



**August
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RICK'S 'RAMBLINS'

A Carefully-considered and Well-researched Ruling

By Rick Balthaser, President, Saddleback Canyon Riders – ETI 357

When I heard the news on Friday, July 26 that Judge Steven Perk had ruled the county violated state law in approving Saddle Crest, a 65-home development proposed for Trabuco Canyon, a wave of elation washed over me followed by uncontrolled outbursts of “woo-hoo!” This was a long, hard fought battle that has currently culminated in the Judge’s very carefully considered ruling based on all of the evidence presented. This ruling would not have been possible without the unwavering hard work by Saddleback Canyons Conservancy, its co-founders Gloria Sefton and Rich Gomez, as well as the hundreds of people that have supported this critical and crucial cause.

Below is the article (an excellent summary in my opinion) that appeared in the OC Register on Saturday, July 27, 2013. *Orange County Register – All Rights Reserved.*

Court deals blow to Trabuco Canyon development

By **BROOKE EDWARDS STAGGS** / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

TRABUCO CANYON – A judge on Friday ruled the county violated state law in approving Saddle Crest, a 65-home development proposed for Trabuco Canyon.

Unless the project is revised to comply with local planning mandates aimed at preserving the area's rural character, Judge Steven Perk said the project can't move forward.



. These rolling hills along Santiago Canyon Road just north of Cook's Corner mark the proposed site of Saddle Crest, a 65-home development. A judge ruled against the project on Friday. *LEONARD ORTIZ, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER*

"This gave us a total victory," Gloria Sefton, who helped head up the opposition, said moments after hearing the ruling. "I just felt that the law was on our side and the facts were on our side."

Rutter Santiago LP got county approval Oct. 2 to build Saddle Crest, a gate-guarded community on 113.7 acres it owns east of Santiago Canyon Road, just north of Cook's Corner.

A coalition of environmental groups and canyon activists – led by Sefton's Saddleback Canyons Conservancy – filed a lawsuit Oct. 31 against the county and the Board of Supervisors over the project. The move came four weeks after the board certified an environmental impact review and agreed to amend 15 planning laws so Saddle Crest could move forward, despite citizens speaking for hours and presenting some 2,000 signatures in opposition.

The lawsuit, which named Rutter as a party, alleged the county violated the California Environmental Quality Act by not adequately analyzing how Saddle Crest will impact traffic, vegetation and wildlife. The suit claimed the county also violated the 1991 Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan by agreeing to let Rutter replace mature oaks with saplings, build homes on 17,000-square-foot lots and grade 10 times the volume of earth typically allowed.

Perk agreed on both counts, stating in his tentative ruling that the county didn't analyze how changes it made to planning laws would impact "oak tree removal, lot size and grading in places other than the proposed development." And by only observing traffic patterns along Santiago Canyon Road on a single day in limited areas, Perk wrote, "The traffic impacts of the proposed development are disguised."

The county plans to appeal the ruling, spokeswoman Jessica Good said. She declined to comment further, since the county still considers the suit pending litigation.

Rutter representatives couldn't be reached for comment. Their office was closed Friday.

The Irvine-based company's plans have already been scaled back from 162 homes proposed a decade ago.

In 2003, the Board of Supervisors approved plans for Rutter to build a development called Saddle Creek, southeast of the Saddle Crest site. Activists filed suit that time, too, and the state Court of Appeals threw out the project in 2005. Saddle Creek's 392 acres were later sold and set aside for conservation.

Contact the writer: 949-454-7343 or BStaggs@OCRegister.com



Hanaeleh Horse Rescue update (by Debbie Kelly)

This heartwarming story comes to us from our own homegrown horse rescue, Hanaeleh. They do much in the interest of horses and through their networking with other rescues for both small and large animals; many forgotten animals have been saved and/or rehomed.

On Sunday (7/24) Hanaeleh picked up two horses that were in need of rescue; a 14 year-old Thoroughbred/Andalusian dapple-grey gelding (we have renamed him Cristo), and a 26 year-old Quarter Horse chestnut mare (she is named Cricket). The owner contacted Hanaeleh to help as she and her family were in financial distress. Hanaeleh decided to step in as the owner was six months behind on the board, and it was possible that the horses might end up at an auction to cover the back boarding fees. Given the physical and mental condition of the horses, if they did end up at an auction, there is little doubt that they would go anywhere but the slaughterhouse.

Both horses are in desperate need of a farrier- they haven't had their feet trimmed in about four months. In addition, they need their vaccines and their teeth floated. The mare has a skin condition that the owner has been trying to treat topically, so we will continue to treat that. The gelding is about 150 lbs. underweight. Physically, the horses are going to cost Hanaeleh about \$500 EACH just to get their basic work done, and that is if we do not find any unknown issues. Until we get their feet done, we cannot assess any lameness issues, and a full lameness exam will increase the cost exponentially. If you would like to help sponsor one of these guys, that would be **very** helpful. Even a small monthly donation will help to supplement their costs! Here is a very basic breakdown of the costs:

Farrier: \$50

Teeth: \$250

Vaccinations: \$100

Vet exam (overall, lameness, etc.): \$100

The care and upkeep on these guys will run around \$350/month. The gelding will need supplemental feed, and the mare will need to have her skin condition assessed and we will need to purchase any topical treatments.



Once we deal with the physical issues, however, we have to deal with the mental issues. The gelding is very attached to the mare, to the point that it is almost impossible to separate them without him going ballistic. We will eventually need to do so but we'll wait until we get some of the physical issues dealt with first. Because the gelding was so difficult to deal with, the family did not feel safe in getting him out of his stall, which only compounded his issues- imagine putting your four year-old child in a bathroom for four months, and then you can imagine this guy's mental state! The mare needs some groundwork as she has no problem walking all over the person walking her, but she is **much** better when separated from the gelding.

Currently we have Cristo and Cricket in the quarantine paddock at the top. They will stay there for a few weeks to settle in, and we will move them after we have the vet and farrier work done.

Thank you all again for your support! Any donations for these guys are welcome!

Paypal: donate@hanaeleh.com

Mail: PO Box 291, Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678

Hanaeleh is participating in Race for the Rescues coming Sunday November 10th at the Orange County Great Park. Help us raise money to save more horses! Go to www.hanaeleh.org for information.

Race to Rescue Horses



Race to Rescue Horses



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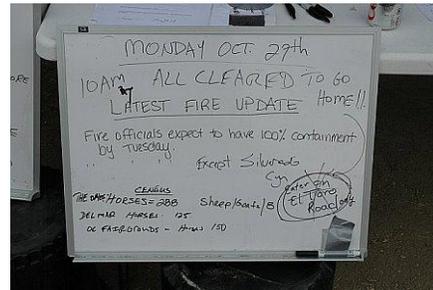
Community Evacuation Drill offered by ETI/357

Please mark your calendar. On Saturday, September 14th, 2013 ETI will host its fourth Equine Evacuation Drill and Exercise at O'Neill Park equestrian arena. The 2006 and

2007 drill were the impetus of a safe and successful evacuation in October of 2007. Residents and boarders knew what to do and when to do it. Today, in 2013, we are exceptionally vulnerable to wildfires in the canyons. In 2007 we had enough warning to leave early without risk to ourselves, our families, and our pets. We don't know if we will have the same opportunity in the event of a future wildfire. Preparation, education, and practice are a key component for safety and can even save lives. Wildfires are rampant in California this summer- we cannot be complacent and must be pro-active in our efforts to be prepared. We know it "can happen to us" because it did.

We have new residents and new horse boarders since 2009- our last drill. Please, if you know of anyone who may need to be informed of what the evacuation plan is for Trabuco, encourage them to join us that day. Anyone who boards their horse here; or boards horses on their property could benefit from participation. The time will be approximately 8:00 am – noon with a pre and post briefing. Bring your large or small animal and receive a free identification photo with your pet/pets.

Because we prepared and practiced, we were able to get the horses out and provide them with daily care in a safe environment. And back home again.



Be sure to join us for the September member meeting. We will have more information to share!



TURNING POINTS

By James M. Iacono- Activities Coordinator

I am writing from Scottsdale, Arizona this weekend celebrating my daughter's thirtieth birthday. It's amazing to me that 30 years have passed since I cradled the 6 pound newborn in my arms, wondering how my life would be different from that moment on. And different it was. For those newborn and toddler years we needed all of this new equipment, and we dutifully dragged it with us on every outing- car seats and play pens and strollers and diaper bags- to name a few.... That was a phase that seamlessly flowed into Phase 2 with the birth of our second child, which meant we endured all of the aforementioned baggage for another few years. But before long, we had moved past needing all of the baby hardware and it was all gone in the flash of a Saturday garage sale.

It was 10 years after that cradling moment that our lives truly took a turn. That little six pound bundle was a petite 60 pounds. In search of some activity she would say yes to- she had said no to Soccer and Softball and Brownies and gymnastics- Vicki enrolled her in a 4H horse program. Three months later I came home from work and the little girl, who had never asked me for anything, was sitting up in my bed with her mother asking me if we could buy a horse on a trial basis. Now mind you, my only exposure to horses was at the betting windows, so I knew there was a financial commitment to them. And I feared that. But how could I say "NO" when we finally found something that she would say "yes" to. I agreed, and that turning point has sent us on a ride that forever altered all of our paths.

Though she only rode for a few years, Tessa found that riding gave her confidence to tackle things that always seemed too daunting. A quiet girl, she gave a presentation at the California State fair in Sacramento on horse markings with her puppet, Pepper the Pony, in front of hundreds of people. She enrolled in gymnastics and then became a competition cheerleader for three years. She graduated at the top of her major at the University of Arizona. She received her Bachelors and Masters and has married a doctor. All because of a relationship with an old gray mare? I don't know for sure, you be the judge.



And it was a turning point for us as well. Within a year we purchased my first horse, Captain, who we had for 18 years. We bought horse property within two years, and built our dream ranch house within 4 years. Today we have 4 horses that we care for every day. I found this wonderful group, ETI 357, the Saddleback Canyon Riders that we both give our time to on the Board and on the trails. Some of our best friends are in this Club.

Though we sold all of that baby hardware that had a limited lifespan, our new equipment- trailers and halters and saddles and bridles and wheelbarrows and pitchforks- we have had for twenty years and counting. And given the age of our horses, this phase has legs for many more years.

This is all possible because I said yes to a little girl, now thirty, who had said no to everything else. A turning point could be just around the corner for you. Make sure you recognize it. What you say can forever change the course of your life.

(Photo of Tessa, circa 1993 at ten years old. She is sitting on Sahara, the first horse bought by the Iacono 's.)



TREASURER'S OFFICE... by Vicki Iacono

ETI - CORRAL 357

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR

PERIOD ENDING

June 30, 2013

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 10,043.03

DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After June Closing: \$ 0.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$10,043.03

Expenses:

CK#	Source	Reason	Amount	CK#	Source	Reason	Amount
980	4 th of July	charity	\$100.00	981	Wilks	coffee maker	\$176.33
983	J Iacono	permit	\$ 75.00	984	J Iacono	playday food	\$144.15
985	J Iacono	newsletter	\$ 40.15				

Total expenses paid in June 2013 (\$535.63)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

CK#	Source	Reason	Amount	CK#	Source	Reason	Amount
982	ETI	membership	\$312.00				

Total Outstanding Checks June 2013 - i.e. Spending: \$312.00

Funds on hand in checking as of 06-30-13 \$9731.03

Petty Cash on Hand as of 06-30-13 \$400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 06-30-2013: \$10,131.03

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:

\$10,131.03

Less Reserves:

1.- ERT as of 06-30-2013 = After payment for 2nd Chip Scanner:

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve: \$(779.89)

NET - NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of : Corral 357 \$ 9,351.14

2013 Board of Directors:

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SECRETARY: Patti Gomez
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TREASURER: Vicki Iacono
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(949) 444-1990
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TRAIL BOSS: Terry Roberts
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Jim Iacono 949-459-7742
jiacono@fontissolutions.com

Social Media: Robby Stuckey
robby@awekeninteractive.com

We want to extend our sympathy to the Stuckey family. After an aggressive attempt to save him, they had to say goodbye to Harley, a very beloved member of their equine family. He was a beautiful, loving horse with a gentle soul. Harley gave stallions a really good name. He will be missed.



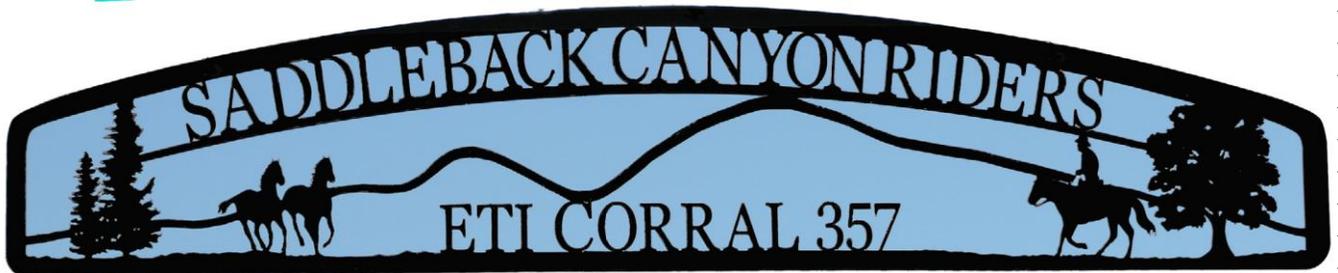
Update from the Board of Directors.

After much deliberation and a unanimous vote, the role of Activities Coordinator will now be an elected and voting position. A two year term will begin on even years (2014). More information will be presented at the September member's meeting and nominations will be in October this year!

Thanks to everyone who gave so much at the Pancake Breakfast! Once again we pulled off a successful fundraiser and put early morning smiles on some very groggy campers. This is year ten for us flipping pancakes and we just get better and better. Don't forget the ETI campout at O'Neill Park 8/30-9/1. Contact Jimmy Iacono or Rich Gomez for details. For the 8/31 Month End Ride contact Trail Boss Terry Roberts.



RIP Buddy. Owned and loved by Rick and Karen Balthaser. Passed 7/7/2013



What is 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.

Who are the Saddleback Canyon Riders?

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 Corral 357
PO Box 1026
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