

CORRAL NEWS



ETI CORRAL 357 | SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

NOVEMBER 2017

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 10



Reminds Me of a Story... From the President's Corner

REQUIEM FOR A PLAYDAY

Anyone who has ever lived in this Canyon can remember seeing a banner, snuggled by an American Flag, standing tall above the park's main water valves, near the big arena. The banner speaks simply: "Playday, 9-23". No day of the week, no time, are necessary. Everyone knows it's a Saturday, in the morning; and by just after noon one can smell the sweet grease of a charring burger from as far as the General Store. You may not have planned on attending the event, but the loud speaker piercing the crisp canyon air draws your attention. The horses patiently wait in the wings, while inside the arena is a splash of sand as a horse pivots around a barrel followed by cheers of encouragement. "Go Anthony! Go Patty! Go RickyLynn!" Everyone has a cheering section.

I started stopping by about 2002. I was drawn by the sounds, the spirit, the sport, the ceremony. Back in those days there could be 25-30 riders total for both divisions. After each event, they announced the winners of each place, up to 10 in both Divisions. There were colors of ribbons I had never seen- gray, taupe, magenta. The reason they didn't wait until lunch to hand out all the ribbons, was that lunch was only HALFTIME- there were still 2-3 more events after everyone went through the grill line.

My first competitive Playday was sometime in 2004. It was old hat to many, (Playdays had been going on at least since 1994) but to me it was new, and gave me the opportunity to poke a long dormant craving-- to compete in something! I had been

playing competitive sports since I was 9 years old. Later in life I took up long distance running and ran 6 marathons, competing against the clock... and finally Father Time. As the years went by, I was no longer lowering my times. I had hit a wall.

Suddenly, at the age of 48, I had a new "arena" to compete in- and a friend, my first horse, Captain, became my partner in sport. We would learn these games together. My first event was a 10th place finish- a gray ribbon. But it might as well have been a blue. I "hit the board" after all. I was hooked. I joined the Club. I started going to Member's Meetings. I became an appointed Board Member. All because I had won a gray ribbon.

At one of my first Member's Meetings, the crowd was polled for suggestions going into the next year. My only suggestion: "More Playdays". By 2008 I became the Activities Coordinator so that I could monitor and preserve a tradition that had been my hook and connection to the Club. We instituted the "Buckle Playday in 2009. We coupled one Buckle Playday with an auction fundraiser benefitting local horse rescue organizations to the tune of \$2000. These days funded the fun of the Club. And for the Community it was like "Friday Night Lights" in Texas.

Then something happened. Several families moved out of the Canyon. Some to Bear Valley Springs, some to Norco, some as far as Missouri. Horses started retiring. Our Membership got older. Kids became adults with other interests, kids of their own.

We went from 3 events in 2015, to two events in 2016, to one in 2017 in the hopes of building up

enthusiasm. But our attendance went from 20, to 16, to 12, to 9, and finally on 9-23-17 we had only 5 signups. I find it a hard pill to swallow. The hook that caught me, was no longer an appealing bite... to hardly anyone.

In the 2017 edition, after several bridesmaid performances, yours truly won the Adult Division Buckle, while new member Allie Bushong won the Junior Buckle. Miranda Hansen finished a close second

The performances were not wasted. They offered a time when horses and riders bond, pushing and pulling to stay on the same page, and just try to do a little better each time.

I tried to reconcile how this could have happened on my watch... the turnout fading, and the page of our Club's history turning. I have to accept that the only thing that is constant is change. The face of our Membership is evolving. Our horses are getting older. The people moving into the Canyon have fewer horses (or none).

But as a Club we are still active. I wrote last month about our involvement with an Evacuation Plan, with Watershed Cleanup, with Acorn Day, Community Pancake Breakfasts, trail maintenance days. We are docents for the OCTA, leading rides every other month on Ferber Ranch. We have raised money this year instead through Country Dance Parties. We are going to visit the Sargent Reckless Memorial at Camp Pendleton. We will caravan a group to ride Imperial Beach in November. Okay, so we had a poor turnout for this year's Buckle Run. One event should not taint all of this year's accomplishments. So I am going to let go. And look toward the future. But the future will need new blood. We have 4 Board positions opening up for new leaders. Please throw your hat in the ring, and help us create the new hook that will make people curious, like I was, inspire them to show up, and to get involved.

For me, 12 years ago, it was the challenge of working with my horse to go as fast and be as smart as possible, to find the shortest distance between two points. Let's navigate together, a new path that beckons friends, neighbors, ex-members to uncover the next hook that creates excitement, stirs the soul, and inspires our next efforts in being a part of this great community, where heaven is a local call.



Inner-Coastal and Watershed Cleanup Day

By Jim Iacono

Saddleback Canyon Riders again served as Captains for an International Day of Cleanup, the 21st annual Inner-Coastal and Watershed Cleanup Day. It was the 6th consecutive year we have served as Captains at the mouth of Holy Jim Canyon in Trabuco Canyon. Under our management and guidance, 60 volunteers carted over 15,500 pounds of trash out of the Canyon. It also serves as a day of partnership in which equestrians and bikers serve side by side for the greater good of our Community and the region at large. Thanks to all who participated in this important event to prove our dedication to the stewardship of our environment. And please, if you ever see anyone attempting to dump in our canyon please take note of their license plate so they can be reported to the proper authorities.





Local Events News

By Debbie Kelly

ACORN DAY

Our club has had a strong presence at the annual Acorn Day in O'Neill park for many years now. Our late and very dear friend Karen Hopkins Balthaser selflessly created a fun and educational booth with games, prizes, ponies, cowboys and much more. The booth always showcased what we as a horse club represent and her creativity would carry the day. Kids visiting the event would return over and over throughout the day to play their hand at whatever fun game Karen had conjured up. In 2015 our club President Jimmy I came up with the brilliant idea to replicate our Play Day's and set up a course complete with barrels (using five gallon paint buckets) a stick pony, score board, and prizes based on age and timing for the little cowboys and cowgirls to choose. It was a huge success and the crown jewel in Karen's cache of creative events that she so much loved. It would also be her last Acorn Day but not the last for our club. In 2016 our club carried on in her honor and represented ETI at Acorn Day along with the pony stick races. We brought the barrel race back this year and on a warm fall day we once again showcased our club and community; and Karen's love for children and games at the 2017 Acorn Day in O'Neill Park. I don't come close to the inventiveness that Karen had for these things nor can I predict what types of little prizes children might want to claim. But I do know her legacy in this club, and Acorn Day is one of the highlights. It gives us a venue and an opportunity to shine. Kids and parents love it. I do think I will need to mix it up a little next year. Maybe retire the ponies and get a bull. A huge thanks to Jimmy I who came out in the morning, Pam, Sawyer, and Sydnee Ragland, and to my neighbor Donna who helped me set up. I am also grateful to the Board of Directors for approving our participation and for the financial assistance. It is a worthy investment and the return is a thousand fold. Thank you.

Debbie Kelley
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: Rancho Carillo, Ortega, San Juan Capistrano, Nellie Gail, Laguna
Friday: Coto de Caza



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

949-766-2825

Monday - Saturday 9-5



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- * Keep your hay/feed room as clean as possible. When your hay runs low it's a great time to move your pallets and sweep out bits of hay or feed that have (or could) become mouse & rodent housing. Remember that rodents are a tasty treat to snakes!
- * Keep your strings under open hay bales so they can be re-tied up and moved when your new hay is delivered.
- * Remember to thank your delivery driver

SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

2017 CALENDAR | ETI CORRAL 357

NO DECEMBER MEMBERS' MEETING:

Remember, we don't have a regular Members' Meeting

We have a Christmas Party instead!



Sunday, December 17th

Dinner 5:30 pm | Until 9:00 pm

Iacono's home

Iacono's Via Della Rosa Ranch

20091 Rose Canyon Road

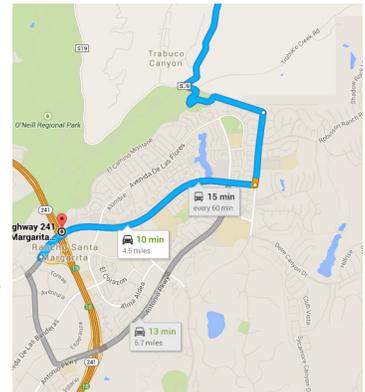
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678

949-459-7742 home

714-612-1789 cell

jiacono@fontissolutions.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!



2017 CALENDAR ETI Corral 357 Calendar

v12

Indicates Change

Date			Event		Location	Contact	
Nov.	2	Thursday	Members' Meeting and Elections	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grille	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789	
	4	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park	Debbie (949) 244-0670	
	4	Saturday	Full Moon	CANCELLED			
	4	Saturday	Imperial Beach Ride	POSTPONED	8:00 am	Meet at CVS parking lot	Rich (714) 504-7001
	9	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm			
	11	Saturday	Camp Pendleton—Sgt. Reckless	CANCELLED	TBD	Meet at CVS parking lot	Crystal (949) 207-8921
	26	Sunday	Month End Ride - Ferber Ranch	10:00 am	O'Neill Park staging for Ferber Ranch	Heather (949) 702-0137	
Dec.	7	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm			
	9	Saturday	Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade	TBA	Laguna Niguel	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789	
	17	Sunday	Christmas Party	5:30 pm		Jimmy I (714) 612-1789	
	30	Saturday	Month End Ride	10:00 am		Heather (949) 702-0137	

www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com



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Horse Sense

SOME HANDY HORSE KNOTS!!

By Dave Seroski

What kinds of things are handy to have? Check out these videos:



SADDLE-TIE



3-LOOP HITCH





2017 Board of Directors

Saddleback Canyon Riders | ETI Corral 357

President	James Iacono	714-612-1789	jiacono@fontissolutions.com
Vice-President	Bob Wilks	714-608-1881	robert-a-wilks@cox.net
Secretary	Janel Meric		janelmeric@yahoo.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	Heather Latchford		heather.latchford@live.com
Activity Director	Crystal Hansen	949-207-8921	crystalghansen@me.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Patti Gomez		crystalghansen@me.com
Social Media Coordinator	Crystal Hansen	949-207-8921	rtgomez@aol.com
Emergency Response Team Coordinator & Webmaster	Rich Gomez	714-504-7001	rtgomez@aol.com
Other Contacts:			
O'Neill Regional Park	Steve Aleshire	949-923-2259	steve.aleshire@ocparks.com
ETI National Office	Debbie Foster	818-362-6819	eti@linkline.com
OCFA Station #18(captains)	Greg/Dennis/Nate	949-858-9369	greghosburg@ocfa.org



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Iacono

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING: **September 30, 2017**

Ending Balance (BofA) \$9,728.18

DEPOSITS: Deposits Made After Closing: \$0.00
 Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$9,728.18

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
2101	State Farm	trailer ins.	\$ 10.00
2111	C Hansen	Board dinner	\$ 50.00
2128	D Seroski	sound system	\$405.53
2108	D Kelly	pancake brkfst	\$ 18.00
2112	J Iacono	Playday	\$233.57

Total expenses paid this period: (\$717.10)

Funds on hand after Expenses paid & unpaid checks this period: \$9,523.18

Petty Cash on Hand (included in balance) \$400.00

Corral FUNDS On Hand \$9,923.18

Like Us! Follow Us! Join the Club!



MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Junior Membership (under 18)	\$30
Senior Membership (over 18)	\$45
Family Membership	\$70

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

ADVERTISING RATES:

Ad Size	Member	Non-Member
Full Page	\$45.00	\$75.00
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



Note from the Editor

Renate Soderstrom

See and print our Emergency Evacuation Plan here:
<http://www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com/our-mission/emergency-preparedness.asp>

Deadline for December 2017 Newsletter is November 25th!!!
 send articles and photos to: renate.soderstrom@gmail.com





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

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