

# CORRAL NEWS

ETI CORRAL 357 | SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS



OCTOBER 2021

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 8



## To the Future... By Kristen Holden

As the year winds down, I wanted to reflect on this last year in the club and take this opportunity to thank the members. We all know how tough 2020 was on all clubs across the country, ETI was no exception. This year, 2021, has not fared much better. There has been a divide that somehow has come along between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated, with everyone seeming to have strong opinions on either side. In spite of this divide, our board has made efforts to keep events going from Zoom board meetings, Imperial Beach and to the month end rides. I really want to commend everyone for putting aside their differences and making these events successful. I hope as this year ends and 2022 begins, the stress and pressures we feel will subside along with our differences and life will get back to some sense of normalcy.

As this year comes to the end, we will be having our first election for board positions since 2019. As you know, in 2020, we adjusted the By-Laws to extend the board positions by one year as we were not having in-person meetings and holding an election was just not possible. This means that the three positions that are coming up for renewal are President, Secretary and Trail Boss. I have enjoyed my tenure as President and although there were quite some limitations, I feel content that we were able to keep the club afloat. I know of so many social organizations that have gone by the wayside due to the pandemic and although we have not grown, we still have a club with events, meetings and the like.

Although I cannot speak on behalf of Patti Gomez, Secretary and Debbie Kelly, Trail Boss, I plan to step down as President. I would like to encourage any of our current members to run for any of the three open positions. I would love to have some new board members come into their position with new ideas and a desire to grow the club with new events, activities and ideas. I look forward to continuing as an active member of the club and perhaps run for an office sometime in the future.

I really want to thank all of you for your support over the years. This job was only possible with the efforts of all the other board members contributing their time and efforts to making it a successful club.

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and navigation links: OUR MISSION, ACTIVITIES, ABOUT US, BLOG, RESOURCES, THE HERD, and EMERGENCY. Below the header is a large photo of riders on a beach. Two text boxes are overlaid on the photo: one with a quote from Buck Brannaman and another from Rick Balteser. At the bottom of the screenshot are five yellow buttons: HOME PAGE, CALENDAR, NEWSLETTERS, MAGAZINES, and FACEBOOK.



## Reminds me of a Story...One of a kind

By James M. Iacono

The Canyon lost a legend this past week. Dave Seroski died peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday. Dave did a lot of things quietly. He didn't need to have the microphone, though he had a lot of thoughtful things to say. He didn't need to take the credit, though we all knew he kept a well-oiled machine that way. He knew a little about everything...or maybe I should say he knew a lot about most things. He could set you up with an emergency radio, drag your arena, fix your saddle, make you a belt, grill you a burger, install cameras in your stalls, detail your leather tack, tend to your colicky horse if you are out of town, design custom halter/bridles, or as I liked to call them, "haltermores". And I know this because he did all of those things just for me. I know that many of you reading this would add to this list of skills, techniques, ingenuity, and favors. I know I am just skimming the surface. He invented a variety of products to make the equestrian's life easier. Probably the most famous of his inventions is the impact leg flasher, now a staple item for police officers under saddle across the country. I remember him telling me the night that he got the inspiration watching a kid run across the cantina with those tennis shoes that light when up they hit the ground. He took one apart, understood the electronics, and managed the production overseas. Those flashers have lit up my path on many a dark night heading home from the cantina. I wrote an article about them a few years back. I wish I could find it. I want

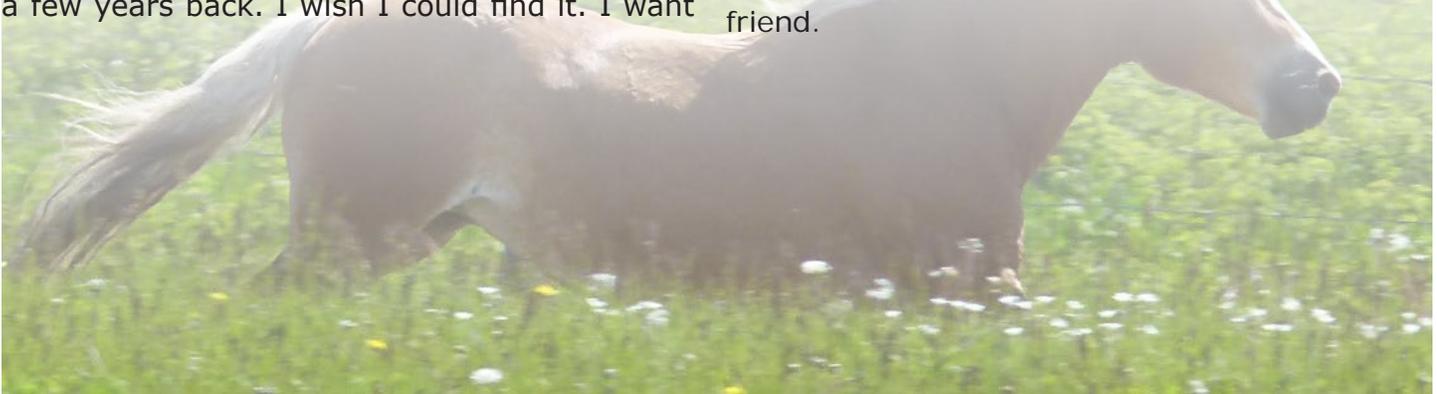
to remind myself how much I admired his pluck even back then.

He was a member of this Club for maybe 15 years. He became involved from the start, throwing his hat in the arena for anything that needed to be done...or just done better. I could always count on him for dragging the arena the day before a Playday...or setting up the sound system for any event, or grilling the burgers, or setting up for the pancake breakfast, or flipping sausages, or sitting in on meetings to protect and defend our equestrian life, and rounding up excitement when it was threatened.

He would share a new bourbon with me, help put up the horse shelters in the park. Everyone relied on his Ham radio experience to keep us all informed of every flame in our area on the Trabuco Canyon Emergency line. Who can take over that?

He left some big shoes to fill. He also has left a hole in a lot of hearts to fill, especially his wife Sue's. I heard it whispered today that he had a bad heart. That seems so ironic. Dave had one of the best hearts I ever knew on the "beaten" path.

I was going to reprint the article I wrote about him several years back. But now that I think of it, wouldn't it be better if we all heard from him one more time. Along with a photo he took of Teddy. We all look to the sky to see our friend one more time. Until we meet again, dear friend.





## Horse Sense

By Dave Seroski

# Speaking in the Way of the Horse

I had the chance to train with my horse Ted with no timelines, no start or end times and only on his and my schedule. I had nowhere to be, or time to be there, and neither did he.

He became the perfect horse. Did every hand command. Under saddle I could ride with the reins draped on the saddle horn, not even touching them. He watched every move I made and acted to my even unspoken wishes. Trailer loaded with only a point of the finger, and was calm in the trailer, even as the doors were closed. I just thought this day would never come, but now that it had? I was taking full advantage of it. Finally I achieved what I had worked so hard for and for years. But I noticed not only that change in him, but another. One at first, well OK, but a week later? What happened to my horse?

Ted, speak to me? But what we had “with” each other? was gone. No nickering in the morning at feeding time, no checking me for treats, no touching. Just, “What’s the next command?” He was hiding his horse-an-ality from me. Everything we did in training was slow, patient, and gentle.

But somehow? He clicked over. NOT the horse I wanted. But how to bring him back?

Play was the answer. All horses love to play. So I played with him and made sure he could show his horse-an-ality. Rewarding him for no reason. Turning my back on him then turning back and chasing him. Sending him up on his back hoofs and off at a dead gallop. Soon I got the, Really? Really? look & tail swish. And Ted’s horse-an-ality came rushing back.

I tempered it slightly with, OK we have to go to work here. And he did right away, but then? PLAY TIME! And the dust was flying all over the place.

Now I don’t have the perfect horse any more, but I have the horse I want and he has the person he wants. (But I get much better response on commands)

Most of the time.

Dave Seroski  
ETI Corral 357  
Saddleback Canyon Riders

## 2021 Calendar

Date			Event	Location	Contact
Oct	2	Sat	Tack Sale	10:00-2:00	Canyon Tack and Feed Mike (949) 981-9336
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	25	Mon	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	25	Thur	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	19	Sun	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	10:00 am	Stage O’Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate Debbie (949) 244-0670
Dec	25	Sat	Newsletter deadline (for articles)	7:00 pm	Google Drive



## "Overcoming the Grooming Grumpies"

By Rich Gomez

Reprinted from *Horse & Rider*

We found this long article and it has a lot of great tips. This is just the first part of the story...there's a lot more to read. Here's the entire article: <https://horseandrider.com/horse-health-care/overcoming-grooming-grumpies-19533>

*You're not just teaching your horse to stand patiently for grooming with these exercises. This training will carry over into almost everything*



*else you do with your horse.*

Some horses love to be handled, and they'll stand quietly for everything from ear clipping to washing their tails. But if your horse doesn't stand like a statue, don't worry. We'll talk about what you can do to make grooming a better experience for both of you and what cues you'll need to establish good, safe control.

### Emphasize the Positive

- Choose a time and place to groom when and where your horse is most likely to stand quietly.
- Don't tie your horse when you first start your grooming lessons.
- Use leading lessons, moves and counter-moves to position and reposition your horse.
- Focus on the positive. Don't react to your horse's moody mannerisms.
- Spend plenty of time petting your horse's head before you approach his body.

- Use patterns and timing to build your horse's confidence that he's not going to be stuck standing still forever.

### De-stress the Situation

If you have a horse who gets crabby when it's time to groom him, you've probably already learned that trying to "discipline" him into cooperating doesn't work... or it doesn't work for very long. You have to take a different approach, one that will set you and your horse up for success.

To find a good starting point, you want as many things working in your favor as possible. Choose a time when your horse is most likely to be relaxed. Avoid busy or confusing times, such as when the tractor is picking up manure, at mealtime, or when horses are going in and out of the barn. Consider working with your horse after he's had some turn-out, or after a ride, when he's relaxed and not brimming with energy or nervousness like he might be when he first steps out of his stall.

Then find a good "classroom" for the first stand-for-grooming lesson. If you normally groom in the barn and that's the scene of your horse's restlessness, try beginning the lesson out in the pasture, or maybe in his stall.

By doing that, you're not giving into him and he's not getting away with anything. You're just



breaking the lesson down into pieces and getting good control of the individual parts. Later, you can move from the classroom into the real world of the barn aisle.

Don't tie your horse to begin with. Ironically, you have to be able to tell him to move in order to show him that you want him to stand. So put a halter or bridle and lead rope on your horse and use the lead to cue him. I usually use the bridle because it gives me more precise control.

### Clarify the Signals

Next, consider specifically what you want your horse to do. Though it may seem obvious, it isn't to him. You have to be able to tell the horse where to move his head and feet. You can't just tell him when he did the wrong thing.

When I'm grooming a horse, I want his head at a relaxed level-not too high, as if he's on alert, and not too low, so that I have to bend down to brush his face. I like him to stand relatively square, so that he can stand relaxed for a while. I want him to move around easily when I request it, such as to shift his weight or to pick up a foot. And I want him to do all of that with a trusting, rather than a defensive or aggressive, manner. Everything I do has to build that trust.

Trust comes as a by-product. As the horse learns that I can control him, he also learns to trust me. While feeding him carrots gets him to trust me as a carrot-provider, it doesn't necessarily translate to letting me groom him. For that, I have to set up small requests that he can easily answer correctly and that I can reward him for.



## Treasurer's Report

By Janel Meric

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

Beginning Checking account Balance August 1, 2021 .....\$5836.99

#### Deposits:

Dues Gretzler, Kos, Walters ..... \$174.00

#### Expenses:

Aug 20 - K Holden 2 Board Meeting Dinners ..... -\$100.00

**Ending balance checking acct Aug 31** ..... **\$5910.99**

#### Outstanding debits:

3-Aug Tari Schroeder (Newsletter) ..... -\$160.00

12-Aug Gomez board mtg dinner ..... -\$50.00

18-Aug R Gomez for Bravenet Webhost ..... -\$18.98

**Cash on Hand** ..... **\$419.00**

**TOTAL** ..... **\$6101.01**

Membership Report as of August 31, 2021:

Current members 27, Honorary Members 3



## Riding the Wilderness

By Debbie Kelly

So many articles over the last year and a half began with reference to the pandemic. It is no wonder since the newsletter is the main tool we use to keep our membership engaged and aware of upcoming events; events that came to a screeching halt in March of 2020. If you were to look back at newsletters from last Spring until the present, you will find a variety of educational articles such as bits, saddle fitting, night riding, Old and New West stories on Rodeo and Cowboy legends; personal experiences centered around the equestrian lifestyle; family memoirs, dog rescue, horse rescue, and some tributes to lost friends or family. The Covid-19 guidelines prevented us from going through with our planned events for 2020 and half of 2021. That did not stop many of us from riding, we just did not conduct many formal ETI events until the restrictions were lifted. We rarely missed a newsletter and our board meetings were held via Zoom every month.

So, I am happy to tell you about our recent Trabuco Rose Wilderness ride held in September. Let me begin by saying that OCTA, owner and steward for the land, followed very strict CDC guidelines during the pandemic. They (virtually) met regularly to discuss the reopening of their lands and kept our board updated so we could plan accordingly. Once they decided to go forward with their September hiking and riding tours, they let us know and asked if we could add an additional ride by the end of 2021. Making up for lost time you might say. So, in addition to an already calendared November ride on the Trabuco Rose Wilderness, we added one for December. I've always wanted to lead a Christmas ride. You can find all the dates on our website.

I was thrilled to learn we had eleven riders signed up for the first Wilderness ride in eighteen months! We had first timers trailering in along with four ETI members and three additional riders from the community. We decided to break up into two groups with Event's Coordinator Jimmy Iacono leading one group, and I leading the other. My group consisted of the folks who trailered in so we all got to know a little about each other on the ride. I shared a bit of the history of the land with them and I learned that the one couple has a primary home in Arizona and has a place locally in Laguna Woods. They have only one horse, Jack, and he travels everywhere with them. They just load him in the trailer when they are traveling and off they go. The wife sometimes borrows a friend's horse and in this case the horse is from Arizona and they will be bringing him home soon. I like friends like that. After talking a bit with the husband, I learned they had been at Caspers Park this past week and had come face to face with a mountain lion and that the horse did not react at all. I like horses like that.

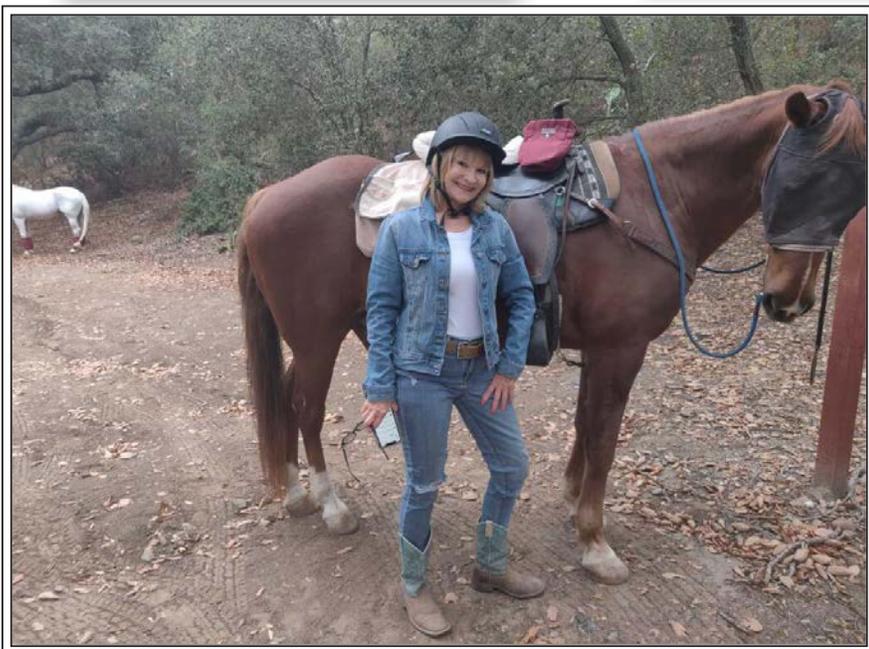
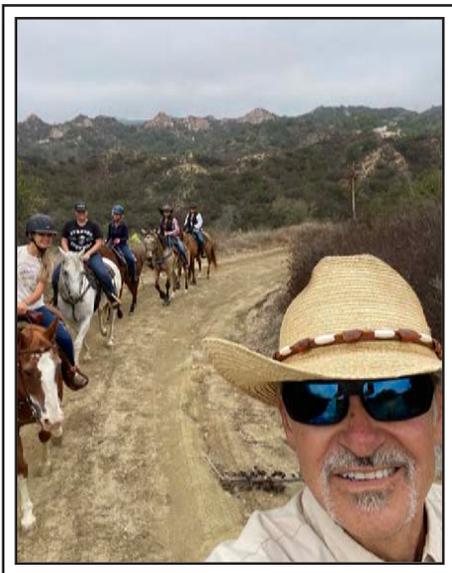
We passed Jimmy's group at one point and continued down the trail that would bring us to the point where we would do a second loop. To our surprise, a tree had gone down and we were not able to negotiate a detour around it and had to turn around and continue the way we had come. As a result, we could not do a second loop so I took my group on a detour up a road I recalled from riding this land when it was the Buck Ranch. There are two options when riding there to do a loop, but I did not feel 100% sure that I would know when to zig instead of zag, so I stuck with what was familiar and still extended the ride for our guests. After all, they had come from Riverside and from Arizona! As

we descended the road to the staging area, we were greeted by a beautiful bobcat who quickly had a change of heart and ran off. He ran towards the trailer and at one point we thought he was going to run into the back of it since the back doors were open. He thought better of that too and ran into the brush.

Riding on this land brings back so many memories of when it was the Buck Ranch and privately owned. In those days we had free reign on the trails and would often spend hours out there, day and night, making memories and making friends. Sometimes making a little trouble too.

It is my hope that through our partnership with OCTA we can extend these rides so more of the land can be enjoyed. Until then I am grateful for the time we do have and appreciate all the hard work put in by Rich Gomez, Jimmy Iacono, and others in our club to make it possible.

Representing our club in September were Jimmy Iacono, Janel Meric, Paula Giertych, and myself. Thanks guys. We hope to see you and more on the remaining rides this year, and into 2022!



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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 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:

odd	<b>President</b>	Kristen Holden	<a href="mailto:kristen3091@gmail.com">kristen3091@gmail.com</a>
even	<b>Vice-President</b>	Rich Gomez	<a href="mailto:rtgomez@aol.com">rtgomez@aol.com</a>
odd	<b>Secretary</b>	Patti Gomez	<a href="mailto:pattianguomez@aol.com">pattianguomez@aol.com</a>
even	<b>Treasurer</b>	Janel Meric	<a href="mailto:janelmeric@yahoo.com">janelmeric@yahoo.com</a>
even	<b>Membership</b>	Steve Kos	<a href="mailto:skos@griotgroup.com">skos@griotgroup.com</a>
odd	<b>Newsletter Designer (contractor)</b>	Tari Schroeder	<a href="mailto:rodoette1@gmail.com">rodoette1@gmail.com</a>
odd	<b>Trail Boss</b>	Debbie Kelly	<a href="mailto:debbiekelly57@yahoo.com">debbiekelly57@yahoo.com</a>
even	<b>Person-at-Large</b>	Mike Wallace	<a href="mailto:mustangmikes hats@gmail.com">mustangmikes hats@gmail.com</a>
even	<b>Activity Director</b>	Jim Iacono	<a href="mailto:jamesiacono@rocketmail.com">jamesiacono@rocketmail.com</a>
	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Pam Ragland	<a href="mailto:pmt@aiminghigher.com">pmt@aiminghigher.com</a>
	<b>Emergency Response Team Coordinator/Communications; Webmaster</b>	Rich Gomez	<a href="mailto:rtgomez@aol.com">rtgomez@aol.com</a>

### Others:

<b>Monthly Meetings - M&amp;C's Grill</b> <i>First Thursday of the month (except July &amp; December)</i>	Trabuco Canyon	31911 Dove Canyon Drive
<b>O'Neill Regional Park</b>	Steve Aleshire	<a href="mailto:steve.aleshire@ocparks.com">steve.aleshire@ocparks.com</a>
<b>ETI National President</b>	Tom Kirsch	<a href="mailto:tkirsch98@gmail.com">tkirsch98@gmail.com</a>
<b>ETI National Office Membership/Ins Magazine/Website Past President</b>	Patty Hug/Jeanne Catron-Gonzalez Sarah Williams Linda Fullerton	<a href="mailto:office@etinational.com">office@etinational.com</a> <a href="mailto:dustysriders@sbcglobal.net">dustysriders@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="mailto:Linda@ClearImagePrinting.com">Linda@ClearImagePrinting.com</a>





### **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