

Corral News

Saddleback Canyon Riders ETI 357



January 2015

Volume 22, Issue 1



From the President's Corner by James M. Iacono

...Reminds me of a Story.

Well if you haven't heard, the "Balthazine" era for the Saddleback Canyon Riders came to a close this past week after four years of peace, harmony, and happy trails. I'd like to thank Rick for his four years of stellar leadership. We have raised money for charities, bagged parade trophies, raced barrels, ridden on beaches, sorted cows, groomed trails, flipped pancakes, and had some great camaraderie along the way. Rick and his First Lady, Karen, were always classy, presidential, helpful, and engaged! Thanks for the memories!

To those who don't know me, I am a life-long Californian. I am an 18 year resident of Trabuco Canyon, and a 10 year member of ETI 357. I served as Activities Coordinator for 6 years, and Vice President for one year. I love horses, and I love riding... trail riding, Gymkhanas, cow sorting, parade-prancing and even ride and ties. My wife, Vicki, who introduced me to the equine life, serves the Club as Treasurer and helps me manage our Via Della Rosa Ranch.

I look forward to my two year term as President of ETI 357. I have been fortunate to watch three great leaders before me. Jeff Kermodé, Rich Gomez, and Rick Balthaser have presided over the Club during my 10 year membership, and I have always been impressed with their abilities to, above all, keep the Club fun and friendly. They have had to be decisive in their leadership, but fair to the greater good of our organization.

I will not make any grandiose proclamations that the next two years for our members will see a chicken in every oven and a healthy horse in every stall.... But I will say I will try to be a good steward of our financial health, and a vessel to provide informa-

tion that benefits the health and well-being of our equine partners. I am humbled to serve the Club along with the rest of my well respected Board, but would like to remind everyone that we are all volunteers willing to give of our time and talents so that many can potentially enhance their life as horsemen and horsewomen. I encourage members to attend Board Meetings if they would like to help advance an agenda that they feel is important to the Club as a whole, and to know that I will have an "open stall" policy when it comes to ideas during my tenure. That being said, I would like to urge everyone to attend our January Member's Meeting on the 8th at the Park's Nature Center, 7:00p.m., as we honor the theme for the month- volunteerism. There will be many opportunities discussed that will promote the greater good of our Club and our trail-minding



and trail riding philosophies- but of course we need people willing to work as a team to accomplish our goals. Hope to see you all there as I officially lead my first meeting as President.

Finally, it is my hope that we all get out of the next two years what we are looking for from Saddleback Canyon Riders. And that reminds me of a story.... A tour guide was faced with a lot of complaints about travel conditions, accommodations, meals, etc. His answer was that everything would be all right in the end. So if things aren't right at this very minute, then, well, it must not be the end!

Happy Trails!



2014 ETI National Award Winner

ETI Area 12 Volunteer of the Year

Rich Gomez



Rich Gomez is a long-time South Orange County resident who has had a connection to horses for many years. He and his wife, Patti, moved to Trabuco Canyon in 2000 because it offered an equestrian, rural lifestyle within Orange County – and had open space.

They quickly became involved with ETI Corral 357 as Activity Coordinators. Next, to have a bit more voice in the club's direction, Rich was elected as Member-at-Large in 2004. Rich became president in 2006 and served in this role through 2010. One of Rich's highlights as President was overseeing a large charity event for horse rescue operations serving children with special needs in Orange County.

Today, Rich is the Emergency Response Team Coordinator for ETI Corral 357 – He currently supports the Emergency Evacuation Plan for Trabuco Canyon, and works closely with county officials, the community itself and the equestrian community at large. Highlights of his role include completing a community census and establishing communications with county agencies and private facilities for coordinated evacuations if necessary.



Rich is also involved in other groups focused on preserving open space and the equestrian lifestyle. It's all about the experience everyone can enjoy...

Rich is co-founder of the Saddleback Canyons Conservancy, whose mission is to uphold the Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan. This plan has specific guidelines for development and preservation of the equestrian and rural lifestyles that are characteristic of canyon life, and the Conservancy has been effective stewards of the Specific Plan through public outreach and legal challenges. <http://saddlebackcanyons.org/>



Bob Foster, ETI President, and Rick Balthaser, ETI Corral 357 President, presenting Rich Gomez, Corral 357, the Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2014 holiday party.

Rich is also chair of the Sierra Club's Saddleback Canyons Task Force; again, focused on using the resources of the Sierra Club to preserve open space and wilderness access for hiking, biking and riding enthusiasts. http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ocosc/saddleback_canyons.htm



And to bring it all together, Rich is a board member of the Santiago Scenic Corridor Group whose goal is to preserve the viewscape and experience everyone enjoys while driving, riding or hiking along Santiago Canyon Road. Santiago Canyon Road is the last unfettered highway in Orange County. <http://santiagoroad.org/>

Rick Balthaser
Corral 357 President



2014 ETI National Award Winner

ETI National Sponsor of the Year:

Scott and Lyzz Wahlberg ★
Canyon Feed and Tack
Trabuco Canyon



Bob Foster, ETI President, and Rick Balthaser, ETI Corral 357 President, presenting Scott and Lyzz Wahlberg, Canyon Feed and Tack, the Sponsor of the Year Award at the 2014 holiday party.

ETI Corral 357's nominee for the Sponsor of the Year Award was 'Canyon Feed and Tack' (www.canyonfeed.net) in Trabuco Canyon, owned by Scott and Lyzz Wahlberg.

I believe that their extreme generosity and kindness, as well as their interesting story make them worthy of this award.

Here is their story:

Approximately a year and a half ago, Scott and Lyzz were living in Minnesota and did not really know anybody that lived in Southern California. They decided to purchase Canyon Feed and Tack in Trabuco Canyon, a somewhat bold and potentially risky business move with the equine business being down in general (in fact some local feed and tack businesses in the area had gone out of business) and the economy on shaky ground at best.



Upon opening their new business they became fast and immediate friends and allies with ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders. And, although they

recently celebrated their one year anniversary of being in business, they have impressed us greatly and accomplished much. Just some of the many things that they do to benefit both our Corral and the local community include:

- Speaking at and regularly attending many of our members meetings.**
- Promoting ETI 357 on their Facebook page.**
- Giving all of our club members a 5% discount and working with our club to create a bulk hay discount for both our club and the local community.**
- Supporting local horse rescue organizations by contributing to their organizations and offering discounted prices.**
- Making donations to and offering discounts to O'Neil Regional Park, our local riding area.**
- Making donations to and supporting Camp Pendleton Marine Base' special events.**

In short, this very sweet, down to earth and generous couple through 'Canyon Feed and Tack' have very quickly cemented a solid friendship with not only ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders - but the local community as well.

I do believe them to be very worthy of the Sponsor of the Year award.

Rick Balthaser, Corral 357 President

Saddleback Canyon Riders 2014 Christmas Party



Via Della Rosa Ranch
December 14, 2014





Saddleback Canyon Riders 2014 Award Winners



2014 President's Award:
Robert Wilkes



2014 "Patronize our Park"
Award Winner:
Jim Schicht



2014 "Participate and Win"
Award Winner: **Patty Gretzler**





Saddleback Canyon Riders 2015 Contests

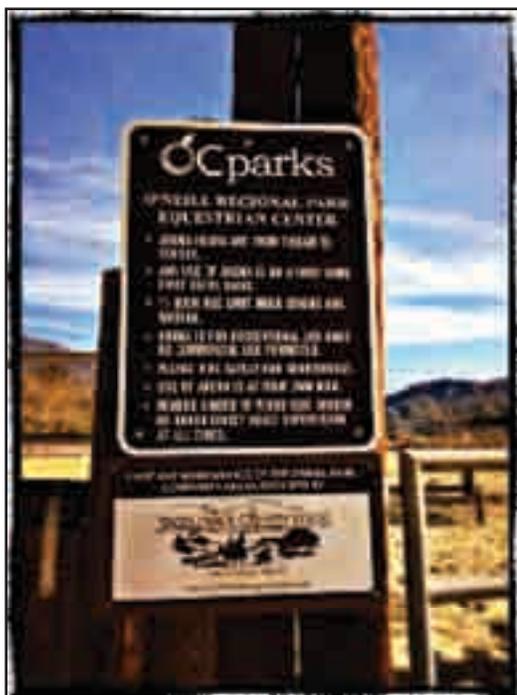
Patronize Our Parks (POP)

Log your hours in O'Neill Regional Park --- **START NOW!!!**

OFFICIAL RULES:

Who is eligible? Any member of ETI 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders that is in good standing!

How does it work? When you go for a trail ride, walk, hike, run, bicycle ride, do trail maintenance or volunteer in any way at O'Neill Regional Park your hours will count towards the contest. NOTE: Arena use is not counted as hours for this contest.



Prizes: GRAND PRIZE: The member that logs the most Park hours will win a beautiful trophy (More will be revealed on this!) with a plaque that will be engraved with their name. The winner keeps this trophy for a year, and then it gets handed to the next winner the following year (Just like the Stanley Cup in hockey). There will also be beautiful awards for **SECOND** and **THIRD** place finishers. And, there will be cool 'milestone prizes' for members that reach 50, 100, 150 and 200 hours!

How do we record our hours? It's SIMPLE! There is a black mailbox that is at the junction of Pawfoot Trail and Coyote Trail (The area with a couple of parking spots and picnic tables just across ((west)) from the main entrance). The combination to the lock is 2-4-6-8. Go to the proper tab, and enter your start and end times. Your 'start time' is when you leave your house to head for the park trails, and your 'end time' is when you return home after the park trails.

When does the contest start and end? The contest starts at the beginning of the year and ends one week prior to our ETI 357 Christmas Party in December. The winners will be announced at the Christmas Party!



IMPORTANT NOTE! As this is an O'Neill Park related contest, the rangers are very interested in getting reports from our members regarding: Trail maintenance needs, wildlife sightings, even suspicious or illegal behavior sightings. Leave a note in the mailbox, or call 949 923-2260 if there is something you feel is worth reporting. Although this contest is sponsored by ETI 357, it is in no way a sanctioned ETI event, therefore ETI Members participating in this contest do so at their own risk.

QUESTIONS? Call or email Rick Balthaser - Cell: 949 439-2414 - RBalthaser@aol.com



Saddleback Canyon Riders 2015 Contests

Participate and Win (PAW)

Gives us the Opportunity to REWARD and RECOGNIZE our Members for their participation, dedication and support of our great club!

OFFICIAL 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 spectator you get a POINT for your participation. Just sign in at the event and your point will be recorded! These will include ALL sanctioned and non-sanctioned club-related events: Members Meetings, Month End Trail Rides, Trail Maintenance Days, Play Days, Parades, Field Trips, Camping Trips, Special Events, Volunteer Events, ETI 357 Clinics, etc!

Prizes: 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 you at the AWARDS CEREMONIES at our Christmas Party in December!



2015 Board of Directors

GIP
A
DONE

PRESIDENT: James Iacono
(949) 459-7742
jiacono@fontissolutions.com



VICE PRESIDENT: Open	EDITOR: Renate Soderstrom (831) 359-1079 renate.soderstrom@gmail.com
SECRETARY: Patti Gomez (949) 888-1604 pattianguomez@aol.com	ERT: Open
TREASURER: Vicki Iacono (949) 459-7742 zoegal@hughes.net	SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Open
MEMBERSHIP: Kristen Holden (949) 444-1990 kristen3091@gmail.com	EVENTS DIRECTOR: Evelyn Ortega 949-858-0903 jinjo27@dishmail.net
TRAIL BOSS: Rick Balthaser (949) 709-2359 rbalthaser@aol.com	EVENTS CO-DIRECTOR Open
MEMBER-AT- LARGE & Dave Seroski COMMUNICATIONS: (949) 533-7153 dseroski@cox.net	SOCIAL MEDIA: Open <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">Note: Open Seats require 2015 Board Appointment.</div>

ETI Corral 357 2015 Calendar



Upcoming Events

January					
Date		Event	Time	Location	Contact
8	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	O'Neill Regional Park Nature Center	Jimmy I (949)459-7742
14	Wednesday	Park Meeting	7:30AM	O'Neill Park Ranger Station	Jimmy I (949)459-7742
15	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	
31	Saturday	Month End Event	10:00AM	O'Neill Park	Rick (949)439-2414
February					
Date		Event	Time	Location	Contact
5	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	San Giovanni's	Jimmy I (959)459-7742
7	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00AM	O'Neill Park	Tracy Tuttle (949)444-1974
12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	
21	Saturday	Playday Practice & Trainer Invitational	10:00AM	O'Neill Park arena	
28	Saturday	Month End Event	10:00AM	O'Neill Park	Rick (949)439-2414
March					
Date		Event	Time	Location	Contact
5	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	San Giovanni's	Jimmy I (949)459-7742
11	Wednesday	Park Meeting	7:30AM	O'Neill Park Ranger Station	Jimmy (949)459-7742
12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	
21	Saturday	Swallows Day Parade	6:00AM	San Juan Capistrano, CA	Rick (949)439-2414
28	Saturday	Playday (Month End Event)	8:00AM	O'Neill Park arena	

See website for full calendar.

<http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com>



30555 Trabuco Canyon Road | Suite 100
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 | 949-766-2825
Hours: | Monday - Saturday 9-5 | Sunday 10-4
<http://www.canyonfeed.net/>



Free Delivery on regularly scheduled day! Please call one day early -- (otherwise a \$10 delivery charge will be imposed)

Mon: Rancho Carillo, Ortega, Sycamore, San Juan Capistrano, Nellie Gail, Laguna, Mission Viejo

Tue: Coto de Caza, Santiago, Modjeska, Silverado, Carbondale, Peacock Equestrian, Orange, Yorba Linda

Wed: Trabuco Canyon, Lake Forest, Serrano

Thurs: Coto de Caza, Rancho Carillo, Ortega, San Juan Capistrano, Nellie Gail, Laguna

Fri-Sat-Sun: No Deliveries

★ **Proud to be Sponsor of the Year for ETI National!!** ★

We like to support and recognize our customers with discounts for the following:

Military, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, Equestrian Trainers, 4-H, FFA, Farriers, Horse Rescue Groups, ETI Members.

We also have a Bulk Hay Sale every Sunday! 20 bale minimum purchase (mix and match variety) and you pick up to receive \$3 per bale discount-does not include Brome Hay.

January Special: 10% off Stall Mats for ETI Members!!



Become a Member of the Saddleback Canyon Riders

Membership Contact:
Kristen Holden
Kristen3091@gmail.com
(949)444-1990



Members of ETI 357 receive a 5% discount at Canyon Feed & Tack.

got horse club?

CHECK US OUT!

All Age / Family Friendly Camp Outs
Great Play Days Fun Members Meetings
Trail Rides Meet New Riding Friends
Parades O'Neill Park Trail Maintenance

AND MUCH MORE!

WWW.SADDLEBACKCANYONRIDERS.COM

SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS - ETI CORRAL 357

CALL: KRISTEN HOLDEN - MEMBERSHIP: 949 444-1990
RICK BALTHASER - PRESIDENT: 949 439-2414

SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS
EST. 1988



January is Volunteer Month

By Debbie Kelly

We have a nice line up of themes for our monthly member meetings in 2015. We will start the year out with the very important topic of "volunteering".

As you know, ETI is made up of volunteers and there are always opportunities to give a little back. You can give as much (or as little) time as you have to spare by volunteering in our parks and other trails and/or events.

Be sure to come to the January 8th meeting to catch up on the new year and hear OC Parks representatives speak to us about how we can make the most of the time we can share. Also- you can be a part of keeping Ferber Ranch open to equestrian activities. Learn about this and more at our January meeting.

To keep it lively and convenient, we have mixed it up a little and our first meeting will be at the O'Neill Park Nature Center conference room. Be sure to join us for Pizza and soft drinks (no alcohol in the park) for a nominal fee of \$5.00. Dinner at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts promptly at 7:30.



Should I let my horse cuddle me?

The answer is... Yes. Will it happen right away? The answer is... No.

Horses, it is said, live in the moment. Well you do, too. You have a whole lifetime of likes and dislikes, loves and hates and so does your horse! In his/her world they are very aware of what life experiences have made them what they are today. Their take on it depends on their personality. Left brain (thinking), right brained (reactive), introvert, extrovert.

I encourage people to have a very "hands-on" relationship with their horse & enjoy long conversations with them. Really? How do you talk to a horse? Oh, they are talking all the time, regular chatty-Kathys. Just allow them to start to touch and sniff and yes sometimes nibble you. They don't know a lot about you and they are trying to find out more the only way they know how, mostly by playing with you. Seeing how you react.

Remember, you picked them they didn't pick you. So see if your choice is right, from the horse's point of view. This could not be what you expect; they may just not like you. Or they could love you. Willing to find out?

First I must say: Horses are big, beautiful and dangerous. They are 20 times faster than you and a thousand times stronger than you. Plus an average horse can weigh in at anywhere from 1,000 pounds to over 2,000 pounds in the draft version. Still want to continue?

OK. First, just go sit in your horse's stall. Don't bring treats, just sit. Bring a book or ear buds with music. This is important: **DON'T THINK BAD THOUGHTS OR BE PEEVED AT ANYTHING.** Here's a secret: they really can read your mind. Yeah, Spock mind-meld stuff. (More on this scary topic later). Just sit. Don't look at them, don't touch them, don't talk to them. Nothing! Shhhhh, it's their ball game.

Soon they will be sniffing & prodding. If they want to see a hand (they will point to it, or touch it with their nose) open your hand and let them take a sniffing, licking "look." Feet are always big things for them

to look at. What are those? Why are they so soft? Why do they smell like that? Not a hoof at all!!

This session may last a while, but you will never forget it and neither will your horse.

Next, you start to watch for them to start to speak to you. It usually starts with an "I have an itch, right here." As they are teething it, YOU go scratch it. You will get a what-the heck? Then a "how did he know that? Does he hear me?" This brings on a "wow, let me try that again!" from the horse. Do it again! You will get a "HE HEARS ME!!!!"



Start to expect more mouthing, body rubs against you, leaning gently against you. Lots more attention. Reward even the slightest attempt.

More next Month.

Dave Seroski



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Iacono

ETI - CORRAL 357

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING
November 30, 2014**

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America) \$11,111.28

DEPOSITS:

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

Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$11,111.28

EXPENSES:

<u>Ck#</u>	<u>Source:</u>	<u>Reason:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Ck #</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Reason:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
1572	D Kelly	postage	\$36.37	1573	D Kelly	board dinner	\$30.00

Total expenses paid in – November 2014 (\$66.37)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

<u>Ck#</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Total Outstanding Checks November, 30-2014 - i.e. Spending:			(\$ 0.00)

Funds on hand in checking as of 11-30-2014 \$11,111.28

Petty Cash on Hand as of 11-30-2014 400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand as of 11-30-2014 \$11,511.28

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:

Less Reserves:

1. ERT as of 11-30-2014 \$(476.73)

Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve: \$(476.73)

NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of: Corral 357 \$11,034.55



Note from the Editor



Send us your photos, artwork and stories.

Newsletter Contact:

renate.soderstrom@gmail.com



Thank you Dave Seroski for sending this photo.



RICK'S RAMBLINGS'

Reflectin' Back – Lookin' Forward!

Happy New Year, Saddleback Canyon Riders!

For me, the new year brings a bit of reflection and a whole lotta' lookin' forward to new and fun possibilities. I have really enjoyed being president of Saddleback Canyon Riders for the last four years. When I first took on the job, it seemed a bit daunting (I was stepping into some pretty big boots after all), and I think that my 'biggest goal' at the time was to NOT have the entire club come crumbling down around me into non-existence. Well, I realized in the first few months of my term that probably wouldn't happen, so I just got on with the business of being president.

I have so many fond memories of being president that it would make for a very long list, but I think I can safely distill the experience down to two simple things.



Thing One: I really had fun with the whole experience, and I made it a priority to make it a fun experience for our members and board members.

Thing Two: I really enjoyed being 'of service' to the club and I tried hard to participate in as many of the club's activities as possible.

Oh! ... I guess there probably is one other thing (and it was more of an unspoken promise I made to myself when I became president), and that is that I tried very hard to create and be part of a club atmosphere that didn't create any unnecessary drama.

So, I guess if I had **three rules for myself** they would be: One; **Have as much fun as possible**. Two; **Be of service to the club**. And Three; **Don't create any unnecessary drama**. I think that these three simple rules have served both me and the club fairly well over the last four years. And, now that I am the new Trail Boss for the club, I think that I'll just try to apply the same simple three rules, and heck ... What could possibly go wrong?

As our club continues to grow, thrive, evolve and get even better, I can say with much certainty that we are in incredibly good hands with our new president, Mr. James Iacono (I promised him that I would call him James when he became president). James is without a doubt one of the most conscientious, hard-working, passionate and diplomatic members that our club has. One of the most outstanding qualities that I believe James has, is that he always puts the best interest of our club first.

If I were to give James any advice (not that he really needs any), it would probably be something along the lines of (and this is a total inside joke): "Have fun James! ... Hey, it's only a board game!"

See ya' all out on the trails!

Rick Balthaser
(Your very grateful) Trail Boss
ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders
Cell: 949-439-2414



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.

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