



# BITS O' NEWS

Straight from the Horse's Mouth

*February 2018*

*Message From The President*

**HERITAGE**

Equestrian Center

**EVENTS**

Feb 10 - Trailer-out Ride  
Bonelli Park  
8:30 am

Feb 13 - BOD Meeting  
7 pm

Feb 14 - HAPPY  
Valentine's Day

Feb 17 - ALERT  
Seminar  
11 am - 2 pm

Feb 17 - Wine Tasting  
Sanchez Home  
4:30 pm



Mar 3 - Barry Berg Clinic  
9:00 am

*Vintage valentine*

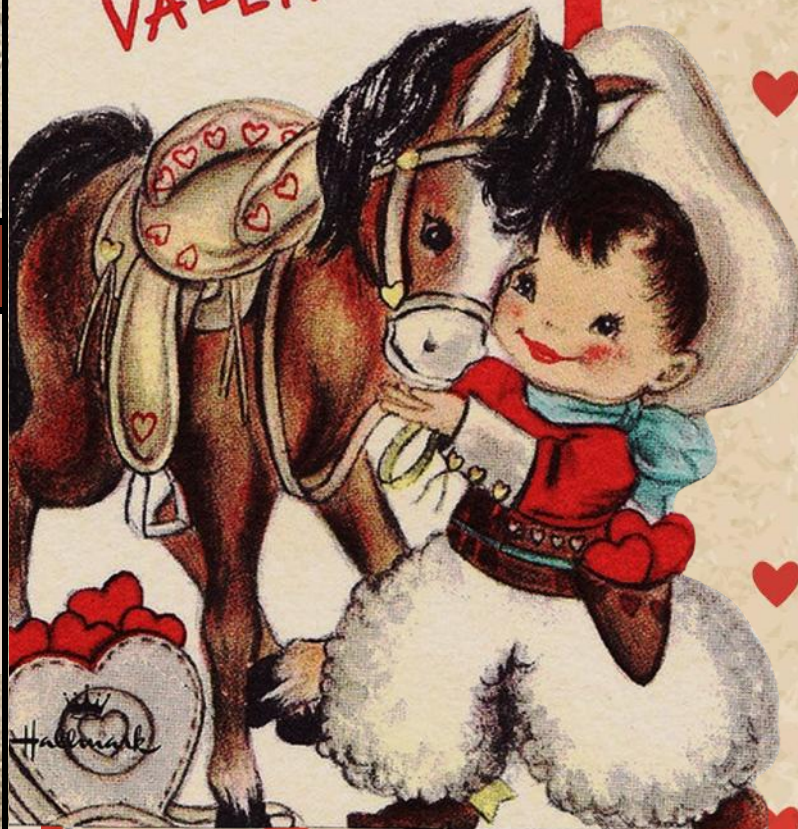


Alice Waters  
Editor  
cah2os2006@yahoo.com

*Happy  
Valentines Day*



*HOWDY,  
VALENTINE!*





# VP's Message

On Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, the riding club held its quarterly General Membership Meeting in the Club Center at Heritage Park Equestrian Center. President Joe Cowan started the business meeting by going over several items among which was the proposed North Eastern Sphere Annexation Project. The ALRC Board voted to oppose the project because it eliminates the Equestrian Overlay Zone within the boundaries of this annexation project. The Overlay Zone is a protection policy that has been in place by the City General Plan and Zoning for over 30 years. The plan for the annexation project would seriously threaten equestrian properties in Alta Loma. Larry Henderson gave a summary

of the proposal and why we are unanimously opposed to it, joining several other homeowner groups in Alta Loma and Etiwanda.

President Joe then discussed the refooting of the arenas at Heritage Park Equestrian Center.

Vice President Cassie Sanchez spoke on upcoming club events including the Wine Tasting event to be held on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Members were encouraged to make their reservations.

Youth Director Clay Clements is working on a special presentation of the Medieval Knights.

Barry Berg will be starting a new series of clinics in March.



Special Guest speaker was local veterinarian Rebecca Blair, DVM. Dr. Blair addressed several topics including equine vaccines, viruses, feeding, grass hay, alfalfa, supplements, sheath cleaning, snake, bat and spider bites and much more. Members appreciated her no-nonsense common sense approach to many horse related issues.

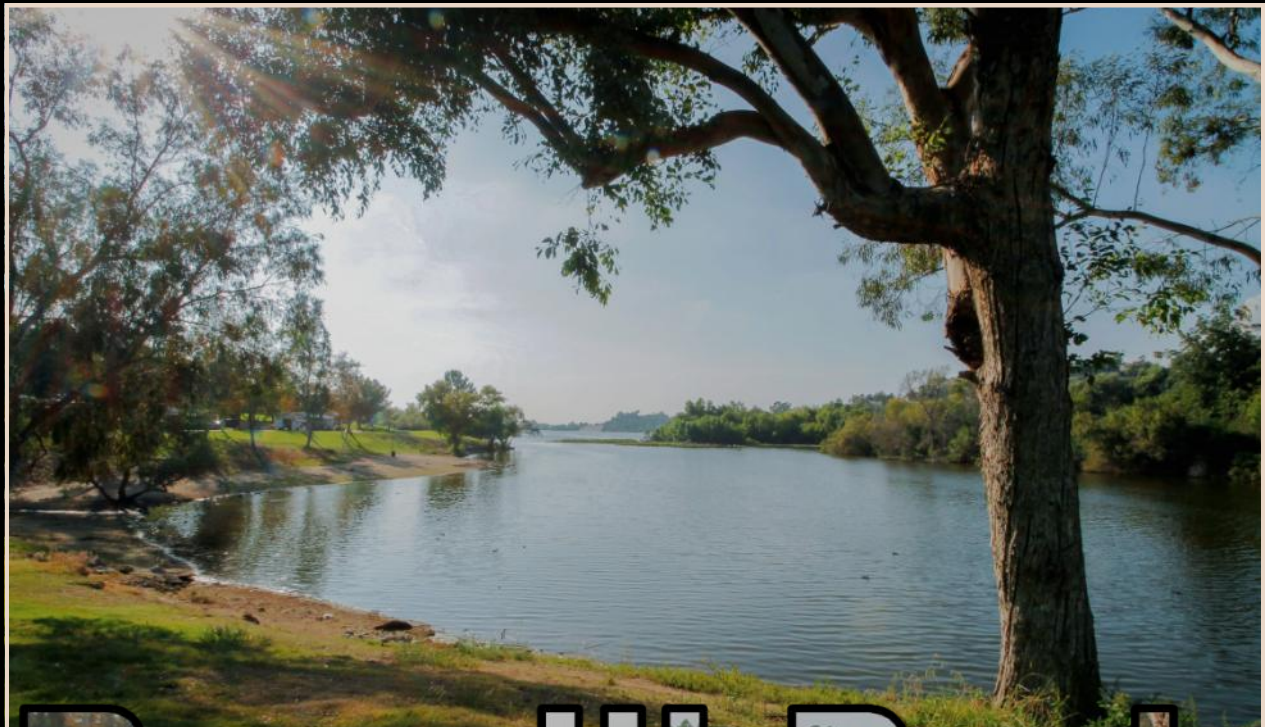
Barry Berg and Joe Cowan then did a hands-on demonstration of how to trailer break young horses.



The meeting concluded with a Tri-Tip Barbeque accompanied by potluck dishes of fluffy mashed potatoes covered with cheese, scrumptious macaroni and cheese, baked beans, a large chicken style casserole, and tasty salads. This was followed by fantastic homemade desserts including lemon cake, pumpkin bread, peach pie, homemade cookies and brownies. Larry Henderson commented, "This was the best pot-luck dinner we've ever had."

A good and informative time was had by all. Be sure to join us at our next quarterly meeting. Come mingle with your equestrian friends! ♥

Feb 10 - 8:30am	Trailer-out ride to Bonelli Park. See page 3.
Feb 17 11am - 2pm	ALERT Informational Seminar. See page 4.
Feb 17 - 4:30pm	Wine Tasting featuring wine expert Chris Starkenburg. See page 5.
Mar 3 - 9am	Barry Berg Clinic - Learn to move your horse with confidence. See page 6.



# Bonelli Park

## Trailer-out Ride

**Feb 10**

8:30 am - meet at Heritage Park Eq. Ctr

9:00 am - trailer out to Bonelli Park

Bonelli Park, aka Puddingstone Lake,  
will be an easy - intermediate ride.

Bring a snack!



HOSTED BY  
Alta Loma Riding Club

Heritage Park Equestrian Center  
5546 Beryl St, Alta Loma, CA 91701



# ALERT

Alta Loma Emergency Response Team

## Informational Seminar

**Feb 17**  
**11a - 2p**



**HOSTED BY**  
**Alta Loma Riding Club**

**Heritage Park Equestrian Center**  
**5546 Beryl St., Alta Loma, CA 91701**



**Back by popular demand, this informational seminar on large animal evacuations will address the following:**

- ♥ Volunteer registrations and existing member updates
- ♥ Evacuation procedures
- ♥ ALERT evacuation equipment and supplies audit
- ♥ Horse loading practice
- ♥ Trailer inspections available

Equestrians and non-equestrians are invited to this large animal evacuation informational seminar. You don't need to own a horse to participate in the ALERT program because many volunteers are needed to perform the various support functions required in large animal evacuations.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**  
Come for as much time as you can

Since 2001, ALERT has assisted with large animal evacuations, rescue of trapped animals, animal abuse investigations involving seized animals, and recapture of loose horses. ALERT assisted in the 2003 Grand Prix and 2014 Etiwanda Fires.



# *Wine Tasting*

**February 17, 2018**

**4:30 pm**

*Featuring*

**Chris Starkenburg**  
**Wine Expert**

## **JOIN US**

- Hors d'oeuvres
- Selection of various wines
- Valuable information on wines

## **RSVP**

Feb 3rd

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Alta Loma Riding Club  
Equestrian Community



## **HOSTED BY**

Alta Loma Riding Club  
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# BARRY BERG *Clinic*

**Moving Your Horse With Confidence**  
*through*  
**Clear Communication**

**MARCH 3**

**9:00 am**

**Learn how to correct your body language  
and improve your communication skills  
in a calm learning environment**

**Contact Barry: 909 • 477 • 9644**



**HOSTED BY  
Alta Loma Riding Club**

**\$100/person  
10 people max**

**Heritage Park Equestrian Center • 5546 Beryl St. • Alta Loma, CA • 91701**

# In Loving Memory

Go For  
The Sensation  
"Gofor"



On Monday June 12, 2017, Gofor passed away at age 34.

If you only knew him during his last years, you may have seen just the surface - an old horse - but he was so much more. In his youth he was a champion show horse, winning halter classes easily. Our oldest daughter rode him in local horse shows at Heritage Park Equestrian Center, Graystone Equestrian and farther away at San Juan Capistrano and Ridge Riders in West Covina. He could do it all, English, Western, Dressage and Trail Courses.

Gofor came to live with us when he was 14. He still participated in the shows, not for the ribbons, but to give kids and adults some great experiences. He helped members of the local 4-H Club, Rancho Rebels, learn to ride. With Rising Stars of Equestrian Therapy, he provided a steady mount to a child with cerebral palsy or Autism. He was an important addition to the Rancho Cucamonga Equestrian Patrol, regularly walking the community trails. He represented the City and the Sheriff's Department in many parades.

His legacy, though, will be the effect he had on children. He was never taught to fear people so he welcomed their attention. As parents, we were not concerned with our own kids' safety when they were around him. He took care of them on the trail and in the show ring.

He had some funny habits, though. He loved peppermint almost to distraction. When you cleaned his stall he followed you around waiting to receive a scratch or a hug. You could tickle his lower lip and he'd stick out his tongue. This trick was a big hit at various outreach activities like National Night Out and onsite school visits.

If over these past 20 years you stopped to pet or give Gofor a treat, we thank you. Someone brought him a Mason jar full of beautiful flowers and placed it by his body on the Monday morning of his passing. If that was you, please know that your kind act was much appreciated. We will miss him. He was one in a million. ♥





# Cleanup Day

WOW! Talk about rising to the occasion and answering the call for help. Your response was *fantastic* on Cleanup Day, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Many people generously donated their time and tackled the grounds with rake, leaf blower, shovel, and trash can. The facility looked absolutely marvelous, a testament to ALRC's dedicated stewardship of this beautiful community equestrian facility.

Thank you - *everyone* - who worked so hard that day (not all participants are shown in the photos). We truly cannot do this without you! ♥





# Keeping The SOLITARY HORSE

<http://equimed.com/health-centers/healthy-barn/articles/the-top-5-non-human-companions-for-your-horse>

Horses are social herd animals. In a perfect world your horse would have a lifelong group of equine buddies and never have to be by himself. In the real world, horses are sometimes alone. A horse may live alone or may travel by himself to events and competitions. Some horses handle that solitary life and travel just fine while others pine away or develop stable vices. The solution is often to get a companion for your horse. The top five equine companions are dogs, cats, goats and other small ruminants, poultry and small equines.



## Canine Companionship

Dogs are great horse companions as long as he understands he is not to chase or nip at the horse. A well behaved dog can accompany you on trail rides and will generally stick around his home barn. Some are good about travel and staying at the tack stall or trailer at shows or events. They can add a level of security - barking if a stranger approaches your horse or your area. Many horses develop close bonds with the barn mascot dog.

The drawback is that dogs often prefer to be in the house with you more than being out in the barn with your horse! Still, many horses are happy just to have the dog around at the barn for extra company when you are away. However, if you have a horse who gets worked up by a barking, leaping dog, that same horse may be calmed by the quiet of a cat.



## The Cat-Buddy



If you want a great dual-purpose pet, think cat. A great barn cat will keep rodents at bay, saving your grain, hay and tack from the insatiable appetites and chewing of rodents. Many cats become quite close to their equine friends and vice versa. There are numerous adorable photos of a cat rubbing up to a horse while balancing on a fence post or winding between the legs of a steady horse while on the cross ties.

Cats, however, tend not to make good travel companions. Cats get attached to places as much as to other living beings and can't be counted on to hang at the trailer or around the stalls at a show site. They prefer to hold down the fort at the home barn.

## Other Pals



Goats are next in popularity as horse pals. Goats are popular because they are clever and cute. Adding a Pygmy goat seems like an easy solution until you have to deal with their tendency to be escape artists! Goats also tend to get into mischief. While the old stories of goats eating tin cans aren't true, goats do eat a lot of unusual items.

Sheep and small breed cows can also be excellent horse buddies. As fellow herbivores, they share some of the same behavioral characteristics with horses including the need for a "herd". They can share a pasture and graze contentedly side by side.

## The Little Buddy

Last but not least are the "small equines." Miniature horses and miniature donkeys can be excellent companions for a lonely horse. They will eat the same foods and can stay in the same pastures. Depending on your barn setup they may share a stall or happily reside in a smaller space next to your horse's stall.

Some horses are put off by donkeys and don't bond well. Whether that is due to braying is not known. In some respects, donkeys can serve as "guard animals". While a normal size donkey may help to keep stray dogs and wild canines off your property, miniature horses and miniature donkeys should not be counted on as predator deterrents.

## Above all, consider your horse!

Choosing a companion will depend partly on your horse. After all, if the newcomer is to be his buddy, he should have a say. You may have to try a couple of different animals to find just the right fit. ♥



# Equine TOUCH

*Compiled from [www.equisearch.com/discoverhorses/horse-touch](http://www.equisearch.com/discoverhorses/horse-touch); [Dummies.com](http://Dummies.com) *Understanding a Horse's Senses*; [www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/other/fs9829.pdf](http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/other/fs9829.pdf); [articles.extension.org](http://articles.extension.org) *Horse Senses**

This article completes my research into the senses of horses. I hope you have enjoyed them and maybe even learned a new trick or two about your equine companion. Next month, I'll be looking into famous horses in history! Ali Smilgis – Membership Chairman



The senses are an important part of what makes horses behaviorally distinct. They are the tools that a horse uses to interact with its environment. Like humans, horses have five basic senses: vision, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Horse senses are not completely understood, but it is beneficial to try to understand their interpretation of the environment when we work with them. How do *they* see, hear, taste, smell and feel their surroundings? As we learn more about how horses perceive their environment and why horses do what they do in reaction to various stimuli, we can do a better job of working with them and shaping their behaviors.

## EQUINE TOUCH

The equine sense of touch is an important, although often overlooked, element of the horse. Although horse hide is tougher than our human skin, it is also rich with nerve endings such that they can feel a fly landing on their back. The nose, lips, mouth, and ears are the most sensitive areas to touch. Other sensitive areas to touch are the eyes, withers, ribs, flanks, and legs of the horse. Although hooves do not respond to touching, various parts of the hoof are able to feel touch.

## INTERACTION WITH HUMANS



Touch is one of the most developed and important senses for the horse in terms of human interaction. Understanding the degree to which horses are sensitive to touch can be valuable to anyone handling horses. Horses can feel the slightest touch with their lips, therefore, it is important to develop a light touch on the reins, to ensure the bridle fits correctly on the horse's head and that the bit fits correctly in the mouth.

The back and withers are also very sensitive areas on the horse. Knowing that a horse can feel a fly on its back makes it obvious that the slightest shift of weight in the saddle can affect the way a horse responds and moves. This acute sensitivity is why position is so important when the rider is asking the horse to perform specific maneuvers. Changes in body position in harmony with use of the hands and legs can cause the horse to move forward, stop, or turn. Poor position, exaggerated movement, or excessive force are confusing to horses and result in poor performance.

Horses respond to the rider's hands through the touch of the bit on its mouth and the touch of the rider's legs on its side. It is important that these two areas remain sensitive through a careful, consistent and considerate use of the hands and legs of the rider. A rider who continuously kicks the sides and pulls on the mouth will cause the horse to become unresponsive to these riding cues.

Young horses or those that have not been handled extensively are fearful of anything touching or holding their legs. If a horse is scared or in pain, it will seek ways to escape the pressure it is feeling. Through training, we desensitize horses to some degree so that they won't overreact to touch. However, we can also desensitize a horse to the point that it will totally ignore touch. It is extremely important to use the sense of touch to create a willing partnership between horse and human rather than a servitude based on fear.

Horses use touch to communicate with each other. Mothers reassure their babies with a brush of the muzzle; comrades scratch each other's itches with their teeth; messages are sent from one horse to another through touch – or the threat of it. Humans can use touch to convey messages to the horse. A gentle rub down, a firm scratch on the shoulder (not smacking/patting like we do with canines - have you ever seen horses smack one another?) are all ways of saying, "I'm your friend". Sometimes, if you're lucky, you'll get a similar tactile message in return. ♥



# Board Of Directors

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Newsletter Editor	Alice Waters	909-261-4892	cah2os2006@yahoo.com



**OFFICIAL NOTICE**  
**ALRC Opposes**  
**The City of Rancho Cucamonga**  
**North Eastern Sphere Annexation Project**

After attending the prior Community Meetings in 2017 and considering the materials distributed to the public the ALRC Board of Directors voted unanimously to oppose this project. The reasons for this action are as follows:

1. The Plan proposed for this Project would eliminate the Equestrian Overlay Zone within the boundaries of this area. The Equestrian Overlay zone has been a basic policy protection that has been in place by the City General Plan and Zoning for over 30 years. The Equestrian Overlay's adoption can be traced back to the original City Incorporation goals, which included policy protection of the equestrian life style for the areas generally north of Banyan Street and include the Sphere of Influence.
2. The creation of a new Specific Plan is unnecessary and in complete contradiction to the existing Etiwanda North Specific Plan. The existing ENSP is in full compliance with the Equestrian Overlay. If (the evidence is still out) there are changes needed then consider amending the existing ENSP, since the existing zoning has been successfully implemented for the most part.
3. The proposed Project includes significant areas that are already in the City (and have been since the original 1977 incorporation.) There is no reason to include them except to reduce the overall density of the proposed Project.
4. It needs to be clearly acknowledged that the City, through the subsidiary Rancho Cucamonga Fire District, has some review and regulatory authority over the City Sphere of Influence.
5. The addition of significant residential and commercial development proposed Project Plan will impact water resources. How can the City consider increasing the level of consumption of this highly limited resource?
6. The City has chosen to not consider dealing with the stalled Equestrian Overlay Impact Fee issues (\$626,000 collected) by amending the ENSP to allow the Equestrian Center called for previously in the Etiwanda North area to be used to enhance the existing Heritage Park Equestrian Center.
7. The proposed Plan does not address planned trails and missing trail connections at the Regional and Community Trail levels.

Additional information and status on this Project can be found on the City web site [www.CityofRC.us](http://www.CityofRC.us)

Submitted By: Larry Henderson, ALRC Liaison Director

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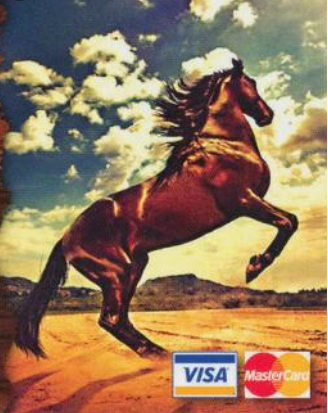

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## ALTA LOMA RIDING CLUB

*Community organization dedicated to the interest, lifestyle and continued preservation of owning and riding horses in Alta Loma and Rancho Cucamonga, CA*



**You don't need to own a horse**

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