



## RICK'S 'RAMBLINS'

BY RICK BALTHASER

Howdy Saddleback Canyon Riders and Happy March! For this newsletter, I would like to share a poem with you that I like. *Make Me a Cowboy Again for a Day* Courtesy of Don Edwards' *Saddle Songs—A Cowboy Songbag*

*Backward turn backward oh time with your wheels  
Bicycles, wagons, and automobiles  
Dress me again in a big Stetson hat  
Spurs, flannel shirt and slicker and chaps  
Put a six-shooter or two in my hands  
Show me a yearlin' to rope and to brand  
Out where the sage brush is dusty and gray  
Make me a cowboy again for a day.*

*Give me a bronc that knows how to dance  
Blue roan in color and wicked of glance  
New to the feeling of bridle and bit  
Give me a quirt that will sting when it hits  
Strap on a blanket behind in a roll  
Toss me a lariat dear to my soul  
Over the trail let me gallop away  
Make me a cowboy again for a day.*

*Thunder of hoofs on the range as you ride  
Hissin' of iron and the sizzlin of hide  
The bellow of cattle and the snort of cayuse  
Longhorns of Texas as well as the duce  
Midnight stampedes and the millin' of herds  
Yells of the cowboys too angry for words  
Right in the midst of it all I would say  
Make me a cowboy again for a day.*

*Under the star-studded sky so vast  
Campfires and coffee and comfort at last  
Bacon that sizzles and crisps in the pan  
After the roundup smells good to a man  
Stories of cowboys and outlaws retold  
Over the pipes as the embers grow cold  
These are the tunes that old memories play  
Make me a cowboy again for a day*

The LS outfit at the chuck wagon having dinner in the shade of a tree, LS Ranch, Texas, 1907.

Photo by Erwin E. Smith. Courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

# CORRAL CALENDAR

Date			Event	Time	Location	Contact
March	1	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	3	Saturday	Play Day	8:00 AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim (949) 459-7742
	8	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	24	Saturday	Swallows Day Parade	6:00AM	Capistrano, Ca.	Jim (949) 459-7742
April	5	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	7	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
	7	Saturday	Moonlight ride	TBA	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
	12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	21	Saturday	Cowboy Festival	9:00AM	Santa Clarita, Ca.	Rick (949) 439-2414
	29	Sunday	Month End ride	11:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
May	3	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	10	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	18-20	Fri-Sun.	Casper's Campout	TBA	Caspers	Karen (714) 458-7772
	26	Saturday	Month End Ride to Cooks Corner	8:30AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200



## 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?** 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!



## IN THE SADDLE WITH THE KELLYS

BY KAREN AND RICK BALTHASER

“From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life”.

This simple quote seems to describe Debbie and Jeff Kelly quite nicely.

Her mission to prepare, and protect every precious life in our canyon from potential disaster earned Debbie Kelly recognition as



a treasured member of our community, an award presented to her last Fourth of July. We all know her as an extremely valued long time member of ETI 357, one whose tireless efforts have contributed greatly to the success of our horse club. What long winding trail lead her to this idyllic cabin life in Trabuco Canyon?

Deborah Johnson was born in Inglewood California, in a year you wouldn't believe judging by her youthful appearance and fun loving demeanor. Her father was a WWII vet and a merchant marine as well as union rep for the Longshoreman's union, where little two year old Debbie would attend breakfasts with her dad, and can remember sitting on uncle "Jimmy" (Hoffa's) lap. When her parents divorced, her father moved to Oahu,

where Debbie joined him for her freshman year, then returned to California to graduate from Hawthorne High. Debbie married young and has a daughter Mari, 33 and a son Scott, 42 whose daughter, Alena, loves to hang out in the canyon with her fun grandma.

When driving her older sister to charm school, the family would pass Palos Verdes where Debbie, looking out the car window, discovered the charm of HORSES! To satisfy her obsession, her doting grandfather, who worked in the LA stockyards on Union Street, would saddle up a little horse named Shorty, and lead her around the fragrant cows and trains. To further fuel her interest, her uncle Salty would let her ride his two spirited stallions, King and Rex who he rode in the Ros Parade. Debbie, having no formal training, learned from experience, but not without occasional unscheduled dismounts. Life went on.

When Debbie was in her early forties she woke up one morning and realized that there was one thing missing in her life ...HORSES! She had a friend from church who boarded her Arabians at (continued on page 3) what is known as "The Taco Bell House"; Don Carr's home on Trabuco Oaks Dr. She started coming out and riding Billy and Ollie with her friend. Although she knew nothing about



the care of horses she soon became totally immersed. Big life changes found her single

## IN THE SADDLE WITH THE KELLYS (CONTINUED)

and living in the guest house. She was mucking, feeding, and caring for fourteen horses twice a day and working full time for Saddleback Memorial Hospital. Looking back, she is grateful for the healing power of that experience. Of course, it wasn't long before her very own first horse found her. Jesse was a



twenty year old Quarter horse who took very good care of her

beginning rider.

Jeff Kelly was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Bethlehem has the unique distinction of being known as Christmas City, USA. Jeff's father was in the automotive after-market business, and the family moved quite a bit as Jeff was growing up. Jeff lived in Chicago, New Jersey and Pittsburgh before moving to El Toro in 1965. Jeff served in the Army from '70 to '74 that included a 32 month stint in Germany working with Pershing Tactical Nuclear Missiles. When Jeff returned to California, an opportunity to help kids presented itself. Jeff welcomed the challenge and worked as a Teachers Aide for Special Needs kids. After this unique experience, Jeff moved to Oceanside and settled into his primary career with the El Toro Water District. Jeff is the proud father of Joe, who lives in Washington

State and is a veteran of the war in Iraq, Caitlin, who is attending college in Hawaii, and he's a grandfather.

In 1994 a mutual friend introduced Jeff and Debbie. Jeff was immediately intrigued by the cute, horse-loving canyon woman. And as a bonus, he knew that his parents would like this sweet person.

Debbie joined ETI in 1994, and Jeff joined in 1995. Her first big (*continued on page 5*) event was the Ride for the Hills in 1995. She became lead coordinator for a newly formed



Mounted Assistance Unit. MAU was in the process of setting up an evacuation plan for Trabuco Canyon. Debbie and Jeff took classes with the Humane Society in rescuing and sheltering animals. A presentation at Fire Sta-

## IN THE SADDLE WITH THE KELLYS (CONTINUED)

tion 18 after the 2003 firestorms in San Diego made it clear how many lives could have been saved if the community was prepared.

In 2002 Jeff and Debbie moved into Graves Yard, one of the canyon's original cabins, on the corner of Trabuco Oaks and Adkinson Lane, and in 2005 they got married. Another event occurred in 2005 that would have a major impact on

both of their lives, Hurricane Katrina. Through her employer, Debbie was able to lend assistance in Louisiana for two weeks. Jeff ended up staying for two months and subsequently returned for an additional two weeks. When asked about Katrina, Debbie shared; "If we bring animals into this life, then we owe them care their whole life". Debbie continues this mission by continuing to spread the word on animals needing forever homes and volunteering regularly at Hanaeleh, our local horse rescue. Jeff looked back on Katrina as a once in a lifetime experience with amazing energy and camaraderie.

On a larger scale, Debbie said helping at Katrina reinforced the importance of being prepared for disaster. It gave the ETI members who assisted in Louisiana the credibility to present their emergency plan to the Trabuco Canyon community and agencies. Two years later Debbie's evacuation plan was ready to test; with the first equine drill in

2006, followed by the 2007 drill and of course the 'real world' application of the plan during the Santiago Fires.



Jeff and Debbie are integral to the core and success of ETI 357. Jeff has served as Trail Boss for eight years, and Debbie for two. Jeff currently serves as the board appointed Trail Maintenance Supervisor. Debbie

organizes our annual pancake breakfast, an instrumental ETI 357 fundraiser, as well as many other behind the scenes efforts. Both Debbie and Jeff are recipients of ETI 357s prestigious President's Award.

They both love living in Trabuco Canyon and they ride their two Tennessee Walkers, Riley and Nixon often, with Jeff frequently heading out solo on Nixon for 6-10 hour 'meditative' treks deep into O'Neill Park.

If it is what we GIVE that makes a life, then our wonderful friends and fellow ETI members Jeff and Debbie Kelly are blessed with a very rich life indeed.

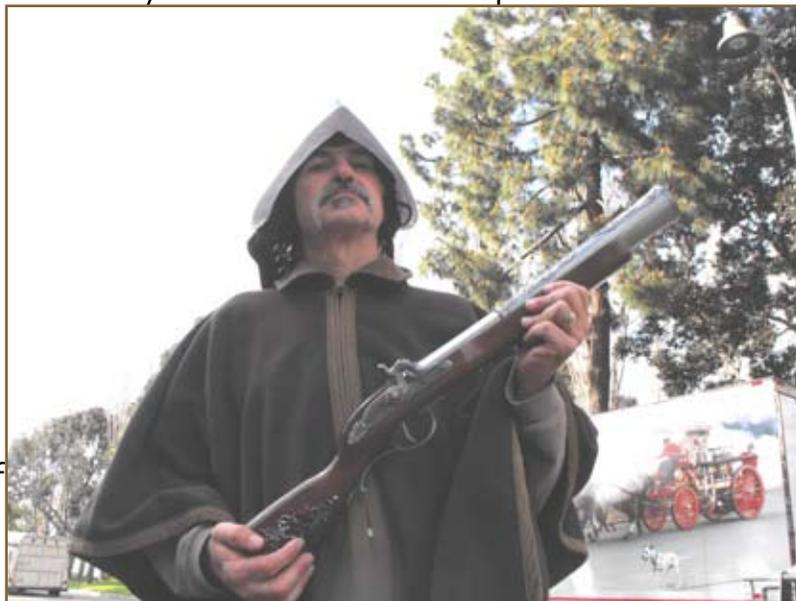


# ETI 357 ON THE MARCH

BY JAMES M. IACONO

## SWALLOWS DAY PARADE COMING MARCH 24TH

Have you ever wanted to step back in time and ride the streets of one of the oldest towns in California? The city of San Juan gives us that opportunity every year for their annual Swallows Day Parade, the largest and longest running non-motorized parade in America. Ride past the old Mission, and down Camino Capistrano, just as the vaqueros of early California did in the 1700s.



The history of Trabuco Canyon is forever linked to the town of San Juan Capistrano. Back in 1769, Gaspar de Portola led a band of explorers up San Juan Creek to the foothills of the resource rich Santa Ana Mountains, with Saddleback Mountain being the jewel of the range. There they hunted, fished, mined for gold, and sought an overland pass. While camping in one of the foothill canyons, one of Portola's men lost his musket, which was

not recovered for almost two centuries. During their fruitless search in 1767, to honor the spot of the lost musket, they coined

the name of the canyon. "Trabuco" is the Spanish word for musket, and is home to the Saddleback Canyon Riders.

The Riders will once again ride in the Swallows Day Parade, March

24th, 2012. Be a part of history and join the march back to San Juan Capistrano, where we will carry a replica of the lost trabuco from 1769.

Contact Jim Iacono, aka *Jimmy I the Conquistador*, for more information.

Phone: 714-612-1789

E-mail: [jiacono@fontissolutions.com](mailto:jiacono@fontissolutions.com)

Don't let history pass you by!

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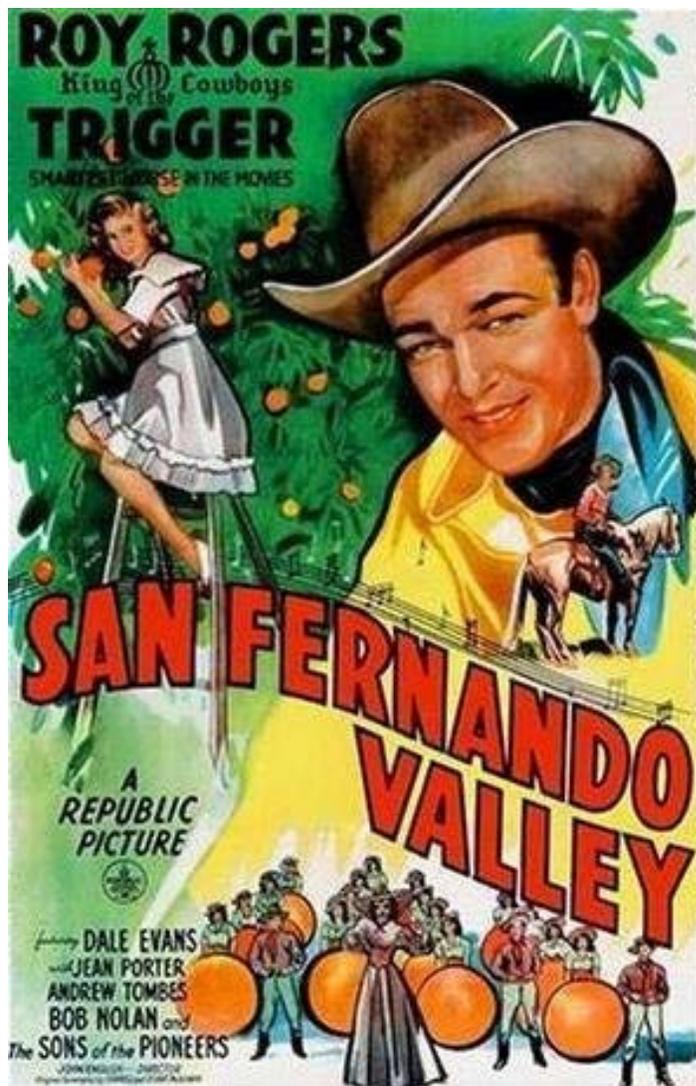


## A REEL COWBOY AND A REAL COWBOY

BY DON SEGIEN

Not many people know this, but I grew up in Chatsworth, a rural area in the northwest San Fernando Valley. Although it's now known as the porn capital of the United States, it was once a wonderful place to live. Sure, we had the Manson Family, but what neighborhood doesn't play host to a sociopathic killer every now and then. Mr. Ed,

Colt Peacemakers, sang, and played guitar. We saw him outsmart the bad guys, whup the bullies, and win the



Jerry Lewis, Clark Gable, and Frank Sinatra had places there and so did the King of The Cowboys, Roy Rogers. The Roy Rogers I grew up with was a great guy. He was an actor, singer, and an avid hunter. He rode a horse, carried two pearl-handled

girl. Watching his old movies makes us long for a simpler time - when the good guys wore the white hats and did the right thing. Roy Rogers was a *reel* cowboy.

The poem Rick selected for his *President's Message* was written by Don Edwards. He's a real cowboy. After chasing rodeo and working ranches in (Continued on page 8)

## A REEL COWBOY AND A REAL COWBOY (CONTINUED)



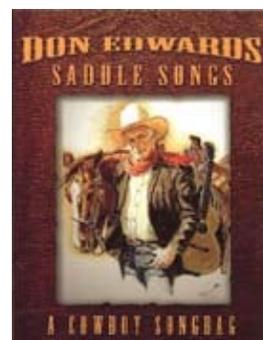
Texas and New Mexico, Don pursued a career as an actor, singer, and stuntman. He played Smokey in Robert Redford's film *The Horse Whisperer* and was featured on the soundtrack.



I caught up with Don and his wife at the 2011 NAMM Show (a music industry trade show) and had a chance to talk to him about guitars, cowboys and western music.

What does all this have to do with life in ETI Corral 357? I'm glad you asked. If you recall, Steve Conkling's wonderful *History of Trabuco Canyon* article, in our January newsletter detailed Gaspar De Portola's 1769 expedition - the one where they lost the Trabuco. The expedition continued north and on August 8th, crossed the Newhall Pass at Eslmere canyon. That is the present day Santa Clarita.

Don will be performing at the 2012 *Cowboy Festival* April 21-22 at Melody Ranch, in Santa Clarita, CA. A group of ETI Corral members will likely be attending. Talk to Rick or Karen Balthaser for information.



For more information about Don Edwards, visit [www.DonEdwards-Music.com](http://www.DonEdwards-Music.com). Don's book, *Saddle Songs, a Cowboy Songbag* is available on his website or from Amazon.com.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY VICKI IACONO

ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING January 31,2012

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 9,919.89

DEPOSITS:

Deposits Made After January Closing: \$0.00 \$ 0.00

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 9,919.89

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1497	J Iacono	Xmas party	\$240.00

Total expenses paid in – January 2012 (\$240.00)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Total Outstanding Checks January 1-31-2012 - i.e. Spending: (\$ 0.00)

Funds on hand in checking as of 1-31-2012 \$ 9,679.89

Petty Cash on Hand as of 1-31-2012 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 1-31-2012: \$10,319.89

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:

Less Reserves:

1.- MAU as of 1-31-2012 (\$ 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 \$ 9,300.00



## **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