



# Corral News

June, 2009

Volume 15, Issue 6



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

### FROM THE OTHER SIDE...

Now you may think we're gettin' all scary here talking about things from the "other side" but what I'm talking about here is a trail ride from your horse's side...what he's thinkin'...

I bring this up because this is absolutely premium trail ridin' weather (especially in the mornings), and I thought it might be a good follow-up since we were talking last month about how Ray Hunt always tried to get his horse "the best deal."

We've all seen this stuff that horses do on the trail; why do some horses insist on being at the front of the group? Why do some horses get so hooked on a being with a buddy that they just can't stand to be without each other? Why do they spook at normal things like rocks or stumps? What I've learned is that most likely your best buddy isn't being a jerk...he or she is just doin' what s/he knows...it's all about instinct.

According to Juli S. Thorson (Horse and Rider, June 2009), a good example of this is your horse's crazy drive to be at the front of the group. As we know horses evolved as herd animals (and prey animals). In herd hierarchy, the lead horses are the experienced leaders and least likely to be attacked by a predator, so there's some instinct work goin' on there. Tough gettin' your horse to behave when s/he's all fired up on survival instincts. I guess the goal we would all have is how to establish trust and obedience habits that will help us override instincts. Well that doesn't sound too easy, but it sure is something to work on.

That same instinct kicks in when a horse is separated from his buddy. Again, according to Thorson, herd instinct is to stick with members of the herd your horse knows best. The best thing to do here is not cave to our human instinct to let him or her have their way...

And what about spooking at a rock? What I've learned is that horses have a great ability to differentiate because in the wild the better a horse is at differentiating between the familiar and unfamiliar, the better his chances of survival. What I've also learned is that horses do not have a great ability to categorize or put things in related groups. In other words not all stumps look alike. The training technique here is just to expose your horse to as many scary stumps as possible...we all know that, but now we know why we get good training results from exposure.

So what does this all mean? It means the more time we spend with our best buddies, the better off it is for them and the better the deal we're gettin' for them. Spend time with your horse to have him trust you. I've seen those results recently as I've spent more time with and ridden "Dice" (one of our Paints) more than normal...the trust level noticeably increases. You see it in better behavior, and isn't that what we're all lookin' for with our horses? Again, lookin' for the best deal for our buddies. Anyway, something to work on and something to think about...and lots of good weather and trails for us to try this all out on.

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 6/4  
Trail Maintenance: Saturday 6/13  
MAU Meeting: Monday 6/8

Board Meeting: Thursday 6/11  
Play Day: Saturday 6/6  
Month-End Ride (Griffith Park) Saturday 6/27



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM REPORT

BY DEBBIE KELLY

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR HORSES...

As we move further into hot, dry, weather here in Trabuco it is good to review safety and evacuation tips for our horses. A few months ago we offered information from the ETI Corporate site on emergency preparedness for ourselves, families, and neighbors. We hope you can glean a few ideas on horse safety (and rescuer) from this article from the United States Humane Society website.

Disaster preparedness is important for all animals, but it takes extra consideration for horses because of their size and their transportation needs. If you think disasters happen only if you live in a flood plain, near an earthquake fault line or in a coastal area, you may be tragically mistaken. Disasters can happen anywhere and can take many different forms, from barn fires to hazardous materials spills to propane line explosions, and train derailments—all of which may necessitate evacuation. It is imperative that you are prepared to move your horses to a safe area.

During an emergency, the time you have to evacuate your horses will be limited. With an effective emergency plan, you may have enough time to move your horses to safety. If you are unprepared or wait until the last minute to evacuate, you could be told by emergency management officials that you must leave your horses behind. Once you leave your property, you have no way of knowing how long you will be kept out of the area. If left behind, your horses could be unattended for days without care, food, or water. To help avoid this situation, we have prepared information and suggestions to help you plan for emergencies.

Fire Prevention Is Key

- Prohibit smoking in or around the barn. A discarded cigarette can ignite dry bedding or hay in seconds.
- Avoid parking tractors and vehicles in or near the barn. Engine heat and backfires can spark a flame.
- Also store other machinery and flammable materials outside the barn.
- Inspect electrical systems regularly and immediately correct any problems. Rodents can chew on electrical wiring and cause damage that quickly becomes a fire hazard.
- Keep appliances to a minimum in the barn. Use stall fans, space heaters, and radios only when someone is in the barn.
- Be sure hay is dry before storing it. Hay that is too moist may spontaneously combust. Store hay outside the barn in a dry, covered area when possible.
- In the event of a barn or stable fire
  - Immediately call 911 or your local emergency services.
  - Do not enter the barn if it is already engulfed in flames.
  - If it is safe for you to enter the barn, evacuate horses one at a time starting with the most accessible horses. Be sure to put a halter and lead rope on each horse when you open the stall door. Be aware that horses tend to run back into burning barns out of fear and confusion.
  - Blindfold horses only if absolutely necessary. Many horses will balk at a blindfold, making evacuation more difficult and time consuming.
  - Move your horses to paddocks close enough to reach quickly but far enough from the barn that the horses will not be affected by the fire and smoke. Never let horses loose in an area where they are able to return to the barn.
  - After the fire, be sure to have all your horses checked by a veterinarian. Smoke inhalation can cause serious lung damage and respiratory complications.

*(continued on page 3)*

Horses are prone to stress and may experience colic after a fire.

### Horse Evacuation Tips

- Make arrangements in advance to have your horse trailered in case of an emergency. If you do not have your own trailer or do not have enough trailer space for all of your horses, be sure you have several people on standby to help evacuate your horses.
- Know where you can take your horses in an emergency evacuation. Make arrangements with a friend or another horse owner to stable your horses if needed. Contact your local animal care and control agency, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management authorities for information about shelters in your area.
- Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plans. Post detailed instructions in several places—including the barn office or tack room, the horse trailer, and barn entrances—to ensure they are accessible to emergency workers in case you are not able to evacuate your horses yourself.
- Place your horses' Coggins tests, veterinary papers, identification photographs, and vital information—such as medical history, allergies, and emergency telephone numbers (veterinarian, family members, etc.)—in a watertight envelope. Store the envelope

with your other important papers in a safe place that can be quickly reached.

- Keep halters ready for your horses. Each halter should include the following information: the horse's name, your name, your telephone number, and another emergency telephone number where someone can be reached.
- Prepare a basic first aid kit that is portable and easily accessible.
- Be sure to have on hand a supply of water, hay, feed, and medications for several days for each horse you are evacuating.
- It is important that your horses are comfortable being loaded onto a trailer. If your horses are unaccustomed to being loaded onto a trailer, practice the procedure so they become used to it.

There may be times when taking your horses with you is impossible during an emergency. So you must consider different types of disasters and whether your horses would be better off in a barn or loose in a field. Your local humane organization, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management agency may be able to provide you with information about your community'

From the Humane Society of the United States website "Disaster Preparedness for Horses"



## SCRIBE'S REPORT

BY DON SEGIEN

"Every time a tree takes out some idiot, some other idiot wants to take out the trees." I used to say that. I know some of you did too. I felt little compassion for knuckleheads that wrapped their cars around the trees while driving too fast along Live Oak Canyon. It was usually an inconvenience—I had to drive around the other way to get home, or maybe we lost power for a while. I felt some small bit of comfort knowing that the accidents were usually "idiot vs. tree" not "idiot vs. innocent."

One recent event changed my mind. On April 7th, seventeen-year-old Zachary Raffety was one of two teens that died in the canyon—he was the passenger. I didn't know Zachary but I do remember being seventeen. Most boys that age would be embarrassed to tell an older boy "slow down." I still believe the problem is the drivers, not the road, but after imagining Zach's final moments, I no

longer refer to crashes in the canyon as "idiot vs. tree."

Wednesday June 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. OC Public Works Department, the CHP, and OC Sheriff's Department will host a meeting at Trabuco Elementary School to discuss a proposed traffic study and provide educational and enforcement information to the public. They are also seeking public comment. If you live in the Canyon, you should be there. Make your voice heard. I encourage you to prepare written comments, read them, and leave a copy for the record.

On a brighter note, the club is having some fun events this month. On June 27th we'll be going to the Gene Autry Museum and doing a rent-a-horse ride in Griffith Park. On Sunday, June 7th we're planning a full moon ride. I believe a similar event takes place each year near the train tracks in San Juan Capistrano. Finally, make sure to come out for trail maintenance on Saturday June 13th.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROBERT WILKS

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING

April 30, 2009

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 9,505.75

## DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After October Closing: \$ 288.00  
Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 9,793.97

## EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1280	D. Slavin	E.R.T./Shirts	\$ 153.00	1284	E.T.I.	Mbrships	\$ 68.00
1281	D. Kelly	Fire Drill Exps	\$ 54.83	1285	K. Hopkins	Sensory Lun	\$ 193.28
1282	T-shirt Maker Club	T-Shirts	\$ 360.00	1286	F. Nelson	Sensory Lun	\$ 111.85
1283	M Hedgpeith	Sensory Cl	\$3,430.54	1287	P. Gomez	Sensory Exp	\$ 9.24

Total expenses paid in MARCH & APRIL – 2009 (\$4,355.35)

## UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1289	Irvine Animal	Chip Scanner	\$162.04	1293	Spike W.	Brd Dinner	\$ 30.00
1290	Postmaster	P.O. Box rent	\$ 72.00	1294	T Oaks	J. Schicht	\$ 100.00
1291	E.T.I.	Memberships	\$ 96.00	1295	S. Segien	News Letter	\$ 159.66
1292	J. Iacona	Sensory Lunch	\$ 88.08				

Total Outstanding Checks APRIL - 2009 i.e. Spending: (\$ 707.78)

Funds on hand in checking as of 04-30-09 \$ 9,085.97

Petty Cash on Hand as of 04-30-09 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 03/31/09: \$ 9,485.97

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS: \$ 9,485.97

## Less Reserves:

1.- MAU as of 04/30/09 = 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 : \$ 8,544.04



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

**Very Expired: (Sorry, Last Newsletter)** Lori McCammon 2/09

**Expired:** Gretchen Jones 3/09, Chris Richardson 3/09, Ken & Jody Kott 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, 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

**Expiring:** Rick & Karen Balthaser 6/09, Dave & Susan Seroski 6/09, Larry Brown 6/09, Pam Ragland 6/09, Schicht Family 6/09, Bob & Spike Wilks 6/09, Alberta Morehouse 6/09

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



# Horse Playday!

When: Saturday, June 6th, 2009 at 9am  
Registration & coffee will begin at 8am!

To save time, download and preprint your **WAIVER & RELEASE** form from the website.

Cost is \$7 per event for members and \$8 for non-members on the day.

**Event PRE-REGISTRATION is \$6 for members and \$7 non-members.**

To qualify for pre-registration, check and registration form to be received in the mail by **Mon, June 1<sup>st</sup>**



Where: **O'NEILL PARK ARENA**

Playday Games: Barrels, Poles,

**Calvary Drill, Hurry Scurry, & Equine Soccer**



Also offering lunch for \$6 starting at 11:30. ALL are welcome for lunch!



Any Questions Contact Fiona Nelson  
949-702-3258 or [fnelson1@hotmail.com](mailto:fnelson1@hotmail.com)



For more info, Waiver & Release form, and pre-registration form, go to our website: [www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com](http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com).



## **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.

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