NEWSLETTER BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB



August 2025

Fourth of July Parade—Honoring American Icons



When we learned that horses weren't allowed in Jasper's Independence Day Parade this year, our second thought—after our first thoughts of shock and disbelief—was to cancel altogether and have the Club sit this one out. After a brouhaha and then a couple of lively peptalks, we rallied and decided to carry on despite the very disappointing news.

With only a few days left to throw something together, we brainstormed about what message to convey. We decided to make a horse-themed float spotlighting equine contributions in American history.

Julie kindly offered her truck and flatbed trailer. We met at her place three days before the parade to accomplish our goal.

Nibbling on slices of Johnny's pizza gave us inspiration and fueled our creative juices as we got down to business. First, we schemed on how to decorate that flatbed. It would need bales of hay for sitting and lots of red-white-and-blue buntings, pom poms and runners. We thought making handmade posters would be perfect to highlight the important role that horses have played in our history,

Fourth of July Parade Recap (cont.)

such as, Paul Revere's Midnight Ride, the Pony Express to deliver the mail, the brave warhorses in battle, and the pioneering horses that made westward expansion possible. Plus the countless horses in our sports, recreation, TV shows and Hollywood movies. Horses are American icons.

As thunder cracked in the distance and rain poured down, we sprawled out on the hard concrete floor of Julie's barn and started drawing. It was hot and sticky and the flies were biting, but we didn't care because we were on a mission to show that Horse Lives Matter. Focused on the task at hand, we sketched, outlined, colored, painted, traced and stenciled letters to make eight amazing posters (see p. 21). Who knew we had so many talented artists in our Club? Thank you to Julie, Claire, Elise, Abby, Ronda, Betsy, Joyce and Bob for bringing decorations, buying the art supplies, and creating such awesome artwork. It was a team effort!

On the fourth, it was sunny and hot—a typical Georgia summer scorcher. Julie drove up at 9:30 AM on the dot in her bright red F-250 pulling the flatbed behind. We spent the next hour putting on fringe, posters, banners and bling. No horses allowed? We showed 'em by bringing inflatable stick horses to ride and carry along. Claire used her connections to recruit a bunch of kids from her school, so the float was loaded with people. We were looking red-white-and-bluetiful (not a type-o). There was excitement in the air, and we were ready to roll!

The parade set off at 11:00 AM. Down-

town Jasper was packed to the gills with cheering revelers excited about the festivities. We threw candy, pranced on our stick horses—giving them away to children on the street as we passed by—and strutted our stuff. It was perfectly clear to every onlooker that we loved not only the USA, but horses, too!

The Lions Club asked for a brief description of our theme to be read over the loudspeaker as we rolled onto Main Street. Julie provided the paragraph below which reflects the importance of horses in our country's rich history and why we should honor them.

Thank you volunteers for making this a fun, memorable day. Shout outs to Dave Eubanks for driving the float and Hal Gurley for inflating the stick horses and playing those jammin' John Philip Sousa marches.

This year's parade was certainly different without any horses, and, for sure, you could feel that something important was missing. However, it was still a great day, and horses were there *in spirit*! *Karie*

BTSC's Parade Announcement

The Bent Tree Saddle Club celebrates the USA by highlighting the importance of the horse in gaining and maintaining our freedoms as a nation. Horses were the only way of transporting troops, artillery and ammunitions during the Revolutionary War. They were also the fastest means of communication beginning with Paul Revere's Midnight Ride. What would our country look like without the contributions of the horse? God Bless the USA, and God Bless the Horse.













Coolin' Off At Lake Tamarack! Club Members, Friends and Horses Having Summertime Fun!



We're Doing It Again...

The Ever-Popular Garbage Can Cookout!

Saturday, August 23rd, 6:30 PM at Julie's Mountain Peace Ranch

Steaming corn on the cob, smoked sausage and potatoes in a garbage can over a fire. The juices blend together perfectly making it an awesome meal.

Cost is \$10 per person and BYOB as usual. Camp chairs are also encouraged!

Plan on fun and games as well as a meal. The laughter at last year's cookout was off the charts. I smile just thinking about it!

Julie





This Man Has a Plan for His Can!

I need an accurate headcount to order the food, so please:

RSVP to
Julie by Aug. 20th
at 404-550-0270 or
mymtnpeace@gmail.com

You can pay when you come or send to:

Julie Heinsman 516 Pleasant Union Rd. Jasper, GA 30143

The Dog Days of Summer

President's Column



They are here!!

Per Wikipedia: "The dog days or dog days of summer are the hot, sultry days of summer. They were historically the period following the heliacal rising of the star system Sirius, which Hellenistic astrology connected with drought, sudden heat, thunderstorms, letharay, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck."

I don't know about all that stuff, but I do know it's hot, humid, dry and scattered thunderstorms! Not sure that any of my dogs are *mad*? I'm definitely over it for sure!!

My equine crew is enjoying more hay than they need in the shade of their stalls with the fans blowing. They seem pretty content in there and are turning into little butterballs. Can't wait for fall!

We had a big time prepping our trailer for the 4th of July parade. There are several very talented artists in our group. Many

thanks to the helpers and the artists. The Club definitely had a horsey presence at the parade.

Please be on the lookout for our Garbage Can Cookout this month and sign up early. Invite your friends, too!!

Anybody who wants to go swimming with horses this month... give me a call. It's big fun, and I'm all in for playing in the water (see page 7).

I didn't know that August was such a busy month for horse vets, so our educational event will be rescheduled for September or October. I'll let you know as soon as I know.

Stay Cool!

Julie

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer, July 28, 2025

Beginning Balanc	\$2,506.23				
Debits					
Date	Description				
	No Entries This Month				
Total Debits		\$0.00			
Deposits					
Date	Description				
7/1/25	Julie Heinsman - Parade expenses	(\$210.31)			
7/1/25	Lions Club - Parade Entrance Fee	(\$25.00)			
7/7/25	Karie Kruse - Parade prep food reimbursement	(\$76.91)			
Total Deposits		(\$312.22)			
Ending Balance Date					
7/28/25		\$2,194.01			

^{*}Pending approved expenditures - Randy Taylor: Judge's stand repair for \$500.-

Bent Tree Liaison Report



BENT TREE STABLES STATUS UPDATE

The Bent Tree Board of Directors at its July 15 work session discussed the status of the Stables. The discussion was very limited. The Board President stated that Izilda Lillard will not be the next Stables Manager, as both parties after a month of negotiations agreed that they could not work together. He stated that she was to provide Bent Tree with several documents before a specified date and that not all were received before bringing horses to the Stables. Judie Uchitel took issue with no success.

The General Manager will now work with a three-person Stables Advisory Committee to prepare and distribute an announcement soliciting applications for the Stables Manager position. Hopes are that the Stables will be back in operation by early 2026.

Volunteer work to improve the Stables physical structure led by Fred McLam is to continue. I saw Fred after the meeting, and he is planning for the next workday during the week beginning July 28. It is my understanding that this work will focus on barn stalls. After hearing what date, time, etc. I will notify Club members.

Hope to see some of you there.

Bob Crowl

Bent Tree Liaison Report

BENT TREE STABLES STATUS UPDATE (cont.)

The following note was received from Izilda Lilland thanking us for our support of her efforts to become the next Stables manager.

Thursday, July 17, 2025

To the Members of the Bent Tree Saddle Club,

I am writing to share the difficult news that I have decided to part ways with Bent Tree Community Inc. After eight challenging months advocating for the reopening of the Bent Tree Stables, I believe it is in my best interest to part ways.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Bent Tree residents, Bent Tree Saddle Club members, and volunteers. Your support, countless hours of hard work in cleaning and restoring the facility, and dedication to preparing it for the horses' arrival have been invaluable. I greatly appreciate each of you and your commitment to the stables. I sincerely hope that BTCI honors its promise to open the stables and amenities soon!

I am disappointed that things didn't work out, as I had invested a lot in this opportunity. I wish nothing but the best for BTCI and Bent Tree Stables. I will always cherish the beauty that Bent Tree has to offer.

> Sincerely, Izilda Lillard

The Magic Number

From the Editor



I hope that you could relax and enjoy your summer vacation. So, now that you are fully recharged—especially you fancypants folks who vacationed in Wyoming and Colorado—time to get back into gear.

Speaking of time, it seems it's flying by ever faster and faster. Just yesterday, we were picking up our playing cards during the Poker Ride, and weaving around those slalom poles at the O-Mok-See. Suddenly, it's already August... the summer and the year are more than halfway over. To top it off, it's hotter than blazes.

How do you keep your horse cool? Julie organized a pop-up activity last month and got a group together for some big splish-splash fun at Lake Tamarack. Talk about a great way to beat the heat. Having spent an evening in Julie's barn painting 4th of July parade posters, I really appreciated that there were fans blowing

air all around us. I know that Deuce, Chiquita, and Dudley are more comfortable because of it.

For 25 years, I lived abroad in an Alpine region of Europe where the climate was much milder than it is here. During July and August, it was unusual if the temperature climbed above 80° F. A couple of eighty-five degree days in a row was considered a heatwave. Humidity was usually low to moderate. I rode and trained my three mares all year round, all twelve months, non-stop in every kind of weather. Jumping competitions were that way, too, except for the winter break when the ground was frozen solid.



The Magic Number (cont.)

From the Editor

The only trouble I ever encountered due to weather was: 1) prying ice balls from my horses' hooves after riding in the snow, and 2) keeping two of my mares calm while huddled under a tree soaking wet in the pouring rain during a thunder and lightning storm. A scary situation that one was. However, in all of my experiences, heat's just never been an issue.

Fast forward, I live in Georgia now and am still adapting to these hot Southern summers. It never occurred to me that horses could overheat or become exhausted just by doing nothing. It seems that exposure to high temperatures combined with high humidity can be very dangerous, especially if physical exertion is involved. I wondered, was there some kind of golden rule that tells you when it's safe or unsafe to ride? I thought to myself, I bet there's a Heat Index for horseback riding, and sure enough, the Internet proved me right.

It seems that there's a formula: Temperature + Percentage Humidity = Heat Index. The Magic Number is < 130. I'm quite sure that this is not news to any of you, and every member of the Club already knows way more about this than I do. However, I found this pretty interesting,

Temp + Humidity	Risk Zone		
< 130	Low Risk		
131 to 150	Medium Risk		
151 to 180	High Risk		
> 180	Danger		

and I'm glad to learn that there's a general guideline that riders follow.

Let's calculate today's Heat Index together, shall we? So... 88° F + 84% humidity = 172 Heat Index. That's code orange, i.e., High Risk! So you'd better call Julie asap and take your horse to Lake Tamarack for a swim!

We may not be riding much at the moment, but that will change soon enough. In the meantime, it's not too hot to eat, drink and be merry during this sweltering month of August. Come out and join friends at the Garbage Can Cookout at Julie's ranch on Sat., Aug. 23rd. I hope to see you there.

Have an awesome rest of summer and Welcome Back-To-School!

Karie

P.S. I hope that the photo on the previous page cooled you off a bit.

You Ought To Be In Pictures—Photo Contest!





Choose your favorite, sweetest, funniest or cutest shot taken whenever or wherever ... and send it in!

Win An Amazon Gift Card Worth \$25!

Contest Rules

- Your entry must include your horse(s) either alone, with you, your family/ friends, or with other animals.
- One photo per BTSC member in JPEG format and unedited.
- Photo must include a title, short description or backstory.
- Prize will be awarded at the Year-End Party on Dec. 13th.

You Must Be Present To Win

 You can change and resubmit a different photo anytime prior to the cut off date of Sat., Nov. 29 2025.

Text or E-mail your entry to: 706-502-0212 or kariekruse@gmail.com

I've received photos from: Carol Jones, Lisa Sylvia, Kathy Hardin and Hal Gurley. If you sent one in and your name's not listed, let me know.

Thanks and Good Luck!

Karie

A Canter Down Memory Lane

Recollections by Margaret Lonsdale-Part 1

When I began writing this article, I feared my recollections would be likened to those of a disoriented witness to a bank robberyvaguely similar but not anywhere close to what actually happened. As I progressed, I realized I am among friends so here goes... In 1991, we all met under a tree around an informal circle of campfire stones. That's how I remember my start with the BTSC. Most of what I remember are vignettes and snapshots that have stayed with me over the years. They make me smile, laugh out loud, puddle up, and reminisce in awe at some of the stupid things we did. Early on with the club, many of our projects entailed removing rocks from trails and paddocks and relocating them somewhere

else..... Soon we all discovered that most of the North Georgia ground is made up of these stones and our efforts were futile. Thankfully the rock removal projects ceased.



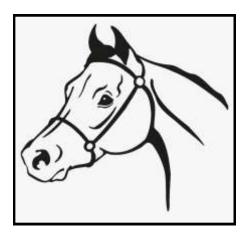
The first time ı ever "cantered real fast"might have even been a gallop- was on one of our Bent Tree trails Scarface. What big, strong mare. Pete turned around to Jena and me and said something like "ready to go?" and we took off weaving down the trail. It lasted all of 10 seconds, but I felt the power of Scarface. I realized that was not just a regular trail ride. I was hooked. Each time I rode with Pete, we would expand our adventures. I took lessons with my Saddle Club friends and learned something about horse behavior. We rode in the pitch black on the trails during the patented "BTSC Moonlight Ride." Unfortunately, there was no moon. Talk about trust! At first, I held my hand in front of my face, but as the ride progressed, I relaxed and learned to trust my horse's footing and knowledge of the trail. In the darkness, we discovered some muwhile tant glowworms crossing the dam. We still don't know what they were.

As I rode more, I became attached to one of Pete's horses – Victory. He was a

A Canter Down Memory Lane

Recollections by Margaret Lonsdale—Part 1 (cont.)

flea-bitten Arab with a big belly and a proud head and neck. I think he was just barely 14 hands. People would ask me if he was a pony and I would respond, a bit offended,



"No, he's an Arab". That boy could dance and canter in place. Since I was merely eight inches from the ground on him, I found his antics entertaining.

Victory wasn't always available though, so I became one of the designated stunt riders of Pete and Bambie's new horses- Liberty, Wizard, and Soda-Pop!! With a name like Soda-Pop, who wouldn't

be lulled into a relaxed and trusting posture? It was a cold morning. We were up early to ride on Monument Road. It would be a bit of an ascent and then gravel road with a gorgeous view for days. Soda-Pop looked just like Victory, but he was just a little bigger and, of course, more handsome. Half Arab, half Quarter, he definitely had some spunk, and after our climb up to Monument Road, he still seemed ready to go. "What a fun horse," I thought. Ten minutes later, I remember the group's pace getting faster and faster. Folks were passing each other, letting their horses enjoy a canter. I thought I would join them. Unbeknownst to me the theme to "Jaws" was playing in the background. I gave Soda-Pop his head

and suddenly our pace was on its way to supersonic. All I heard was the sound of his hooves hitting the road incredibly fast and the wind whizzing by my unhelmeted head. The brakes weren't working. My feet were out of the stirrups and my legs were wrapped around his belly, giving him additional fuel to go faster! We started at



whirled by all of my saddle club colleagues as they cheered. They thought I wanted to go that fast! He stopped when we got to the front of the group.

A Canter Down Memory Lane

Recollections by Margaret Lonsdale—Part 1 (cont.)

"Wow, what a ride!" Pete checked on me, I was a little shaken, but my near-death experience somehow bonded me with that horse. Naturally, after that ride, I bought him. I renamed him Quanah Parker—a name worthy of his conquests.

He was with me on many rides and adventures. I ate what seemed to be the best fried chicken from Hardee's (a true contradiction in words) on one of the first rides away from Bent Tree. We stopped somewhere near Ann Buck's house to tie up our horses and eat. Wasn't almost every trail somewhere close to Ann Buck's house? It was at least for John and me. My horse and I wandered up and down ravines with Rich and Janet on Pete and Bambie's wedding day;

just a short ride before the celebration. Rich went over backwards, lost his glasses for a bit. Actually,

We made it on time to the wedding, my nails were not polished and my panty hose was on backwards, but we made it.
"What a ride!"

we were all lost for a bit. While Rich was navigating our way back to civilization, the three ladies on the ride; Janet, Jena and I were silent, making fashion calculations and deletions in our minds due to our lack of time. There would be no leg shaving, no coordinated jewelry, no

fancy hair-drying, and no nap. Rich finally got us back on track, and close to home when the barn was in sight, he exclaimed "What a ride"! We made it on time to the wedding, my nails were not polished and my panty hose was on backwards, but we made it. "What a ride!"

I was at Ann Buck's when the bees hit during the breakfast ride. People and horses were running in every direction. It was truly bedlam, like an Alfred Hitchcock movie. It gave respect for those me pesky, mean insects. When all the dust had settled, Benadryl passed was around the group like a canteen... It was probably the most somnolent ride home ever.

.... To be continued in next month's Newsletter.

Recipe Roundup

Beef Jerky

Makes 8 Servings

Ingredients

1 beef flank steak (1-1/2 to 2 pounds)

2/3 cup soy sauce

2/3 cup Worcestershire sauce

1/4 cup honey

3 teaspoons ground pepper

2 teaspoons onion powder

2 teaspoons garlic powder

1-1/2 teaspoons crushed red pepper flakes

1 teaspoon liquid smoke (optional)

Instructions

- 1. Trim visible fat from steak. Cover and freeze about 30 min. Slice steak along the grain into long 1/8-in.-thick strips. Transfer to a large resealable container.
- 2. In a small bowl, whisk remaining ingredients. Add to beef, seal container and turn to coat. Refrigerate 2 hours or overnight, turning occasionally.
- 3. Transfer beef and marinade to a large saucepan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 5 minutes. Using tongs, remove beef from marinade. Drain on paper towels. Pat dry. Discard marinade.
- 4. Preheat oven to 170°. Arrange beef strips in single layer on wire racks placed on 15x10x1-in. baking pans. Dry in oven until beef becomes dry and leathery, 3-4 hours, rotating pans occasionally. (Or use a commercial dehydrator or smoker, following manufacturer's directions.)
- Remove from oven; cool completely. Using paper towels, blot any beads of oil from jerky. Store jerky, covered, in refrigerator or freezer.

Recipe courtesy of www.tasteofhome.com

Classified Ads

Adopt-A-Bridle

Antique leather harness driving bridle with blinders and snaffle bit for full-sized horse or mule. Vintage with a story to tell. It would look great hanging in your barn.

Price: Free to good home



Contact: Karie Kruse Text: 706-502-0212

E-mail: kariekruse@gmail.com

Have a favorite horse/human recipe, or want to buy/sell/swap something?

Send it to: NewsletterBTSC@gmail.com

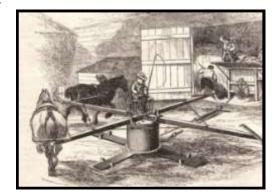
How Old Was the Oldest Horse?



Modern societies owe a debt to domesticated animals. Horses, mules and donkeys provided much of the energy for the Industrial Revolution in the days before steam power was invented. Born in England in 1760, Old Billy was one such horse.

Although he has often been described as a barge horse, he is better described as a gin horse. "Gin" (short for engine) was a horse-powered machine that provided energy for a range of tasks, from lifting coal from coal pits to raising goods from the

decks of ships, which was probably one of Billy's jobs.



The "gin" mechanism consisted of a large drum encircled with a chain, to which a harnessed horse was attached via a beam. As the horse walked round and round, the energy was transferred to pulleys via ropes which lifted items.

Old Billy worked until the age of 59, when he was retired. He died a few years later in 1822 at the age of 62.

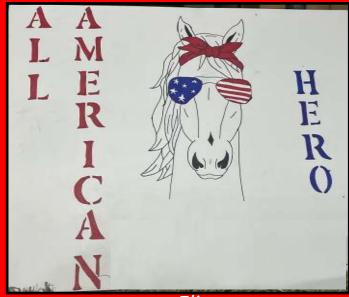
Old Billy's skull was stuffed and placed on display in a museum in Manchester. His head is fitted with a set of false teeth to give a more authentic appearance. As appears in portraits of him, his ears are cropped and he has the lightning flash blaze. Old remains Billv's mortal stand as a reminder of the millions of horses, donkeys and ponies who worked tirelessly for the benefit of mankind.



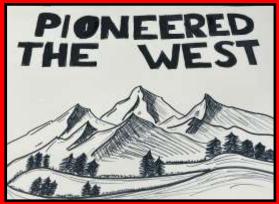
Article courtesy of Historic UK

Fourth of July Parade Poster Gallery





Abby Elise







Ronda Julie Karie







Karie Ronda Karie

Primo stenciling and calligraphy by Claire, Julie, Joyce and Betsy.

Thank You To Our Talented BTSC Artists!



August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Back To School	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 RSVP Garbage Can Cookout	21	22	23 Garbage Can Cookout
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Annual Schedule of Events 2025



Date	Event	Time	Place	Organizer
Sat., Feb. 1	Kick-Off Party	6:00 PM	Tavern at the 19th Hole, Bent Tree	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Feb. 22	Scavenger Hunt	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Karie Kruse
Sat., Mar. 8	Horse Park Workday	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park & Arena	Karie Kruse
Mon., Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Dinner	6:00 PM	Rocco's Pub, Jasper, GA	Karie Kruse
Sat., Mar. 22	Poker Ride	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park & Erway Farm	Ronda Erway
Sat., Apr. 5	O-Mok-See	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Sun., Apr. 13	Burnt Mount Preserve Ride	10:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Rich Vigue
Sun., Apr. 27	High Point Equine Bodywork, Masterson Method & Demo	1:00 PM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., May 3	Kentucky Derby Party	5:00 PM	Rocco's Pub, Jasper, GA	Rich Vigue
Sat., May 10	Saddle Fitting Clinic, Cookout, General Meeting	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Julie Heinsman
Sun., May 18	Western Pleasure Event	Cancelled	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Megan Mathisen
Sat., May 31	Hillside Farm Trail Challenge	11:00 AM	Sylvia's Farm	Lisa & Jim Sylvia
Sat. Jun 7	Obstacle Trail Challenge	TBR*	Eubanks' Farm	Claire Eubanks
Thur. Jun 12 - 16	Big South Fork Trip	-	Big South Fork National Pk Jamestown, TN	Julie Heinsman
Fri., July 4	Independence Day Parade	11:00 AM	Main St., Jasper, GA	Julie Heinsman
Sat., July 19	Texas Hold 'Em Tournament	Cancelled	Rocco's Pub	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Aug. 23rd	Garbage Can Cookout	6:30 PM	Julie's Mountain Peace Ranch	Julie Heinsman
Sept.	Chickamauga Ride	TBR*	Chickamauga Battlefield, Fort Oglethorpe, GA	Ronda Erway
Sept./Oct.	Educational	TBD	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Sept. 27	O-Mok-See	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Thur. Oct. 2 - 6	East Fork Stables Trip	-	East Fork Stables Jamestown, TN	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Nov. 8	Ellen Stara Ride	11:00 AM	Garland Mountain, Waleska, GA	Rich Vigue
Sun., Nov. 9	Educational	TBD	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Dec. 13	Year-End Party and National Day of the Horse	6:00 PM	Rocco's Pub, Jasper, GA	Karie Kruse
	*TBR—To be Rescheduled			

^{*}TBR—To be Rescheduled

Bent Tree Saddle Club 2025 Executive Committee

President

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Past Past President

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2025

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E-Mail Distribution Lisa Sylvia

Website Support
Jim Sylvia

Newsletter Editor Karie Kruse

te: Club.com

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