



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

SPRING?

How can it already be spring? Well not just yet, but officially as of March 20th it will be...yeow, hard to believe, eh? But good news for all of us! Beautiful green hills, cool mornings, and a good time to get out on your horse. And we have a full calendar of events comin' up...

But before we get to the upcoming events, I'd like to mention our wonderful local forest and the great job our local Forest Service rangers and staff do. You know, the Cleveland National Forest...those big hills behind us...Saddleback Mountain and all the rest...

Our MAU group attended the annual U.S. Forest Service Volunteer Training in February and it was great! Great to see all the volunteers (the room was full!), great to see our dedicated rangers, and great to hear about all the cool stuff that goes on in the forest. Like our Trail Boss said, "...this is kinda like our Academy Awards!" I'm with the Trail Boss on that! Our club felt so strongly about all of this that we began a "Forest Service Corner" on the homepage of our website. Check it out and be sure and check out the photography contest! We posted their presentation and you can get to it via a link on the homepage...once it launches, click on the "slide show" icon on the bottom right of the screen and sit back and enjoy. We're all very lucky to have this wonderful national forest in our backyard...just as we are lucky to have O'Neill Regional and Wilderness Park in our backyard. Guess that makes us all lucky folks...or at least happy-that-we-live-here folks. Whatever, it's a great deal that we have all this land to ride and the Forest Service and County Parks like us ridin' and helpin' out whenever

we can, so get out there!

Oh, yeah, and be sure and buy your Adventure Pass from the General Store (you can also buy them online – again, check our website for details). The important thing here is the majority of the revenue from Adventure Passes stays in the local area...certainly some goes to Washington but the majority stays right here for the CNF. Now that's something we like! It helps out these very dedicated Forest Service workers and it helps preserve the treasure we have at our doorsteps.

Okay, so events! Well first don't forget we had to move our February PlayDay to March 7th so be sure and show up! We need people to help run it (contact Fiona or Jim Iacono if you're interested) and we need people to participate (so tell your pardners).

Now the other big event is the annual Swallows' Day Parade in San Juan Capistrano on March 21st. Be sure and let us know if you'd like to ride in this "largest non-motorized parade in the country." Get you and your horse ready...it really is a grand event!

So as much as we love winter (and we do love winter, the rain, the dusting of snow, the cool and cloudy days), spring is comin'! So get your horse out of the mud, clean off your saddle and get ready to...

Git-R-Done

Good times and good things; safe ridin' and good friends. As always, until we get together next, here's to all of us workin' together and ridin' together...see you on the trail...

GET 'R' DONE

IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY (SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Member's Meeting: Thursday, March 5th

MAU & Board Meeting: Thursday, March 12th

Playday : Saturday, March 7th

Swallow's Day Parade: Saturday, March 21st



TRAIL BOSS REPORT

BY JEFF KELLY

SUPER RIDE SUNDAY

I can only say that Sunday, February 1st 2009 had a lot going for it. It was Super Bowl Sunday, the last day of the Equine Affaire that many of you cowboys and cowgirls live for, and one of the best doggone rides the Missus and I have taken together in some time. Of course, she would beg to differ with the latter, since she was struggling with onset of a cold that day and as of this writing still isn't back to her charming self.

But I digress. We started this six hour ride at the Arroyo entrance around 10:00 am. (About three hours later than we had planned). Our ride would take us along the Arroyo which takes you all the way to San Juan Capistrano. I have taken that ride many times, much to Nixon's consternation, so I can tell you how relieved he was when on this beautiful Sunday afternoon we



detoured and turned onto Tijeras Creek Trail. With that turn, we ascended out of the Arroyo and onto Tijeras trail along the southbound side of Antonio. We traveled along some very pristine

trails with the creek along side us. At one point we looked down to our left upon the Tijeras Creek Golf course. We continued our ride under the 241 toll road near Antonio Parkway and came to a fork. If you stay on Tijeras Creek you will find yourself on the northbound side of Antonio. We went to our right towards

Chiquita Ridge Trail. I had "trail blazed" this ride twice during the week so by now I was pretty confident that all trails will lead us home. I had also spoken with the park ranger earlier in the week and she had thoroughly described the trails along this route, and what to expect. All of this made our Super Sunday ride all the more pleasurable. Well, to get home, Chiquita Ridge drops you off at the Dove Canyon gate outside of Coto. So we continued home along Plano Trabuco



from Dove Canyon Drive and crossed over back into the park at the top of the switchbacks. What a day it was and our horse's senses were tested in so many ways. (Especially that stretch down Plano Trabuco past Albertson's). I have to say, that the park users we encountered that day were all very courteous and yielded to us. I also took a survey when I could by asking folks we passed who they thought would win the Superbowl. I can only say I hope they didn't have money on their predictions; most of them said the Cardinals. Only some very enthusiastic teenagers in a hurry to get home for the game said the Steelers would win.

A word of caution if you decide to take the ride. You do come to a bamboo tunnel that requires dismounting and walking your horse through. And watch out, because the horn of your saddle can get stuck in the bamboo. Then when you come out of the tunnel, you find yourself in the Arroyo Creek and right now there is plenty of water. We'd be happy to show you the way; you only need to ask. Don't forget, the March month end ride will be the parade route in historic San Juan Capistrano. That's what you call double dipping!

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

BY DON SEGIEN

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic ap-

proach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

Congratulations to ETI 357 MAU Members Pam Hutchins, Jeff Kelly, Debbie Kelly, and Sheila Segien for recently completing their CERT training.

Fiona Nelson, Doug Slavin, and Jennifer Gillott have also been trained. Watch for future training opportunities.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

Expired: Cheryl Segien 1/09, Leslie Ingham 2/09, Lori McCammon 2/09, Helen & Fred Bruns 2/09

Expiring: Gretchen Jones 3/09, Chris Richardson 3/09, Ken & Jody Kott 3/09, Melba & Roy Slavin 3/09

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

SWALLOW'S DAY PARADE

MARCH 21

Corral 357 is planning to ride in this year's Swallow's Day Parade. If you're riding, you already know when and where to meet. If you're planning to watch, the parade starts promptly at 11:00 but get there early, they

close the streets to traffic at 10:00. Here are some pictures from last year's parade.





HORSE TALES "VICTORY TO THE BOLD"

BY KAREN BALTHASER

About a year ago Rick and I went to a going away party. My nephew Kyle, a quiet little boy who loved video games and Ninja Turtles, struggled in school, and played in the high school band had transformed his awkward pudgy self into a tall, sleek, handsome, hard muscled United States Marine; a twenty year old freedom machine. His battalion, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance, Delta Company was on its way to Iraq. Being born into a family of police officers, he bought into the idea of "protecting and serving" with his whole heart. Becoming a Marine was his dream.

He only had a week in Southern California before returning to Camp Lejeune, and would then ship out. While chatting with family, Rick extended his usual invitation to anyone in earshot that they were invited to come out to the canyon and go for a ride any-



time. Kyle spoke right up "I'm free Thursday!" He said that the guys in his platoon were from all over the country and some talked of how much they enjoyed riding, and missed their horses. It was something he really wanted to try in his life. I knew Rick had a really busy week at work; how would

he be able to fit this in I whispered? "I don't know", he said "but I just better find a way".

Kyle came out with his mom and dad on Thursday. It was a beautiful quiet day in Trabuco Canyon. We chatted as we groomed and tacked up Sunny and Stormy. We walked them to O'Neill Park, and then I gave Kyle a leg-up into the saddle. We all watched in horror as

six - foot - two of lanky government property disappeared over the other side of the horse. We grabbed his leg and pulled Kyle back into the saddle. He was totally unaffected. Rick gave him a few basic instructions, then they rode off down the trail. Rick admitted later, he was worried about how it would go. Kyle seemed very stiff at first, but soon eased into the ride and actually, didn't stop talking the whole way. He talked about his adventures at boot camp and torturous desert training at Twenty Nine Palms, as well as his impending tour of duty in Iraq. The young man who trotted back to us that day was totally relaxed and could have been riding for years. We then took him for the best meal in the world at the Trabuco Oaks Steak House. I felt so blessed that he chose to spend this rare day of freedom with his old parents and aunt and uncle, when he could have been hanging with his friends.



We were so proud of Kyle, and yet, not without fear for what could happen to him and his buddies in the near future. It has been a year of good news, and bad news, and even sometimes more fearful; no news. I was and will always be so grateful for that bitter sweet day when we were able to share the joy of horsemanship and the beauty and adventure of this wonderful place with Kyle, making his wish come true. Later, he made our wish come true, as he returned to US soil, safe and sound!



TREASURER'S REPORT BY PROXY

BY ROBERT WILKS

"We've got money" --Don Segien for Bob Wilks.

ETI 357/MAU Calendar of Events 2009

	MEETINGS	TRAIL MAINT	TRAINING	EVENT	EVENT
JANUARY	1/8 Member mtg 1/15 MAU mtg 1/15 Board mtg		1/31 USFS Training	1/24 Month End Ride	
FEBRUARY	2/5 Member mtg 2/12 Board mtg	2/7 O'Neill Pk arena area	2/28 Fire Drill	2/7 Play Day in afternoon	2/28 Month End after Fire Drill
MARCH	3/5 Member mtg 3/12 MAU mtg-am 3/12 Board mtg				3/21 Swallows Day Parade & Month End Ride
APRIL	4/2 Member mtg 4/9 Board mtg	4/11 O'Neill Pk	4/4 & 4/5 Sensory Clinic & Trail Trials	4/22-4/26 Cowboy Festival in Santa Clarita	4/25 No Month End-going to Caspers 5/1
MAY	5/7 Member mtg 5/14 MAU mtg 5/14 Board mtg			5/1-5/3 Caspers Campout	5/16 PLAYDAY 5/30 Month End Ride
JUNE	6/4 Member mtg 6/11 Board mtg	6/13 O'Neill Pk		6/07 Full Moon Ride (Sun)	6/27 Month End at Gene Autry & Griffith Park
JULY	7/4 Ride in Parade 7/9 MAU mtg 7/9 Board mtg				7/25 Month End Ride 9:00am
AUGUST	8/6 Member mtg 8/13 Board mtg	8/8 O'Neill Pk			8/29 Month End Ride 9:00am
SEPTEMBER	9/3 Member mtg 9/10 Board mtg 9/10 MAU mtg			9/4 Full Moon Ride (Fri)	9/12 Kids-Do Play Day 9/27 Month End Ride
OCTOBER	10/1 Member mtg 10/8 Board mtg	10/3 O'Neill Pk	10/9-10/11 SAR City in Barstow		10/31 Month End Ride and Costume contest
NOVEMBER	11/5 Member mtg 11/12 MAU mtg 11/12 Board mtg			11/14 PLAYDAY	11/28 Month End/MAU Ride 10:00 am
DECEMBER	12/10 Board mtg			12/05 Christmas Party	12/26 Month End/MAU Ride 10:00 am

** For updated and complete information on events, please check our website

www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com



SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS
trabuco canyon, california



ETI 357

Horse Playday!

When: Saturday, March 7th, 2009 at 9 am -Noon
Registration will begin at 8:00 am!

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: Barrels, Poles, Ribbon
Race and Musical Saddles

Any Questions Contact
Fiona Nelson
949-702-3258
fnelson1@hotmail.com

Go to www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com for further info.

CONTACT INFORMATION IMPORTANT NUMBERS

YEAR 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT

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RADIO COMMUNICATIONS: Dave Seroski, (949) 533-7153, DSeroski@cox.net

GMS Channel 22

KID'S CORNER

ATTENTION ETI 357 KIDS!

We're saving a section of our newsletter just for you. Write a story, draw a picture, send a photograph of your horse and we will print it here.



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.

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