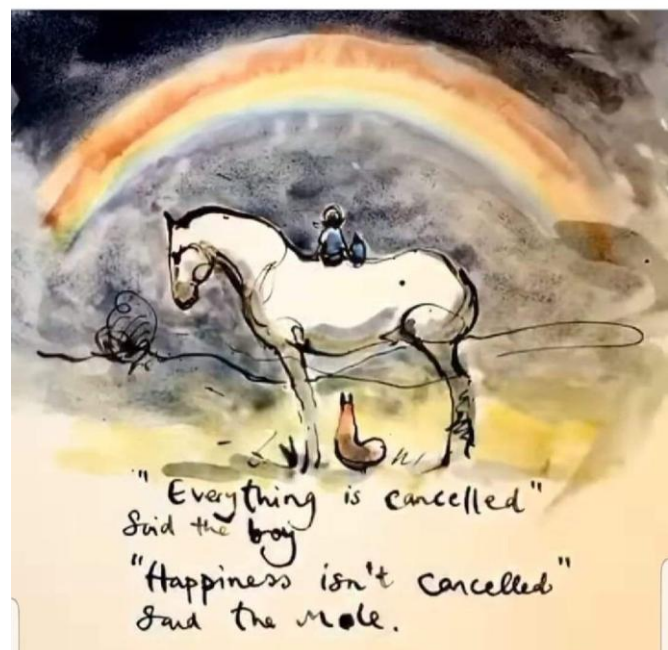
**Editor's note:** if you want to send Barbara and Lud a note, card, photos or anything else to cheer them up, their mailing address is **640 Swanton View Road, Davenport, CA 95017**. They are picking up their mail at the Post Office.

A note from Dick Carter regarding **Sheri Sedam**:

Sheri was a good friend. Among some of her accomplishments; she finished the Tevis on two of my horses and qualified for the Race of Champions.

She was only a short time member of the Quicksilver club. The time she was a member made a lifetime impression on her. She was a very adventurous and independent woman. "Can't" was not in her vocabulary. She loved her horses and horse friends. She moved to Calandro where she bought a small ranch. She spent much of her leisure time exploring the many beautiful trails of the area. Preparing to retire she sold her place and moved to Apache Junction Arizona.

She fought cancer for over a year knowing she was terminal. She never skipped a beat making every day an adventure; riding the historical trails and enjoying visiting with the wild horses. She refused to allow her illness to control her. Barely able to talk, blind in one eye, maxed out on painkillers, and slipping in and out of consciousness she managed to dictate her wishes. Her best friend Terry, while holding her hand, suggested to her it might be time for her to let go. She suggested that Shari close her eyes and picture riding Commit on her favorite part of the Tevis trail. Minutes later Shari joined Commit.



**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**

\$110.00 Discounted Entry

\$145.00 after 2/15/21 postmark

\_\_\_ **100 Mile**

\$205.00 Discounted Entry

\$240.00 after 2/15/21 postmark

\_\_\_\_\_ **65 Mile**

\$160.00 Discounted Entry

\$195.00 after 2/15/21 postmark

\_\_\_\_\_ **15 Mile Introductory**

\$50.00 Discounted Entry

\$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.**

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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 on next page

## **Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride Agreement and Release of Liability**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, in consideration of the acceptance of this entry hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate in the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride. I am aware that participating in these events involves the risk of injury to my person and property, involves being in remote areas for extended periods of time, far from communications, transportation, medical facilities; that these areas have many natural and man made hazards which ride management cannot anticipate, identify, modify, or eliminate, that accidents can happen to anyone at any time. I voluntarily accept all risk of personal injury (including death), and property damage arising from my attendance and participation in these events. As lawful consideration for being permitted to participate in these events, I hereby agree that I, my heirs, personal representatives, and assigns will not make a claim against or sue the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride, its employees, officers, directors, members, agents, or affiliated entities for any injury or damage arising from the negligence of other acts, however caused, of the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride, its employees, officers, directors, members, agents, contractors, members, employees, agents, contractors, guests, invitees, and affiliated entities from all actions, claims or demands, that from my participating in the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride. I agree that this release includes injury or damaged caused in whole or in part by negligence, active or passive, of the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride, AERC and its members, employees, landowners, agents, and contracting parties. I have carefully read this agreement. I understand that it is a complete release of liability and promise not to sue or make a claim. I am aware that it is a contract between myself and the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride, AERC.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(If a minor, under the age of 18, parent(s) must sign below)

## **Junior Indemnity Agreement and Release**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the parent or legal guardian of the following minor(s) who will be participating in the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride: \_\_\_\_\_ I am aware that participating in these events involves the risk of injury (or death) to person or property of these minors. I agree to maintain adequate insurance coverage for them. As Lawful Consideration for the participation of these minors in this event, I hereby agree that I will indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride, and its officers, directors, members, employees, agents, guests, invites, and contracting parties from any claim, demand, complaint or cause of action asserted by or on behalf of any of the minors for personal injury or property damage, however caused. This agreement extends to injuries to the minor caused in whole or in part by the negligence, active or passive of the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride, AERC, and its officers, directors, members, employees, agents, guests, invitees, or contracting parties. All juniors under the age of 16 must be sponsored and stay with their sponsors due to insurance and the hazardous nature of the trail. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I have carefully read this agreement. I understand that it is a binding contract between the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride, AERC, and me, and that it requires me to indemnify these entities against claims for injuries to the minor(s) listed above.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

February 27, 2021

**Accommodations:** The base camp is located at the **Desert Empire Fairgrounds in Ridgecrest, CA**. 520 S. Richmond Rd, Ridgecrest, CA 93555. The elevation is approximately 2,500 feet. Motels, restaurants, and grocery stores are available two miles from the fairgrounds. Although the weather is generally nice, you should be ready for cold or wet weather. It is cold at night, near freezing, but can be warm during the day. It can also be windy. Sunday **morning awards breakfast** can be purchased for \$20.00 per meal. One meal ticket is included with your entry. Wonderful Casa Carona is catering again and the food is fabulous. Plenty of water is available at base camp for horses and humans. Bring a hose. **You may pay a \$10.00 fee paid to ride management to have your camp cleaned up** or you should bring tools to clean your camp and stall. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. The fairgrounds does not allow glass containers of alcohol.

Friday and Saturday the Lumpia Lady Booth will be open to purchase lunch or dinner. Located in the building to the right of the ride office. Check at ride for hours.

**Saturday trails:** The trail consists of two loops for the 100; one loop for the 65, 35, and 15 mile rides, all beginning and ending at base camp. There are a few long gradual grades, and some rocks and sand. Pads are recommended for rocks which are primarily between Vet Checks 1 and 2 for the 65 and 100-mile rides. The trail will be well marked with plenty of ribbons, chalk and glowbars after dark. The introductory ride will be one 15-mile loop.

**Saturday starting time:** The ride will start at 6:00 for the 65 and 100 mile ride, at 7:30 am for the 35 mile ride and at 12:00 pm for the 15 mile fun ride.

**Awards:** There will be first place awards for the 35, 65 and 100 mile rides and completion awards for all who complete the ride. A Team Award will be awarded for teams of four who are competing in the same distance. Enter your team when you register for the ride. The 35, 65 and 100 mile rides will have an AERC Best Condition Award. The fun ride will have a horsemanship award. The 35 mile awards will be given out at the Saturday evening dinner and the 65 and 100 mile awards will be given out at the Sunday morning awards breakfast. Awards will **not** be mailed out and must be picked up at the ride. Fun riders will receive their awards upon completion.

**Pre-Ride Vet Check:** 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Friday, February 27. A pre-ride meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Friday evening. For riders arriving in the morning (15/35 milers only), please make arrangements with the ride management.

**Rules:** All AERC rules will apply. Any abuse by rider or their crew to ride staff will result in disqualification of rider. Full refund for cancellations prior to 2/15/20. For cancellations after 2/15/20 and for horses not passing the pre-ride veterinary exam, a \$50.00 ride management fee will be withheld. No shows receive no refund. **Checks will not be cashed until after the ride.** Dogs must be on a leash. All hay and manure must be picked up and put in

the large pile in center of fairgrounds, or for a \$10.00 fee paid to ride management we can pick up a manure pile. The fairgrounds does not allow glass containers of alcohol.

**Directions: From the Inland Empire:** North on I-5 up the Cajon Pass to 395 North. Continue North on 395 to the Ridgecrest turn off – China Lake Blvd. Continue on China Lake Blvd about 5 miles to a light at Bowman Road at Walmart and turn right. Turn left on Richmond Road and go to the North entrance of the Fairgrounds. **From Los Angeles:** North on I-5 to Highway 14 towards Lancaster. Continue North on Highway 14 approximately 120 miles to Highway 178 East towards Inyokern. Continue East on 178 (Inyokern Rd) approximately 14 miles to China Lake Blvd. Just past McDonalds turn left onto Highway 178 (Ridgecrest Blvd.) at the light. Turn right at light at Richmond Rd. The Fairgrounds will be on your left. **From the North:** Drive south on highway 395 to the Ridgecrest turnoff. Turn left on Inyokern Rd. When the road ends at the Naval Weapons Center, turn right and drive through town. At the light at Bank of America turn left onto 178. At the next light turn right on Richmond Rd. The Fairgrounds will be on your left.

## **Twenty Mule Team 35, 65 and 100 Mile AERC/FEI Endurance Ride**

### **Introductory 15 Mile Ride**

**February 27, 2021**

#### **Schedule of Events: (Subject to Change!!)**

##### **Friday, February 26**

1:00 pm Ride office opens  
3:00 – 6 pm Pre ride vet check  
5:30 pm Ride Staff /Volunteer Meeting  
(All Volunteers come pick up packet)  
6:00 pm Pre-ride meeting

##### **Saturday, February 27**

6:00 am Start 65/100 Mile Ride  
7:30 am Start 35 Mile Ride  
12:00 Start 15 Mile Fun Ride  
4:00 pm Final Completion for 35 Mile Ride  
6:45 pm 35 Awards  
10:00 pm Final Completion for 65 Mile Ride

##### **Sunday, February 28**

6:00 am Final Completion for 100  
8:00 am BC for 100 / 65 Mile Ride  
8:00 – 9:30 am Breakfast  
9:00 am 65 and 100 Awards

**For more information:** Call (559) 332-9229 or Valorie cell 559-903-8254

Email: reevesranch@hotmail.com

## 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](http://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!!**

