



*November 2014*

*Volume 21 Issue 11*



Howdy Saddleback Canyon Riders,

As my two terms (or what I jokingly refer to as my 'four year reign of terror!') begins to wind down, I find myself reflecting on all of the great times that I've had being president. Being president certainly has its share of responsibilities, but the wonderful perks absolutely outweigh the obligatory duties. One thing that I have enjoyed most, is working with, trying to be a good example to and generally watching some of our younger members grow up right in front of my eyes. One of my favorite stories happened about four years ago, shortly after I had become president, and (then) 7 year-old Amanda Tuttle was competing in her very first Play Day competition. Amanda experienced a sudden 'un-scheduled dismount' and found herself a bit surprised and laying in the dirt. I picked her up, took her hand and while walking out of the arena with her, looked down and said "You're doing a really great job out there Cowgirl!" Amanda, with a few 'leftover' tears looked up at me and simply replied "You're doing a really good job too."

Over the eight years that I have been a

member of ETI, with the last four being president, I have experienced many small 'magical moments' like this.

I have seen young cowboys and cowgirls turn into responsible teenagers and fine young adults. And, although it sometimes seems like we're currently living in a world that is 'going off the rails', it's reassuring to know that if OUR young ETI members are an indication of the future success and leadership of our 'wonderful little horse club', then I'm quite confident that Saddleback Canyon Riders will be in 'very good hands' for many, many, many years to come.

P.S. - This article provided the perfect gratuitous opportunity for me to share a photo of Lilly, our three year old 'horse-crazy' grandkid and 'future Saddleback Canyon Riders member'. See ya' on the trails! Your grateful Prez.. Rick Balthaser



## 2014 BUCKLE PLAYDAY IN THE BOOKS



*By James M. Iacono*

When the last remnants of summer turn to the burnt

orange of fall, it's time for the Trabuco Canyon Cowboys and Cowgirls to strap on their spurs and get ready for the year end western horsemanship championships! (aka 6th annual ETI Buckle Playday!)

This year 15 competitors showed up with their swift steeds to vie for two imported precious metal buckles. There were some familiar faces and some new shooters, but as always, there was a spirited contest for those willing to make their equine partners drinkers of the wind! Speed was the theme for the day, and for spectators and participants alike, there was rapidity in spades. The clockers had their hands full with times that would have been respectable at the Las Vegas NFR. (Okay, so I embellish a bit).

Event Coordinators Evelyn Ortega and Tracy Tuttle put together 5 course events that challenged all ages. It was a barrel of fun and sport with three barrel events...Cloverleaf Barrels, Skill Barrels, and the Two Barrel Flag race. Rounding out the events were Quadrangle and the Big T.

In the Big T, newcomer Hannah May took the Under 30 Division on her quick Quarter Paint Reno. Putting in strong bridesmaids efforts was Abby Klimish on Boston, and 11

year old Amanda Tuttle on Oso. The Senior Winner was Jimmy I on Lacey with Amber Sinkinson on Savannah and Patty Gretzler on Oreo close behind.

The Quadrangle saw new member Chandler Carneal take down the Blue on Annie, with Amanda and Abby taking down the next two spots. Jimmy I completed a double on Lacey in the Elder Division, with Patty G. and Amber again chasing on his heels.

In the Double Barrel Flag race, Chandler repeated, with Abby and Holly Buck on Sammy capturing the minor prizes. Evelyn Ortega broke through for a Blue among the seniors, with Patty Gretzler and Leslie Groenwold giving her a run for her money.

Hannah May made it two for two with a win in Cloverleaf, while Chandler and Amanda rounded out the podium. Patty G. earned her first Blue of the day with veteran Oreo expertly navigating the barrels, while Jimmy I and Amber had to settle for eating her dust.

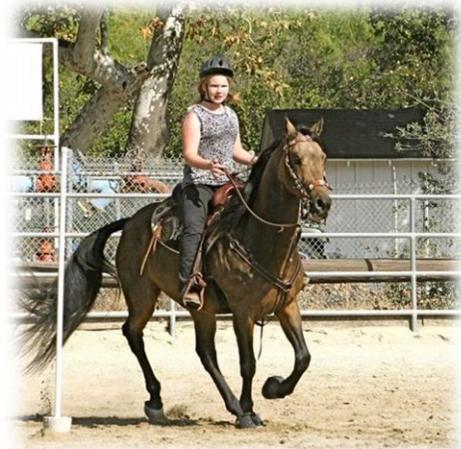
Amanda Tuttle broke through for her first blue on the Skill barrels, while Abby and Chandler picked up more points to make those three in a tight race for the buckle winner in the Junior Division. Among the Elders, Patty G. finished her day strong with another top podium finish, while Evelyn and Jimmy I picked up the pieces.

When all the dust settled, (thanks for dragging the arena Jeff), Chandler Carneal edged out Amanda Tuttle and Abby Klimish to take home the beautifully engraved buckle hardware. Meanwhile, Cowgirl Patty Gretzler became the first three time winner

in the Senior Division. She's running out of leather to attach all that silver to!

In the Under 10 division, Jewell Sinkinson went home with the trophy, with Carrie Tuttle close behind. Congratulations to all the winners, and all of the great riders and horses that pushed them all day!

It was a great day all around for the Club and the Community. 50 lunches were served, and lots of laughs and stories were shared. Thanks to all the volunteers who so selflessly give their time and talents to make these events memorable! We lock up the trailer for about 5 months, and then do it again next March when we start a New Year of fun and competition with the horses we love so much! See ya all then!



*Play Day photos courtesy of Tracy Tuttle and her electronic brain.....*







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# LIGHTEN UP!

*By James M. Iacono V.P.*

No, I am not telling you what your horse is thinking right after the holidays. I am telling you about a Trabuco Canyon homegrown product: The Impact Flashing Leg Wraps. This wonder product was the brain child of our own Dave Seroski- ETI Corral 357's current Member-At-Large. Now Dave is known around these parts as a tinkerer. He is a radio master, having masterfully coordinated a team to handle a communications network during emergency situations. He has done videos on all sorts of horse related topics- "Knots," 'Your horse is talking,' and other natural horsemanship shorts. He loves his horses Max and Teddy. And because of that he wanted to come up with an idea that keeps them all safe on the way home from the O'Neill Park Arena. He was tired of dodging the other "horsepower."

So one night at the cantina, he was with a bunch of friends who could never become lawyers. I say that because none of them could ever "pass a bar" in their lives. Anyway, he saw a kid running across the bar with flashing light sneakers. Your eyes definitely notice them! So he thought, "Why not get that kind of notice while with my horse!" He immediately began tinkering with some electronic engineering plans for wraps that would offer the same pinball machine type of show that the sneakers had achieved. Now that he had the plans, he had to carry them out. And Dave is not easily deterred. He contacted the Chinese Consulate and put the wheels in motion to find a suitable manufacturer for his very own "Frankenstein."

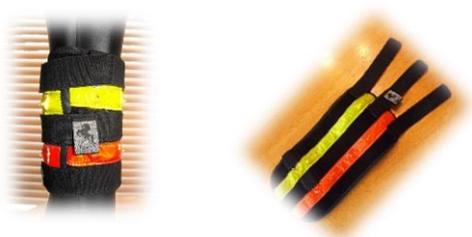
Many International Courier Envelopes later, 3 prototypes were sent, tested, reviewed and reformed. 7 months after his initial contact he had his first shipment of Leg Flashers. As a proud owner of a pair myself, I can't tell you the satisfaction I have gotten out of my set. (Oh, I guess I just did!). I feel less panicked on the way home trying to chase daylight. I have protection! I have people not only stopping to avoid me, they're stopping to shoot video! They are my new peace of mind. My horses thank me because they are not only seen, but they can see potholes, rocks, limbs, whatever....

So far Dave has sold about 600 pair through feed stores, on-line, and word of mouth. The product is patent pending. I asked how long the electronics should last and

he said the Velcro would wear out before the electronics. So the next thing Dave is tinkering with is a "Velcro Recovery" Video. Because that's the kind of guy he is!

My final question to Dave was what he was most excited about in this new venture. He shot back instantly, "That young people like it. When can you ever get a young person excited about a Safety Product."

Ain't that the truth! Congratulations Dave. You make us all proud. I "light up" when I think of you!





**TREASURER'S OFFICE... by Vicki Iacono**

**ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$ 11,005.02

DEPOSITS:

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

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$ 11,005.02

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1564	Jimmy I	speaker dinner	\$31.46				
-							

Total expenses paid in – September 2014 (\$31.46)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Ck#	Source	Reason	Amount
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Total Outstanding Checks September 30, 2014 - i.e. spending: (\$ 0.00)

Funds on hand in checking as of 9/30/2014 \$ 11,005.02

Petty Cash on Hand as of 9/30/2014 \$ 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand at 9/30/2014 \$10,605.02

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:

Less Reserves:

1.-ERT as of 9/30/2014 (476.73)

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve: (476.73)

NET - NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of: Corral 357 \$ 10,128.29



Karen Hopkins Balthaser

## Acorn Day

Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> was the day set aside for Acorn Day in O'Neill Park; a fall celebration of all things wonderful about nature, the outdoors and our county parks. Ranger Diane Wollenberg organized about 30 booths and speakers representing bluebirds, butterflies, wildlife, ecology, trails, and much more that lined the nature walk under the oaks near the entrance to the park. Attendees enjoyed music, food and nature related crafts to take home. To support the event ETI supplied 13 volunteers. Some prepared crafts in the days ahead of the event. Many worked a long day setting up,

manning booths and cleaning up. It would not have been the same if Spike Wilks had not collected thousands of acorns ahead of time and helped kids plant their own oak tree. ETI had our own booth which provided information about the equine lifestyle as well as a fun game of horseshoes for the kids. Some of our members showed up with their horses providing a real up close and personal horse experience. Despite record hot temperatures, Acorn Day was a big success and Diane and the park were grateful for the generous contribution by our volunteers. A big thank you to all of you who came out to show your support of our park and represent ETI at this event!



## ***What I have Learned....by Kristen Holden***

Membership Chairperson



I get asked by a good many non-horse friends and acquaintances about how horses think. So I got to thinking about that subject recently and thought the newsletter might be a good forum in which to share

some of the things I have learned from experience or have read about from articles written by experts.

**Did you know that the horse's brain is about the same size as a child's?** Well then why don't they think like us? Even though the size matters (he he) there are 2 main differences between the brains in humans and in horses.

First, the cerebellum (located at the base of the skull) is much larger in a horse's brain. So what does this mean and why should I care? The cerebellum is the area of the brain that oversees sensory perception, coordination and motor control. So what this means is that horses have a strong sense of smell and hearing, like dogs, perhaps even better; their coordination between their feet and body is quick (no thinking needed as to where to place their feet) and their memory for these things is so strong that once they have been taught movements they won't be forgotten. Humans have a much larger cerebrum that allows complex thinking and focuses on language and fine motor skills. Our senses are

secondary. Once we have learned something we can easily forget it unless it is used regularly. Simply said, horses are more intuitive and retain everything they have learned while humans rely on logic and forget much of what we learned as time passes.

The other major difference between humans and horses has to do with the 2 lobes of the brain (left and right). In humans there is a large connecting tissue (corpus callosum) that allows the two sides to perpetually transfer information back and forth. In horses, this tissue is undeveloped. Thus, horses think with one side of their brain at a time. Have you ever noticed that you taught a skill going left and when you asked the horse to repeat that same skill to the right, he

has no idea what you are asking? Yup, we all have had this happen.



The moral of this story is every lesson must be taught twice (once left and once right). BUT once learned the horse will never forget it.

There are far more differences than I have room for so here are a couple of final thoughts: First don't teach your horse bad habits...they never forget them (Boy don't we all know this!). Next, each horse is like having two because most things must be taught twice...remember that when deciding whether to get another horse. And lastly, their brains are the same size of a child...love them like they are.



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### **November Coming Events**

**Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>-** Member's Meeting at San Giovanni's Restaurant in Dove Canyon. Contact Rick.

**Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>-** Trail Maintenance 8:00 am and includes lunch! Contact Jimmy I.

**Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup>-** Board Meeting at Debbie Kelly's 7:00 pm

**Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>-** Month End Away Ride at Imperial Beach. Leave at 7:00 am. Contact Terry or Rich. RSVP required.

**Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>-** Movie Night at the Gomez' Contact Patti.



O'Neill Park ranger Diane Wollenberg is offering ETI members an opportunity to acquire or renew their First Aid/CPR certification which requires renewal every two years. We need a minimum of 15 people to commit and Diane will set it up for us at a reduced price. Participants are NOT limited to ETI members; friends and family are welcome. This is an eight hour class and we will get a Saturday date when we know how much interest there is. Contact Karen Hopkins Balthaser at [Ladieeee@aol.com](mailto:Ladieeee@aol.com) by November 8<sup>th</sup>.



*Ride along the California/Mexico Border with ETI at Imperial Beach on Saturday,  
November 15<sup>th</sup>*



***Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity. You must RSVP NOW.***

***Transportation is available but limited. Rental horses are also available at the ride.***

***Contact Rich Gomez or Terry Roberts***



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

**The Saddleback Canyon Riders are ETI Corral 357.** We were established in 1991 and currently boast sixty plus members from 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.

ETI Corral 357

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