

CORRAL NEWS



ETI CORRAL 357 | SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 4



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

WHO DOESN'T LOVE A PARADE?

It is about as sure a bet there is that you'll end up agreeing that the 4th Saturday in March in San Juan Capistrano has few peers. The Padre Serra set up camp and an eventual mission close to a beautiful coastline with food-rich windswept waters on one side, and a fertile valley protected by low-lying hills just meters away.

March 24th, 2018, was no exception. Even though there had been some dreary weather earlier in the week, Saturday morning saw the sun starting to peek behind some clouds but tempered by a blanket of 68-degree air.

The Saddleback Canyon Riders, 8 strong, left Trabuco Canyon by 7:10 am, with well-behaved horses in tow and nothing in the way of a good Southern Californian traditional celebration except Bad Luck.

Misfortune. Some random accidental calamity. The only things in our way.

Well, the band of solid cowboys and cowgirls I had with me that day would not let that happen. If anything came up, we rode through it. Jimmy I made sure we had our entry in, with proper insurance certs. Debbie Kelley was loaded with horse decorations, relevant to the theme of "Diamond Trails and Swallows Tails" to honor the 60th anniversary of the parade. Every trailer spot was occupied with an agreeable adherent. Every human heart was ready to meld with their horse's heart to walk proudly down the asphalt, which was at one-time gravel, before that



*Saddleback Canyon Riders riding in the Swallows Day Parade
March 24, 2018*

cobblestone, and before that, clay-based dirt.

Dave Seroski was packing the Trabuco. Debbie Geary, all the way from Bear Valley Springs, was in the house on Cowboy. Sue Marucci was riding in her first parade. Janel Meric had a new horse. Kristen Holden is our new Vice President... and oh, Debbie Kelly has a new friend... John Durica.

I wonder how many cowboys and cowgirls over the last 250 years have felt the buzz we had on Saturday. A buzz that has less to do with alcohol, but more to do with walking your horse next to adobe walls whose original roots date back to the 1700s. If those walls could talk.



Sue Marucci & Artie in their first parade together

Given the almost reverent behavior of over 300 horses in the parade, I could swear the horses were listening.

The streets were lined as probably they were in day's gone by for religious holidays such as St. Joseph's day (March 21st) and Palm Sunday. The restaurants and saloons were bustling. Colorful attire on the patrons 4 deep along the route in some places. There was even a horse bar tended by Dr. Mark Secor. Everyone was happy.

The Saddleback Canyon Riders, signed up for their 11th consecutive year, were bestowed a respectable number (62), commensurate with their dedication to this hallowed holiday. My first year, 11 years ago, we brought up the pack at number 154. By the time we stepped out on the parade route, people had seen enough horses for the day and they were more impressed with what was happening on their "My Space" page than an unruly band of canyon riders.

But not this year. We were met with smiles and waves, and an occasional "I didn't know that," when the several announcers along the parade route would read our story.

"The Saddleback Canyon Riders hail from Trabuco Canyon. The histories of San Juan and Trabuco Canyon are forever linked in time. In the late 1700s, Gaspar de Portola led an expedition from the Mission up San Juan Creek to the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains. He was seeking an overland trail. They set up camp at the base of what is now called Saddleback Mountain, where one of his lieutenants lost his musket, also known as a "trabuco". They could never find it, but the spot was forever named "Trabuco Canyon." The trabuco was found 200

years later and now resides at Bowers Museum in Santa Ana."

The bystanders along the parade route received that historical gem free of charge!

But all of the Club participants that day were invested in the experience that has become a perennial event for our members, and received a memory whose value can only be measured by the amount of camaraderie felt that day. Thanks to all of the aforementioned who attended. In addition, we were all rewarded with a sentiment of a personal link with our horse to a true Western Coastal town layered within 250 years of antiquity.

It doesn't get any better than that for this Cowboy.

See you next year pardner!

James M. Iacono
President
ETI Corral 357
Saddleback Canyon Riders



Jimmy I & Sultan



John Durica & Destiny



Janel & Zan



Debbie, John, Dave and Janel



SWALLOWS DAY PARADE



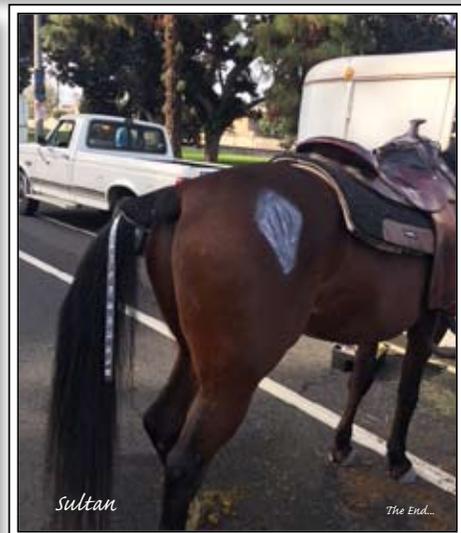
SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS WIN 1ST PLACE MOUNTED FAMILY DIVISION



Debbie Kelly & Riley, John Durica & Destiny, Jimmy I & Sultan, Kristen Holden & Mocha, Debbie Geary & Cowboy, Sue Marucci & Artie, Janel Meric & Zan



Destiny, Riley and Mocha



Sultan

The End...



Horse Sense

By Dave Seroski

THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPPING

Recently, when fires broke out in Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego counties the race was on to evacuate horses. Trucks and trailers were lined up, horses were loaded into strangers' trailers and the trucks took off with the beloved creatures to remove them to safety.

In Orange County, many horses were led on foot to the safety of the Albertson's parking lot for loading and transport out of the fire zone. The evacuations in each case continued for hours and when fires got too close and it was apparent not all would be able to be trucked out, some horses were released to give them a fighting chance.

The evacuations were a controlled chaos and in the end, not all horses made it home. Some people are still searching for their horses and for weeks after the fires were out, some ranches still had extra horses. Had those horses been microchipped, they could have been home sooner.

The next time you go feed your horses, take a good look at them. Ask yourself if they are worth \$85 to increase their chance of recovery, then ask yourself: if you miss this chance, how

will you feel if they are not there for the next feeding. I can tell you how we felt when our boys were spooked and disappeared for 5 ½ hours: we were worried, scared and praying we would find them. Teddy is chipped but I wasn't able to find a veterinarian to chip Max – until Dr. Larson advertised in Dr. Secor's office – so if the boys got separated, the odds were against me recovering (explorer horse) Max if he left the area.

During the fires in Los Angeles and San Diego counties, some horses were stolen and not recovered; one track even lost some race horses. Pictures were posted of a woman who was driving around fire areas, "evacuating" horses that didn't reach their emergency evacuation destinations, but she wasn't caught. She had done the same thing in a previous fire and those horses were never recovered, so when she showed up again in photographs of evacuation lines, people were very upset.

Then there is the problem of outright theft, someone removing your horse from its stall while you're at work or sleeping. A web site, Net Posse - www.NetPosse.com - is set up to



Dave and Sue with Teddy and Max

try to recover them, but the truth of the matter is your horse in Southern California is also in danger of being moved quickly to a feed lot, or worse, and parted out. Hides, meat and hooves are all valuable commodities and Mexico does a fair trade in them, including exporting to the EU.

If your horses do get out, are evacuated by strangers or stolen, your best chance of getting them back is chipping them. If police have no positive identifying marking on a horse, anyone can say it's theirs, unless it's chipped.

- Chip them.
- Lock your stalls at night.
- Secure your trailer with a ball lock.

- Camera your stall area. Internet cameras are cheap & easy and come right to your cell phone.
- Watch for unknown people looking over your property, barn or pasture
- Be your own best protection; you are the first responder.

Dave Seroski
Saddleback Canyon Riders

**Please join us to hear about microchipping with Dr. Larson at our April Members Meeting:
April 5th 7pm
M&C Sports Grill
Rancho Santa Margarita**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



It's FUN, really!!

TRAIL MAINTENANCE at O'Neill Regional Park Saturday, April 7th at 9:00 am



If you ride in the park, if you love the park, or if you're just a member, **do your part, show your support and be there!**

Our club has a commitment to trail maintenance 6-times per year and as our president says, "Many hands make light work!" We need EVERYONE'S help! Meet us at the Nature's Center parking lot (no charge to enter).

Contact/RSVP: **Kristen Holden 949-444-1990**

Hope to see you there!!! Remember to bring gloves & tools!!!



Trail Boss Report

By Debbie Kelly

WHO LET THE HORSE OUT..... *RILEY'S BIG ADVENTURE...!!*

It was not a normal Friday evening. I had left work early to get home and prepare food for a family event on the weekend. It had been a long week and I knew it was going to be a long night cooking and baking. I decided to get the barn chores done first while I still had daylight.

I fed the horses, cleaned the stalls and surrounding area (what I call Super Saturday cleaning) so it would all be done in the morning. Oh, we have a goat named Dutch living here and I always let him out to roam around while I am cleaning.

As daylight faded and the cold chill was settling in, I finished up, thinking I'd better get started in the kitchen. That was about 6:00 pm. Later, while knee deep in making homemade lasagna and trying a new cupcake recipe, something I don't recommend doing simultaneously, I remembered I had left Riley's halter on. Oh well, I'd take care of that later when I went out to give everyone their evening grain. Big mistake.

As the evening progressed each time I checked the clock it was an hour later. I think the cleanup of the stalls was less work than my kitchen after the mess I had made. Finally, at 11:30 pm I ventured out into the now extremely cold evening to remove the halter and grain the horses and goat. I don't recall my first thought when I saw Riley's gate open and his stall empty. It took a few minutes to process what I was staring at.

He was gone. Surely he had not left the property. I called to him and took a general look around. I checked the grain bin and to my surprise it had not been disturbed and neither had the hay. Most concerning was that there was no manure in his stall. It was as clean and pristine as I had left it almost six hours earlier. His feeder was almost full with hay. Where could he be and what was I going to do at this hour?

First I got a flashlight and went up to the road behind my cabin. I thought he might be grazing up there. I called to him and walked the



road to where it intersects with Adkinson Lane. On my walk back I must say I began to panic. I got into my car and drove towards the end of Trabuco Oaks to Sharon Stancato's where Riley used to board. I got out of the car and called to him. I did not want to disturb the horses inside Sharon's property and it was unlikely Riley could have opened that gate and let himself in so I returned home.

By this time I realized he wasn't close by. I gave it some thought and decided to call the Sheriff. I did not believe he had been stolen but I was not going to rule it out and to be honest, I needed help looking for him. I also posted it on Facebook so Canyon friends would see it. Actually, I'd hoped I'd see him on someone else's post saying they found a horse. That happens frequently here with lost and found pets. That did not happen, but Megan Sanders, who regularly rides Riley and several other horses

here, was still awake and she contacted me. She immediately drove over and began a search of every property here with horses. Bless her heart. Ironically enough, just two weeks prior, Megan had rescued a horse that had fallen off the trail up by the Howell place. Sue Seroski was also up and offered to come over as well and I am grateful for that. She was able to rule out a few spots where he may have been but was not

After the Sheriff came out, took a report and went out looking for Riley, Megan and I continued the search until 2:30 am. Megan thought Riley might have wandered over to the Gomez's place so we returned there with flashlights and looked best we could in the cold and the dark. We called to him and waited but not response. She brought me home and I decided we would start looking again at first light. I did not think I would sleep but I was so exhausted that I dozed off for about two hours.

When I woke up to a phone call at 7:00 am I began answering texts and FB messages. I requested a "search party" at 8:00 am and for my dear friend Anita Rasmussen to come over and handle all the calls. I needed to get moving.

Around 8:00 Dave Seroski showed up and we took a look around my stall area to see which direction Riley may have gone. Even with the bright flashlights the Sheriff used, it was difficult to see the hoof prints in the dark. Dave and I were outside the empty stall when Rich and Patti Gomez were walking their dog Murphy on the back road. I was about to ask them if they knew Riley was missing when Patti said "Are you missing a horse"? "He's at our place". I can't describe my relief. Another moment to process.

Dave drove me up to their place and after Riley got an earful from me, Dave walked him home. I was shaking too much (and in the wrong shoes) to lead him. Thanks Dave.

So Riley's big adventure required he walk down my asphalt driveway sometime between 6 and 7 pm on Friday night. He turned right on Trabuco Oaks then right on Danielle Lane. At the top he turned left and meandered up the road to the Gomez's upper level stalls. He found a mare he liked, a mare called Easy of all names, and spent the night outside her stall. He left evidence of having been there for some time; four piles of manure. Imagine their surprise when they went

to feed and saw a visiting horse outside the stall. Megan had looked up there but Riley must have been hiding or taken a detour at some point. We don't believe he ever went to the horses on the lower paddocks as they would have made enough noise to wake the household. He is one sneaky horse. You may be wondering how he got out. I can only assume I left the gate unlatched and he thought it would be fun to give me a heart attack. Lesson learned, seriously.

So many friends and neighbors responded to my Facebook post; more than I can name here. They came from Colorado, Arizona, Missouri, Tehachapi, Washington, and even Marsha and Howard Ross in Puerto Vallarta. Facebook can be a powerful force for the good sometimes. Thank you everyone for your concern and help. It was so appreciated. I knew the reinforcements would do everything to find my renegade horse. But he just wanted to be with a horse named Easy.

Debbie Kelly
Trail Boss
ETI Corral 357
Saddleback Canyon Riders



Riley and Dave

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Wednesday: Trabuco Canyon, Lake Forest, Serrano
Thursday: Rancho Carillo, Ortega, San Juan Capistrano, Nellie Gail, Laguna
Friday: Coto de Caza



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- * 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

2018 CALENDAR | ETI CORRAL 357

Date		Event	Location	Contact	
APRIL	5 Thursday	Members' Meeting: Dr. Heather Larson will be the guest speaker, with the topic microchipping horses.	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789
	7 Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	7 Saturday	Chip Clinic (Need to pay in advance)	11:00 am	O'Neill Park	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	12 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Iacono's home	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789
	14 Saturday	Imperial Beach Ride - MOVED TO JUNE	8:00 am	8:00am at CVS	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	29 Sunday	Ferber Ranch Preserve Ride	10:00 AM	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
MAY	3 Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789
	7 Saturday	Playday	8:30 am	O'Neill Park arena	
	10 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Kristen's home	Kristen (949) 444-1990
JUNE	2 Saturday	Imperial Beach Ride	8:00 am	8:00am at CVS	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	7 Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789
	9 Saturday	Trail Maintenance	8:00 am	O'Neill Park	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	14 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	30 Saturday	Ferber Ranch Preserve Ride	10:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
JULY	4 Wednesday	July 4th Parade	8:30 am	Trabuco Canyon	Jimmy I/Crystal
	12 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	21 Saturday	Medieval Times	6 or 8:15 pm	meet at CVS	Crystal (949) 207-8921
AUGUST	2 Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789
	3 Friday	Pancake Fund Raiser - Setup	5:30 pm	RSM	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	4 Saturday	Pancake Fund Raiser	5:30 am	RSM	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	9 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	26 Sunday	Ferber Ranch Preserve Ride	9:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
SEP	6 Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789
	13 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	15 Saturday	Inner-Coastal/Watershed CleanUp	8:00 am	Trabuco Creek Bridge	Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604
	29 Saturday	Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum	10:00 am	meet at CVS	Crystal (949) 207-8921
OCTOBER	4 Thursday	Members' Meeting and Nominations	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789
	6 Saturday	Acorn Day NEED VOLUNTEERS	10:00-3:00	O'Neill Park	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	11 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	13 Saturday	Trail Maintenance	8:00 am	O'Neill Park	Dave S (949) 459-7153
	20 Saturday	Ferber Ranch Preserve Ride	9:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
NOVEMBER	1 Thursday	Members' Meeting and Elections	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789
	3 Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park	Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604
	8 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	18 Sunday	Ferber Ranch Preserve Ride	10:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
DEC	13 Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	15 Saturday	Christmas Party / Dance	5:30 pm	Circle S Ranch	Jimmy I (714) 612-1789

www.saddlebackcanyonriders.com



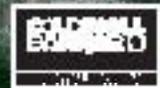
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Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Iacono

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING: FEBRUARY 28, 2018

Ending Balance (BoFA): \$8,767.76

DEPOSITS: Deposits Made After Closing: \$0.00
Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits \$8,767.76

EXPENSES:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:	Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
2122	J Meric	board dinner	\$ 50.00	2175	ETI	member dues	\$245.00
2176	D Kelly	board dinner	\$ 50.00	2177	State Farm	trailer ins	\$ 10.00
2178	J Iacono	permit/speaker Dinner	\$122.68				

TOTAL EXPENSES PAID IN JANUARY 2018: \$373.00

UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED THIS PERIOD:

Ck#	Source:	Reason:	Amount:
2119	D Kelly	Xmas party	\$ 49.00

TOTAL EXPENSES PAID & UNPAID THIS PERIOD: (\$49.00)

FUNDS ON HAND AFTER EXPENSES PAID & UNPAID CHECKS THIS PERIOD: \$8,718.76

PETTY CASH ON HAND (INCLUDED IN BALANCE): \$400.00

CORRAL FUNDS ON HAND: \$9,118.76



2018 Board of Directors

Saddleback Canyon Riders | ETI Corral 357

PRESIDENT	James Iacono	714-612-1789	jiacono@fontissolutions.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Kristen Holden	949-444-1990	kristen3091@gmail.com
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	Debbie Kelly	949-713-6133	debbiekelly57@yahoo.com
ACTIVITY DIRECTOR	Crystal Hansen	949-207-8921	crystalghansen@me.com
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Patti Gomez		pattianngomez@aol.com
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR	Crystal Hansen	949-207-8921	crystalghansen@me.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	Greg/Dennis/Nate	949-858-9369	

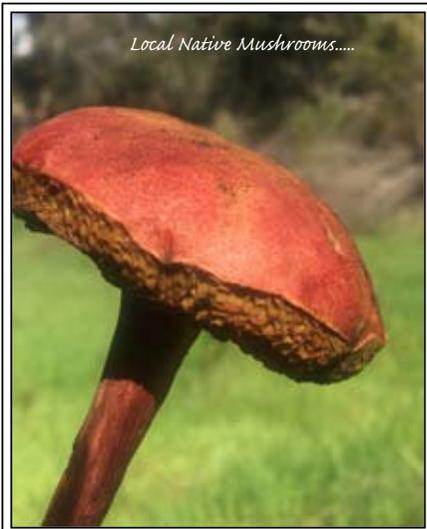
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Note from the Editor

Renate Soderstrom

LIKE US! FOLLOW US! JOIN THE CLUB!



MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Junior Membership (under 18)	\$45
Senior Membership (over 18)	\$60
Family Membership	\$90

Contact: Sue Seroski
Membership Coordinator
(949)459-7153
sseroski@yahoo.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

DEADLINE FOR MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER: APRIL 24TH!!!



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