



# Corral News

July, 2009  
Volume 15, Issue 7



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

**“MUSIC MAESTRO...  
...NAME THAT  
TOON!”**

What a great theme for this year's annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Trabuco Canyon. Now I'm not exactly sure



what the whole thing means other than it sure does give those who participate in the parade a lot of license to rally 'round the theme of music or cartoons, but you gotta love the themes the women of our Trabuco Canyon Parade Committee come up with to keep

things lively and fun. And who doesn't like music or cartoons? And that has nothing to do with the fact that one of our own Board members, our inimitable Scribe, Don, will be among a group of musicians hailed as the Grand Marshall of the parade! The Hickey Creek String Band – now that's a celebration!

You know, it's not many places in today's fast-paced, South Orange County world where you can gather on



a Friday night at the General Store and listen to tunes. It's a special place we all live in, visit, or keep our horses. And to the special folks who turn up to listen to these fine neighbors

strum, pick, pound or sing...a big thanks to everyone and what fitting recognition to the Hickey Creek String Band, as Grand Marshal, for bringing simple joys to downtown Trabuco Canyon. This all has meaning on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July because we're able to go to the General Store, we're able to celebrate the tradition of American music and we're able to recognize the importance of those who came before to give us these opportunities and lifestyle. Particularly "down-home" in these times of financial meltdowns and the fall (but hopefully rise) of some of America's industrial and commercial giants...

So let's think about that for a second...long before some of today's auto makers collapsed there was a company producing products known for their timeless craftsmanship – the Abbot Downing Company. And what did they build? Stagecoaches – the 1858 mail coach with nine-passenger hickory and yellow-poplar body, leather upholstered panel, hand-forged iron-work, sturdy wheels with premium hickory spokes and elm hubs, and a spring-less, smooth-as-a-cradle leather thorough-brace suspension system cured



from the hides of no fewer than a dozen oxen. Add six horses and a whip and you were on your way! The "Concord" – the finest stages built for the biggest transport companies of the day (including the Wells Fargo Company), were built in Concord, New Hampshire and became the vehicle that got America rolling west. Just think about that...traveling from St. Louis to San Francisco in 25-days; across the plains of Nebraska, the mountains of Colorado and the remote mining camps of Montana and Idaho. A coach network with a cast of tireless coachmen, famous "shotgun" riders (including Wyatt Earp), elusive highwaymen (Black Bart) and a steady stream of passengers, gold, bank drafts and other vital goods. And the "Concord" was actually easier on the horses than other more rigid wagons of the day. The unique heavy leather straps that suspended the body acted as shock absorbers for both the passengers and the horse, and the rocking body of the coach helped boost the coach over the rough terrain of the road. Not a bad way to cross wild, open land...pure Americana. And today, they remain an icon and symbol of the American West.



So on this 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, let's all take a moment to honor the horse-drawn vehicle that made the American West. To all the craftsmen who created this American icon, and to each of you, workin' together and ridin' together... see you on the trail...

Happy Birthday America!

# IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY (SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

No Members Meeting See You at the Parade Saturday July 4th

Board Meeting: Thursday 7/9

Month-End Ride Saturday 7/25



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM REPORT BY DEBBIE KELLY

There has once again been a changing of the guards for the ETI Mounted Assistance Unit. Well, just one change; MAU lead coordinator. You may be aware that Debi Geary is soon to retire for her long time career with Irvine Animal Services and will be heading out to Bear Valley Springs near Tehachapi. I would say "I'll believe it when I see it," but she not only retired and gave up her post as coordinator, but I was advised she made an addition to her equine family with the adoption of a young mare named Gypsy! You don't just go get a mare because you have the inkling to own a mare. So, she asked me if I would be interested in taking on the role of MAU lead again. What could I say? It certainly wasn't no. I will say, however, that with the ERT and the existing commitment to the Equine Evacuation Plan, there will be some serious prioritizing to do. But I am confident that with the support of the rest of ETI and MAU, I can fill those old boots. You are only as good as the support you get; and I know there will be plenty of that. Before I move on to fire stuff, I want to say that I will miss Debi more than I can say and that for almost fifteen years we have served ETI and our community together. We have gone through hurricanes and fires together with a primary focus; to help animals and their people find safety and security with minimal impact. It has not always been smooth sailing but we weathered the storms. I know many will miss her as well as Debi has touched many lives. She promises to remain "coordinator at large", a self made title. I'll take it!

You may be aware that there has been a great deal of fire activity in Holy Jim lately. On Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, there were seven fires reported on just that one day. It is believed there were deliberately started and may be associated with other recent fires in the area. This makes us who live out here especially concerned

and has the fire authority and Forest Service on high alert. We have noticed an accelerated amount of official activity and I saw a USFS vehicle at the mouth of Holy Jim just this week in what appeared to be redirecting off road users. We have had more helicopters and local residents are keeping an eye out for suspicious activity. We also have our homespun eyes and ears on Mountain View, Dave and Sue Seroski. I am not exactly sure how he does it from work in Newport Beach, but Dave knows what is going on out here as it occurs. We are fortunate to have someone so aggressive about being on top of things.

Finally, Trabuco Canyon was the first of our neighboring canyons to be introduced to "Ready, Set, Go"; a program designed in California to assist people living in vulnerable wildfire areas to protect their property before the fire strikes. The information was invaluable and I personally did not feel like it was going to be death by Power Point. There will be education to follow, including one-on-one consultation with our local firemen on how we can create defensible space and harden our homes for the optimum chance of withstanding a fire. With that in mind, I hope this is a safe summer for everyone with lots of time on the trails; in the cool evenings of course.

### **Your Ad Here!**

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, contact our Scribe, Don Segien, Via email at [SDSegien@mac.com](mailto:SDSegien@mac.com).

| Ad Size   | Member | Non-Member |
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| Full Page | \$45   | \$75       |
| Half Page | \$30   | \$50       |
| 1/4 Page  | \$15   | \$25       |
| 1/8 Page  | \$5    | \$10       |



## TRAIL BOSS REPORT

BY JEFF KELLY

### MOONLIGHT, FULL MOON, OR WAS IT A SUNSET RIDE?

We'll just call it an evening ride, that was enjoyed on the night of the full moon in June. There was a full moon indeed, but it was not seen by the nine or ten riders who showed up for this annual ride. Being blessed to house our horses at a facility so close to home and are often hard pressed to leave, by the time they were brushed down and put away with an evening snack, the moon was full in its glory. I regretted not sharing the moment with the others we had ridden with earlier in the evening. But I digress.

Since O'Neill Park restricts using the trails after sunset, we began the ride at our home on Trabuco Oaks Drive. I was pleased with the turnout and we had

some first time riders in our group. We rode about an hour through the fire roads behind Adkinson up to the top and turned right; away from the burned out Howell house. We took the trail, ascending and some descending towards Live Oak Canyon. We decided not to go all the way to the road (no longer scenic from this point) so we turned around and enjoyed a quiet ride back. It would be nice to plan a later evening ride when the moon is full, so we can truly call it a full moon ride. Thank you to all who joined us. That is why we are here. The July month end ride is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>. I don't think we will get rained out this time.



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

**Very Expired: (Sorry, Last Newsletter)** Gretchen Jones 3/09, Ken & Jody Kott 3/09, **Expired:** Duane & Ceci Turner 4/09, Paul Lynch 4/09, Jeanette & Donavon Villegas 4/09, Bonnie & Stu Love 4/09, Sharon Stancato 5/09, Doug & Marni Nagy 5/09, Alice Sorenson 5/09, Beverly Warren 5/09, Jennifer Walters 5/09, Larry Brown 6/09, Pam

Ragland 6/09, Schicht Family 6/09,

**Expiring:** Michelle Prieto 7/09, Debi Geary 7/09, Karin Hathaway 7/09

**Welcome New Members:** Kristen Holden

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



## TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 5/30/2009

BY ROBERT WILKS

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America)      | \$ 9,180.67 |
| DEPOSITS:                                  |             |
| Deposits Made After April Closing:         | \$ 1,790.00 |
| Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits | \$10,970.67 |

### EXPENSES:

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Total expenses paid in APRIL & MAY – 2009          | (\$613.12)         |
| Total Outstanding Checks MAY - 2009 i.e. Spending: | (\$2,262.57)       |
| Funds on hand in checking as of 05-31-09           | \$ 8,708.10        |
| Petty Cash on Hand as of 05-31-09                  | <u>\$ 400.00</u>   |
| Corral FUNDS On Hand at 05/31/09:                  | <u>\$ 9,108.10</u> |

### SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:

\$ 9,108.10

### Less Reserves:

1.- MAU as of 05/31/09 = After 1/2 payment for Chip Scanner: (\$ 941.93)

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

\$( 941.93)

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

**\$ 8,166.17**



## **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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