

Corral News

Saddleback Canyon Riders ETI Corral 357



February 2015

Volume 22, Issue 2



From the President's Corner

By James M. Iacono

...Reminds me of a Story

The ETI Corrals of Southern California get together every January to lope into the New Year by staging a President's Luncheon. It's a way for new Presidents to be indoctrinated, and offers an arena in which all Corrals can share ideas. This year's theme was "People, Passion, Purpose," a moniker coined

by our own new Trail Boss Rick Balthaser. How do we get more People involved, how can we keep them Passionate about riding, and what is our Purpose in the Equine Community and the Community at large? It seems all Corrals are striving to

grow and maintain existing members, all the while in an aging core membership. In order to continue to flourish, we need to invite families with children, by introducing our equine lifestyle to the community at large. If you don't have any, please get some business cards from us to hand out on the trail and in the community. Though we are fairly quiet the first two months of the year, make sure you check the calendar for all opportunities coming up. This month we

have a Playday Practice, a Month End Ride, and an off-the-record ride to Cooks Corner on President's Day (16th). Then we are in full swing beginning in March with a Playday and the Swallows Day Parade. So invite your friends and neighbors to any or all of these events, even if they are not yet equestrians. As we build relationships with the community, I believe we will grow our membership and enrich our

Club. There are ways that families can get involved in an equestrian life without buying a horse and having to imagine the daunting expenses that may follow. They can get involved in a 4 H Club that offers a horseless program, they



can take lessons from any number of competent instructors in our area, or even partially lease a horse. Keep these options in mind when speaking to novice horse enthusiasts.

Back to the luncheon...Our Corral was asked to give a presentation on how we market our club to the community, and promote it within to maintain membership. It became clear that while many of the

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..."Reminds Me of a Story..." continued from page 1

Clubs do many of the same things we do, Corral 357 has been progressive and proactive in this arena. We try to meet people where they are - whether it be Parades, Playdays, away rides, camping trips, clinics.... We give to Charities, cook Pancake Breakfasts, help the Park out at Acorn Days, maintain trails, organize evacuations...we recognize and honor notable efforts, and have some fun at the 4th of July Gomez Bonanza and the annual Holiday Party.

We really do offer a lot to the Members and the Community, and I am honored to be leading this group over the next two years. Please keep an eye on the Calendar and make sure you are taking ad-

vantage of all the opportunities that speak to you and your equine companion. Because, by showing up, you do something for yourself, for your horse, and for your friends. We stay passionate about riding when we act like our horses ... and herd! And together we can have purpose by accomplishing the things that showcase our value in the Community.

Let's "Giddy-up" in 2015!

James M. Iacono
President
ETI Corral 357



ETI National President's Luncheon
January 27, 2015
Rose Bowl Riders Clubhouse
Pasadena, CA





Trail Boss Report - Rick's Ramblin's

By Rick Balthaser

Howdy Saddleback Riders!

Saturday, January 31st was our inaugural 2015 Month End Trail Ride to kick off a year of exciting new Rides and Month End Activities. (It also happened to be the inaugural ride of your new Trail Boss, me.)

We had a great turnout of seven riders, with some being their first Saddleback Canyon Rider's ride. BIG



thanks to Mary, Paula, Renate, Helga, Patti and Kristen for making this a successful ride!

We rode on some of O'Neill's most scenic trails including Paw-

foot, Coyote, Hoffman Homestead, Vista and Live Oak. I suggested a route that hopefully would be a great match for our group. We reviewed the route up front and discussed any potential issues and safety group ride etiquette to help ensure a safe and enjoyable ride for all.



I'm really happy that our inaugural ride was a great success. My primary goal as your new Trail Boss is to get all of our members out riding together and to create super fun and super safe rides in the park, as well as cool and exciting 'away' rides.

Also, thanks to all of you all who filled out my 'Trail Boss Survey'! ... I'm always open to ideas for ride suggestions, general ideas, input, criticism (I will even accept praise ... lol), etc.

See ya' out on the trails (and come ride with us!),

Rick Balthaser - Trail Boss

ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders

RBalthaser@aol.com Cell:949-439-2414



Upon returning to the arena after our enjoyable two hour ride, we were treated to a wonderful lunch beautifully laid out by the lovely executive chef at the Big B Ranch, Karen Balthaser! The lunch was a nice opportunity to wind down as well for a post-ride discussion on the ride.





Trail Riding Etiquette

By Kristen Holden

7 Rules



Most of us have been riding in O’Neill Park for some time so we think we know what trail etiquette is. But do we really? We certainly know what bikes and pedestrians are supposed to do around us, but what we are to do in a variety of situations is questionable. Okay, maybe I’m talking about myself. But just in case you aren’t sure either...Read on.

The first thing we need to remember is that trail etiquette is not just about courtesy but is about safety as well. Horses are prey animals and react to a lot of stimuli that we just don’t see or hear. The second important thing is that if we are all following the same manners and behaviors, everyone ends up having a better time riding and is safer to boot.

Hikers and Bikers: 🚲

We all know that hikers and bikers are supposed to yield to a horse but as you know the looks of some hikers and bikers actually scare horses as they pass. Hikers with backpacks and other gear do not look like people, so **Rule #1** is to actually engage in small talk with them as they pass. Once they start talking, horses realize that they are just people and will actually settle down. **Rule #2**, when passing a hiker or biker, try to be on the uphill side. As prey animals, horses expect to be attacked from above so have the hiker/biker pass them below.

Passing Other Horses:

Although a single rider should yield to a pack of riders and a downhill rider should yield to an uphill rider, there are exceptions to this. **Rule #3**, if you are a confident rider, it is easier and safer for you to yield to others. A beginner rider may be nervous and not even know how to move over. Unless you know the level of the rider passing you, I would much rather trust my riding skills than that of a person I don’t know and let them go by. If you are on a narrow hilly trail, always turn your horse’s head to the downhill side so they can see their feet and what’s there. They can’t see directly behind them or see their back feet so keep them on the uphill side.

Riding with a Group:

Rule #4, the appropriate distance that should be maintained is one horse length, just like driving a car. If a horse panics ahead and creates an accident, you want enough distance to stop and turn. Sometimes our horses have their head buried in the backside of the horse in front. If that horse stops and turns, most of the time, we can’t get out of the way quickly enough.

Rule #5, be sure to keep your horse in check and under control. Should your horse become unruly, move to the back where he won’t bother the other horses. Maybe he will watch the calm horses ahead and settle down. If you have a horse that might kick, **Rule #6**, tie a red ribbon on his tail to warn others to stay back. And lastly, **Rule #7**, the pace of the group should always be to the most inexperienced rider. If you want to go at a faster pace than a novice rider can handle, save it for another ride.

Some Final Thoughts:

If you follow some basic riding rules, not only will you be safer, you will also find other riders willing to hit the trails with you. It’s not fun when you get crowded, or your horse is irritated because the horse in back won’t give him space. Think about the terrain as well. Maintain the proper pace for the type of trail you’re on. Rocks and wet ground are slippery, go slower. And lastly, not everyone wants a riding lesson while on a friendly trail ride. Keep your “helpful comments” to yourself unless asked.

Kristen Holden
ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders



Horse Sense

By Dave Seroski

The Slightest Attempt

Something I learned from the Parellis, and it applies to everything you do with your horse, is to watch for its slightest attempt. It's all up to you and requires that your concentration on your horse is not to be broken or shared with anything else (taking time to say "howdy neighbor" for example) or your horse will go "We're not talking? OK, I'm going to go do something else" and he wanders away, or starts pulling on the lead or kicking the stall.

You can only see that slight attempt if you pay close attention. You may get just one ear in your direction, one eye in your direction but you must respond right away. Speaking their name while looking directly at them (in a relaxed fashion) lets them know they have your attention and will consider the conversation ongoing. This has many rewards as your horse will want to be with you and you will get a lot more nose on, hugging & showing you what bugs them.

My horse Ted will show me what hoof to pick first by raising the one that bothers him most when I ask for the left front. I could ignore that request and demand the hoof I was asking for but I would have missed the chance to tell him "I hear you and I'll take care of that." This leads to mutual grooming, something I encourage and enjoy.

Their horsenality will start to come out of hiding! This is a big gift as they will start to play with you more but you have to set the boundaries on this, like "that's too hard," "don't kick-play with me" and "you don't have to step on me to get my attention," basically The Rules. Now that you are talking it's easy.

When you take in a deep breath, stand up straight from a relaxed position and hold your hand up it's like screaming "STOP!" to your horse but be careful with this. I did it too hard to Teddy one time and he fell over backwards!!! Now all I have to do is draw in a breath and tighten up a little and those ears spring to attention, with an "OK-Got It!" Be quick to go back to a relaxed posture as this is saying to him/her "OK." and "now we're back to normal." They may blow their nose to show a release of pressure. Now you are talking.

Of course all of this applies ONLY when you and your horse are in a relaxed state. It could change in a second if they are startled or are in a heightened state of worry or fright. Horses are very emotional so stronger

measures are sometimes needed to keep both of you safe and keep you out of a 4 hoof blender.

Your friend has a million year rat-trap in him/her, ready to go off at any second IF he is suddenly startled. They all have been hard wired for this. You can put a better catch on the rat-trap by desensitizing

them to things but it will always be there. And once it does go off they will be looking for you to talk them down from it, even if you can't get near them right then. Talking to them, calling their name, eventually stroking their neck (all while being calm yourself) will pay off, right then.

Dave Seroski

ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders

Next Month: Horse Mind Meld - Or - can my horse really read my mind?



Canyon Feed & Tack

**FEBRUARY SPECIAL:
10% OFF NEW TACK
for ETI Members**



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

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.

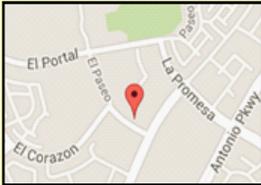
We also have a **Bulk Hay Sale every Sunday!** 20 bale minimum purchase (mix and match variety) and you pick up to receive \$3 per bale discount (does not include Brome Hay).

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/>



FEBRUARY MEMBERS MEETING



Date & Time: Thursday, February 5, 2015, 7:00 pm

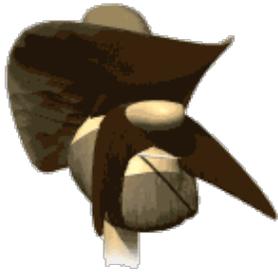
Guest Speaker: Dr. Mark Secor

Topic: Soundness, Recognizing Lameness, and dealing with geriatric issues as we ready our horses for the upcoming competition season.

Location: Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant & Bar | 22322 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita

	Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact
February	5 Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	Mi Casa	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	Patti (949) 888-1604
	21 Saturday	Playday Practice	9:00AM	O'Neill Park arena	Tracy Tuttle (949) 444-1974
	28 Saturday	Month End Event	10:00AM	O'Neill Park	Rick (949) 439-2414
March	5 Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	Jimmy I (949) 459-7742
	11 Wednesday	Park Meeting	7:30AM	O'Neill Park Ranger Station	Jimmy I (949) 459-7742
	12 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	
	21 Saturday	Swallows Day Parade	6:00AM	San Juan Capistrano	Rick (949) 439-2414
	28 Saturday	Playday (Month End Event)	8:00AM	O'Neill Park arena	
April	2 Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	Jimmy I (949) 459-7742
	4 Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00AM	O'Neill Park	Rich & Patti (949) 888-1604
	9 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	
	18 Saturday	Horsemanship Clinic	10:00AM	O'Neill Park arena	
	TB A Saturday	Cowboy Festival	9:00AM	Santa Clarita	Rick (949) 439-2414

See website for full calendar: www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com



ETI 357



PLAYDAY PRACTICE

Come ride with us for a fun practice session to get ready for the Playday on March 28th. We'll have the obstacles set up to try out. Pack a lunch and hang out with friends afterwards.

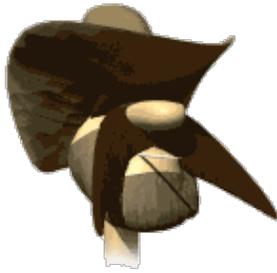
See you there!

When: Saturday, February 21, 2015
from 9-12:00

Where: O'Neill Regional Park Equestrian Arena

What: Birangle, Cloverleaf Barrels, Skill Barrels, Mad Mouse, Ribbon Race, Speedball

Any Questions Contact: Evelyn Ortega (949) 275-8943
Tracy Tuttle (949) 444-1974



ETI 357

Horse Playday!



When: Saturday, March 28th, 2015 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)

Special Children's rate (15 & under) \$5 for members and \$6 for non

Where: O'Neill Regional Park Equestrian Arena

What: Playday Games & Western BBQ

Birangle, Cloverleaf Barrels, Skill Barrels, Ribbon Race,
Speedball

Plus special lead line events for kids!

Any Questions Contact: Evelyn Ortega (949) 275-8943
Tracy Tuttle (949) 444-1974

Go to www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com for further info
Preprint your Waiver and Release form from the website to save time...



Like Us! Follow Us! Join the Club!

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



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Iacono

ETI - CORRAL 357 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING December 31, 2014

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America)	\$10,594.25
DEPOSITS: Deposits Made After Closing: November	\$0.00
Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits	<u>\$10,594.25</u>

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck #	Source	Reason:	Amount:
1574	J Iacono	trail maint	\$ 58.98	1575	Tuttle	Board dinner	\$ 30.00
1576	Hanaleh	Donation	\$200.00	1578	K Hopkins	Xmas party	\$574.00
1580	J Iacono	Xmas party	\$354.05				
Total expenses paid in – December 2014							<u>(\$1,217.03)</u>

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Ck#	Source	Reason	Amount:
1579	ETI	membership	\$176.00
Total Outstanding Checks December, 31-2014 - i.e. Spending:			<u>(\$176.00)</u>

Funds on hand in checking as of 12-31-2014	\$10,418.25
Petty Cash on Hand as of 12-31-2014	400.00
Corral FUNDS On Hand as of 12-31-2014	<u>\$10,818.25</u>

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:	\$10,818.25
Less Reserves:	
1. ERT as of 12-31-2014	\$(476.71)
Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve:	\$(476.73)
NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of: Corral 357	<u>\$10,341.52</u>



2015 Board of Directors



President	James Iacono	714-612-1789	jiacono@fontissolutions.com
Vice-President	Bob Wilks	714-608-1881	robert-a-wilks@cox.net
Secretary	Patti Gomez	714-335-3123	pattiangomez@aol.com
Treasurer	Vicki Iacono	949-285-5975	zoegal@hughes.net
Membership	Kristen Holden	949-444-1990	kristen3091@gmail.com
Scribe/Newsletter Editor	Renate Soderstrom	831-359-1079	renate.soderstrom@gmail.com
Trail Boss	Rick Balthaser	949-439-2414	rbalthaser@aol.com
Activity Director	Evelyn Ortega	949-275-8943	jinjo27@dishmail.net
Activity Director	Tracy Tuttle	949-444-1974	pinkysgrooming@cox.net
Sergeant-at-Arms	open		
Social Media Coordinator	open		
Emergency Response Team Coordinator & Webmaster	Rich Gomez	714-504-7001	rtgomez@aol.co
Emergency Response Team Communications & Person-at-Large	Dave Seroski	949-533-7153	DSeroski@cox.net



Note from the Editor

By Renate Soderstrom

Thank you for sending these Valentines!



Happy Valentine's Day, Stormy! ...

A relationship built on trust ... You trust that I will take care of you and keep you safe... I trust that you will take care of me and keep me safe ... *(Now if I can only remember to buy my wife a Valentine's Day card!)*

Rick Balthaser
Trail Boss
ETI Corral 357



To my favorite gelding, Slim.
From Mary Grbic





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