

CORRAL NEWS



ETI CORRAL 357 | SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

MARCH 2020

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Happy Trails

By Aleta Walther, *Edited and Submitted by Rich Gomez*



O.C. offers up 300 miles of hiking and joyriding paths for outdoor enthusiasts.

Spanning 794 square miles, including 17 state highways, 279 freeway miles, 34 cities and about 3 million people, it's easy to scoff at the notion of back-to-nature recreation in Orange County. Reality is, the area currently has five wilderness parks, three wilderness preserves, more than 50,000 acres of open space and about 300 miles of riding and hiking trails for use by equestrians, hikers and bicycle riders. Many of these trails meander through wilderness areas, offering residents a respite from the hustle and bustle of coastal California. In fact, OC Parks is one of the largest regional agencies in terms of acres under management.

Trails are an integral part of Orange County's heritage—many were established long before Spanish Conquistadors and Father Junipero Serra trekked northward from San Diego, across the Los Angeles Basin and into Northern California. Early Indian tribes—the Tongva, Juaneño, Luiseño—followed trails worn deep by wolves, mountain lions, coyotes, deer

and other animals that frequented the life-sustaining food and water sources that traversed the land that is O.C. today.

Although man cannot take credit for the establishment of the area's early trails, equestrian-centric citizens and civic leaders do take credit for building and sustaining the county's current recreational riding and hiking trail system. Urged by local ranchers and horse enthusiasts to establish a network of riding and hiking trails, the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in 1965 to include riding and hiking trails as an element of the county's 1963 Master Plan of Regional Parks. At that time, there were only 24 miles of usable trails for the county's nearly one million residents. The resolution proposed a trail network of 224 miles consisting of "existing and proposed trails, numerous access points and interconnecting links, along with trail stops and equestrian centers." The plan also proposed establishing a feeder trail to connect O.C.'s trail system with the California Riding and Hiking Trail that traveled through San Diego and Riverside counties. A plan to build "Class I" off-road bikeways is also in the works.

Although the riding/hiking trails and bikeways are both part of the county's General Plan, they are independent of each other. There are portions of the system where the riding and hiking trails flank the paved bikeways and other places where there may be a bikeway, but not a riding and hiking trail and visa versa.

"The two (trails and bikeways) are very different and are treated as two separate plans," says Jeff Dickman, a planner with Orange County Public Works. "The trails

are found in the recreational element of the County's General Plan while the bikeways are described in the transportation element of the General Plan. The bikeways are popular for both recreation and transportation purposes."

Riding and hiking trails are made of finely crushed granite, while the bikeways are paved. Some trails and bikeways are rural in appearance, while others are urbanized. Some snake through cities and suburbs, others meander through some of the county's most pristine wilderness.

"Over the years, there have been several amendments to the original Riding & Hiking Trails Master Plan," says Jeff, who has been working on the Master Plan of Riding & Hiking Trails since 1992. "In 1982, the Board of Supervisors inferred the importance of recreational trails when they updated the Master Plan by adding many more trails."

The board confirmed its commitment to the recreational trail system in 1993 when it added six new trails to the Master Plan. "We are building a trail system that will take another 15 to 20 years to build out, and when it is complete, will span about 354 miles," Jeff adds.

Today, Orange County Parks maintains the trails that crisscross through its 23 urban, wilderness and beach parks and along the county's flood control channels, rivers and creeks (the Santa Ana River, San Diego Creek, Lower Santiago Creek and San Juan Creek trails).

"The county's system of trails and bikeways are a great way to have fun, get some exercise and connect to parks," says Mark Denny, director of Orange County Parks. "The county has worked to build a trail system that delivers people to a variety of destinations, including local parks, the county's regional park system and even state parks and local beaches."

No Horsing Around

Given Orange County's rancho history and its cultural influence, it's no surprise that cattle ranchers and equestrians put pressure on the Orange County Board of Supervisors to develop more horseback riding trails.

"The (trail) plan was mostly precipitated by a coalition of equestrian groups whose members realized they were losing trails because of the rapid urbanization of Orange County," recalls

Dick Ramella, who prepared the county's first Master Plan for Regional Parks in 1963. "The equestrians had a motive for a trail system that no one else had. They were losing places to ride. Back then, there was no recreational system in place for public riding and hiking, only O'Neill and Irvine regional parks. I do not recall support for the plan coming from any walking or bike riding groups."

Dick spent 14 years in the county's planning department and worked closely with John Lane, the planner tasked with developing the trails aspect of the Master Plan for Regional Parks, to whom he refers as "the father of the trail plan."

"There was an old cowboy, Gail Harmon, who bugged John to no end about the riding trails," Dick adds. "Gail met with John daily to make sure the plan was making progress while also providing John with the information needed to prepare the plan from an equestrian perspective, such as how wide trails should be and how far apart the rest stops should be. Gail would also go to the Board of Supervisors' office and harangue the board members to make sure they stayed behind the plan and making progress."

While equestrians, planners and the Board of Supervisors backed the 1965 Master Plan of Riding & Hiking Trails, many residents opposed the plan. "There were questions about construction and maintenance costs, security, safety and privacy," Dick says. "It was not an easy plan to develop, implement or build. The county did not have a parks department at the time, which meant we did not have anyone to implement the plan once it was adopted. That was a problem."

Eventually, George Osborne, chief engineer of the Orange County Flood Control District, jump-started the Master Plan of Riding & Hiking Trails by developing the county's first recreational trail along the Santa Ana River. Today, the Santa Ana River Trail & Bikeway crisscrosses into San Bernadino and Los Angeles counties and through the Orange County cities of Yorba Linda, Anaheim, Orange, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. A variety of geography and park opportunities makes the Santa Ana River Trail one of the county's most popular trails. Activities on

and along the trail include hiking, bicycling, walking, running, rock climbing, geocaching, bird watching and horseback riding.

Also known as the Crest to Coast Trail, the Santa Ana River Trail is 60 percent complete with plans to finish the remaining portions within the next five years. When it is finished, the Santa Ana River Trail will be the longest multi-use trail in Southern California: from Big Bear Lake, high in the San Bernardino Mountains, to the Pacific Ocean. According to the site santaanarivertrail.org, the trail "passes through urban parkland and through quiet willow forests. It skirts some of the region's most vital, exciting cities and passes under giant cottonwood trees."

Although the Santa Ana River Trail and many other county trails have morphed into multi-use corridors, Jeff says they were only proposed for horseback riding and hiking. "Jogging was not popular back then and there were no road bikes or mountain bikes like we have today," he explains.



Achieving the Dream

Today, a map of the county's Major Riding & Hiking Trails and Off-Road Paved Bikeways is lopsided with the bulk of the trail, open space and parks located in eastern and southern Orange County. Jeff equates this to the early urbanization of north Orange County versus the vast ranch lands of south Orange County.

"When The Master Plan of Riding and Hiking Trails was adopted in 1965, north Orange County was already built out with very dense neighborhoods, with few trails and little room for new trails," Jeff says. "Whereas in the south county and parts of east county, there was still

a lot of open land ... conditions were right for putting trails and bikeways in place."

As the historic ranchlands of the south county were being subdivided and developed, the Board of Supervisors required developers to incorporate trail easements into their neighborhood plans. Today, developers are still required to incorporate recreational and transportation easements into their housing developments.

"You have to appreciate that at the time the original plan was being developed, O.C. was the fastest growing county in the country; growing at a rate of 100,000 people a year," Dick says. "It was hard to provide the essentials like water, sewers and roads, much less recreational trails. We are fortunate that we got the open space, regional parks and trails that we have today."

The goal of the Master Plan of Riding & Hiking Trails was to provide county residents with opportunities to get outside and back to nature. Dick and Jeff agree that goal has been met, and they concur that the overall plan has exceeded expectations.

"The premise behind the riding and hiking trail system was to give people a way to get away, to escape their environment," Jeff says. "Kind of stair step system from an urban environment to a more natural place, a wilderness place close to home. That was the dream ... that has been achieved." ,

Happy Trails : OC Lifestyle - The OCInSite
www.ocinsite.com/lifestyle/articles/happy_trails

Mar 13, 2012 - Given **Orange County's** ranchero **history** and its cultural influence, ... *"There was an old cowboy, Gail Harmon, who bugged John to no end ..."*



Why Choose Rescue

By Debbie Kelly



Hurricane Katrina. These animals would come to the shelter, a large exposition center similar to our OC Fairgrounds, where they would receive medical attention, food, care, and eventually new homes if not claimed. I tell you this as I truly believe this experience is what brought me to the place I am today. It was life changing. It heightened my awareness to the core need of all animals, domestic and wild and put me on a path to animal welfare. My role over the last fifteen years has not been significant compared to others whose life vocation is rescue. Those who devote their resources primarily to this cause. But I have to believe I have made a difference. I have become part of a growing tribe of animal lovers who won't stand by when it is within their power to make that difference. That is why I responded when Hanaeleh Horse Rescue heard about two horses in Temecula, Ca being deliberately and systematically starved, and who were about to be put down by gunshot, sent out a plea for assistance. I didn't think twice. I had two empty stalls, could provide a temporary sanctuary to these two beautiful horses who did nothing to deserve what was being done to them. They deserved a chance at life, love, and food.

I had a condition though. I wanted to name them. We were told it was two mares, but it was actually a mare and a gelding. I named the mare Haven, so she would know she was safe. I called the gelding Cullen, a name suggested by a friend, which means handsome in Gaelic. And he is.



The Journey of Haven and Cullen

We all know the plight of unwanted, neglected, abused, and discarded animals. If you are connected to social media you likely receive a barrage of posts showing disturbing photos of dogs, cats, horses, and other animals who have been forsaken and forgotten by those responsible to care for them. It is disturbing and heartbreaking. Sometimes I just can't wrap my mind around the heartlessness of those I share the human race with. But to ignore it, to turn a blind eye to it, would mean I would not be in the ranks of those who can actually make a difference. I would not be part of the solution, no matter how small that would be.

In the summer of 2005, I was invited by the Humane Society of the United States to respond to their efforts in Gonzalez, Louisiana where thousands of dogs, cats, horses, and other animals displaced by the storm were being sheltered. Teams were deployed daily into New Orleans to rescue primarily dogs and cats who lost their homes and families as a result of

Haven and Cullen's journey here began on a Saturday when a family, who had no previous connection to them, hauled them here from Temecula. They had contacted Hanaeleh when they saw the starving horses and approached the man, not the previous owner himself, but knew him, and who had been asked to shoot them. The family appealed to the man and asked him not to do so and allow them to try to find a home.



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Iacono

ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING: January 31, 2020

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 9,131.34

DEPOSITS:

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 9,131.34

EXPENSES:

CK#	Source	Reason	Amount	CK#	Source	Reason	Amount
2170	D Kelly	Xmas party	\$ 45.00	2171	J Iacono	Xmas party	\$ 144.85
2172	J Iacono	Board dinner	\$ 50.00	2173	R Gomez	website	\$ 117.45
2174			\$ 65.00				
2237	State Farm	trailer ins	\$ 10.00	2238	Hanaeleh	charity	\$ 600.00

Total expenses paid in January 2020 (\$1,032.30)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

CK#	Source	Reason	Amount	CK#	Source	Reason	Amount
Total Outstanding Checks Dec. - 2019 i.e. Spending:							\$ 0.00
Funds on hand in checking as of 1-31-2020							\$ 9,131.34
Petty Cash on Hand as of 1-31-2020							†
Corral FUNDS On Hand at 1-31-2020							\$ 9,531.34



NET - NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of : Corral 357 \$ **9531.34**

Membership renews due:

Rich and Patty Gomez

Paula Giertych



SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
equestrian coalition



Presentation by Julie Beeman – Consultant for SJC Equestrian Coalition

Two Issues threatening the equestrian community

- I. SB 1383 - New State Waste Diversion requirements related to manure and stable bedding disposal.
- II. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Citizen Lawsuits.

I. **Senate Bill (SB) 1383 – Short lived climate pollutants: Organic Waste Methane Emissions Reduction – this includes horse manure.**

- SB 1383 regulates food waste, green waste and stable waste (manure/bedding), among other things.
 - These items are now considered “solid” waste and must be diverted from landfills.
- Regulations will be put in place to meet the Statewide goal of 50% organic waste disposal reduction from 2014 levels by 2020 and 75% reduction by 2025.**
- CalRecycle will initiate enforcement actions on January 1, 2022 and local jurisdictions will be required to take on the enforcement actions in 2024.
 - Diversion and enforcement costs expected to significantly increase disposal rates.
 - Penalties can go up to \$500/day.
 - It is estimated that 50-100 new or expanded facilities will be needed.
 - Equestrians will be competing for composting space with food and green waste.

The SJCEC is interviewing businesses who may be able to profit from stable waste

- **Saddleback Canyon Riders need to stay close to County of Orange Waste Management to ensure flexibility with trash hauling contracts as new opportunities emerge.**

II. **The Clean Water Act prohibits anyone from discharging “pollutants” through a “point source” into “waters of the United States” unless they have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.**

- Stables with less than 500 horses qualify as Animal Feeding Operations and depending on how their pollutants are handled, they can be required to have NPDES permits.
- The federal government recognized that most stables should be considered Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) and not Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).
- AFOs are not required to obtain NPDES permits.
- Stables need to comply with AFO requirements if at all possible.

What can we/each of us do? Make sure we follow "best management practices"

Covered Areas



Water wash connected to sewer system or settling area

Runoff control

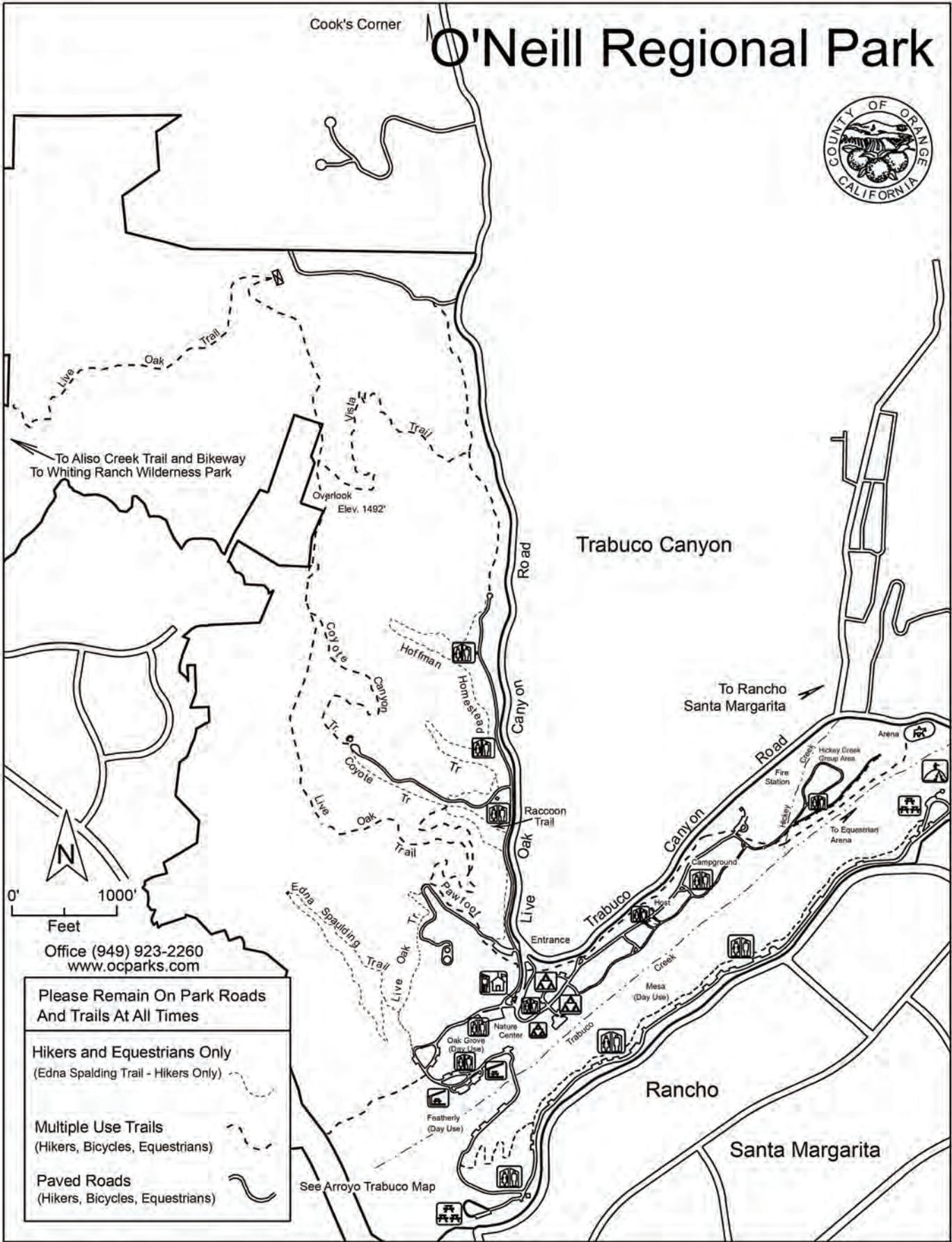


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Wednesday: Trabuco Canyon, Lake Forest, Serrano
Thursday: Rancho Carillo, Ortega, San Juan Capistrano, Nellie Gail, Laguna
Friday: Coto de Caza



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- * Keep your hay elevated & ventilated. Storing your hay on pallets will help keep your hay from getting wet or moldy
- * Keep your hay/feed room as clean as possible. When your hay runs low it's a great time to move your pallets and sweep out bits of hay or feed that have (or could) become mouse & rodent housing. Remember that rodents are a tasty treat to snakes!
- * Keep your strings under open hay bales so they can be re-tied up and moved when your new hay is delivered.
- * Remember to thank your delivery driver

2020 Upcoming Events

Saddleback Canyon Riders | ETI Corral 357

Date		Event		Location		Contact
Mar	5	Thursday	Members' Meeting - <i>Trails/Jeff Dickman</i>	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD	
	20	Friday	Newsletter deadline (for articles)	7:00 PM	newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	28	Saturday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	10:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Apr	2	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	4	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park	Jim (714) 612-1789
	9	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD	
	17-19	Fri-Sun	Casper's Campout & Ride	10:00 am	Casper's Wilderness Park	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	20	Monday	Newsletter deadline (for articles)	7:00 PM	newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	26	Sunday	Month-End Ride	9:00 AM	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
May	7	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	14	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD	
	20	Wednesday	Newsletter deadline (for articles)	7:00 PM	newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	31	Sunday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	10:00 am	O'Neill Park arena picnic area	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Jun	4	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	6	Saturday	Imperial Beach Ride	7:00 am	Meet at CVS	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	11	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD	
	13	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park arena	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	20	Saturday	Newsletter deadline (for articles)	7:00 PM	newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	28	Sunday	Month-End Ride	9:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Jul	4	Friday	July 4th Parade & BBQ	8:30 am	Trabuco Canyon	Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604
	8	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD	
	20	Monday	Newsletter deadline (for articles)	7:00 PM	newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	26	Sunday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	8:30 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	31	Friday	Pancake Fund Raiser - Setup	5:30 pm	RSM	Kristen (949) 444-1990
Aug	1	Saturday	Pancake Fund Raiser	5:30 am	RSM	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	6	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	13	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD	
	20	Thursday	Newsletter deadline (for articles)	7:00 PM	newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	29	Saturday	Month-End Ride	8:30 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Sep	3	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	10	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD	
	20	Sunday	Newsletter deadline (for articles)	7:00 PM	newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	26	Saturday	Inner-Coastal/Watershed CleanUp	8:00 am	Trabuco Creek Bridge	Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604





2020 Board of Directors

Saddleback Canyon Riders | ETI Corral 357

Board Members meet monthly (2nd Thursdays); Saddleback Canyon Riders Members are always welcome to attend or host a meeting. RSVP required.

Members Meetings (1st Thursdays) are open to the public.

PRESIDENT	Kristen Holden	949-444-1990	kristen3091@gmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Rich Gomez	714-504-7001	rtgomez@aol.com
SECRETARY	Patti Gomez	714-335-3123	pattiannomez@aol.com
TREASURER	Vicki Iacono	949-285-5975	zoegal@hughes.net
MEMBERSHIP	Vicki Iacono	949-285-5975	zoegal@hughes.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Renate Soderstrom	831-359-1079	renate.soderstrom@gmail.com
TRAIL BOSS	Debbie Kelly	949-713-6133	debbiekelly57@yahoo.com
ACTIVITY DIRECTORS	James Iacono	714-612-1789	jiacono@gofontis.com
Person-at-Large			
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Pam Ragland	714-287-0001	Pmt@AimingHigher.com
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR	Susan Piazza	949-201-7205	susan-susanpiazza.com@email.contactually.com
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATOR & WEBMASTER	Rich Gomez	714-504-7001	rtgomez@aol.com
OTHER CONTACTS:			
O'NEILL REGIONAL PARK	Steve Aleshire	949-923-2259	steve.aleshire@ocparks.com
ETI NATIONAL OFFICE	Debbie Foster	818-362-6819	eti@linkline.com
OCFA STATION #18		949-858-9369	



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The Saddleback Canyon Riders are ETI Corral 357

Established in 1991, we are one of the largest ETI corrals 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.



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.

Saddleback Canyon Riders

ETI Corral 357

PO Box 1026

Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678