



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICH GOMEZ

### RIDIN' AND DOIN'

Well here we are at the 4th of July and summer's in full swing. No doubt most of you were able to join us at last month's campout and month-end ride in "it-don't-get-better-'n-this" weather, and your horse behaved just perfectly. It was a great ride thanks to our Mrs. Trail Boss (Debbie Kelly) and our newly "deputized" Trail Boss Auxiliary (Patti Gretzler)! ...and that's what you call "cowgirlin' up!"

All our horses were just about perfect, and that proves one of Ray Hunt's most important methods of training your horse – just ridin' on the trail. Hopefully, you've also all been trying the bending exercises we've been sharing with you here in this column. Got the second part of some more exercises from our buddy and reining trainer from Colorado, Guy Vernon, but we'll get to that in a minute...



For those of you who joined us at our weekend event (June 25, 26, 27) your Board of Directors sure hope you all had a great time camping and listenin' to live music and ridin' and cool drinks (with Chili Cook-Off included) and a little South Orange County history (at the Modjeska House) and some laughs at the not-so-politically-correct Blazing Saddles movie in our own O'Neill Regional Park outdoor amphitheatre. What a time we had! And all topped off with some good coffee and my wife's campfire bacon and eggs! Not a bad deal...thanks to everyone who helped put this together and all of you who showed up! We might even do more of the movie nights if that's something you all would like to do...

Well anyway, on to a couple more exercises on makin' our horses supple and responsive. Again,

courtesy of Guy Vernon, renowned trainer and top competitor. Whether we're in the arena or on the trail, we need our horse to respond to our cues quickly and without resistance. Guy uses eight building blocks to develop these skills. We shared the first batch with you last month that introduced lateral and vertical flexion; here's the rest of Guy's exercises and they're all about taking your horse in reverse, using leg-yields to move the shoulders and hips, and developing the sidepass to hone these skills. There's always another layer of softness to discover, and always use the softest cue you can and then increase pressure if necessary...



**5. Reverse** With this exercise, you want your horse to move backward with softness and vertical flexion. Hold the reins in two hands and apply slight pressure to both asking your horse to back up a step. Your horse should respond by giving in to the pressure and when s/he does, keep your hands in place and maintain steady pressure until s/he shifts his/her weight backward, then release. Never pull – your horse needs to find the release. Your hands should stay in one place. If your horse gives to the pressure and you take up the slack, you're pulling. Your horse's body position should be the same as when s/he's going forward. S/he learns to drive from his/her hindquarters while staying balanced up front. This develops strength and athleticism. Your horse should be moving with diagonal pairs of legs rather than shuffling and pushing from his/her front legs. One of the key points Guy talks about is when you ask your horse to stop, you're not so much asking him/her to stop as you are asking him/her to begin going backward. The goal is to transfer *(continued on page 2)*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

this fluid movement and teach your horse to be able to transition easily from one speed or direction to another.

**6. Shoulder-yield** In this exercise your horse should be able to move forward and step across with his/her front legs at the same time. Ride with two hands and ask your horse to walk on a straight line. When s/he's soft and responsive, cue him/her to step one front leg over the other in the direction you're traveling. If you want to move his/her shoulders to the right, tip his/her nose a little to the left. You may want to keep a connection with your inside rein to help your horse keep the correct bend. Your horse should respond by crossing his/her left front leg over his right. Start with rein pressure and then add the leg aid if necessary.

**7. Hip-yield** In this one your horse will go forward and sideways by crossing his/her hind legs underneath him/her. Start again in a straight line with reins in both hands. When your horse is soft and responsive ask him/her to cross one hind leg over the other while moving to the right by tipping his/her nose a little to the left and adding your left leg aid at the back cinch so s/he can differentiate the aid from normal leg pressure. Remember, tip his/her nose slightly in the opposite direction of travel.

**8. Sidepass** We all know this one – your horse is moving sideways without going forward. Ride with both hands on the reins and direct your horse onto a straight line. Next, ask him/her to cross one front leg over the other; then ask for the same side hind leg to cross over the other. Eventually, combine both front and hind actions into one fluid movement. Your horse should remain balanced from front to back and side to side. Keep contact with the bridle so your horse doesn't step forward. If s/he gets brace or takes forward or backward steps, stop and go back to what s/he knows and build from that point.

I sure like these exercises and they're things we can do in a round pen, an arena or on the trail. They help us think about the importance of building blocks as the foundation for what we ask our horses to do. And all that translates to our horses being soft and responsive so that next time we have a playday or a trail ride, you and your horse just execute what you've been practicing. I sure hope these tips and exercises have been helpful...

So, as always, until we get together next, here's to a great summer, all of us practicing together and riding together...see you on the trail...

## IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY (SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Members Meeting: No Meeting in July

July 4th Parade: Sunday, July 4th

Board Meeting: Thursday, July 8th

### A Change in the ETI Magazine Delivery

The bimonthly ETI national magazine, Equestrian Trails, is now available only online. It's very easy to access. One simple click from the ETI home page [www.etinational.com](http://www.etinational.com) where it says EQUESTRIAN TRAILS MAGAZINE NOW ONLINE CLICK HERE. Or go directly to [http://www.etinational.com/eti\\_magazine/](http://www.etinational.com/eti_magazine/) We will have a link available on the ETI 357 web site as well. The current issue is available now.



## MAU ERT REPORT

BY DEBBIE KELLY

When ETI/357 first became involved in emergency response, the focus was on large animal evacuation. That was fitting as we are an equine club and mostly live and ride in an equine community.

The 2003 San Diego fires were the impetus to prepare a formal and organized evacuation plan for



Trabuco Canyon and it was appropriate for ETI to take the lead. It took a few years to launch a plan that would capture the attention of our community and our local agencies.

We all know the effort paid off when in 2007 the community did not wait to be told and began evacuation early. ETI was able to put our plan into action and once again caught the attention of OCFA and OC Animal Control (now OC Animal Care).

Fast forward a few months and our MAU group was called to assist Animal Control with relocating horses in Modjeska Canyon threatened with mudslides. Just this month we were called to assist with a horse rescue in Irvine Park. There was a horse stuck in the

mud. We were on scene in less than an hour and a half; and fortunately, with the heroic efforts of Animal Care, the horse was on her way home by the time our team arrived. We have definitely identified ourselves as a resource to augment resources here in Orange County, and that is the Mission Statement for the Mounted Assistance Unit and Emergency Response Team of 357.

All that being said, we need to be prepared to take care of our family and neighbors as well in an emergency. Jeff and I are privileged to be CERT responders with the City of San Juan Capistrano, as well as their large animal response team. Volunteer teams are the way of the future. The government at the city, county, state, and federal level depend on community volunteer groups in large scale disasters. I encourage anyone reading this to take a CERT or CEPA course and be prepared to be part of the solution when disaster strikes. If you have yet to put your family emergency plan together, go to the website below. It is like Disneyland for emergency preparedness. [www.sosproducts.com](http://www.sosproducts.com)



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

**Very Expired (Sorry, Last Newsletter):** Fiona Nelson 1/10, Patti Williams 1/10

**Expired,** Leslie Ingham 2/10, Jacqui Moreland 2/10, Karen Peyser 3/10, Roy & Melba Slavin 3/10, Cheryl Segien 4/10, Kim Tillinghast-DeBellis 4/10, Sue Baldwin 5/10, Connie Presley 5/10, Beverly Warren 5/10, Chris Richardson 6/10, Schicht Family 6/10, and Dave & Susan Seroski 6/10

**Expiring:** Kristen Holden 7/10, Prieto Family 7/10, Debi Geary 7/10, Alice Sorenson 7/10

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

# HORSE TALES- LOVED HROSE PASSES

BY JEMINA WILSON AND ALLISON JESS, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORP.

Paddy, the Clydesdale horse who protected sheep and goats during the Black Saturday fires, has died.

The retired horse was much loved in the Goulburn Murray region, many locals thought him a hero after he saved the lives of other animals during the Beechworth fire in February. Paddy rounded-up pet sheep and goats and stood over them, as the fire raged in Mudgegonga. Paddy was nominated for an award following his actions and the president of the Abury RSPCA branch, Dr Arthur Fraunfelder, says the RSPCA may now consider a posthumous award.

Shortly after the fires ABC reporter Jem Wilson met Paddy and owner Mike Salmon at Mudgegonga. Paddy served in Gendarme parades at police graduations and other major events across Australia. During their years serving in the police, Paddy and Mike developed a bond that would be envied by most horse riders,



and they seem to know each other like old friends. But on the eve of Black Saturday, Happy Valley wasn't a very happy place to be.

Mike says the grass around his home was like "talcum powder" and he knew it was going to be "a cow of a day." At around 6:30 on the Sunday night, he saw the bushfire roaring up the valley towards his house. Mike began to put his bushfire plans into place, patrolling for embers and hosing his house with water. But the fire soon surrounded his house. "It jumped

the road and exploded up beside the other side of the house.

"Then it joined behind the house and started to come back down." With the fences around his property on fire, Mike was worried that Paddy, four sheep, and two goats would be burnt alive.

He let the sheep and goats out of their pens, knowing that they might flee into the path of the fire. But when Mike came back from patrolling the house, he found that Paddy had rounded up the animals and they were sheltering under his huge frame. Mike says he returned to check on Paddy every half hour during the bushfire. He ran water over the horse's flanks and gave him instructions to stay calm and look after



the other animals. But he says Paddy never moved despite the embers falling from the sky and the wind roaring up the valley. "He was quite calm and serene but he knew what was going on." If the sheep moved Paddy rounded them up and *(continued on page 5)*

## HORSE TALES- (CONTINUED)

brought them back to the corner where they waited under him.

Mike said that was funny, because Paddy doesn't normally even like the animals he worked so hard to protect. "He's a bit superior to them. He doesn't like them. They're just sheep and goats and he doesn't have much to do with them." A small burn on his nose was the only reminder of the work Paddy did in the fires, but Mike says he'll never forget how

brave his horse was when he needed it most. "He stood there and did what I asked him. "If you can have that sort of communication, all the big parades and the big accolades we've had as Gendarme can't compare to that because that was when the chips were really down. "I asked him to do something and he said, righto, I'll do that. And that's what he did."

*This Month's Horse Tale was submitted by Susan Seroski*



### JUNE PLAY DAY BY JAMES M. IACONO

ETI 357 staged Playday #2 for the year on Saturday, June 5th at the O'Neill Park Arena. A beautiful day in the 70s greeted the lineup of equestrians who were willing to take on the neighborhood competition for a chance at individual event ribbons and at the high point sculpted horse head trophy.

A field of 11 competitors ranging in age from 14 to 60 gave the event plenty of heart, color, and diversity. Jim Iacono on Lacey took 1st in Barrel Racing and Pole Bending, while Bekah Segien and Amado nabbed the blue in Keyhole, Jim Schicht and Jaeger

scrambled the competition in Egg and Spoon, and Rikilyn Prieto on her new horse Little Miss didn't "miss" a beat in Step, Squeeze, Spin, and Sprint. The high point hardware was taken by Jim Iacono, while Rikilyn Prieto and Jim Schicht had very respectable 2nd and 3rd place totals.

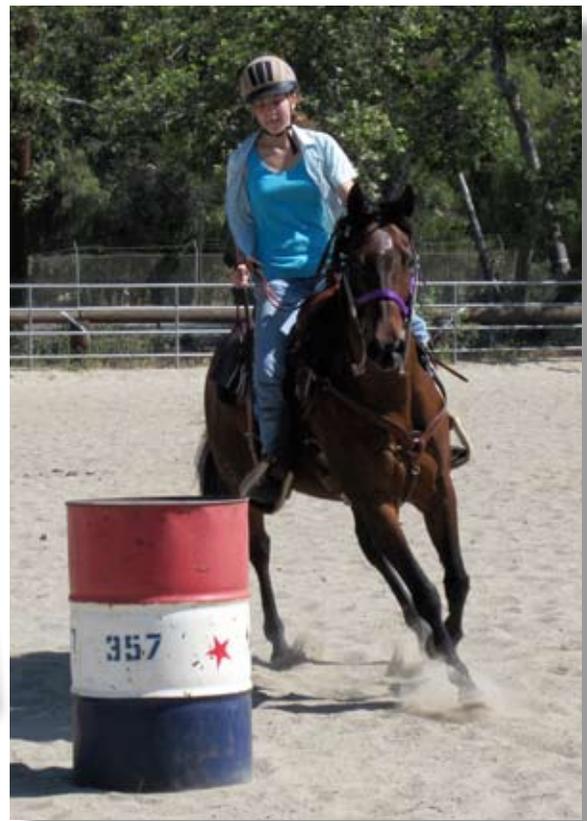
Though the field of 11 was one of our smallest Playday competitions, we sold out lunch for 30 so there were a gaggle of spectators who enjoyed the day's festivities topped by a good old fashioned Western BBQ, and great Canyon hospitality. Stay tuned for our next Playday which will officially appear on the calendar soon!



# 2010 JUNE PLAYDAY



# 2010 JUNE PLAYDAY





## THIS COULD BE YOU BEFORE YOU KNOW IT

### SHARE YOUR STORY WITH THE CLUB:

Your First Horse

Your Best (Or Worst) In-The-Saddle Experience

Some Cowboy Poetry

Something You've Seen On The World Wide Google-net

Pictures

Drawings

Horse Quiz

Email your submissions to [SDSegien@mac.com](mailto:SDSegien@mac.com)

If you are submitting work that was created by somebody else, please credit the source.

Oh yeah, the nifty illustration of Gene Aurty was created by freelance illustrator Robert Rodriguez, whose work has been featured on more than a dozen previous stamps....See how easy.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY VICKI IACONO

ETI - CORRAL 357

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING  
May 2010

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 9,040.49

DEPOSITS: April \$ 0.00  
Deposits Made After May Closing: \$0.00 \$ 0.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 9,040.49

EXPENSES:

<u>Ck#</u>	<u>Source:</u>	<u>Reason:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Ck #</u>	<u>Source:</u>	<u>Reason:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1368	Jim Iacono	food playday	\$110.06	1369	USPS	newsletter	\$ 76.00
1372	ETI	membership	\$ 56.00	1373	D Kelly	playday	\$ 43.68
1374	R Balthaser	video	\$ 30.00				

Total expenses paid in – May 2010 (\$315.74)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

<u>Ck#</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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Total Outstanding Checks May 2010 i.e. Spending:	\$ 0.00
Funds on hand in checking as of 05-31-2010	9,040.49
Petty Cash on Hand as of 05-31-2010	\$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 05-31-10 \$ 9,440.49

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS: \$ 9,440.49

Less Reserves:

1.- MAU as of 07/31/09 = After payment for 2nd Chip Scanner: (\$ 779.89)

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve:  
\$(779.89)

NET - NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of : Corral 357 **8,660.60**



## **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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Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678