



# Los Senderos

## DE SAN DIEGO

September 2024

### President's Report

If you didn't make the Annual Ride, you missed a good one! This year's Ride, chaired by Johnny Omahen, one of our younger and newer members, was simply put an outstanding event. Johnny and his committee pulled out all the stops to create an itinerary which included a great ride on Thursday led by Mike Tinch, a bocce ball tournament won by Tom Laff and his partner John Omahen, a flag retirement ceremony, a trap shoot organized by Larry Alameda and won by none other than Johnny and his teammate Don Horn, cattle sorting Calcutta organized by Tom Laff and his team and won by the team of Bob Wining, Dennis Carlson, and Tim Laff, delicious meals prepared by Billy and his crew, a well-stocked (including Guinness or, as I like to call it, Mother's Milk) and tended bar by Adam, and above all, great fellowship and an all-around great time! The raffle team of Bob Wining, Rick White, and Tuck Arnold managed to assemble a plethora of raffle and auction items, raising lots of money for the club. Many thanks to all who stepped up to create a memorable Ride enjoyed by all who were there.

Next up is the Tulloch Ranch Ride in Santa Ysabel on October 27. Please RSVP on the website so we get a good count.

Just a reminder that the Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3, 5:30 p.m. at Sycuan Golf Resort, and the Dinner/Dance will be on

Saturday, January 25, 2025, also at Sycuan.

Finally, on Friday night following the flag retirement ceremony, we observed a moment of silence in honor of our benefactor Terry Brown. On Saturday night, many long-time members and friends of Terry's also came out for dinner, so we again had a moment of silence. These moments gave all of us an opportunity to say a silent thanks to Terry for all he did for the club. Last year, President Steve Vaughn emailed to the members a testimonial written by Terry's long-time friend and member Tom Claycomb about Terry's many attributes and contributions to the club and it seems a fitting time to share Tom's thoughts again here.

See ya'll on the trail.  
~ James O'Keefe ~

### 2024 Monthly Ride Calendar

DATE	LOCATION
Oct 27	Tulloch Ranch, Santa Ysabel
Nov 24	Lion, Tigers & Bears, Alpine
Dec 3	Annual Membership Meeting, Sycuan
Jan 25	Dinner Dance, Sycuan



"Some Thoughts for Los Senderos de San Diego Members  
by Tom Claycomb

Every few decades a fella comes along that checks all the important boxes. He'll have a surprising collection of talents and traits. Friendly, fun to be around, modest, smart businessman, and generous beyond belief. Does this remind you of someone we knew? He could be comfortable dining at the Ahwahnee Hotel or cooking over a campfire - and would sometimes do both on the same trip. He might enjoy a fine glass of wine during dinner or pass around a bottle of Johnny Walker Red on a trail ride. He could bed down in the penthouse or directly on the ground in his sougans with his saddle for a pillow. He'd know how to properly set a table for a five-course banquet yet could tie a fair impression of a diamond hitch on his packhorse. You'd have to ask him about it to get beyond his modesty but his life experiences might include racing in the Baja 500, owning and racing quarter horses, creating surprisingly fine pottery on his potter's wheel, breeding bison, developing major hospitality facilities with New York partners, and being one of those San Diego political movers and shakers who you never hear about but are behind the newspaper headlines. If you are extremely lucky, you'll get to know him personally. Such was the case of Los Senderos members and Terry Brown.

When Terry and Charlene acquired Rancho Samataguma, they immediately opened it to our club. Charlene once said "When you own a place like this it has to be shared." As a result, the club was invited to hold monthly rides there often with overnight privileges and many times with a BBQ and drinks sponsored by Terry. Our trail rides took us to see the airport, the race track, and the rock house. In his impressive home we saw his impressive collection of western art bronzes, the mountain lion killed on the ranch, and much more. There was even a short-lived par 3 golf course made available to friends. And when our club lost

access to the Lucky Five Ranch Terry offered the western portion of Samataguma as our home base. We have our own entry road and are trusted with the combination to the locked gate. When the Town and Country remodeled some rooms the replaced cast iron bathtubs were installed around our camp as watering troughs and dressed up by rock foundations done at his expense. When a well was needed it was drilled and distribution water pipe put in place. A bathroom with showers was added. The ranch tractor and water truck were free for us to use. A covered eating area was added along with an extension of electrical power for our caterer. The monthly utility power bill was never submitted to the club. The team sorting arena you see now was added not because the ranch needed it but for our convenience. No other local riding club enjoys this level of privacy and comfort. And don't forget, all these projects were completed while Terry was dealing with his own business battles. How easy would it have been for him to say, "Sorry guys, but I've got to concentrate on my own stuff for a while." Terry never once turned his back on Los Senderos.

Back in the day when our annual dinner dance and installation of officers was a really big deal they were hosted at the Town and Country. Terry quietly subsidized the expense (big surprise) and Charlene went above and beyond with the menu and decorations. Our spouses bought new outfits to wear. Boots and turquoise jewelry were fit for a fashion show and the turnout of members was close to 100 percent. A memory now but it should not be forgotten.

Was Terry born into a life of ease to enable him to share the way he did? Not hardly. When his father unexpectedly died at a young age he was thrust into a level of responsibility that would confound most young men. Management skills that are easiest when learned over time had to be conquered immediately. Mistakes made, and there were a few, had to be quickly corrected. An over expansion encouraged by bankers was followed by a real estate downturn that threatened the corporation. Tough decisions were needed and Terry made them. Now, without Terry at the helm we are likely to witness changes including some that will directly impact our club. But let's be rightfully thankful for that which was previously given so freely and for the opportunity to have known this highly unusual man. If the delightful Mexican belief is true that a person isn't really gone until his name is spoken for the last time it's likely Terry will be with us in spirit for years to come. Perhaps in the next few decades someone else will appear with the qualities we saw in Terry. Let's try hard not to do a direct comparison as I'm pretty sure the new guy would lose."

