

**ETI
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SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

South Orange County, California

www.SaddlebackCanyonRiders.com

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

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"United We Ride"

AUGUST, 2007

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Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance

by Corral 357 President Richard Gomez

Some say the West is an attitude. Some say it's just a state of mind. Some say it's a place or that it's a time gone by...but according to a California writer, what's big about the West is what it does to a person's heart. It's here, it's now and we all share it.

And it's alive and well everywhere in the canyon...in the arena, in the park, the horses along Live Oak Canyon Road, everyone waving and sayin' "hi!" Friends and neighbors, riding compadres, all of kindred spirit...

And it's about doin' what's right, doin' what's good for others, and it's doin' what's fun!

There's something about riding our horses that makes a bad day good or a bad week end. We're lucky to be so close to so many great trails and we're real lucky to be near and around people who share our love for horses, the West and the whole deal.

That's where each of you comes in. Remember our ETI mission statement:

"Dedicated to the Acquisition and Preservation of Trails, Good Horsemanship, and Equine Legislation."

Good horsemanship...that means a lot to me and I know it means a lot to each of you. Just think about and act on that thought alone for this month...

So this is all kinda new to me. Following in the big boots left by Robyn Walters and Jeff Kermod...Mickey Weldon and Ron Pflugrath...Bob Wilks and, well that's about all I know.

I was thinking back to when Patti and I moved to Trabuco Canyon...bought the house in 1999, moved in 2000. And now I've been "elected" president of our great horse club! What an honor. Of course, like the old cowboy says, "If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around" - what that means to me is we won't be orderin' anyone around. But I'll tell you, my first task is to mend some fences, so I'm off to do a little repairin'.

I'll get back to you on where I found the holes...

See you August 2nd at the Cantina!

August Members' Meeting
Thursday, August 2nd, 2007

Rose Canyon Cantina

Dinner/Social Hour: 7:00-7:30pm

Members' Meeting: 7:30-9:00 pm

August Board Meeting
Thursday, August 9th, 2007
7:00 pm

Location:

Wilks' Residence

Please RSVP 949-589-9144

All members are welcome!

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HORSE TALES



“The Grandest Dump(ing)”

By Shelly Black-Novotny

I've been dumped a couple hundred more times than I'd like to remember - but the "best" one is worth remembering and worth sharing with others!

Dusty was my first horse and the most influential 'being' in my life for 27 years. He was an expert at dumping me. He was not a spooky horse - except for cows, he was petrified of cows. Well, there used to be a huge long-horn bull up on a hill, across the creek from Serrano Creek Stables. So, with the brilliance of a 10 year old - I decided to ride Dusty up the hill to "face his fears".

Dusty and the bull were carefully sniffing noses, whilst I was happily perched in my English saddle, when the bull gave an enormous snort. Dusty did one of those 'faster than the speed of light' spins and off we went - down the hill at break-neck speed. (Literally!) Once I became aware of "what" was happening, I realized that I was no longer touching the saddle or the reins. Ironically I was falling down the hill at the same speed Dusty was running down it - I remember thinking "this is just like a cartoon", as I was still above him - just not touching him (if only someone had had a video camera (which were not yet something people had!) I know I could win \$20,000.00 for this one!).

I reached my left hand out and 'voila', I grabbed the left rein! I was back in control - I just knew it! As I was reaching for the right rein, with great confidence that it would be mine - when Dusty reached the bottom of the hill, IE: the creek. The creek was dry, nice and full of rocks but no water, and Dusty decided that one must always jump the creek, whether the water was there or not. One minute I was so close to contacting more leather than the small amount that was in my left hand and the next minute the ground rushed up and knocked the wind out of me.

Dusty gave one backward smile, kicked up his heels and headed on home at full speed. Once I was able to inhale again - I had the pleasure of a 2 1/2 mile walk back to my stables.

(I never did try to get him back up to that bull. But some years later I had a 13yr old girl 1/2 leasing Dusty, when I received a phone call informing me that Dusty had dumped her that day. She had ridden him to a drive-thru dairy (in Santa Ana) where he came upon a life-sized, plastic cow out front - and before she knew what was happening, she felt the hot concrete reach up and grab her. Luckily, she only had to walk about 1/4 mile back to the stables. Dusty never did overcome his fear of cows!)



CORRAL CORNER

TRAIL BOSS REPORT by Jeff Kelly

Well, our June end of the month ride, beginning at the new summer time of 9am, had the sole attendance of jus' lil' ol' me. So's me's goes out on me's own's. I headed out on the Live Oak Trail up to the water tanks and hung out there for a bit (and two hackamore's) I love it up there. The view ("some day this will all be mine", pretending to be Portola) The Water tanks (flash back to one of my previous gov'ment jobs) and ever so grateful to Mr. Nixon for getting me there. And I always enjoy the descent to the opening of the Arroyo, that's where the real fun began. Seems the Boy Scouts of America were in the process of breaking down their summer camp. And oh what a camp it was, comin' all down at once in front of God and everybody and me's and me's horse. I'll just say it presented the perfect opportunity for a little sensory training. Made my way through all that, went up to the top side using that new trail (pretty cool) and out the top gate. Have you ever taken your horse that way? Since I was all alone, well, I just had a whole lot more options available. One thing I did was ride into Santa Margarita Ford and ask them what I could get for my Tennessee Walker on a trade in for a Mustang. Hey, they had one in my favorite color, flea bit grey, and that's not an easy color to match! And the whole time I was prancin' around the car lot I was prayin' Mr. Nixon would not have, you know, a moment. (I don't try this stuff at home, only as a smell good trained professional in an official capacity, with the Presidents blessing of course) Continuing on from there, I proceeded to trails end over looking Santa Margarita Pkwy and the Arroyo. All this, all the things you can do, places you can go on Horseback here in Orange County California, here in our BACKYARD! Dude! Norco Lite! It's all about the horse for us. To Ride! And with efforts made by ETI 357, and all the other committed organizations and the countless individuals in love with the animal Equis, we will continue to be blessed. Hope to see somebody Saturday, July 28 at 9am, maybe go lookin' for Mustangs!

MAU REPORT by Debbie Kelly

I wasn't sure I would have much of a report this month, but I was mistaken. After seven months of coordinating with the O'Neill Park ranger and the members of MAU, we took our first official ride as "Adopt a Park" volunteers. While five of us rode our horses through O'Neill and down the Arroyo, we had our "volunteer" hats (well, helmets actually) on and were able to log in and out our time. We engaged a few other users but really, just enjoyed the time with each other and our horses, all the while providing a community service. As volunteers we carried radios as well as cell phones, a first aid kit, and extra bottles of water should we come across someone in need. Speaking of water, did you know it still exists along the Arroyo? We came across several opportunities to do a little horse training as one of the horses just did not want to cross. The streams also provided water for the horses to drink, and hopefully the wildlife in the area take advantage of it. We also saw evidence of fireworks under one of the bridges and included that in our report to the park. I hadn't been on the Arroyo in some time, and recall rocks presenting a real challenge and concern to many riders. It was actually my plan to turn around when we hit the worst. That just did not happen. So, if rocks are keeping you off of the Arroyo, then check it out. You will be pleasantly surprised with the minimal amount of rocks along the trail.

I want to thank all of MAU for their commitment and the time they have taken to comply with the Adopt a Park program. This is not something we implemented, but when the Orange County Department of Harbor's, Parks, and Beaches said it would be required for us to patrol the county parks; everyone stepped right up. This program only enhances our opportunity to make a difference in our community.

The next scheduled MAU ride is September 15th, but I believe that is All Canyon Clean-up that I encourage all to participate in. It would be real difficult to participate in the clean up on horse back, so we will reschedule that ride. We will of course be hitting the trails between now and then. The August MAU meeting is on the 9th and Ranger Ron Slimm will be speaking to our group about our opportunities and responsibilities as a volunteer mounted unit.

Ok, now for the difficult part. In closing, I want to thank Robyn Walters for all the support she gave us during her brief term of ETI357 President. She attended all MAU meetings and events and made sure we all had her support and blessings. Robyn has been an instrumental part of this club for so many years and I am personally going to miss her and her family; both as fellow ETI members and as neighbors. Thank you Robyn and Godspeed to you all. Come back often.



LOCAL VETS

Dr. Bettey (714) 665-2211
Dr. Chris Garloff (714) 777-3942
Dr. Stew Hales (714) 691-6368
Dr. Meinert (714) 665-2211
Dr. Kirk Pollard (714) 777-3942

Dr. Posnikoff (949) 472-0501
Dr. Julie Ryan (949) 559-5905
Dr. Mark Secor (949) 661-2225
Dr. Mike Williams (909) 734-0084
Dr. Eckstrom (909) 632-3322



FARRIERS

Chris Ryan (949) 713-6647
Ed Brazeal (714) 649-2376
Jesse Coker (949) 456-9680
Steve Willis (909) 393-8888

Ricky Root (949) 458-3726
Duane Turner (949) 981-0128
Carlos Sifuentes (949) 636-4867
Matt Love (714) 334-5404

HORSE SENSE

Did You Know...

- Horse's hooves grow at a rate of about 1cm per month.
- Horse's knee caps are not done fusing until they are about 3 1/2 years old. That's why many young racehorses are injured.
- Mares come in to heat around age 1, but usually can't be safely bred until 4.
- Stallions are mature and can breed around 2 or 3 years of age.
- A horse's heart weighs about 10 pounds.
- A horse's back cannot bend, it remains stiff when the horse moves. That's why it's hard for horses to get up after rolling or resting.
- The teeth take up more room in a horse's head than its brain does.
- Horses can see color.
- Horses can see in two directions at once.
- Horses have two blind spots where they cannot see: directly in front of them, and directly behind them.
- Most breeds of horses have 18 ribs, 6 lumbar bones, and 18 tail vertebrae. Arabians have 17 ribs, 5 lumbar bones, and 16 tail vertebrae.
- A full grown horse that weighs about 1,000 pounds contains approximately 13.2 gallons of blood.
- Horses have about 175 bones in their body.
- Horses make 8 basic sounds- snort, squeal, greeting nicker, courtship nicker, maternal nicker, neigh, roar, blow.
- It is almost impossible for a horse to vomit -- if they do, their stomachs usually rupture soon after.
- A horse focuses its eye by changing the angle of its head, not by changing the shape of the lens of the eye, as humans do.
- A racehorse averages a weight loss of between 15 and 25 pounds during a race.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Sheila Segien

ARE YOU CURRENT?

Contact Sheila Segien
(949) 589-3347 bearfoot60@cox.net

Expired

Dale & Sharon Grabinski 5/07, Annette Mclaughlin 5/07, Evelyn & Samantha Ortega 5/07, John & Karen Rochefort 5/07, Angel Amos 5/07, Greg Hahn 6/07, Kim & Eric Munk 6/07, Amy Belt 6/07, Dennis Gorski 7/07

Expiring

Joanne Hubbard 8/07, Doug Slavin & Jennifer Gillott 8/07, Robert & Caitlyn Nieblas 8/07, Howard Pyle & Sandi Dunn 8/07, Pam Hutchins 8/07, Robert Lugibihl 8/07

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

7pm Thursday, August 2nd Rose Canyon Cantina

If you live, ride, board, or play in any of the canyons, then your awareness is heightened by the fire conditions we are experiencing. This year especially; the OC Fire Authority has taken extreme measures to keep all residents informed and prepared. The Fire Authority depends on the community and groups such as ours to assist them in reaching others. ETI/357 has been doing that for several years now. Another group that focuses on safety, education, preparedness and fire awareness is the Fire Safe Council (FSC) in Silverado, Modjeska, and Williams Canyons. Our speaker for August will be Phil McWilliams with the FSC. If you are on the emergency email list, then you should know Phil is the moderator of that list and keeps us all updated when fire conditions exist nearby. Phil and the FSC were also instrumental in assisting us with the Equine Evacuation plan and participated at our drills. By the way, Phil doesn't even own a horse! We hope as many of you as possible can attend the August member's meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Bob Wilks

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING
May 31, 2007

Total Corral Funds on Hand at 05/31/07.....\$9,900.20
Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve... (\$1,404.70)
NET Funds on Hand in Checking, CD, Petty Cash
To Corral 357.....\$8,495.50

CORRAL 357 EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST 2007

Thursday, August 2, 2007

MEMBER'S MEETING

Location: Rose Canyon Cantina

Dinner/Social Hour: 7:00 – 7:30 pm
Member's Meeting: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

All welcome!

Contact: Contact: Rich Gomez
949-888-1604
rtgomez@aol.com

Thursday, August 9, 2007

MAU MEETING 6:15 pm
BOARD MEETING 7:00 pm

Location: The Wilks' Residence

All members are welcome! Please RSVP

Contact: Debbie Kelly at
949-459-7191 for MAU Meeting
and Spike Wilks at 949-589-9144
for Board Meeting

Saturday, June 9, 2007

RSM GREAT RANCHO CAMPOUT

Location: Trabuco Mesa Park

Set-up begins at 3:00 pm
Event begins at 4:00 pm

Volunteers Needed!

Contact: Debbie Kelly at 949-459-7191 or
Lori McKenzie at 949-858-3747

Saturday, August 25, 2007

MONTH END RIDE

Location: O'Neill Park Arena

Arrive early to sign waivers
9:00 am

Contact: Jeff Kelly
949-351-5791, rileyboy1@cox.net

All welcome!

\$5.00 single event fee for non-members.

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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 has "adopted" O'Neill Regional Park and we are committed to building and maintaining the Harmon Equestrian area. In recent years Corral 357 has built and/or gathered funds for the arena renovation, the round pen, the kiosk and the hitching posts. Our Annual Charity Ride held every Fall here in O'Neill Park has resulted in more than \$10,000 of charitable contributions.



Equestrian Trails Inc., Corral 357
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