



# Corral News

May 2011

Volume 17, Issue 5



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY RICK BALTHASER

### RICK'S 'RAMBLINS'

Howdy Saddleback Canyon Riders!

It's spring time in the canyon, and it doesn't get much better than this ... everything's green, the flowers are in full bloom, all good in da' hood!

It's also the day before Easter Sunday, and as I sit down to commit pen to paper, or more accurately 0s and 1s to microchip, the rockin' country song 'It's a Country Thang' is playin' in the background. Technically speaking, it's not a religious song per se, but it does put me in a really good mood to write.

As I hunt and peck at my keyboard, much like Karen's chickens looking for bugs, a cactus plant in front of our home is alerting us that it's officially Easter. It blooms once a year, always at this time with a beautifully large and delicate white flower. A perfect study in contrast, white, frail, fleeting beauty on top of the tough, thorny, dark-green enduring cactus.

I guess I've always been intrigued by the Ying and Yang and the contrasts in life: delicate and tough...

bad and good ... dark and light.

But spring brings a lot more to the equation ... for me it brings an amazing sense of renewal, energy, courage and hope. For instance, Karen and I just found out that we're going to be grandparents, a wonderful event that makes me feel even older, but one that I know will be pure bliss.

A few years ago, Karen and I were taking a (somewhat rare) vacation on the north shore of Kauai. We wanted to start one of our mornings by going snorkeling at Tunnels Beach, a popular spot for surfers and snorkelers. We awoke to sirens and later arrived at the beach to discover that it had been closed due to a shark attack on a surfer. The news of this horrible incident rippled quickly through the tiny town of Hanalei and then immediately around the world. The surfer was 13 year old Bethany Hamilton and the shark had taken her arm off at the shoulder.



Fast forward to a couple of weeks ago ... Karen and I went and saw the film Soul Surfer, which chronicles Bethany's amazing story of perseverance and courage against very formidable odds. Things always seem to happen for a reason, and watching the movie proved to be poignant, moving (*continued on page 2*)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

and incredibly inspiring. The movie had another important theme ... hope.

As spring transitions to summer, Saddleback Canyon Riders are busier than ever. We had a great Trail Maintenance day on April, 2nd with a fantastic turnout and a lot of work accomplished. Big thanks to Jeff and Debbie Kelly.

Our Members Meeting was terrific and informative, with the highlight being the expanded radio communications network presentation by Rich Gomez and Dave Seroski. Thanks guys! We also announced that the 'Patronize Our Park' contest is off to an amazing start with close to 100 hours logged in march alone!

There was even an amazing 'unofficial' moonlight ride organized by our Trail Boss Jim Schicht! ... Thanks Jim!

Coming up, we look forward to seeing you at the Member's Meeting on Thursday, May 5th (it's Cinco de Mayo, come have a margarita and nachos with your friends!) at Friends Sports Tavern. Come and hear about some of our exciting upcoming plans!

May 7th, American Horse Products is generously allowing us to have a table selling used tack at their Customer Appreciation Day. Please check your tack room and donate any unneeded equine related items to the cause. Leave it in the container at the Big B Ranch, 20362 Adkinson Lane (our house). We need members to man the table, so please volunteer, it will be a fun event!

And of course, Happy Mother's Day to all of our Moms ... Let's face it, none of us would be here without our Mothers!

To wrap 'er up, here's a quote that I enjoyed stumbling upon:

*The horse you get off is not the same as the horse you got on. It is your job as a rider to ensure that as often as possible, the change is for the better.* - Author unknown

Take care, and I hope to see ya' out on the trails!

Rick Balthaser, President  
Cell: 949 439-2414  
RBalthaser@aol.com

## IMPORTANT DATES (SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

| Date |    |          | Event                     | Time    | Location            | Contact              |
|------|----|----------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------|----------------------|
| May  | 5  | Thursday | Members Meeting           | 7:00 PM | Friends             | Karen (714) 458-7772 |
|      | 13 | Thursday | Board Meeting             | 7:00 PM | TBA                 | Karen (714) 458-7772 |
|      | 28 | Saturday | Month End Ride            | 9:00AM  | O'Neill Park        | Jim S (949) 677-5200 |
| June | 2  | Thursday | Members Meeting           | 7:00 PM | Friends             | Karen (714) 458-7772 |
|      | 4  | Saturday | Trail Maintenance         | 8:00 AM | O'Neill Park        | Jim S (949) 677-5200 |
|      | 9  | Thursday | Board Meeting             | 7:00 PM | TBA                 | Karen (714) 458-7772 |
|      | 11 | Saturday | Play Day                  | 8:00AM  | O'Neill Park        | Jim (949) 459-7742   |
|      | 26 | Saturday | Cowboy Church             | 9:00AM  | TCCC                | Jim S (949) 677-5200 |
| July | 4  | Monday   | July 4th Parade/<br>BBQ   | 8:30AM  | Trabuco Canyon, Ca. | Jim (949) 459-7742   |
|      | 7  | Thursday | Board Meeting             | 7:00 PM | TBA                 | Karen (714) 458-7772 |
|      | 30 | Saturday | Month End/ Full Moon Ride | TBA PM  | O'Neill Park        | Jim S (949) 677-5200 |

# **PATRONIZE OUR PARK' CONTEST!**

ETI 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders  
Log your hours in O'Neill Regional Park  
and Win Cool Stuff!

## **OFFICIAL RULES:**

### **Who is eligible?**

Any member of ETI 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders that is in good standing!

### **How does it work?**

When you go for a trail ride, walk, hike, run, bicycle ride, do trail maintenance or volunteer in any way at O'Neill Regional Park your hours will count towards the contest. NOTE: Arena use is not counted as hours for this contest.

### **Prizes:**

#### **GRAND PRIZE:**

The member that logs the most Park hours will win a beautiful trophy (More will be revealed on this!) with a plaque that will be engraved with their name. The winner keeps this trophy for a year, and then it gets handed to the next winner the following year (Just like the Stanley Cup in hockey). There will also be beautiful awards for SECOND and THIRD place finishers. And, there will be cool 'milestone prizes' for members that reach 50, 100, 150 and 200 hours!

### **How do we record our hours?**

It's SIMPLE!

There is a black mailbox that is at the junction of Pawfoot Trail and Coyote Trail. (The area with a couple of parking spots and picnic tables just across (west) from the main entrance). The combination to the lock is 2-4-6-8. Go to the proper tab, and enter your start and end times.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Your 'start time' is when you leave your house to head for the park trails, and your 'end time' is when you return home after the park trails.

### **When does the contest start and end?**

The contest starts on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and ends one week prior to our ETI 357 Christmas Party in December. The winners will be announced at the Christmas Party!

### **IMPORTANT NOTE!**

As this is an O'Neill Park related contest, the rangers are very interested in getting reports from our members regarding: Trail maintenance needs, wildlife sightings, even suspicious or illegal behavior sightings. Leave a note in the mailbox, or call 949 923-2259, or email Ranger Lorrie at [lorrie.zuczek@ocparks.com](mailto:lorrie.zuczek@ocparks.com) if there is something you feel is worth reporting.

Although this contest is sponsored by ETI 357, it is in no way a sanctioned ETI event, therefore ETI Members participating in this contest do so at their own risk.

**QUESTIONS?** Call or email Rick Balthaser - Cell: 949 439-2414 - [RBalthaser@aol.com](mailto:RBalthaser@aol.com)



## SWALLOW'S DAY PARADE

BY JAMES M. IA CONO

"The Saddleback Canyon Riders hail from Trabuco Canyon, an idyllic location whose name is historically linked with San Juan Capistrano.

Over 250 years ago, Gaspar de Portola led an expedition starting from the San Juan Mission up San Juan Creek to the foothills of Saddleback Mountain in search of gold. During the return trip they realized that one of Portola's lieutenants had left his musket, his 'trabuco' in one of the foothill canyons. They returned, but never recovered the lost weapon. The location came to be referred to as 'Trabuco Canyon', in honor of the missing musket. Today, the Saddleback Canyon Riders and one of 'Portola's men' return to San Juan with a replica of that notorious 'trabuco'."

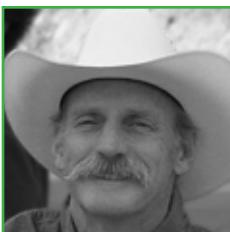
This was the description read by the announcers of



the Swallows Day Parade on March 26, 2011, validating the presence of the Saddleback Canyon Riders in this famous parade. A hearty band of 7 represented the Club on the streets of San Juan Capistrano, riding on horseback as did the original California vaqueros in

the 18th Century. Jim and Vicki Iacono, Debbie Kelly, Jim Schicht, Evelyn Ortega, and Dave and Sue Seroski were lucky enough to experience the sights, sounds, and smells, of the largest running non-motorized parade in America. Who needs a motor when you are being bravely transported by Saddlebreds, thoroughbreds, fox trotters, and quarter horses?

All horses were perfect ladies and gentlemen, and all logistics with travel and parking went flawlessly for a quality experience for all. Please consider joining us next year as we continue this remarkable tradition.



## TRAIL BOSS REPORT

BY JIM SCHICHT

It is good to see mother nature is giving us a break from all the rain and hail, to give us these nice days to take our riding partners out and explore the trails.

Last month we had the San Juan Capistrano Parade that was loads of fun for the riders, our horses and spectators. We kicked off our awards program for using in the park and showing up for our events, all which are off to a good start. The ETI T.R.A.P. Trail Riding Awards Program forms are in our ETI mail box located in the park. Yours trail boss has 18 hours totaled up within a month, the hours collect fast before you

know it for those patches.

Saturday 16 April was our first non ETI Moon Night Ride, it was a fun for all 12 riders, 9 ETI members and 3 new riders to our group. The moon was big bright and high in the sky for the 2 hours round trip up Holy Jim Road. I plan on riding different trails on all future moon night rides so it is fun and everyone can enjoy new night time experiences.

For all your rides check your tack after each ride and fix the small things, I almost lost my saddle when my keeper broke on my latigo. Ride safe, and most of all have fun.



## HORSE TALES

BY DEBBIE KELLY

Some of you may already be aware that the ETI/357 Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) had to close its doors this year. This MAU has been a component of 357 since 2003!

It was early summer of that year when a core group of our ETI members assembled to discuss the need for a well organized and trained group of responders for mounted activities. With a previous MAU bylaw already in place, we embraced the existing training requirements which set the bar for a very cohesive team. Training began immediately which included Basic Sensory; horse handling and trailer loading; US Forest service training and participation; and in October of 2003, and again the following year, the new MAU headed to Barstow, Ca. for SAR City (Search and Rescue). The Equestrian track of SAR gave us two days of intense classroom, arena, and sensory training. The focus was always on safety and the goal was a sound horse and rider; ready to respond when the call was received.

That call came almost two years from the time we began our training when a horse went missing in the Modjeska Canyon hills. "Zane" was roaming for two days and an intensive search was underway by residents and MAU members. With a final attempt to find him; MAU responded to his owner and with the help of an OC Sheriff Helicopter team, Zane was spotted and led safely home. I think we earned some stripes that day and it empowered us to tirelessly carry on in our mission. The following years would bring additional opportunities to respond as four MAU members participated in the animal recovery efforts

following Hurricane Katrina. We continued to train with our horses; but we also added the Emergency Equine Evacuation Plan as part of our team's already full agenda and engaged the participation of local authorities.

We caught the attention of OCFA Battalion Chief Scott Brown at our evacuation drill in 2006. He would be a champion of this plan and this lent to its success. The 2007 Santiago fire evacuation tells its own story as we put all the emergency preparation training into practice and assisted with the safe evacuation and sheltering of so many canyon horses.

In early 2008 MAU was called upon by OC Animal Care to help with evacuating horses from unsafe conditions during mudslides in Modjeska. It has been a very rewarding eight years and some of the opportunities tested our limits and showed us what we can do when disaster strikes. We also learned how to work as a team; and we actually had fun. It wasn't all work and no play! We did campouts, away rides, and local rides right here in O'Neill. We had potlucks and BBQ's for some of our MAU meetings. We were profiled in the Trabuco Canyon News as well as the OC Register.

I am sorry to see this team end but life takes us all in many directions and sometimes we have to follow a new path. It is my hope that those who were part of MAU will take the lessons learned and always use them in the interest of others. ETI/357 will continue to take the lead in emergency response here in TC. We need volunteers to help us do that! Watch for an updated evacuation plan and how you can help. Stay safe and as always, be prepared.



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

**Very Expired (sorry, last newsletter!!)** Jonette Dopson 11/10, Lauren Helsel 11/10, Pam Ragland 11/10, Jill Corley 11/10, Jordan Bui 11/10

**Expired:** Vansel Johnson 12/10, Steve & Debera Conkling 12/10, Doug & Jennifer Slavin 12/10, Fred & Helen Bruns 2/11, Delma Johnson 4/11, Rod Van Sickle 4/11

**Expiring:** Sue Baldwin 5/11

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



## SCRIBE'S REPORT

BY DON SEGIEN

I was a little late getting the newsletter out this month. Lots going on. Here's some late breaking news. Osama Bin Laden is dead!

I heard about it last night on Facebook. There were many "good riddance" and "thank you US military" comments. I have to say, I agree with both. I did notice on the web this morning that there were two basic types of quotes by politicians; the politically correct lengthy speeches that said nothing—you know, the ones that peg the needle on the BS meter, and the less guarded tell-it-like-it-is variety. Here are a few I liked.

*A victory for America, for people who seek peace around the world, and for all those who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001. The fight against terror goes on, but tonight America has sent an unmistakable message: No matter how long it takes, justice will be done. -Former President George W. Bush*

*Finally. We cut off the head of the snake. It's our intelligence that got him. The noose has been tightening because of our intelligence operations.*  
- U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Florida

*Osama bin Laden is dead and buried at sea. Justice has been done. His death brings a sense of relief to the families of 911 and the families of all those brave America troops who have fought this war over the past ten years. I congratulate the intelligence community and the assaulting troops*

*for this flawless operation. - Retired Gen. Colin Powell, former secretary of state*

*(Bin Laden's) death is a victory for the civilized world ... Now with the Arab awakening, and democracy taking hold in the Middle East, PAKPAC is confident that al Qaeda and its ideology will be relegated to the dust bin of history. - PAKPAC, a Pakistani-American advocacy group*

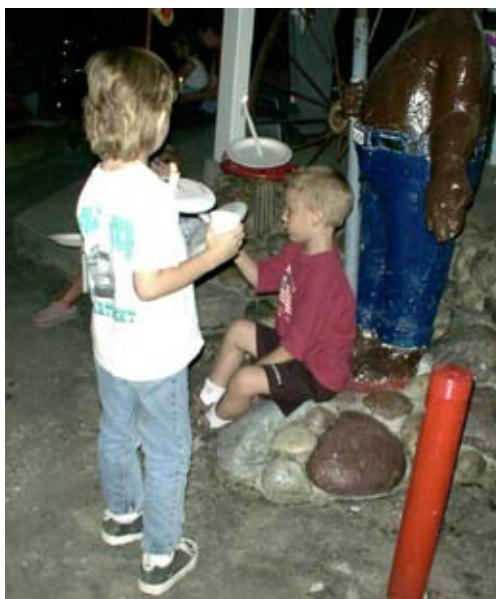
*Thank you, American men and women in uniform. You are America's finest and we are so proud. Thank you for fighting against terrorism. - Possible 2012 GOP presidential candidate Sarah Palin*

*It is unusual to celebrate a death, but today Americans and decent people the world over cheer the news that madman, murderer and terrorist Osama bin Laden is dead ... Welcome to hell, bin Laden. Let us all hope that his demise will serve notice to Islamic radicals the world over that the United States will be relentless in tracking down and terminating those who would inflict terror, mayhem and death on any of our citizens.*  
- Possible 2012 GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee

But this is not a political Op Ed piece. As I reflected on the 9/11 attacks, one of the first things I thought of was how our community reacted. We pulled together. That's what we do. Here are a few images of the ad hoc memorial service we held. "God bless America. God Bless Trabuco Canyon."



## SCRIBE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



## IN THE SADDLE

SCOTT AND LORI WENDLAND, INTERVIEWED BY SPIKE WILKS

**Name:** Lori and Scott Wendland Name: Lori & Scott Wendland

**Residence:** 10 years in Irvine and 10 years in Lake Arrowhead

**Kids:** Justin, 29; Danny, 24; Chelsea, 21; Cody, 18; Kira, 13; and 3 grown foster kids.

**Animals:** 4 horses; 2 dogs; 1 billy goat

**Other Hobbies:** Motorcycle riding and snow skiing

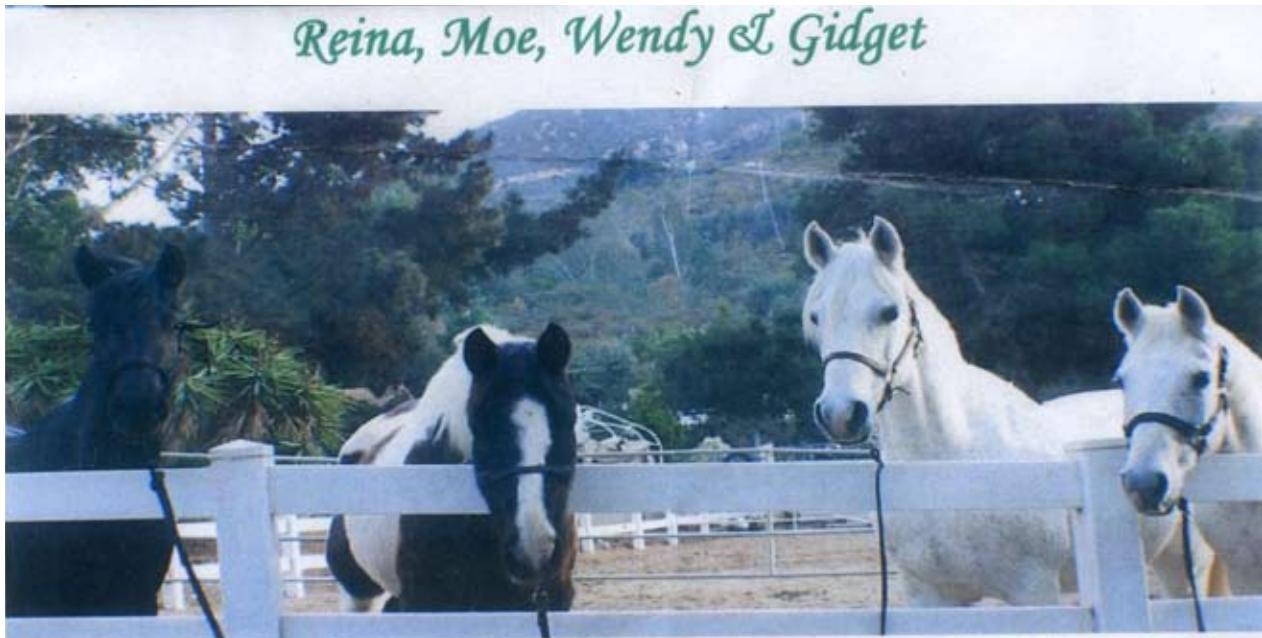
**What do you like best about the Saddle Canyon Riders?** Lori was a previous member of ETI in Chico and is now looking forward to Play days (barrels), trail riding and camp outs.

**Favorite Music Group:** Rascal Flatts

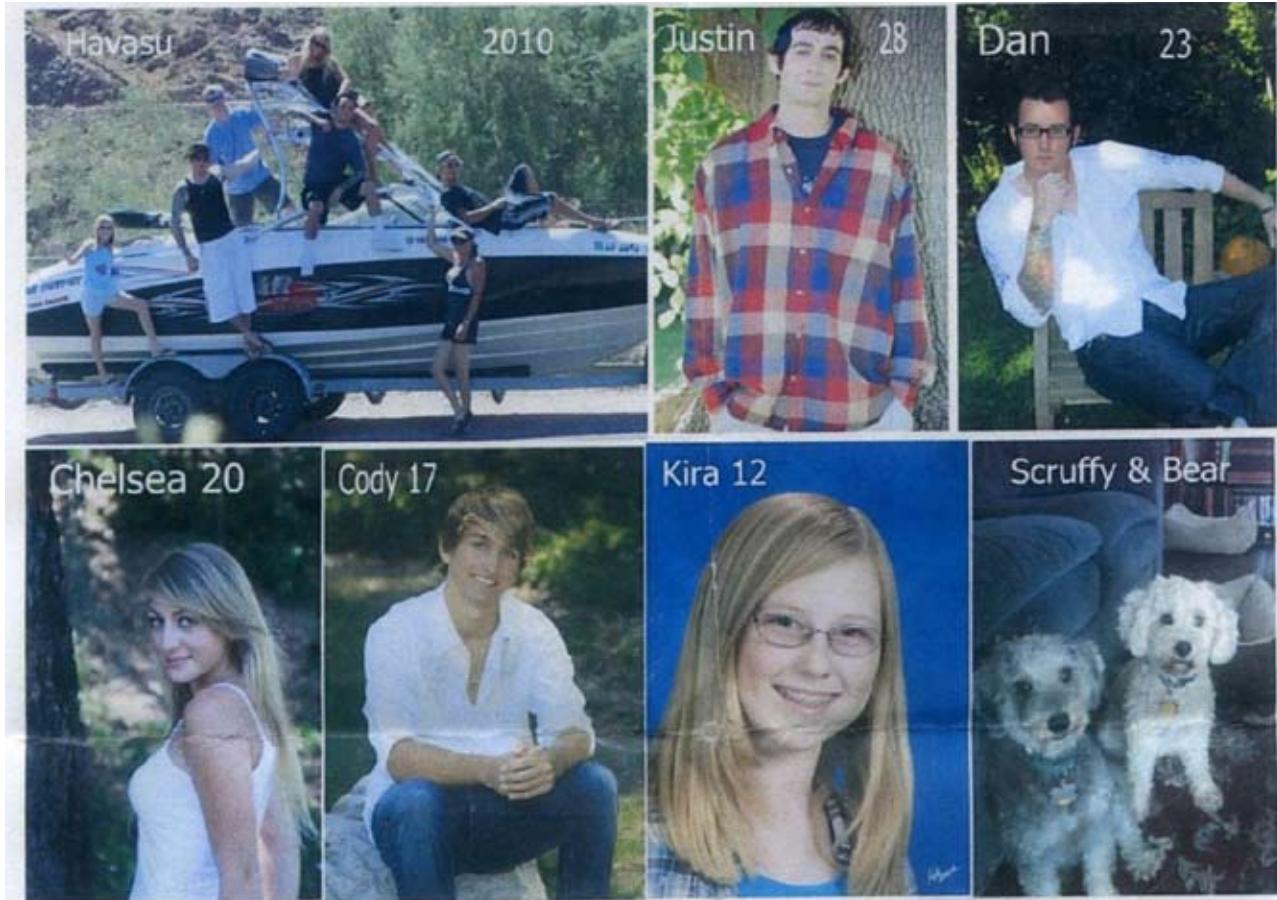
**What do you do in your spare time?** Lori: Volunteer at 2nd Harvest Food Bank; and take care of her handicapped mother; leads a Bible study group

**Interesting Facts:** Scott participated in pairs skating at the 1992 Winter Olympics and is now coaching the sport. Lori has ridden in several Rose Parades representing the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum and has shown in Western Pleasure, participated in many gymkhanas and ridden endurance.

This couple is going to be a great addition to our Saddle Canyon Riders family.



## IN THE SADDLE (CONTINUED)





## **PAW! – “PARTICIPATE AND WIN!” Saddleback Canyon Rider’s Contest**

### **WHY?**

Because, we want to **REWARD** and **RECOGNIZE** our Members for their participation, dedication and support of our great club!

### **OFFICIAL Git-R-Done! RULES:**

#### **Who is eligible?**

Members of ETI 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders that are in good standing!

(Note: Board Members of ETI 357 are not eligible for this contest)

#### **How does it work?**

EASY!

When you attend any ETI 357 - Saddleback Canyon Rider’s Event in any capacity, whether it’s as a participant, a volunteer, or even a spectator you get a POINT for your participation. Just sign in at the event and your point will be recorded!

These will include ALL of our GREAT sanctioned and even non-sanctioned club-related events: Members Meetings, Month End Trail Rides, Trail Maintenance Days, Play Days, Parades, Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival ‘Field Trip’, Camping Trips, Special Events, Volunteer Events like Equifest, ETI 357 Clinics, etc!

#### **Prizes:**

**There will be an AWESOME GRAND PRIZE for FIRST PLACE!  
AMAZING PRIZES for SECOND and THIRD PLACES**

And even special prizes at our Members Meetings for those who rack up FIVE points and TEN points!

**So, show up at our great events! ... Have FUN with your club! .... Rack up some points, and we’ll see ya’ at the AWARDS CEREMONIES at our Christmas Party in December!**



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## BY VICKI IACONO

*ETI - CORRAL 357* FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING March 31, 2011

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 10,312.45

## DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After March Closing: \$ 0.00

**Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits** \$ 10,312.45

## **EXPENSES:**

| CK#                               | Source     | Reason       | Amount   | Ck#  | Source   | Reason       | Amount     |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------|------|----------|--------------|------------|
| 1434                              | ETI        | membership   | \$ 72.00 | 1437 | ETI      | membership   | \$184.00   |
| 1440                              | Jim Iacono | playday supp | \$110.27 | 1441 | V Iacono | board dinner | \$ 30.00   |
| 1442                              | J. Iacono  | trophies     | \$ 47.85 |      |          |              |            |
| Total expenses paid in March 2011 |            |              |          |      |          |              | (\$444.12) |

## UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

| CK# | Source | Reason | Amount | Ck# | Source | Reason | Amount |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
|-----|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|

Total Outstanding Checks March 2011 - i.e. Spending: \$0.00

Funds on hand in checking as of 03-31-11 \$10,312.45

Petty Cash on Hand as of 03-31-11 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 03-31-2011: \$10,712.45

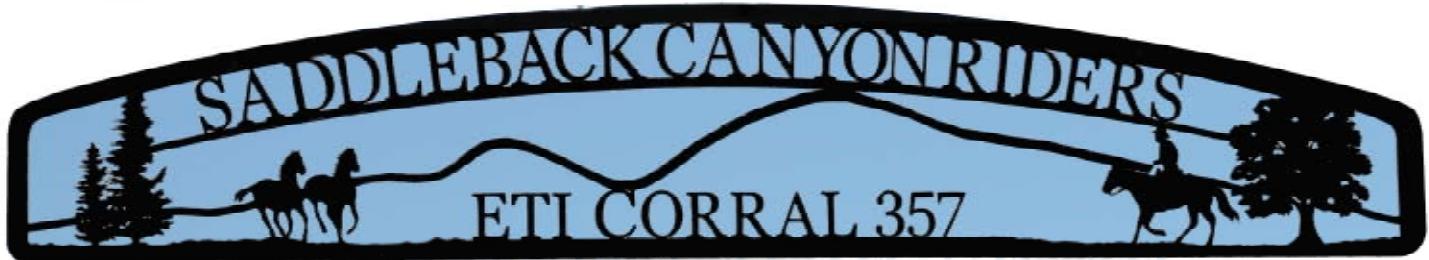
SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS: \$10,712.45

### Less Reserves:

1.- MAU as of 03-31-2011 = 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  
\$ 9,932.56



## 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

