

QUICKSILVER QUIPS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1999



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President Steve's Sage Advice!

I went up to Redding to go fishing last week and discovered how nice the weather is here. They were roasting at 115 degrees and we had a great 80. I sometimes forget how good Almaden Valley is.

When I drove home I noticed an old Miley trailer with two Quarter horses in it and that got me to wondering about the idea of the sardine can. Horses must really trust us because those two were squeezed in and shut tight. For animals that prefers the open spaces, how can we get them to even consider getting into such a dark, small location? What trust!

While on the subject of trailers, have you checked yours lately? One of the most IMPORTANT things to check are the tires. Check for cuts, nails and proper tread depth. If you don't have them inflated correctly, you are risking very serious consequences as the trailer balances (due to the shifting of the load from one side to the other) by ballooning out. It will also get more traction on an under inflated tire thus causing sway, a real no-no in towing horses. First a little sway, then horses shift, a bigger sway, then there is swaying from one side to the other. If you are braking it will increase. (You can stop the sway by adding brake with the manual switch if it's electric, or add power if it's a surge brake.) There are so many little things that add up to trouble with a trailer that it is probably best if you put together a check list and from time to time go thru it. When was the last time you checked to see if the brake lights worked, all of them?

One more thought while I'm on the subject. Take a short ride in your trailer and check where the exhaust fumes are going. Are they being sucked into it for the horses to breath? Also, while you are back there, use a tube of silicone seal and plug the leaks &/or rattles. I was following a member's trailer back from the Mustang Ride in April and their poor horses had a cacophony of noises emanating from their steel box. How can they relax with a band playing out of tune?

See you at at the Oct. 9 Endurance Ride and hopefully the Moonlite Ride..

50 miles to go

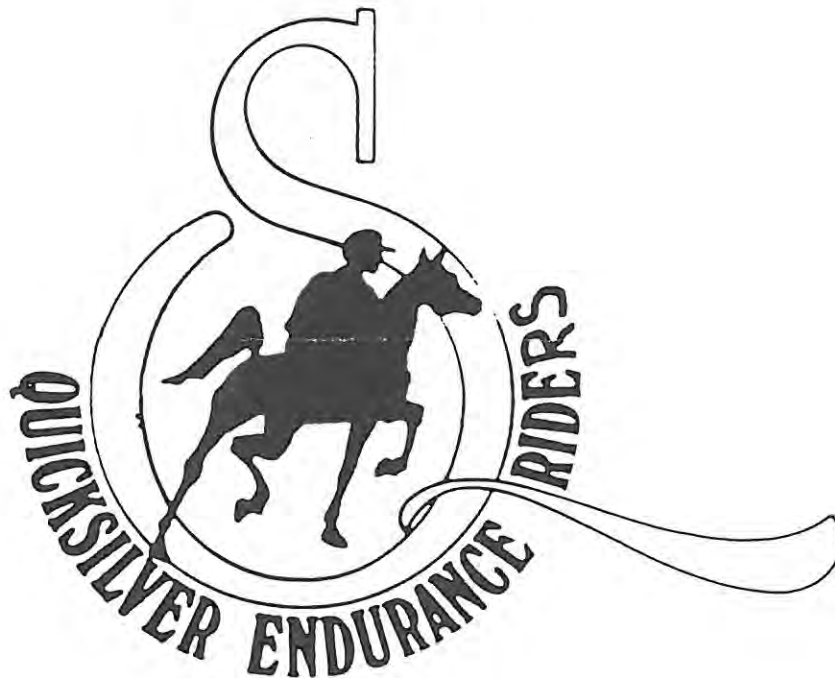
Steve



NEW **NEW**
BASE CAMP!!! **TRAILS!!!**

QUICKSILVER FALL CLASSIC

30 & 50 MILES
OCTOBER 9, 1999



LOTS OF AWARDS!
GREAT SATURDAY NIGHT BBQ

For more information contact: Maryben Stover, Ride Secretary
1299 Sandra Drive, San Jose, CA 95125
(408) 265-0839
merryben@aol.com

Check out the Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc. website at
<http://www.homestead.com/qsendurance/files/>

HEY Ginger, *Connell, KAY*, Carla, Jess, **Mike**, **Mary**, Dan, Lorrie, *Tristan, Vivian, Heather, Michael, Kirsten*, Bo, *Rosanne, Jeanette, Kristin, Julie, Angie, Dick*, Ken, Linda, **Raul, Jim**, Joanne, Karen, *Dick, Nancy, Ernie, Jack, Diane, Judy, Bill, Mark, Traci, Dave, Janice, Dom, MARK, rick, JOYCE, Natalie*, Nira, Roxanne, **John**, Nancy, *Sara, Kristen, Becky*, Judith, Helen, **Elisabet**, Catherine, Chuck, *Jacque, Kerry, McKenzie, Mike, Jill, Lars, Jennifer, Pete, Joanne, STEVE, Skip, Heather*, Cody, Tyler, **JAN**, Jeff, **DEBORAH**, **Mike**, Pat, **Lud**, Barbara, *Pat, Jay, Kathy, Chere, Jerry, Mary, Joe*, Lori, *Bill, SANDIE*, Trilby, Ervin, Ivy, **Brian**, Robert, *Melissa, Patricia*, Keith, **Jeri**, *steve, Michele*, Lyng, Chris, Marvin, **Joyce**, Jan, Doug, **Becky**, Lena, *Sam*, Corrine, Maryben, Tom, **Bob**, Julie, Eric, Kathy, Katelynn, **Mike**, *Diane, Carolyn, Hugh, Gloria, Bob, Pat, Bing, GERTRUD, Georgina, Jim*, Cindy, Jaime, **Val, Caralee, Alan** and Jordan



THIS IS YOUR CHANCE

TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE....

Each year we have an awards banquet at which time awards are made for significant achievements within our club. At that time we induct one horse and one rider into our Quicksilver Hall of Fame.

We then present the Eleanor Norton award which recognizes sportsmanship at the highest level and significant contribution to our club.

it is up to the members to decide who the recipients will be by making nomination in writing to the chairmen of the committees as listed below.

The chairpersons are last year's winners plus two people in each category who will be chosen at the November meeting. The deadline for nominations is December 1st.



ELEANOR NORTON AWARD

Chair: Bing Voight, 20535 Rome Drive, San Jose, CA 95120

HALL OF FAME PERSON

Chair: Lori Oleson, P. O. Box 1043, Morgan Hill, CA 95038

HALL OF FAME HORSE

Chair: Eric & Kathy Thompson, 6600 Garden Bar Rd.
Lincoln, CA 95648

At our October General Meeting, nominations for Quicksilver Officers will be made. They will be voted on at the November General Meeting.

At our November General Meeting, nominations for Quicksilver Directors will be made. They will be voted on at the December General Meeting.

This is our club. It is only as strong as those who participate. These meetings are important so be thinking of those you want to lead us in the future.

QUICKSILVER MEMBER JAN SNYDER WARNS US ALL

**DO YOU HAVE YOUR HORSES AT HOME? NEAR A CREEK?
PUBLIC HEARING ON REVISED COUNTY ANIMAL ORDINANCE!**

You may have read the article in the Sept. 8th Mercury News. It gave a fairly good overview of this issue. Basically, the Santa Clara County Planning Department has been revising the Zoning Ordinance, and has a proposed new animal ordinance that affects many of our members, and may affect the club's use of its grounds for certain events (such as if we wanted to hold a rodeo here).

The first public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held this month:

Tuesday, Sept 14th, 7:00 pm
San Martin Lions Club
12415 Murphy Avenue, San Martin

Janice Frazier, a past SCCHA president who lives on Henwood Road, writes that the "big issues are density of horses per acre and the setbacks from high bank or well (100'), (no property on my side of the street can pass this test as currently set up for horses) and very few properties in Old Almaden can, and there is no grandfathering accommodation,..."

You may be able to read the ordinance at a public library (we were unable to verify this at press time), or you can call the Planning Office at 299-2454. Computerized members can download a copy of the changes, justifications, or the entire Animal Ordinance from the County website at

<http://www.sccplanning.org/zoning.htm>.

We will try to get advance information on future meetings, and the Board will review this issue as soon as possible to determine if the club needs to write an official letter of comment.

AND FROM LYNCE

Have you heard about Santa Clara County? On 5 acre parcels a person may only have 15 chickens or rabbits per acre. This is the zoning the planning dept. is pushing. The zoning refers to all livestock, and will set maximum numbers for each species. They say a use permit may be applied for a variance. This will cost \$\$\$ and may or may not be granted. I believe that in the near future, all livestock keepers will be charged fees per animal to pay for running the bureaucracy to inspect them. I have heard that the reason for this new very limited numbers zoning is due to the frequent complainants to animal control from the very fancy upwardly Mobil who are now moving onto the larger lots. There is some kind of "right to farm" ordinance in this county, but it will lose all of its effectiveness if this new zoning ordinance takes effect. Now is the time to speak up while hearings are being held about the new ordinance.

A LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND THAT

STEVE SHAW CHASTISES EDITOR

to Mike Maul from Steve Shaw:
You might pass on the following to Julie for the next news letter....

Steve Shaw and Michele were at the Pan Am ride as officials working as Control Vets, Stewards and Appeals Committee. That seemed to be missed in the last newsletter. (ed note: sorry Steve, the shy retiring type sometimes get left out!)



Steve is working on his country western dance steps so that he can keep up with Judith and Becky at the next session!!

Skip Lightfoot and Steve are looking at trails over the mountains of Santa Cruz from Uvas Reservoir to Soquel Demo forest for a new 100 mile ride if possible....anyone else have any ideas?

OUR NEW MEMBERS

When we introduced Rick Gomez as a new member in the September issue, we forgot to mention the rest of the family. Joyce is chief crew and mash mixer but the family also includes Natalie, Nira and Rozanne. We welcome them all.

This month we are featuring Dominique Freeman in our new member Personality Profile. Dom rode for the British team at the recent Pan American Championship games. Learn more about her on page 11.

Former member Jennifer Layman has rejoined our ranks. Welcome back, Jennifer.

HORSE PROPERTY FOR SALE

Jan Long wants to sell her horse property in Volcano nestled in the Sierra Foothills only

30 minutes from beautiful trails in the El Dorado Nat'l Forest. She has a 2500 sq. ft home on five flat fenced park like acres with large pine and cedar trees. There are 3+ bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and a large open living areas with bay windows. The kitchen has skylights and lots of cabinets. There is also a family room and office plus two wood stoves. The property includes a 2 stall barn with a tack room and covered hay storage. It is loaded with charm and privacy. \$225,000. Call for more information at 209-296-3732.

LIKE GREAT AWARDS?

How many of you remember the polar fleece vests and horse blankets that were awarded at last year's Annual Quicksilver Banquet? If you want another chance at great awards, you should fill in the ride report form on page 10. Without it you get zilch. Remember, last year someone who rode just one 25 miler went home with a blanket for her horse. You have to be present to get an award. The Yearbook/Calendars are also handed out at this event plus the Eleanor Norton Award and the People and Horse Hall of Fame plaques.

ARE YOU PROTECTED?

On Pages 14 & 15 you will find a couple of article that are reprinted with the permission of Attorney Julie L. Fershtman. She is the author of *Equine Law & Horse Sense*.



MIKE'S WEB PAGE

Is everybody keeping in touch with Mike Maul's great Quicksilver web page? www.homestead.com/qsendurance/files/ Mike updates it regularly and it sometimes reflects more accurate ride information than you can get from Endurance News which only comes out once a month. He also puts the infamous Quicksilver Quips out there for all the world to read! Mike welcomes news from our members.

FOR FREE!

EQUUS Magazine's first issue was November 1977. Twenty-two years and 261 issues later it continues to be a leading source of wonderfully useful information whether you own one backyard pleasure horse or a stable of racing thoroughbreds. Pat McKendry has every issue since that first one in 1977 and she wants to give them away to somebody. They simply take up too much room she said. I (Julie) can vouch for that as I also have every issue in binders. I just measured and they take up six feet of shelf space. So if you have the room and want to increase your horse knowledge, call Pat at 408-779-3648. I think she said she also has every issue of Trail Blazer and of Endurance News but she wants to hang on to those.

NO MOONLITE RIDE?

It would appear that there may not be a Quicksilver Moonlite Ride this year unless someone steps forward and volunteers to be the chair. This popular event has always been well attended, but Chere Montgomery, who has managed it for so many years, has her hands full with other things. Anybody want to step forward?



LAS TRAMPAS RIDE

Linda Cowles, Diane Trefethen, Steve Lenheim, Bob and Julie Suhr set out on a weather perfect day to conquer the trails of Redwood Regional Park and the Lake Chabot area. The ride was completed by Steve and Julie and Steve made a strong 3rd place finish to uphold the Quicksilver honor. This popular ride has been managed for 13 years by Skip

and Liz Leahy who have a riding stable in the area. However, they are moving to Pilot Hill and will no longer be putting on the ride. Hopes are high that someone will step forward to manage it in the future. With the increasing traffic gridlock on our California Highways, it is nice to have some local rides.

NEW RIDE

Quicksilver members Robert and Melissa Ribley will be hosting their first Wild West Rides the middle of October. There will be a limited distance ride of 25 miles and endurance rides of 50 miles on Saturday and 50 miles on Sunday or a two day 100 Miler. They promise plenty of water and trails of moderate difficulty. See their entry forms on pages 16 and 17. It is fall and the gold country will have cooled off a bit. Maryben is the ride secretary and wields a lot of power so be nice to her.



AERC REGIONAL ELECTIONS

Both AERC Regional Directors for the West Region are Quicksilver members. They have both chosen to run again and you will see their names on the AERC ballot when it comes this next month. If you are happy with the representation that Barbara McCrary and Maryben Stover have given you, please cast your ballot in their favor. If not, exercise your right to choose. As of this writing, we know of one other person who may be running, Tinker Hart. Also, if you have received your AERC questionnaire, return it promptly. They are making a real effort to get a good profile of our membership. Hopefully it will result in less complaining about our national endurance organization.



OCTOBER MEETING

Felton Quicksilver member Elisabet Hiatt keeps busy. Last month, you may remember she and Ron climbed Machu Picchu for some high adventure. Well, this month, she was a little more horse oriented, but in a little different program than most of us have experienced. This is her most recent escapade. Elisabet will be the featured speaker at our October General Meeting. Her talk will be on the Sacramento Sheriffs Mounted Patrol Training School she recently attended with her Arabian endurance horse, Solo. Solo is now bomb-proof since he nicely survived the training Elisabet writes about in this article. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. on the 13th of October so plan on learning how to be better safe than sorry when you and your horse are together.

In her words:

What would your horse do if he was suddenly surrounded by a bunch of excited little children who wanted to pet him? or, if while riding on the beach someone threw a ball at him? Are umbrellas a frightening thing? what would he do if a helicopter landed in front of him? Would he stand quietly and wait for your direction or turn and run for it leaving you with a humbled ego, if not a sore behind? A couple of weeks



ago my horse and I were fortunate enough to attend the Sacramento Sheriff's Mounted Training School. We spent a week with 100 police officers training their horses for active duty and simply put, we had a blast! The school is offered yearly at the Rancho Murieta

Equine Center, East of Sacramento, to police

officers who patrol on horseback. The main purpose of the school is to "bomb proof" the horses by exposing them to as many scary and bizarre things as possible. It is five days of intense training, and at times both you and your horse have just about had enough, but the instructors are all excellent horse people and well tuned to the animals, never pushing them beyond what they can handle.

The first day was spent in "sensory training". Beach balls, baby carriages, umbrellas, chain saws, tarps, cones, a plastic tunnel and a number of other objects are carefully introduced to a group of horses. The goal isn't to get the horses used to that particular scary thing, but to master their fear. Later that day, a huge beach ball (as tall as a horse) is brought in and you are expected to maneuver it around the course by having your horse push it. Some horses find this a fun game and go at it with gusto. Others are more shy and benefit from the example of the more aggressive ones.



Later you are given a lesson on jumping an 18" jump and to finish the day a lesson on using the police baton on someone who is trying to take control of your horse by grabbing the reins.

The second day we had crowd control and formation. We rode our horses into a crowd, who by the end of the training was yelling, jumping up and down, waving hats and threatening the horses. The formation part was great in teaching the horses to stay in position and work as a unit. Looks good in a parade, but is also very effective in crowd control.

On the third day, we shot weapons, arrested people and broke up fights all from horseback

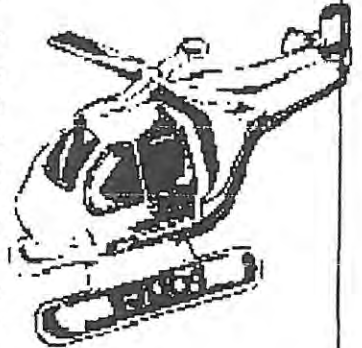
We also had a session on how to stay on the horse when someone is trying to pull you off. We had a chance to practice the police baton moves on a real (heavily padded!) person who was attacking us.



When the sun went down, we had our night exercise. Our platoon was called to break up a "riot" in the street (a lot of brave volunteer came for this!). There were about 50 "rioters" with dogs barking, baby carriages and empty plastic bottles that were thrown at us. Our mission was to clear an intersection, so using one of our practiced formations we used the horses as a living plow. All this was done by the light provided by a police helicopter that flew overhead with the brightest spot light I have ever seen in my life shining down on us. It was a dark night, but when that light came on, it was just as if the sun was out. The weird thing was that since the helicopter was circling over our heads, the shadows cast by the trees moved, and it made it look as if the road was moving under our feet. Sort of like the feeling you get when you are standing in the ocean and a wave comes in and goes out...you get kind of dizzy. After this part of the training was done, we were sent to the main indoor arena, where they had turned all the lights off and lit two long corridors with road flares. The smoke, smell and noise the flares produce is quite disturbing to some horses as they walk through this corridor. To top it all off, they later set off firecrackers and fireworks inside a wheelbarrow. An interesting thing happens as the week progresses: the horses begin to trust their riders completely, and facing their fears instead of running from them. This night exercise was a great test of this trusting relationship!

The next day we had dressage training which was conducted by the lead rider of the Royal Canadian Mounties. What an experience! that day alone was worth every penny I paid for the training.

The fifth and last day was all testing, written and riding, and then, feeling like we had conquered the highest mountain we went home. I have a lovely certificate to prove that my "boy" is now a "man", ready for duty. We are volunteer State Park members and patrol Ano Nuevo and Henry Cowell Park on a regular basis. I have encountered children, beach balls, umbrellas, people shooting guns (no kidding!) exotic animals (llamas and a camel) plastic tarps, emergency vehicles and all sorts of other strange things. The possibility of a rescue



via helicopter is very real to me. This type of training comes in very handy in those circumstances, but it's also great when I'm just riding out behind my property for fun or on an endurance ride. My horses hardly ever spook, and if and when they do they stop and look at the scary thing instead of running away. If you haven't taken the time to "spook proof" your horse, you really should think about it. I don't know about you, but I'm getting too old to hit the ground too often.

If there is enough interest, and someone has a place big enough for 20-25 horses, I'd be glad to do a one day "mini" clinic. I've put on two for the State Parks and attended the Sacramento Police training twice, so I have the experience and all the equipment to do it

Elisabet can be reached at 831-335-7988.

Please help our club volunteers by sending in your ride records as promptly as possible.

NAME OF RIDER _____
NAME OF HORSE _____ BREED _____ AGE _____

TOTAL CAREER MILES RIDER _____ TOTAL CAREER MILES HORSE _____

MILESTONES THIS YEAR _____

LIST ALL RIDES COMPLETED FROM
12/1/98 THROUGH 11/30/99



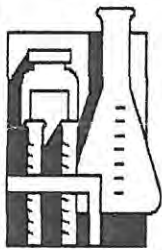
WEIGHT DIVISION _____

NAME OF RIDE	LENGTH	PLACING IN YOUR WEIGHT DIVISION	BEST CONDITION?	DID YOU SPONSOR A JUNIOR?
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Please use a separate sheet for each horse/rider combination. Extra sheets are available from Maryben (408-265-0839). Use the rest of this form and/or the back to tell us anything else you would like about you, your horse, crew, family, grandchildren,etc. All forms must be postmarked by December 31, 1999. Mail completed forms to Maryben Stover. 1299 Sandra Drive, San Jose, CA 95125-3535

A Touch of International Flavor for Quicksilver DOMINIQUE FREEMAN

New member Dominique Freeman, D. Phil, started life in France, but is actually a British citizen, but US resident with a green card. She works as a member of the Technical Staff at Hewlett Packard Laboratories in Palo Alto. She has lived in California since 1962 but returned to France and England to complete her schooling, finishing her graduate studies at Oxford in 1984. Her employment career has been pretty much hi-tech



oriented with positions as Senior Research Scientist since 1986 until 1994. Now a member of the Technical staff with Hewlett Packard Laboratories, she works in the Diagnostic Sensors and Devices group in the Medical Department at HP Laboratories. She has published with co-authors three equine related publications whose technical contents are beyond your editor's ken. Suffice to say that they have to do with studies of tendons and fractures in horses through the use of magnetic resonance imaging, microscopy and computed tomography.

She started her endurance career in 1987 and is now heavily involved both nationally and internationally. In 1997 and 1998

she competed in Brazil, including a multi-day ride. As recently as last August she represented Britain at the Pan American Championship in Manitoba with Fire Mt. Fancy, the horse she is competing with now.

Dom's horse related activities have gone considerably beyond being just a contestant. She helped organize with Becky Hart an Endurance/Saddle Fitting Clinic and put on a TTEAM clinic in 1992. She has aided in the organization of a 'Trail Tune-Up' program as well as a USET benefit with others. She has been ride manager for three years for the "Los Vaqueros 25/50 Endurance Ride.

Many of us know Dom as the owner and operator of Go-the-Distance'No-Care'tack (web site: www.endurance.net/gothedistance). Her colorful BioThane tack has been seen flashing down the trail since 1989. She says it is what she does for "respite from the lab".

Dominique now lives on the coast between La Honda and San Gregorio at River Rock Ranch near the 30 mile vet check of the Swanton Pacific 100 Miler. She is working toward her 3,000 mile AERC medallion.

We all welcome Dominique to our Quicksilver club. If you see her on the trail, give her a wave. She will be the pretty blonde with the quick smile.



Riders had the opportunity to cross enter into the IAHA National 100 mile Championship this year at Swanton Pacific. IAHA representatives brought lots of awards for various categories and will be doing a spread in their magazine, complete with color photos.

Quicksilver's own Mike Maul and Linda Cowles did their best to cover the event, but as always, communication (or lack of it) was our downfall. As ride managers, we even had Pac Bell install a phone jack at Bloomquist Flat, vet check #1, but it was often difficult to reach base camp, as Linda was sending stuff onto the Internet via the camp's only phone.

Sixty-six riders started, somewhat more than last year's 38, and a very nice turnout. The weather was not too hot, though it was fairly warm in the afternoon up on China Grade. There was some humidity as well and some horses seemed to suffer from the combination. The finish of 37 horses, many DQ'd for lameness, was a bit higher percentage than we would have expected. It was gratifying to see many of the pulls were rider option, showing that riders are becoming more aware and are taking more responsibility for the horses' welfare.

We had a great team of vets despite the difficulty in securing them this year. Many of us have observed poor quality of vet care at a few other rides. The volunteers did their usual terrific job, and despite the loss of Chuck Beebe, who cheerfully trailered DQ'd horses back to camp in the years past, we had three people doing his job. Maybe it takes three to replace Chuck. He was missed, but Vivian was there to serve at the registration desk, as she has for many years.

There were three junior riders entered, all of whom finished. The top three riders, from first place Kathy Thompson on LS Zane Grey to third place Judith Ogus on Fames Excitement+ were all Quicksilver members. Second place Godfrey Sullivan, who kept pace with Kathy all day and raced to the finish, rode his SE Blue Max to receive the Best Condition award. Blue Max was bred by former Watsonville residents Lif and Paul Strand from their stallion Ben Nasrif. In fifth place was Laurie Ledbetter on MMF Faramir+, half brother to my mare Koszar's Tigerlady and my old retired endurance gelding El Kourage, from whose back I first saw Death Valley, Black Rock Desert, and the Pony Express trail.

Other Quicksilver riders were: Michele Shaw on Cougars Clown, Gertrud Walker on Eddie (his first 100 miler since his colic surgery), Peter and Nancy Twilight on Linyanti and Tonto, and Becky Glaser on Lailih. Among the Did Not Finish were Heather Bergantz on Red (the horse that she rode to win the Haggin Cup), Lori Oleson on WRA Flaming Fire+, and Julie Caprino on Atlantys. Jane Wilson's Cimmaran colicked at Cutter Scout Camp water stop, but the efforts of vets Roger Bruce and Chuck Kessinger and the fact that our communication system was working at just the right moment, assisted in saving the horse without surgery. I just happened to be on top of Chalk Mtn. and tried calling Lud on the cell phone. I was able to reach him at his post at Cutter and he advised me of Jane's horse in trouble. Further communication brought the vets to the horse's aid and later Jane took him to Russ Peterson's clinic in Menlo Park, where he was treated successfully.

We had made some improvements to the Hollow Tree Trail across Pescadero Creek and had avoided the bogs that troubled riders last year. Also new was a wooden bridge across Old Woman's Creek and a lovely trail through Cascade Ranch that eliminated the miserable graveled Whitehouse Road. The wooden bridge on this trail was built at the 11t hour by the inmates of the Sheriffs Honor Camp of San Mateo County under the supervision of Ranger Chuck Edgemon. This new trails is a keeper and will also serve as a patrol route for the Cascade Ranch mounted assistance unit.

Swanton is a ride we thoroughly enjoy managing. Many of our fondest memories are of days spent exploring trails, constructing or reconstructing them, flagging them. We've had peaceful picnics besides streams, vigorous hikes to access areas inaccessible by truck, and great rides on our own horses while assessing the trail routes. In all its many moods, this trail is very special to us. Barbara McCrary.

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My Non-Horsy Vacation by Nancy Elliot, DVM



For those folks wondering where I was during this year's Swanton ride, I had escaped to the wilds of Idaho and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River for a week. The roots of this trip go back to Ernie's and my courtship, when he introduced me to the bluegrass music of Laurie Lewis and her band. I was an immediate fan, and when Ern and I later married we were lucky enough to have Laurie and the Grant Street Band play at our wedding. Five years later I heard about a river trip on the Tuolumne (outside of Yosemite) featuring Laurie and her beau Tom Rozum as the nightly entertainment after a day whitewater rafting. That incredible trip began our annual horse-free escape to the world of Bluegrass on Whitewater, as presented by Echo Adventure Company.

This year's fourth annual version was for five nights and six days along the Middle Fork of the Salmon, part of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area. Our group of friends on this trip included farriers Don and Margie (who have joined us for all of the trips, Margie's mom Kitty and dad Phil, Sandy Schuler, Jillian and Rick Clark, Chris Lynch, Ann Gillis (another horse vet) and her partner Sue Buxton (a small critter vet and longtime friend of Margie's). It was the first river trip for Sandy, Jillian and Chris, the last time we were all together was after the 1992 World Championship when Chris had organized a horseback trek through Tuscany.

We all flew into Boise, then were shuttled by small planes into Stanley. This is a charming little town of sixty or so people that is between the headwaters of the Main and Middle Forks, so is bustling during the warm season with people about to start their river trips. After a nice meal and quiet night's rest, we were put into more little planes to be dropped off where our rafts waited, near Indian Creek. If the water were higher, we would have been bused to Boundary Creek for the put-in 25 miles upstream. For the next six days, we had no contact with the outside world and our only responsibility was to carry our gear (all packed in waterproof bags provided by Echo) to the "sweep boat" in the morning and pick it up and set up our tents in the afternoon.

The rafting company provides wonderful guides who navigate the river, provide historical and ecological commentary and do all of the food preparation for three excellent meals daily. Guest may choose from three options to get down the river: oar boats, where one is simply a passenger and the guide does all the work, paddle boats, with six people besides the guide all assisting with the paddling, or inflatable kayaks (dubbed "duckies") with one or two people. Ernie, Margie and I were the only ones initially who wanted to try the duckies, and we became fairly proficient and completely hooked on this sport. Sandy and I doubled up some also, and only got stuck once when we had a laughing attack and couldn't paddle. (We're now planning to meet up with one of our guides in October for lessons in "real" river kayaks instead of the more forgiving inflatables.)



Besides running rapids, simply floating along admiring spectacular scenery and wildlife is part of the joy that comes with a rafting trip. We saw lot of bighorn sheep, bald eagles and other raptors, grouse and black bear along the way. Side hiking trips led us to pictographs (Sheepeater Indians), spectacular grottos with misty waterfalls, and divine hot springs. One of my most lasting memories was a full moon hike with a hot spring at its end—magic! Of course, one of the special treats on this trip as opposed to other trips was having Laurie and Tom serenade us each night.

I think we have hooked another group on this terrific music, and I know that fellow endurance riders Sandy and Jillian are planning on joining us on next year's adventure. For all of us that seem to fill our days to the brim and are always too busy, these river trips give us the unequaled luxury of rest, peace and beauty and the time to contemplate it all. I find myself already dreaming about my next time on a river and determined to fit it in somehow between next year's Tevis and my World Championship duties. Somehow.

Legal Aspects of the "Half Lease"/Share Boarding Arrangement

by Julie I. Fershtman, Attorney at Law and Author of *Equine Law & Horse Sense*
30700 Telegraph Road, Suite 3475 • Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-4527 • (248) 644-8645

Geri loves her horse, "Traveler" and especially enjoys their evening rides together after Geri finishes work. Now, Geri's free time is limited; her employer has just promoted her, and her new position will require longer work hours and more travel. As happy as Geri is to receive the promotion, she knows that she will have less time to spend with her beloved "Traveler."

Mike takes riding lessons at the boarding stable where Geri keeps "Traveler." Mike has plenty of time to ride and has approached Geri with an idea. Mike would like Geri to share "Traveler" through a "half-lease" or "share board" arrangement. This way, the horse will receive more care and attention, even when Geri is not available.

What should Geri do?

The horse sharing arrangement (sometimes called a "half lease" or "share board" arrangement) may seem simple but involves numerous legal issues. This article explores five of them.

Issue 1: Who Will Pay the Horse's Maintenance Fees?

When two or more people share the use of a horse, it seems reasonable that they should share the horse's basic expenses and up-keep. In these arrangements, some expenses that can be divided are boarding fees, hoof trimming and shoeing, routine veterinary bills, de-worming expenses, and other expenses.

Issue 2: What Happens if the Horse Requires Major Veterinary Care?

The possibility always exists that an emergency will arise requiring major veterinary expense (or, in extreme cases, forcing the decision to end the horse's life). For example, the horse might experience a severe cut during a trail ride or lameness after a strenuous workout. If this should happen, who will pay the veterinarian's bill?

In some instances, the parties can address these issues in advance.

As examples:

- The parties can agree that the one responsible for causing the problem, or the last one to use the horse before the problem occurs, must pay the expenses. In reality, however, the problem is figuring out who bears that responsibility, especially because two different people will be riding, handling, and using the horse. With some maladies, such as colic, there might be no way to determine who, if anyone, caused it.
- The parties can agree to purchase a policy of major medical insurance on the horse. Also, the parties can buy mortality insurance on the horse, with any proceeds payable to the horse owner.

Issue 3: What if Somebody Gets Hurt?

Every horse-related activity brings the risk that somebody can get hurt. Geri might be concerned that Mike will sue her if he is hurt while riding or near "Traveler."

In this litigious era, Geri's concerns are, unfortunately, valid.

The horse's owner risks being named in a lawsuit if someone is hurt. Even if Geri's defenses are powerful, there is simply never a guarantee that she can extricate herself from the case. Her legal fees could be huge and, without question, the suit would greatly inconvenience her life.

In response to these concerns, Geri has several options. Here are two of them:

- **Insurance.** Geri could purchase a policy of liability insurance designed to protect her if Mike, or anyone else, should bring a claim or a suit against her based on "Traveler's" actions. Geri's insurance agent can advise her whether her liability insurance would protect her, or alternative coverages to buy, for the arrangement she plans with Mike.
- **Release of Liability (where allowed by law).** Geri could also require Mike to sign a release of liability (sometimes called a "waiver"). This author, in past articles and in her book, *Equine Law & Horse Sense*, has addressed releases and waivers.

- **Indemnification Agreement.** In an indemnification agreement, Mike would agree to protect Geri, hold her harmless, reimburse her legal expense, and pay any other costs if someone else sues Geri because of an injury or damage that Mike caused. This author has discussed indemnification in several past articles.

Issue 4: Are There Restrictions on the Use of the Horse?

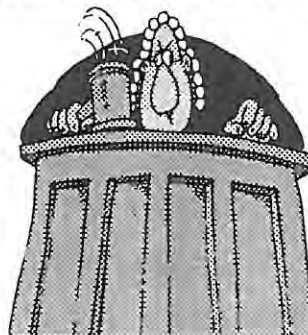
Geri might prefer that "Traveler" should not be used for certain activities, such as hauling or showing. If so, she would be wise to specify that Mike cannot do either of these things while he uses her horse.

Issue 5: Should the Arrangement Be Reduced to Writing?

The half-lease/share boarder arrangement, like virtually every arrangement in the horse industry, can work best when the parties understand their obligations and put them in writing. These are just a few elements for a contract:

- Duration of the arrangement.
- A schedule for the horse's use by both parties.
- Payments, when payments must be made, and to whom.
- Obligation to pay the horse's maintenance expenses, or to submit payment directly to someone else (such as the boarding stable, farrier, etc.)
- Who, if anyone, must pay major expenses, such as veterinary expenses for serious lameness problems or colic.
- Obligation, if any, to pay for equine insurance, such as major medical or loss of use insurance.
- Use of the horse, location of the horse, and restrictions, if any.
- Liability release and indemnification (where allowed by law).
- Equine Activity Liability Act language (where required by law).
- How the arrangement will end, and advance notice required for termination.
- Which state's law governs.
- How any legal disputes will be addressed, where, and who pays the legal fees.

This article does not constitute legal advice. When questions arise based on specific situations, direct them to a knowledgeable attorney.



**TURN TO NEXT PAGE
FOR ANOTHER
ARTICLE BY MS.
FERSHTMAN**

When Is a 'Release' Not a Release?

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Joe operates a riding and boarding stable. His state has enforced liability releases in the past, but he has never used them. Instead, he posts one sign on his barn that says: "Ride at Your Own Risk." He believes the sign operates the same as a liability waiver or release and will completely prevent him from being sued if someone is hurt.

Jill boards a horse at Joe's stable. Before she left town for a vacation, Jill gave her friend permission to ride and handle her horse in her absence. Knowing that Joe's barn has posted a "Ride at Your Own Risk" sign, Jill believes that she does not need anything further to protect her from liability in case something should happen to her friend.

Does the posting of a sign make it unnecessary for Joe or Jill to use liability releases? Generally speaking, the answer is no. Signs are important and are, in fact, required under many state equine activity liability laws. But one sign is not the same as a release (also called a "waiver") of liability. This article explores the benefits of using both.

The Difference Between a Sign and a Release

There are important differences between posting a sign and using a release of liability that is legally valid, well written, and properly signed. Certainly, a sign that says "ride at your own risk" announces, in plain language, the facility's policy and intention of limiting its liability. However, when an incident arises, the injured party is almost certain to deny ever seeing the sign.

A release of liability, by comparison, is an indication in writing that the visitor or customer has read, understood, and agreed to accept the facility's policy of limiting its liability. Also, as discussed below, the release provides an excellent opportunity to educate about risks and more.

The Difference Between an Equine Activity Liability Law and a Release

If you live or do business in one of the 43 states with an equine activity liability law on the books (as of April 1999), you may have strong protection against many types of liabilities arising from certain equine activities. This author has written several articles and a book in the past addressing these laws. However, the laws were not designed to permanently end all liability in the horse industry. Because no "zero liability" laws exist, a written release of liability, where allowed by state law, is an extra attempt to avoid liability.

Most states nationwide have enforced well-written and properly presented releases of liability. In the states that enforce releases, courts often (but not always) recognize that people cannot release away the right to sue for certain types of serious wrongdoing, such as "gross negligence," "willful and wanton misconduct," or intentional misconduct.

Already, releases have been enforced in states with equine liability laws. For example, in a recent Colorado case, that state's highest court held that a liability release remained valid even after the enactment of the Colorado equine activity liability law. As a result, the court held, the release could waive liability even for claims that were based on the Colorado law's exceptions. Because Colorado law prevented releases from waiving liability for willful and wanton misconduct, however, the court allowed the lawsuit to proceed only on those claims. The case was *Riehl v. B & B Livery, Inc.*, 960 P.2d 134 (Colo. 1998).

Extra Benefits of a Release of Liability

Posting a warning sign, especially where required by law, is very important. A release of liability has the potential to do much more. For example:

• Risks

Most of the 43 equine activity liability laws acknowledge that certain equine activities involve "inherent risks" and state that equine professionals, equine activity sponsors, and possibly others cannot be sued if a participant is injured or dies as a result of an inherent risk of an equine activity (subject to the law's exceptions). A release of liability can recite the inherent risks and even other risks. This information can be espe-

cially informative if the release is presented to novices with little experience around horses.

• Headgear Warning

The release can advise visitors, customers, or guests about ASTM-standard/SEI-certified equestrian helmets. Helmets meeting these standards are proven to be most effective.

• Health Insurance

A small number of equine facilities require all customers to maintain their own health insurance as a condition to being on the premises. Some of these facilities require customers to identify their health insurance carrier and policy number. For these facilities, the release can make this requirement and information part of a binding contract, not just a policy.

• Binding Effect

If Jill's friend should become injured while taking a trail ride off of the stable's property, he or she might assert that the "Ride at Your Own Risk" policy posted on the barn does not apply. Whether or not this argument is valid, a release can seek to eliminate this claim by specifying that the release is binding when the one to whom it applies rides or is near horses at any location.

• Equine Activity Liability Act Notices

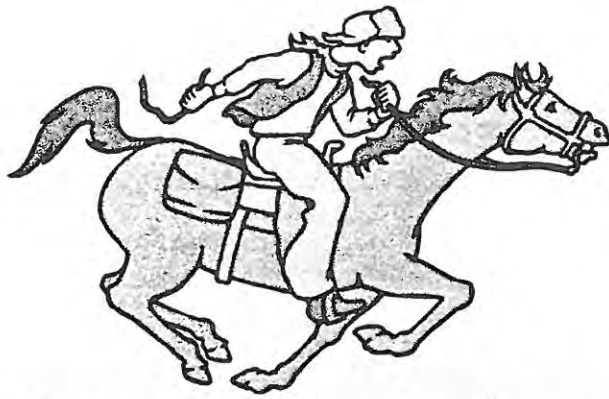
Most states with equine activity liability laws require certain persons -- usually, but not always, equine professionals -- to post warning signs containing required language. These laws frequently require certain persons, groups, or businesses to include the same warning notices or other language in contracts and releases. In a small number of states, the equine liability laws indicate that those who fail to adhere to these requirements could lose the laws' immunities.

• Conclusion

In conclusion, please keep the following ideas in mind:

1. Find out if you live or do business in one of the 43 states with an equine activity liability law. You can obtain a copy of your law by contacting a state legislator, horse council, cooperative extension service, or lawyer.
2. None of the equine liability laws mandates the words "ride at your own risk" for signs. Rather, many of the laws typically require certain "warning" language on signs. A sizable number of these laws also affect language in contracts and releases.
3. States have different requirements regarding liability releases. A few states will not enforce them. Before using a standard form, make sure that it complies with your law.
4. Remember that a release will not protect you against all lawsuits, and there is no guarantee that a court will enforce a release. Also, even with the best possible release, the need for insurance remains strong. People who sign releases can, and sometimes do, sue.

This article does not constitute legal advice. When questions arise based on specific situations, direct them to a knowledgeable attorney.



This ride promises to be one of the best endurance rides in the west! It offers scenic trail in the foothills of the beautiful Sierra Mountains.

You will ride mostly over trail with some dirt roads and plenty of water on the trail and in camp. The trail is of moderate difficulty and is well marked.

The ride will be held near Scott's Flat Lake at the Skillman Campground. off Highway 20 east of Nevada City/Grass Valley. *Directions: From the intersection of I-80 and Highway 20 go west on Highway 20 towards Nevada City 13 miles. Skillman Campground is on the left. Look for ride signs.*

Ride Manager: Robert Ribley (530) 268-1378
Ride Secretary: Maryben Stover (408) 265-0839
Head Veterinarian: Dr. Melissa Ribley

A memorable completion award for all that finish! First place and best condition will also be awarded.

Check in will be Friday, October 15 starting at 3:00 p.m. and Saturday morning 6:00 to 6:30 a.m.

Starting times will be 7:00 a.m. for the 50 and two day 100. The 25 mile ride will start at 8:00 a.m.

AERC rules and guidelines apply. Entries will be limited to 125 riders. **To receive the \$10.00 discount, entries must be received by October 11, 1999.** There will be no refunds for cancellations after Thursday, October 14. There will be no refunds for no shows.

Wild West
25/50/50
Two Day 100
Endurance
Rides

October 16 & 17, 1999

Rider: _____ AERC#: _____

Address _____ Phone() _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Junior Riders (under 16 years) birth date _____

Name of Junior Sponsor _____

Name of Horse _____ AERC # _____

Breed _____ Registration # _____ Age _____ Color _____ Sex _____

Owner _____ Address _____

Sr. Division Featherweight (Rider with tack, up to 16 lbs.) Sr. Division Lightweight (Rider with tack, up to 185 lbs.)

Sr. Division Middleweight (Rider with tack, up to 210 lbs.) Sr. Division Heavyweight (Rider with tack, over 211 lbs.)

Jr. Division - Rider under the age of 16 as of Dec. 1 in the year of competition, must be accompanied by a Senior sponsor at all times and must ride with a helmet. A change of sponsor during the ride may not be made unless approved by management.

Entry Fees: 25 miler - \$75.00 (\$65.00 before October 11) _____

Junior 25 miler - \$55.00 (\$45.00 before October 11) _____

50 miler - \$95.00 (\$85.00 before October 11) _____

Junior 50 miler - \$65.00 (\$55.00 before October 11) _____

Two Day 100 - \$160.00 (\$150.00 before October 11) _____

If you are not a member of AERC an additional fee of \$10.00

Must be collected for 50/100 milers. _____

Each entry includes one Saturday night banquet. Each additional banquet is \$ 12.00 each. _____

If you do not pass pre-ride vet check, all but \$10.00 will be refunded. _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Robert Ribley

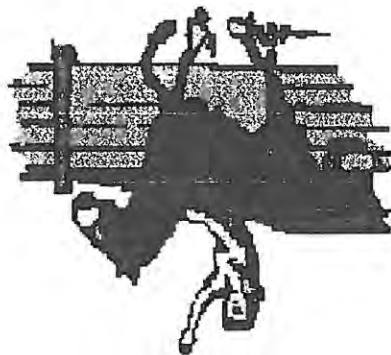
Send entries (and any complaints) to : Maryben Stover

1299 Sandra Dr.

San Jose, CA 95125

Ride Rules

1. Equines must be at least 60 months for the 50 mile ride and 48 months for the 25 mile ride.
2. Mares in foal will not be permitted.
3. Horses and mules must be shod.
4. Riders under 16 years of age on December 1 in the year of competition must be accompanied by an adult (at least 21 years of age) who entered the ride and agrees to remain with the junior throughout the ride. Rider under 16 will not be permitted to start or continue on from any point of the ride without the original sponsor, unless the sponsor is pulled and makes arrangements with ride management for the junior to go on with someone else. Juniors must wear helmets.
5. Abuse of the horse or the use of stimulants and/or pain killers is prohibited.
6. All horses are subject to saliva, urine and blood testing.
7. Any horse tested for drugs and found to be positive will be disqualified.
8. The same horse and rider must pass all control points and stay on the marked trail in order to qualify for completion and awards. The responsibility for recording in and out of control points rests with the rider.
9. The 50 miler must be completed within 12 hours elapsed time. The 25 miler must be completed within 6 hours elapsed time.
10. All veterinary decisions are final.



... WYOMING, CA. 95042
 IDELS, INC. yone happy!

OCTOBER and
 NOVEMBER 1999



- Oct. 2 COMSTOCK ARABIANS ASSN 25/50
John Collier 702-852-6116
- Oct. 9 QUICKSILVER FALL CLASSIC 25/50
Lori Oleson 408-776-0199
- Oct. 9 CALIFORNIO's 25/50
Vern Biehl 661-724-1060
- Oct. 9 WHISKEYTOWN LAKE 30/50/100
Michael Lynch 530-474-3439
- Oct. 13 QUICKSILVER MEETING
Speaker-Elisabet Hiatt, see page 10
- Oct. 16 -17 WILD WEST I & II 25/50, 50, 2 Day 100
Robert Ribley 530-268-1378
- Oct. 23 LAKE SONOMA 50
Ruth Waltenspiel 707-433-8254
- Nov. 6 LAKE OROVILLE VISTA 25/50
Kathy Papa 530-534-905
- Nov. 10 QUICKSILVER MEETING
To be announced.
- Nov. 13 SUNLAND RIDE 25/50
John Barnes 818-834-4747
- Nov. 26-28 SILVER STATE POINT TO POINT 3-50's
Fred Toomey 702-658-2008