



Pony Express

TRVEA Publisher: Gale Moriarity, Vice President

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Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association

TRVEA continues to advocate and promote equestrian presence and activities in the Tijuana River Valley.
CA State Non-Profit #1550287 EIN #56-2619264 www.trvea.org
"Securing America's Equestrian Heritage"

Happy New Year!



December Flood

Thank you to all of you who rescued your own animals and then assisted others. We are a wonderful horse and animal-loving community and I am honored to be counted among you. The stories of heroism and undaunted courage will live forever in our minds.



Trail Maintenance Saturday, Feb 14 at 9 a.m. – Bring gloves and sunscreen – No Rain Date. Meet at the Ranger station, 2310 Hollister St 92154 Jan Allen, Trail Coordinator

February Clinic

TRVEA is planning a Saturday morning clinic on Saturday, MARCH 28, 2009 to prepare you and your horse for future disasters.

TRVEA will offer:

- 1 – Microchipping for your horses at a discount by Kim Sergeant DVM \$50
- 2 – Trailer loading clinic
- 3 – Flood Debriefing Seminar
- 4 – Measuring your horse's height

Membership Drive!

All new TRVEA Memberships will receive **FREE Jan – June 2009** membership with their 2009-2010 dues. Membership will become effective upon receipt of the application and dues by a BOD member. As of Dec 2008, TRVEA membership was over 100 – our goal is 150 this year. We will, we will ROCK YOU!!

TRVEA 2008-09 Board of Directors

President	John Gabaldon	920-1282
Vice President	Gale Moriarity	421-4548
Secretary	Julie Jensen	429-4827
Treasurer	Mary Johnson	347-4994
Gymkhana Coordinator	Paula Hugill	423-7871
Trails Coordinator	Jan Allen	429-6494
Public Relations	Mary Christensen	858 549-3872
Juniors Coordinator	Sara Kimmich	228-4540
Special Projects	VACANT	

Parade Chairman –	Kim Sokol	322-4676

National Recognition

Congratulations to Martha and George Kiss for being the Featured Ranch on the New Jersey Judges Choice website, "a site for all things equine". www.thejudgeschoice.com

St Patrick's Day Parade Planned! Call Kim Sokol if you are interested.



Clean Trails!!



Jan Allen, Trails Coordinator

TRVEA's trail maintenance for January turned out to be a big success. TRVEA combined efforts with Sarah Emerson's Estuary group TRNERR. We had 27 members and volunteers cleaning Three Corners and a portion of Willow Loop. I want to thank the eight TRVEA members for helping with this coordinated effort and assisting with the Volunteers. We had three additional riders who are not TRVEA members: Chris and Steve from the Rancho Senora Fina and Jean from Southern Breeze. A special thanks to these three volunteers.

TRAIL NEWS Giddy up!!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Beginning in March 2009, TRVEA will host a Trail Ride on the **2nd Sunday** of each month. The purpose is to familiarize riders with the new Trail names, locations and other riders in the area. Rides are open to TRVEA members, the public and all area boarders.

Meet at the Ranger Station Staging Area at 2310 Hollister St. Times may vary, but the day will remain the same. No rain dates. Come meet your neighbors.

Contact Julie 619/429-4827

2 pm Feb. 8	12pm Mar. 8	12pm April 12
12pm May 10	4pm June 14	4pm July 12
4pm Aug 9	12pm Sept 13	12pm Oct 11
12pm Nov 8	12pm Dec 13	

Julie Jensen

captaa@earthlink.net

2009 CALENDAR

Coming Soon!



President's Corner

--John Gabaldon

On December 17th, 2008, the Tijuana River flood caused the death of one person and many horses. This greatly saddens all of us. At the same time, I saw acts of clear thinking, organization, and mettle from volunteers that awes and uplifts my spirits. This calamity should have been avoided. The city of San Diego hasn't maintained the river pilot channel. Fundamentally, I see caring professionals at city agencies flailing in a nearly impossible tangle of regulations and budgets where no one can figure out how to navigate out of that mess and stop the excuses. However, I want to address the awesome response by volunteers. I heard that government agencies made good rescues west of Hollister St. and north of the river. From my perspective of the ranches along Monument Rd. and east of Hollister, agency aid was glaringly missing--and worse--especially because volunteer help was nearly blocked when police closed the road. South of the river, without hesitation, the Nemeth's opened their mesa ranch to any evacuated horse; down the road, D&J, Kimzy, and Martin ranches did, too. People worked in deep water expending tremendous energy just to move themselves, much less to catch, calm, and lead out these large animals in invisible footing under contaminated and cold water. Everyone was drenched and some shook so badly they barely could latch halters or speak--yet they continued without drinking water, food, or rest for the entire day and evening. **There weren't enough people to adequately move and manage horses in comparison to the urgency of the situation** (no one knew when the rain would end or the water would stop rising). And there weren't enough people to support the volunteers. Agency rescue personnel prevented volunteers from reinforcing, relieving, or speeding up the rescues, but didn't get in the water themselves. *(CBP was their usual fantastic agency--agent Jim Swanson worked in the water pulling horses for hours although it was the day before his retirement, and CBP boarded horses at their facility.)* The rescue and police agencies tell us that **we must survive, manage our animals, and help our neighbors unaided by government for at least 72-hours** during a regional emergency. Volunteers demonstrated this capacity during the 2007 fires and this recent 2008 flood. I know most of these agency people are caring, committed professionals. **BUT**, in government strategy, policy, and procedure there must be a way to stop blocking volunteer and NGO efforts to "take care of our own" during the first 72-hours. If accomplished, underfunded, undermanned, well-intentioned agencies will gain precious time to move highly organized and provisioned resources into the most critical areas without dissipating their capabilities in areas that can take care of themselves for a while.