



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

And Now, Indian Summer is Almost Here...

So I know we all ask, "Where does the time go?" Well I don't know where it goes, but I'm here to tell you it's still going and we're headin' into a beautiful time of the year (fall)...but also a very dangerous time of the year. As you all know, ETI is all about good horsemanship, good times, and being good neighbors; but at this time of the year, it's about bein' a whole other set of eyes and ears watchin' just what's happenin' around the canyon. We're headin' into fire season so we need to be prepared and we need to be ready.



CANYON DEFENSE is one part of this community's solid effort and intent to keep our canyon safe. On behalf of your ETI Board, we'd all like to extend a very gracious "thanks" to Sharon Stancato and her unwavering commitment to keeping us all safe by starting, managing and workin' CANYON DEFENSE. Canyon Defense is a volunteer-based group of folks driving around and taking note of appropriate or inappropriate activities during the height of fire season.



From our own Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) to our Emergency Response Team (ERT) to our club and community we stand by our commitment to the OCFA's Trabuco, Silverado and Modjeska Fire Plans, and stand ready to help. And that's just what this month's \$.02 from the president of this fine group is all about – that we MUST each keep an eye on things, that we MUST each report suspicious activity and that we MUST each do something to help each other out. It's what bein' a good neighbor is really all about.



The OCFA, OC Sheriff and other agencies are ready to help and we appreciate all they have done and continue to do for our community. Let's help them out by doing the best we can to be safe, take proper precautions and mostly, participate in one of the many outreach efforts available to each of you.

If you are up to working with Sharon and CANYON DEFENSE, then please contact Sharon and get on her call list. Do some patrolling around our areas and watch for threats during the upcoming Red Flag conditions.

Contact Sharon at: 949-459-6297 or [sonrise\\_ranch@yahoo.com](mailto:sonrise_ranch@yahoo.com)



If you'd like to help the final steps of formalizing our fire plan into the official OCFA Trabuco Fire Plan, then please contact Debbie Kelly and get on her volunteer list. There are many things to do...pass out flyers, help conduct neighborhood census, answer questions and a host of other tasks.

If you'd rather be ready to help out in case of an evacuation through MAU or ERT, contact Debi Geary or Debbie Kelly and find out how you can prepare and be trained to help out in this very important and critical task.

Now that's not all I'd like to share with each of you. I'd like to personally thank every member of the club for their support of our fundraising activities. We had a great fundraiser in August – sure I know not everyone could help out at 5:30 in the morning, but we sure had a great crowd of volunteers. When I see our club turn out in numbers like that, it sure does make me proud to be your president. Shucks...but thanks. *(continued on page 2)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

And don't forget – a bunch more to come on this, but our annual Charity Ride is coming up in October. We'll be needin' your help to gather up great treasures for our auction, so be sure and come to the Members' Meeting (back at the Rose Canyon Cantina and Grill) to get the details and find out how you can help!

Well, that's about all for now, but I gotta extend my personal apology to our esteemed Scribe since instead of writing this column early this morning

so he could get your newsletter to you as early as possible, I took out my good buddy "Concho" for a great ride with some wonderful neighbors in our own Arroyo Trabuco. What a great morning and what a great ride...and isn't that what it's all about? Ridin'...gosh, I sure hope so...

So until we get together next, here's to all of us workin' together and ridin' together...see you on the trail...

## IMPORTANT DATES MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY

**Members meeting** Thursday September 4th  
**MAU Meeting** Saturday, September 13th

**Board Meeting** Thursday September 11th  
**Month End Ride** Saturday, September 27th



## TRAIL BOSS REPORT BY JEFF KELLY

Our August Trail Maintenance was a great success! Thanks to Don and Sheila Segien, Fiona Nelson, Karen Hopkins, Jim Morehouse, and former trailboss and present wife, Debbie Kelly for trimmin', wackin', and cleanin' those

trails. This is our commitment to O'Neill Park and it does make a difference. The next Trail Maintenance will be October 4th and we will focus on the trails to McFadden Ranch in anticipation of our annual Charity Ride on 10/25. The September month end ride will take us to McFadden as a "pre-ride" to inspect the condition of the trails. That date is 9/27. Don't forget to regularly check our website for updates and photos of all the events ETI Corral 357 participates in. Sorry this is so brief but your humble servant is goin' fishin'!





## MAU REPORT BY DOUG SLAVIN

On July 26th, MAU members enjoyed riding through beautiful oak-canopied Weir Canyon in Orange. Thank you Irvine Ranch Conservancy docents Marc Hedgpeh and Cindy Nelson. A change of pace...With the 2008 Beijing Games capturing our attention, I thought a Horse History lesson would be most fitting...History of Equestrian Events in the Olympic Games: Equestrian events have a unique place in Olympic sport – they are the only events where humans are teamed with animals.

It is also the only Olympic sport that pits men and women against each other as absolute equals.

The Olympic history of events involving horses can be traced back to 682 BC, when a four-horse chariot race was run at the Hippodrome in Olympia at Greece's 25th Olympiad.

In the modern era, show jumping was part of the 1900 Games, but the full program of dressage, show jumping and three-day eventing was introduced in 1912 and in all three disciplines, individual and team medals are awarded.

Each of these disciplines has its own unique history. Dressage has its origins in the French military. It began as a method of training for military horses. Indeed, only commissioned officers were allowed to compete in equestrian events until

1952 when the sport was opened to civilians, including women for the first time.

Three-day eventing also has military roots. Comprising show jumping, dressage and cross-country, it began as a series of endurance tests set for the calvary.

In their early stages, these tests were mainly on flat ground, but fences were added in the late 1700s.

In 1936 the three-day event illustrated how tough the event is. Just 27 of the 50 horses completed the course. One competitor who fell off his horse had to run 2.5 miles to catch it in order to remount and another searched for almost three hours before finding his horse after a fall. Three horses died, a story repeated in 1960 and 1968.

But after 1968, strict safety provisions were put in place and since that time no horse has been killed or seriously injured in three-day eventing.

Olympic show jumping began in 1900 with three different disciplines – the show jumping as it's recognized today, plus long and high jumps. The long and high jumps have since disappeared, and the technique of riders has changed, but essentially the show jumping is as it appeared in those early days. (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Next MAU meeting will be Saturday, September 13th. Location yet to be determined at time of print, please check [\\_\\_](#) for meeting location.



## SCRIBE'S REPORT BY DON SEGIEN

I like America. I like Veterans's Day, John Wayne movies, and going to church. That doesn't mean you have to. The first amendment to our Constitution states *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.* Read that again and think about it.

The language is pretty clear but people tend to twist the constitution as if it were silly putty until its original intent is unrecognizable.

As a member of the press, I ask two things of you. First, don't read about our Constitution---read our Constitution. It's always best to go back to the source. Secondly, start reading this newsletter online instead of having it mailed. The pictures look much better in color and you'll be helping the environment. Just send an email to [SDSegien@mac.com](mailto:SDSegien@mac.com) with *pigs don't fly* in the subject line.



# AROUND THE CANYON

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

It's hard to believe that just a month ago I was soliciting volunteers for the August 9th pancake breakfast in Rancho Santa Margarita. Asking folks to get up on a Saturday before the chickens and be at the event by 5:30 am seemed a bit over the top. But I had nothing to worry about! Previous breakfast crew and new ones showed up with eyes barely open ready to set up and flip pancakes. And what a job they did. We served about 350 campers in two hours! I think

that is a record for our group. Oh, did I mention our net for this event? ETI/357 treasurer Bob says it is around \$1500.00! I think that may be a record, too. So, once again thank you to everyone who showed up! And thanks to Spike Wilks for doing the shopping. That made my job as coordinator a heck of a lot easier. I have to say that I just enjoy watching everyone work together as a team at these breakfasts. I think we really have this one down to a science. So if you could not make it for this one and are really agonizing over that, there will be an opportunity again in the spring.



### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

**Very Expired:** (sorry, last newsletter!!) Chris Pena 6/08, Helga Thordarson 6/08

**Expired:** Joanne Hubbard 8/08, Robert & Caitlyn Nieblas 8/08, Howard Pyle & Sandi Dunn 8/08

**Expiring:** Ed & Mary Weinik 9/08, Jim Iacano 9/08, Brenda Kalb 9/08

**WELCOME New Members:** Sarah Eaton, Karin Hathaway, and Ken Weiss

**Annual Dues:**

Individual \$45; Family \$70 for the first two members, add \$8 for each additional family member.

### RANCHO MISSION VIEJO RODEO

BY CHERYL SEGIEN





## HORSE TALES

BY ROBERT WILKS

### A HORSE I ONCE KNEW

I wonder sometimes what happened to my good old friend, a black gelding quarter who was my babysitter and teacher for quite a few years. He was the 2nd best horse I've ever owned. I first met him in Rialto where he was living with a cowboy named Gary who was want'n to cash a check and move this gelding to a new home. So here comes me, green as new mowed grass, asking Gary about whether this horse would be any good as a cattle penning quarter horse, as THAT was why I was looking to maybe buy him. Back then I didn't know that horse sellers are total strangers to the truth. But Wow, it was gonna be MY lucky day cause sure enough, according to Gary, this here Gelding was a cattle penning fool if ever there was one. In fact, Gary told me that just the night before I first saw him, Gary had won \$250 in prize money team penning on this black horse. Hot Dog, was I getting lucky or what?

I was surely happy with that news, and offered right off to purchase the steed, but only on condition that I could "try him out" for a month. Well, Gary was aghast at that idea, said he had NEVER sold a horse in such a way and absolutely would NOT do it, but eventually we settled on two weeks for a try out IF I put up a big deposit which I was quick to do.

When I got the big boy home, he seemed to settle in O.K. - Whereas there was scarce cattle at my place to try him on I thought I would get to it pretty soon somewhere else, maybe over at Silverado. Such was not to be, for this reason and that, but I did enjoy several trail rides with him and so when time came to send the rest of the money, I sent it with good cheer and thereafter I owned myself a big black quarter gelding. Turned out that this black horse, who I called "Blackjack" suited me just fine on trials and whatnot, but when it came to cattle games, lord knows that gelding was scared to death of those bawling, stinking critters, and would have nothing to do with them at all. I nearly

got thrown more than once trying to convince him otherwise.

Shortly I gave up my dream of cattle sorting with this horse, and stuck to trails. It was here that Blackjack taught me plenty, and made somewhat of hand out of me, as we went on long and short hauls, and he taught me the side pass, the running lead change, the roll back and much more. Once after a rainy day, on a ride to Cook's, we came upon a drainage bottom that looked too wet to him and he stopped to consider it. But I was not in a stopping mind, and not willing to have a balky horse I gave him my spurs so as to make sure that he knew who was boss, and that we were not stopping on his decision. Well, dutifully he did as I asked, and within two steps, we were buried up to his belly in a wet bog, that neither he nor I could do anything about. It took about an hour and a half to get out, and after we were on the other side, I had a new understanding of who was the real boss in our deal.

Sooner or later it came time to think about sending Blackjack to a new home and me to try again on my cattle horse. It was hard to do you know, what with him being an easy keeper and nice to be around, but the new folks were somewhat desperate to find a good fellow to teach their young daughters to ride and all, and they offered a really good home but no money. So on their promise to keep my Jack well, I signed over his papers and took him to their place in Orange Park Acres. I checked up on him several times and he was fine, but as time passed, he became more a memory and less a reality to me.

Blackjack had several owners and many people friends, I sometime wonder if he put me in the good friend or poor friend group. Of course I don't know for sure, but I do know he wasn't mean to me and I wasn't mean to him, so I still believe we were pretty good pals. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. Hope to see you out there on those Happy Trails. Bob Wilks...



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROBERT WILKS

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING

July 31, 2008

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 8,960.98

DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After June Closing \$ 2,469.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$10,429.98

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1006	J. Iacona	Shirts	\$ 857.00	1014	J. Iacona	Shirts	\$ 357.00
1008	E.T.I. Corp	Membrs	\$ 80.00	1015	S. Segien	News	\$ 72.57
1009	Spike Wilks	Play Day	\$ 36.03	1016	J Moreland	Br/Diner	\$ 30.00
1011	Debi Geary	MAU Sticking	\$ 160.00	1017	Rich Gomez	Shirts	\$ 30.00
1013	E.T.I. Corp	Membrs	\$ 96.00	1018	E.T.I.	Membrs	\$ 28.00
1019	R. Gomez	4 <sup>th</sup> July BBQ	\$ 175.00				

Total expenses paid in JUNE/JULY 2008 (1,921.60)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1012	Fiona Nelson	Play/Day Exp	\$ 20.75	1025	Spike Wilks	P/Ck Food	\$ 466.09
1020	E.T.I.	Membrs	\$ 40.00	1026	D Slavin	P/Ck Food	\$ 22.34
1021	S. Segien	News	\$ 135.11	1027	Jeff Kelly	P/Ck Items	\$ 63.33
1022	Carter Fam'y	Donation	\$ 75.00	1028	D. Kelly	P/Ck Food	\$ 14.00
1023	Debbie Peterson	Fire Folders	\$ 74.91	1029	P Gomez	Aug/BrdDin	\$ 3 0.00
1024	Pacif Rents	PanCake rent'1	\$ 53.30	1030	E.T.I.	Membrs	\$ 136.00
1031	Foothill Prints	Fire Signs/Logos	\$ 225.39				

Total Outstanding Checks JULY 2008 i.e. Spending: (\$ 1,386.22)

Funds on hand in checking as of 07-31-08 \$10,043.76

Petty Cash on Hand as of 07-2008 \$ 400.00

Total Corral FUNDS On Hand at 07/31/08 \$10,443.76

1.- MAU as of 7/31/08 = \$201.56 + \$450bags (Less: Sticking[-\$160]+ 740.47P/C (\$1,232.03)

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve: (\$1,232.03) \$(1,232.03)

NET - NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to Corral 357 **\$ 9,211.73**

# 1234567 CONTACT INFORMATION

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

2345678

3456789

### YEAR 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT Rich Gomez	949-888-1604 rtgomez@aol.com	SCRIBE Don Segien	949-589-3347 SDSegien@mac.com
VICE PRESIDENT Doug Slavin	949-295-1331 dgslavin@cox.net	TRAIL BOSS Jeff Kelly	949-858-7366 jjkelly52@gmail.com
SECRETARY Karen Hopkins	949-709-2359 ladieeee@aol.com	MEMBER-AT-LARGE Jim Schicht	949-858-4744 rustyshoe7@cox.net
TREASURER Bob Wilks	949-589-9144 robert-a-wilks@cox.net	SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Rick Balthaser	949-709-2359 RBalthaser@aol.com
MEMBERSHIP Sheila Segien	949-589-3347 bearfoot60@cox.net	EVENTS COORDINTOR Fiona Nelson	949-702-3258 fnelson1@hotmail.com

### MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT (MAU)

HEAD COORDINATOR Debi Geary	949-291-0551 debig@cox.net	ASSISTANT COORDI- NATOR-SECRETARY Patti Gomez	949-888-1604 pattiangomez@aol.com
ASSISTANT HEAD COORDINATOR Jennifer Gillott	949-643-0896 Jennifer.gillott@ ingrammicro.com	ASSISTANT COORDI- NATOR-RECORDS Doug Slavin	949-295-1331 dgslavin@cox.net
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATOR Debbie Kelly	949-459-7191 rileyboy1@cox.net	EMERGENCY RE- SPONSE TEAM COM- MUNICATIONS: Dave Seroski	(949) 533-7153 DSeroski@cox.net

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Trails-4-All: Jim Meyer, 714-734-8188  
info@trails4all.org

O'Neill Regional Park Office: 949-923-2260

Head Ranger Lorrie Zuczek 949-923-2259  
lorrie.zuczek@rdmd.ocgov.com



## **WHO ARE THE SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS?**

The Saddleback Canyon Riders are ETI Corral 357. Established in 1991, we are the largest ETI corral in California with members from South Orange County and points beyond. We are a family-friendly equestrian group based in Trabuco Canyon at the foot of the majestic Saddleback Mountains. Our Corral is committed to supporting and helping maintain O'Neill Regional Park and other local riding trails.

## **WHAT IS ETI?**

Equestrian Trails, Incorporated is a family oriented riding club established as a nonprofit corporation in 1944 with the Charter to be "Dedicated to the Acquisition and Preservation of Trails, Good Horsemanship, and Equine Legislation."

With its combined membership, ETI has successfully worked to keep our trails open and add more equestrian facilities. The more members we have backing equine legislation and trail preservation, the more likely the State, County and City Officials will be to comply with our needs.

ETI Corral 357  
PO Box 1026  
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678-1026