



RICK'S RAMBLIN'S

BY RICK BALTHASER

SUMMER RE-CAP!

Howdy Saddleback Canyon Riders!

Well, it sure has been a fun and productive summer ...

We had a truly great Fourth of July parade. The theme was: 'Party Like a Mayan' So we all channeled our 'inner Mayans' ... and ... We won the Grand Sweepstakes trophy as well as First Place in our division!

We had a terrific Play Day in June and good Month End Trail Rides. We got a new equestrian gate into the park installed across from Rose Canyon Rd., as well as signs on the road that warn drivers that they are approaching an equestrian crossing. We also had a very productive Trail Maintenance Day, where we created a trail from the gate to the arena. Special thanks to our Sergeant of Arms and 'Communications Coordinator, Dave Seroski for spearheading and working with the committee we formed to see this important project all the way through to its completion.

And we had a fantastic Outdoor Movie Nite! Rich and Patti Gomez hosted it at their combination Horse Shoe Pit / Cineplex where we watched the Horse Whisperer, a great movie and a fun evening with friends.

ETI 357 recently held a major fundraiser for our club, while providing a yummy breakfast for the hungry thongs of campers that attended the Great Rancho Campout. A very special thanks to Debbie Kelly and Kristen Holden for Co-chairing the event as well as all who volunteered and worked hard to make it a big success.

In the spirit of the recent Olympic competition, here's some pretty cool news, Saddleback Can-

yon Riders competed in some grueling contests against other Corrals in ETI (and there are about 35 of them). In the contest for 'Best Corral Newsletter' we got a very respectable 4th place. Congratulations to our wonderfully loquacious Scribe Don Segien for putting out a truly GREAT Newsletter. Also, thanks to all who contributed all of the wonderful articles. In the contest for 'Best Website' we landed on the podium and came home with the 'Bronze'! Congrats to our Web Miz, Judi Winkel who does a fantastic job on our website, as well as Rich Gomez who regularly provides technical consultation and help on the website.

Our POP and PAW contests have been going great ... Congratulations to Tracy Tuttle for winning June's POP contest with an amazing 31 hours logged for O'Neil Park (and Tracy's daughter Amanda logged 23 hours) ... Go Team Tuttle! And congrats to Evelyn Ortega for winning July's POP contest with 17 hours logged in the park ... way to go Evelyn!

Well, it's sure been a great summer so far ... and there's lots of fun stuff still to come for the rest of the year. So stay tuned, and keep supporting your favorite horse club ... we really appreciate all of your participation!

Hope to see ya' on the trails!

Rick Balthaser

Prez

RBalthaser@aol.com

Cell: 949 439-2414

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

BY KRISTEN HOLDEN

Saddleback Canyon Riders are starting their First Annual Membership Drive.

Current members, who bring in the most new members between August 1st and December 1st of 2012, will have the opportunity to win this beautiful hand-made appliqué wall hanging. Members should contact Kristen Holden with the names and contact information of potential new members. The winner will be announced at the annual Christmas party.

Kristen Holden

Kristen3091@gmail.com

949-444-1990



Member Profile

August 2012

Current Members 65

(includes expired members in 2012)

New Members (June/July) 3

Expired Members Prior to June 11

Jane Adair-2/2/12, Steve/Debera Conkling - 5/14/12,
Marni Nagy - 3/16/12, Pam Ragland - 5/4/12,
Brynne Van Putten - 1/3/12, Rod Van Sickle - 4/7/12,
Jennifer Walters - 1/23/12, Ken Weis - 12/11/11 ,
The Wendlands - 2/3/12

Expired Members - June 8

Cindy Stallings - 6/2, Jim and Nancy Schicht - 6/6,
Alberta and Jim Morehouse - 6/22

Expired Members - July 1

Debi Geary - 7/9

Expired Members - August 3

Kristina and Robby Stuckey - 8/5 Evelyn Ortega - 8/8

Annual Dues

Junior	\$45.00 (under 18)
Single adult	\$45.00
Family*	\$70.00 (limited to 2 adults)

*Add \$8.00 for additional family members after the first two.

CORRAL CALENDAR

Date			Event	Time	Location	Contact
Aug.	2	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	4	Saturday	Pancake Fund Raiser	5:30AM	Rancho Santa Margarita	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	9	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	11	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
	1-Sep	Saturday	Movie Night	Dusk	Equestrian Camp Site	Rick (949) 439-2414
Sept.	6	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	Gomez Round Pen	Karen (714) 458-7772
	13	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	29	Saturday	Charity Ride	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
	30	Sunday	Medieval Charity Fair	10:00AM - 3:00PM	OC Fairgrounds	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Oct.	4	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	6	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
	7	Sunday	Acorn Day	10:00AM - 2:00PM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Rick (949) 439-2414
	11	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	20	Saturday	Buckle Play Day	8:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim (949) 459-7742
	27	Saturday	Costume Ride	4:00 PM	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!



THE BEGINNING OF THE END? AN EDITORIAL ON THE SADDLE CREST PROJECT BY JAMES M. IACONO

I tend to spot over-dramatization from a mile away. It's not an effect that I gravitate towards. In fact, in most cases it pushes me to the other side of the argument. But the more I looked into the changes Rutter Development wants to push through the County Codes and Specific Plans for the development of their pet 65 home Saddle Crest project, the more I realized this could be a hinge point in the history of Orange County. To say that this could be the beginning of an end to life as we know it, is not overly dramatic. It may not happen tomorrow, next year, or even in our lifetime. But all societal trends have a beginning, and unless that beginning is quashed, it can create a bulldozer of momentum that will change the face of the Saddleback foothills for future generations.

Specifically, I must challenge the proposed amendments to change the wording of the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan and the Orange County General Plan to remove the words rural and natural. After all, these documents were created, in part, to protect those very things. The applicant has called the language in the FTSP outdated since only ten building permits have been issued since its inception 20 years ago. I am the holder of one of the ten issued permits. I think I speak for all who have gone through the FTSP process that we find it an insult and a slap in the face that the rigorous yet necessary regulations that we were forced to abide by can now be swept in the closet forever by a special interest group unwilling to modify their project to fit the terms of the plan... a plan I might say they were well aware of when they purchased the property. I knew the rules when I bought, and I worked with the FTSP Review Board and the Planning Commission to create a home that is not only consistent with the plan, but is consistent with a community that is proud of its heritage. The FTSP was meant to preserve a lifestyle and a heritage this applicant wishes to change forever. For what? For 65 homes? For other land they have set in their sights? A famous quote is apropos here... "What good is it if a man gains the world, but forfeits his soul?" And that's what we are talking about when we remove the words "natural" and "rural" from this area. Those words are the soul of the foothill commu-

nities. Those words need updating? Who can be bold enough to say that the nature God has created needs updating. I am afraid they are in our midst.

You know, this County has long attracted famous people who appreciated the open spaces and the rural lifestyle. John Wayne and Gene Autry could well have afforded to live in LA, closer to the entertainment hub with which their lives were intertwined. But they chose to lay roots here in Orange County where there were orange groves, riding trails, ranches... a rural lifestyle. Much has changed, concrete has paved over many of the orange groves. We have one slice of the county where we wish to preserve a rural lifestyle by protecting the nature that has since dwindled since the early days of this beautiful county. Are we to lose forever an identity that has been in place for a couple of centuries? I am one of those people, and I know there are several thousand of us, that have gone to great lengths to acquire a lifestyle that speaks to our nature, that speaks to some roots deeply and inherently part of our makeup, that wishes to hold on to a simpler life. A life in which kids can go grab a fresh egg in the morning from the bottom of a bantam hen, where they can raise a pygmy goat from birth and show him at the county fair, where they can set aside a video game remote and go to bed early so they can watch their gray mare push forth a foal in the dim light of dawn. This is what's at stake when we are asked to sacrifice an entire culture for a handful of tract homes, whose developer refuses to build and blend, but instead tear down and tear up a document that has helped preserve a life threatened now by extinction. As a group, we have to demand that our elected officials stand tall and put a halt to a classic case of the tail wagging the dog. To stand by and let these amendments pass will be a turning point in the history of this county. The beginning of the end to a lifestyle that at one time was our signature.

The famous Chick Hearn used to call out the Lakers when they were easily being scored on that they were employing the "matador defense." That is where the matador simply waves his cape and lets the bull charge by. We must not say "ole!", but say "No Way" to these soul-stripping amendments.



FIRE SAFETY: AUGUST TIP No.8

BY DEBBIE KELLY

As we approach the most critical heat related weather patterns of the year; this is a good time to review how we can prepare for extreme weather and keep ourselves, our pets, and our homes safe. Living in a wildfire threat area of California, it is good to recognize and respond to fire weather warnings. We often hear on the radio when a fire weather watch or warning is issued and this is something we should not ignore. If you are part of an organized Fire Watch program, you may receive emails, texts, or phone calls advising you of a possible weather event and the need for volunteers to be ready to activate. The main weather patterns that will prompt a watch and put us at the greatest risk are high temperatures partnered with low humidity, high winds (15 mph or more), and dry vegetation which give fuel to a growing wildfire. An additional risk is dry lightning strikes.

These are all conditions we cannot prevent. But if we understand wildfire behavior and prevention we will be in a better place to control our environment. When the pattern is present and the above conditions exist, the National Weather Service will issue a Fire Weather Watch to CALFIRE who will in turn alert regional agencies of the situation. In Orange County; the OC Fire Authority will notify their various Fire Watch programs to prepare to organize volunteers to activate their patrols. A Fire Weather Watch means extreme conditions may exist within the next 12 to 72

hours. Volunteers may be notified but not activated. If the watch escalates to a Red Flag Warning (extreme conditions will exist within 24 hours) volunteers will be activated and fire stations will be directed to display Red Flag Alert banners at designated locations throughout the county. You may see volunteers with magnetic signs and green vests displaying the Fire Watch emblems on them. These are your neighbors keeping an eye out for threatening conditions or activity that may result in a vegetation or wildfire.

In anticipation of these conditions, defensible space of 100 feet of your home and structures should be made. Wood and hay should be stored away from buildings. Plants, trees, and shrubs should be well trimmed. Eaves should be free of leaves and debris.

We have no control over the weather. But we can prepare in advance for the best possible outcome. Below you will find the websites referred to here and additional resources to help you be ready for the warm summer ahead.

www.fire.ca.gov, www.ocparks.com/firewatch,
(learn about becoming a Fire Watch Volunteer here)
www.irlandmarks.org/fire-watch

Pet Safety: www.about.com/horses/keepcool, and
www.about.com/dogs/heatstroke

Bonus Tip: Trabuco Canyon has its own Fire Watch program "Canyon Defense". Sharon Stancato coordinates volunteers when notification is issued. See Debbie Kelly for contact information.



RESCUE EVENT COMING UP!

BY DEBBIE KELLY

The even this year is slated to be a huge success. Hanaeleh puts this production together, however this is an All Rescue benefit. We will have rescues from all over the OC and neighboring counties. All proceeds are shared with the rescues. Last year we rained out but that did not stop the Medieval jousting troop from entertaining us! The Imperial Knights will be performing again this year and you don't want to miss them. So please, come support

not only our local rescue, Hanaeleh, but other groups tirelessly trying to stay in front of the homeless pet population. There will be vendors and ETI will be serving up beverages and fresh baked goods. Keep an eye out for how you can help by baking goodies or providing coffee to help in this effort. Any questions can be directed to Debbie Kelly at 949-459-7191. We need a face painter too. Nothing fancy and we will supply the paint and brushes. Oh, don't forget. You can dress in Medieval costume. We hope you will come out and support this event.

Please join us for a day of merriment,
knights, swordfighting and jousting!

Benefitting animal rescues across
Southern California!

Fun for the whole family!



Hanaeleh Horse Rescue presents: an all-animal rescue benefit

2nd Annual

show includes The Imperial Knights,
Drill Team, Dog Agility, and more...

Medieval Rescue Faire

Orange County Fairgrounds
Sunday, September 30, 2012

Faire Hours: 10am - 3pm

Pre-sale Tickets (through July 4th)
General Admission: \$15
Child, Seniors (65+), Military: \$10

For tickets and vendor
information, please contact:

ezarkos@hanaeleh.com
www.hanaeleh.com





TREASURER'S REPORT

BY VICKI IACONO

ETI - CORRAL 357

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING

May 31,2012

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America)	\$9,723.24
DEPOSITS:	
Deposits Made After Closing: May	\$0.00
Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits	\$9,723.24

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	
1511	P Gomez	board dinner	\$30.00	
Total expenses paid in – May 2012				(\$30.00)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Ck#	Source	Reason	Amount	
1512	ETI	membership	\$108.00	
Total Outstanding Checks May 31-2012 - i.e. Spending:				(\$ 108.00)

Funds on hand in checking as of 05-31-2012	\$ 9,615.24
Petty Cash on Hand as of 05-31-2012	\$400.00
Corral FUNDS On Hand at 05-31-2012:	\$10,015.24

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:

Less Reserves:	
1.- MAU as of 5-31-2012	(\$ 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	\$ 9,235.35
---	-------------



TRAIL BOSS REPORT

BY JIM SCHICHT

Howdy, I was here riding my chair in the air-conditioned kitchen, when the thought hit me, after reading articles on training

our riding partners.

When do we start our training? Is it when we get out of our truck? Is it when we walk up to the gate to the barn area? Is it walking up to our partner? Is it when we halter them? Is it when we brush them? Is it when we saddle them up or is it the time we step up for a ride?

It is all the above. Your mind set and your body language, is what your partner is picking up the first time he sees you. Your day on the ground, or riding should be considered a training day, as we always want to have the finest riding partner.

Ride safe, ride smart and trim the trails.

Your Trail Boss,

Jim and Jager



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