

CORRAL NEWS



ETI CORRAL 357 | SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

APRIL 2020

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 4

Why are Hobbies So Important to Me (and obviously everyone in this club)

By Kristen Holden

It is an interesting concept, hobbies. I think I have had hobbies of one sort or another all my life. I can't think of a time that I have ever been bored. When people told me I had to stay home because of this exploding medical crisis, I did not panic as so many of my friends did. This was my opportunity to get back to what I love, my hobbies. Oh my goodness, what am I going to do first, run down to the stables? Well its raining, pick-up a sewing project? (of which I have tons), beading, photography, making jewelry? I don't know where to start.

So, I started thinking about this whole phenomenon of those people who have hobbies as compared to those who do not. What is it about us that makes us want to stay busy all hours of the day, and frankly many nights? Are we afraid to be alone with ourselves and therefore must stay busy? Are we introverts who find pleasure in the hobby rather than being around people? Or could it be that we like creating things? And add love for animals to the mix.

As I continued thinking about it, I started thinking about the many friends I have made along the way who share my hobby of horses. Some of us ride and some don't; some of us want them in our back yard and some don't. But the one thing we have in common, is how



much pleasure they bring to each of our lives.

And this brings me to those people who don't engage in any hobbies, and there are a lot of them. I cannot understand people who don't have the need to create or connect. It's funny but I guess there are two different types of people. I have quite a few friends who do not have hobbies and they are content. For them, hobbies cost money they do not want to spend, clutter up their homes, and take time.

But the reality is that I don't think those without hobbies have experienced the

connection that my horse friends and I have. It is an incredible feeling to get to the stables and hear Mocha whinny for me or have him rest his chin on my shoulder and sigh or even follow me around untethered. It doesn't matter how bad my day was, and they can get pretty awful, but all that disappears

when I spend time with him. He grounds me and helps me realize that there are bigger things in life. His whole life revolves around me...what an honor and responsibility. And I know my friends who share my hobby have those same experiences.

I feel so fortunate that I am one of the lucky ones to derive so much pleasure in my hobbies. And I know all my horse friends feel the same way. We are the lucky ones.

Reminds Me of a Story. . .Missing

By James Iacono



The word "Missing" can be layered in our language in several different ways. It can serve as a noun as in "I've discovered the Missing Link." It can be a verb in "I'm missing you." As an adjective it describes the status of an item. "Have you found the missing wallet?"

I am currently experiencing all of these nuances of the word. If you sent out a Search Team for me in Trabuco Canyon right now, I would end up on the Missing Person's List. Sadly, I'm nowhere to be found. If you went to the POP Riding log in the mailbox at the Park entrance, my name would be MIA- Missing In Action.

I am halfway through my cancer treatment. I have a little over 4 weeks more. At least I'm not missing my hair, as luckily my doctors figured out a treatment that my tumor would better respond to. So far, they're right. They haven't missed a beat. I haven't missed a treatment. But what I've learned through all of this, is that I'm missing some dignity. I can tell you about it over a beer some time, but you might want to miss your meal before.

But what I am really missing more than anything is my routine. I miss waking up to the sounds of country silence. I miss waking up next to my wife, listening to her breathe, maybe missing an occasional breath that she can spare because she's so comfortable. She's as peaceful as the dawn rising over the eastern foothills. There's no rush to her soft stirring. I miss the stretching sounds my dogs make as I leash them up. Ah, there's a briskness to the air, and I'm glad the barn is downhill. I can breathe easily, merge into the morning. I miss my two new Quarter Horses waiting at the gate, happy to see me with a snappy nod of the head, and a soft squeal. The rest of my morning there is work, but it's work

with a defined beginning and an end. The food is out, all four of them now eating their grass du jour, the stalls are cleaned, the water buckets filled. There is something so satisfying about a routine that has a clearly defined beginning and an end. I know in my life I'm not near the beginning, but not so sure about the proximity to the end. I miss that clear definition that the barn gives me.

I miss polishing them up, especially now when they should be losing their winter coats, and I can get them to shine. I miss tacking them up, throwing a saddle over their back, tightening their girth, fancy them up with a breast collar. I miss riding. I can be with Vicki, a Club friend or two, or by myself. But I'm never alone. I know people say, "Oh I went riding alone." That's kind of an oxymoron. If you're riding, I mean like a cowboy or cowgirl, you're never alone. I miss that.

I'm missing my horse. I know most of you understand that. I'm missing a piece of me. It's the piece of me that is both work and play, exercise and fun, outdoorsman and steward, sensible and fashionable (okay my wife says that's a stretch).

I missed my new horse's first colic. That's unfair. Not unfair to me, but unfair to Mari and Debbie and Dave, good friends in the canyon who had to nurse him through it. I'm missing friends like that. Thank you!

Had this out of state treatment not been necessary, and had I not been living with my daughter's family, I would be missing my grandson's growing up, Nathan's 4th birthday and his tackling of life's challenges. "Let me do that," whether it's putting on his pajamas, or turning on the iPad with Vicki's password. Or 20-month old Derek's first phrase, "denk eu." I would have missed that. And in 4 weeks when I leave here I'll be missing them- everything about their budding little minds, and their warm giving hearts. I'll miss hearing the squeal, "Papony tell me a story."

What this all has proven to me is, that by the grace of God, my life is full, God did not come up missing in my life when it came time to handing out blessings. Because if I am surrounded by people and animals and things to miss, then I need to not whine about this detour I am now on. Really, when I think about my life, **NOTHING'S** missing.

ETI National Magazine

By Rich Gomez

You all know about this newsletter but do you know about our National magazine? Our corral publishes this newsletter to share current topics, heartfelt ideas and support for our equestrian lifestyle, but did you know that ETI National also produces a monthly magazine for all its members?

ETI National used to print a hard-copy magazine and send it to every member, every month. Well, like so much in the publishing industry, this has changed. They have been producing a digital edition that you can read from anywhere on your favorite device...laptop, desk computer or smart phone.

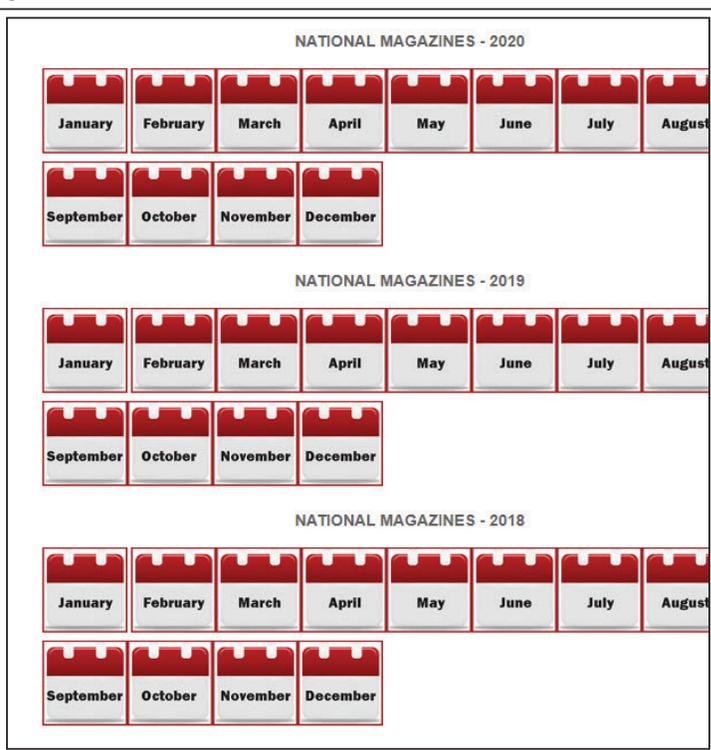
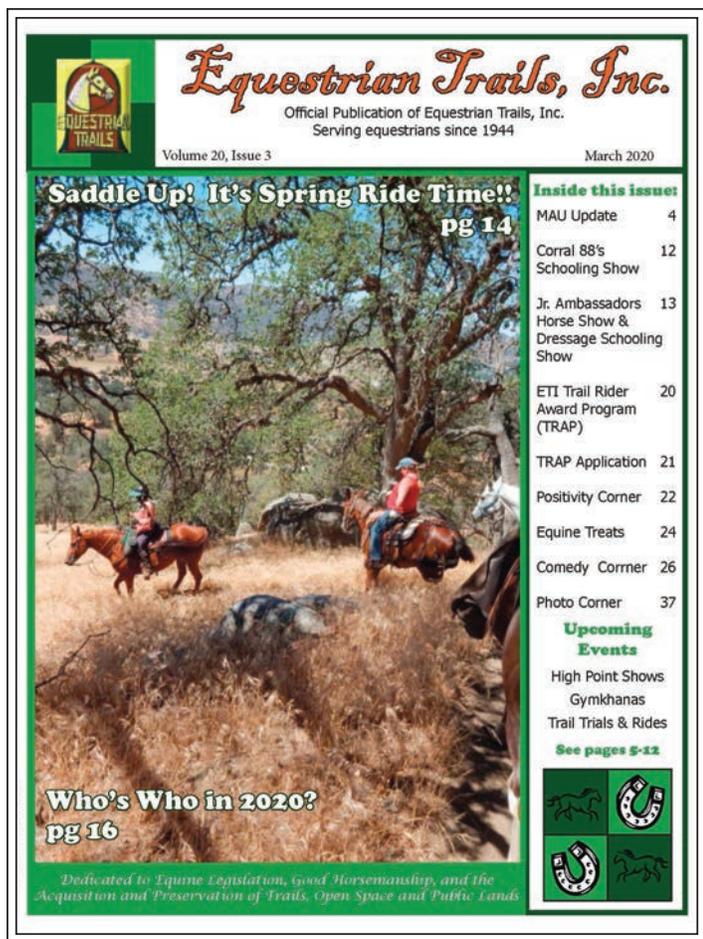
Your corral has been archiving all these magazines and they're all available on our website.

To get to this collection of ETI National magazines select the "Links" page on our "Resources" tab (hover or select this tab at the top of each web page or scroll and select on a smart phone):

<http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com/resources/links.aspx>

Scroll down and you'll find each magazine, by month and by year...for the last 5-years!

Just hover and click on the month and year you'd like to read...



There really is a lot of great information in these magazines including rides organized by other corrals. Remember: You are always welcome to join up with another corral and go on their scheduled rides. Two of our club officers have done exactly that and had a great time, a great ride and met some very welcoming ETI compadres in the west Mojave desert riding the Portal Ridge Preserve.

Read their story in our December 2019 newsletter:

www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com/media/97195/Saddleback-Canyon-Riders-Newsletter-2019-12a.pdf

Happy trails!

Why Choose Rescue

By Debbie Kelly



The Journey of Haven and Cullen continues

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 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.

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.

When they arrived here they were horribly skinny, especially Cullen, and extremely weak. Haven had a little more weight on her but she

has a bad knee and was in obvious discomfort. We started them on several small servings a day of moist pellets. They did not eat much the first twenty four hours, that is how shut down they were, but by the next day they were eating, drinking, pooping, and responding to attention. We continued on this regimen and slowly introduced a senior feed and Orchard grass. They received massage therapy, had their feet trimmed, a veterinarian visit, and Haven was given an injection in her knee for pain. I added CBD pellets for horses as well. Soon they will have their teeth floated as Haven especially needs to be at certain weight and strength to receive anesthesia.

My place was a temporary shelter for them. When they had an opportunity to go to a facility in Orange better suited for Haven's needs and more volunteers to care for them, I knew I had to let them go. While they were here my daughter and I became much attached. Between us and just one other Hanaeleh volunteer we fed them six times a day, groomed, walked, blanketed, and basically helped them reconnect with humans. Their response was overwhelming as if they never really stopped trusting, and in that six weeks the light in their eyes returned. I think the best part was the nickering when

they knew food was coming. Cullen was very demonstrative when it was time to fill his bucket. Those six weeks felt like six years so when they were gone I experienced what I am calling empty stall syndrome. I only saw them in the daylight on weekends. I work full time and I fed at 6am and 6pm plus a whole lot of clean up in the dark. I was always surprised to see a little more weight and fewer ribs showing on Saturdays when I could spend quality time with them in the daylight. Since they have left, we have been to see them. They are thriving and have so much love and attention. We don't know how Haven is going to fare with that arthritic knee, but she is being given every chance to recover and lead a happy life from this point on. They will eventually go to a long term forever home already waiting for them, and to a life filled with food and love.

Thank you again to all who followed their story here, came to meet them, donated, and offered encouragement to me while I fostered them. You are all part of their journey; all part of the village that saved them.

This is their new back story. This is why rescue works.



So, who really rescued who?

By Mike Wallace

As we do from time to time, we release an article that is not directly horse related. Such is the case with this one. That said, I think we are "animal people" first and foremost, so here's the story...

Back in December, I had just returned from a three-day business trip and, the next morning, I got up and as is my norm, looked out my back door, just to check the walkway behind my unit. I was confronted with a very large "object" just below my back steps. Quite honestly, I was taken by surprise and I shut the door immediately and tried to ascertain what the heck it was. When I had collected my thoughts, I reopened the door slowly and discovered that the large object was in fact a dog. A VERY large dog laid out on the walkway. He had been literally secured to my back steps railing by a leash and left there. Being, like most of us, an animal person first, I approached him to find him very frightened and shivering, maybe from the cold. It had been around 40 degrees the night before. I contacted my neighbor upstairs and he informed me that he had heard barking the night before but couldn't figure out where it was coming from. Apparently, he'd been out there all night. Who would do such a thing to a living creature?? I got his leash off the railing and coaxed him into the house with a little bit of meat that I had and got him a bowl of water. He is an American Labrador and although he looked to be in pretty good shape, I could see that he had some issues in his rear legs and a bit of grey on his muzzle. No ID, to tags of any kind so I had idea of his age, background, etc.

Maybe of no surprise to some of you, I contacted our very own Trail Boss, Debbie Kelly and asked her what she thought. I consider Debbie our champion animal rescue person! At this point, I was a bit torn as I knew he wasn't lost, but rather abandoned by someone. Do I call animal services or, ...?? After we got off the phone with Debbie, I decided that no, he was NOT going to a shelter. I was now a dog owner!! We bonded almost immediately. I named him Romulus. No, not after anything related to Star Trek, but

rather the mythical founder of Rome. After a trip to the Pet Store, Romulus had a proper bed, food, dog bowls, a couple of dog toys, a new collar, and a name tag with my, and now HIS, info on it. I had no idea of his history and Debbie had suggested that I bring him by as he may have had been chipped. And she had a chip scanner that would let us know. As luck would have it, he WAS chipped and Debbie contacted AVID. AVID reached out to the original registered person who informed them that they did not own this animal "for years." The AVID chip DID reveal that he was originally chipped in 2009. So, Romulus (henceforth known as "Romy") was at least 10 years old at the time he was abandoned.

I sent out a message on Next Door to see if anyone could enlighten me, but all I got back were messages thanking me for taking him in or that they would take him if I didn't find him a home. If there was any levity to be had in all of this, I got a call from Debbie Kelly informing me that Animal Control was looking for a loose dog in my neighborhood that had been reported to them. What makes it humorous is that she called me WHILE I was walking Romy. As we were walking one way, Animal Control was driving by going the opposite direction. I swear they never even gave us a look. Debbie was kind enough to inform me of a "safe house" for Romy as I had to go back out of town on another business trip that next day. Heck, I had a fugitive dog in my possession!! (Never did see any LOST posters though.) LOL!

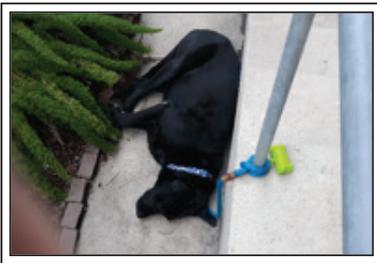
Five days later, a guy showed up at my front door claiming that Romy was in fact his dog. Needless to say, I wasn't cutting him loose on just this person's say-so. I sent him back to bring me solid proof that Romy was indeed his dog. Well, he did; A vet report from November that matched his age and physical condition. Apparently, Romy had been obtained through a rescue up in LA. This person never could explain how HIS dog ended up over ½ mile away from his house, from behind a six foot high wrought iron gate and cinder block fencing and, as it turned out, on his OWN LEASH, tied to my back steps. I was suspicious

to say the least. But dogs, like horse, are property and although it was REALLY tough to give him up to this guy, I let him go. I SWEAR when they walked down the front steps, Romy looked over his shoulder like; "Really?? Why am I leaving?" To say I was devastated is a pretty accurate description.

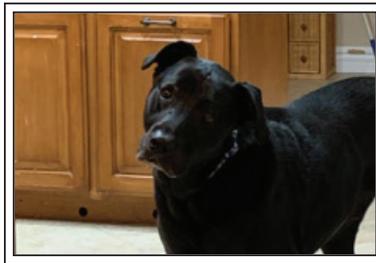
Fast forward about 16 hours ... I was attending a very nice birthday dinner in Costa Mesa and received a voicemail from my next-door neighbor. He informed me that he had Romy with him, on his porch, and that he had been found by a couple of folks from our neighborhood less than a block from my place! Needless to say, I politely excused myself and headed home. Sure enough, Romy was indeed back! How did he get out less than 1 day after I had given him up? No idea, but there he was.

From that moment on, Romulus was MY dog. We are a team. Good luck to anyone attempting to take him back! As it turns out, he was there for ME, after my auto accident that left me stranded at home for a couple of weeks recovering. He rarely left my side the whole time. I can't ride a horse still as I continue to recover but Romy sure makes the healing process a lot easier to deal with. At this point, I'm still not sure who REALLY rescued who.

I do want to give a special thanks to Debbie Kelly for all the effort and support she gave both Romy and I during the first few weeks. Her knowledge and caring spirit made the process a lot easier for both of us.



First morning when I found Romulus



He is a curious dog



Looks rather regal, doesn't he??

Area Trails

By Rich Gomez

Thanks to everyone who came to last month's ETI Members' Meeting; everyone said it was extremely informative. We had an extraordinary speaker who spent a long time explaining the history of riding trails in our area, the current status of trail access and exactly what your club is doing to get them all open and accessible. One member said, "Now I get it!"

Change is tough and land ownership changes can directly affect trail access. That's specifically what your club is and has been working on for some time.

We're working within the equestrian and recreational user community to explain to County government the challenges we face but also to share the opportunities trail access provides for all recreational trail users. The

Saddleback Canyon Riders are now part of a broad coalition of horse owners, commercial stables and concerned citizens who intend to get answers...our group includes almost 2,000 Orange County horse owners (over 1,500 horses) and every commercial stable from Anaheim Hills to San Juan Capistrano. And that doesn't even include our association with other recreational user groups!

As you know, recreational trails are all part of the County's "Master Plan of Trails" and integrated specifically into the County General Plan and the Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan. We've included maps that show these alignments, and they're always available on our website.

Our goal is to reopen the following trails (listed in order of complexity and priority). During

our meeting with Supervisor Wagner we shared our focus on the first three trails specifically and the FTSP trails in general:

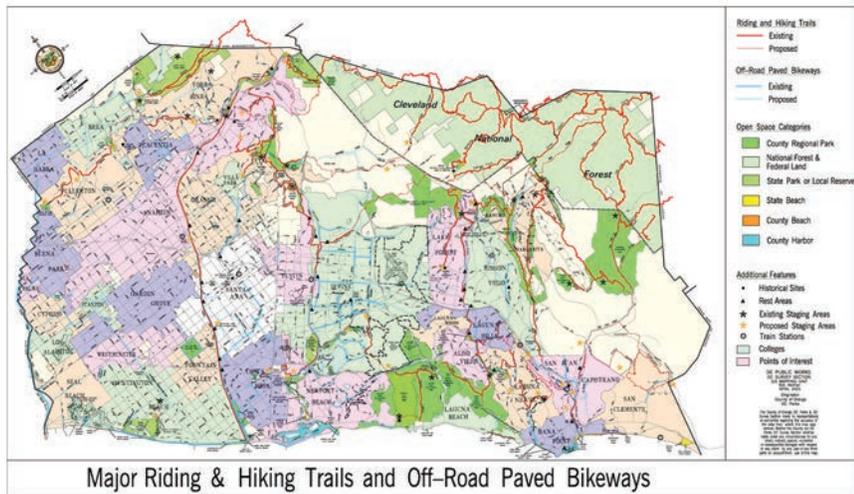
1. Trabuco Creek Trail (Arroyo Trabuco Trail)
2. Joplin Trail
3. Vulture Crags Trail
4. FTSP connection trails:
 - o Rose Canyon Trail
 - o Chaparral Connector Trail
 - o Trabuco Canyon Trail
 - o Hickey Canyon Trail
 - o Coyote Connector Trail
 - o "Unnamed Canyon Trail"
 - o Viewpoint Spur Trail

We would like to know how you can help us support our campaign and the County's efforts to reopen these trails. Please join us at an upcoming meeting or call or send an email to us so when we meet again with the Supervisor and other county officials (and there are several at the highest levels) we can share your passion for trails and get an update on the county's progress reopening these trail alignments.

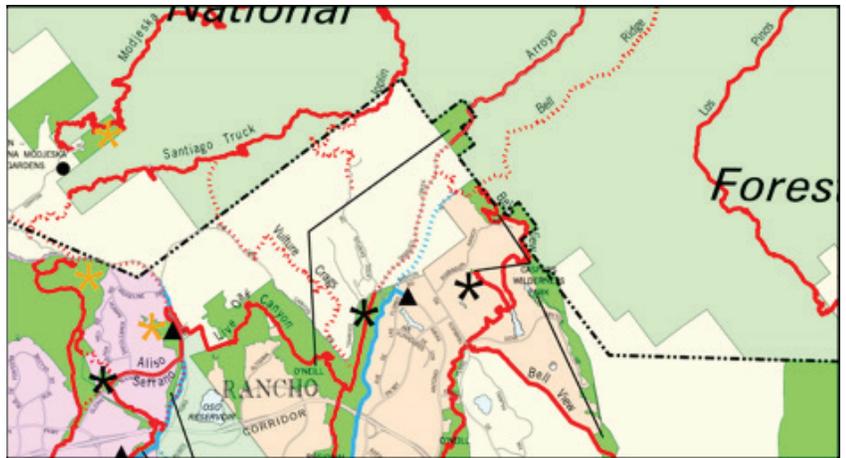
Everybody wants trail access but we need EVERYONE to participate and show our community commitment and persistence. We're horsemen and horsewomen...we know patience and we understand progress a little at a time. **We don't give up... and that's where YOU come in! Everyone talks...we need action so help.**

Contact us at: eticorral357@gmail.com

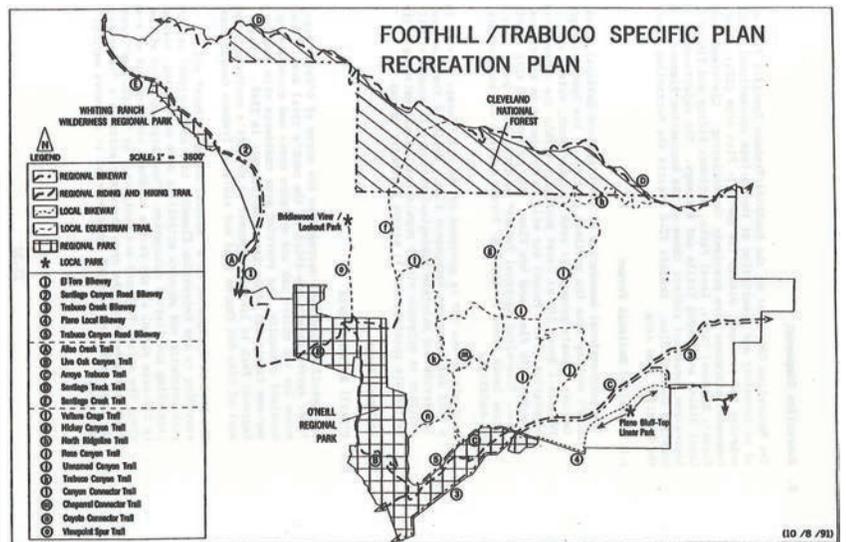
Call: Rich (714-504-7001) or Jim (714-612-1789)



<http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com/our-mission/acquisition-and-preservation-of-trails.aspx>



<http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com/our-mission/current-campaigns.aspx>



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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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- * Remember to thank your delivery driver

2020 Upcoming Events

Saddleback Canyon Riders | ETI Corral 357

Apr	2	Thursday	Members' Meeting CANCELLED	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	4	Saturday	Trail Maintenance CANCELLED	9:00 am	O'Neill Park	Jim (714) 612-1789
	9	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Kristen's	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	17-19	Fri-Sun	Casper's Campout & Ride CANCELLED	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
	21	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Iacono's	Jim (714) 612-1789
	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

Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Iacono

ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING: February 29, 2020

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 8,951.64

DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After February 2020 Closing: \$ 0.00
 Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 8,951.64

EXPENSES:

Total expenses paid in February 2020: \$ 0.00

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

CK#	Source	Reason	Amount	Ck#	Source	Reason	Amount
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Total Outstanding Checks Dec. - 2010 i.e. Spending: \$ 0.00

Funds on hand in checking as of 2-29-2020 \$ 8,951.64

Petty Cash on Hand as of 2-29-2020 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 2-29-2020 \$ 9,531.34

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

Membership renews due:

Paula Giertych

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.

ETI Corral 357 Board:

		<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>	<u>Cell</u>	
odd	President	Kristen Holden	949-444-1990	949-444-1990	kristen3091@gmail.com
even	Vice-President	Rich Gomez	949-888-1604	949-888-1684	714-504-7001 rtgomez@aol.com
odd	Secretary	Patti Gomez	949-888-1604		714-335-3123 pattiangomez@aol.com
even	Treasurer	Vicki Iacono	949-459-7742		949-285-5975 zoegal7799@gmail.com
even	Membership	Vicki Iacono	949-459-7742		949-285-5975 zoegal7799@gmail.com
odd	Scribe/Editor-in-Chief				
odd	Trail Boss	Debbie Kelly	949-713-6133		949-244-0670 debbiekelly57@yahoo.com
even	Person-at-Large	Mike Wallace			949-981-9336 mustangmikeshats@gmail.com
even	Activity Director	Jim Iacono	949-459-7742		714-612-1789 jiacono@gosafeguard.com
	Sergeant-at-Arms	Pam Ragland		949-734-0374	714-287-0001 pmt@aiminghigher.com
	Emergency Response Team Coordinator/Communications; Webmaster	Rich Gomez	949-888-1604	949-888-1684	714-504-7001 rtgomez@aol.com
Others:					
	O'Neill Regional Park	Steve Aleshire	<u>Direct</u> 949-923-2259	<u>Park</u> 949-923-2260	<u>Cell</u> 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

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