

CORRAL NEWS

ETI CORRAL 357 | SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS



APRIL 2023

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1




The horses are winning, a rookie perspective on horse riding By Steve Kos

My riding started late last year and it is progressing, we won't quantify that now. Until now I only knew Merry Go Round horses and very compliant trail horses. Trail horses that walked with their heads down following the steps of the horse in front of them. Like Merry Go Round horses each is steadfast in its journey. These trail horses were smart and on a mission, go on the trail with the others, come back shortly and get fed, and pay little or no attention to the rider on your back.

Having recently moved to Trabuco Canyon, the "countryside" of Orange County, several of my new friends ride horses. The outdoors and the open rolling hills of Trabuco Canyon were calling me. Learning to ride seemed like the next step. After a few rides in the safety and protection of a round pen with a very good instructor it was time to open the gate and start trail riding.

"Trot" I mutter as I squeeze my legs. The horse leaps forward with all its energy. We canter past rabbits and birds and watch the world go by with the thundering hooves of a powerful animal echoing in my ears and the rhythm of this powerful animal as it runs joyfully and freely along the trail. I try to keep my balance and posture and enjoy this almost sacred moment in time. However, within a few seconds I am holding onto the saddle with one hand and the reins in the other. I ask the flying rocket to ease up and go to a walk. Fortunately, in a few seconds it complies.

Riding a horse does have its challenges. I have a two-speed horse, walk and canter. And for all you horse experts I admit that the problem is me, the rider, not the horse. My riding is a joy. I'm in the beauty of the outdoors, enjoying the motion and rhythm of an animal that out-weighs me five to one or more. Yes, it is a little scary at times. To be part of such a centuries old tradition is amazing and a thrill. It requires three things, a horse that listens to you, the proper tack, and the athletic ability to ride at all speeds. I have one of three currently, the tack. I will continue to learn and enjoy the ride as I fumble in the hillsides rocking on a horse that is having fun and most likely doesn't care if I stay on or not. Let the challenge and the learning continue!



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EMERGENCY



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

"We ain't skinned!" ~ Rick Balchaser, Past President

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The OC Fire Authority (OCFA) and ETI's Evacuation Plan

By Rich Gomez

Well the rains sure made the grass and weeds grow so who knows what we're in for when the Santa Anas show up in the fall, but know we're always working to keep the community safe.



We met with two battalion chiefs in February to recap the evacuation drill we had in October and discuss any concerns the Fire Authority had about our plan. Chief Nathan Arellano is chief for Wildland Operations, and Jason Taylor was the chief who attended our drill.

Both had good words to say about our plan but one question that came up was: Where's the staging area for trailers before they come down the switchbacks to the O'Neill Park Arena Evacuation Site? We said we'll use the CVS parking lot as the staging areas, but we will need to have some coordination done via radios or cell phones to control the flow of trailers to the evacuation site.

We will be coordinating in this manner in case of emergency so please keep this in mind and consider volunteering in case of emergency.

The Corral's role in emergency evacuations has been a valuable contribution to our community. We need everyone's help and commitment to continue, so please review the plan and know what to do in an emergency.

The "Trabuco Canyon Emergency Evacuation Plan" was developed in conjunction with the OCFA and has been in place since 2005. We've refined it and expanded it but always remained focused on two basic ideas:

- 1. Don't start the fire**
- 2. Don't block the road**

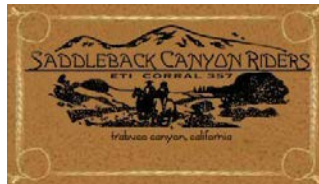
The Evacuation Plan is easy to remember:

- **If the fire is HOURS away, evacuate to designated areas using your trailer. Load on your property – DO NOT load on the street.**
- **If the fire is MINUTES away, WALK your horses to the O'Neill Park Arena, check in and leave your horse. No trailers.**

As you learned at the drill, we have a new "agreement" with our neighbors north of the Trabuco Oaks Drive gate so that during an emergency, we will be able to and are authorized to egress THROUGH Hamilton Trails onto Live Oak Canyon Road.

Use our website for Emergency Updates:

<http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com/emergency.aspx>



Neighborhood Evacuation Plan – Trabuco Canyon

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 via e-mail, the website or fire information number (*all shown below*). **Trabuco Residents: FRS Channel 22**
- LOAD horses at stable or home or WALK HORSES to O'Neill Park arena
- DO NOT LOAD HORSES ON THE ROADS; Load off-road or 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.**

Tips from our local Fire Captain and your neighbors...

- Remove weeds, shrubs and flammable vegetation 100-feet from your home
- Tag horses with identifying information and hang halters near horses
- Look for pooled leaves near decks and doors; that's where embers will land
- **Don't start the fire; don't block the road**

If you have any questions, or we can help in any way please contact us:

Trabuco Canyon (Patti Gomez) (home) 949-888-1604
<http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com> (cell) 714-335-3123
Modjeska Canyon
Silverado Canyon – (Daniela Smith) 949-294-7776
O'Neill Park (office): 949-923-2260
ICL (Joanne Hubble)..... 714-307-4806 or 714-649-2020
Emergency Fire Information (PIO)..... 714-573-6200
OC Sheriff Information..... 949-770-6011
CA Highway Patrol Information..... 949-559-7888



Reminds Me of a Story..... Go Ahead.... Parade on My Rain

By James M. Iacono

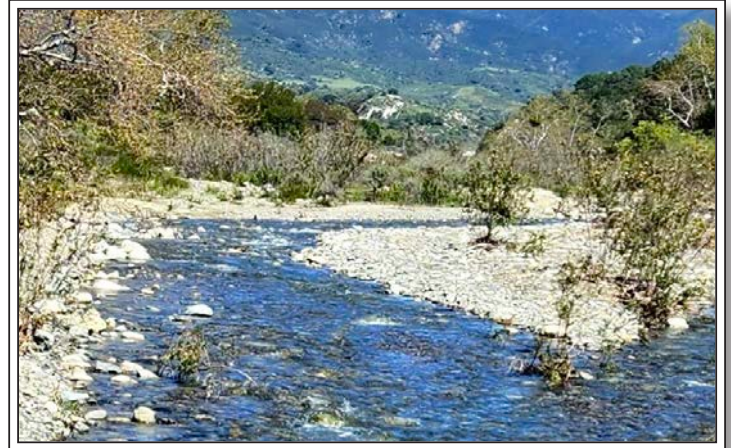
It was this past September, 2022, and I was trying to save my potted plants; save them from a scorching sun and a stubborn arid wind. Even my drought-resistant garden sulked. My water bill hit \$320 and all that could muster was a languishing landscape. Irvine Lake had been closed to boating for months. It was open to shoreline fishing, but kids complained to their parents about the 1.5 mile walk from the parking lot to the water. Lake Powell and Lake Mead were at their lowest levels in recorded history. Our Central Valley farmers were fighting for Colorado River water rights. The Governor instituted statewide water use restrictions. Things were looking bleak. The parched earth was screaming to the sky for sustenance!

The sky listened. The calendar page turned to 2023, and a new term was introduced to the language lexicon: atmospheric river.... or rivers, as the case might be. One storm has hit after another for the last 15 weeks. Reservoirs are filling. At Irvine Lake, the water practically laps the fringes of the parking lot. Levees are busting in the Central Valley. My flowers are blooming. My property is bathing in green, yet my sprinklers have been off for 3 months, plunging my water bill by 70 %.

The horses have spent an inordinate amount of time in their stalls this winter, and now spring, but there have been respites. And those days for all of us have been glorious. Even when the trails are too muddy to ride, I walk the horses out to feast on roadside snacks. They are in an emerald heaven. As a riding friend once said, "To the horses, those patches of green must look like fields of Snickers bars!" They voraciously yank it out of the ground, a gobbly-good devour to the earthen roots.

When we do get out on trail, what a visual treat to all of us! Not only are the roadsides adorned with St. Patrick's Day attire, but the surrounding hillsides are blankets of green.

And the water! The creek rushes through my property with tenacity. I know it has many worthwhile purposes, not only to curb the effects of drought, but for me and my horses personally, to break the pattern of



Trabuco Creek

dusty trail riding that has been most often the norm in Southern California. The usually dry creek bed is now a playground of splash! The horses seem to like to splat and whoosh and plop their hooves through the bustling current. And what human doesn't like to experience that sensation from atop a happy horse. I so enjoy sharing that feeling with others. I have paraded out a whole host of characters to capture that excitement. The procession has so far included my girlfriend, my students, my students' parents, a neighbor, an ex-jockey, a Hollywood director.... And the creek will run for another two months! Who's next?



Roadside Snickers Bars...



The Trail Boss



The ex-jockey enjoying the "winner's circle"

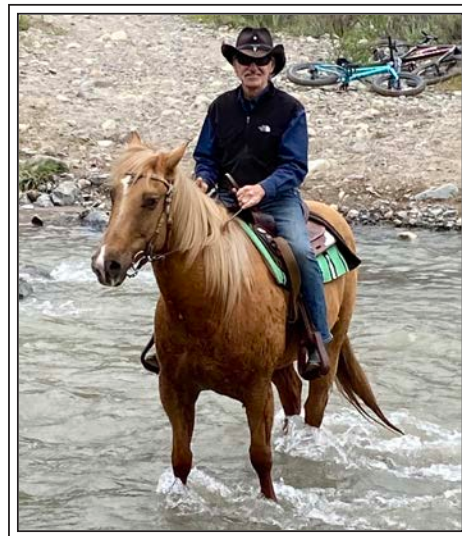
I know the term "don't rain on my parade" has normally negative connotations. It describes the naysayers, the people who want to kill the joy on whatever it is you feel like accomplishing. But the inverse, "You can parade on my rain" has a unique message this year. So, if you haven't been out to a lake, or a creek, or the mountains, don't let any more time go by to enjoy the fruits of what our scorched earth was begging for. Go fishing, go skiing, or join up with some of your fellow ETI members and parade through the park and slosh, splat and plop through the creek. Your horse will love you for it!



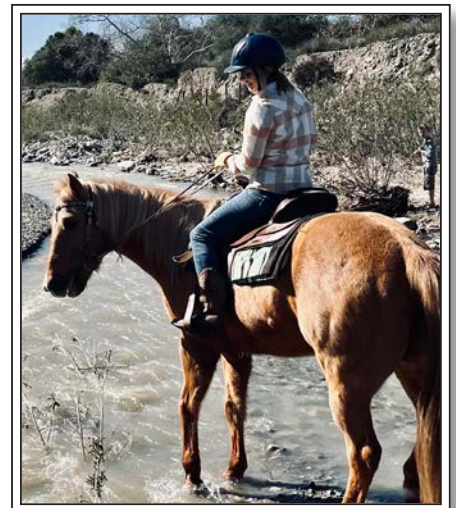
Drinking it all in with riding students



The Hollywood Director



Water is therapy



...getting the toes wet with the girlfriend

2023 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.
Member Meetings (First Thursday of the month, except July & December, as announced) are open to the public.

ETI Corral 357 Board:

Board Member	Kristen Holden	949-444-1990	kristen3091@gmail.com
Board Member - Treasurer	Janel Meric	949-375-8391	janelmeric@yahoo.com
Board Member - Membership	Steve Kos	949-500-1891	skos@griotgroup.com
Board Member	Debbie Kelly	949-244-0670	debbiekelly57@yahoo.com
Board Member	Jim Iacono	949-459-7742 home 714-612-1789 cell	jamesiacono@rocketmail.com
Board Member - Emergency Response Team Coordinator/Communications; Webmaster	Rich Gomez	949-888-1604 home 949-888-1684 work 714-504-7001 cell	rtgomez@aol.com
Newsletter Designer (contractor)	Tari Schroeder		rodoette1@gmail.com
Members' Meetings - M&C's Grill <i>As announced via email - First Thursday of the month (except July & December)</i>	Trabuco Canyon	949-709-7499	31911 Dove Canyon Drive
O'Neill Regional Park	Steve Aleshire	949-923-2259 work 949-923-2260 cell	steve.aleshire@ocparks.com
ETI National President	Tom Kirsch	310-871-9458	tkirsch98@gmail.com
ETI National Office Membership/Ins	Patty Hug	818-698-9200	office@etinational.com
Magazine/Website	Jeanne Catron-Gonzalez		
Past President	Sarah Williams	818-698-6200	dustysriders@sbcglobal.net
	Linda Fullerton	818-352-3693 home 818-612-3305 cell	Linda@ClearImagePrinting.com
OCFA Station #18		949-858-9369	



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Tuesday: Coto, Santiago, Modjeska, Silverado, Carbondale, Peacock Equestrian, Orange, Yorba Linda
Wednesday: Trabuco Canyon, Lake Forest, Serrano
Thursday: Rancho Carillo, Ortega, San Juan Capistrano, Nellie Gail, Laguna
Friday: Coto de Caza



30555 Trabuco Canyon Road, Suite 100
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

949-766-2825

Monday - Saturday 9-5

www.CanyonFeed.net



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Tips For a Safe & Successful Delivery

- * 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



Treasurer's Report

By Janel Meric

ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING: February 28, 2023

Beginning Checking account Balance February 1, 2023.....\$5793.37

Deposits:

..... \$90.00

Expenses:

State Farm Trailer Insurance \$10.00

ETI Membership \$44.00

Ending balance checking acct July 31, 2022\$5829.37

Outstanding debits:

..... \$0.00

TOTAL \$5829.37

Membership Report as of March 30, 2022

Current members 21





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