



**April
2013**

**Volume 20
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Rick's 'Ramblin's
Swallows Day Parade
"Happy Trails"
by
Rick Balthaser

Hey ... who doesn't LOVE a parade, right? ... Well, on Saturday, March 23th, ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders proudly participated in one of the coolest parades I can think of, the annual Swallows Day Parade. The theme of the parade was 'Happy Trails'. For those not familiar with this iconic event, the Swallows Day Parade celebrates the return of the swallows to the San Juan Capistrano Mission on St. Joseph's Day, March 19th, capping off a month-long celebration known as Fiesta de las Golondrinas (Swallows Festival).

The festival, now in its 55th year, first began as a school carnival, then grew into an equestrian parade and since has added events such as Hoos'gow Day, Fiesta Grande and the El Presidente Ball. It's the nation's largest non-motorized parade with marching bands, civic organizations, dance troupes and horses, more than 600 of 'em! The 40,000 enthusiastic spectators that line the streets of the beautiful and historic downtown are treated to an amazing array of equestrian entries. There are horse clubs of all kinds, dancing Spanish breeds, Draft horses pulling everything from floats to antique fire equipment, all kinds of historical re-enactment groups, minis pulling carts, mules and much more.

We arrived at the staging area around 8:00 am (Morey Leavitt and Susan Mahler transported five horses in Morey's trailer ... thanks!) and thanks to the 'decoratin' expertise of Theresa Thoburn, we commenced to deckin' out our steeds with cool custom breast collar adornments. The humans looked sharp as well, sportin' stone colored ETI shirts, custom red plaid scarves (ala Roy Rogers) and light colored cowboy hats. And the youngins' looked amazing all decked out in their custom prairie outfits! Thanks Theresa!

As we headed out on the parade route to lots of applauding spectators, Mark, Theresa and Bianca, her cousin Anna (performing rope tricks) and their adorable Mini Horse named Penelope lead our group. Also up front was Sydnee Ragland and her brother Sawyer carrying the club's treasured Trabuco (musket). Karen Balthaser and Debbie Kelly manned (womaned?) the Saddleback Canyon Riders banner.

Ridin' high and lookin' sharp on our steeds were Jim and Vicki Iacono, Robby, Kristina and Savannah Stuckey, Tracey and Amanda Tuttle, Kristen Holden, Pam Ragland, Debi Geary, Jennifer Gillott, Terry Roberts and Rick Balthaser. (I HOPE I didn't miss anyone!)

And of course, big, big THANKS to our amazing Events Coordinator Jimmy I for makin' it all happen!

The parade was really fun ... the crowds were great ... the weather was nice and cool ... and everyone returned home safe and sound. PLUS, we won First Place in our division of Mounted Group (Family)! Hey ... who doesn't LOVE a parade! ... and, if ya' missed it this year, no worries ... feel free to join us next year!

Happy trails indeed!

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(714) 665-2221

Julie Ryan Johnson
(949) 661-6375

Lori Meinert DVM Moulton Animal Hospital
(949) 831-7297

Christina Garloff DVM Equine Veterinary
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April Trail Boss Report by Terry Roberts

I want to thank everyone who showed up for the unscheduled month-end ride novice event. We could not have asked for better conditions to enjoy the Arroyo Trail. It was sunny and cool with an initial start of 10 attendees including three visitors. Two were from our facility Rose Canyon Ranch; Lisa on Rocky and Kevin on Cowboy. Bekah Segien and her brother Donny also came along and for being an actual novice he did very well. Also riding with us were members Jamie Schicht, Paula G., and Debbie Kelly. We rode approximately 3 Miles down the Arroyo Trail and were able to see some of the amazing meadows and the canyons of the Arroyo not frequently seen. As it was a Easter weekend there was quite a bit of hiker and bicyclist activity. There was some dog traffic too. For the most part everybody was very polite and respectful to the horses with the exception of one individual who failed to yield or comply with my requests. However, my rock-solid and fearless Horse R2 was able to persuade him the error of his ways. I look forward to our next event and thank you all who attended.

Your trail boss- Terry



Editor's note: This was an awesome ride. Our new Trail Boss knows how to lead an enjoyable, relaxing ride with a focus on safety. I look forward to many more Month End Rides and events!



TREASURER'S OFFICE...by Vicki Iacono

ETI - CORRAL 357

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING

February 28, 2013

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$10,188.20

DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After Closing: February \$0.00 \$ 0.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 10,188.20

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
959	State Farm	trailer ins	\$ 8.00	960	B Wilks	board dinner	\$ 30.00
962	J Iacono	playday	\$140.54				

Total expenses paid in February 2013 (\$178.54)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Ck#	Source	Reason	Amount
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Total Outstanding Checks February 28-2013 - i.e. Spending: (\$ 0.00)

Funds on hand in checking as of 2-28-2013 \$10,188.20

Petty Cash on Hand as of 2-28-2013 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 2-28-2013 \$10,588.20

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:

Less Reserves:

- ERT as of 2-28-2013 (\$ 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 \$9808.31

Tell me something good!!!!

By Karen Hopkins-Balthaser



Jim told me to jiggle the rein on the opposite side to get my horse focused back on the trail and away from that yummy green grass...and stop giving my horse mixed messages.

When walking my horse, if he stopped and wouldn't go forward, Jeff told me to just go a little zig zag and he would get back to walking straight again.

When giving cues to my horse Bekah said to start in the air, then hair, then skin, then muscle and these sensitive animals will respond. That way you can go bigger if you have to.

When riding, Rick reminds me: "Heels down, toes up and breath".

These may seem like simple common sense ideas, but they changed the way I think or do things for the better. Is there advice that someone has given you that made a difference in your equine experience? How about sharing some with your horse club? It can be about riding, grooming, tack, training your horse or anything equine related. Or, you may need advice from someone else's experience...ask a question! Send your horsey advice or question to me, Karen at Ladieeee@AOL.com, or call or text my phone at (714)458-7772, and I will pass it on in the newsletter. As a start, the current question I have is this: This past year, my horse has started kicking horses behind him on the trail...usually one kick per ride...sometimes at the start, sometimes near the end of the ride. I really don't ever want to hurt someone...besides a red ribbon on his tail, what can I do? Thanks in advance for any suggestions!

I am not a born cowgirl. I love all animals, and horses are magnificent, but I married into this equestrian lifestyle with a LOT to learn and I continue to learn a little something from every horse person I spend time with. The joy and confidence I feel when I can put this information to use and connect with my horse in a fun afternoon ride, a little ground work, or just cleaning stalls puts a big smile on my face.

Here are a few bits of advice that fellow ETI members have given me that has helped me be a better cowgirl:

Spike reminded me to trust the horse on the narrow trail because he has four legs, which is better than two.

Judi taught me how to clean hooves, tie good knots, and be aware of herd mentality.

Kristina taught me a good cowgirl should be able to get on her horse from the ground. She said that when I click with my tongue that tells my horse "I need your attention". And my horse thanks her for suggesting I hold a looser rein.

Evelyn said when she started to hold on with her thighs she could safely go faster.

Editor's note: We would like to include "Tell me something good" as a regular newsletter feature. If you have learned something that you want to share with your ETI family, please submit to Karen.

MARCH PLAYDAY BRINGS COMPETITORS OUT OF HIBERNATION

By James M. Iacono

After 5 months of fall and winter competitive slumber, the Saddleback Canyon Riders awoke their spirited juices and staged a strong first Playday of 2013. Twenty competitors of all ages and riding levels negotiated their way around 5 challenging events to make the day eventful and exciting for riders and spectators alike.

Many new shooters came out in force for the junior division. When the dust settled, Savannah Stuckey took home 4 blue ribbons out of a possible 5. Putting in strong showings were Amanda Tuttle, Talia Geirut, Noelle Childs, Carrie Tuttle, Aria Latos, Abby Klimisch, and Sierra and Skyler Roberts. There were some new lead liners- Nicholas Marvin, and Ashley and Savannah Wigh- who worked the heck out of their teammates to successfully circle the courses! Thanks for coming out!

In the Adult Division, Melina Hann led the way with two blue ribbons, while Patti Gretzler, Jimmy I, Tracey Tuttle, Teresa Pearce, and Kendall Childs all hit the board in several events. We welcome a new member, Leslie King, to the world of speed and finesse. Leslie got scraped up a bit, but dusted herself off and continued to race. Way to go cowgirl! A special thanks to Kristina and Robbie Stuckey who not only stacked the kid's division, but found time to collect a few ribbons themselves.

The Club introduced a new High Point trophy for 2013, and the first winner of the gleaming new hardware is none other than Savannah Stuckey on her proud paint named Cloud. They showed that

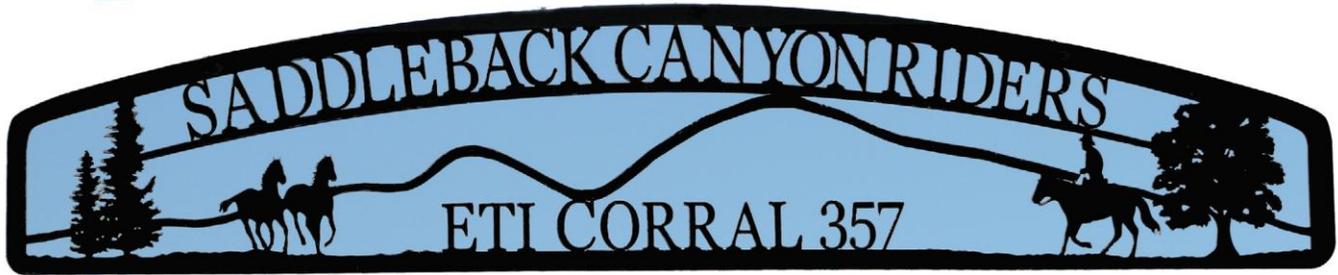
the "sky" is the limit as to how far they can go. Hooray Savannah! She collected 48 points out of a possible 50! I hear that's rubbing off on your math and English scores!

Dave Seroski played grill master again, and we served close to 60 lunches to the community. It was a great all around day from the weather, to the racing, to the food, to the camaraderie that is the village of Trabuco Canyon. But the real stars of the day were our horses. They are the glue that brings and holds us together. They are a majestic animal, who love to please, and bring us joy that is hard to find from any other source.



Swallows Day Parade 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

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