



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY RICK BALTHASER

### RICK'S 'RAMBLINS'

Howdy Saddleback Canyon Riders!

Ahhhhhh Juuuuuuune! ... Warm SUMMER days! ... Beautiful, pleasant evenings ... I see my neighbors ... we shake our heads in unison, smile, and then acknowledge that we are truly living in paradise!

I have been around a lot of family lately and it's been really sweet. My lovely niece Morgan just graduated from UCI and we celebrated (although it was a bit painful to have to miss what I heard was a really great Play Day and Movie Night in the Park) by cruising around Newport Bay on a party boat that was fully stocked with family, friends, a Mexican buffet and no shortage of margaritas and cerveza.

We met Martha (one of Morgan's very nice school friends) and quickly learned that she grew up in the Carmel area, and that she did A LOT of riding (mostly English) before moving to Orange County to attend school. Karen and I casually mentioned, "come on out for a trail ride in our little corner of paradise". So five days later Martha and I enjoyed a wonderful three hour ride on some of the finest trails that our beautiful O'Neill Park has to offer. Martha turned out to be a very accomplished, gentle, caring kind of rider (exactly the kind of rider that we like to have on our horses). As she was leaving, she casually mentioned "NOW I'm going to be on a three day HORSE HIGH!" ... That simple comment made my day and reminded me that our wonderful horses are hands down one of the best subscription drugs on the market. ... So listen to your Dr. Rick: "Take a wonderful, anxiety-

reducing, meditative, all-natural 2-3 hour ride, and call me in the morning!"

Hey! ...Happy belated Father's Day to ALL of our Members that are Fathers, and of course their Fathers in turn. As I get to better know our members, I can't help but take pride in knowing that this is a club that embraces traditional family values, and frankly is overflowing with old school 'cowboy' integrity. While the world seems to get more and more obsessed with superficial celebrities and their ridiculous, juvenile behavior, we can be content knowing that we have REAL friends in our cool little club ... friends that will have your back for the rest of your life.

And speaking of Fathers, as I wrap this little ramblin' article up, Karen is efficiently buzzing around the Big B Ranch (man did I hit the jackpot with this wonderful woman), getting us ready for a four-day Balthaser Family Reunion at a beautiful beach house in Oceanside to celebrate my Dad's 80th Birthday.

It should be a really fun get together, with family coming in from San Diego, Claremont, Santa Cruz and Laramie, Wyoming.

As I don't seem to possess much in terms of common sense 'filtering', and am probably doing this against even my own admittedly flawed personal judgment, I'm going to wrap 'er up with a (by ALL standards ... bad) poem that I wrote to commemorate my dad's 80th Birthday ... (please enjoy ... lol):

#### A Sweet Birthday Poem

With this silly poem I humbly do say  
Together, let's celebrate your eightieth Birthday!  
*(continued on page 2)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

*It's a time to rejoice  
And a time for respect ...*

*But Dad, let's get real  
It's a time to REFLECT.*

*When I was a teen  
I gave you some grief.*

*Well, maybe a LOT  
But, I'll keep this quite brief.*

*I hit a car with a wall  
Burned some valves in the boat ...*

*Broke my jaw on a boot  
And sowed ... maybe ... an oat.*

*Dad you're pretty amazing  
And you've taught me a lot ...*

*I've learned right from wrong  
And to never smoke pot.*

*Your undying love has made my life rich  
In fact, I've fathered my own sons ...*

*Man, payback's a bitch!*

(Thank you for letting me share that literary jugger-naut with ya' all, and I only ask that you PLEASE have the decency to not laugh directly to my face ... behind my back is totally acceptable though ...)

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	
July	4	Monday	July 4th Parade/ 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
Aug.	4	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
		Saturday	Pancake Fund Raiser	5:30AM	Rancho Santa Margarita	Debbie (949)244-0670
	11	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	13	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
	27	Saturday	Month End Ride	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200



### PANCAKE TIME BY DEBBIE KELLY

Do you know what August means for the club? It means Pancakes! That's right-it's one of the biggest fundraisers (and "fun-raisers")

of the year. That much fun takes lots of help so I'll give you the date and time. If you can help just email me at rileyboy1@cox.net. The breakfast is Saturday

August 6th in RSM at 5:30 am (were back home and back in bed around 10am). We set up Friday evening around 6:00pm and sometimes even get dinner served by the evening caterers. Yummy! The event is the Great Rancho Campout and is presented by SAM-LARC. So mark you calendar and keep an eye out for more details!



## PLAYDAY RECAP JUNE 10TH 2011

BY JAMES M. IACONO

As spring folded into summer, 10 enthusiastic riders came out to O'Neill Park Arena on Saturday, June 10th to test their skills across

5 challenging events. The events tested horse and rider's speed, agility, and composure. Two new events were introduced- the Quadrangle and The Big T, and both received favorable reviews. The arena area featured our new bleachers positioned on the south side of the arena, and spectators were rewarded with center arena seats in the shade. Thank you ETI Trail Maintenance Crew!

As we entered the post Anthony and Rikilyn era (we miss them both dearly), there was a scramble for the top spots in all events. Individual events were won by Patti Gretzler (Poles and the Big T), Jim Iacono (Barrels), and Jaimie Schicht (Quadrangle). Patti Gretzler took home the high Point trophy with her champion steed Oreo. Congratulations Cowgirl! Once again, a traditional western barbecue followed the competition and was offered to riders and the community alike. Thanks to all the volunteers that make these events a showcase in the canyon.

*See Playday Photos on pages 4&5*



## PATRONIZE OUR PARK CONTEST

UPDATE BY KAREN HOPKINS

Equestrian Trails 357, Saddleback Canyon Riders of Trabuco Canyon has called O'Neill Regional Park home for over 20 years. The club

has been dedicated to patrolling the Arroyo, maintaining Vista trail, the Equestrian camp ground, and arena. With a little more incentive this year, the club is recording an impressive amount of hours in the park. Starting in March, President Rick Balthaser created a contest called "Patronize our Park" as a reminder to members to record volunteer hours. During the year there are small monthly prizes with the grand prize an engraved trophy that will be passed to the member who has the most hours each year. So far, Rick

Balthaser, Debbie Kelly and Bekah Segien have been recognized with frozen yogurt gift certificates for their hours. Twenty four of ETI's members have patrolled the park by foot or on horseback, done trail maintenance, picked up trash, and worked on improving the arena. They are encouraged to report wildlife sightings, and illegal or dangerous situations to the park ranger. For the year 2010, ETI 357 reported a total of 375 volunteer hours to the park. By making sure hours are logged in a mail box in the park, so far this year through May, ETI has reported 422 hours and there are still seven months to go! Keep up the great work!



## TRAIL BOSS REPORT

BY JIM SCHICHT

We had a great month end ride, destination Cooks Corner, to close out the month of May. We had a good showing with Debbie Kelly,

Jamie Schicht, Evelyn Ortega, Rick Balthaser and his better half Karen, who did great on her first Cooks ride. Dave and Susan Seroski were there to support us and help with the horses. We had a good lunch and

music while Cooks filled up with the weekend bikers who were enjoying our horses being there. Everyone had a great time and we miss those who were unable to ride with us. Jeff and Debbie Kelly are doing a great Job on trail maintaince and park cordination.

Keep up the great efforts in riding and participating in our awards programs.

# PLAYDAY PHOTOS

(BY DAVE SEROSKI)



# PLAYDAY PHOTOS

(BY DAVE SEROSKI)



# IN THE SADDLE

KRISTEN HOLDEN, INTERVIEWED BY DEBBIE KELLY

When I met with Kristen Holden to interview her for the July edition of "In the Saddle", I did not realize I would find myself so intrigued with her story. I met Kristen close to three years ago when she moved her horse Mocha next to my horse Riley, and we spent some time getting acquainted. We would ride together and sometimes just hang out at the stable spending time with our horses. We talked about a lot of different things like our children, horses, jobs, etc.; but never did our childhood or family history come up. So when I asked her where she was born as my first inquiry, you can imagine my surprise when she said she was born and raised in Taiwan. Kristen being a blond haired blue eyed Californian, I fully expected her birthplace to be one of our coastal cities; or maybe even be a Valley Girl! I found a much broader cultural background (Although we California natives do have a great deal to boast about).

## ***How did your parents end up in Taiwan?***

They actually met in China. My father was a pilot for the Army Air Corps during WWII and was sent to China at the end of the war. When civil war broke out between the Communist and the Nationalist parties in China, my father was the pilot who moved the Chinese president Chiang Kai-shek to Taiwan along with the entire Chinese government.

## ***How did your parents meet?***

My mother was Russian. Her family had fled Russia during the Bolshevik Revolution in the early 1900s. They escaped Russia through Manchuria and settled along the coastal area of China, where she was born. My parents met when my father returned to China where he was assigned. They later relocated to Taiwan where I was born and where we lived until my father passed away when I was eleven years old. Then my mother, my two sisters, my little brother and I moved to London.

So you saw more of the world in your childhood than most of us see in a lifetime.

## ***How long did you live in London?***

Only a year then we moved to the DC area of Potomac, Maryland. I went to junior high and high school there; then on to the University of Maryland.

## ***How did you end up in the OC area and how long have you lived here?***

I decided after college to finally get away from the gloomy weather and head for some sunshine. I loaded up my car and headed to California; alone. I made some stops along the way, including Tucson to see a friend. One evening when I was out with my friend I returned to her apartment to find the entire side of my car smashed in. I had to wait for two weeks while

it was repaired. I ended up in Laguna Hills in 1982 and have been in the area since. I have changed careers a couple of times since then, but am now a special education teacher at a small school district in Anaheim.

## ***I know you have two grown kids. Tell us about them.***

My daughter, Cammie Terry lives with me and sometimes rides with me. She has her AA from Saddleback and will be going to Northridge in the Fall to get her Speech and Language degree, My son, Ian Terry lives nearby with his dad. Ian and Cammie are outdoors people and enjoy boating or dune bugging with their dad and skiing or boarding in the snow with me.

## ***So now the big question. How did you come about owning a horse?***

Maryland was horse country, and as many young girls did, I rode. I took lessons and competed in shows and in jumping. But I never owned my own horse. A few years ago I considered (continued on page 7)



## IN THE SADDLE (CONTINUED)

having a horse of my own now that the kids were grown and I was at a place in my life where I could actually offer a horse the time that is required. I began by leasing first, then began the quest of finding and purchasing my very first horse.

### ***Was Mocha the first horse you checked out?***

No. I looked around for some time. I had called about him but the seller was uncertain if she would be able to show him to me the day I was going to be in the area. She lived in Phelan but was planning to bring him to Redlands to show him. I never heard back from her. We went to see two horses in the Moreno Valley area that day. We ruled one out as she bucked as soon as the saddle was put on her, and the other one I was interested in, a pretty paint mare, had sold. Discouraged with the search, Cammie and I were

about to head home when the Phelan lady called me on my cell. She was in Redlands with Mocha and only one exit away! When we walked up to the paddock Mocha was in, he walked right up to us and stretched his head out to greet us. That sealed the deal and he became my horse that day. We have been enjoying each other since and I cherish my time with him.

It is said they choose us. Kristen's story lends truth to that. We can learn so much about our friends and neighbors just by listening to them. When I interviewed Kristen we were outside under an oak tree at Live Oak Stables. It was very quiet and not too many people around. Mocha was turned out in the larger arena there, but he chose just to hang out close to us. It seemed like he was actually eavesdropping on us. I think he was waiting for Kristen to tell his story!



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

***Very Expired (sorry, last newsletter!!)*** Fred & Helen Bruns 2/11

***Expired:*** Rod Van Sickle 4/11, Rick & Karen Balthaser 6/11, Schicht Family 6/11, Bob & Spike Wilks 6/11, Alberta Morehouse 6/11

***Expiring:*** Kristen Holden 7/11, Trisha Laird 7/11, Michelle Prieto 7/11, Debi Geary 7/11, Melba & Roy Slavin 7/11

***Welcome New Members!!:*** Cindy Stallings

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

## TURN YOUR UNUSED EQUINE ITEMS INTO CASH!!

Trabuco's own Canyon Feed and Tack will soon be providing a new service. Starting July 2011 they will be opening a consignment store! Right now you can make a list of the items you are ready to part with; outgrown equipment, tack, clothing, jewelry, collectables etc... with the amount you would like to get for it. Next, call to make an appointment to bring it in. Watch for the grand opening of the consignment store in July. Not only can you recycle your items for cash, you might find some new goodies for yourself! Canyon Feed and Tack 30555 Trabuco Canyon Rd. STE 102 (949) 766-2825.

Karen Hopkins  
Secretary



## 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

