



JUNE 2012

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 6



## RICK'S 'RAMBLINS'

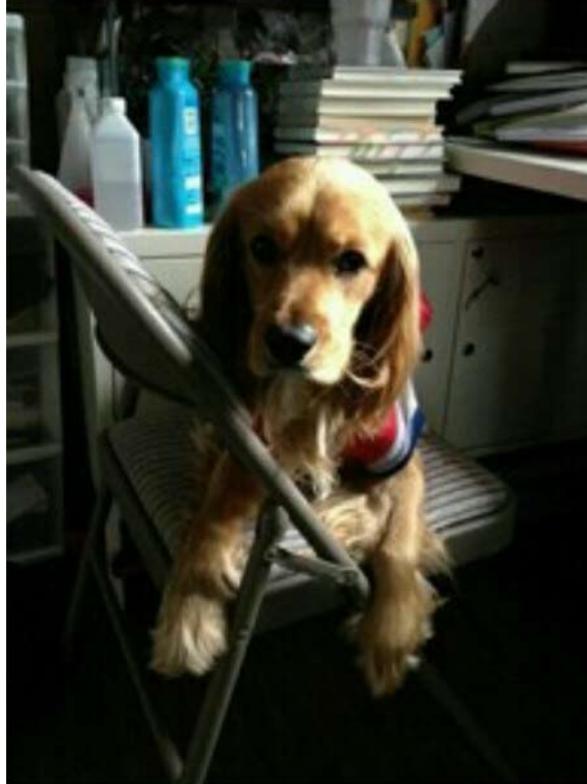
BY RICK BALTHASER

### THE SERENDIPITOUS SAGA OF SAMWORTHINGTON

My wife Karen and I were definitely NOT considering adding another animal to our menagerie of critters that included our two very sweet horses, two wonderful dogs and three (hmmmm... what's a nice adjective?) feathery chickens. That said, a totally unforeseen and serendipitous mix of karma, dogma, timing, chance, fate and a fair amount of blind luck all magically blended together to create a brand new family member at the Big B Ranch!

What follows are the sequence of events as I understand them based on the conversations I had with a few of the people involved.

In February, Sydney, a very sweet USC college graduate rescued a four month old puppy from the tough streets of downtown Los Angeles. This puppy, which appeared to be a Cocker/Golden Retriever mix was dehydrated, emaciated, matted and was found by Sydney cowering under a car on the street. Sydney named this little guy Ping Gau after a city in China that she had visited that happened to have a lot of stray dogs. And even though she was just a tourist, Sydney wished she could have rescued one of these strays. In the months that followed her rescue of Ping, Sydney rehabilitated him, loved on him, and was even able to put some much needed weight on him.



Then in May, Sydney received some dreaded news regarding her Mother's health. Her Mother's cancer had progressed to Stage Three, and Sydney would have to travel home to Chicago to help take care of her. Taking Ping with her was not a viable option, so Sydney placed Ping with the South Los Angeles Animal Services and Shelter, hoping that he would be adopted and go to a good home. Shortly after doing this she learned that this particular shelter (although certainly having good intentions and wanting their animals to be adopted) eliminated the animals after a certain amount of time if they are not adopted, and that Ping's fate was now uncertain at best.

Sydney was desperate to get Ping out of the facility, but unfortunately did not possess the funds to do so (hopefully dispelling some misconceptions of USC being the 'University of Spoiled Children').

A chance meeting with a kind female stranger named Amanda offered Sydney some much needed solace and potential new options for Ping. On Tuesday, May 29th, Amanda emailed an acquaintance that worked with dogs, Sam Worthington, that there was a very sweet (*Continued on page 2*)

## RICK'S 'RAMBLINS' (CONTINUED)

Cocker/Golden puppy that was in need of rescuing. Sam immediately offered to pay the necessary fees to help get Ping out of the facility, so that at a minimum, this cute puppy had a more certain future. Sam in turn told an acquaintance he knew from his local dog park, Ken Weiss. Ken, who although lives in Long Beach is a member of ETI 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders. Ken immediately emailed the info on this puppy to Debbie Kelly, who in turn, emailed it out to all of her animal loving friends.

When I opened Debbie's email I'm not sure exactly what came over me. All I know, is that I called Karen and told her to go on-line, but I didn't tell her why. Karen was coincidentally already on-line and immediately responded with "I'm looking at him right now".

On Wednesday, May 30th, I drove up to South Central LA to get a look at Ping, and on Friday June 1st (the day after my birthday) I met Sydney at the Shelter, filled out the paperwork, paid the necessary fees and then drove Ping to his new home in Trabuco Canyon.

He is currently doing really well and getting along just fine with his new friends Buddy and Lucy. We decided to give him a new 'more Canyon-like' name: Samworthington (in honor of, well ... you know ...) or Sammy or Sam for short.

We called Sydney to let her know that Ping was doing great, and somewhat tentatively let her know that we renamed him Sam for his new life in the canyon. There was a pause ... then Sydney told us that she was actually going to name him Sam (after another beloved dog she had owned and unfortunately lost) but didn't do so because it was "just too soon". But, she did tell us that she loved the fact that we decided to name him Sam!

So ... Samworthington, for such a little guy, you have already brought Karen and I a very serendipitous mix of good karma, true fate and pure joy .... Or, as I like to call it ... life.

PS – I would like to thank Sydney, the South Los Angeles Animal Services and Shelter, Amanda, the real Sam Worthington, Ken Weiss and Debbie Kelly for all caring enough to make a difference! ... PSS - Sam wanted me to mention that perfectpetrescue.com was also standing by to assist if necessary, so feel free to check out their website.

Hope to see ya' on the trails!

Rick Balthaser

Cell: 949 439-2414

RBalthaser@aol.com

Ad Size	Member	Non-Member
Full Page	\$45	\$75
Half Page	\$30	\$50
1/4 Page	\$15	\$25
1/8 Page	\$5	10

### Your Ad Here!

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, contact our Scribe, Don Segien, Via email at SDSegien@mac.com.

# CORRAL CALENDAR

Date			Event	Time	Location	Contact
June	2	Saturday	Play Day	8:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim (949) 459-7742
	7	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	9	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	8:00 AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
	14	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	17	Sunday	Cowboy Church @ TCCC	Postponed. New time TBA		
	30	Saturday	Month End	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
July	4	Wednesday	July 4th Parade	8:30AM	Trabuco Canyon, Ca.	Jim (949) 459-7742
	12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	14	Saturday	Movie Night	Dusk	Gomez round pen	Rick (949) 439-2414
	28	Saturday	Month End Ride	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
Aug.	2	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	11	Saturday	Pancake Fund Raiser	5:30AM	Rancho Santa Margarita	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	9	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	4	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
	31-2	Fri.-Sun.	Camp Out/Month End Ride	TBA	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim (949) 459-7742



## 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!



## CASPER'S 2012

### BY KAREN BALTHASER

For years I've heard about the fun times had by ETI 357 members camping in Casper's Wilderness Park, but it was with excited trepidation that I looked forward to our May 18th scheduled event. What if we have trouble with the trailer or the horses, or windy Ortega Highway? What if the horses are jacked up by this new location and skittish on the trail? What



if the ride is too challenging for my ability and I get in over my head? None of these worries were founded in reality. It was a BLAST!! It wasn't a very large group. The Thoburns brought their mini horse, her brother and his wife, and several of Biancas friends. Theresa is a seasoned camper who kept the young girls busy with



crafts when they weren't having fun riding horses around the camp. She was a blessing to us when our stove didn't work Sunday morning...I told Rick we have to leave NOW

because I couldn't survive without coffee. Theresa provided coffee and cooked our whole breakfast! We owe her BIGTIME. The laconos were there, and the Stuckeys and Jim Schicht came for the day. The ride was amazing! The Kelly's gave our trail boss,

Jim S advice on what trails to take and it was beautiful; meadows, forest, and nice wide trails with views that went forever. The weather was perfect. The horses seemed to love it. This little taste of horse camping left me with a desire for MORE!!! I want to go to the beach... and the mountains...and ranches...and wineries! And next time...YOU come too ok?





## MEMORIAL DAY TREK TO COOK'S

BY JAMES M. IA CONO

A group of energetic riders decided to spend their Memorial Day on a tribute to the fallen.

Nine riders began the 5 mile one-way journey to historic Cook's Corner at 9:00 a.m. on a beautiful sun-splashed day with a moment of silence

Corner kitchen provided the riders with their necessary "halftime" refreshment, while the horses grazed on what was available, and quenched their thirst with a big blue bucket of H2O. A cool breeze freshened the air on which the driving beat of Radar Love traveled. Life is good. But we acknowledge that without the brave sacrifices of all veterans, we might not be able to enjoy what God has given us here in Trabuco Canyon, "where heaven is a local call." Thank you to all who have served! (and let's not forget the role of the American horse in several conflicts throughout our history! They rescued us long before we have had to rescue them!)



for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. The weather was perfect, and the horses and riders handled all of the journey's obstacles with style and professionalism. The burgers and cool drinks from the Cooks



## MEMORIAL DAY TREK TO COOK'S (CONTINUED)





# 64<sup>th</sup> Annual ETI National Horse Show and Convention



## Horses...Generation to Generation

### Carriage Driving Show

Saturday, July 14, 2012  
Hansen Dam

### Invitational Trail Trial

Sunday, July 15, 2012  
Hansen Dam



## Horse Show and Convention July 27 - 29, 2012



## Los Angeles Equestrian Center



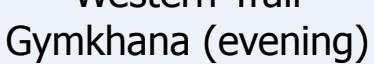
### Friday

Western Rail  
Hunters Over Fences  
Jumpers  
Western Trail



### Saturday

Western Rail  
English Flat  
Dressage  
Western Trail  
Gymkhana (evening)



### Sunday

English Flat  
Hunters Over Fences  
Jumpers



**BBQ on Friday, July 27th, 6:30pm at  
Bette Davis Park**



Jr. Ambassadors' Silent Auction  
Tickets: \$5.00



**For more information,  
see the June ETI  
National Magazine**

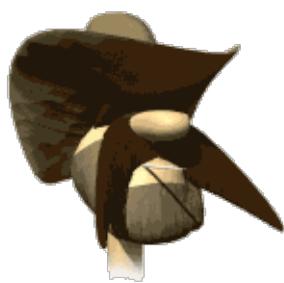


**Don't miss  
the fun!**

### Annual Contests

Barn Decorating  
Photo Poster  
Newsletter Website

For additional information or to  
volunteer, contact the ETI office at  
(818) 698-6200



# ETI 357

# Horse Playday!

**When:** Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at 9:30am  
Registration will begin at 8:30am!

Cost is \$7 per event for members and \$8 for non-members, lunch included (or just pay \$6 and eat lunch if you don't compete)

Bring someone **new** who signs up for all events, and you get 1 free event!  
Preprint your Waiver and Release form from the website to save time...

**Where:** O'Neill Regional Park Equestrian Arena

**What:** Playday Games & Western BBQ

Poles, Cloverleaf Barrels, Quad, Skill Barrels, Ribbon race

Plus special lead line events for kids!

*Any Questions Contact:* Jim Iacono 714-612-1789  
[jiacono@imgps.com](mailto:jiacono@imgps.com)

Go to [www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com](http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com) for further info



## ERT REPORT BY BY DEBBIE KELLY

This is task # 5 in a series of articles designed to help you the reader to prepare for an emergency.

### Equine Preparation:

As responsible horse owners living or stabling in a rural environment; it is imperative we prepare in advance for the safety and care of our horses during and following a small or wide scope disaster. Below you will find some helpful hints to assist you in preparing yourself or others to care for your horse. You may need to evacuate depending on the incident, or may need to shelter in place. By preparing in advance, you will be able to use your early preparation kits in either scenario. The tips outlined in these articles are designed for you to work on one or two tasks a month. It is strongly advised that you do additional research and preparation based on your own particular needs and animals.

At this time, horses can still be taken to the OC Fairgrounds in the event of a MANDATORY evacuation. If you choose to voluntarily leave you can call OC Animal Care at 714-935-6848 for alternate shelters. You can call the fairgrounds as well to see if they are accepting horses and to advise them of how many you are bringing. The number is 714-708-1588 (per the OC Animal Care website).

**Tip #1-** Coordinate in advance with your neighbors. Have each other's contact and property access information. We may need to help with their horses or other pets if they are not at home or if street access is not available. If you board your horse at a private or a commercial stable, check with the management. Make sure they have an evacuation plan and ask them to share it with you.

**Tip # 2-** Make sure you have current identification on your horses. You can use ID tags on their halters. Have halters made with their name and your phone number embroidered on them, microchip, or even duct tape wrapped around their legs with your info written on it.

**Tip # 3-** You want a minimum of three days feed stored; seven is better. In a shelter in place scenario due to an earthquake or other disaster; rural communities may be days without service or emergency response. If you have to evacuate your horses you want to take the feed with you if possible. It

may take some time to coordinate feed delivery at the shelters. Make sure hay is stored away from the property's dwelling and that bagged feed is stored in a cool, dry place. Storing hay in the garage is not recommended.

**Tip # 4-** You should count on twenty gallons of water per day per horse. This is in addition to the suggestions outlined in previous articles for your personal emergency preparedness kits. Fifteen to fifty five gallon barrels are available online and the website is listed at the end of this article.

**Tip # 5-** Many horse owners also have a horse trailer. Be sure it is in prime hauling condition. Fuel in your truck should always be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a tank. Adequate fuel is a standard with many emergency response agencies. If you do not have a trailer, be sure to connect in advance with someone who can help you out during an evacuation. This is not something you want to be doing at the last minute.

Your kit should include the following items. Keeping it in your horse trailer is preferable so you always have it with you when you are moving your horse.

Fire extinguishers will need to be checked more frequently if kept in the trailer. The chemicals will condense with movement. Keep one in your tack room as well.

Suggested kit items include water buckets, extra halters and lead ropes, medicine and instructions, ID paperwork and photo of you and your horse, feeding instructions, first aid kit (more on this in another article), flashlight with extra batteries, duct tape, permanent marker, and a change of clothing for yourself. It does not hurt to always have extra cash stored as well. If power is out then so are the ATM's.

**Bonus tip-** There is an Equine evacuation plan for Trabuco Canyon. Once that plan is activated horses can be brought to the equestrian arena at O'Neill Park for temporary sheltering or secondary evacuation.

Website references: etinational.org, survivalsolutions.com, (water barrels) and Orange County Animal Care.

Reading recommendation: "What do I do in Fire, Flood, and/or Earthquake"? (available for download on the ETI National website).



## 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