

CORRAL NEWS



ETI CORRAL 357 | SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

MARCH 2021

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 2



A Note from the President

By Kristen Holden

With the devastating wildfires we have seen in recent months, it is impossible to live in the area without knowing someone who has been impacted. Two fires in as many months have not only seen hills burned and evacuations of horses as well as people but personal property of our members and many others destroyed.

One such case is that of Sandi Dunn, a longtime resident of Williams Canyon and member of ETI 357 (Saddleback Canyon Riders). The fire came raging through the canyon burning property and homes and leaving the residents with the devastation to clean up and rebuild. In Sandi's case, the fire miraculously skipped her home but did unimaginable damage to her property and surrounding area. Her barn, chicken coop and much of the outer structures on her property were destroyed. During the fire, Sandi was forced to open the doors of the chicken coop as the fire raged near to save the lives her beloved chickens and guinea fowl.

Fortunately, with a friend next door and many friends in ETI, a very large task of rebuilding Sandi's chicken coop and cleaning up some of the burnt rubble around her home became possible. On February 6th, a whole host of club members gathered their rakes, shovels and tools to come to Sandi's aid. And as our former president and now Activities Coordinator Jimmy I. has been known to say, "Many hands make for light work."

One of the biggest parts of the cleanup was to rebuild the chicken coop for the few that survived. Sandi had been donated an enclosure but it needed to be finished with a floor and the area cleared. Several of us went next door to collect the paving stones that remained from Sandi's son's house that burnt,

the rest of us cleared the ground near the coop, brought in sand and began laying the stones to finish rebuilding.

In just about two hours, the paving stones were in place and the chicken coop completed. This is what neighbors and friends do for each other. I can't help but think in this current environment of discord we see in our country, there are still plenty of kind people who give of themselves to help each other. I am sure Sandi had no words to say how appreciative she was. And the reality is the feelings one gets when helping others is pretty good too.



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EMERGENCY

"Horses And Life, It's All The Same To Me." - Buck Brannaman

"We ain't skeered!" - Rick Batheiser, Past President

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"Preflight Checks" aren't just for Airplane Pilots...

By Mike Wallace

So, if you're like a lot of folks who ride, you probably just want to spend that quality time, in the saddle, enjoying nature with your equine partner. A very admirable and natural idea. However,... how many have had the WORST ride of their lives by following this very thought pattern? If you're lucky enough not to have a train wreck ride or another type of catastrophic result, life goes on. But how about those times when things DID go wrong? When your horse was uncooperative, or worst, ended up causing injury to themselves or you? What could have been done to avoid this result? Yes, it MAY have been unavoidable, but I would venture a guess that in many cases, we just took one or more shortcuts prior to mounting up so that we could just "cut to the chase" and go ride.

If I have learned one thing about working with horses, it's that they can be unpredictable on occasion. No matter how long I've been partnered with a horse, they do have days that they just aren't "right." Most days, not a big deal. But what could I (or you) do to circumvent these occurrences and save us from a very unpleasant, or in some cases, unsafe ride? The horsemen who taught me always, and I mean ALWAYS, required that I do a preflight check before leaving the facility.

No airplane pilot would even think of taking off before doing a thorough check of his aircraft to assure that he would be as safe as possible before leaving the runway. As equestrians, we should be just a diligent before we step into the saddle for a ride. Horses, like people, have good days and bad days. I can personally attest to the fact that there were days when I rode my Mustang Stonewall, that today was NOT his day. Because I always did a preflight check, I could tell right away that something wasn't right. Could have been that he was not in the right frame of mind, could be that he had a mild physical issue, or a piece of my equipment was not up to par. So, what can YOU do to be confident that when you step into that stirrup, that you and your horse is at their best?

The "Preflight Check"... Start With Yourself

Start with yourself, making sure as a rider that you are dressed for success. That means long pants, good riding boots, with a smooth sole and heal, clothing

that is neither too tight nor too loose, no hanging items that could get caught (especially around the neck), as well as proper, protective headgear. Wear either an ASTM certified helmet or a western style hat. Also, check your attitude. This can oftentimes be one of the most important parts of the safety check. Be mentally ready, present, and an encouragement to yourself by using positive self-talk.

Check Your Horse

Your horse is your partner, and as the leader, you are expected to make sure he or she is able to perform. Check for any cuts, wounds, abrasions, swelling or hot spots. Pay attention to your horse's attitude, making sure that they are able and ready to be a willing partner. Do enough groundwork to establish a baseline for a quality relationship. Most of us ride because we love horses; a little extra time doing groundwork to make sure your horse is comfortable and willing will be well worth the effort. (we'll touch on this again later)

Check Your Tack

Your tack. This can oftentimes be an area that some riders don't understand fully. We do what we always have done, but a little education and paying attention will really pay off. Saddle pads or blankets need to be cleaned and free of debris. Hay and pine needles can cause irritation and sores pick or brush them away. Ensure there are no folds or wrinkles, and your saddle pad should be pulled up into the gullet of the saddle. Blanket and saddle pads should be straight and even with as much extra in front of your saddle as in the back. The saddle should be fit properly and match the horse's back. The underside should be routinely checked for lump, bump, and nails protruding through the fleece. The saddle should be properly set in the saddle pockets on the horse's back, just on and behind the weathers. As you go to the off side, make sure no straps or saddle strings are tucked under the saddle. Also carefully inspect all of the components that hold your saddle securely to your horse. This would include the rigging, D rings, latigo, as well as the cinch or girth. They should be free of cracks and have appropriate but not excessive wear. It is also very important that you inspect all of the components that hold you in the saddle. This mostly means stirrups, stirrup leathers and fenders. All of

these items should be crack and tear free as well as supple enough to move freely. It is a good idea to get your saddle safety inspected and repaired yearly by a professional. Also important, but often times neglected is the bridle. A bridle should not only be in good repair, adjusted properly and fit to the horse comfortably; it should also be appropriate for the level of knowledge and training of both horse and rider. If you are using the headgear commonly used for the horse, a quick check of wear areas, Chicago screws, as well as proper adjustment will generally suffice. I wish I had a dollar for every time I've ridden with someone, only to have a rein come loose from the bit. Yikes! Talk about scary!!

Groundwork Before Riding

A really well-known natural horseman, Richard Winters, who I met at the L.A. Horse Expo a few years back, had some interesting things to say about a preflight check for horses. "This can be a very important step in the training process. Much like a pilot goes through a preflight checklist before taking off. Preparing your horse mentally, physically, and emotionally before getting on can be very valuable. Many people have gotten hurt because they've gotten on their horse prematurely, before the horse was mentally and physically warmed up."

When I say groundwork, I don't mean lunging a horse for x-amount of time before riding. Personally, I am not a fan of "lunging". In fact, the horseman who taught me wouldn't even think of allow one of their students to lunge a horse in the traditional sense. But I would never get on a horse that hasn't been checked to see if their hind quarters are loose and responsive, they move easily on the forehand, back up without resistance, and stop as soon as it is asked.

I look for Three C's: control, confidence, and connection. Do I have control of the horse's feet? Does he have confidence in me so I can have confidence in him? Do we have a mental connection today—are we communicating effectively with each other? If there's a problem with one of the C's, that doesn't necessarily mean I can't ride, It just means I need to go back to some fundamental groundwork exercises to get the horse where he needs to be. This 10- to 15-minute pre-ride session also helps check for soundness. You can watch how the horse moves, noticing if he's asymmetrical or is showing any signs of discomfort.

It usually only takes me a few minutes to see if I am getting the correct responses to my queues. For me, it has been the fastest way to see if my horse is in the right frame of mind before I ride. If it's not, what do I need to do to correct this and, if there is no easy solution right now, do I REALLY want to take a chance that this animal will respond well under stress on the trail or in the arena? My safety, and the safety of my horse hangs in the balance.

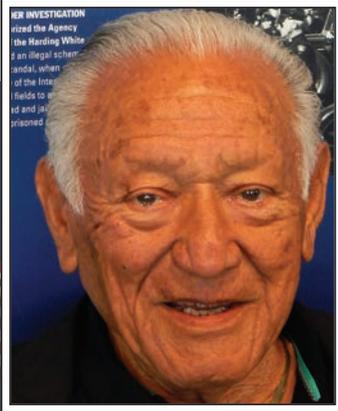
Me on my equine partner Sampson - July 2019





Tribute to My Pop... Rudy Gomez 1922-2021

By Rich Gomez



What is national pride?

What makes us unique in the world? That our founding fathers believed that..."all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

This is our American creed; this is what we stand for.

When the world was thrust into World War II, Americans everywhere "joined" the fight. At home, sentiments were strong...much like they were after 9/11. We were bound together against a common enemy, but we were stronger as a nation because of what we believed....that the very core of our being was being and had been attacked. Our belief and pride in America, our willingness to oppose a common enemy and our willingness to fight and win was the mantra of our American culture during World War II. And America and its allies saved the world...

My dad is a WWII veteran and I'm very proud of him and the millions of other veterans from every war and conflict. That's why when I heard about "Honor Flights" to Washington, D.C. I knew I had to take my dad. As a friend of mine, a retired Marine colonel, said, "This will be the honor of his life!" It absolutely was and here's why...

Honor Flight Southland is the local group of a nation-wide organization dedicated to providing veterans with honor and closure. <https://www.honorflight.org/>

I took my dad on this trip to our nation's capital in October and it was probably our most memorable time together. But it began with a 4:00am start time at LAX!

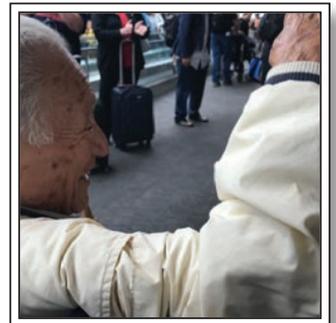
When we got to the airport we joined about 40 other WWII veterans and their "guardians" (a family member or friend to assist the veterans) and an entire entourage of current and retired military personnel. It was incredible, and all for my dad...



We took off for Washington, D.C. and on the plane, just like during WWII, they had "mail call" with letters from home. I had been told in advance this would happen so I asked family and friends to write letters to my "Pop" – not only did he get letters from them, but from people he didn't even know. He received cards and letters from grateful Americans of all ages from all over the country...we spent about an hour, choked-up and laughing at the same time...



We landed at Baltimore International Airport to a water-spraying group of fire trucks and a welcoming group of hundreds of, again, grateful Americans! Wow...what an honor and what emotions...



From our accommodations at the Hilton to the police escort everywhere we went, the tribute to these old, hardened men was incredible. Of course, the World War II Memorial was the highlight for this group of veterans...and we all became so close. Veterans and guardians alike shared the feeling of brotherhood and patriotism. It's no wonder we won the war!





Two of my first cousins even flew in from Minnesota and North Carolina to see and welcome my dad...wow, was he surprised!!! And everywhere we went, people came up and simply shook my dad's hand and said, "Thank you for your service" – even retired Senator Bob Dole.

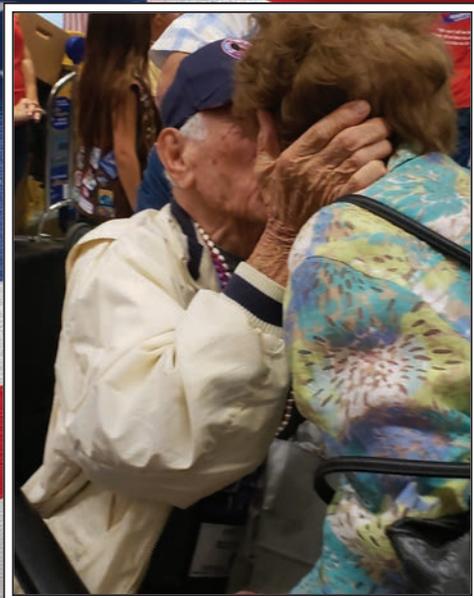
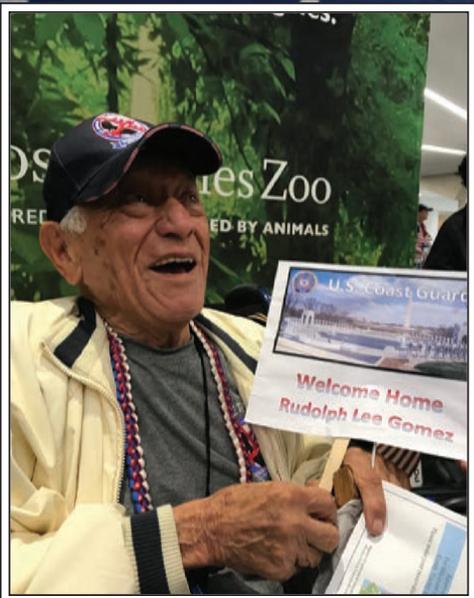
As you can imagine, it was an emotion-filled experience filled with priceless moments...but one of the most moving stories was told at Fort McHenry by a national park ranger describing the famous battle during which Francis Scott Key wrote the lyrics to our national anthem...



The British, after having broken into OUR White House, having eaten OUR food and having drunk OUR wine, smashed Dolly Madison's dishware and glasses, destroyed priceless art and then burned the White House. They then sailed to Baltimore to destroy the city. On September 14, 1814, the bombardment began from two-miles out in the harbor. The Americans fired back for 24-hours even though they KNEW their cannon balls only had a range of one-and-a-half miles. They were NOT going to let the British take Baltimore. Resolve, commitment, maybe even stubbornness...but it was American patriots who were determined to win, and that included all 14,000 Baltimore residents who constructed berms and trenches to fight the British. The poem was written early the following morning, and as you know our flag still waved over the fort. The British retreated and headed to New Orleans where runners had already told General Andrew Jackson about the White House and the attempt on Baltimore. The British were defeated by American resolve; determined Americans fought with that same stubbornness to win at New Orleans and the War of 1812 came to an end. Patriots. Americans.



We flew back to LAX and were greeted by yet another and even larger group of grateful Americans. Whether it was the people, our family members, the active duty and retired servicemen or the band and the flags, the moment was the absolute highlight. My emotions couldn't take any more. The good news is my dad's emotions were welling with pride. He had a smile on his face that I've never seen when he saw my mom and gave her a kiss just like he did over 70 years ago at the end of World War II.



2021 Calendar

| Date | | | Event | Location | Contact | |
|------|-------|---------|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mar | 4 | Thur | Members' Meeting CANCELED | 7:00 pm | M&C's Sports Grill | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Mar | 11 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| Mar | 20 | Sat | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| Apr | 1 | Thur | Members' Meeting | 7:00 pm | M&C's Sports Grill | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Apr | 3 | Sat | Trail Maintenance | 9:00 am | O'Neill Park | Jim (714) 612-1789 |
| Apr | 8 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| Apr | 16-18 | Fri-Sun | Casper's Campout & Ride | 10:00 am | Casper's Wilderness Park | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Apr | 20 | Tue | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| Apr | 25 | Sun | Month-End Ride | 10:00 am | | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| May | 6 | Thur | Members' Meeting | 7:00 pm | M&C's Sports Grill | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| May | 13 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| May | 20 | Thur | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| May | 22 | Sat | Playday | 10:00 am | O'Neill Arena (9:00am registration) | Jim (714) 612-1789 |
| May | 30 | Sun | Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride | 10:00 am | Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Jun | 3 | Thur | Members' Meeting | 7:00 pm | M&C's Sports Grill | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Jun | 5 | Sat | Imperial Beach Ride | 8:00 am | Meet at CVS | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Jun | 10 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| Jun | 12 | Sat | Trail Maintenance | 9:00 am | O'Neill Park arena | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Jun | 20 | Sun | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| Jun | 27 | Sun | Month-End Ride | 9:00 am | | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Jul | 4 | Sun | July 4th Parade & BBQ | 3:30 pm | Gomez' Round Pen | Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604 |
| Jul | 8 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| Jul | 20 | Tue | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| Jul | 25 | Sun | Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride | 8:30 am | Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Aug | 5 | Thur | Members' Meeting | 7:00 pm | M&C's Sports Grill | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Aug | 6 | Friday | Pancake Fund Raiser - Setup | 5:30 pm | RSM | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Aug | 7 | Sat | Pancake Fund Raiser | 5:30 am | RSM | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Aug | 12 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | TBD | |
| Aug | 20 | Fri | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| Aug | 28 | Sat | Month-End Ride | 8:30 am | | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Sep | 2 | Thur | Members' Meeting | 7:00 pm | M&C's Sports Grill | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Sep | 9 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| Sep | 18 | Sat | Inner-Coastal/Watershed CleanUp | 8:00 am | Trabuco Creek Bridge | Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604 |
| Sep | 20 | Mon | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| Sep | | Sun | Fiesta Island Ride - San Diego | 8:00 am | Fiesta Island, meet at CVS | Jim (714) 612-1789 |
| Sep | 26 | Sun | Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride | 10:00 am | Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Oct | 2 | Sat | Acorn Day | 10:00-3:00 | O'Neill Park | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Oct | 7 | Thur | Members' Meeting/Nominations | 7:00 pm | M&C's Sports Grill | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Oct | 9 | Sat | Trail Maintenance | 8:00 am | O'Neill Park | Mike (949) 981-9336 |
| Oct | 14 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| Oct | 20 | Wed | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| Oct | 30 | Sat | Costume Trail Ride | 10:00 am | O'Neill Park Arena | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Nov | 4 | Thur | Members' Meeting and Election | 7:00 pm | M&C's Sports Grill | Kristen (949) 444-1990 |
| Nov | 6 | Sat | Trail Maintenance | 9:00 am | O'Neill Park | Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604 |
| Nov | 11 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| Nov | 20 | Sat | Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride | 10:00 am | Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate | Debbie (949) 244-0670 |
| Nov | 20 | Sat | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |
| Dec | 9 | Thur | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | | |
| Dec | 11 | Sat | Christmas Party | 5:30 pm | TBD | |
| Dec | 20 | Mon | Newsletter deadline (for articles) | 7:00 pm | Google Drive | |



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Iacono

ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING: January 31, 2021

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 6,766.87

DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After January 31, 2021 Closing: \$ 0.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 6,766.87

EXPENSES:

| CK# | Source | Reason | Amount |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|
|-----|--------|--------|--------|

Total expenses paid in January 2021: \$ 0.00

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

| CK# | Source | Reason | Amount |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|
|-----|--------|--------|--------|

Total Outstanding Checks January 2021 i.e. Spending: \$ (0.00)

Funds on hand in checking as of 01-31-21 \$ 6,766.87

Petty Cash on Hand as of 01-31-21 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 01-31-21 \$ 7,166.87

NET - NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of: Corral 357 \$ 7,166.87



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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

2021 Board of Directors

Saddleback Canyon Riders | ETI Corral 357

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

Members Meetings (1st Thurs) 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 | mustangmikes hats@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:

| | | <u>Direct</u> | <u>Park</u> | <u>Cell</u> | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | O'Neill Regional Park | Steve Aleshire | 949-923-2259 | 949-923-2260 | steve.aleshire@ocparks.com |
| | ETI National Office | Debbie Foster | 818-362-6819 | | eti@linkline.com |
| | OCFA Station #18 | | 949-858-9369 | | |



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