

# CORRAL NEWS



ETI CORRAL 357 | SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

JULY 2021

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 5



## A Note from the President

By Kristen Holden

As you may have read in my article in last month's newsletter, our board was in need of new officers as we had two retire from their positions. Well I am happy to say that our members are pretty incredible people and two of you contacted our board offering their help.

First Janel Meric, who had once held the secretary position some years ago, has agreed to step in as Treasurer and Membership Chair. She has been in contact with Vicki to ensure a seamless transition. Next, Debbie Kelly who has been on the board consistently for many years but had stepped away, has agreed to return as Trail Boss once again.

I am so grateful that we have members who will answer the call when asked. Janel and Debbie, welcome to the ETI Board. I know your ideas and contributions will be much appreciated.

Although we do not have a members meeting in July, I know all of you will welcome them in August. Now that we are meeting in person, I hope as many members will come to the meeting to welcome Janel and Debbie.



### You're invited!

ETI Corral 357, Saddleback Canyon Riders, and local realtor extraordinaire, Susan Piazza, will be

hosting the traditional BBQ, horseshoe (and cornhole) tournament and fireworks viewing at the Gomez' round pen behind their home at 20551 Trabuco Oaks Drive. You know, go up Danielle Lane, make a left and drive to the party!

Everyone's invited so please plan on attending:

**What:** 4th of July BBQ

**When:** July 4th 2021

**Time:** 3:00pm – fireworks time (9pm)

**Bring:** Your favorite side dish AND your favorite cocktail

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EMERGENCY

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

"We are horses!" - Rick Saddleback, Past President

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# Reminds me of a Story... Trail Boss on Trial

By James M. Iacono

On my first assignment as Trail Boss, I thought I was going to lose a horse. The first week in June has become the traditional weekend for the Saddleback Canyon Riders to venture to the southernmost point of California for a Saturday ride on the beach. Five members gathered at the RSM CVS parking lot on the morning of June 5th to caravan to Imperial Beach, where only a long black unremarkable wrought iron fence would separate them from our foreign neighbors in Mexico. And only the grit and determination of the aforementioned "five" would separate them from an unthinkable horror show.

As Trail Boss, I was able to pick our itinerary for the day, including a new staging area much closer to the beach. I was nervous, as introducing anything new often comes with unanticipated hurdle, though we could have never anticipated the hurdle we would later encounter.



But the trek to the staging area dealt no impediments. After meeting a friendly staff at the Border State Park gate, we arrived to a staging area with plenty of turn around parking, stalls that were a bit overgrown but usable, running water, and bathrooms and shaded picnic

tables a short walk up a hill. We parked, filled our water buckets, used the restrooms, tacked up our horses, and the beach was five minutes away. No snags.....at least not yet.

It was nice to avoid the 45-minute ride through the estuary to which we had become accustomed. No worries about which forks in the trail to take, no heat before finally meeting the ocean air, no rush to get the rental horses back. Within minutes, our horse's manes were fluttering like a flock of flags on the 4th of July. Ahhhh.

Our last trip back there in 2019 we had discovered some shallow tide pools up the coastline in which we had slogged around. I guided the herd there, but this year the pools of 6 inches or so, were now two to three feet deep. I spotted a course through the pools that would allow us to get to the other side that looked the most favorable in depth. However as two members of our team, Rocky Brown and Kristen

Holden, began the course, I could see they were sinking in the soft sand. I yelled to reverse course, Rocky's horse Snickers was able to push off his back feet and get to the shallower section of the pool. But Kristen's horse Mocha, did not appear



to have the back leg strength to push out of the sinking sand, and after a couple of meek attempts simply sat down. Kristen leapt off, first thinking that the weight removed from his back might allow the surge that was necessary, but secondly, she



realized she needed to hold his head above the incoming water. We were soon all in... never mind wet boots or wet jeans, we all grabbed a tail or a mane or a limb to just urge him forward to some shallower water. Soon there were 3 other spectators from

the beach also lending a hand. I was grateful for the manpower (no pun intended). 911 was called and 20 minutes later the Fire Department and the Beach lifeguards were on the scene. The firemen didn't seem equipped to enter the water, but a few lifeguards joined the team.

Still not much movement. Mocha was now trembling, eyes were closing. We gave him pep talks, encouragement, pleaded for him to try. But he seemed to stop all effort. Finally, the lifeguards unveiled some



nylon straps that we could wrap around his torso front and back, and 6 of us dragged him via the straps to shallower water.. only a few inches deep. He had put up no resistance as we carved through water, then sand. That worried me. I thought to myself, "He's dead weight." It was a thought I quickly repelled. His muscles quivered, the only movement of an otherwise motionless body. He had every opportunity to right himself, but he appeared resigned to lie there, his head caressed in the lap of a loving owner. I fast forwarded to the "what if this is it?" The options of how to proceed from there would explode the head of any trail boss, let alone one on his maiden voyage.

I remembered several years ago when I had a 30 year-old horse in a stall unable to get up. The vet came and I recalled a shot of adrenaline got her to sit up, then the two of us coaxed her by the tail to stand up. On that day, it worked. I asked the lifeguard if they had any adrenaline. "Dude," was the reply. "This is our first ever horse rescue." But he mentioned that they did have oxygen. Kristen said, "Sure, let's try it." We applied a tube from the cannister up his nose. He slowly began to perk up. He sat up. His eyes came alive. After about 10 minutes of the oxygen, the same team that had been there the whole time, decided to pool their strength for one last heave ho. After 90 minutes of being down, Mocha sat up and willed himself to try again. With the scrounging

strength of friends, and strangers, and lifeguards on their first ever horse rescue, Mocha's front legs climbed, then his back pushed off and he walked once again on the beach. It seemed as if he floated off of the sand for a split second....It may have been just the hope and the will, and the faith of an unlikely assembled team that rose him to a height that maybe he even wasn't sure he would attain again. And for a first time Trail Boss, I'm so glad he did.



## 2021 Calendar

Date			Event		Location	Contact
Jul	4	Sun	July 4th Parade & BBQ	3:00 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	16	Sat	Walk-Trot Roundup	10:00 am	O'Neill Arena (9:00am registration)	Jim (714) 612-1789
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	



# The Connection

By Debbie Kelly

On Sunday, June 27th, 2021 we said goodbye to an amazing Tennessee Walking Horse. Out of nowhere, and totally unexpected, what all horse owners fear, colic took him. While I was camping in Big Bear, and his owner of eighteen years, former ETI member and Trail Boss of multiple terms Jeff Kelly was in Cour de' Lane Idaho with family, Nixon presented with colic. It happened fast. With three vet calls within twenty four hours, our beloved Nixon was gone. Every effort was made to save him and no expenses were spared. Nixon was a young senior. Just twenty with no previous history of colic.

Nixon came into our lives eighteen years ago after we lost Coco, our beloved Appaloosa. She would be a tough act to follow, but Nixon filled those shoes and rose to the occasion. Jeff put thousands of miles on that horse and they had many adventures. Nixon rode every trail in O'Neill Park, knew them well, as well as Caspers Park. He and Jeff were OC Parks volunteers and together they would travel the trails in Caspers, often ponying my horse Riley and every ranger knew them. Jeff and Nixon explored the Back Country and the High Sierras several times and Nixon was affectionately called "The Goat" as he could maneuver any trail no matter how narrow or steep. They were a true team.

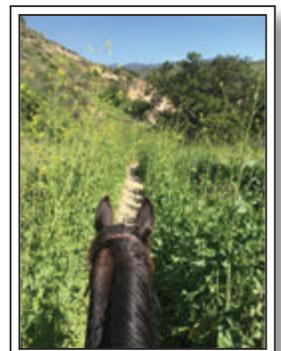
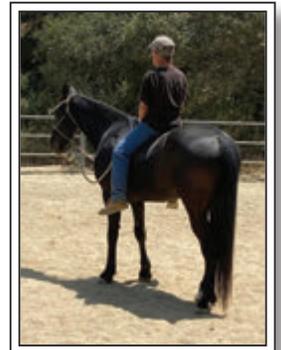
Nixon could be reactive but he never flinched when we would take the Arroyo to Alicia parkway then to Santa Margarita Parkway, riding along the sidewalks on a busy weekend afternoon. He and Jeff would ride all the way to the El Toro Water District where Jeff worked for over twenty years so his buddies there could see his horse.

Once, while taking that ride Jeff was approached by a man asking to use his phone. Jeff handed it to him and while talking the man became agitated and pulled out a gun. He pointed it at Jeff and Nixon then shot it at the ground. He ran off with his gun and the phone. Nixon did not flinch and just stood there. A bicyclist heard the shot and called 911. The Sheriff arrived and after questioning Jeff, they pinged his phone and

determined where the "shooter" was. They said they needed Jeff to go with them to identify him and to tie the horse to a tree. Like he would do that on El Toro road (near Saddleback Church). So Jeff and Nixon followed the Sheriff to the scene near El Toro Road and Jeronimo. What horse does that? A horse that trusts his rider. What rider does that? A rider that trusts his horse.

Nixon was just two years old when we got him. He was green yet willing. Before he was even three years old he went on a search and rescue for a lost horse in Modjeska. At first we were hesitant to take him so Jeff took my horse Riley. When we were asked to go a second time to search he rode Nixon as I was on Riley along with several members of our Mounted Assistance Unit. When a search helicopter landed in front of us Nixon had no issue with that, or the blades we had to walk under to pass. Through the years he would prove fearless and brave. There are almost two decades of stories, too numerous to tell here. Those are the memories we will hold on to. The adventures of a big black horse whose registered name was "The Connection"; who followed with his heart and never disappointed. A horse that was on his way to auction because he wasn't selling. A horse that no one took a chance on yet he gave us a chance.

Farewell and Godspeed Nixon. We love you and we miss you. You are always in our hearts and will forever be our Commander in Chief.



# Treasurer's Report

By Janel Meric

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

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 6,263.99

### DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After May 31, 2021 Closing: \$ 60.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 6,323.99

### EXPENSES:

CK#	Source	Reason	Amount
2278	ETI	Dues	\$ 210.00
2279	ETI	Dues	\$ 28.00
2280	Hanaleah	Charity	\$ 250.00

**Total expenses paid in May 2021:** \$ (488.00)

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

Funds on hand in checking as of 05-31-21 \$ 6,323.99

Petty Cash on Hand as of 05-31-21 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 05-31-21 \$ 6,723.99

NET - NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of: Corral 357 **\$ 6,723.99**

### Membership renews dues

Angelina Lui



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# LART is *NOT* Uber for Horses

By Rich Gomez

The San Juan Capistrano Emergency Evacuation & Large Animal Rescue Team (LART) is always ready to help in case of an emergency, but remember, they are a LAST RESORT resource.



Surprised?

Our Emergency Response Team coordinated and attended a meeting with some key players about the process, the politics and the future of LART. As horse owners, we've all come to rely on LART to help us evacuate horses in case of an emergency, but things are changing.

## The guaranteed key to safety is always to evacuate EARLY.

Here's what the ETI "Trabuco Canyon Emergency Evacuation Plan" outlines on page 2, and the highlighted line is most important: **Each horse owner is responsible for their horse(s) and MUST evacuate by their own means to a prior selected location.**

The other key requirement is the last line: **Each horse owner must care for their own horse(s) for the duration.**

### **Evacuation Warning:** (Incident impact is hours away)

- **Evacuate all residents and animals in vehicles and trailers; see Page 7-8 for locations**
- **NOTE:** All horses will be vaccinated; consent is implied and mandatory.
- Listen for evacuation instructions on **KSBR radio FM88.5**, via e-mail, the website or fire information number (*all shown below*). **Trabuco Residents: FRS Channel 22**
- Do not turn horses loose; WALK ALL HORSES TO O'Neill Park arena
- DO NOT LOAD HORSES ON THE ROADS; Load at O'Neill Park arena
- Leave corrals and doors unlocked and a light on for firefighters

### **Evacuation Order:** (Incident impact is *now* or *minutes* away)

1. Halter and **walk horses** on a lead-line or as directed to the O'Neill Park arena and login
2. **No trailers** can be used for evacuation
3. **One-out** only; once you evacuate you will not be allowed to return
4. **Do NOT** turn horses loose
5. Leave corrals **unlocked**
6. When you evacuate, **leave doors unlocked and a light on** – even in the daytime
7. Check stove, iron and coffee pot
8. Horses can be taken to the Orange County Fairgrounds **ONLY** under official, ordered, Evacuation Order by County authorities (**see Page 7-8 for additional locations**)
  - 55-Fwy South, exit **Del Mar Avenue/Fair Drive** offramp via Newport Blvd.
  - at Fair Dr, turn right, at Fairview, turn right, at Arlington, turn right and proceed to Gate 5 (north side of fairgrounds). Check-in at Gate 5 with Fair personnel.
  - **Horse owner/evacuation team to provide all feed and medication for duration.**



So what does this all mean for each of us? It means we must EACH have an evacuation plan, execute EARLY and evacuate by our own individual means. Problem is, not everyone has a trailer. That's where our club came in; to help organize and coordinate community-scale evacuations, but we have a new challenge: Finding large-scale haulers to move horses and having horse owners understand the "official" destinations are pre-defined.

- OC Fairgrounds
- Los Alamitos Race Track

**We have work to do.**

- We're trying to organize and coordinate local LART chapters under a county-authorized program
- We've found large-scale haulers we can "contract" with in case of emergency - but it comes at a price!
- We need to renew our relationships with alternate stables and facilities

**So who's ready to help? Ready to become a LART volunteer?**

**We need volunteers (contact Rich Gomez 714-504-7001 or rtgomez@aol.com)**

**Here are some changes and we need your input:** (contact Rich Gomez 714-504-7001 or rtgomez@aol.com)

1. Contract with haulers IN ADVANCE (probably about \$100 per horse – one way)
2. Understand that getting out early is required (and can be cheaper)
3. Remember that we can use the O'Neill Park Arena as a staging area – walk your horses down
4. Remember that LART follows the ICS/SEMS/NIMS protocol – chain of command.
  - a. ICS is "Incident Command System" (developed after the 9/11 attack)
  - b. SEMS is "Standardized Emergency Management Systems"
  - c. NIMS is "National Incident Management System"
5. We CANNOT mobilize LART with a phone call to LART – CALL 911 EMERGENCY
  - a. What to tell 911 operator: "WE have large animals that need to be evacuated."
  - b. Don't give instructions say what you need not who you are
6. LART is only mobilized through the chain of command – see above
7. Fill out this form in advance and take it with you when you evacuate your horse (click on form)
8. Don't forget our Emergency "cheat sheet" on our website:

<http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com/emergency.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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- \* 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	<b>President</b>	Kristen Holden	949-444-1990	949-444-1990	<a href="mailto:kristen3091@gmail.com">kristen3091@gmail.com</a>
even	<b>Vice-President</b>	Rich Gomez	949-888-1604	949-888-1684	714-504-7001 <a href="mailto:rtgomez@aol.com">rtgomez@aol.com</a>
odd	<b>Secretary</b>	Patti Gomez	949-888-1604	714-335-3123	<a href="mailto:pattiangomez@aol.com">pattiangomez@aol.com</a>
even	<b>Treasurer</b>	Janel Meric			
even	<b>Membership</b>	Janel Meric			
odd	<b>Scribe/Editor-in-Chief</b>				
odd	<b>Trail Boss</b>	Debbie Kelley			
even	<b>Person-at-Large</b>	Mike Wallace		949-981-9336	<a href="mailto:mustangmikes hats@gmail.com">mustangmikes hats@gmail.com</a>
even	<b>Activity Director</b>	Jim Iacono	949-459-7742	714-612-1789	<a href="mailto:jiacono@gosafeguard.com">jiacono@gosafeguard.com</a>
	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Pam Ragland		949-734-0374	714-287-0001 <a href="mailto:pmt@aiminghigher.com">pmt@aiminghigher.com</a>
	<b>Emergency Response Team</b>				
	<b>Coordinator/Communications;</b>				
	<b>Webmaster</b>	Rich Gomez	949-888-1604	949-888-1684	714-504-7001 <a href="mailto:rtgomez@aol.com">rtgomez@aol.com</a>
	<b>Others:</b>		<u>Direct</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>Cell</u>
	<b>O'Neill Regional Park</b>	Steve Aleshire	949-923-2259	949-923-2260	<a href="mailto:steve.aleshire@ocparks.com">steve.aleshire@ocparks.com</a>
	<b>ETI National Office</b>	Debbie Foster	818-362-6819		<a href="mailto:eti@linkline.com">eti@linkline.com</a>
	<b>OCFA Station #18</b>		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