



Dedicated to promoting and preserving the rural and equestrian lifestyle in our community.

# BITS *of* NEWS

## The Almond Trail is Open!

*Claudia McNeill, ALRC Newsletter Editor*


Alta Loma Riding Club has been hard at work advocating for the repair and reopening of the portion of the Almond Trail that was washed out during the severe rain in January of 2019.

The damaged hillside section of the trail was washed away nearly 2 years ago making that portion of the popular trail no longer accessible. The 4 mile loop that we enjoy riding, starts and finishes at Heritage Park and has been a favorite trek for hikers, mountain bike riders, and horseback enthusiasts. Whether you traverse via pedals, or on 2 or 4 legs the trail affords the right easy balance of hills and valleys. If we are lucky, we get a small stream crossing, and views that are breathtaking. All along the way, the trail is dotted with peaceful oak-shaded spots that make you feel far away—without being very far away at all!

In early 2019 hearts were heavy when Joe Cowan (then President of ALRC) relayed the news. Because of funding requirements, the city could not specify a date when the trail would be repaired and no projection of completion was available. Details needed to get worked out regarding financing, engineering and logistics of the repairs as different public and private entities were involved. ALRC and the city of Rancho Cucamonga were in communication regarding not only the Almond Trail, but also the trails in general, the bridges and the Heritage Park Equestrian facility.

Finally ground broke on the project in October 2020 and the entire slope was rebuilt and reinforced with some erosion protection. A drain with underground drainage was installed as well to help reduce the possibility of flooding from future storms and in the effort to prevent additional water damage to the trail. This was a large hill rebuilding effort that also included a new gate from the trail providing access to the construction area. All a definite improvement to this section of the trail!

Fellow members of ALRC—Joe Cowan, Kate Smith and myself—rode the Almond Trail together on November 13th and took these pictures (left). The top left 2 images show the section of trail above the repaired area. The third picture is the view looking down over the edge from the trail at the rebuilt slope site below and the bottom left picture is the view looking from across the canyon back at the now repaired hillside.

We are so excited the trail is now open! Many thanks to the City Council of Rancho Cucamonga and the staff! 



**“Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway.” - John Wayne**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Stephen Burnley  
Gail Burnley  
Darla Gretzner  
Baley Gretzner  
Darrell Gretzner  
Ryan Hutchison  
Jessalyn Marler  
Matthew Marler  
Aryssa Rodriguez  
Kimberly Trimble

Thank You for joining the Alta Loma Riding Club! Your membership makes a difference. We look forward to meeting you at upcoming events! Encourage your friends and neighbors who enjoy the trails and facilities to join us too!  
Happy Trails!

### ALRC Executive Officers & Directors

**President:** Natalie Beechler  
email: PresidentofALRC@gmail.com

**1st Vice President:** Cassie Sanchez  
email: VicePres1ofALRC@gmail.com

**2nd Vice President:**  
Kara Haulman-Recla  
email: VicePres2ofALRC@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Dan Smith  
email: TreasurerofALRC@gmail.com

**Secretary:** John Sanchez  
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email: MembershipofALRC@gmail.com

**Youth Director:** Alanna Quinn  
email: YouthofALRC@gmail.com

**City Liaison/ALERT:** Larry Henderson  
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**Local Trail Director:**  
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**Trailer Out Director:** Julie Bradley  
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**Food Services:** Joe Cowan  
email: FoodofALRC@gmail.com

**Publicity:** Martha Cowan  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Claudia McNeill  
email: NewsletterofALRC@gmail.com

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*from Natalie Beechler, ALRC President*

The ending month in 2020 is finally upon us, a year not to be quickly forgotten. Creative ways of staying connected to family, friends, work, and play were common themes throughout the year. The welcomed restoration of the north end Almond Trail was clear on the smiling faces of bikers, hikers, and equestrians happy to once again be using it. The Rancho multi-use trails received heavy use as main arteries for the reprieve of outdoor activity, and our residents were reminded of how essential our trail system is to maintaining a healthy body and mind.

State and local restrictions remain in place regarding gatherings and events, and this has proven a challenge for many ALRC events in planning. Your board is working on setting up a tentative schedule for the coming year with this in mind. We started by ending this year hosting trail rides as they afford the status of adhering to current guidelines. Fingers crossed, restrictions will ease in the coming year and we can hit the ground running.

In addition to a great group of local riders, ALRC hosted riders from Newport Beach, Phelan, Perris, Barstow, and Norco on a beautiful ride to Cucamonga Canyon for our November local trail ride. Connections were made, information was exchanged, and plans were constructed for future rides both local and trailer-out with our visiting equestrians (who left tangibly impressed with our trails and Equestrian Park, and were more than eager to share the knowledge of trails in their local areas).

This year brought many new horse enthusiasts, and reawakened the torch in many who had put it down for a time. Breaking entry into the equestrian life or even an equestrian group can be an intimidating task. A friendly, approachable reception and willingness to reach out can sometimes lead to the best connections. The value of relationships with our surrounding equestrian communities has become profoundly apparent in strengthening our own community, our reach, and our resources. I am happy to say, the enthusiasm I have witnessed lately in my fellow, returning, and future horseman has been tangible, and 2021 looks to be having a whole lot of butts where they belong—in saddles!

*Natalie* 🐾



**“There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.” –Winston Churchill**

# ALRC Local Trail Ride Recap

## Cucamonga Canyon Wash Trail Ride • November 7th ride rained out but rescheduled for November 21st!

by Heather McGee Decauwer,  
ALRC Local Trail Director

We had 24 horses and riders join us on our local trail ride. In addition to our members and locals, we had 3 from Barstow, 4 from Newport and 5 from Norco! 4 new membership forms were given out. It's was awesome to see everyone out on a beautiful day.

It was great to make new friends and show off our beautiful trails. Our adventurous group covered 8 1/2 miles.

Thank you all for joining us. And a special thank you to Julie and Natalie for being my co-trail bosses.



## Trail-Sharing Tips Horseback Riders Can Use

Remember these three keys to riding your horse on multiuse trails safely.

You're enjoying a beautiful sunny day on the trail with your horse. The trail is designated multiuse, so as you ride you're likely to meet hikers, dog walkers and/or mountain bikers. Your enjoyment and safety depend on how well everyone shares the trail.

You can't control the actions of other trail users, of course. But your actions and demeanor can make the difference between a safe, friendly interaction and a nasty confrontation. And it's easy to remember how to safely share the trail: Just stop, speak, and smile.

**#1 Stop!** Stopping is Job No. 1, for sure. If everyone stops when they meet another trail user, it takes the momentum out of the encounter. Your horse has a chance to settle and process the presence of the other trail users, and it gives you a chance to briefly chat with the other trail user about how to best pass each other.

So, what do you do if the other person doesn't look like he plans to stop? Call out a friendly, "Hi, there! Would you mind stopping?" Hold your hand up, palm out, in the universal "halt" signal. And if he keeps coming anyway, safely step out of his way, let him go by, and live to have a friendlier encounter another day.

**#2 Speak!** Your welcoming tone of voice sends a potent message to both the oncoming trail user (I'm friendly, and I'd appreciate your help) and to your horse (my rider isn't worried, so I don't need to be).

And of course, when you say something friendly to those hikers with the big backpacks or cyclists crouched on their mountain bikes, they'll likely say something friendly back to you. Your horse will realize they're humans and not a threat, so he can relax.

**#3 Smile!** Having a welcoming smile on your face works miracles in trail encounters. Your smile shows in your voice, which not only sends a friendly message to the oncoming trail user, it reassures your horse as well.

**The Best Way to Pass** Often the best technique when meeting oncoming trail users is to ask everyone to step off the trail on the same side (usually the downhill side) so you can ride by. But sometimes the terrain or the vegetation make it safer for them to step off to the uphill side. Sometimes it's best for you to step off the trail and let them go by, or for you to ride out around them while they remain on the trail. And sometimes you might need to ask them to backtrack to a place where it's safer to pass. You know your horse, and you're in the best position to make the call.

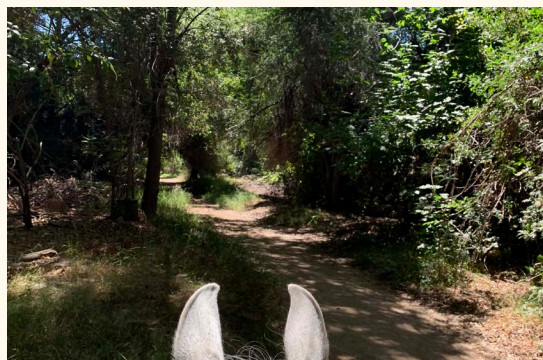
But what about when a cyclist overtakes you from behind? He needs to go past you, so it makes little sense to ask him to step off the trail. Instead, turn your horse to face the cyclist. Ask the cyclist to stop, and talk with him about the best way to pass. If you're in a place where you can do it safely, step off the trail and allow him to walk or slowly ride his bike past you. Then you can turn back around and follow the bike down the trail.

If you're not in a safe place to pass, look around for a safe place and ask the cyclist to wait where he or she is until you can get off the trail safely. Then he can pass you slowly.

**The Bottom Line** When you meet people on the trail, remain calm and treat them like you'd treat a friend. They're out there to have fun, just like you. You can make their day (and yours) with a smile and a cheerful hello. Remember to "stop, speak, and smile," and you can defuse trail confrontations before they happen.

This article from <https://thehorse.com/164656/trail-sharing-tips-horseback-riders-can-use/> posted by Kim McCarrel | Jan 3, 2019 | Blogs, Trail and Recreational Riding, Trail Riding with The Horse, Welfare and Industry

# TRAILER-OUT DECEMBER RIDE with Julie



Our next trailer out is Saturday, December 12, to Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas. We will meet at Heritage Park at 8 then caravan over to Bonelli. Our staging area is in the Raging Waters dirt parking lot. Once we arrive (25 minute drive), we will try to all be in the saddle within 30 minutes to get the ride started!

### Description of trail RIDE:

**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020  
**Time:** 8:00 am - 2:30 pm (approx)  
**Staging Info:** Leave Heritage Park at 8am  
**Route:** Bonelli Park Loop around the lake  
**Distance:** 8.5-10 miles  
**Time:** 3.5-4.5 hours depending on breaks and photo ops  
**Elevation:** Rolling hills about 350 feet from highest to lowest point  
**Terrain:** Fire roads (wide) and single track trails. Closer to the lake there will be picnickers.  
**Technicality:** A few moderate steep spots. Possible small water crossing. Nearby small airport (haven't seen a problem yet, just letting you know).  
**Shade:** Intermittent  
**Pictures Opp:** Many!  
**Questions Contact:** traileroutdirectorofALRC@gmail.com

**JOIN US IN THE FUN**

## LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORTING ALRC

Support the businesses who support ALRC! Did you know that you can advertise your business in the ALRC newsletter too?

**Contact**  
**Martha Cowan at**  
**PublicityofALRC@**  
**gmail.com or**  
**Claudia McNeill at**  
**NewsletterofALRC@**  
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**Business card ads:**  
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**VETERINARIAN**

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Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
GoldenOaksVet@aol.com  
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# THE ALRC

## Christmas Lights Ride & Festivities

The Christmas light ride is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th.  
Deck out your horse with lights and bells and join us  
for our annual ride through the neighborhoods of Alta Loma.

### DESCRIPTION OF TRAIL RIDE

- Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020  
**Time:** 6:00-8:30pm  
**Staging Info:** Leave from Heritage Park at 6pm  
**Destination:** Thoroughbred Christmas lights or alternative route if access on Thoroughbred is limited.  
**Distance:** Approx. 4 miles  
**Time:** 2 1/2 hours  
**Elevation:** Flat  
**Terrain:** Trails around neighborhoods and streets  
**Technicality:** Riding at night, various Christmas decorations and cars.  
**Other Info:** Last year we had 31 horses and riders.  
The group will be escorted by the Mounted Patrol.  
**Contact:** Heather if you have questions:  
LocalTrailofALRC@gmail.com

Whether you rode or not...  
come for **Cookies**, **Hot Cocoa**  
and a **Crazy Sock**  
**Gift Exchange** at  
Heritage Park  
following the ride.



Bring a pair of  
Crazy/Christmas  
Socks for the  
Gift Exchange.



*Per the CDC guidelines, the wearing of masks and proper social distancing is required at ALRC events.*





*"To ride on a horse is to fly without wings." – Anonymous*

## ALRC DECEMBER EVENTS

- SAT., DEC. 12, 8AM** • Trailer Out Ride, to Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas • Stage at Heritage Park Eq. Ct.
- TUES., DEC. 15, 6-8:30 PM** • Christmas Lights Ride & ALRC Gathering Stage at Heritage Park Equestrian Center



## HERITAGE PARK EQUESTRIAN CENTER

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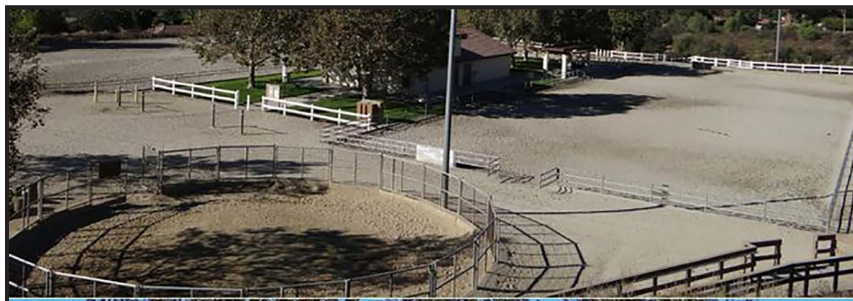
**DATES ARE AVAILABLE!**

**CONTACT**

Larry Henderson  
(909) 226-3956  
altalomaridingclub@gmail.com

**AMENITIES**

- Show Office & Clubhouse
- Concession Stand
- Restrooms
- Arena Lighting
- 2 Round Pens & 7 Paddocks
- South Arena 295'X150'
- North Arena 220' X 90' (Dressage)
- PA System
- Hitching Rails & Water Trough
- Trailer Parking
- Trail Course & Trail Access



**EQUESTRIAN PARKING AREA:** In an effort to ensure safety and appropriate use of Heritage Park Equestrian Parking, a lock at the entrance gate has been installed. All ALRC members have been provided an access code via the email on file. We ask that you lock the gate upon entering and exiting the equestrian parking area. **Look for the gate code via email and text, for further questions please contact (909) 226-3956 or email altalomaridingclub@gmail.com**



# SUPPORT & COMMUNITY

## ALTA LOMA RIDING CLUB at Heritage Park Equestrian Center

The Alta Loma Riding Club exists to promote and preserve the rural and equestrian lifestyle of Alta Loma and Rancho Cucamonga. Our membership is very important in continuing to impact our community. We maintain communication with the local city council and city planners to assure the trails and horse facilities we enjoy stay intact and maintained. We welcome you with open arms! It is not necessary to own a horse to be a member. If you use the trails and enjoy the outdoor lifestyle, ride or walk on two or four legs, by yourself or with your friends, pets and kids, then join us!

### MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- ALRC Monthly Newsletter
- Organized Local trail rides and Trailer-out rides
- Special Events • Shows • Clinics • Social Events
- Members are invited to monthly ALRC Board Member Meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 7PM in the Clubhouse at Heritage Park Equestrian Center
- Quarterly ALRC General Member Meeting
- Opportunity to meet other local horse enthusiasts
- Be part of supporting and promoting the rural/equestrian lifestyle in our community!

Visit our website to join or contact Susan Csik for more information  
MembershipofALRC@gmail.com



**Alta Loma Riding Club**  
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