

Corral News

Saddleback Canyon Riders ETI Corral 357



March 2015

Volume 22, Issue 3



From the President's Corner

By James M. Iacono

...Reminds me of a Story.

Now that the holidays are getting smaller in our rear view mirrors, and we are establishing a foothold in 2015, it's time to realize how lucky we are to lead an equestrian life in Southern California. I mean, really, how many of the 15 million plus people who reside in Southern California can say they have an opportunity to wake up to the earthy smell of horses, or live a stone's throw away from them and get to hear a nicker as they drive up to the barn? And be just a tack-up, a leg up, and a block up from forested trails?

My friends, it doesn't get much better than this. The bonus, for me at least, is that I don't have to do it alone somewhere miles away from civilization! On Thanksgiving I can run a Turkey Trot down at the beach and ride in the Saddleback foothills all in the same MORNING! I can get fresh eggs from a neighbor. Borrow a tractor if I need one. I can sort cows to blaring country music on a Saturday night. Play horseshoes any afternoon. I can tap my toes to the sound of a neighborhood band down at the General Store after dinner, and still make a flight out of John Wayne later that night.

Maybe most people living in Southern California would rather be in a rat race, but the only race this guy wants to be in is around a few barrels. I spent the Presidents Day holiday riding across 6 miles of lush scenery, hitched my mare up at the local saloon, and ordered a burger and a beer. Eat your heart out Maverick! When I showed pictures to co-workers from Irvine they ruminated that I live in a fairy tale.

Don't take for granted with what you have been blessed. And don't let the calendar pages turn without taking advantage of some of the things our Club has to offer. We, like our horses, should prefer activities in a herd. The year and the events will be gone before you know it! We have the Swallows Day Parade on the 21st of



this month and a Playday on the 28th. We'll need ground crew at the Parade if you don't feel like riding. The Playday is a great time to invite friends and family to see how our little Equestrian Club rolls.... Always stiff competition, followed by a western BBQ lunch. All wrapped up by 1 p.m. Heck, some of those folks up on the mesa are just wakin' up at 1:00!

And all of this reminds me of the story about the guy who stops one of the fire truck captains down at the Trabuco Canyon fire station and asks him why he's gotta have a phone on the back of his truck.

"That's a direct line to heaven," says the fire captain.

"Really? How much to use it?" asks the guy.

"Fifty cents", says the captain.

"Why so cheap?"

"Well, from here it's a local call."

And forever was coined the phrase, "Trabuco Canyon-where heaven is a local call."

Count your blessings, tack up the old mare, and mark your calendars to come out and have some fun with your neighbors!

See you on the trails!

James M. Iacono
President
ETI Corral 357 -
Saddleback Canyon
Riders





Trail Boss Report - Rick's Ramblin's

By Rick Balthaser

Saturday, February 28th Month End Trail Ride... SUNNY OR STORMY?

That seemed to be the question of the morning as dark storm clouds boiled angrily overhead and dropped a few threatening rain showers as we were tacking up for our much anticipated month-end ride. Buuut ... there WERE a couple of very small patches of blue sky off in the distance ... So ... what to do?

As most of you know, our clubs catch-phrases are; "We Ain't Skeered", and "Git R Done!" ... So just to be safe, we saddled up both SUNNY (Karen's horse) AND STORMY (my horse), and Renate and I headed to the arena where we met up with Paula and King James.

It was a very pleasant cool morning and we rode the Arroyo where we saw deer, happily shared the trail with very polite hikers, runners and mountain bikers and even had fun playing a little impromptu improv game on the way back. All in all, a very pleasant ride indeed.



DON'T be skeered ... DO Git R Done ... And come ride with us! ... Cuz as you now know, we'll be ridin' whether it's SUNNY or STORMY!

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



So ... Here's the deal:

We've already had two very nice, mellow and enjoyable month-end rides in 2015, and if you haven't joined us yet, I suggest that you do.

As your shiny new Trail Boss, I strive to create a very enjoyable and safe riding experience for our group rides. Soooo, when we have our next Trail Ride ...



Horse Sense

By Dave Seroski

Horses Break Like China... So Do People.

In my other life, I am a court-recognized mechanical crash expert in the field of fatal accidents. Having conducted more than 200 investigations of them, I can speak from experience.

I have shaken Death's boney little hand often, and enjoy cheating him when I can. It's a game of give and take and treacherous at best. One way I cheat him is to tell people how to avoid him in the first place, but when I put a vehicle or a horse in the mix he gets, well, pushy.

The automotive industry pushed back years ago making vehicles much safer and I've never met an air bag I didn't like. Now lately, the reaper appears more on the outside of the car then on the inside of it. In short, it's the things that they hit that die.

If it can't be seen... it can't be avoided; thus my **Impact Flashing Leg Wraps** for night riding. They really do work and you will see the effect on your very first ride at night; you will never leave home without them at night again. Every time you see a car slow down when they see you, take a good look into the dark; you may see the Reaper's cape disappearing into it. You and your horse cheated him.

But no one can put an air bag on a horse. No, but we can now put one on you. It is called a **HIT AIR Vest**.

It attaches to your saddle with a pull cord and when you leave your saddle for unexpected reasons it wraps your vital organs, supports your neck and even has a little bag that pops out to cushion your tush for that unenviable collision with mother earth.

This is done with the release of a 50cc CO2 canister that inflates the vest in a few micro seconds. It's like

landing on a cloud. Also used by motorcyclists, guys are crashing at 80 mph and surviving. Your horse will never get up to those speeds so your chances go way up. They make them for men and for women so they are comfortable and highly advised for those of us over 50 or those who ride in competitive sports.

I have seen a few British riders racing around a jumping course who during a spill have had the horse land ON THEM. They get back up with a bit of a stutter in their voice (not that I can understand them anyway) and shake the whole thing off and are back in the next round of competition. I'd say they work!



Noggin Protection: Get It and Use it. Mission Hospital makes a good living off of the those who don't (note: Some of us have sustained serious brain injuries while wearing a helmet and have been told by our neurosurgeons that had we not been wearing

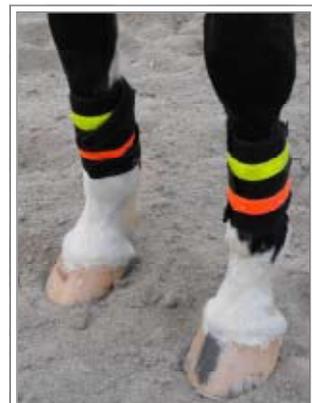
the helmet, we would not have survived the accident. So make sure you have a good, sturdy **EQUESTRIAN helmet!**).

I would say a very large amount of my work is directly related to head injury as is my daughter-in-law's. She is in the land scraping business... 6 feet under it.

So when you head out for your next ride and you see all 3 of us waving to you Just ignore that guy with the cape and scythe. You're dressed for safety and people can see your horse.

Have a good ride!

Dave
Lori Who?
That Other Guy



Dave Seroski
ETI Corral 357 - Saddleback Canyon Riders



March is Safety Month

By Kristen Holden

Riding Safety

Since this month's topic is safety, I thought I would present some of my thoughts as well as published statistics and information to better help our club members make sound and safe decisions while riding. According to a recent poll in Australia, horseback riding falls are fourth in sport injuries requiring hospitalizations. Another American poll shows that one can expect to have some type of injury for every 100 hours of leisure riding. Between those two statistics alone, it is obvious to most people that reducing risks should be a high priority for all equestrians.

Unlike bicycles or motorcycles, which are mechanical, horses have brains and when in fear will forget their very expensive training and react. Jan Dawson, President of the American Association for Horsemanship Safety, explained, "Most accidents seem to have their roots in the fact that most people do not understand that you cannot overcome instincts with training. The horse is always a horse, and he will be predictably unpredictable. Whenever the horse is under sufficient mental or physical pressure, the training will be gone and the instincts will kick in." If anyone has ever watched a horse race, we can see this just in the loading area as the race is beginning and these riders are true professionals.

So rather than quote more statistics or further scare you away from riding, the key is to make good decisions to reduce the risks and minimize the severity of injuries when they occur. I love lists so here goes:

•Wear a Helmet

Many of us older riders, veer away from wearing helmets. I've heard, "It messes up my hair." To "It's uncomfortable." The reality is that our heads are much higher off the ground than any biker's head. 8 to 10 feet to be more precise. No one's head can sustain an 8 foot fall without injury. Further the G forces come in to play causing us to hit even harder. Dying or permanent head injuries are very common from falls. So wear a helmet especially to protect your children from having to care for an invalid if you get hurt.



•Check your Equipment (especially your girth)

Leather can wear out, ties can come undone, Chicago screws fall apart and the list is endless. It is important to check all of your equipment to ensure they are secure. Also, check the tightness of the girth after initially putting it on. Horses often suck air in making us think the girth is tight, when it really isn't. Sometimes I have to tighten as many as three holes after initially putting it on.

•Wear Appropriate Boots

80% of all riding accidents are falls. It is really important that if you were to fall, you want to ensure that you are free and away from the horse to ensure no further injuries from being dragged. Wearing the wrong type of footwear can be the difference of surviving a fall or not. Boots should have a minimum of a one-inch heel. The reason for this is that your foot is much less likely to slip through the stirrup and get hung up as you come off. Wearing boots can also protect your lower leg from scraping along tress and branches.

•Personal Safety Equipment

It is important that clothing be fitted rather than loose flowing. It will protect your arms and legs from being scratched and it is less likely to catch on branches or trees. While I keep things like water bottles and other equipment attached to the horse's saddle, I always carry my phone, ID and insurance card in a handy bag that I attach to my leg. If I were separated from my horse and injured, at least I still have access to my cell phone so I can make a call. And I keep the sheriff's and

park ranger numbers in my phone so I don't have to try to find them in an emergency.

Overall, accidents are just that, accidents and they are not always preventable. That's why it is important to consider what your actions will be should an accident occur. Always be aware of your location on the trail so if you have to let someone know how to get to you, you are able to give directions. Be sure if you are riding alone, that someone knows where you are and what time you will be home. I carry a pocketknife and a first aid kit in my handy bag attached to my leg. Since falls account for the majority of accidents, having the first aid kit on the horse won't help you. Most of all use common sense. Don't ride above your ability and stay in public areas so if you are injured and cannot make a call, a passer-by may be able to help.

So during Safety Month, take the time to check your gear and plan on how you will handle any emergency, should it arise.

Ride smartly and most of all: Have Fun!

Kristen Holden

ETI Corral 357 – Saddleback Canyon Riders



It's Swallows Day Parade Time!!!

By Tracy Tuttle

Join Us For the 2015 Swallows Day Parade in San Juan Capistrano!



Sign up Now!

- Deadline:** March 10, 2015
Parade: Saturday March 21, 2015
Contact: Activities Directors
Tracy Tuttle (949)444-1974
pinkysgrooming@cox.net
Evelyn Ortega (949)275-8943
jinjo27@dishmail.com



The crowds are great, the music fun and the horses are eager to strut their stuff. It's that time again to participate in our annual Swallows Day Parade in San Juan Capistrano, but we need you here!! Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 21st, 2015. Come join in the fun and excitement and represent our horse club and canyon. We need a final headcount no later than March 10th, 2015 (sooner if possible) so we can coordinate trailers and further details.

Please let us know ASAP to let us know if you plan on attending and whether you have your own trailer or need a ride. We also need a good ground crew to carry the banner and help with the horses.

Hope you all can join us! It's a super fun day!

Canyon Feed & Tack

MARCH SPECIAL:
Mention this ad and
RECEIVE 20% OFF
PINE BEDDING!
(Pick up only and no additional
discounts apply)



**ETI National 2014
Sponsor of the Year**

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/>

MARCH MEMBERS MEETING



Topic: **SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2015

Time: Dinner 7:00 pm, Meeting 7:30 pm

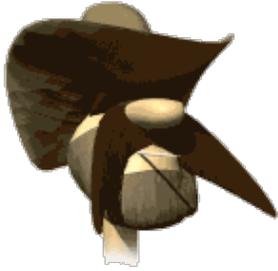
Location: Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant & Bar
22322 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita

Contact: James (949) 459-7742



	Date		Event	Time	Location	Contact
March	5	Thursday	Members Meeting "Safety Equipment"	7:00 PM	Mi Casa	Jimmy I (949) 459-7742
	12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	Seroski's	
	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 "Nutrition"	7:00 PM	Mi Casa	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	Old Town Newhall, CA	Rick (949) 439-2414
May	7	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00 PM	Mi Casa	Jimmy I (949) 459-7742
	13	Wednesday	Park Meeting	7:30AM	O'Neill Park Ranger Station	Jimmy I (949) 459-7742
	14	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	Kristen's	
	30	Saturday	Ride at Caspers	8:30AM	Caspers	Rick (949) 439-2414
	30- 31	Fri - Mon	Casper's Campout	TBA	Caspers	

See website for full calendar: www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com



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 January 31, 2015

Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America)	\$10,536.03
DEPOSITS: Deposits Made After Closing: January	\$0.00
Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits	<u>\$10,536.03</u>

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
1579	ETI	membership	\$176.00
1581	D Kelly	member meeting	\$105.22
1582	Wilks	bd dinner	\$30.00

Total expenses paid in – January 2015 (\$1,217.03)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD

Total Outstanding Checks January 31,-2015 - i.e. Spending: (\$0.00)

Funds on hand in checking as of	01-31-2015	\$10,224.81
Petty Cash on Hand as of	01-31-2015	400.00
Corral FUNDS On Hand as of	01-31-2015	<u>\$10,624.81</u>

SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS:

Less Reserves:

1. ERT as of	01-31-2015	\$(476.73)
Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve:		\$(476.73)
NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of: Corral 357		<u>\$10,148.08</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 everyone for the great articles and photos!







**HAPPY 29TH BIRTHDAY
JIMMY JOE!!
WE LOVE YOU!!**

*Paula Giertych
Saddleback Canyon Riders*



My Three Days at the 2015 Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show

By Renate Soderstrom

A couple of weeks ago, I attended this show for the first time, and thought I would share some photos and information. Here is a snapshot of the show:



- February 12-22, 2015, in Scottsdale, Arizona
- 2015 Marked the 60th Anniversary of the Show
- Largest Arabian Horse Show in the World
- Over \$1 Million in Prize Money
- Approximately 2,250 Horses & 300,000 in Attendance
- Presented by the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona



Information from: scottsdaleshow.com
Photos by: Renate Soderstrom

Disciplines at the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show:

Country English Pleasure



Mounted Native Costume



English Show Hack



Driving (Formal & Pleasure)



Ladies Side Saddle



Breeding/Halter Classes



- Cutting Horse
- English Pleasure
- Jumping
- Park Horse

- Reining
- Dressage
- Lead Line
- Regular Working Hunter Under Saddle

- Sport Horse
- Western Pleasure
- Working Cow
- Trail Horse



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 - Saddleback Canyon Riders
PO Box 1026
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678