

# Happy trails lead to Leisure World

## Jack Chezick grabs the reins of the horse patrol

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

**E**mergency professionals throughout the state have called Leisure World's earthquake and disaster preparedness program a model for other communities because of its comprehensiveness.

The program's laudable reach, they note, is due in large part to the quantity and quality of its volunteers - like the Leisure World Historical Society's April Leisure Worlder of the Month: Jack Chezick.

At the inception of the task force, Chezick suggested the formation of a horse patrol to assist residents in remote areas of the community or wherever motorized vehicles might not be able to reach.

Golden Rain Director Earl Donaldson recalls Chezick turned the idea into a reality "almost single-handedly" because of his belief in the patrol's necessity for the security of Leisure World.

"He's very dedicated and extremely conscientious person and when he's determined to do something the only time is now."

Today, the six members of that unique volunteer group offer 24-hour assistance patrolling boundary walls, handling crowd and traffic control, delivering messages, gathering information, appraising situations for emergency professionals and carrying out difficult rescue operations.

The volunteers, who are all trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, pay for their own uniforms, emergency response equipment and mounts.

Chezick, who even designed the group's distinctive clothing patch, established rigorous standards for membership in the group to ensure each volunteer's



Jim Max/The News

Jack Chezick, Leisure Worlder of the Month for April, with his favorite mount, Windsong.

ability to handle any situation.

Patrol Captain Cleve Selby, points out that Chezick, a rider since childhood who currently patrols on his 12-year-old part quarter horse/Andalusian Windsong, is a prime example of what it takes to be a member of the elite group.

"Jack used to be a rancher and he knows how to rope, tie, brand . . . all the stuff a cowboy should know."

Even so, Chezick, along with other members of the group, practice emergency rescue techniques and patrol all over the community on a weekly basis.

Explains Donaldson, "He's always thinking of the good of the community and our responsibility to it."

**Background:** Community service, hard work and strong values have figured prominently in Chezick's life.

The Canadian native, who

grew up in central California, notes, for example, that he pursued not one but several careers while raising his family.

He held a top administrative position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Merced County and was an executive with Anderson, Clayton Cotton (the largest cotton corporation in the world).

Then he managed his own 1,000 acre ranch and owned and operated his own real estate firm, Chezick Realty in Madera.

Although his workload was always heavy, he never forgot to give back to the community in which he lived.

In Madera alone, for example, he participated in numerous community, professional and civic organizations, served as alternate mayor for four years and even organized the official "Recognition Dinner" for the bus driver who in 1976 helped in the escape of Chowchilla children

kidnapped and buried in their school bus.

Little wonder he was the recipient of a number of awards and honors; most notably, Jaycee "Boss of the Year," Madera County "Realtor of the Year," County Chamber of Commerce "Man of the Year" and two California Legislative Acknowledgement Awards.

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### Ceremony facts

**Who:** Jack Chezick  
**What:** Leisure Worlder of the Month for April  
**Where:** Clubhouse 6  
**When:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 5  
**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society

# TRAILS

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## **Retirement-anything but:**

When Chezick retired to Leisure World, he didn't let down the pace either.

He's served as a member of the Third Mutual Board, Men's Golf Club, World on Film, California and several bridge clubs, the Historical Society, Club 30; and various community committees, subcommittees and study groups dealing with real estate, TV services, landscaping, maintenance and construction and budget.

He also worked on the original El Toro Air Base conversion committee, the St. Nicholas Church Council and special

Leisure World/developer negotiations team (to keep the Rossmoor Business Center from being included in the boundaries of the new city of Laguna Hills).

Even after suffering three heart attacks, Chezick finds it impossible to let go of the reins, retaining his membership in the horse patrol, the Saddleback Heart Institute Board, the Golden Rain stable advisory committee and the Saddle Club, which in 1991 awarded him a plaque for his dedication and service.

Still, on learning that he'd been selected Leisure Worlder of the Month, Chezick says the news left him "flabbergasted."

Although she hopes Chezick will now take it easier, wife Lillian (Lu) acknowledges he

finds it difficult to slow down. "He likes things done right-and right now-and he throws himself into things 110 percent."

Chezick characterizes himself as a calm person; but, he doesn't deny his wife's assessment has some truth in it.

He points out, however, that his character was forged by the word and example of a very good teacher.

"I learned (the value of doing things right) . . . from my Dad who used to say 'you don't get paid for being wrong.'"

Incidentally, the horse patrol is currently recruiting new members and encourages all-around experienced riders to apply by calling Selby at 859-9529.