



Corral News

October, 2009

Volume 15, Issue 10



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

JUST ABOUT PERFECT...

So it's a beautiful summer morning, a Saturday, headin' out in the truck to a ranch up in the hills. We got a little George Strait playin' and it's kinda cool and a little overcast and we feel like we're goin' on vacation. Except we're not...we're just headin' to the new location of Bethany's Gait off the Ortega and just past *The Candy Store*. You know, we live so close to so much open space and beauty...we forget if we don't venture out. They've been workin' on the Ortega and it's lookin' pretty good. So up we go into the Cleveland and you know, this land is spectacular. Jutting rocks and curves and vistas and chaparal and yep, got that latest George Strait album still on.

We pass *The Candy Store*, make a quick right and end up at the new facility for Bethany's Gait. Wow, what a gem...it was great to see such a wonderful organization find a home in such a just about perfect setting. But there's more...

Patti had heard about this Parelli clinic at the ranch and she decided we'd go; and man, am I glad we did. We haven't had much experience with the Parelli methods, tools or techniques but, no doubt, we've all touched ,on

or tried some of these natural horsemanship ways of communicating with our horses. I've gotta say, this was much better than I ever would have expected and I've gotta share some of things we heard and learned...

First, kudos to our instructor, Sue Johnston. Her approach was real, assertive, sensitive, practical, and effective. She knows the deal and she works to make sure we know how to always give our hors-



es the best deal. That's an important concept... What I liked best about the whole approach is that it's a MUTUAL deal; that both you and the horse have a set of responsibilities. You, the human, need to act like a partner not a predator and that's much tougher than you might think. We naturally think like a predator so the starting point is for US to think differently...to begin to think like a horse. As riders, we need to "have an independent seat" – which means to find that center of balance on your horse just as you would on the ground if you were sitting on your butt with your hands and legs in the air. A single point of balance that remains regardless of where or how your horse moves. What it's not, is hanging on...balance. And deserving its own paragraph here--energy. Your energy as the leader; your energy presented as focus. (*Continued on Page 2*)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Your natural power of focus, starting with your eyes, your belly-button and your legs. In other words, to focus on where you want to go with all of your body and communicate that to your horse through natural body language, just as a broodmare would do to the herd in the wild. To use body language to communicate that something's about to come by "bringing up the life" in your body. You start by being in neutral, and then bring up the life in your body to let your horse know you're about to ask for something.

So how do you know your horse is gettin' what you're askin'? Look at those ears...ears forward means he's asking a question, "What's next?" And what's the measure of success? How do you measure how effective your communication is? By one step...one step is success, and the release is the reward. Go for one step in the right direction and quit askin' as soon as your horse does it. Offer him the best deal by being soft...and he'll be soft in return. And the final test, like Sue said, "he who moves his feet first is the leader." Think about that one...



And then there's the Parelli "Horsenality" Profile. You'll have to check out our website to see that...it's pretty cool and it might just give you some insight into your horses ways. So check it out... So until we get together next, here's to all of us learnin', workin' and ridin' together...see you on the trail...



HOOF PRINTS IN THE DUST BY DAVE SEROSKI, IN MEMORY OF A GOOD FRIEND

Every once in a while when you're riding or walking your horse, you notice very large stout hoof prints on the trail, ones that dwarf the others and that are placed with purpose and direction, evenly spaced and set deep in the dust. You know a Titan has passed this way.

My friend Leonard Schwendeman was like that and you can see those hoof prints today. In the fire house, the General Store, the stables across from O'Neill Park, the Flyers Club in Holy Jim' and in his Grand Estate, the family ranch. You could probably find more if you were to look.

Leonard and I walked this land together and he told me the history of every foot. How he, and his father before him, worked the land and helped build the structures you see today. How they raised cattle here then found that there was more mon-

ey in oranges (now the name of your county).

We talked of bootleggers on the mesa during prohibition, flying in booze in clear bottles before the mesa was planted over by orange groves---of working cattle with Reyes Serrano as a young man.

On the first day Reyes asked him if he liked the taste of cow manure; Leonard answered "Hell No!" and Reyes told him "Well, you will." Leonard said that at the end



of the day, that was the least of his worries cause he was bit, kicked, stomped and on and off his horse so many times that he thought he wore out the stirrup on the left side of the saddle.

Now, he did say that Reyes had some very nice (*Continued*)

HOOF PRINTS IN THE DUST (CONTINUED)

buckskin horses and they were a pleasure to ride but once a day, without fail, they would buck you off. And if they were feeling ornery it was twice a day! See, Leonard was a real cowboy and worked cattle on his dad's ranch here in Trabuco Canyon as well. Drove them down lower Mountain View Road into the ranch before 1928, when the McClintocks divided off part of their holdings into sellable lots.

Leonard was a fireman and the first fire truck was parked at the Schwendemen's. It was given to the residents of Trabuco Canyon after the Navy set the mountain on fire during live fire exercises. The Navy felt bad so they gave the few residents here an old Navy fire truck. As I understand, prior to the Navy's dona



Photograph by Bruce Chambers©2009 Orange County Register

tion the small fire department had a trailer with large water tank and a pump used in the orchard business. The first resident to see a fire would hook the trailer up to their truck or car and tow it to the fire. Others seeing the fire would go right to it and help man the pump and refill the tank. So the new truck was a real boost to the fire fighting effort in these parts.

Once the residents got up the money, the community built the fire house that still stands today. Leonard was right in there with the rest of them during the build. He and some of the boys put up the siren you see there today, and it still works!

When the call came that deputies were needed for law enforcement here, Leonard answered the call and was sworn in. He asked the sheriff about the law and how it was to be enforced and the sheriff asked him if he believed in the Bible and the 10 commandments. "Why, yes sir," Leonard replied and the sheriff said, "well good because that is the law and

that's what we are enforcing." He said that when there was trouble in the community people would call up one of the deputies in the area at home or work and have them come over to set things straight.

Leonard worked with, for and sometimes against the county. He was up on county politics and always knew what was what. When they were putting in the stables across from O'Neill Park Leonard was once again on the building team. The question at the time was "where is the road?" Well, he said some county guys came out and pointed out where they thought the road was so they built the stables according to the county. Turns out, the real road was 30 feet off into the park. The stables were built, the road was laid and the park got 30 feet larger.

The picture I've included is just one of those disputes of modern day. Here you see it being discussed with Leonard, his attorney (the gentleman in the suit) and Bobby Zimmel from Supervisor Bill Campbell's office. Guess who was right? Leonard's smile says it all.

I was down at Leonard's the other day. Knocked on the kitchen door but Leonard was out. Working, no doubt, on something. He was always busy running the ranch, driving the tractor or operating the 'dozer. I wanted to ask him about the water pump house that was opened and split in half - not uncommon; it was built that way to get the pump and casings out. I worked on the 1949 Allison/Chamber motor that drives that pump more times than I can count. It supplies the whole ranch with water, so if it's not working, the ranch is dry.

I figure I'll catch up with him later, spill a little whiskey and talk about motors, guns and politics. Maybe get in a little neighborhood gossip.

That is, if St. Peter lets me slip by with the fifth of "40 creek" in my back pocket.



Photograph by Bruce Chambers©2009 Orange County Register

IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY (SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Members Meeting: Thursday , 10/01

Board Meeting: Thursday , 10/08

National Rescue Ride: Saturday, 10/03

Month End Ride: Saturday, 10/31

ETI 357 TRADIN' POST

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS ETI CORRAL 357

ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 2009



CAST YOUR VOTE FOR **BOB WILKS ~ MEMBER AT LARGE**

LOYAL AND WILLING TO WORK HARD FOR THE CORRAL

PAST CORRAL DIRECTOR / PRESIDENT

FORMER CORRAL OFFICER / VICE PRESIDENT

PAST CORRAL DIRECTOR / TREASURER

"BOB WILKS IS THE RIGHT GUY FOR MEMBER AT LARGE" – DEBBIE KELLY, CORRAL MEMBER & TRABUCO CANYON RESIDENT.

"BOB HAS LOTS OF EXPERIENCE ON THE CORRAL BOARD. HE HAS MY VOTE". – DEBI GEARY, MEMBER E.T.I.

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HORSE TALES BY JAMES M. IA CONO

THE OL' GRAY MARE

Seventeen years ago I came home from work to find my eight year old daughter sitting up in my bed with beckoning eyes and hope in her heart that her Daddy would say "Yes". It was hard to resist because she was one of those kids that rarely asked for anything. She was a content and obedient little girl, always finishing her vegetables and ready to curl up to a good story at bedtime. However, this time, she wasn't asking for a new Barbie accessory. She wanted me to buy her a horse! Not a plastic "my little pony", but a REAL horse. What flashed through my mind over the next few seconds were loads of images with \$\$ signs attached to them....bales of hay, horse-shoes, vet bills, cowgirl trainers..... how was I going to afford that? I protested, but now my wife was in on the action, and they were ganging up on me. All that estrogen was too much for me and they had an answer for every one of my logical objections. It would be a "trial", and we could return the horse if it didn't work out. So I relented....and my life was never the same.

Sahara was a fifteen year old gray Arabian Mare. Supposedly she was too "energetic" for the therapeutic riding school where she had spent the last couple of years. Soon, I would need therapy because I fell in love with her, and the idea of riding through O'Neill Park . It wasn't long before I "needed" my own horse, and soon we were spending Saturdays in the canyon, then both weekend days in the canyon, until finally I bought a piece of land so I could spend all my days in the canyon.

Sahara passed this last year at the ripe old age of 30. She'll probably never know the impact she had on so many people. My wife used her for years in her beginning lesson program. She often picked my son up from school on her. She was the reason we migrated from suburbia to this idyllic spot. And though my daughter only rode a few years, Sahara gave her a newfound confidence. You see, one of the reasons I said "Yes" seventeen years ago was that my daughter had said no to so many other things...soccer, Girl Scouts, softball... she was not a part of anything outside of our family. So when that little girl wanted something that would take her time and her attention and her care....a living thing that would need her, I could only say "Yes!".



MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY SHEILA SEGIEN

Very Expired: (Sorry, last newsletter.) Sharon Stancato 5/09, Doug & Marni Nagy 5/09,

Jennifer Walters 5/09

Expired: Larry Brown 6/09, Pam Ragland 6/09, Karin Hathaway 7/09, Robert & Caitlyn Nieblas 8/09, Connie Burns 8/09, Ken Weiss 8/09, Sarah Eaton 8/09, Lori Hansen 9/09

Expiring: Patti Gretzler 10/09, Lori Grossman 10/09, Nancy Johnson 10/09, Leslie King 10/09, Candice Itzkovics 10/09, Judi Winkel 10/09

Welcome New Member: Sally Wooldridge

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

ETI 357 BUCKLE-AWARD PLAYDAY IS COMING SOON!

Where: O'NEILL PARK ARENA

When: Saturday, November 14th, 2009 at 9am

Registration (\$6) & coffee at 8am! Lunch (included) at Noon!

\$7 per event for members or \$8 for non-members

Don't forget our Early Bird registration - \$6 (ends 11/9)

\$6 per event for members or \$7 non-members

Playday Games: Barrels, Poles, Keyhole trot, Hurry Scurry, and Egg and Spoon

Any Questions Contact Jim Iacono at 714-612-1789

Waiver & Release form and pre-registration form on our website: www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com.





HOT FUN IN THE SUMMER TIME

A LOOK BACK ON ETI 357'S SUMMER

"First of the fall and then she goes back...bye bye bye there...them summer days, those summer days ..." In 1969, Sly and the Family Stone released the song "Hot Fun in the Summertime." Do you remember that song? In two minutes, thirty-eight seconds Sly captured the feeling of summer. "End of the spring and here she comes hi, hi, hi ,hi there...those summer days... out of school...county fair in the county sun and every thing is cool." I can't believe that song is thirty years old. It's also hard to believe that summer is over. How did that happen? I'm listening to that song on iTunes as I'm writing this. (It could be the best 99 cents I've spent all year.) I thought it would be good to highlight some of the things we've done as a club this summer; and we've done a lot.

We had great play-day in June. We rode in the parade and took the grand-champion "super-dee-duper-best-entry-in-the-universe" trophy followed by a great BBQ at the Presidential Ranch, courtesy of Rich and Patti. Our club hosted month-end rides throughout the summer and had a great presence at the Orange County Equestrian Coalition fair at El Toro Tack and feed. The folks "up top" got a taste of ETI hospitality when we served up flapjacks at Rancho's Great Campout. Throw in some member's meetings at the Rose Canyon Cantina and it adds up to a busy summer. Here are a few photos to remind us what a fun club we have.

Well, I've got to go now. I need to log onto iTunes and download "Little Duce Coupe."---I'm gonna try to make summer last just a little longer. -Don Segien





MAINTAINED ASSISTANCE UNIT REPORT BY DEBBIE KELLY

There will be another changing of the guard in MAU beginning the first of October. Longtime ETI and MAU member Michelle Prieto has volunteered to assume the role of lead coordinator for MAU. I accepted the position when Debi Geary notified us she was (finally) relocating to Tehachapi, CA. I didn't believe my decision to be so short lived and am grateful to Michelle for stepping in. My plate is pretty full with our Emergency Response Team and this duty has taken on a life of its own. My participation is not limited to ETI when it comes to preparedness. Jeff and I attend additional meetings throughout the month to stay in alignment with other safety interest groups. I believe it is important to keep the separate identity and focus of our Mounted Assistance Unit and our Emergency Response Team even as we interface with each other to form a strong, united front. So a separate lead for both groups is appropriate. Michelle's position with the Emergency Operation Center is an asset. So is her love of horses and her commitment to our club and community. Thanks Michelle!

In September, I attended the Fire Safe Council meeting in Silverado. They would really like more Trabuco representation there. (Not too many; it's not a large facility where we meet). The FSC really does a great deal of good and focus on clearance and community aware-

ness. They have funds and have worked hard to get their grants. Grants don't grow on trees and require a great deal of work and strategy to be approved. They could always use an expert grant request writer. Let me know if you have experience in that and I will hook you up. Trabuco residents are eligible for some of the services covered by these grant funds such as the Chipper Days the FSC sponsored for us a few months ago at O'Neill Park.

This month MAU and ERT members joined a local group to participate in the two day Large Animal Response course offered through the Felton Fire Department. I was privileged to take this as a refresher course and the instruction was as invaluable this time as it was in 2006 when we hosted it at O'Neill Park. You really do come away with so much more knowledge and understanding of the safest way to respond and react to a horse in trouble. There are so many ways it can go wrong and in many cases only one way it can go right. This course is well worth the time and the monetary investment. Thank you to Patti Williams with H.A.R.T (Humane Animal Response Team) for co-ordinating and offering the perfect location at Orange High School. Thanks to the entire H.A.R.T. team for presenting this to our group. Watch for more training opportunities next year from this group. Some them will satisfy MAU requirements or recommendations.



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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