



**June  
2013**

**Volume 20  
Issue 6**



## **In the Saddle with Bob Wilks Our "PAL" Bob**

By Rick Balthaser

I interviewed Bob Wilks a couple of months ago, and I thought writing about him would be really easy. It wasn't. As I clumsily searched for words to describe the man that is a beloved founding member of our club, a dear friend to many, and a mentor (although I've never told him) to me, I stumbled upon a quote from a pretty astute guy, Albert Schweitzer, that I believe sums up Bob pretty well:

*"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing."*

So, with that said (thanks Al!) let me tell you about Bob. Robert Wilks was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A couple of years later, his family moved to the San Fernando Valley and then moved back to Tulsa when Bob was 13. Bob later attended the University of Tulsa, and while a sophomore, he and a fraternity brother enlisted in the Marine Corp Reserve. This is what probably explains the sudden outburst of "Ooorahhhhh!" when the Corps is mentioned in Bob's presence.

Bob married his first wife while in college, and her family owned a farm, where he was first introduced to horses. They rode regularly and according to Bob, *"pretty much figured out the whole riding thing as they went."* Bob and his new bride moved to Southern California where he earned his real estate license. He worked as a real estate agent and then manager at an insurance firm while attending law school at night to earn his law degree.

Now, fast forward to 1983 ... Bob has his own law practice in Tustin, CA and though his first marriage ends, there is a pot of gold at the end of Bob's rainbow ... well ... actually more like a beautiful and amazing golden Spike. Bob courts Spike (how could she possibly deny those rugged good looks and undeniable charm?) and they marry. Spike's brother Tom and his wife Susie move to Trabuco Canyon to keep horses, so Bob and Spike purchase a couple of Quarter mares to keep there as well. Spike subsequently owns a Polish Arab named Cassina, and Bob an Appendix Quarter and former race horse named Black Jack that he fondly recalls as *"the horse that taught me the most about riding."*

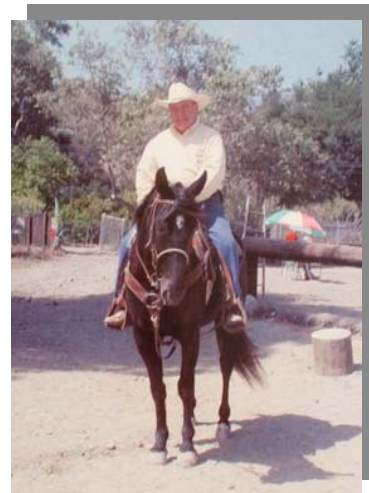
In 1991, Tom and a small group of family and friends form ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders. Our club was born! The small but passionate group of founding members had ambitious objectives and goals, as well as a guiding mission to ensure that the Foothill Trabuco Plan that was being finalized include provisions for keeping horses. The early years of Corral 357 included identifying trails, asking for trailhead connections and making sure that Trabuco Canyon equestrian's voices were heard in our county government. These early objectives continue to be an important part of 357's DNA today.

During the early years of Saddleback Canyon Riders, Bob and Spike fell in love with Missouri Fox Trotters, and with their friends Don and Kathy Clift they (over the course of a few years) bought over 65 high quality MFTs in Missouri, which they transported back and sold in Southern California to happy customers.

Over the 22 year history of our club, Bob and Spike have been instrumental in the success of Saddleback Canyon Riders, with Bob serving two terms as President, four terms as Treasurer and is currently serving as our PAL or "Person at Large". We're a pretty fun and casual club, so we use nicknames like 'Prez' and 'da veep' and MAL. Bob changed his MAL title to PAL *"because it just has a nicer and friendlier tone to it"* ... (in addition to not meaning 'bad' in Spanish!).

Bob is the guy in our club that a lot of our members go to for solid, thoughtful, level-headed advice. He is a master of diplomacy mixed with a sweet personality, a spritz of his own unique sense of humor and topped off with an ever present, infectious optimism. He is always thinking of ways to make our club better, and then he usually goes ahead and gets it done. Bob is our rock.

Bob is our PAL.



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Recently I have been asked about what works best in an Equine first aid kit. I am reprinting this article from last year's series of emergency preparedness tips. I hope this helps!

This should be easy for any responsible horse owner. In this article you will find some helpful items to include in your horse first aid kit. You likely have one already, so this can serve as a reminder to go through it for missing or outdated items; as well as add to it based on your personal equine needs. Keep in mind that the items below are ideas to help you; you may want to consult with your veterinarian or additional resources available online. An equine first aid kit is critical in emergencies but is also an invaluable aid for everyday minor wounds and injuries. Whenever possible a vet should be consulted when your horse becomes ill or injured. Here are some basic items to have easily available in your kit.

1. Thermometer - for monitoring fever.
2. Stethoscope (for heart rate and respiration)
3. Sharp scissors
4. Wire cutters (in case he gets caught in a wire fence)
5. Latex or non-latex gloves
6. Sterile bandages in various sizes
7. Leg bandages and vet wrap
8. Cotton wrap
9. Adhesive tape
10. Antibacterial soap, Betadine, and peroxide
11. Triple antibiotic ointment
12. Epsom salt for soaking
13. Witch Hazel to help with itchy skin
14. Phenybutazone (Bute)
15. Banamine (syringe and needles if using injectable medications)
16. Hypodermic Syringe without needle do debride wounds
17. Sterile saline solution for cleaning wounds (contact lens solution works)
18. A flashlight

Include your vet's phone number, a guide to horse care, clean rags, and a bucket. If you suspect colic and have time, be sure to take your horses vitals before calling your vet or while waiting for a return call. This will help the vet determine the severity of the issue that requires a more immediate response.

Resource: [www.greenhorn-horse-facts.com](http://www.greenhorn-horse-facts.com)

By Debbie Kelly-Scribe and Emergency Response Coordinator

# Local Vets

Mark Secor DVM  
(949) 661-2225

Janice Posnikoff DVM Orange County Equine Vet  
(949) 472-0501

Robert Betty DVM Equine Medical Associates  
(714) 665-2221

Julie Ryan Johnson  
(949) 661-6375

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

Christina Garloff DVM Equine Veterinary  
Associates (714) 777-3942

Paul Wan DVM Equine Veterinary Associates  
(714) 777-3942



# Local Ferriers

Duane Turner (949)728-8873  
Matt Love (714) 334-5404

Ricky Root (949) 458-3726  
Chris Ryan (714) 904-3781

Greg Perez (714) 649-3942  
John Stevenson (949) 851-2266

Mauricio Aranda (949) 939-5796  
Erasmus Martinez (949) 842-4607

Carlos Sifuentes (949) 636-4867  
Jesse Coker (949) 456-9680

Ed Brazeal (714) 649-2376  
Josh Sanders (562) 225-0342

Jim Atkinson (714) 744-4488  
Steve Willis (949) 393-8888



**Trail Boss Report**

**By Terry Roberts**

This month I would like to speak to the group as a whole and encourage each of us to reach out to some of the members we know who have not been participating on the rides and or group events. One of the great things about belonging to ETI is the opportunity to gather with likeminded people that share your same passion and love of the Horse, and of our great trails in the OC Parks System.

We had the Casper's Campout/Ride this past weekend, the total participants were 6 not a great turnout the event was well publicized in advance. Casper's is an amazing Park with great trails for all skills, in the future I would encourage all to try and go to the away rides , we have the ability to find rides for the horses for those who do not have trailers, just shoot me an email and I know we can make it happen.

Hope to see many of you for this month's Month End Ride 9:00 AM at the arena, the route will depend upon who shows up. Bring water as it will be warm.

Now for your entertainment-

An old prospector shuffled into the town of El Indio, Texas leading a tired old mule. The old man headed straight for the only saloon in town, to clear his parched throat. He walked up to the saloon and tied his old mule to the hitch rail.

As he stood there, brushing some of the dust from his face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other. The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, can you dance?"

The old man looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No son, I don't dance -- Never really wanted to".

A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said, "Well, you old fool, you're gonna dance now!" and started shooting at the old man's feet.

The old prospector, not wanting to get a toe blown off, started hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet. Everybody standing around was laughing.

When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon.

The old man turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barreled 12 gauge shotgun and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd stopped laughing immediately.

The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and he turned around very slowly. The silence was deafening. The crowd watched as the young gunman stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin 12 gauge shotgun barrels.

The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old man's hands, as he quietly said; "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's ass?"

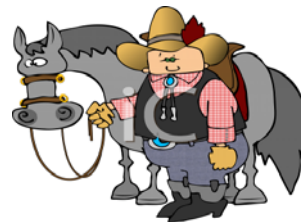
The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir -- But I've always wanted to.

There are a few lessons for all of us here:

- \*Don't be arrogant.
- \*Don't waste ammunition.
- \*Whiskey makes you think you're smarter than you are.
- \*Always make sure you know who is in control.
- \*And finally, Don't screw around with old folks -- They didn't get old by being stupid!

Author Unknown But I like Him.

Your Trail Boss & R2





**SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS**  
trabuco canyon, california  
**ETI 357**



# Horse Playday!

When: Saturday, June 22 at 9:30 a.m.  
Registration & coffee will begin at 8:30 am!

To save time, download and preprint your **WAIVER & RELEASE** form from the website.

Cost is \$7 per event for Adult members and \$8 for non-members.

Cost includes lunch for participants competing in all 5 events;

**Special Children's rate (15 & under) \$4 for Members and \$5 for Non**

Western BBQ Lunch for spectators at \$6



Where: **O'NEILL PARK ARENA**

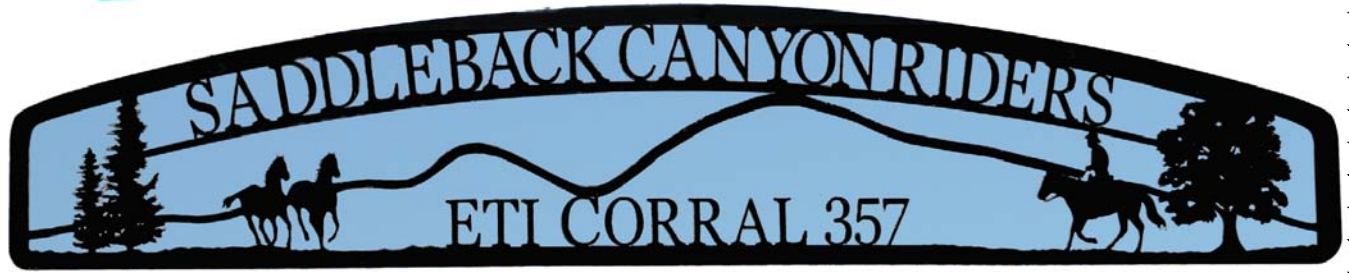
Playday Games: Barrels, Poles,  
Skill Barrels, Quadrangle, and TBA  
3 Lead Line Events!



Any Questions Contact Jim Iacono at 714-612-1789 (after June 8<sup>th</sup>)

For Waiver & Release form, go to our website:

[www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com](http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com).



### 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

Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678