

# SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS NEWS

TRABUCO CANYON, CALIFORNIA  
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS INC., CORRAL 357

JUNE-JULY 2019

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**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**  
Page 5

**TRAIL BOSS  
REPORT**  
Page 6

**REMINDS ME  
OF A STORY**  
Page 2

**PHOTOS FROM  
THE IMPERIAL  
BEACH RIDE**  
Page 4

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**  
Page 9

# REMINDS ME OF A STORY...

## ...In the Neighborhood

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*By James M. Iacono*

This 4th of July, the theme for our Community Parade is "In the Neighborhood." What a great theme, and what a great time for our Club to reinforce what our place has been in this neighborhood, in OUR neighborhood for over a quarter century. Recently I have heard through some sources that our Club's reputation is tainted, that somehow we are not good stewards of this land that surrounds us... this land that we ride through on our preferred mode of travel-horseback- this land that we selflessly maintain on trail maintenance days, this land that we have raised money for and attended countless meetings to preserve from development. We dedicate our efforts to preserving this equestrian lifestyle, and frankly I want to take this time and space to lay our cards on the table, for along with the Women's Club, I believe we do as much for this Community as any other person or group.

For the past 28 years, Saddleback Canyon Riders has stood ground as its own community, while being an active part the community at large. We have board members who lead, members who contribute, social events that bring our members, their horses, and the larger community together, and fund raising events that benefit not only our Club coffers but worthy organizations and causes within our larger community. I have learned over my 15 plus years in the Club that there is beauty in

community, and that by standing together we blur the lines between Membership and Non-Members so that there is not only pride in being a member, but also pride that one lives in the same community from which the Club hails.

This past month we held another Evacuation Drill for the entire Community. Large animal evacuation presents challenges in the face of an oncoming danger. In order to be able to save ourselves and our family members, we first need to organize the evacuation of animals that won't fit into our fleeing cars. In 2007, because we had a drill similar to what we practiced this past June 15th, we were able to safely evacuate over 200 horses, which then allowed us as a community to evacuate our families safely and in an organized manner.

Our plan has been endorsed and accepted by the fire authority as THE plan that goes into action should there be an emergency that triggers the need for an evacuation. The plan is embraced by several critical public agencies that attended our recent drill- OC Fire, OC Sheriffs, OC Animal Care, and OC Parks. The fact that this plan was homegrown within our Club- Rich and Patti Gomez, Debbie Kelly, Debi Geary- all past or present Board Members- and is now a standard that the aforementioned Agencies have encouraged other communities to adopt- speaks volumes for the commitment to safety of our neighbors that our Club has always prioritized.

A few years back, three Trabuco Canyon Equestrians (some ETI members, some not) were riding in O'Neill Park when they were attacked by a dog off leash. Horses and people were hurt, but the most disturbing part of the incident, was that the dog's owner provided bogus information so she could not be readily identified and assessed the punishment consistent with violating Park policy. Luckily a photo was taken by one of the victims and was posted on several social media sights asking for help in identifying the woman and dog in the picture. After a few weeks with no real leads developing, the ETI Board voted to offer a \$500 reward for the identification leading to punishment of the guilty party. Within days, leads began coming in, and within a few weeks, the woman and dog in the photo were identified and assessed a stiff fine as well as the banishment of the dog from any Orange County Public Park in perpetuity. I'd like to think the Club was at least responsible in spurring on the investigation in earnest. Thank you, Bob Wilks and Dave Seroski for putting a plan into action and following it through.

If roaming dogs are not enough to dodge in the park, we had a recent rash of close calls between equestrians and bicyclists. Again, what makes this disturbing is the blatant disregard for Park rules, which clearly post which trails are off limits to bikes. But the close calls had some in our Club considering no longer riding in the park. This led us at ETI

to call a meeting with the Park Ranger Steve Aleshire to discuss the trend and our concerns. We were given an empathetic ear, and a promise that there would be cameras installed to help identify the offenders. Our equestrian community and hiking community will both be beneficiaries- if nothing more than the word gets out that there is a plan to identify and punish violators of the policy in a Park that we ALL love and use.

The club has a history of raising money for charities and causes, starting with "Ride for the Hills" almost 20 years ago. We put on charity Play Day and Auction several years ago to raise almost \$2000 for local horse rescue operations- Hanaeleh and Bethany's Gait. Every August for at least the past 15 years we get up at the crack of dawn to cook a pancake breakfast for the Samlarc Campout in RSM. The proceeds are always shared with a local charity. A few years back, one of our members had a stroke, and had overwhelming medical bills. Members from our Club helped organize a "Fun Raiser" with food, drink, and live music that raised \$6000 to help a community member address his medical needs.

Every two months we send a team into the park on a Saturday morning to help maintain the trails.



As equestrians, we need to tell the park what needs to be fixed for equestrian safety. But we not only just talk the talk, we walk the walk and help with the improvements that need to be made to protect the riders in our community and visitors to the park. Our dedication to the park and its mission has led us to introduce our equestrian lifestyle to the County at large each Acorn Day. When the park had a day to introduce kids to Mountain biking, the Club sent some horses down to teach kids the proper etiquette around horses when they are on their bikes. It was a huge hit, and was shared with other regional parks in Southern California!

The past 10 years we have been Captains for the California Watershed Cleanup day every September. We organize and send out members not

only from our Club, but work with the Biking Groups, Church Groups, Scouting troops, and environmental groups to clean up our canyon which drains to the Pacific Ocean. We have averaged over two tons of trash per year, trash that would be piling up in our beloved canyon. Not on our watch!

Six times a year we lead an equestrian ride through Trabuco Rose Preserve- formerly Ferber Ranch- and the Community at large is invited. This parcel is currently a Preserve, which was originally slated for no access. Though I know some of the Community feels the entire property should always be open, as we would like it, we are paying our dues with the OCTA in the hopes it will pay dividends in the future to accomplish our ultimate goal. This



past year, OCTA endorsed us as “good neighbors” with the TCA, who bought the Saddle Club. A plan is in the works to allow public access, and possibly trail integration with the OCTA property and OC Parks. This would be a huge win for the Community.

As members of ETI, we are all volunteers. The Board gives up two nights a month for meetings that not only help organize the events mentioned herein, but also promote FUN for equestrians. As Activities Director, that’s part of my job- FUN! I love riding, but I love sharing that passion with like-minded friends. From riding in at least two parades per year, to rides at Imperial Beach, to organizing Horse Playdays, to campouts at Caspers Park, to country dance nights... our Club likes to work, but also play. Play is what keeps us young and vibrant, and close knit as “neighbors.”

All of these examples promote the integration of the Club into the “Neighborhood”, and it makes me

proud to be a member of both. If you are reading this, but also trying to balance the whispers you have recently heard that somehow we are AGAINST the community, I hope you now consider and see the truth of our activities over the past quarter century. It is my hope if you are not a member that you consider being one, and come to appreciate that “membership not only HAS its privileges”, but “membership also PROVIDES privileges” as well.

See you on the trail!

*James M. Iacono  
Activities Coordinator  
Saddleback Canyon Riders  
Equestrian Trails Inc., Corral 357*



# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

*By Kristin Holden*

Over the last several months, one of the common discussions at both board and members’ meetings has had to do with ways to increase membership. Interestingly enough, a possible reason that membership has not increased may be due to a reason we had not even considered...and that is the prevailing opinion of the ETI Club in our local neighborhoods.

The current members find participating in the club to be enjoyable. Not only do we have great rides, monthly meetings are a place to hang out with like-minded individuals and talk about horses. We share stories, talk about our expertise in everything from hoof care to places we’ve traveled with our horses. And most of us think that

we are a pleasant group of people that others would enjoy if they participated in the club. The price is right, the food is great at M&C’s Grill, and the topics are all about horses and horsemanship...what could be better?

What could be better? Finding ways that others in the community who like horses, and there are many, see ETI the same way we do. So, the question becomes how do we do that? This is where you come in. I have some ideas and would love to hear yours. Since we do not have a meeting in July, you are welcome to email me, text me or bring your ideas to the August meeting. I hope to hear some great ideas...

*Kristin Holden  
President  
Saddleback Canyon Riders  
Equestrian Trails Inc., Corral 357*





# IMPERIAL BEACH 2019



# EVACUATION DRILL 2019



By Debbie Kelly

Our evacuation drill for 2019 was a huge success. Although participation from the community was lighter than we had hoped for and expected, there was a strong presence from the agencies and neighboring focus groups and friends. In attendance was the OC Fire Authority and one of our local Captains. There was OC Sheriff as well as a supervisor at the Emergency Operations Center. Animal Control and OC Parks also joined us. This is huge. We've had drills in the past and our local first responders from OC Fire Station 18 have always been there, we've never had such a plethora of critical agencies and stakeholders. This was due to the efforts of our Vice President Rich



Gomez. I know he and Patti put in hours and hours of effort to bring in these representatives; not only to show them our plan but to enlist their input and to understand their expectations. It is a huge responsibility for our club to say we will lead the way and none of us take it lightly. Practice is not an option. It is a necessity.

Leading the way is what we do and what we did. I never get tired of saying and of hearing that our Evacuation Plan is tried and true. In 2007 we successfully executed it and within twenty four hours evacuated around 150 horses. (I've never really known the exact number but it was a lot). Many residents had already moved their horses out by the time we decided to activate the plan. People were leaving and we needed

to be prepared to do the same as an evacuation order had not yet been issued. Because of the education offered and drills in 2006 and 2007 folks knew what had to be done. By the time we set up staging and intake at the O'Neill Park Equestrian Arena, horses were already being brought in. Boarders from Live Oak stables were walking horses over while they were getting trailers ready to move them. This was exactly the right thing to do and was within the scope of the plan. Those without trailers, or those who didn't live in Trabuco but had horses here, knew we would get them out. And we did. In addition to the fleet of trailers and haulers within our plan at the time, those from the outside started showing up. From the arena they were primarily moved to the Blenheim Oaks riding facility in SJC



although some went to Coto de Caza and Serrano stables in Lake Forest. It was well organized and we kept a log of where each horse was going. By the time the one hour evacuation notice was given we had just a few horses to move out. Members of the club and our MAU did a final sweep and with the use of radios gave the all clear. Those of us who were in the trenches moving horses finally went home and packed up. It's how we roll here.

We learned a few things during this drill. I for one realized my piece of it, the intake and logging, needs a tune up. I have the kits and will be

updating the intake steps. I always say the drill, or practice, is more difficult than the real thing. I don't recall many hiccups with the intake component in 2007. But I seem to find them in the drills. This kind of exposure is why we practice, to iron out the kinks and shore up the process.

I want to thank everyone who came out to volunteer and assist with the drill. Patti Gomez, Spike Wilks, Pam and Sydnee Ragland, Renate Soderstrom, Robert and Serafin Patterson, Michelle and Rickey Lynn Prieto, Jim and Vicki Iacono, and Dave Seroski for bringing the grill. Big

thanks to Robert again for putting on his grilling apron and cooking up some delicious burgers. And kudos to Rich Gomez for putting this all together. Bob Wilks was on board, serving wherever he was needed. If I missed someone, my apologies. If I spelled your name wrong, more apologies. I'm working at making the deadline.

Please take the time to review our evacuation plan. It is on our website. Years have gone into it and it is solid. It is our sincerest wish you rest comfortably knowing you have the tools to safely evacuate your family and your pets.

*Debbie Kelly  
Trail Boss  
Saddleback Canyon Riders  
Equestrian Trails Inc., Corral 357*



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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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# 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS



## 2019 CALENDAR ETI Corral 357 Calendar

v5a

Indicates Change

Date		Event		Location	Contact	
Jan	3	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Dave (949) 533-7153
	10	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
Feb	7	Thursday	Members' Meeting - <i>Animal Communicator</i>	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Dave (949) 533-7153
	9	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	14	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	23	Saturday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	10:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Mar	7	Thursday	Members' Meeting - <i>Malibu Evacuation</i>	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Dave (949) 533-7153
	14	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	23	Saturday	Swallows Day Parade	7:00 am	Meet at CVS	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	30	Saturday	Month-End Ride	10:00 am	Meet at O'Neill Park arena	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Apr	4	Thursday	Members' Meeting - <i>TCA/Live Oak Stables</i>	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Dave (949) 533-7153
	6	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park	Jimmy (714) 612-1789
	11	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	12-14	Fri-Sun	Casper's Campout & Ride	10:00 am	Casper's Wilderness Park	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	28	Sunday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	9:00 AM	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
May	2	Thursday	Members' Meeting - <i>CA Horsemen's Assoc.</i>	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	9	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	26	Sunday	O'Neill Ride	10:00 am	O'Neill Park arena picnic area	Kristen (949) 444-1990
Jun	1	Saturday	Imperial Beach Ride	8:00 am	8:00am at CVS	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	6	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	8	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park arena	
	13	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	15	Saturday	Evacuation Drill & Trailering Clinic	10:00am	O'Neill Park arena	Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604
	30	Sunday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	9:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Jul	4	Thursday	July 4th Parade & BBQ	8:30 am	Trabuco Canyon	Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604
	11	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	14	Sunday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	8:30 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	27	Saturday	"The Ranch" Restaurant; Country Dancing	6:00 pm	meet at CVS at 5:00pm	Jimmy (714) 612-1789
Aug	1	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	2	Friday	Pancake Fund Raiser - <i>Setup</i>	5:30 pm	RSM	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	3	Saturday	Pancake Fund Raiser	5:30 am	RSM	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	8	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	24	Saturday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	8:30 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Sep	5	Thursday	Members' Meeting	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	21	Saturday	Inner-Coastal/Watershed CleanUp	8:00 am	Trabuco Creek Bridge	Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604
	28	Saturday	Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum	10:00 am	meet at CVS	Jimmy (714) 612-1789
Oct	3	Thursday	Members' Meeting and Nominations	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	5	Saturday	Acorn Day <i>NEED VOLUNTEERS</i>	10:00-3:00	O'Neill Park	Debbie (949) 244-0670
	10	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	12	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	8:00 am	O'Neill Park	
	26	Saturday	Cook's OR Blackstar Canyon Ride	8:00 am	TBD	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Nov	7	Thursday	Members' Meeting and Elections	7:00 pm	M&C's Sports Grill	Kristen (949) 444-1990
	8-10	Fri-Sun	Pomona Horse Expo	10:00 am	meet at CVS	non-club event
	9	Saturday	Trail Maintenance	9:00 am	O'Neill Park	Rich/Patti (949) 888-1604
	14	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	16	Saturday	Trabuco-Rose Preserve Ride	10:00 am	Stage O'Neill; meet Trabuco Oaks gate	Debbie (949) 244-0670
Dec	12	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00 pm		
	14	Saturday	Christmas Party	5:30 pm		



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## TREASURER'S REPORT:

### MARCH 2019

BY VICKI IACONO

<b>Ending Balance (BofA):</b>	\$9,245.15
<b>DEPOSITS:</b> Deposits Made After Closing:	\$0.00
<b>Sub-Total for beginning Balance + Deposits</b>	<b>\$9,245.14</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Ck#      Source:                      Reason:	Amount:
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES PAID:</b>	<b>(\$457.00)</b>
<b>UNPAID CHECKS ISSUED THIS PERIOD:</b>	
Ck#      Source:      Reason:      Amount:	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES PAID &amp; UNPAID THIS PERIOD:</b>	<b>(\$0.00)</b>
<b>FUNDS ON HAND AFTER EXPENSES:</b>	\$9,245.14
<b>PETTY CASH ON HAND (INCLUDED IN BALANCE):</b>	\$400.00
<b>CORRAL FUNDS ON HAND:</b>	<b>\$9,645.14</b>



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Members meet monthly (2nd Thursdays); Saddleback Canyon Riders Members are always welcome to attend or host a meeting. RSVP required.

Members Meetings (1st Thursdays) are open to the public.

PRESIDENT	Kristen Holden	949-444-1990	<a href="mailto:kristen3091@gmail.com">kristen3091@gmail.com</a>
VICE-PRESIDENT	Rich Gomez	714-504-7001	<a href="mailto:rtgomez@aol.com">rtgomez@aol.com</a>
SECRETARY	Patti Gomez	714-335-3123	<a href="mailto:pattianngomez@aol.com">pattianngomez@aol.com</a>
TREASURER	Vicki Iacono	949-285-5975	<a href="mailto:zoegal@hughes.net">zoegal@hughes.net</a>
MEMBERSHIP	Vicki Iacono	949-285-5975	<a href="mailto:zoegal@hughes.net">zoegal@hughes.net</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Renate Soderstrom	831-359-1079	<a href="mailto:renate.soderstrom@gmail.com">renate.soderstrom@gmail.com</a>
TRAIL BOSS	Debbie Kelly	949-713-6133	<a href="mailto:debbiekelly57@yahoo.com">debbiekelly57@yahoo.com</a>
ACTIVITY DIRECTORS	James Iacono	714-612-1789	<a href="mailto:jiacono@gofontis.com">jiacono@gofontis.com</a>
Persons-at-Large			
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Pam Ragland	714-287-0001	<a href="mailto:Pmt@AimingHigher.com">Pmt@AimingHigher.com</a>
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR	Susan Piazza	949-201-7205	<a href="mailto:susan-susanpiazza.com@email.contactually.com">susan-susanpiazza.com@email.contactually.com</a>
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATOR & WEBMASTER	Rich Gomez	714-504-7001	<a href="mailto:rtgomez@aol.com">rtgomez@aol.com</a>
<b>OTHER CONTACTS:</b>			
O'NEILL REGIONAL PARK	Steve Aleshire	949-923-2259	<a href="mailto:steve.aleshire@ocparks.com">steve.aleshire@ocparks.com</a>
ETI NATIONAL OFFICE	Debbie Foster	818-362-6819	<a href="mailto:eti@linkline.com">eti@linkline.com</a>
OCFA STATION #18		949-858-9369	

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

BY RENATE SODERSTROM



**THANK YOU DEBBIE KELLY FOR HELPING ME PUT TOGETHER THE NEWSLETTER THIS MONTH!!**

Thank you to our fabulous writers and contributors!! Such informative articles and great photos as always.

Send your articles for the August newsletter to: [newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.eticorral357@gmail.com) no later than July 21.

## STAY IN TOUCH!!



### 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](mailto:sseroski@yahoo.com)

### ADVERTISING RATES:

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1/8 Page	\$5.00	\$10.00

Contact: Renate Soderstrom  
Newsletter Editor/Scribe  
831-359-1079  
[renate.soderstrom@gmail.com](mailto: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  
PO Box 1026  
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678