



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

### A TIME FOR THANKSGIVING

Well before we start out for the opening of the holiday season which really starts with Thanksgiving I'd like to extend a big howdy-THANKS to each of you who participated in, helped organize or just came to eat lunch and bid on treasures at our annual Charity Ride. Our Club and Canyon Acres owe each one of you a warm tip of the hat for helping us continue a long-standing Club tradition. It's all good and fine and cool and fun to get together on a regular basis and meet and socialize and work and play with our four-leggeds, but it's events like this that really warm our hearts and make us the meaningful group of caring folks that we really are....

I'd like to extend a special thanks to Rick Balthaser and Doug Slavin for gatherin' up more treasures than we barely knew what to do with... 'course "we" did a pretty good job of getting' 'em all marked for our auction. Which brings me to another special mention – a big thanks to Bob Wilks for once again, callin' it as he sees it, or callin' it like it should be, or callin' it like something, but whatever it is, callin' it so our auction moved right along and we all got a chance to bid on some great treasures. And what about our sponsors!?? Wow, how could we ever do this without them...too numerous and too generous to mention here but check the website



for a list of these fine folks and be sure and give 'em your business and express our thanks whenever you can. And there are others

we cannot forget – our thanks to all the special effort of Spike Wilks and Karen Balthaser and Patti

Gomez for the fine food and the great table goodies! Man, was that a western-style lunch or what? Matter of fact, I rode with Rick the next day and asked him if there were any leftovers...you know, he never answered me...hmmm.

Of course we can't forget to acknowledge our Events Coordinator, Fiona, who tirelessly helped out early and late to do whatever needed to be done. And don't forget those wonderful Debbies (Debi and Debbie) and Cheryl Segien who handled all the rider registrations. And I was talking to the horses on the high-line and they each wanted me to extend a big thanks to Dave and Sue Seroski for keepin' 'em watered. It was a hot day and Dave and Sue made sure our buddies were all adequately watered and set to go.



And who is central to this whole Charity event? Who's the one who always comes through with more helping hands than a ranch full of cowboys? Well our own TrailBoss, Jeff Kelly. I'm not sure if his role is to help set things up, get things arranged with the County, pre-ride the trail so it's safe for everyone, make sure the high-line is cinched down just right, or just lead one of the fastest groups of horses in the old 'OC – or maybe it's all of these things! Yep, it is. Jeff, a thanks to you from each of us and all the kids you help out with your commitment to the ride. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Man, what a great success as I think you can tell... and that doesn't even include how much money we raised for Canyon Acres! So one last special mention – to each of you who rode, ate, bid or just hung out. *(Continued on page 2)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

We couldn't do it without you! So now be sure and check out our website for a great collection of photos from each of you photographers out there... think you'll like what you see.

Okay, enough. And now we're on to our next set of events; a Playday on November 15th and our next month end ride on Saturday, November 29th. Both events promise a good time and then there's lunch...we're good at doin' the feedin' thing aren't we? Anyway, lots more details to come on these upcoming events so watch our website.

Now don't forget the big upcoming elections. There are two of 'em...November 4th for our country and November 6th for our Club! Be sure and vote in both...

So I started this whole deal out on the note of Thanksgiving and sure enough it's comin' quick. Now that's not bad because I know at least in our family it's our favorite holiday since it's American, no gifts are required, you get to eat great stuff, watch football and most of us have four-days off to ride! Now that's a holiday! Okay, enough about the holidays...they're comin'!

Okay, so a lot of stuff to say this month, but as always, until we get together next, here's to all of us workin' together and ridin' together...see you on the trail...

## IMPORTANT DATES MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY

**Members meeting:** Thursday November 6th

**MAU Meeting:** Saturday, November 8th

**Playday:** Saturday, November 15th

**Board Meeting:** Thursday November 13th

**Animal First Aid Clinic:** Saturday, November 8th

**Month End Ride:** Saturday, November 29th

## HORSE TALES SUBMITTED BY PATTI WILLIAMS

### MY INNER VOICE....

Sunday August 17th, 2008 I saddled my horse Bear for the first ride of my annual Heart Bar camping trip with several of my friends. Bear is a seven year old PMU gelding, standing at 16.3h. Being too short and not wanting to hold the others up while I got my mounting block, I decided to use a nearby table, something we have done a hundred times.

I got up on the side of the table and argued with my inner voice that it's okay not to go to the end. I laid the reins over his neck and once again ignored my voice when it said don't step over the bench. So as I stepped into the stirrup he moved, I settled him and jumped on. He stepped forward again. I was crooked so I grabbed onto him. As I grabbed, my right spur caught his right flank and he jumped forward a bit. As I righted myself I dug into his flank again and sent him flying. "Whoa Bear!" was the last thing I remembered.

A while later I came around to a terrible pain. Someone was telling me not to move and another voice was saying breathe, Patti, breathe. I knew I had broken ribs so I tried to roll off the pain, but that made it worse. Next thing I knew I was in an ambulance and then in the hospital.

I knew I told them the day, time, my age, etc. Then they put in a chest tube. I heard my own screams as things went black again. Later I ended up in Loma Linda University Hospital in intensive care. Somewhere along the way I saw my chest x-rays. Yikes, there were too many broken ribs to count so I passed out.

When I came around that night I learned I had eight broken ribs, a broken clavicle, a collapsed lung (all on the left side) a contused spleen and my right patella was broken. As I came off Bear, I hit a concrete camp site pole, moved it a few inches and landed on a big rock. *(Continued on page 3)*

## HORSE TALES (CONTINUED)

I shoved all my ribs in and broke in them front and back. Yikes!

Thanks to some really powerful drugs I slept through a lot of the pain. Days went by as I started the painful realization that my life was changed. God blessed me and I was alive. The pain was great, unlike any I have had.

I spent a week in the hospital listening to the doctors telling me that there are more riding accidents and major injuries than motorcycles and other recreational vehicles. They asked me when I was getting rid of my horses. Every day the doctor said just remember all your pain and broken bones are because of your horse.

Every day all I could say was NO NO NO, it wasn't because of my horse it was because of me. I didn't listen to my inner voice. I am 100 percent responsible for my injuries and I can't wait to get back in the saddle. After several days of this, he finally gave up and said okay will you at least get a donkey? They are closer to the ground. HA! I have a donkey and I am still going to ride my horses!

After a week there and two nights in a rehab place I went home. I am getting better each day. I have a big walker, a sling and a knee/leg brace. Movement is no longer easy, everything is different. I am different.

Finally, after two weeks, I saw my horses and the don-

key. What a tearful reunion that was. My boys were fine. Parker bit one of the padded handles of my walker and would not let go. Bear stared at me with doe eyes and nuzzled my face. It was all love and sorrow. I cannot get on either one of them for three months.

Now at three weeks out I am getting much better each day. Even though my ribs grind and shift every time I move, it's a blessing that I am okay. It could have been so much worse. I am thankful each day.

I am strong in many ways and that has helped me a great deal. I also have a really good outlook and sense of humor. Heck if I can't laugh at a bed pan what else is there to laugh at?

So why am I writing this? When I was asked to write something, I thought, "what good will this do?" Then realized there is a lesson here to share. Listen to your inner voice. Had I listened, perhaps my life would be the same. I took too many short cuts that day. Ha, who hasn't taken a short cut?

I guess I am here to say that through all this I have learned that my inner voice is one I should listen to. My Dad always said its fine to talk to yourself, but never argue. My plan is never to argue with myself again.

Best of luck and until we meet again in the saddle,  
God bless you!  
Patti Williams



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY SHEILA SEGIEN

**Very Expired:** (sorry, last newsletter!!) Joanne Hubbard 8/08, Robert & Caitlyn Nieblas 8/08, Howard Pyle & Sandi Dunn 8/08

**Expired:** Ed & Mary Weinik 9/08, Jim Iacano 9/08 **Expiring:** Jeff & Debbie Kelly 11/08, Lydia Lawson 11/08, Tina Tedder 11/08, Angel Amos 11/08

**Annual Dues:** Individual \$45; Family \$70 for the first two members, add \$8 for each additional family member.

## SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF ETI 357

Please support these fine businesses that so generously donated goods and services for our Charity Ride Auction:

American Horse Products, Ballard's Saddle and Tack, Ballard's Western Wear, Beyond Fitness, Canyon Feed and Tack, Hitchin' Post Tack and Feed, The Horse Mart, Johnny Reb's Restaurant, Opah Restaurant and Bar, Norco Ranch Outfitters, Moreno's Restaurant, P & M K-9 Supplies, Real Mex Restaurants, San Dimas Tack Box, San Dimas Grain Co., Sandy Shuerman, Carlos Sifuentes-Ferrier, Terri Steuben, Thrifty Horse, Torrey Pines Gliderport, Duane Turner-Ferrier, Turtle Island Trading Co., The Wagon Train



## MAU REPORT

BY DOUG SLAVIN

You may be asking yourself what the Mounted Assistance Unit does when we are not called on during an emergency to evacuate horses...Prepare For Adversity!

Your MAU team trains and prepares! And then trains and prepares some more. Prepare for what you may ask? Members are required to take both Large Animal First Aid and Back Country First Aid classes.

Real life example....August 2008 several MAU members joined in on a 5 day back country pack trip

into the Golden Trout Wilderness in the Sierras. In pasture, a horse encountered a nasty piece of wire fencing and ended up with multiple lacerations.

Gleaming from their First Aid training, MAU members met the adversity head-on and were able to mend the horse with the aid of banamine, beta-dine, and super glue. Such a quick knowledgeable response prevented the potential for infection.

If you are interested in learning more about our Mounted Assistance Unit please contact Debi Geary at [debig@cox.net](mailto:debig@cox.net) or Jennifer Gillott at [jennifer.gillott@ingrammicro.com](mailto:jennifer.gillott@ingrammicro.com)



## MAU EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

BY DEBBIE KELLY

We met at the Emergency Operations Center in October for our quarterly Equine Evacuation Plan meeting. Representatives from several action groups in the canyons, Animal Care, and OCFA have been meeting regularly to discuss our plan and ideas to make this a county recognized project. We are moving forward and for now our ETI evacuation plan is attached to the Animal Care plan. That is very exciting and the effort has been rewarding.

Canyon Defense was active this month during the high winds. Folks were out on patrol for three evenings during the winds and the new magnetic signs

attracted some positive attention. At least two families indicated interest in volunteering their time. As CREST members, Jeff and I used our GMRS radios for communication with net control and we traveled between Black Star and Holy Jim the night we patrolled. We also ran across (by radio) volunteers with the Modjeska and Silverado Canyon Watch. It's reassuring that we are watching out for each other, especially during the high risk times. This is a local community volunteer group here in Trabuco and volunteers are needed. Contact Sharon Stancato if you are interested in putting in some volunteer time during red flag season.



## TRAIL BOSS REPORT

BY JEFF KELLY

Whew! October has been busy. Well, actually it all started the last Saturday in September with the month end-pre charity ride!

That's when several of us headed out for McFadden Ranch to check out the trails and see how our horses would do. All did well and we made it home without incident. The following Saturday we headed back to McFadden, this time by truck and car, to do a little maintenance there and remove some tumbleweeds. The park crew showed up and graciously completed the task. Back in 2003 our first Charity Ride AKA "Ride to Heal" McFadden was our destination and we have kept that tradition every

year since. At that time the open field was secured with a fence (even though it really didn't seem secure) so we could tie our horses to it or at the picket line. Now we just use a picket line and I can guarantee ya all that our horse will be thankful that those tumbleweeds are nowhere to be found. Continuing on with October, some of ETI participated in the National Rescue Ride in O'Neill Park; riding for Hanaeleh and Bethany's Gait and that was a successful event for that group. Wrapping up the month will be the ETI Charity Ride with Canyon Acres as the recipient. The proceeds will help an awful lot of underprivileged and abused kids. It just don't get better than that! So stay tuned in December for details of that ride.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROBERT WILKS

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 9,955.01

### DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After July Closing [Including Charity Ride Proceeds] \$ 3,207.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$13,162.01

### EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1028	D. Kelly	Aug P/Cakes	\$ 14.00	1035	E.T.I.	Membrs	\$ 28.00
1030	E.T.I.	Membrs	\$ 136.00	1036	E.T.I.	Membrs	\$ 29.00
1032	E.T.I.	Membrs	\$ 56.00	1037	D. Geary	Brd/Dinner	\$ 30.00
1033	Streetwise	Window Labels	\$ 40.41	1038	E.T.I.	Advertise	\$ 100.00
1034	S. Segien	Corral News	\$ 86.09				

Total expenses paid in Aug/Sept 2008 (\$519.50)

### UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1039	E.T.I. Corp	Membrs	\$ 28.00	1044	Smrt/Final	C/R Food	\$ 188.87
1040	S. Segien	Corral News	\$ 152.23	1045	Smrt/Final	C/R Food	\$ 43.61
1041	Cty Orange	Permits	\$ 65.00	1046	P. Gomez	C/R Supply	\$ 45.16
1042	J. Gillott	Bd/Dinner	\$ 30.00	1047	R. Gomez	C/R Supply	\$ 58.19
1043	Heritag Forms	Fire Ck-Ins	\$ 535.72	1048	R. Balthauser	" " "	\$ 19.96
1049	Canyon Acres – Donation		\$2,620.00 [+ \$340.00 +\$240.00 direct] = Total:				\$3,300.00

Total Outstanding Checks SEPTEMBER 2008 i.e. Spending: (\$3,786.74)

Funds on hand in checking as of 09-30-08 \$ 9,375.27

Funds due Corral from Charity Auction: Jacqui Moreland = \$210.00; Evelyn Ortega = \$30.00; Rick & Karen = \$106.00 / Total Incoming: \$ 346.00

Petty Cash on Hand as of 08-2008 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 09/30/08: \$10,121.27

### Less Reserves:

1.- MAU as of 9/30/08 = After 1/3 payment for Fire Check-in Forms: (\$1,052.03)

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve: (\$1,052.03)

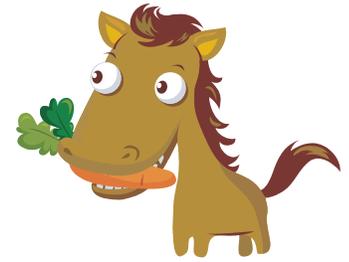
\$( 1,052.03)

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

\$ 9,069.24



SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS  
 Trabuco canyon, california



ETI 357

# Harvest Horse Playday!

When: Saturday, November 15th, 2008 at 9am  
 Registration & coffee will begin at 8am!

Cost is \$7 per event for members and \$8 for non-members.  
 (Preprint your Waiver and Release form from the website to save time)

Where: O'Neill Park Arena



What: Playday Games: Plymouth Barrels, Pumpkin Poles,  
 Pilgrim Soccer, Turkey Trot, & Freedom Flags



**Costume Contest** - dress you and/or your horse in "Harvest theme"

We will also be offering lunch for \$6 beginning at 11:30

All are welcome for lunch!



Any Questions Contact  
 Fiona Nelson

949-702-3258 or fnelson1@hotmail.com

Go to [www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com](http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com) for more info.

1234567  
2345678  
3456789

## CONTACT INFORMATION IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### YEAR 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT Rich Gomez	949-888-1604 rtgomez@aol.com	SCRIBE Don Segien	949-589-3347 SDSegien@mac.com
VICE PRESIDENT Doug Slavin	949-295-1331 dgslavin@cox.net	TRAIL BOSS Jeff Kelly	949-858-7366 jjkelly52@gmail.com
SECRETARY Karen Hopkins	949-709-2359 ladieeee@aol.com	MEMBER-AT-LARGE Jim Schicht	949-858-4744 rustyshoe7@cox.net
TREASURER Bob Wilks	949-589-9144 robert-a-wilks@cox.net	SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Rick Balthaser	949-709-2359 RBalthaser@aol.com
MEMBERSHIP Sheila Segien	949-589-3347 bearfoot60@cox.net	EVENTS COORDINTOR Fiona Nelson	949-702-3258 fnelson1@hotmail.com

### MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT (MAU)

HEAD COORDINATOR Debi Geary	949-291-0551 debig@cox.net	ASSISTANT COORDI- NATOR-SECRETARY Patti Gomez	949-888-1604 pattiangomez@aol.com
ASSISTANT HEAD COORDINATOR Jennifer Gillott	949-643-0896 Jennifer.gillott@ ingrammicro.com	ASSISTANT COORDI- NATOR-RECORDS Doug Slavin	949-295-1331 dgslavin@cox.net
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATOR Debbie Kelly	949-459-7191 rileyboy1@cox.net	EMERGENCY RE- SPONSE TEAM COM- MUNICATIONS: Dave Seroski	(949) 533-7153 DSeroski@cox.net

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Trails-4-All: Jim Meyer, 714-734-8188  
info@trails4all.org

O'Neill Regional Park Office: 949-923-2260

Head Ranger Lorrie Zuczek 949-923-2259  
lorrie.zuczek@rdmd.ocgov.com



## **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 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.

## **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.

ETI Corral 357  
PO Box 1026  
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678-1026