



# Corral News

March 2010  
Volume 16, Issue 3



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

### SPRING IS COMIN'!

Seems like I always start this column out with a "hard to believe it's already..." some time of year. I guess that just means time goes by so quickly...or maybe it just does now that we're all gettin' older younger. In any case, "officially" March is the start of spring. This spring it's March 20th – the day of our first club "Month-End Event" as opposed to our traditional month-end ride. What your Board has decided to do to plan more things for each of you to participate in is to create the "month-end event" calendar rather than just the month-end ride date. What that means is we'll be doing different kinds of horse-related things on that date. This month we'll be ridin' in the Swallows Day Parade. And there's more. The week before the month-end event, we're having a Parelli clinic at the Gomez place. This is going to be a great training opportunity for you and your horse; not to mention all the good comraderie that always comes when we get together with our big buddies. Watch the website for details...the month-end event calendar is full for 2010 so be sure and check out our plans on the website!

So you all know about our Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) and you always hear about the training and practice that this very important group within our Corral is always doin' but here's a story that adds some real meaning to what they all do.

As you know we have our Emergency Response Team (ERT) within MAU and together these folks have just about perfected a way to communicate with radios, how to manage an emergency evacuation and how to identify lost animals. You all know we've had microchip clinics to get each of your horses chipped for accurate identification in case you're ever sepa-

rated. In addition to these clinics, your Corral has also purchased two Avid Chip Readers. These are the electronic devices that actually read and identify the details associated with any registered chip implant in an animal; in other words, how to identify the owner and help get the two of 'em back together. Well here's the story...

Last month, one of our neighbors (we think) lost a couple of dogs and they were running around near Mountain View. I can't imagine how these owners felt because I know we sure would be frantic if our dog was lost – I know you all feel the same way about our canine family members. Well I'm not sure exactly who heard about this but someone contacted our ERT coordinator Debbie Kelly and Debbie jumped into action...or at least drove over to where the dogs were. She had our Corral Avid Chip Reader and she had the foresight to think the lost dogs may be chipped...well guess what? They were! Can you imagine how good Debbie felt to find a registered chip in one of these lost dogs? What a great sense of pride and what a relief! I've gotta tell you this makes me so proud of our club and so glad your Board decided to approve and purchase these reader devices. I think it says a lot about who we are and how we roll! This one "find" makes the whole process (training) and the entire expense (buying the readers with Corral funds that you EACH contribute to) worthwhile.

You should all be very proud of our Corral; I know I sure am. And a big Corral thanks to Debbie Kelly and the entire MAU/ERT group for givin' us something else to be proud of...

So, as always, until we get together next, here's to all of us helpin' together and ridin' together...see you on the trail...

## IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY (SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Members Meeting: Thursday , March 4th

Play Day: Saturday, March 6th

**New Location: See Below**

Horsemanship Clinic: Saturday, March 13th

Swallow's Day Parade: Saturday, March 20th

## NEW LOCATION FOR MEMBERS MEETING

We're going to try a new location for our March Members meeting, Friends" tavern next to Dove Canyon. Rich, Patty, Dave, and Susan met with the owners, Mary and Larry and are excited about this venue for Members' meetings.

31911 Dove Canyon Drive  
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679  
Phone: 949.709.1010

The tavern will provide ONE bowl of their homemade chips per table but we did agree to a one-drink minimum (\$5 or so) so let's be sure and get that word out. I know Patti and I will always have dinner there just to patronize our "sponsor" - we sure do hope everyone does the same



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY SHEILA SEGIEN

**Expired:** Lori Grossman 10/09, Nancy Johnson 10/09, Leslie King 10/09, Candice Itzkovics 10/09, Dalynn Zampino 11/09, Fiona Nelson 1/10, Brynne Van Putten 1/10, Patti Williams 1/10, Segien Family 1/10, Lesl cid:845275B3687E4815BADD6342F5450AC5@one ie Ingham 2/10, Jacqui Moreland 2/10, Rich & Patti Gomez 2/10, Jane Adair 2/10, Helen & Fred Bruns 2/10

**Expiring:** Karen Peyser 3/10, Roy & Melba Slavin 3/10

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



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM BY DEBBIE KELLY

With all the rain lately I think it is safe to say that wildfire is the

furthest thing from our minds.

For some in the neighboring canyons flood and mud might present a problem. All three of these situations are real threats to the semi rural life we have chosen. Something that is always a threat and comes without warning is earthquake. We hear of them almost daily and know well one could hit here and leave in its wake destruction, loss, and likely isolation from urban resources. It is important that canyon residents be aware of what to do in that event. Preparedness is critical to survival and recovery during any local or

larger scope disaster. That being said, ETI/357 invites

you and the community to a very special member's meeting in April. We are privileged to have a representative from the Orange County Red Cross to speak to us about emergency preparedness. There will be a change of venue for this meeting which will be held at the O'Neill Park Nature Center conference room on Thursday, April 1st. The time is 7-9pm (approximately). We are asking for RSVP by March 26th so we can accommodate seating and refreshments. Dinner will be served beginning at 6:30 pm on a donation basis. Please RSVP to rileyboy1@cox.net or 949-459-7191. We hope to see you there.



## YAHOO! ... A HORSE TALE

BY JAMES M IACONO

I love my life as a cowboy! Though I don't actually round up cows, I can identify with that label only because of the horse. One

has to wonder why I am not called a "horse boy." But though the horse was an integral piece of the American cattle driving business, it also played a major role in another early frontier endeavor. The Pony Express was one of America's first organized mail delivery services. Somehow, I think that if I had been living in the 1800s, I would have pursued a career as a Pony Express rider. I mean, how cool is racing across the plains and getting paid for it! Then, I guess, I would be called "Mail Boy", though that sounds a bit redundant.

The reason I bring this all up is because of a story I read about today in my "Inbox". It seems a few months ago

two horses named Duchess and Rose mysteriously disappeared from their home in Riverside. The owners were baffled, and turned to cyberspace for help. They sent out e-mails telling the story with pictures attached to everyone they knew, pleading for help. They encouraged all recipients to forward the message and pictures to everyone in their address book. Members of our ETI Corral were part of this mail campaign. Finally, a woman in Norco received the e-mail, opened the attached photos, and realized that two horses that had recently been brought to her board-

ing stable by two teenagers fit the bill. She called the name on the original e-mail, and Yahoo! the rightful owners and their horses were joyfully reunited.

This story teaches us all the power at our fingertips. Though, by nature, we equestrians enjoy holding on to our simple but preferred mode of travel...the horse...and all things ecologically and ergonomically simple and pure...this horse tale illustrates that we can use **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY** to help preserve our way of life. We need to think about how we



would feel if it was our favorite filly or gelding that was on that "Have you seen this horse?" E-poster, and do the right thing for our fellow "horse boys" and "horse girls" .... Forward the e-mail! It's not like you have to address a bunch of letters by hand, hop on your horse, and

deliver them to everyone near and far. All you have to do is tickle your "mouse" a few times, and that could make all the difference to someone just like you.

The irony in all of this, and the connection I've made to the Pony Express, shows how much the world has changed. This horse tale gives us a perfect illustration as to why we need to embrace the new world as well as holding on to our old. 200 years ago, Americans used the horse to deliver the mail. Today, in 2010, we can use the mail to deliver the horse!

# HUMOR

## **10 Steps to Becoming a Better Equestrian**

They say it takes seven falls to make a rider. But there's a lot more to it than that.

Check out this humorous list of 10 simple exercises that will help you become a better equestrian.

10. Drop a heavy steel object on your foot. Don't pick it up right away. Shout, "Get off, Stupid, GET OFF!"
9. Leap out of a moving vehicle and practice "relaxing into the fall." Roll tightly into a ball and spring to your feet.
8. Learn to grab your checkbook out of your purse and write out a \$200 check without even looking down.
7. Jog long distances carrying a halter and a carrot. Go ahead and tell the neighbors what you are doing - they might as well know now.
6. Affix a pair of reins to a moving freight train and practice pulling to a halt. Smile as if you are having fun.
5. Hone your fibbing skills: "See hon, moving hay bales is FUN!" and "No, really, I'm glad your lucky performance and multimillion dollar horse won the blue ribbon. I am just thankful that my hard work and actual ability won me second place."
4. Practice dialing your chiropractor's number with both arms paralyzed to the shoulder and one foot anchoring the lead rope of a frisky horse.
3. Borrow the US Army's slogan: Be All That You Can Be -- bitten, thrown, kicked, slimed, trampled, frozen...

2. Lie face down in a puddle of mud in your most expensive riding clothes and repeat to yourself, "This is a learning experience, this is a learning experience, this is ..."

1. THE NUMBER ONE EXERCISE TO BECOME A BETTER EQUESTRIAN: Marry money.

## ***The Power of the Badge***

DEA officer stops at a ranch in Texas , and talks with an old rancher. He tells the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs." The rancher says, "Okay , but don't go in that field over there," as he points out the location.

The DEA officer verbally explodes saying, " Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me." Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removes his badge and proudly displays it to the rancher. "See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish..... On any land. No questions asked or answers given. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand? "

The rancher nods politely, apologizes, and goes about his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher hears loud screams and sees the DEA officer running for his life chased by the rancher's big Santa Gertrudis bull.....

With every step the bull is gaining ground on the officer, and it seems likely that he'll get gored before he reaches safety. The officer is clearly terrified. The rancher throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs..... " Your badge. Show him YOUR BADGE ! "







# Natural Horsemanship with Parelli-trainer Sue Johnston

- What: Parelli Guest Speaker and Presentation  
Why: **FREE** open monthly meeting of ETI Corral 357  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Where: "Friends" - The Sports Tavern  
31911 Dove Canyon Drive  
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679  
949-709-1010  
When: **Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:30pm**

*Come early and have dinner and a cool-drink*

- Learn how to be a partner for your horse.
- What are the techniques available?
- How can you get started?

Any Questions Contact Jim Iacono at 714-612-1789

[www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com](http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com).



SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS  
trabuco canyon, california



ETI 357

# Horse Playday!

When: Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 9am  
Registration will begin at 8am!

Cost is \$7 per event for members and \$8 for non-members, lunch included  
(Preprint your Waiver and Release form from the website to save time)

Where: O'Neill Regional Park Equestrian Arena

What: Playday Games - Barrels, Poles,  
Ribbon Race and two "Mystery Games"

How: **Early Bird Registration (ends March 4<sup>th</sup>)**  
**\$6 for Members, \$7 for Non-Members**  
Print out the form, fill it out, and bring it to the Members'  
Meeting for the discount!

Any Questions Contact: Jim Iacono 714-612-1789  
[jiacono@imgps.com](mailto:jiacono@imgps.com)

Go to [www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com](http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com) for further info



# 2010 SWALLOW'S DAY PARADE

BY JAMES M IACONO

The Swallows Day Parade this year is on Saturday, March 20th. It is one of the largest parades in California, with a long and rich history. The horse has always played a part in the development of San Juan Capistrano, going all the way back to Father Junipero Serra, who was quite a horseman. It is said that all the horses back in his day at the Mission, come Sunday, would sit in their own "pew". (Don't quote me on that).

Anyway, we want to participate this year as a horse club. So right now I am polling everyone's interest. It's a long day, but a lot of fun. Roughly, the day starts

leaving Trabuco about 7 a.m., and you'll be getting back home around 3p.m. It's free to enter, we just ask that you wear one of our embroidered parade shirts so we can look like a club! If you have a horse that's a little "spirited", don't worry there will be plenty of vet-applied "calmers".

If you know of other horse folks who would like this experience, but need a group to ride with, let them know they are welcome to join ETI for this event. Please respond to me at [Jiacono@imgps.com](mailto:Jiacono@imgps.com) by the end of this week so we can begin planning the logistics.



2008 Swallow's Day Parade







## **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