



Corral News

May, 2009

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

FINDING THE FEET...

Well as you all know by now, a horse-training icon, and someone who did so much for every horse and rider passed away last March. Yep, I'm talking about the one and only Ray Hunt. Ray was exceptional in many ways but probably most memorable was the way he communicated with horses and people in a simple way. For us riders, it was the tips and insight he gave us about a horse. Like Ray often said, "Most people can't seem to rise up to the horse's level. They have to drag the horse down to their level." So with Ray it was all about doing things the horse's way. "...that when you ask your horse to do something it should be his idea...he wants to do it, he likes to do it, he understands how to do it, and he does it."

So when I was reading a recent issue of America's Horse (May 2009) and came across an article called, "All Work and No Play? How About Combining the Two on the Trails" with some tips on finding your horse's feet I thought of Ray and all the things he used to talk about...

"Think right down to the ground"

"The feet are in your hands"

"Get the feet soft and they'll be soft in the head"

You get the idea, so when I found these tips from Brent Graef I thought I'd share them with you...something to try...

- As your horse is walking, concentrate on your right leg. Feel the sway of your leg as your horse walks...it will sway out, then in, out, then in.
- When your leg feels closest in to the horse, the front foot on the same side is about to come off the ground. When your leg feels the furthest away from the horse, the hind leg on that side is about to come off the ground.

- Concentrate on one leg at a time and consider asking for help from the ground. If someone can call a particular foot, say the left hind as it's about to leave the ground, you can register what your body feels like at that moment.

Kinda cool, eh? Of course there are other ways to find the feet, but this seemed an easy way to feel what's happening. Like Graef says, "...the only time you can influence a horse's foot to move somewhere is when it's beginning to leave the ground."

And just like Ray Hunt, this horseman encourages us to find the feet so we know when to give the right cue at the best time. Your horse is ready for the cue, he's setup and prepared for the next thing.

It seems like sometimes we're just too much in a hurry to get going and forget about the importance of these basic ideas. I know for myself, it would do me better to slow down and think about what Ray had to say...

Ray Hunt's view of the horse is best said by Ray himself, "I'm here for the horse - to help him get a better deal". I like that. Let's all do what we can to make sure our trusted friends always get the best deal...

So 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 (SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Members Meeting: Thursday 5/7
Month-End Ride 5/30

Board Meeting: Thursday 5/14
MAU Meeting: Thursday 5/14



TRAIL BOSS REPORT

BY JEFF KELLY

Can you believe Spring is in full swing already? I have to ask myself “what month it is” and “what do I have to share about trail activities so far,” and “what’s comin’ up?”

It seems the year has flown by so far and the events have run together. Since I am not what you would call a journalist, I have to draw on my memory what’s been goin’ on. So..here you go.

By the time you read this we will have returned from Casper’s Park where we’ll be riding and cookin’ our way through the weekend. That first Saturday of the month will satisfy the month end ride for April, but I think we discussed that in the April newsletter.

The May month end ride is slated for the 30th. In the meantime, we have a spring Play Day coming soon and we know how our young and young at heart live

for that! It’s as much fun watching them as it is participating. Don’t miss it. But what does Play Day have to do with Trail Bossin’ you may ask! Well, ETI/357 is the gatekeeper for the equestrian arena at O’Neill and we have to be sure we keep it in tip top shape for all users. So prior to each event yours truly does the draggin’ of the arena.

The quarterly trail maintenance in April was also at the arena. Special thanks to our Member at Large, Mr. Jim Schicht and my wife, Mrs. Kelly for lendin’ a hand that day. We did some general maintenance, leveling, and cleaning up. There were some stalls left untidy from the previous weekend’s event and we cleaned them up. We made note of some repairs that need attention and some recommendations to the park ranger.

I love riding the trails in O’Neill but I have to say, working the trails and having a small part in preserving them is every bit as rewarding. I hope you will join us on our next Trail Maintenance day.



HORSE TALES

BY DAVE SEROSKI

Well Leonard and I got together to spill a little whiskey the other day and started talking about the canyon and how it was back in the day. One of the memories that came to mind was the theft of some of his horses. Seems that someone took a couple of his horses and by all accounts headed back into Holy Jim. He took a hired hand and started back into the canyon to find the horses and the thieves. It wasn’t long before they had both in sight. Being a canyon, there was no escape and Leonard had ‘em cornered. Now the fact that the thieves were young fellows, and he was happy to get his horses back in good shape, he decided to teach them a lesson rather than turn them in and press charges.

So he told the thieves that they had committed a serious crime. At that, the thieves told him there was

nothing he could do about it. Well, he says, you may think that, but here we hang horse thieves. Being shaken by this, the thieves said they were going to call the law. Leonard says, “look around, you boys see any law around right now? Them being back in the canyon the only thing about were the crows.

Leonard told his hired man to get that rope over a stout tree limb and draw it tight. He said they made like they were busy setting the rope and not paying much attention to the thieves. The thieves took to the run when they saw their break.

Now he says that worked pretty good as he hasn’t seen them in these parts since and he and his hired man got a good laugh on the way out of the canyon.

If you listen close when you are out riding the canyon, you can still hear the crows laughing about it.

SENSORY CLINIC AND TRAIL TRIALS





TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROBERT WILKS

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 8,661.10

DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After October Closing: \$ 4,800.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$13,461.10

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1276	Corral Ins.	E.T.I.	\$ 748.00	1279	R. Gomez	Nu Play D Sign	\$ 57.54
1277	J. Winkel	Play D/ Exps	\$ 30.00	1281	D. Kelly	Fire Drill Exp	\$ 54.83
1278	P. Gomez	Feb Brd Diner	\$ 30.00	1275	E.T.I.	Mbrships	\$ 124.00

Total expenses paid in FEB & MARCH (\$1,044.37)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1280	D. Slavin	"T" Shirts	\$ 153.00	1286	Fiona N.	Clinic Exps	\$ 111.85
1282	Shirts Inc	Mbr Shirts	\$ 360.00	1287	P. Gomez	Clinic Exps	\$ 9.24
1283	M Hedgpeth	Sens clinit	\$3,430.00	1288	D. Kelly	Board Dinner	\$ 30.00
1284	ETI Corp	Mbr Ships	\$ 68.00	1289	Irvine Aml	Chip Scan'r	\$ 162.04
1285	K. Hopkins	Clinic Lunch	\$ 193.28				

Total Outstanding Checks MARCH - 2009 i.e. Spending: (\$ 4,517.41)

Funds on hand in checking as of 03-31-09 \$ 8,943.69

Petty Cash on Hand as of 03-31-09 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 03/31/09: \$ 9,343.69

Plus funds due us from sale of ERT & "T-Shirts" due from members \$ 452.00

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS: \$9,795.69

Less Reserves:

1.- MAU as of 03/31/09 = After 1/2 payment for Chip Scanner: (\$ 941.93)

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve: (\$ 941.93)

NET - NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of : Corral 357 \$ 8,853.76



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

Expired: Lori McCammon 2/09, Gretchen Jones 3/09, Chris Richardson 3/09, Ken & Jody Kott 3/09, Melba & Roy Slavin 3/09, Duane & Ceci Turner 4/09, Paul Lynch 4/09, Jeanette & Donavon Villegas 4/09, Bonnie & Stu Love 4/09, Kim DeBellis 4/09

Expiring: Sharon Stancato 5/09, Sue Baldwin 5/09, Connie Presley 5/09, Doug & Marni Nagy 5/09, Alice Sorenson 5/09, Beverly Warren 5/09, Jennifer Walters 5/09

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

GYMKHANA AT ORANGE PARK ACRES

BY JIM SCHICHT

Our kids are competing in gymkhana events over in Orange Park Acres, under The Orange Park Acres Trailblazers banner. This organization sponsors shows such as, open English, Western, Driving shows (horse and carriage), Dressage shows and Gymkhana shows.

Jamie Schicht has been in the last two shows and has been placed in Division 5. Bekah Segien also has been in the last two shows and is now in Division 6. It was the first show for Anthony and Rikilyn, who will be placed

in a division for the next show. The divisions are rated by the California State Horsemen's Association and are 1 through 7. The divisions are time brackets; the lower the division number, the faster the times.

Jamie and Anthony received high point in their divisions, Bekah received reserve high point in hers, and all received ribbons for their efforts. A big hand for our kids when you see them... they are earning it. Better yet, come out May 16th and cheer them on.



TRADIN' POST

If you're like most of us, you've probably got a little more tack around the barn than you actually need. A hackamore you use no more, that training bit that you had to have, or maybe a saddle pad that's "so last year." Take heart...No...take inventory. Have we got a deal for you. At our last board meeting we discussed devoting a section of our newsletter to classified adds.

We haven't worked out all the details yet but we'll let you know soon. It's a little late for Spring cleaning, but it's still a good time to get rid of that unneeded stuff cluttering up the barn.



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
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