

Corral News

November 2011

Volume 18, Issue 11



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICK BALTHASER

RICK'S 'RAMBLINS'

Howdy Saddleback Canyon Riders and happy fall to 'yall!

Ahhhh ... fall in the canyon ... one of my favorite seasons; misty, foggy mornings ... warm, pleasant afternoons ... and cool, clear, star-filled evenings with the smoky fragrance from the occasional fireplace wafting through the 'hood. The orange and black Halloween decorations that are popping up around the canyon remind me that summer is officially over, and that it's now time to embrace all of the fun, family togetherness and coziness that fall brings.

Well, it's certainly been a banner year for Saddleback Canyon Riders so far, with a lot of great, well-attended events. And, it was just topped off by our 'Buckle Play Day' on Saturday, October 22nd. We had a fantastic turn out, great competition, and lots of new faces in the arena and spectator areas. Big 'Cowboy Congrats' to our two worthy buckle



winners; Jenni Coury in the 'Under 30 Division', and Melina Hann in the 'Just Slightly Over 30 Division'. A special 'tip of the hat' to all of our competitors,

spectators and hard working volunteers for making the day a huge success!

On a more club business related note, elections for new officers to the ETI 357 board will be held at the Thursday, November 3rd Members Meeting at Friends Sports Tavern in Dove Canyon. This year



we are looking for nominations for Vice President, Treasurer, Membership, and Member at Large. These positions are held for two years. You can send nominations to our lovely secretary, Karen at ETI357@AOL.com, or call her at 714 458-7772. Heck, you can even nominate yourself! There will be write-in votes accepted and nominations will be taken right up until we vote on Thursday evening. So, come join us, and nominate someone who you feel would be a worthy addition to our board. Serving on our board is super fun, very rewarding, and you get to be an active part in shaping the future direction of your favorite horse club!

But wait, there's more, Cowboys and Cowgirls! ... Our Annual SCR Christmas Party is just around the corner in December. Let me just say, you are not going to want to miss this party! There will be fantastic food, friends and folly! Music, mistletoe and merriment! There's a cowboy gift exchange ... we will inaugurate our new board members, recognize our winners (*Continued on page 2*)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

in the P.O.P. and P.A.W. contests, as well as present the very prestigious President's Award. The President's Award recognizes one very special ETI member (can be a general member or board member) for their exemplary commitment to our great club! If you have a recommendation for the recipient of this award, I would love to hear from you! Just shoot me an email or text, call me, or whisper it to me the next time you see me. I have the distinct honor and pleasure of choosing the ultimate winner, but I will carefully consider all recommendations for this prestigious award!

Hey, here's some exciting hi-tech news; Saddleback Canyon Riders is now on facebook! Our facebook account name is Saddleback Canyon Riders – ETI Corral 357. So ... just go on www.facebook.com, check us out, 'like us', invite your friends to 'like' us and feel free to use it in any way that works for you! Big thanks to our newly board appointed Social Media Director, Robby Stuckey for heading up this cool new endeavor for our club. It promises to be a great format to share ideas, photos, comments and quotes. You could even post and invite fellow club members to join you for a trail ride! I'm personally totally looking forward to all of the fun possibilities that our facebook presence offers. If you have any questions, feel free to post a comment on our facebook page, email us at ETI357@aol.com or talk to Robby.

Wow! ... Well, I really thought that the onset of the



mellowness of fall would translate to things winding down and slowing down for the year. Well ... apparently NOT for this lil' ole horse club! Take care, and I hope to see ya' at the members meeting and out on the trails!

Rick Balthaser
President
Cell: 949 439-2414
RBalthaser@aol.com



PATRONIZE OUR PARK CONTEST

UPDATE BY KAREN HOPKINS

ETI357 is doing a fantastic job supporting O'Neill Park. This year, as a group we have logged 668 hours through July! Since we had

no members meeting in July, we lumped the results for June and July together. The winners who will enjoy a treat from Golden Spoon are Kristen Holden with 37hours, 45 minutes and Steve Conkling with

30 hours. Following their lead are Rick Balthaser with 20, Evelyn Ortega and Jim Schicht with 18 hours 45 minutes and Jeff Kelly with 18 hours. For the year, Steve Conkling is in front with 56 hours and Kristen is very close with 53hours 15 minutes. Great job to all! Now, here's a challenge. Do you think we can make it to 1000 hours in 2011? Just keep logging your hours and it is possible!

IMPORTANT DATES

(SEE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Date		Event	Time	Location	Contact	
Nov.	3	Thursday	Members Meeting	7:00PM	Friends	Karen (714) 458-7772
	10	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	26	Saturday	Month End Ride	10:00AM	O'Neill Park T.C.	Jim S (949) 677-5200
Dec.	8	Thursday	Board Meeting	7:00PM	TBA	Karen (714) 458-7772
	10	Sunday	Christmas Party	6:00PM	TBA	Jim (949) 459-7742

ELECTIONS

Elections for new officers to the ETI 357 board will be held at the next members meeting. This year we are looking for nominations for Vice President, Treasurer, Membership, and Member at Large. These positions are held for two years. A candidate for elective office must be a member in good standing. as a member of the board, one attends the board meetings to share ideas and vote on items that affect the club. You have a voice in the future of the maintenance of trails and the equestrian lifestyle in California. We also enjoy good food, friends and have a lot of laughs. Here is a description of the duties for the open positions:

Vice President: In the absence or inability to act of the President, he or she is vested with all the powers and shall perform as president.

Treasurer: Receives all monies belonging to the corral, and keep records of dues and other income. He or she also issues checks and keeps account of all receipts and expenditures and makes reports as required by the board.

Membership: Recruits new members, collects dues and sends them to ETI national. Notifies members when their membership is coming due.

Member at Large: Acts as a community liaison, and fulfills other unpredictable duties as they arise.

(I made that up, I don't really know what MAL does)

We currently have three nominations: Vickie Iacono for Treasurer, Rich Gomez for VP, Bob Wilks and Debbie Kelly for MAL, and Kristen Holden for membership. You can send nominations to the secretary, Karen at ETI357@AOL.com, or call me at 714 458-7772. You can nominate yourself. There will be write-in votes accepted and nominations will be taken right up until we vote.

TURN YOUR UNUSED EQUINE ITEMS INTO CASH!!

Trabuco's own Canyon Feed and Tack will is providing a new service. In July 2011 they opened a consignment store! Right now you can make a list of the items you are ready to part with; outgrown equipment, tack, clothing, jewelry, collectables etc... with the amount you would like to get for it. Next, call to make an appointment to bring it in. Watch for the grand opening of the consignment store in July. Not only can you recycle your items for cash, you might find some new goodies for yourself! Canyon Feed and Tack 30555 Trabuco Canyon Rd. STE 102 (949) 766-2825.

Karen Hopkins - Secretary



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY SHEILA SEGIEN

Very Expired (sorry, last newsletter!!)

Trisha Laird 7/11, Michelle Prieto 7/11, Melba & Roy Slavin 7/11

Expired

Jacqui Moreland 8/11, Mindy Moellmer 9/11, Kim Tillinghast-DeBellis 9/11

Expiring

Jeff & Debbie Kelly 11/11, Cristi & Hoke Rose 11/11

Annual Dues

Junior	\$45.00 (under 18)
Single adult	\$45.00
Family*	\$70.00 (limited to 2 adults)

*Add \$8.00 for additional family members after the first two.



TRAIL BOSS TIDBITS

BY JIM SCHICHT

Driving down the road one evening last week and wondered what was ahead?

It was a large object no real shape, was it going to jump into my car with the top down, was it going to run in front of me?

As my headlights illuminated the large shape, it turned out to be a couple of night riders.

It is getting dark earlier now riders, so safety first

for you, your trail partner and the drivers on the road. Make sure you have those reflectors, flashing lights and a flash light. You're riding partner has no problem seeing in the dark, but the rider and drivers do.

Take advantage of the weather ride and be safe.

Your Trail Boss
Jim Schicht

Your Ad Here!

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, contact our Scribe, Don Segien, Via email at SDSegien@mac.com.

Ad Size	Member	Non-Member
Full Page	\$45	\$75
Half Page	\$30	\$50
1/4 Page	\$15	\$25
1/8 Page	\$5	10



IN THE SADDLE WITH THE STUCKEYS

BY RICK AND KAREN BALTHASER

OFFICIAL LEGAL DISCLAIMER: In researching this article, the authors (Interviewers) spent a day with the Stuckeys (Interviewees)

on a beautiful trail ride in O'Neill park, followed by a steak dinner with several bottles of 337 Cabernet consumed at Trabuco Oaks Steak House, resulting in both the Interviewers and Interviewees shutting down aforementioned establishment. Most details contained within following said article are for all intents and purposes factual in nature and content. Other details are foggy at best. Enjoy.

When they rode with us in the Fourth of July parade, they were enthusiastically greeted like long lost friends by members of the crowd. That's because our new members, Kristina and Robby Stuckey may be new to ETI, but they are not new to Trabuco Canyon.

Before their daughter Savannah was born Kristina was employed by Howie and Marsha Ross who owned Buck Ranch, which later became Thayer Ranch. (She has a picture of herself with their famous lion Rudy!) It was one of many places Kristina has been able to work and indulge her lifelong love of horses.

When Kristina was a little girl growing up in Oregon she papered her walls with cut out pictures of her dream horses. Those dreams came true on her fifth birthday, when she got a Shetland pony named Dale. She continues to share her enthusiasm for the equine lifestyle with her handsome husband Robby and adorable 11 year old daughter Savannah. Recently her older daughter, Ashley, 22, has returned to the nest to gear up for her next adventure in life.

The Stuckey's live in Portola Hills and board their horses at nearby Trails End Ranch. Miguel, Robby's horse is a Missouri Fox Trotter, while Kristina and Savannah ride Sundance and Cloud which are beautiful Spotted Saddle horses.

Kristina's business, Cowgirl Rockstar has been provid-

ing custom trail rides as well as training and riding lessons. She is currently adjusting her focus to equine assisted therapy, which will provide horsemanship experiences to benefit those with physical, emo-



tional or psychological disabilities. Her knowledge is gleaned from the best of the horse world such as John Lyons and Chris Cox, but is grounded in her innate understanding of horse nature and the ability to tune in to what an individual horse needs, as well as a very empathetic and kind patience with the rider.

Kristina enjoys any book about horses that breaks down the horse/human relationship on a spiritual level. She is currently reading *Horses and the Mystical Path: The Celtic Way of Expanding the Human Soul* by the McCormick family. Her favorite horse movie is the original *Black Stallion*. The best thing Kristina loves about horses is that they are totally honest.

Robby first met Kristina when she was working on a ranch run by his friend's mom in Descanso, an area of San Diego. He described the moment he saw her; "she stepped through the barn door, backlight by golden rays of dust-filtered sunlight". The thought that first entered his mind was; "I am gonna' marry this cow-girl!" (At least that's the way he very romantically described it while we (*continued on page 6*))

IN THE SADDLE (CONTINUED)

were all enjoying the second bottle of wine). Robby grew up in San Diego with his younger brother and sister. His Dad opened and ran the first Honey Baked Ham stores in the area. Robby's brother shares a love of horses as well, and although he lives in Valencia, he boards his horse at Trails End. Robby is

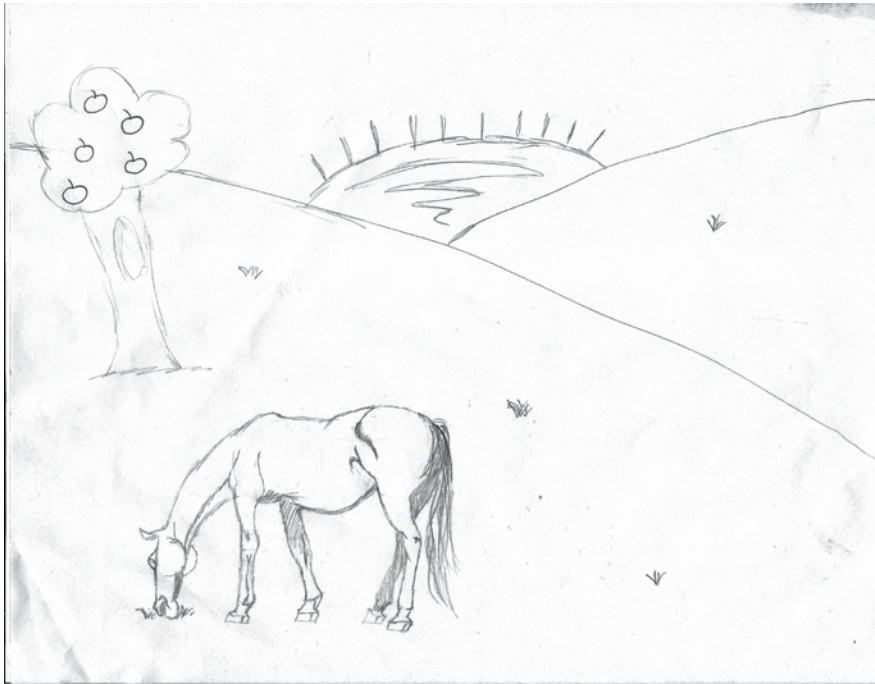
a Principal and director of digital strategy at the technology firm Awaken Interactive in Irvine. So, as our board has just appointed Robby as our new Director of Social Media, I think we're in very capable hands! In addition to the love of horse that he shares with his family, Robby has diverse interests; he's a sports

fanatic who has played most of the sports he enjoys watching; baseball, lacrosse, ice hockey and football. Go Chargers baby! Robby's also interested in technology, photography, space and travel. These interests have certainly rubbed off on 5th grader Savannah whose favorite school subjects are science and art. Savannah just enjoyed a week at the Rawhide Ranch Horse Camp. We asked Kristina if

Savannah had met any cute young cowboys, and apparently Savannah quickly replied that the boys were really good at carrying her heavy luggage to her room! (Sounds like Savannah has camp all figured out!). Savannah has told us that when she grows up, she would like to be an artist (check out her drawing) and

veterinarian. Savannah's current patients include the family's new Dobie-Lab puppy Billy, Boxer-Shepherd M.J., a cat and a turtle.

As the evening got later, the banter livelier, the level in the wine bottle lower, and our vision blurrier, the recurring theme with the Stuckeys was quite crystal clear; a love of horses and a love of family. Robby summed up his love of horses by



explaining that when he rides, he's transported to a whole different time and place.

And Kristina summed it up nicely with one of her favorite quotes: "In riding a horse, we borrow freedom" ~ Helen Thomson

So welcome Robby, Kristina, Ashley and Savannah Stuckey ... you are certainly new club members ... but feel much more like good old friends.



SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS BUCKLE UP

BY JAMES M. IACONO

A clear beautiful October day greeted the competitors who came from near and far to vie for the engraved silver buckles

best of speed and finesse that horse and rider can marshal.

The events tested not only a team's ability to go fast, but also their aptitude at negotiating quick turns, strict patterns, and the capacity to bring the excitement down to a walk when necessary.

The top three in each event for each Division are below:

which were at stake for our 3rd Annual year-end Buckle Playday. An ensemble of members and non-members battled over 5 challenging events to try to capture the hardware that signifies the

EVENT	JUNIORS	SENIORS
POLE BENDING	Jenni Couri Lauren O'Connor Ashley Laird	Jim Iacono Gina Dellarina Patty Gretzler
CLOVERLEAF BARRELS	Jenni Couri Lauren O'Connor Bree Ojeda	Melina Hann Jim Iacono Patty Gretzler
STEP, SQUEEZE, SPIN SPRINT	Jenni Couri Lauren O'Connor Kate Baily	Melina Hann Gina Dellarina Rick Balthaser
SKILL BARRELS	Jenni Couri Lauren O'Connor Kate Baily	Jim Iacono Melina Hann Gina Dellarina
QUADRANGLE	Lauren O'Connor Jenni Couri Bree Ojeda	Jim Iacono Melina Hann GinaDellarina

When all the points were tallied, Jenni Couri on her striking horse Shiloh, and Melina Hann riding the talented Brandy were the 2011 Champion Buckle Winners. Congratulations!

Thanks to all the volunteers that made the event

possible and a rousing success. Without the work of the Board and volunteers, days like this, that put smiles on the faces of so many, would not be possible.

To all the challengers who competed so valiantly, it was a winning day for everyone.



WHO ARE THE SADDLEBACK CANYON RIDERS?

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.

WHAT IS 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
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