



# SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

Trabuco Canyon, California

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

P.O. BOX 1026, TRABUCO CANYON, CALIFORNIA 92678



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"United We Ride"

DECEMBER 2007

## Startin' from Here...

### Year 2008 Board of Directors:

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949-713-7252  
[canyonconstruction1@yahoo.com](mailto:canyonconstruction1@yahoo.com)

**WEBMASTER:** Open

### Year 2007 Services:

#### MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT (MAU)

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**Trails-4-All:** Jim Meyer  
714-734-8188, [info@trails4all.org](mailto:info@trails4all.org)

**O'Neill Regional Park:** Ron Slimm  
949-923-2260, [ron.slimm@rdmd.ocgov.com](mailto:ron.slimm@rdmd.ocgov.com)

Well howdy everyone! Like our trail boss says, "We're back in the saddle" but it sure was a tough ride. I know we're all glad to be home. The Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Sheriff, U.S. Forest Service and CalFire summed it up best



... and I know we each think about our friends who lost their homes in the fires...we're not done with that. Our hearts go out to them, and soon, our working hands will too. It almost all seems so long ago...but we all had Thanksgiving and I know we each gave thanks for the wonderful friends and family, treasures and chores that we each hold close.

So back in the saddle. Back to our newsletter with our new scribe! Back to getting' ready for our annual Christmas party and thinking about those really cool gifts you're all going to bring for our cowboy gift exchange. (And remember we're going to be presenting our charity proceeds to Canyon Acres Therapeutic Riding Center so don't miss that because you each deserve a warm thanks for making our Charity Ride so successful! ...and donating the proceeds is the best present of all...) Yep, and we're looking forward to new faces on our board (thanks everyone for participating in our election) and new member participation! So yeah, we're back in the saddle and it just goes to show how well we come back, how well we come together and what a great equestrian community we have.

Just three last parting thoughts and thanks...a thanks to Debbie Kelly for her persistence, insistence and leadership on creating, compiling and executing our horse evacuation plan. What a success and each of you should be very proud. Secondly, huge thanks to the gracious and caring people and facilities who offered their stables, arenas and services for anyone in need. And finally, just a photo we've all seen...and the genuine thanks behind it...



Rich Gomez,  
President ETI 357

### **Table of Contents:**

News Around the Canyon .....	2
Charity Ride Recap.....	3
Trail Boss Report .....	4
MAU Report.....	4
Horse Tales.....	5
Membership Report .....	5
Treasurer's Report .....	5
December Events Calendar .....	5

# News Around the Canyon

## Animal evacuation plans for Trabuco Canyon

Residents of Trabuco Canyon live with their horses, pigs, goats and other animals in a rustic rural environment, full of nature and quiet beauty. But as evidenced by the Santiago fire, living in that rustic beauty carries a dangerous threat; the threat of fire, flood or natural disasters.

Because of that danger residents of the area put together a set of plans for themselves and their animals in the event of fire or other natural disaster.

The plan was put together by members of the Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) of Equestrian Trails Inc. Corral 357, working with the Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Animal Control, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and the Fire Safe Council.

Organizers said it took about a year and a half to prepare.

More than 5,000 people living in Trabuco Canyon, from Cook's Corner all the way back to people living in cabins in Holy Jim Canyon, according to the last census.

Orange County Fire Authority Battalion Chief Scott Brown noted that the plan worked very well when an evacuation of animals from Trabuco, Modjeska, Silverado and other nearby canyons.

If the evacuation of the horses is not organized, it is a problem for us," Brown said.

By Mark Eades, Staff Writer

From the *Orange County Register*, November 17, 2007

Everyone is concerned about safety on **Live Oak Canyon Road** and now the **CHP** has asked concerned residents to send a letter to the **CHP** Captain to express your concerns. Include your name (and address if you want).

Officer Goodwin says this is the most effective way for us to be heard. Each letter should be individual and different, not form letters duplicated. Send letters to:

**Captain Sandra Houston**  
**32951 Camino Capistrano**  
**San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675**  
**(949) 487-4000**

To report incidents, call (949) 559-7888

## CANYON DEFENSE AGAINST WILDFIRES...

...needs your help. We need volunteers to patrol our canyon mostly during the night when we're alerted to a Red Flag condition in our area. The more volunteers we have the less patrol time needed per shift. Please call Sharon for more information and to sign up to help!

**Sharon Stancato**  
**949-459-6297**  
**sonrise\_ranch@yahoo.com**

# Annual Charity Ride



Our Annual Charity Trail Ride on October 20<sup>th</sup> was a success by any measure, raising nearly three thousand dollars for *Canyon Acres Therapeutic Horse Riding Program*.

## Many thanks to our generous sponsors:

American Horse Products  
B & E Feed & Supply  
Ballards Tack & Saddle  
Ballards Western Wear  
Bob and Spike Wilks  
Boot Barn  
Bowtie Press  
Canyon Feed and Tack  
Duane Turner

Foothill Feed  
Fresh Grill  
Gifts Etc.  
Hitch'n' Post Feed & Tack  
Horse Illustrated Magazine  
Indian Bob – Turtle Island Trading  
Johnny Rebs' Southern Roadhouse  
Orange County Mining Company Restaurant  
Pacific Ranch Market #3

Pam Ragland  
Rose Canyon Cantina Restaurant  
Sandy Schuerman  
Terri Steuben  
The Wagon Train  
Thrifty Horse  
Trabuco Canyon General Store  
Vortex@ Spray Liners

# CORRAL CORNER

## TRAIL BOSS REPORT

by Jeff Kelly

Well, I was first gonna sit down and write this article a couple of weeks ago early on a Sunday evening. There was lots to write about. We had a great trail maintenance day. I remember ten, if not twelve members showing up at the Post Office Parking lot that Saturday morning. Broke up into three teams and knocked it out. I even have to confess to missing the trail Doug and I were heading for, and had to backtrack. We cleaned up the way for our Charity Ride and all else to follow. And that ride; always a blast. And what is really something is we raised the largest amount of funds with our smallest turn out. Our future looks bright! And hardly last (there's a bazillion things to mention) never the least, is how much I'm missing most of the Walters. (Let me qualify that, if the Walter is not missed it is because that said Walter has not removed herself from the immediate area like the said Walters who are missed have.) Remember all that? Yea? Seems like somewhere between yesterday and whenever on that Sunday night we got the call from Animal Control, be prepared to help with the evacuation of our Sister Canyon, Silverado. That was sort of a jump start for the following day, evacuating our own Trabuco Canyon. Just taking a glimpse of the story that it is to tell, humbles, if not just plain overwhelms me. Make no mistake, a great tragedy and tremendous loss on a global standard. But when something "breaks", it's how you fix it, and we all soooo came together as an equine community to do so. The cooperation, the communication, the care that emoted from the whole event has led me to draw a conclusion; I find in all this the final and end all solution to world peace: Everybody, and I mean everybody in the whole wide world, should have a horse!

And since we do have horses, let's say we ride them at the end of the month, say...Saturday, December 29. We'll meet at our beloved arena at O'Neill Park at say... 10:00AM... Canyon Sharp!

## MAU REPORT by Debbie Kelly

As of this writing, I am still trying to recall where October left off and November began. Like most of us, I am still in the vortex of the aftermath and recovery of the evacuation. The exhaustion, both physical and emotional, has taken it's toll. Yet out of the smoke and ashes, there is a silver lining. During the evacuation, sheltering, return home, and recovery, we have come closer together. The experiences, some heartbreaking, have driven home how blessed we are to have a common thread with so many people; our love of horses. During the equine evacuation assistance came literally out of nowhere. I personally met people I will never be able to thank as I did not get their names or contact information. This would be people who showed up in Trabuco to help move horses to safety. At the shelters, specifically the Blenheim Oaks in SJC, we worked with old friends, made new ones, and reinforced those we know personally and may have taken for granted. To all I say thank you and well done. We have met and begun our 2008 calendar which will include a Disaster Response class in January, Forestry Service training in February, and emergency horse shoeing in March. The remainder of our requirements will be scheduled at our January meeting. We are taking December off. So watch for opportunities to join us for Sensory and emergency horse handling and trailering. That training came in handy during the evacuation as several folks attested to. Once again, thank you to all and those who took such good care of our horses including Coto de Caza, Serrano Creek, and Blenheim Oaks. Everyone have a safe, and Happy Holiday season. MAU decided to try something a little different in October and we met at the Silverado Cafe for our first ever breakfast meeting. Silverado offers a nostalgic slice of the past, and is just a fun town to visit. Thanks to Jeanette and Donavan Villegas for reserving and saving our spot. I want to thank everyone in MAU for all their support with our Charity Ride. We had at least one member on each group keeping an eye out on everyone. We wanted to be ready to assist if necessary, but the reports so far are everything went well in each group. This is a very cohesive team.



## LOCAL VETS

Dr. Betty	(714) 665-2211	Dr. Posnikoff	(949) 472-0501
Dr. Chris Garloff	(714) 777-3942	Dr. Julie Ryan	(949) 559-5905
Dr. Stew Hales	(714) 691-6368	Dr. Mark Secor	(949) 661-2225
Dr. Meinert	(714) 665-2211	Dr. Mike Williams	(909) 734-0084
Dr. Kirk Pollard	(714) 777-3942	Dr. Eckstrom	(909) 632-3322



## FARRIERS

Chris Ryan	(949) 713-6647	Ricky Root	(949) 458-3726
Ed Brazeal	(714) 649-2376	Duane Turner	(949) 981-0128
Jesse Coker	(949) 456-9680	Carlos Sifuentes	(949) 636-4867
Steve Willis	(909) 393-8888	Matt Love	(714) 334-5404

# Horse Tales

## MY FIRST HORSE – LADY LUCK

By Alberta Morehouse

My dad said if he took my brain apart he would see little horses running around, since that's all I ever talked about. When I was eight or nine years old he asked a cowboy friend to take me for a ride on his cutting horse and scare the equine out of me. It was a fast twisty turning scary ride. I hung on to that guy for dear life but it didn't stop me.

After three years of riding rental horses at Spiller's Stable in Long Beach which is still in business as a boarding facility half a century later, I wore my dad down.

A friend of mine at school had a horse for sale. They raised her from a newborn since the mare died in foaling, hence her name- Lady Luck. They had basically made her a pet. She was a green broke three year old black Thoroughbred mare. She looked more like a Quarter horse at 15 hands. My dad paid \$300.00 for her including tack. I boarded her in a field with two other old horses, great place - no need to muck. I would grab the halter and walk out to her. She would walk up like she was happy to see me, then rear up and run off to join her buddies. My friend said she was only playing. My dad didn't think it was funny. A whole 'nother story.). My only option was to get a bucket of feed, throw a rope around her neck and she was mine. Tacking up was easy, however mounting was another story. I could usually wrap the reins really tight around the saddle horn and get on an already moving out horse. I knew nothing about training a horse. The old cowboys at the stable just said, "Show 'em who's boss." So that, I regret to say began a 4 year fight without a lot of mutual love or understanding.

She tried to kill me on several occasions, but I was young and indestructible (and stupid). The one that stands out in my mind is a day I rode her down into the riverbed, got off to tighten the cinch, put a foot in the stirrup to remount and she decided to teach this girl a lesson she would never forget. She took off at a run. I lost the reins, slipped under her belly, foot still in the stirrup with shod hooves coming at my head – no such thing as a helmet back then. I was a circus performer for about a quarter of a mile, when I finally wrenched my foot free of the stirrup. She ran up a steep embankment and just stood there looking down as if to say "Got you dummy!" Yes, after a few days on crutches I was back in the saddle.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Sheila Segien

## Very Expired (sorry, last newsletter!!)

Dennis Gorski 7/07, Robert Lugibihl 8/07

## Expired

Jody Sidebotham 9/07, Brenda Kalb 9/07, Maureen Rivers & Michael Kirchberg 9/07, Linda Broker 10/07, Patti Gretzler 10/07

## Expiring

Dianne Beckman 11/07, Lydia Lawson 11/07, Jaqui Moreland 11/07, Linda Moy 11/07, Tina Tedder & Janina Randow 11/07, Teresa Pearce 11/07, Sue Selff 11/07, Rocky Brown 12/07, Jeff Kermode 12/07, Sharon Stancato 12/07, Lori McKenzie 12/07, Jen & Paul Godward 12/07, Lois Grote 12/07

## WELCOME New and Returning Members!!

Angel Amos, Ed & Mary Weinik

# TREASURER'S REPORT

by Bob Wilks

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING October 31, 2007

Total Corral Funds on Hand at 10/31/07.....\$8,763.33

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve... (\$1,329.00)

NET Funds on Hand in Checking, CD, Petty Cash

To Corral 357.....\$7,434.33

# December Events

## ETI 357 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 1st, 6:00 to 10:00 pm

Location: Rose Canyon Cantina

See [www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com](http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com) for complete information

## MONTH-END RIDE

Saturday, December 29th, 10:00 am

Location: O'Neill Park Arena

Contact: Jeff Kelly

(949) 351-5791 rileyboyl1@cox.net

## DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 13th, 2007

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

For additional information



## 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 the largest ETI corral in California with over 100 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 Mountain. Our Corral is committed to supporting and helping maintain O'Neill Regional Park and other local riding trails.



Equestrian Trails Inc., Corral 357  
PO Box 1026  
Trabuco Canyon, California 92678