

Corral News

Saddleback Canyon Riders ETI Corral 357



November
2015

Volume 22
Issue 11



Reminds me of a Story... from the President's Corner

By James M. Iacono

7TH ANNUAL BUCKLE AWARDS DRAWS NICE CROWD, SPIRITED COMPETITION!

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 7th annual ETI Buckle Playday!)

This year 14 competitors showed up with their swift steeds to vie for two imported custom silver buckles. There were some familiar faces and some new shooters, but as always, there was a spirited contest for those willing to test the boundaries of their partner's speed and their own comfort.

Event Coordinators Evelyn Ortega and Tracy Tuttle put together 5 course events that challenged all ages. It truly was a test of speed and agility as all five events are from the classic bent in the Gymkhana Catalog.

In the junior division, new shooter (and new member) Kendall Walti on Ranger took home the blues in Skill Barrels and the Big T. Defending Champion Amanda Tuttle riding her reliable Oso, stood on the top podium for Pole Bending and Cloverleaf Barrels. Not to be outdone, Nicole Donahoo and Buster came across fastest in the Quadrangle. Noelle Childs had some "Precious Moments", taking home 3 Red Ribbons, while Sierra Roberts, Allie Bushong, Miranda Hansen,



and Ashley Wigh all had strong placings. Thank you, juniors, for all showing up and doing a great job with your horses and all of the patterns. I saw some of you practicing the week prior, and it looked like it paid off!

When it was time to award the Hardware, Nicole Donahoo took home the under 10 trophy, and Amanda Tuttle is wearing the Buckle for the second straight year in the Under 30 Division! Congratulations Nicole and Amanda, and to all of our junior competitors.

In the Senior Division, Patti Gretzler was back to defend her 2014 Championship. And she gave it a strong effort. Giving her a run for her money was Holly Permeh. These two took turns taking first and second over the first four events. Patti Gretzler was fastest in

Cloverleaf and Skill Barrels. Holly took blues in Pole Bending and The Big T.

President Jimmy I was singing Tony Orlando and Dawn's tune all day.... "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" as he took third in all 5 events with his grey Arabian Lacey. Other strong performances were turned in by Tracey Tuttle on the long striding Patriot, Leslie Growenwald on the feisty Roxie, and Sue Corley on the ever reliable Kami Rose. Thank you Seniors for showing that the "need for speed" has no age boundaries.

So it all came down to the 5th Event, the Quadrangle, to see which talented cowgirl would go home with a new waist adornment. Patti Gretzler on Oreo clocked an impressive 23.56 to take the lead with one rider remaining- Holly Permeh. Holly got Clover off to a fast start, and kept him on course to post a 22.99, that made her the 2015 Senior Division Champion by edging Patti out by half of a second! Congratulations Holly! Patti made it a great competition keeping everyone on the edge of their seats until the last rider in the last event!

As always, the competition was followed by a Western Barbecue with Dave Seroski as the Grillmaster. Thanks

also Dave for dragging and prepping the arena so that it could yield some lightning quick times. Tracey Tuttle and Evelyn Ortega did a masterful job in putting the event together, with a new wrinkle of raffle prizes to engage the spectators in the event as well. Patti Gomez and Spike Wilks were flawless time keepers, Sue managed the gate, Bob Wilks added color commentary over the mike, Kristen Holden kept score and also assisted Vicki Iacono with Registration, Renate Soderstrom helped with set-up, and Rich Gomez and yours truly set up the games. It takes a village to put on these events, and I appreciate that we have some villagers who enjoy seeing others have a great time! Rest up your horse, and get them ready in March when we start the season of fun all over again!

See you in the arena!

James M. Iacono
President
ETI Corral 357
Saddleback Canyon Riders





Horse Sense

By Dave Seroski

BEWARE THE ROOTS OF RUDENESS

story and photos by Diane Longanecker

"So he moved your feet—right there—just so you know," said Buck Brannaman to a student who had stepped back when the horse she was holding crowded in on her. Buck's statement referenced an ongoing issue he had been addressing throughout the clinic: ways the human causes rudeness in the horse.

Previously, Buck had put a few minutes of groundwork in on a couple of the participants' disrespectful horses. The results he produced demonstrated that when the horse yields to the human, a safe, respectful horse/human relationship is formed. In contrast, when the human yields to the horse, "he's moving your feet," warned Buck. "And there's no good that will ever come of that."

AN EARLY START

A horse's rude behavior often gets its start early on and in a very innocent way. "I'll give you an example," said Buck, "where a lot of folks get in trouble or get the horses in trouble: when they are babies. You are out there in the pasture with the mares and colts and you are just trying to rub on the colts and trying to get them friendly, which is a good thing—maybe." Buck added the qualifier because he has found that, due to a lack of awareness and understanding as to what's actually taking place, people often cause rudeness to take root in their foals instead.

For instance, given the equine's inborn inclination to keep one side free to flee danger, colts will, at one time or another, work to keep you on just one side. When you attempt to move to the colt's other side, explained Buck, "they are going to put their head over the top of you or block you and say, 'No, you stay on this side.' And they will push you back. But a lot of people don't notice that, and they'll let it go. You just taught them how to move your feet!"

Buck shared that, when he's out in the pasture among the colts at home, he makes a point of asking the youngsters to yield. In addition to having a colt tip its nose over so he can get to its other side, Buck will often ask one colt to yield so he can get to another colt to pet on it. That might cause the first colt to get "kind of pushy and try to drive you around and keep you from getting to the other colt," said Buck. "If he was real pushy about not letting me through there, then I might reach to the other side and make him whirl away from me and say, 'I told you to move your feet!' I rather he moved away and fled the scene, than thought he could push me and drive me around. They are little miniature herd animals then and, believe me, they are trying to figure out if they

can move you around right then."

Buck was referring to the fact that, as a herd animal, it is an equine's nature to sort out his place within the hierarchical structure of the herd. Order is determined by seeing who can move whose feet; the ones successful at doing the moving become dominant over those doing the yielding. Yet the process is not limited to equines. When meeting a human, for example, the young horse's order-seeking drive is triggered. And he will put that person through the hierarchical sorting process, too.

"So you better be clear," said Buck. "Of all the things you are doing when you are interacting with those colts, you could be teaching them how to push people around and not even know it. When you think all you're doing is good, because you are out there cuddling them and getting them gentle to where they could be rubbed on—you might be making them rude."

MORE RUDE WAYS

Rudeness, of course, is not limited to colts. As issues came up during the clinic, Buck identified other ways rudeness slips into horse/human relationships.

WHAT ARE YOUR BOUNDARIES?

Boundaries shape the relationship you have with your horse. Boundaries provide structure, guidance, and definition. Boundaries draw a line between what is acceptable and what is not. Boundaries anchor your position and prevent you from being steered off course.

When they have been carefully thought out, put into place, monitored, and enforced, boundaries maintain order, keep things identifiable, promote safety, and enable you to avoid creating rudeness in your horse. Think of boundaries as the foundation for quality horse/human interactions:

- You have a space bubble; the horse must respect it.
- You move the horse's feet; the horse does not move yours.
- If the horse needs to move his feet, you direct where they go.
- The horse moves because of you; he does not move in spite of you.
- Your attention is on the horse; the horse's attention is on you.

At the root of a horse's rudeness is the human's failure to establish and enforce boundaries. Avoid rudeness: Take charge of your boundaries.

"What some of you don't realize," said Buck, "is you'll

teach your horses how to be rude, just when you are trying to be affectionate. You might reach for them and rub them, and your horse might root his head and be like, ‘Get your hand off me.’ And you don’t even notice it!”

Buck pointed out that a similar instance where rudeness gets taught occurs when a person asks the horse to tip its head one way, but instead of yielding “they would root their head the other way—and you’d let them!”

While standing next to his horse, Buck demonstrated what the horse’s response should be: He used a light touch of his fingers on the bridge of the nose to yield the horse’s head over to one side and then back. “Don’t think that’s not important,” said Buck. “Ray [Hunt] did that a lot. He would say, ‘Tip your head over here. That’s good. Now tip it back.’ I’d see him do that, and it seemed like that was just so subtle. What’s the damn big deal about that?”

With a slight lift of the mectate lead, Buck provided a visual answer to the question he had just posed. Weighing nothing, his horse instantly yielded and willingly followed the feel on back. “All those little things, those little yields,” said Buck, “that’s what adds up. It’s all about yielding. I’m just trying to find places where they don’t yield.”

A student then asked about what to do if the horse “won’t yield to your fingers and move his head?”

“Well,” said Buck, “you’ve got your halter or your snaffle, here. If I might be just trying to do this and say, ‘Hey, follow my fingers here across,’ if he didn’t do it, I’ve got the rein to go, ‘Hey, I said, tip your nose over there.’ I’m going to have some back up . . . he’s not going to get away from me.”

LEADING RUDENESS

“Buck, how do you correct the rudeness of a horse,” a student asked, “who wants to walk in front of you [when being led]?”

“You back him up,” answered Buck. “When he’s crossed that line, that he has gone too far ahead of me, you go, ‘You should probably yield back.’”

The student then asked what she should do when the horse gets too close and crowds in on her as she is trying to back him up.

“I might have to do that: give him a little bump on the cheek, and go ‘Hey, my bubble.’ It’s always about my bubble—always. If I’m leading them, or whenever I’m around them, you better learn what my bubble is.”

With regard to leading, Buck added that he is often asked about where the horse should be in relation to the person. Should the horse be a little ahead of the person, at the person’s shoulder, or a little behind the person? His answer was direct and to the point: “Wherever you please,” said Buck. “And make sure he stays there . . . When I’m leading a horse, if I decide to make a right turn, I don’t want to have to run him over to get there.”

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

Sometimes, a horse’s rude behavior comes from the human

not meeting the equine’s needs. Consequently, when three students with disrespectful horses each asked how best to deal with his or her particular situation, Buck’s answers reflected a common theme: by taking responsibility. To varying degrees, these horses were ignoring and crowding their handlers and moving about at will. After addressing each student’s individual situation, Buck followed up with a summary of universal advice aimed at everyone.

“So the deal is, same with you guys here,” said Buck referring to all the other students in the class, “if those feet are moving, you better be causing it. Because if they are moving in spite of you, they are taking over. They’re calling the shots.”

Buck stressed to the group that, anytime their horses crowd them or move about whenever or wherever they please, the students need to be offended. “And if those feet are moving,” said Buck, “you have to go, ‘That’s in spite of me; that’s not because of me . . . You know what? You are going to go where I ask you to go. I’m the boss here.’ But you don’t do it with anger or malice . . . you start taking responsibility”

The responsibility Buck went on to describe placed the human in the role of a director. The horse is given the opportunity to stand. If he feels he must move instead, that’s fine. But the human then gives the horse “a little job to do” and directs where he goes. After a short while, the horse is again offered the option to stand. Thus, rather than the horse taking over and moving at will, his movement is only allowed under terms set and managed by the human.

“Well, then you’re building in some respect,” said Buck. “Where pretty soon, instead of the horse having all the answers, he starts asking questions like, ‘Hey, where do you need me?’ Then when you get on him, maybe he would be a little bit more accurate, too, because you’ve got to operate the horse like he is your feet. If you don’t, it’s not safe: It’s all the things that happen that you didn’t ask for that get you in trouble.”

A DIRECTING EXAMPLE

To illustrate how the responsibility of directing unfolds, Buck took the lead rope of a fidgety young horse that was crowding its handler and went through the process of creating a new behavior pattern in the colt. But first, he pointed out that fixing disrespectful behavior is dependent upon how you go about it: The situation is evaluated and an approach that best fits that individual horse is used. With decades of rude-horse dealings to draw upon, Buck instinctively knew how to proceed.

“See, at first if it’s a real young one,” said Buck, “they might be kind of standing next to you for comfort. And I’d pet him, ‘Ah, that’s the way. You can be my buddy here.’” (Photo A)

However, since where the mind goes the feet soon follow, whenever the colt attempted to look off Buck blocked him.



By remaining aware, Buck was able to apply just enough tension on the lead rope at just the right time to direct attention back onto him. Thus, the colt remained still. "But then there might be a point," said Buck, "I'd say, 'Now, you can step back.'"

PLAN A, PLAN B

Buck lifted the lead rope. He asked the colt to step back by offering the feel of a good deal; the colt didn't respond. "I said, you could step back," restated Buck as he delivered a very effective sharp bump through the lead rope; the colt moved back. "It's not personal," he added, "but you can stay back there. You don't have to be up here rubbing snot all over me all the time. You can be back there and behave yourself."

Buck explained what had just taken place: "I had offered him a good deal before I bumped him back—knowing full well that he's green. (Photo B) But after a little bit, see how he says, 'You have my undivided attention.'" At the other end of the lead rope stood the colt, head up, ears pricked, focused intently on Buck, and waiting for the next request. (Photo C)

The wait was not long. Buck put tension on the lead rope, and the colt followed the feel forward. (Photo D) "You were out there all by yourself for a long time," said Buck. "Let me pet you. Nobody is mad at you. But you don't have to be on top of me all the time." (Photo E)

After petting on the colt for a bit, Buck lifted the lead rope and said: "All right, that's enough cuddle, now get back." This time, the colt took the good deal. He followed the feel and stepped on back. (Photo F) "Maybe one more step," added Buck as he lifted the lead rope again, and the colt yielded back in response. "That's good."

ATTENTION BOTH WAYS

While the colt stood attentively parked out at the end of the lead rope, Buck brought up the importance of attention.

"A lot of you guys," he said, "you are kind of quick to complain about your horses' attention—but look at yours! You're the ones not paying attention, because there's stuff going on [with the horse] and you're not paying attention to him." Buck stated that it was the students' job to keep track of their horses. If that meant they needed to zero in and focus continually on them, he said, "Well then, do it!"

When Buck noticed the colt shift its weight in preparation to creep forward, he pointed the situation out. It was an instance when paying attention to the horse was key: By simply raising the lead rope in a reminder-like fashion, he blocked the thought and caused the colt to remain still. After conceding that this colt had a habit of creeping forward on its owner, Buck said: "Yeah, well you don't me. When you come up here, you get invited up here. You can step up here now."

As a signal to come forward, Buck added a forward-feel tension as he lifted the lead rope. The colt hesitated. Switching to a pull-and-release strategy, Buck broke the feet loose. But then the colt gave going off to the side a try. "I didn't say, 'Go over there,'" said Buck as he pulled on the lead rope just enough to put the colt back on course. When the colt veered off to the other side, Buck straightened him and said: "I didn't say, 'Go over there.' I said, 'Right here.' That's good." Buck then spent time rubbing on the colt.

"Now, I don't want you here; move your feet back," said Buck, lifting the lead rope with an offer of a good deal. The colt readily followed the feel on back.

"This in itself is giving him a job to do," said Buck. "You're saying, 'Look, I'm aware of you, and you best stay aware of me.' . . . But he's okay with the program around me because he says, 'I know that he knows, that I know he knows.'"

In other words, by taking responsibility and doing the directing, Buck earned the colt's respect.



ACORN DAY 2015

story and photos by Karen and Rick Balthaser

For the third year in recent times, park ranger Diane Wollenberg has organized an educational and fun filled Acorn Day in O'Neill Park, and ETI was there. ETI's booth promoting Saddleback Canyon Riders, the equine lifestyle, and our own upcoming Play Day was nestled among booths for organizations such as OC Fire Watch, Native American crafts, Tracking, Butterflies, Sheriff K-9, Birds of Prey and Bluebirds, Biking, Trails, Reptiles and many others. The air under the oaks surrounding the nature center was filled with live ukulele music and delicious aromas from the gourmet catering truck.

This year President Jimmy Iacono came up with the idea to promote ETI's October 17th Buckle Play Day by creating a mini Play Day for the kids. A barrel racing course was set around 5 gallon buckets and the kids were timed as they galloped around them on a stick pony. Prizes were provided for good tries and better prizes for beating the lowest score in their age group. The kids loved it and took it quite seriously. Every contestant was asked what they would name their pony, and their answers



experience of real horses. Attendees of all ages found a display of horse related items to be interesting, and parents took the opportunity to photograph their little ones on a saddle mounted on a hay bale. Based on how many parents asked where they could take their kids to ride or get lessons, there is a large untapped source of future equestrians out there. Hopefully by providing this experience ETI encouraged them to provide the joy of horses in their children's lives.

As we were cleaning up, one mom made a point of commenting on how nice and friendly and encouraging our volunteers were because it was obviously hard work.



were endearing (Pepper, Princess, Buttercup, Stickee, Bonnie, Cupcake, Jorge, Annie, Popo, Batterang, Caballo, Stallion, Chloe, Rosie Belle Vander, Fred, M&M, Skittles, Dolphin, Butterfly Pinky Diamond and Swaggerhorse to name a few). Jeff Kelly with Nixon and Jim Schicht with Jager also came by to provide the



Thank you so much to Jimmi I for a great idea, building the course and timing; to Robert and Jake for helping set up; to the timers, recorders, and prize givers: Renate, Saraphine, Debbie K, Mary, Connie, Pam, Sawyer, Sydnee. Thanks to Teena, Jim and Jeff and their horses; Debbie J jumped in to help clean up. Rick helped all round and was the official O'Neill Park Acorn Day photographer. Together we put a lot of smiles on young faces and promoted the equine lifestyle in Trabuco Canyon.



Karen and Rick Balthaser
ETI Corral 357
Saddleback Canyon Riders



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Monday: Rancho Carillo, Ortega, Sycamore, San Juan Capistrano, Nellie Gail, Laguna, Mission Viejo
Tuesday: Coto, Santiago, Modjeska, Silverado, Carbondale, Peacock Equestrian, Orange, Yorba Linda
Wednesday: Trabuco Canyon, Lake Forest, Serrano
Thursday: Coto de Caza, Rancho Carillo, Ortega, San Juan Capistrano, Nellie Gail, Laguna



30555 Trabuco Canyon Road, Suite 100
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

949-766-2825

Monday - Saturday 9-5



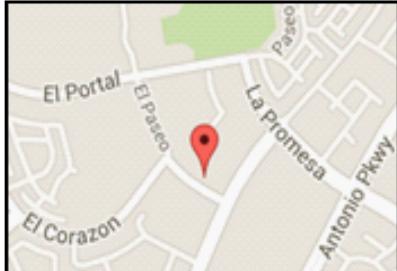
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ETI Corral 357 Upcoming Events



NOVEMBER MEMBERS MEETING & BOARD ELECTIONS

November



Elections are open until Thursday, November 5th for the following Board Positions:

Vice President
Treasurer
Membership
Member (Person) At Large
Activities Director

Date: Thursday, November 5, 2015
Time: Dinner at 7:00; Meeting starts at 7:30
Location: Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant
22322 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita
Contact: James (949) 459-7742

11	Wednesday	Park Meeting	7:30 AM	O'Neill Park Ranger Station	Jimmy I (949) 459-7742
12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	
28	Saturday	Month End Event	9:00 AM	O'Neill Park	Rick (949) 439-2414

December

10	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	TBA	
12	Saturday	Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade	TBA	Laguna Niguel	Evelyn (949) 275-8943 Tracy (949) 444-1974
13	Sunday	Christmas Party	5:30 PM		Jimmy I (949) 459-7742
27	Sunday	Month End Event	10:00 AM	O'Neill Park	Rick (949) 439-2414



**For when
you get
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Ad Size	Member	Non-Member
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Half Page	\$30.00	\$50.00
1/4 Page	\$15.00	\$25.00
1/8 Page	\$5.00	\$10.00

contact: Renate Soderstrom
Newsletter Editor/Scribe
831-359-1079
renate.soderstrom@gmail.com



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Iacono

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING September 30, 2015

<u>Ending Bank Balance (Bank of America)</u>	<u>\$16,841.43</u>
DEPOSITS: Deposits Made After Closing: September \$0.00	<u>\$0.00</u>
Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits	<u>\$16,841.43</u>

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
2017	T Stuben	speaker	\$ 40.00	2018	R Soderstrom	postage	\$ 19.60
2019	D Kelly	pancake brkft	\$ 44.00	2020	ETI	membership	\$204.00
2021	K Holden	Bd dinner	\$ 30.00	2022	ETI	membership	\$ 40.00

Total expenses paid in – September 2015 (\$377.60)

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED IN THIS PERIOD:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
2028	Stuckey	fun raiser	\$6,200.00				
<u>Total Outstanding Checks August 31,-2015 - i.e. Spending:</u>							<u>(\$6,200.00)</u>

Funds on hand in checking as of	09-30-2015	\$10,641.43
Petty Cash on Hand as of	09-30-2015	\$400.00
Corral FUNDS On Hand as of	09-30-2015	\$11,041.43
SUBTOTAL CORRAL FUNDS: Less Reserves: ERT as of 09-30-2015		(\$476.73)
Total Corral Funds Committed To Reserve:		(\$476.73)
NET Funds on Hand in Checking, Petty Cash to credit of: Corral 357		10,564.70



2015 Board of Directors

GIFT
R
DONE

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	Susan Seroski		sseroski@yahoo.com
Social Media Coordinator	Heather Latchford		heather.latchford@live.com
Emergency Response Team Coordinator & Webmaster	Rich Gomez	714-504-7001	rtgomez@aol.com
Emergency Response Team Communications & Person-at-Large	Dave Seroski	949-533-7153	dSeroski@cox.net



Note from the Editor:

By Renate Soderstrom

Just a reminder from the board...

VOTING ENDS MIDNIGHT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH



We'll be voting for **FIVE Saddleback Canyon Riders Board positions** at this Thursday's Members' Meeting (see calendar, page 9).

We'll have ballots at the meeting, but if you can't make it to the meeting, check your email for a link to vote, or contact Secretary Gomez (949)888-1604 pattiangomez@aol.com.

Cast your vote or nominate YOUR FAVORITE MEMBER for these open positions:

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| Large | <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Member (Person) At |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities Director | |

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE. DON'T MISS IT!!!



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.

**Saddleback Canyon Riders
ETI Corral 357
PO Box 1026
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678**