SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS
ETI CORRAL 357
trabuco canyon, california

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A Tribute to my Mom by Rick Balthaser

Occasionally I'll use this this forum to write about something that's near and dear to my heart, like a family gathering, the birth of our first granddaughter, acquiring/rescuing one of our beloved canine family members, stuff like that. In this edition I would like to share a little bit about my Mom. She passed away on September 12th, just two days after we learned she had cancer, so it was a huge shock to our family and everyone that knew her. If you were lucky enough to have met or known Barb, you would know how fun and full of life she was.

Barbara was truly 'one of a kind', and was known for her zest for life, contagiously raucous laugh, love for family and friends, playing bridge and crossword puzzles --but not necessarily in that order.

Barb loved her tight-knit community, traveling, art, flowers and the smiles she put on her kids and grandkids faces. She could strum a ukulele, play a mean tambourine and had signature dance moves (think Hokey Pokey on espresso) that only she could somehow pull off. Her heartfelt, humorous poems were a favorite at many a gathering, and her original artwork and (much anticipated) watercolor Christmas cards are treasured.

Barbara, not surprisingly, had a daring and adventurous spirit. She delighted in paragliding on her 70th birthday and was looking forward to zip lining with her kids and grandkids. A truly colorful character, she loved colorful floppy hats, bright lipstick and bejeweled oversized sunglasses!

Barb was preceded in death by her college sweetheart, love of her life and husband of 58 years Richard Edward Balthaser, as well as her brothers Phil and Ed.

She is survived by be her adoring children; Cindy, Rick, Amy and Scott, their spouses; Matt, Karen, Larry and Anna, her grandchildren; Tierney, Morgan, Zack, Tyler, Kirstin, Bob, Natali, Lauren, Nick, Matt, Dillon and Madison, and her great grandchildren; Cedar, Lilly and Dillon.

Barb was truly "the life of our party" and she will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to know her. Thanks for letting me share just a little bit about my Mom.

Respectfully,

Rick Balthaser
Prez
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BUCKLE UP! (A RETROSPECTIVE)

By James Iacono

Five years ago, Bob Wilks, our current PAL, came to an ETI Board Meeting and suggested we make our year end Playday a contest for silver buckles. His presentation, complete with catalog photos, a concept for divisions, and a dream for establishing a tradition, was compelling. The Board unanimously approved the model, and thus was born Buckle Playday! Those first buckles were large enough to get satellite TV reception! They were custom made for our Club and when they went on display they were coveted by all members, young and old. (This year's buckles will be unveiled at the Member's meeting October 4th.)

For the first four years of the competition, the entrants were split into two divisions, under 30 and over 30. The inaugural event in 2009 saw the "senior" prize captured by Patti Gretzler on her reliable Paint, Oreo. They were top time in 3 out of 5 events to win the silver hardware convincingly. The Under 30 division was headed by a "swooper" by the name of Victoria Radcliff on Tonka. She probably took her buckle and melted it down for the silver and retired because we haven't seen her since!

2010 was a big event as we had a charity auction in conjunction with the Buckle Awards. We put together a barbecue, a band, and lots of great items. We raised over $2000 for the club and two worthy horse rescue operations- Hannaleah and Bethany's Gait. Going home with the buckles that year were two club familiar faces- Jimmy I in the over 30 division, and Anthony Montes in the under 30 division. It was the year of the gray, as Lacey and Sonora whited out the competition.

In 2011 we had some new shooters come on the scene. Jenni Coury on Shiloh and Melina Hann on Brandy schooled the rest of the competitors and established themselves as the teams to beat in 2011. Jenni took 4 out of 5 events, and Melina had 2 firsts and two seconds to outpoint the competition.

Last year, a strong group came out to try their best to capture the glimmering, shimmering silver buckles. When the dust settled, Melina Hann became our first repeat champion in déjà vu fashion on Brandy. Brittany Hipp got a leg up on the competition as she broke through with a dominant performance in the under 30 division on her speedy mare Callie.

So there you have a retrospective on the last 4 Buckle Playdays. Who will top the list in this year's Battle for the Buckles??? You can't win if you don't try, so I invite all members to come out for the signature event on our calendar, this October 12th. Times will be fast, and the passion will be strong, so you better come out and "Buckle Up!"

TREASURER'S OFFICE... by Vicki Iacono

ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING

August 31, 2013

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) $ 9,836.09

DEPOSITS:
Deposits Made After August Closing: $ 0.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits $ 9,836.09

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
990	D Kelly	pancake bkfst	$ 320.00	992	D Kelly	pancake bkfst	$ 285.75
993	P Gomez	bd dinner	$ 30.00	994	P Gomez	pancake bkfst	$ 23.98

Total expenses paid in AUGUST – 2013 ($659.73)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Total Outstanding Checks AUGUST - 2013 i.e. Spending: $0.00

Funds on hand in checking as of 08-31-13 $9,266.36

Petty Cash on Hand as of 08-31-13 $400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 08/31/13: $9,666.36

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS: $ 9,666.36

Less Reserves:

1.- ERT as of 08/31/13 = : ($779.89)

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve: $(779.89)

NET - NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of : Corral 357 **$ 8,486.47**

For the Horse Lover – "MY FIRST HORSE" by ETI member Patti Gretzler
(Seen here on Oreo)

It all began in a quiet suburb of Los Angeles, California. A little town named "Covina." Yep, that's where my love for horses all started; or did it really start in the womb? That's me. I am horse obsessed.

My first physical experience with a horse was when I was about 4 years old. A man came to our residential street towing a one horse trailer. He opened the trailer door and my eyes popped out of my face. Out walked this adorable fantastic Shetland pony with a lovely flowing mane and long full tail, all dressed up in tack – I was in heaven. I thought my heart was going to pop out of my chest. The man was selling pony pictures and of course I was losing my mind and would have just died if I didn't get to ride on that pony (who cared about the picture). I quickly ran home "MOM, IT'S A PONY"! After beggin' and pleading with her, my mom said yes and my wish came true. Finally, after the picture taking, you got a pony ride. The man lifted me onto the pony (I'm thinking "I can get on myself"). I said to him "You don't have to lead me, I can do it myself." Ha, he didn't fall for that one. What a day!

Years passed, and every year I was asked what do you want for Christmas, birthday, Easter, good grades, etc. and, of course, the answer? Can you guess? "I want a horse!!" The obsession was on, anywhere and everywhere there was a horse or horses I had to see them touch them, brush them, feed and if ever possible walk them. We would be on a road trip, I would see a horse way out on the horizon and I would yell "STOP".

Time passed and my family moved to a remote area outside of Covina called San Dimas, Via Verde where, at that time, there were rolling hills, lots of livestock, room to roam and "HORSES!" I would roam the homes of horse owners and sneak a peek, a pet, a treat and sit there for hours watching the horses. Then one day I met up with twin sisters who were horse lovers and my venture began. We became great friends and good riding buddies.

My first true riding experience was with a friend of my sister who had a horse down the street. He offered to give me riding lessons. Wow, I was beside myself. The horse was a beautiful, 2 ½ year old bay Arabian gelding named Ebby. My first riding lesson was bareback with a halter and lead line on a lung line and no helmet. What a primitive way to learn to ride; and just a bit unsafe. Ebby taught me how to hang on to the mane, how to fall off gracefully and how to have sore legs from hanging on so tight. Have to say it was quiet the experience but he did teach me the art of balance, or how to die trying.

Then my dream came true!!

At around the age of 10 I finally got my first horse! What a deal my Dad made (who knew absolutely **nothing** about horses). I found a beautiful 14.1 hand, white mare with long mane and tail, located in Downey. Wow a white horse, a girl's dream. What kid didn't want a white horse (an inexperience one). We got the horse, tack, and delivery for $75.00, can you beat that! Her name was Chiquita. The owner told us that she was 14 years old. She had a sore on her back leg that he said would heal up as long as we continue to put on some Wonder Dust and keep the tale wrapped up. To my surprise, and a couple of weeks later, the sore still had not healed. Hmmm . . . Vet time! Well, the vet came. Come to find out Chiquita was about 21 years old and the sore on her leg was an external skin tumor which would never go away. Well, what did you expect for $75.00?

Even with her age and tumor, Chiquita was one great horse. My days were fulfilled. I rode all the time morning, noon and/or night. She taught me many things. How to hang on or jump off whenever a motorcycle or truck came by, how fast she could run when we turned around to go back home, which ended up being quite fun. I also learned how much love, responsibility, and fun one horse can give a lonely girl in a rural area.

Chiquita and I had several years and great times together until I was ready to move forward. I wanted more, I wanted to show and compete as my love for riding grew and my many riding friends too were growing and competing. We all belonged to a local equestrian facility called "Via Verde Equestrian Center" (this may be known to some) where all the local kids were riding. This was where both Chiquita and I would end up. Chiquita was ready for retirement letting little kids ride her until the end of her life. We had great years together. She will always be remembered, loved and in my heart. She will always be my first horse and so glad not my last.

Being Prepared by Debbie Kelly

As we approach the most critical heat related weather patterns of the year; this is a good time to review how we can prepare for extreme weather and keep ourselves, our pets, and our homes safe. Living in a wildfire threat area of California, it is good to recognize and respond to fire weather warnings. We often hear on the radio when a fire weather watch or warning is issued and this is something we should not ignore. If you are part of an organized Fire Watch program, you may receive emails, texts, or phone calls advising you of a possible weather event and the need for volunteers to be ready to activate. The main weather patterns that will prompt a watch and put us at the greatest risk are high temperatures partnered with low humidity, high winds (15 mph or more), and dry vegetation which give fuel to a growing wildfire. An additional risk is a dry lightning strike.

These are all conditions we cannot prevent. But if we understand wildfire behavior and prevention we will be in a better place to control our environment. When the pattern is present and the above conditions exist, the National Weather Service will issue a Fire Weather Watch to CALFIRE who will in turn alert regional agencies of the situation. In Orange County; the OC Fire Authority will notify their various Fire Watch programs to prepare to organize volunteers to activate their patrols. A Fire Weather Watch means extreme conditions may exist within the next 12 to 72 hours. Volunteers may be notified but not activated. If the watch escalates to a Red Flag Warning (extreme conditions will exist within 24 hours) volunteers will be activated and fire stations will be directed to display Red Flag Alert banners at designated locations throughout the county. You may see volunteers with magnetic signs and green vests displaying the Fire Watch emblems on them. These are your neighbors keeping an eye out for threatening conditions or activity that may result in a vegetation or wildfire.

In anticipation of these conditions, defensible space of 100 feet of your home and structures should be made. Wood and hay should be stored away from buildings. Plants, trees, and shrubs should be well trimmed. Eaves should be free of leaves and debris.

We have no control over the weather. But we can prepare in advance for the best possible outcome. Below you will find the websites referred to here and additional resources to help you be ready for the warm summer ahead.

www.fire.ca.gov, www.ocparks.com/firewatch, (learn about becoming a Fire Watch Volunteer here) www.irlandmarks.org/fire-watch

Pet Safety: www.about.com/horses/keepcool, and www.about.com/dogs/heatstroke

Trabuco Canyon has its own Fire Watch program “Canyon Defense”. Sharon Stancato coordinates volunteers when notification is issued. See Debbie Kelly for contact information.

Thank- you again to all who participated in our evacuation drill on 9/14, including OCFA station 18 Captain and crew and to the O’Neill Park rangers and staff. The practice that an exercise like this provides is critical to a safe and effective exit- should the need arise again. Good job Trabuco!

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Am.Mx.Intl. Ch. Darkwind's Red Sky at Night aka "Sunny"

May 2000 – September 2013

Sunny was owned and loved by TC resident and ETI member Connie Presley. He was a sweet boy who really loved his life on the ranch. He lived there his entire life. I recall a time Sunny escaped from home and found himself at the Cantina enjoying free carnitas. No one there recognized Sunny and I was called to see if I knew him. I scanned him for a microchip which he had. I did not realize it was Sunny and when Avid called his contact, they picked him up and returned him home. Another good reason to have your pet micro chipped- so they don't end up sick from too many carnitas!

RIP Sunny

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.

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