

ALTA LOMA RIDING
CLUB

P.O. Box 8116 Alta Loma,
CA 91701

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Bits O'News

DECEMBER 2018

www.altalomaridingclub.com
altalomaridingclub@gmail.com

CALENDER

- Dec 1st 9am
Park Clean-Up
- Dec 2nd RSET
Christmas
Show
- Dec 7th 6pm
ALRC Holiday
Potluck
- Dec 11th 6pm
Thoroughbred
Lights Ride

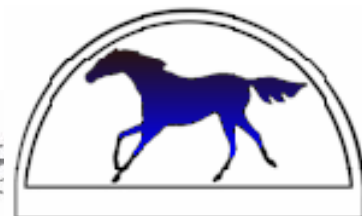
ALRC Holiday Potluck

When: Dec 7th, 6pm

Where: Herritage Park

Come out and enjoy some good food and good friends. Bring your favorite dish to share.

Also, if you can, bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Spark of Love toy drive.



President's Message

INSPIRATION, where does it come from? How can we find it? How can we channel it? A short five years ago, I purchased a horse for my then 16-year-old daughter. She had taken quite a few lessons and got to a point where she could no longer continue her journey riding once a week on a lesson horse. She needed saddle time. I was a non rider, I had been on a few horses in my life, but never taken a lesson. We began the arduous task of looking for a dressage horse that would fit both my daughter and I. Ultimately we found Charlie, a 14-year-old, 16.2 hand, off the track thoroughbred. As you can imagine he was very forward (liked to go, not so much stop). We learned he had hunter jumper in his background, but most recently trained in dressage. Within the first week or two, I took him to the park, saddled him and took him into the south arena. Having more courage than knowledge, I stood up in the stirrups put his reins forward and urged (let) him go, oh he could run and he liked going fast, I liked it too actually. I realized that something was wrong when the person helping us with the horse turned kind of white and asked me to slow down or actually stop. I was inspired to learn more, how could I get better. I took several lessons, mostly dressage, but it just wasn't enough, I had to learn more and quicker. I had to become a better rider, more lessons meant more knowledge equating to better rider... Right? Not so much. What I kept learning was how much I didn't know. The more I learned the more I needed to learn. I began looking into different philosophies and came upon Buck Brannaman in the movie "Buck", I was inspired again.

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President's Message Cont.

Then I was asked to be president of the Alta Loma Riding Club. My first official act as president was to ride in the annual poker ride. I began the ride as a nervous rider on a nervous horse. After 45 minutes Charlie was out of control and I was on the ride from hell. Many of us have had those rides where you should get off but refuse to do so because you don't want the horse to "win". But once again, inspiration, kind words from other riders, whom I had just met for the first time. They did not judge, but merely gave friendly advice and encouragement. I gained some life long friends from that ride. A few weeks after that ride, I was at an event at the equestrian center on Charlie in the north (warm up) arena, Charlie saw a dragon and off he went, I lost my balance and when he turned against the north railing at speed, I came off. I was able to grab the rail and not fall to the ground, unfortunately I hit the railing pretty hard. Barry Berg happened to be in the arena, helped me corral Charlie, do some quick groundwork and encouraged me to get back on. He said, "Ok lets find what happened. He managed to get Charlie to spook again, nearly identical as the first time, I fell forward but didn't come off. He said "don't ever fall forward, once you do, there is no recovery and you will come off every time". A lesson well learned and so far he has been right. He had no obligation to help, but did so out of the kindness of his heart and his desire to share his knowledge. Knowledge learned through many hours of costly training or experience of riding. Inspired yet again by his kindness and knowledge. He introduced me to the philosophies of Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt, which triggered a paradigm shift, and inspiration to be a better horseman. Barry and I have spent countless hours training which is easy to do when you share philosophies on horsemanship. We have (mostly Barry) been able to help other people inspired to be better horsemen or horsewomen.

In the beginning I found I was so focused on being a better rider that I couldn't see the forest through the trees. I neglected the journey. I became inspired when I realized that it is not about being the best rider, it's about being the best partner. If you think you are a good rider because you can get your horse to comply, think how much better you might be if you and your horse go together at a mere thought or imperceptible movement. Certainly we see those partnerships in world cup dressage, or rodeo/ranch competition. I am not there yet, but I am inspired to get there every time I am with one of my horses.

I had the good fortune to attend the ALRC gymkhana event at Heritage Park on Sunday October 21, 2018. The event was well attended with many riders ranging in age and experience levels on horses of different breeds, ages and levels of training. Some riders were very good, some not so much. Some horses were very good, some not so much. BUT everyone was having fun on their horse trying to improve both their skills and those of their horse. Most riders were out of their element with little experience and some having never done an event like that before. That was inspiring, knowing that equestrians are willing to push out of their comfort zone to improve their partnerships with their horse, while other equestrians are there ready and willing to support those that need it. Be inspired and be inspirational everybody needs both.

I want to thank Barb DeWitt for the trail ride to Mustang Sally's as well as the owner/s and staff of Mustang Sally's. The food was fantastic, the facility was perfect for tying horses and the public and patrons loved seeing horses there. We had thirteen horses and riders join us and all had a great time.

Local Trail Rides by Barb De Witt



An adventuresome group of 11 riders joined me on the crisp, clear Saturday morning of November 17 on a 5 mile trek to Mustang Sally's for a Tex Mex brunch. We went over the 210 Freeway, through a tunnel under 19th Street, and under two overpasses on our way to the Pacific Electric Trail. A short ride to the west and over one more bridge crossing Foothill Blvd. brought us right to the back gate of Mustang Sally's where 3 other non riders joined us for an abundance of good food and drink. The owner and staff were so excited about having us there that they even provided bales of hay for our horses. A great time was had by all and I look forward to doing this ride again in the spring.



The holiday season is here so we will be doing our traditional ride through the **Christmas lights on Thoroughbred** on the evening of **December 11**. We will **meet at the park at 6 pm and leave at 6:15**. There won't be much of a moon (only 4 days after the new moon), so wear plenty of lights. I look forward to seeing everyone's innovative ways of decorating their horses. We need someone to follow along behind the riders with a golf cart and trash can to scoop poop. If you are willing to volunteer for this very aromatic job please contact me, Barb De Witt, at 909-238-0336. Thanks in advance. Happy trails to all!

Rancho Cucamonga Holiday Lights Traffic

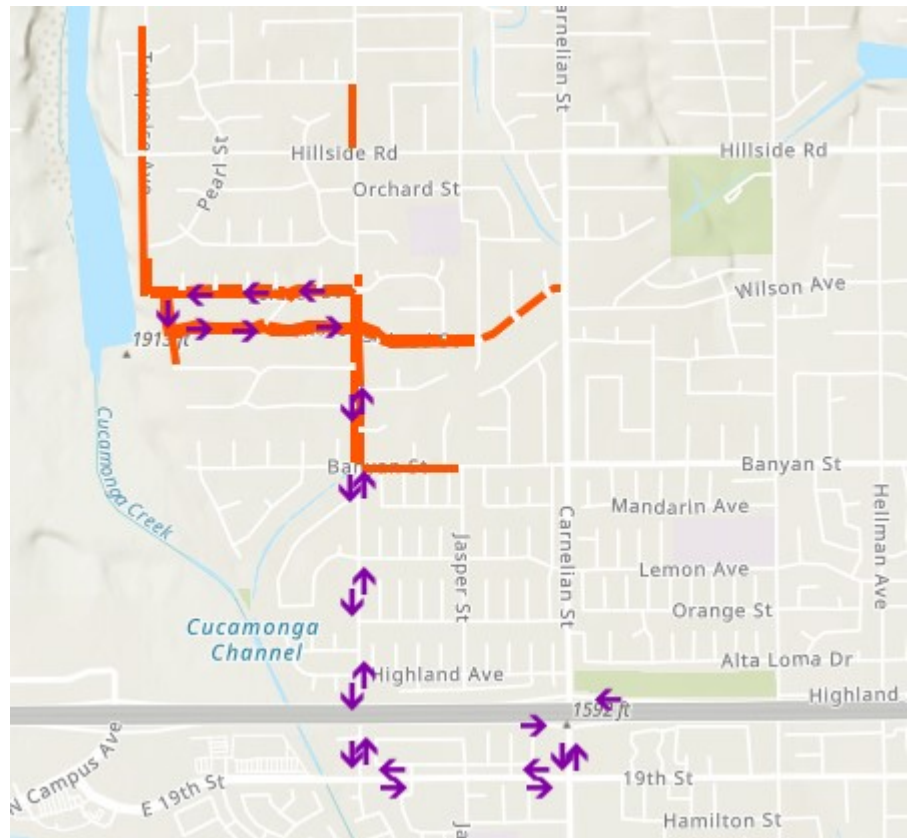
The City has implemented a "Drive-Thru Only" Ordinance during high peak evenings/weekend hours to reduce the mix of vehicles and pedestrians, with the goal to reduce the risk of serious injury, negative behaviors, as well as preserve the quality of life for surrounding residents. Therefore, portions of Thoroughbred and Jennet Streets and Turquoise Avenue will be **Drive-Thru Only from December 7 through 9 and December 14 through 24, 2018 between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.** -- general public/pedestrians will not be allowed to walk the holiday display during these designated dates.

Holiday Lights Travel Route

Please view the Holiday Lights Travel Route to see the traffic flow for vehicles traveling to view the holiday light display (purple arrows). Vehicles exiting the 210 freeway at Carnelian Street will be directed south on Carnelian Street, west on 19th Street, and north on Sapphire Street to access the holiday lights in the Thoroughbred and Jennet neighborhoods. Local residents only can still travel north on Carnelian Street from the freeway exit.

Traffic/Parking

Each year, the Rancho Cucamonga Police Department and Traffic Engineering Division develop a Traffic Management Plan to minimize traffic congestion and ensure public safety. Please view this map for more information. Red areas are no parking areas.



For more information, visit the city website https://www.cityofrc.us/cityhall/police/news/holiday_lights/default.asp?fbclid=IwAR3x9dC4W3ScE1wSAQTOWHt-ntPgjdomgj3QQM99tsARU2TQfmtPqIUvHc8

Theodore Roosevelt and his Horses

(Source: EQUUS, Pamela S Nolf)

As a sickly asthmatic child, Teddy Roosevelt was advised to exercise and one of the activities he loved was horseback-riding. As a young man he loved to west and rode extensively in the wilderness. He never claimed to be an expert horseman, but as he spent many hours in the saddle he certainly became more than just competent.

Teddy wrote many letters to his children and wife and in them often expounded on his preference for treating horses with patience.

He preferred to break them with a gradual approach and with all the time needed to work with them (an early natural horseman?) He indicated he understood that ranch hands did not always have the time to train a horse slowly and as a result they often suffered injuries. He preferred to work with horses that had a naturally gently temperament and encouraged his whole family to ride.



One of his personal horse was Renown. When he went to Washington DC, Renown had difficulty with the traffic and tended to be rather reactive. He was very frightened by the automobile traffic and Teddy remarked to his children in his letters that he would give him a lump of sugar whenever the horse managed to get by an scary object. He reported that Renown became very good and getting his head around to get the lump of sugar!

When one of his sons became ill and couldn't get out to ride, the other children put his pony Algonquin in the

White House elevator and got him up to the boys room so he could pet him.

Teddy's approach to riding:

"I was fond of horseback-riding, but I took to it slowly and with difficulty, exactly as with boxing. It was a long time before I became even a respectable rider, and I never got much higher. I mean by this that I never became a first-flight man in the hunting field and never even approached the bronco-busting class in the West. Any man, if he chooses, can gradually school himself to the requisite nerve, and gradually learn the requisite seat and hands that will enable him to do respectable across country, or to perform the average work on a ranch".



During his Presidency he was often seen riding his favorite mount Blestein in the Washington, D.C. area. He was the last President to use his horses both for transportation and enjoyment in D.C. and while living in the White House.

"I do not want a horse with which I have an interesting circus experience whenever we meet an automobile or one which I cannot get to go in any particular direction without devoting an hour or two to the job." Theodore Roosevelt

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!!!

Do you know someone who might like to be a member of the Club? Remember the club is not only for horse owners, it's for anyone who loves our rural living! Please remember that without the Alta Loma Riding Club we would lose a lot of our large animal rights. There are many other special interests in the city that would that become more verbal and our wonderful way of life could be endangered. We are working on an online version of our membership application and paying through pay pal. We will keep you updated when its available.

Happy riding!! Ali Smilgis – Membership Chairman

Membership Application

Membership is only \$30 /year for the whole family and its time to renew

Please fill out the application and send it with a check to Alta Loma Riding Club P.O. Box 8116 Alta Loma, CA 91701

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

Acknowledgement: The Alta Loma Riding Club (ALRC) is not responsible and assumes no liability for any personal injury, property damage, or theft occurring on the ALRC premises or club activity. The undersigned waives any and all claims against the ALRC, officers, sponsors or members.

Signature of applicant(s) _____



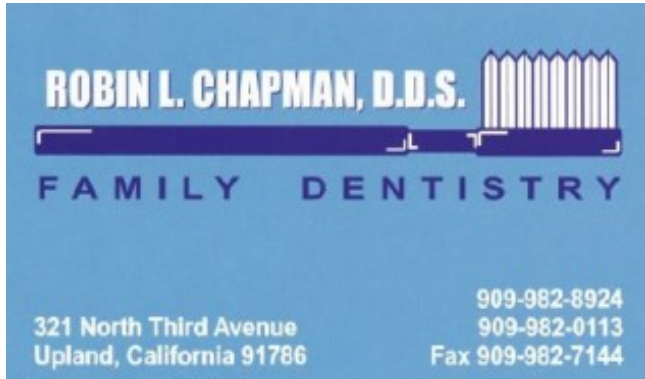
Welcome to our new members:

- Kameron Schreckengost
- Casey and Lorelee Sulick.



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