



# Corral News

August 2011  
Volume 18, Issue 8



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY RICK BALTHASER

### RICK'S 'RAMBLINS'

Howdy and happy summer Saddleback Canyon Riders!

It's hard to believe it's August already. This summer is going by faster than Patty Gretzler around a barrel! But what a great summer it's been so far for our club!

A group of us got together in late June for an impromptu movie night out and saw the documentary 'Buck' in Irvine. If you haven't seen this movie, you owe it to yourself to check it out. It's a truly terrific and memorable film with a great message. Just another subtle reminder of the special relationship that we have with our equine friends.

O'Neill Park is looking great with a number of the planned equine related improvements completed.



Some of the improvements; four new stalls in the campground, seven new hitching posts scattered throughout the park, railroad ties around the round pens, fresh sand and DG in the arena and stalls, etc. Watch for more to come. I would like to extend a spe-

cial thanks to Ranger Lorrie, her wonderful staff and to all those in our club who worked hard to help plan and make these improvements a reality.

We enjoyed a fantastic 4th of July Parade! Everyone looked sharp decked out in Red, White, Blue and



Camo (on riders and horses) to support the parade's theme of honoring those who serve. Special thanks to Jimmy I and Karen for their hard work, planning and creativity! Our participation earned us a well deserved first place trophy in the Equine Division. But wait .... it gets even better ... we also took home the highly coveted Sweepstakes Trophy! ... So, congrats to all who showed up, participated and helped us bring home the gold!

And ... wait for it ... Debbie Kelly won the parade's special award for her much deserved community service to our canyon. Way to go Debbers! ... No one deserves this more than you!

The parade was followed up by an amazing 4th of July party at the Gomez's casa. Fun friends! ... Fantastic food! ... Mind-expanding Margaritas ... Melodicous music ... (Thanks Jason Richards!) ...High-spirited Horseshoes... (continued on page 2)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

... and Fabulous Fireworks! Thank you Rich and Patti for your wonderful hospitality!!!

We also enjoyed a really nice movie night at the park in July with a great turnout, a really good movie (Hatchi: A Dog's Tale) and smores around the campfire to boot!

And there's more great stuff that's comin'! Like a full moon ride, members meeting in the park and much, much more! Shoot man ... we even have some fun new bumper stickers to help promote our club!

So stay tuned for email updates on all of the fun upcoming events! Man, I loooooooove summer time!

Take care, stay cool 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
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
Sept.	1	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	8	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	24	Saturday	Month End Ride	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
Oct.	6	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	8	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
	13	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	22	Saturday	Buckle Play Day	8:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim (949) 459-7742
	29	Saturday	Costume Ride	10:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200

# HORSE OF THE MONTH

Thanks to Dave Seroski for spotting the horse of the month. They grow 'em big in Livermore. This 51.3 hand paint horse lives close to the Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Science Center.



<b>Horse:</b>	B%D's Comet
<b>Location:</b>	Livermore , CA
<b>Price:</b>	\$1000
<b>Breed:</b>	Palomino
<b>Color:</b>	Palomino
<b>Gender:</b>	Gelding
<b>Birth:</b>	5/5/1994
<b>Markings:</b>	Blaze, white hoof
<b>Height:</b>	51.3 hh
<b>Weight:</b>	1350 lbs.
<b>Registry:</b>	Paint
<b>Reg. #:</b>	0



## 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

What great Sunday ride at the end of June. It reminded me of the many western movies where people gather and ride off to

Church. The day was clear the trails were good all the way to the Trabuco Church located on a hill. The only excitement was this rattlesnake basking in the sun on the trail. Riders were Jamie, Bekah, Sheila, Jimmy I,

Kristen Holder and your trail boss. The scenery was great and you could see forever, the church was filled with people in cowboy boots and hats. The coffee and pastries after the service were refreshing. The ride back down the bottom of the park, was shaded cool and easy. Everyone enjoyed the ride and day in nature.

*See Photos on page 7*



## FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND

BY DEBBIE KELLY

Farewell to our friend, Lawson Gage (Mickey) Weldon - 1936-2011

There is a common thread for those of us who knew Mickey; his passing has left us with a deep sense of loss for a friend and comrade. As a former ETI President, Vice President, and Member at Large, Mickey demonstrated his passion for friends, horses, and his fellow members. He led with a finesse that allowed the club to follow with ease. Mickey found a way to bring humor to tough situations and somehow make them seem less significant. He had a smile that wouldn't quit and it was contagious. He was just always so positive. Mickey was part of the core of the club. He would work and play alongside us at events and on rides whenever he could. His infectious humor would make our job more enjoyable when he was present. And then there was Scout. Mickey and Scout were synonymous.

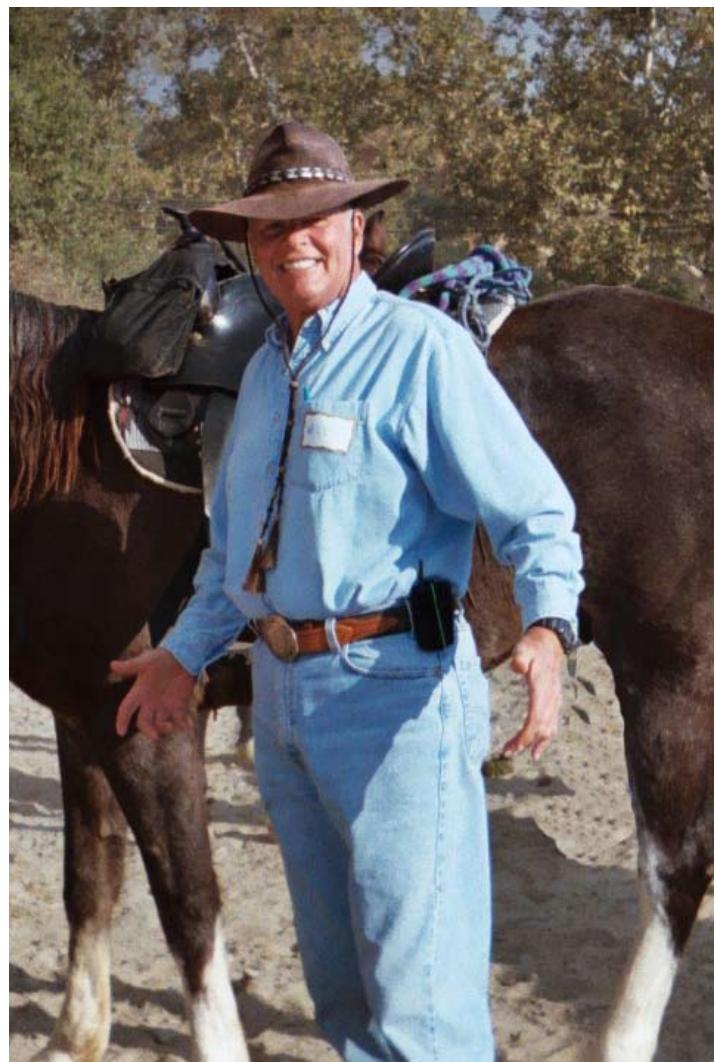
Mickey purchased Scout about the time I met him and he loved that horse in ways some of us could not put our mind around. Scout had his own idea of being a horse; and that did not always include letting Mickey get on his back or stay there once he



mounted. But Mickey was patient and usually got his way in the end. Of course Scout would let us all know he wasn't happy about it. There were mishaps and the stories that go with them would fill this newsletter. Those stories are now memories and though it is bittersweet I am so thankful for the times we all had together and how they are woven into part of this

club's history. And we did love Scout—because Mickey loved him.

Mickey was in the car sales industry and we all know how hard that was hit by the recession. As a result, Mickey began spending less time with his equestrian friends and with Scout and more time working. Those of us close to the situation know how Mickey struggled with that and how that led him to part with his horse. Scout was eventually turned out at a large ranch where he would not be confined to a stall.



Mickey shared so much of himself with us all; it is difficult to imagine he had another side to his life that we were not part of. Mickey was married to his beautiful wife and partner of thirty years, Maxine. He had two daughters and two sons, one of whom is deceased, a daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren along with... (*Continued on page 5*)

## FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND (CONTINUED)

a stepdaughter and three step grandchildren. Mickey's love overflowed for his family and during the brief time we spent with them at his service, Debi G. and I agreed you could just sense how much love this family shared. It was overwhelming. Mickey also had a little dog named Hunny whom he enjoyed spending time with.



## PROUDLY WE SERVE - A TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAL HORSE BY JAMES M. IA CONO

### *Proudly We Serve - A tribute to the Americal Horse* EARNS

ETI 357 TOP HONORS in the

Trabuco Canyon 4th of July Parade

When one thinks of the sacrifices made for this country the last 2 ½ centuries, one has to consider the dedicated service shown by the Horse. Though his nature was to "flee", he often charged forward in loyal service to the patriot; the two were joined like pieces of puzzle. With that in mind, the Saddleback Canyon Riders presented the service of Equus from past to present to future, and from the nation to the community to the individual in the 2011 edition of the Trabuco Canyon 4th of July Parade. Some riders wore 19th century US cavalry duds, while others showed the familiar work of

Mickey will be missed by so many people at so many levels, as he was well loved. The footprint he left will last generations for his family and his friends will remember him as the energetic and generous man that he was.

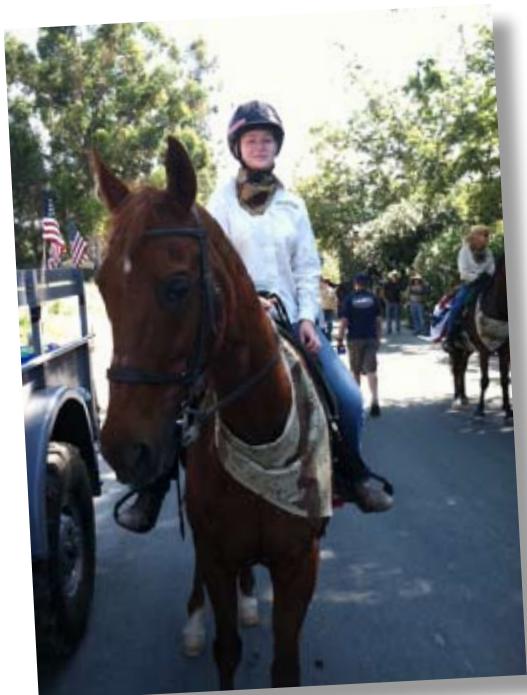
ETI in the Community today, and the rest sported matching camouflage scarf adornments with their mounts. The effort garnered not only First in the Equine Category, but overall Sweepstakes Winner as the top entry (second time in the last three years). Many thanks to Karen Balthaser for her help in directing the overall look.

The parade marchers included Rich and Patti Gomez, Rick and Karen Balthaser, Jim and Vicki Iacono, Dave and Sue Seroski, Kristen Holden, Debbie Kelly, Ashley Laird, Jim Shicht, Pam and Sydney Ragland, Christina and Robbie Stuckey. Many thanks to everyone who loves to Parade! It could not have happened without friends getting together who love horses and and love walking with them down the street! Yee haw!

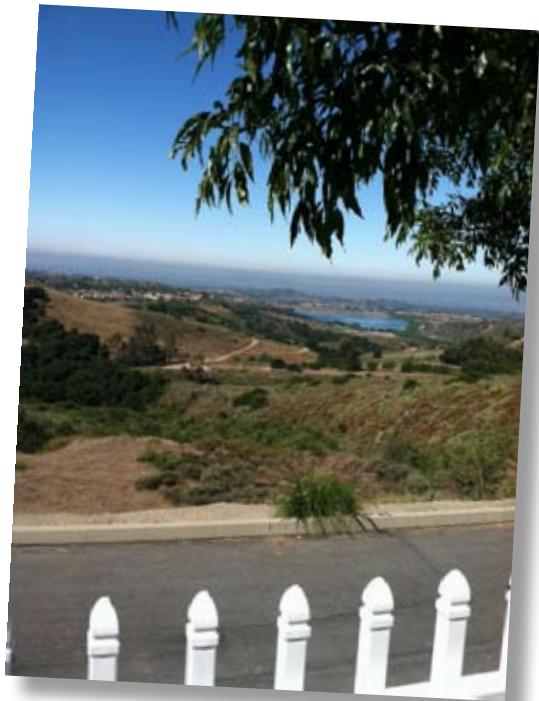


*See More Photos on page 7*

# PLAYDAY PHOTOS



# MONTH-END RIDE PHOTOS



# FOR THE RECORD

One of the Playday event winners from June was inadvertently omitted from that newsletter.

Teresa Pierce-Butler won the Step, Squeeze, Spin, and Sprint in the June ETI Payday. Congratulations!



## PARTICIPATE AND WIN (PAW) SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDER'S CONTEST

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 IA CONO

ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING June 30, 2011

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 9,506.26

DEPOSITS: Deposits Made After June Closing: \$ 0.00  
Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 10,312.45

EXPENSES:

CK#	Source	Reason	Amount	Ck#	Source	Reason	Amount
1449	J Schict	board dinner	\$30.00	1451	S Seguin	board dinner	\$30.00
1452	J Iacono	newsletters	\$111.00	1453	J Iacono	permits	\$75.00
1454	J Iacono	trophies/ribbons	\$165.40	1455	J Iacono	playday food	\$98.79
Total expenses paid in June 2011				(\$510.19)			

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

CK#	Source	Reason	Amount	Ck#	Source	Reason	Amount
1450	ETI	membership	\$72.00	1456	TC Comm	parade donation	\$100.00

Total Outstanding Checks June 2011 - i.e. Spending: \$172.00

Funds on hand in checking as of 06-30-11 \$10,140.45  
Petty Cash on Hand as of 06-30-11 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 06-30-2011: \$10,540.45

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS: \$10,540.45

Less Reserves:

1.- MAU as of 06-30-2011 = 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 \$ 9,760.56

# IN THE SADDLE

DON SEGIEN, INTERVIEWED BY DON SEGIEN

**Where were you raised?** I was born in Waltham, Massachusetts after the Second World War. I grew up in Chatsworth, California, a rural area in the northwest San Fernando Valley. I went to the same elementary school as Roy Roger's children.

**When did you first start riding horses?** Growing up in Chatsworth, horses were everywhere. There was a hitching post in front of the Bank of America, downtown. It's hard to remember life without horses.

**What is your earliest horse memory?** My friend Rick Kahanna (a childhood friend from Chatsworth, California, a rural area in the northwest San Fernando Valley) had a horse and offered to take me for a ride. It was a big horse and we were riding bare back. There was no saddle on the horse. It got a little bouncy and I slid off of the back end of the



horse. I hit hard and got the wind knocked out of me. This was quite scary as it was the first time it had happened. I started to cry, got embarrassed, and went home. I think Rick got in trouble.

**You seem to have an uncanny knowledge of horses and their behavior. How did that come about?** As I said, I grew up in Chatsworth, California, a rural area in the northwest San Fernando Valley. I went to the same elementary school as Roy Roger's children. Like anything else in life, you watch, listen, think, and ask questions.



**What is your favorite horse breed?** I like the brown ones.

**When did your wife and daughter develop interest in horses?** Sheila and I used to live in Chatsworth (a rural area in the northwest San Fernando Valley) where we would often go on walks, near Rick Kahanna's house or my old elementary school. We would usually see horses. At first, Sheila and Bekah didn't seem to have much interest but I persisted. They are both interested in riding today.

**How did you end up in Trabuco Canyon?** We moved here. Been here over ten years now.

**Your family seems to fit in with the equine community-why do you think that is?** I think Roy Rogers said it best when he said :You can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy."

**Where the father leads, the family follows?** Something like that.

**Do you ride much these days?** Not as much as I used to.

**Any advice for some of the less experienced riders?** Like anything else in life, you watch, listen, think, and ask questions.

**What do you think of our club?** I thinks it's fantastic. You'll never meet a nicer bunch of folks. You know, there's an old saying: (*continued on page 11*)

## IN THE SADDLE (CONTINUED)

"An army moves on its stomach but a train rolls on the track." I think it's that way with our club. Fine, fine bunch of folks.

**Do you like editing the newsletter?** Let me put it this way. I remember as a youngster growing up in Chatsworth, we had a local newspaper, the *Chatsworth Corral*. It wasn't much compared to a big paper like the *Green Sheet*, but it was our paper, filled with stories about our community. It was delivered by young citizens on bicycle. Bicycles made in America. This is a great country. Sure, we've got our problems, but by and large, it's filled with decent people trying to do an honest day's work, pay the bills and maybe stick a little money away for a rainy day. Citizens need information to make good decisions. Our forefathers thought so, and I think so.

**Don, thanks for sharing your wit and insights with us. Is there any thing that we as club mem-**



**bers can do to help you in this noble journalistic pursuit?** That's a good question, Don. As Roy used to say, we all need to watch, listen, think, and ask questions.



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY SHEILA SEGIEN

**Very Expired (sorry, last newsletter!!)** Rod Van Sickle 4/11

**Expired:** Schicht Family 6/11, Kristen Holden 7/11, Trisha Laird 7/11, Michelle Prieto 7/11, Debi Geary 7/11, Melba & Roy Slavin 7/11

**Expiring:** Jacqui Moreland 8/11, Evelyn Ortega 8/11

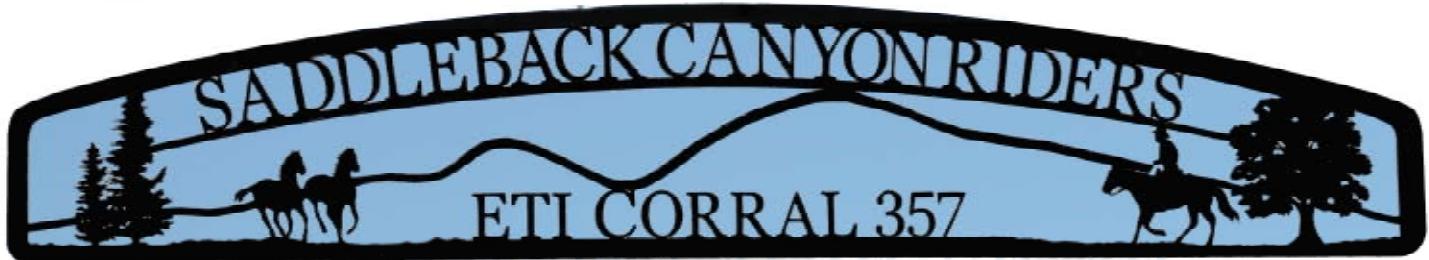
### Welcome New Members!!:

**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

