



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

ALRC NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2024

BITS *of* NEWS

the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Heather McGee-Decauwer, ALRC President

If you've been to the park lately, hopefully you notice how amazing the areas around the trails and arenas look.

Both arenas and both round pens are graded and harrowed. The sand/dirt was removed from the east side of the facility and put in the parking lot and leveled. A huge thank you to Joe, our City Liaison! Your hard work is truly appreciated by those who use the facility.

In addition, the City coordinated with the California conservation Corp for the work done at Heritage Park. They cleared brush and vegetation from the wash area, hillsides, and obstacle course and widened pathways and trails. Thank you to these young adults. To learn more about the CCC visit <https://ccc.ca.gov>.



Teamwork makes the dream work. If you're interested in volunteering your time and talents to the club please reach out to any of the board members.

Happy trails, *Heather*

The Board is eager to make plans for the upcoming year. Please be sure to share and suggestions you have with Board Members for our consideration. Or visit our Board meetings. We meet at the clubhouse the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

There are several key positions that are vacant. Recently our Newsletter Director had to step down to tend to family matters. I can't tell you how many compliments we've received on our newsletter over the last four years; but I can say we've definitely been the envy of equestrian groups that have seen our newsletter. Claudia did a beautiful job and we are truly grateful for her time in the Board. With that said we need to recruit a new Newsletter Director. A big thanks to John, our Food Director who is volunteering in the meanwhile. Two other positions other board members are temporarily filling are Secretary and Local Trail Director.

If you have an interest in serving in any of these capacities or want to learn more about these roles, please let any Board Member know.



Last month we welcomed new board members: Natalie Beechler, Publications Director; Susan Csik, Membership Director; and John Recla, Food Director.

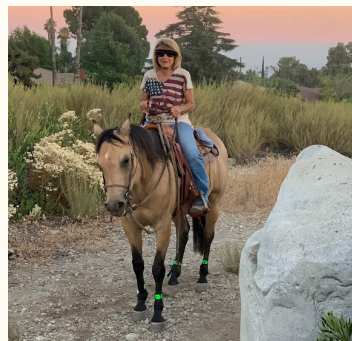
Trail Ride!

Show us your favorite ride!



5 cowgirls braved the heat to see the sunset and moonrise on horseback. We had plenty of shade and a nice breeze which kept horses and riders comfortable. Riding on moonlit trails is an experience I highly recommend. We covered about 5 1/2 miles in 2 hours

The position for local trail director is vacant. If you have an interest to guide our rides around Alta Loma, please let me know. In the meantime, we are looking for volunteers to show us your favorite trails locally or as a trailer out. Pick a location and a date and we will set up a ride. Be trail boss for a day! We will provide support. You won't be all alone. I love the adventure of a new location or varied route. Let's Ride! -Julie
traileroutofALRC@gmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

**"IT'S TOO HOT TO WORK, SO LET'S
PLAY, PLAYDAY"**



at HERITAGE PARK EQUESTRIAN CENTER

August 10th 6pm to 9:00 ISH

Office opens at 5:30

Ribbons 1st-5th

- **Barrels, Pole bending, and more!**
- **4.99 a class**
- **Office fee: \$5**
- **Grounds fee: \$9**



The Chow Hall will be open for dinner!

Contact: Vicepres2ofalrc@gmail.com

History of the Alta Loma Riding Club

1962-2024

The purpose of this publication is to establish the background and achievements this organization has and its effect on not only the equestrian community but all the residents of the City of Rancho Cucamonga. The Alta Loma Riding Club predates the creation of the City by 11 years. This document is designed to make the Community Members aware of the goals and impacts that were made possible by Members and their Families to preserve the equestrian lifestyle for future generations.

The authors of this History are volunteers comprising Club Members who gathered pictures, stories and memorabilia from the 60s, to the 2020s. The features included are not just equestrian events, but also social and community gatherings, making it possible for recreational activities and facilities to flourish thereby enriching the whole City.



1960's photo

We can use everyone's help in preparing this document. If you have or know someone that has pictures or other memorabilia from the 60s ALRC activities, please let us know. Contact any Board Member or Lawrence Henderson, ALRC Historian to share the information.

Thank You

Lawrence Henderson ALRC Historian
lhenderson62@outlook.com
909 226-3956



1960's photo

If you have information on any of the ALRC Arenas that were used before Heritage Park, that were on 19th Street or where Stork Elementary School site is today would be very helpful.



Any information on these photos is appreciated.

Be a Good Leader on the Trail

- March 5, 2024
- Devin Conley
- <https://horseandrider.com/horseback-trail-riding/be-a-good-leader-on-the-trail/>

If you find yourself riding point on the trail as the lead horse, you have some extra responsibility on your hands. You want to ensure that the group you're leading stays safe, and has an enjoyable ride. When you find yourself at the front, try these tips to be a good leader and practice lead-horse etiquette on the trail.

Trail riding should be a fun and fulfilling event. Practice good lead-horse etiquette if you find yourself out front.

Don't Assume Everyone is Game for a Fast Pace

You can't make assumptions about the other horses in the group. This means you cannot assume that the folks behind you are ready and willing to change up gaits, cross every obstacle, and are comfortable with a faster pace. If you're going to be leading the group, take a few minutes before the ride to check in with the other riders' abilities, and their horse's training level.

You might be on a seasoned trail horse, but if other members of your group are on green horses, don't just take off at a dead run. That's a recipe for disaster for those behind you. Also, galloping down the trail with a group of horses can pose serious risks to everyone in the group, and other people on the trail. When you do change up the pace or gait, check behind you with a verbal confirmation that everyone is doing alright.

Have a Plan to Slow Down

When you do quicken your pace, have a plan to bring things back to a controlled stop or slower speed. As the lead horse, you are setting the pace for the group. Slamming on your brakes can cause the horses behind you to pile up and have to stop unexpectedly. This can get you in trouble and cause injury to the other rider's or horses.

Use a hand signal or verbal signal that you're going to be slowing down, to give other rider's behind you notice. Then, the rider behind you should relay that message to the rest of the group, so everyone has a heads up about the change of pace.

Be Alert About Upcoming Obstacles

If you have the best vantage point from the front, it's your job to alert fellow rider's behind you about upcoming obstacles. Notice a water crossing up ahead? Relay that information back to the group. This might be a good time to take a quick break and ensure that everyone is on a horse that is comfortable crossing water, or be prepared to help a nervous horse across.

Riding through thick branches and have to duck? Give everyone else a heads up to...not keep their head up. See a hole that could easily catch a hoof? Point it out with hand signals or verbal cues to the other rider's behind you, to avoid injury. When crossing obstacles, stick to a safe pace and don't ride off without ensuring that all members of the group have safely crossed.

Check Behind You

It's not a great feeling when you're at the back of the pack and have to stop, just to watch your group ride off without noticing you're left behind. If a rider at the back has to dismount, check their cinch, or is having problems with their horse, they should let the rest of the group know. However, when you're on the lead horse of the pack, take time to look over your shoulder and make sure that everyone is accounted for.

This is also a good time to check your pace. If you're half a mile ahead of everyone else, you might need to rein up and slow down. Taking time to glance behind you and check on the group is a responsibility of the lead rider, and also a common courtesy to your friends following your lead. Should you notice that a slow-moving horse is falling behind, it might be a good time to switch things up. That horse might be more comfortable and motivated in the middle of the group, or you might need to check your pace.

Let Others Lead

If there are other rider's that would like to take a turn up front, don't be afraid to switch positions in the group. Letting other horse's have an opportunity to lead the group is a good experience, and can build confidence for both horse and rider. It's a great learning experience for a horse to practice being up front, in the middle of the pack, and as the horse bringing up the rear. Take turns in different spots and advocate for yourself if you feel your horse needs a different spot for an enjoyable ride.

ALRC Executive Officers & Directors

President: Heather McGee Decauwer
LocalTrailofALRC@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Martha Cowan
VicePres1ofALRC@gmail.com

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

Treasurer: Charlene Ariza
TreasurerofALRC@gmail.com

Secretary:

Membership: Susan Csik
MembershipofALRC@gmail.com

Youth Director: Alanna Quinn
YouthofALRC@gmail.com

City Liaison: Joe Cowan
CityLiaisonofALRC@gmail.com

Local Trail Director:

Trailer Out Director: Julie Bradley
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Food Services: John Recla
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Publicity: Natalie Beechler
PublicityofALRC@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
NewsletterofALRC@gmail.com



**Thank You very much for
being a vital part of 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!

GET SOCIAL WITH US! Alta Loma Riding Club  



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WellnessRanchTherapy.com

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**Support the
businesses who
support ALRC!**

**Did you know that
you can advertise
your business in the
ALRC newsletter too?**

**BUSINESS CARD ADS:
\$15/MONTH OR
\$120/YEAR**

**TO BECOME AN ADVERTISER
CONTACT US AT:
Altalomaridingclub@gmail.com**



ALRC UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT, AUG 10 • **HOT AUGUST NIGHTS**
6:00PM-9:30 ISH • **Heritage Park Equestrian Center**

Help the Alta Loma Riding Club protect and preserve the rural equestrian community in Rancho Cucamonga. If you see any questionable or potentially dangerous activity occurring in or around the Heritage Park vicinity, please call the Rancho Cucamonga Park Ranger, at (909) 941-1488. You may also report such activity through the app: **RC2GO.com**



HERITAGE PARK EQUESTRIAN CENTER

A GENERAL PURPOSE EQUESTRIAN FACILITY
 Facilities are available for Shows & Clinics.

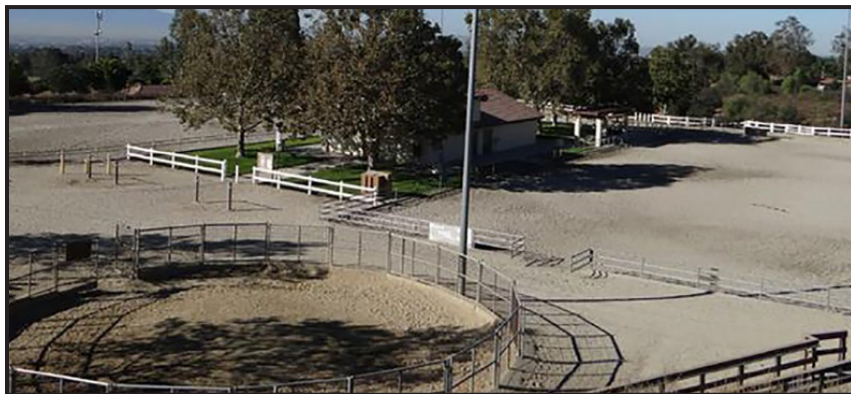
AMENITIES

- 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

ASK ABOUT OUR RATES!

**BOOK YOUR EVENT FOR 2024
 DATES ARE AVAILABLE!**

CONTACT: (909) 745-4906
altalomaridingclub@gmail.com



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) 285-4342 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!

- 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

MembershipofALRC@gmail.com
 for more information



Alta Loma Riding Club
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altalomaridingclub@gmail.com
www.AltaLomaRidingClub.org

