



*November 2017*

**HERITAGE**

**Equestrian Center**

**EVENTS**

Nov 14 - **BOD Meeting**  
7 pm

Nov 23 - **HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!**

[Click  
Here](#)

*Thankful For Their Hard Work*



Alice Waters  
Editor  
cah2os2006@yahoo.com

## *Message From The President*

As you all know, the quarterly ALRC General Meeting was on October 14, 2017. Surveys were passed out to determine what the general membership would like to see from the board of directors. If you were unable to attend, you can fill out the survey anonymously online ([click here](#)) or by mail (see page 3). We would appreciate your input and will work diligently on fulfilling your requests.

I have heard that there are members who believe the board members are unapproachable. Of course, I am concerned with these beliefs. I, and the rest of the board, are committed to this club with the purpose of ensuring that the organization is beneficial to all members as well as being committed to maintaining the equestrian rural lifestyle of historic Alta Loma. If you feel that we are not meeting your expectations, please call, text or email me, so we can discuss your concerns. I do ask that you identify yourself on the message that you are part of the ALRC. We would like to see more members involved in the organization.

We are still requesting volunteers to help maintain the equestrian center. Volunteers harrow the arenas twice a week and perform general upkeep and cleaning but it is too much work and time for the few volunteers that we have. If you are available on Mondays or Fridays, PLEASE come join us. You may call Larry Henderson or me for more details, or just show up. The ALRC has acquired a Gator (small electric truck) to help with cleanup duties but we need volunteers to drive it. Also, we will be having a general cleaning day on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for a few hours starting at 9:00 am. The day will consist of light cleanup and general landscape maintenance. Coffee and donuts or bagels will be served. Many hands make light work. Please bring brooms, grass rakes, square shovels, gloves, cleaning supplies or any tools you feel will assist us in our efforts.

I know there are equestrians concerned about being at the Heritage Park Equestrian Center at night by themselves. What if something happens, not only horse related concerns but also the criminal element? There is a group of equestrians who go to the park every Tuesday and Thursday nights, starting at about 6:30 pm. We practice horsemanship skills and talk about the biomechanics of horses and how we can position our bodies to allow them to move more freely under us and much more. This is an informal gathering of equestrians, no matter the discipline. You are welcome to join in the group, open to all, or ride independently. You will not have to worry about being alone on these nights. If you have questions or want to confirm someone will be there, text me on Tuesday or Thursday afternoon (909) 912-4319. Sometimes at the end of the day we just need horse time.

***HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING***



# VP's Message

This month's newsletter includes a survey for ALRC members to complete concerning the events that members would like to see in 2018. Please take the time to give us feedback on your interests so ALRC's Show Committee can plan events for next year's calendar.

Please submit your survey at your earliest convenience as we need your input during our planning meetings. The survey is easy to obtain, takes less than 10 minutes to complete and would be greatly appreciated by the committee. You can take the survey anonymously online ([click here](#)) or submit it by mail (see page 3) to:

**ALRC**  
**P.O. Box 8116**  
**Alta Loma, CA 91701**

We are in the process of organizing the Show Committee which will meet soon to plan future events. We welcome anyone who is interested in planning the club's schedule of events. Just call or text me and I'll notify you of the time and place of our next meeting. (909-560-2822).

One event already on the calendar is a fantastic wine tasting party on February 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have a wine expert who will help us learn the fine art of wine with a variety of quality selections. With delicious Canapés, fine music, pristine wines, we are in for a wonderful treat in February. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



*Please rate events 1-5, 5 being the most interested and 1 the least interested.*

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<b><u>DEMONSTRATIONS</u></b>					
Driving/miniature ponies					
Western Dressage					
Roping					
Reining					
Jumping					
Showing (Farrier)					
Trailer loading					
Horse breeds					
<b><u>CLINICS</u></b>					
Western Dressage					
Classical Dressage					
Natural Horsemanship					
Trailer/safety checks					
Saddle Fitting					
Bridles and bits					
Trail Horse					
<b><u>ACTIVITIES</u></b>					
Vet health information					
Horse shows - English/Western					
Gymkhana					
Line Dancing					
Trail Rides (local)					
Trail Rides (trailer out)					
Socials (e.g. BBQs)					
Special Equestrian Events					
Playdays					
<b><u>OTHER - Please List:</u></b>					



To submit your survey, please choose one of the following methods:

- [Click Here](#) to submit your survey anonymously online at SurveyMonkey
- Download and print this form and mail it to ALRC or give it to a board member



**WORKING HARD**...representing ALRC at the ETI Corral 3 Trail Trial event on September 30<sup>th</sup>, ALRC President Joe Cowan and ALRC member Julie Bessert signed up several new club members. With new club brochures, decals and a newly designed image, ALRC is stepping up its presence in the community! Tell your friends to come on down and “Join UP!” with the best community-based equestrian club in the Inland Empire. We have a beautiful equestrian center, exciting club events and wonderful horse-loving people in ALRC. Bring your horse, your mini, your mule...we love them all! But you don't have to own a horse (or mini or mule) to be a member.



<https://www.horsejournals.com/popular/history-heritage/history-draft-horse-muscle-men-horse-world>

# GENTLE GIANTS

Today the gentle giant draft horses are seldom seen, almost lost in a world of high-speed, noisy machines that require industrial fuel to perform. Yet we are occasionally reminded of their impressive strength, substance, and style when we see a team perform in a parade, show ring, movie, or heritage park.



Only a century ago, draft horses, mules, and oxen were almost everywhere, providing a practical, dependable, and renewable power source for pioneer-era industries such as agriculture, railway building, large-scale excavation and earth-moving, mining, logging, and road construction. Before 1910, at least 90 percent of all public works, agriculture, and resource industries relied on “horse power” to complete jobs both large and small.

## Traditional Agriculture

For millennia, grains, fruits, and vegetables were produced manually by sowing seeds and using a scythe to harvest the crops. Hand-flailing the straw to remove the grain on the ground was a slow and inefficient way of processing. Innovations in farm equipment significantly increased the productivity of North American farmers. Double-width harrows, steel plows mounted on wheels, mowers, binders, threshers, and combines reduced the need for manpower, while dramatically increasing the horse power required to operate them. Improvements in harnesses and hitch design also increased efficiency. The western market for farm equipment created a demand for stronger and larger horses to power the new equipment. Horse, farmer, and machine began working together to plant and harvest the crops. The last half of the 19th century saw draft horse breeding become both essential and profitable.



## Horse Breeding

Horse breeding programs flourished in the late 1800s and in the early part of the 1900s. During this time, many grain farms had more horses (as many as 10 or more) than people, with each horse working an average of 600 hours per year. Around this time, newly created agricultural and veterinary colleges began producing more educated farmers. Corresponding developments in the breeding, feeding, and care of horses led to a horse population explosion. With the increase in the number of acres being cultivated, farmers needed more horses to do the field work. The number of horses peaked in the 1930s but the population thereafter began to drop, a direct result of the introduction of high-tech, mechanized agriculture.

### Competing Mechanical Workhorses

The Industrial Revolution was partly responsible for both the rise and the collapse of the heavy horse in North America. The changes in agricultural technology peaked in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Demand for draft animals was spurred by growing transportation, construction, and agricultural needs. The year 1917, when the Ford Motor Company introduced the Fordson Tractor, saw the beginning of the trend moving away from horse power in favor of farm mechanization. The horse lost the dominance of the streets to the automotive industry rather quickly. As for the contest for the agricultural fields, the horse fought tenaciously but eventually yielded in many cases to steam and gas tractor power.

Since that time, the draft breeds have not only stabilized in numbers, but also once more enjoy a thriving trade. The stabilization of the draft horse population can be attributed to the dedication of draft horse breeders, as well as the decision of the old order Amish to reject tractor power in the fields. Today on small Amish farms the horse plays its traditional role as the equine tractor that burns home-grown fuel and raises its own replacements. The Amish in Ohio and Mennonites in Ontario are also producing new horse machinery in order to provide people with superior equipment. The equipment is invented, then tried and tested on their farms before it is sold to the public.

The present trade for heavy horses is made up of several niche markets. Draft horses' power and beauty have more than a little to do with this resurgence. The multiple hitch, once used to pull plows and combines, now finds itself hitched to commercial wagons in parades and big fifth wheel wagons at fairs. On western cattle ranches, horse teams are still used to haul feed to cattle.

# Draft Breeds



#### American Cream

These draft horses are natives of the United States. They weigh between 1,600 and 2,000 pounds and are typically 16 hands high. Their coloring is similar to the Palomino, with cream-colored bodies and white manes and tails. What sets this draft horse breed apart from the rest is its pink skin, brown hooves, and light blue eyes that usually change to amber as the horse matures.



#### Belgian

These natives of Belgium are the most common breed found in the United States. They range from 17.3 to 18.2 hands high and have an average weight of 2,100 pounds. Bay, chestnut, sorrel, and roan are the most common colors. While the populations of other draft horses have dwindled, the numbers of Belgians have increased. They are still used as workhorses, but can also make good trail riding horses and show horses.



#### Clydesdale

These draft horses are natives of Scotland and get their name from the River Clyde. They range from 16.2 to 18 hands high and weigh between 1,600 and 1,800 pounds. The most common color is bay, and they often have white socks and white blazes on their faces. They have long, flowing hair called "feathers" around the bottoms of their legs. A team of Clydesdales pulls the Anheuser-Busch wagon.



#### Friesian

Natives of Friesland, a province of The Netherlands, these horses were used to carry heavily-armored knights into battle during the Middle Ages. The breed nearly went extinct when passenger vehicles and mechanized farm equipment became popular, but today the number of Friesian horses is ever-growing due to their versatility. Friesians range from 15 to 17 hands high, weigh between 1,200 and 1,400 pounds, have long, thick, and wavy manes and tails, have feathers on their lower legs, and are always solid black in color.



### Gypsy

The Gypsies, or Romany people, bred horses that were extremely hardworking but also very docile. The Romany people are from the British Isles, and while most of them have become more contemporary in their lifestyles, a few families still practice the traditional Gypsy aspects like breeding horses and traveling by wagon. Their horses range from 13 to 15.2 hands high. Gypsy horses come in any color including skewbald and piebald, although pinto is the most common. They also have thick feathers on their lower legs.



### Haflinger

These quiet and sturdy horses stand between 13 and 15 hands high and weigh between 800 and 1,300 pounds. They are always chestnut in color and have a white or flaxen mane. The first Haflinger, 249 Folie, came from a cross between a half-Arabian stallion and a native mare from the Tyrolean Mountains of today's Italy in 1874. These horses were used during World War II as packhorses due to their willingness to work and their surefootedness.



### Irish Draught

These horses are the national horse breed of Ireland and were traditionally bred for farm work. These exceptionally intelligent horses stand between 15.2 and 16.3 hands high and can be any strong, solid color including gray. Today these horses make fine hunters and jumpers, especially when crossbred with Thoroughbreds, which result in the Irish Sport Horse.



### Norwegian Fjord

These horses are the smallest of the draft horses ranging from 13.1 to 14.2 hands high and weighing between 900 and 1,200 pounds. They are one of the world's oldest, pure-bred horse, and are known for being quick learners and especially friendly. Vikings in western Norway selectively bred these horses for over 2,000 years. Fjords have dun coloration in many different shades including cream, silver, red, and gray. Their manes are unique because they are two-toned: white with a black stripe running down the center.



### Percheron

The Percheron derives its name from the small French district of La Perche, southeast of Normandy. It was the first of the draft breeds to arrive in the Americas in 1839. Percherons have historically been used as both freight and farm horses; the Percheron makes an excellent hitch horse due to its immense strength and stamina, and is lauded for its good temperament and work ethic.



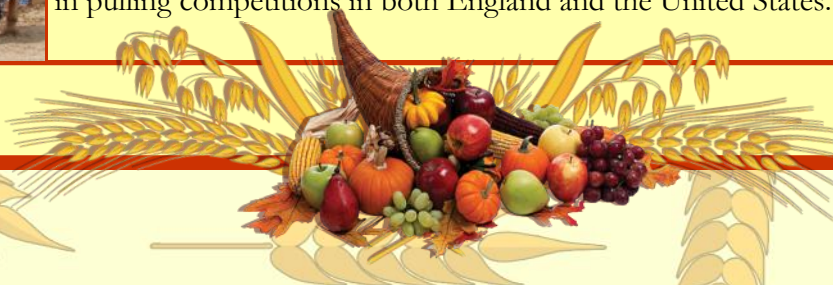
### Shire

These natives of "The Shires" of England are the tallest of the draft horse breeds. They average 17.2 hands in height and their weight typically ranges between 1,800 and 2,100 pounds. Colors are black, brown, bay, or gray—with black being the most common color found in our country. Like Clydesdales, they usually have a white blaze on their faces and long, flowing feathers around their lower legs.



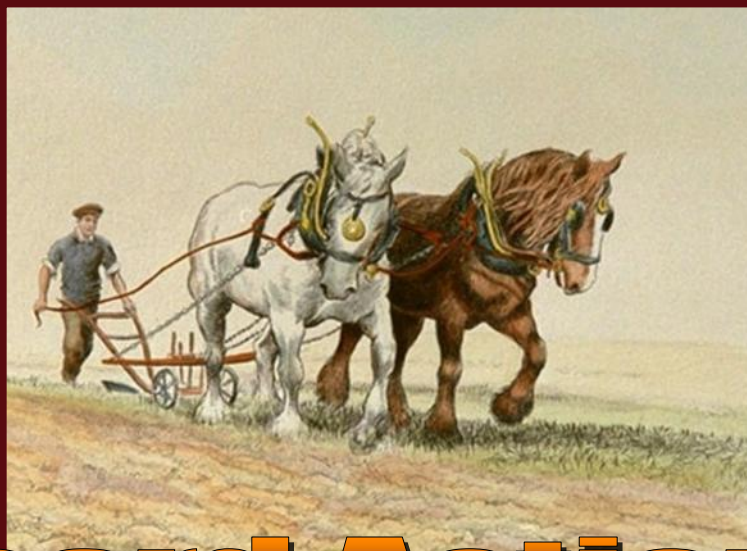
### Suffolk Punch

These draft horses are natives of the Suffolk and Norfolk counties in England. They are shorter draft horses, with their average height being 16.1 hands. They are chestnut in color with few white markings. This breed of horse is rarely used in shows, but it is used in pulling competitions in both England and the United States.



# Board Of Directors

President	Joe Cowan	909-912-4319	joeofire@gmail.com
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Pat Morris	909-944-9929	exclemages@hotmail.com
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Cassie Sanchez	909-987-8366	johnsanchezesq@hotmail.com
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Publicity	Charlene Ariza	909-980-8876	cariza@charter.net
Newsletter Editor	Alice Waters	909-261-4892	cah2os2006@yahoo.com



# Board Actions

The following actions were taken by the Board.

The board approved the rental of a hoist to repair some of the light bulbs as part of our ongoing commitment to maintain the equestrian center in tip-top shape and provide a safe environment for everyone.

If you have an item you would like to place on the agenda and bring before the Board, please contact Martha Cowan, Secretary, at: 909-912-2117 or marthacowanpaintings@gmail.com



# How Horses HEAR

<https://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/care/horse-hearing/>

Last month we featured an article about how horses see. This month we'll explore how horses hear. We all know that horses hear things that we don't. They stop on the trail and refuse to go forward, ears pricked, which can be frustrating because we hear nothing that warrants the refusal. So here is a little info to help explain why they do what they do!

Horses use their hearing for three primary functions: sound detection, sound location, and sound identification.



Horses have superior hearing to humans. They can hear high frequency sounds that humans cannot hear (humans can hear low frequency sounds that horses cannot hear.) They can hear sounds from further distances than humans, up to almost 3 miles away. To survive, the earlier a horse can perceive impending threats, the earlier they can run to a safer place.

Horse ears are highly moveable, turning 180 degrees from front to back using 10 different muscles (compared to three muscles for the human ear). By listening to a specific area, a horse can orient himself towards the sound so he can determine what is making the noise and, if he feels threatened, run the other way.

Ear position is a method of communication between horses. It is believed that horses read each others ear position the way people read another person's facial expression. Where they are looking, what they are watching, the things they are focusing on is often in the direction a horse's ears are pointing. This can alert others to the location of food or potential danger. A horse's ears can also display their feelings of friendship, irritation, acceptance, dominance, and submission. It is believed that pinned ears date back to prehistoric times when horses would pin their ears down during a fight to prevent them from being damaged.

Horses are not particularly good at locating the origin of sound, especially when located far away. Wind can confuse them, putting them on alert, because they hear many sounds from far away. Although horses can listen to more than one sound, they don't react to every sound and filter much of what they hear so that they can respond, by fleeing if necessary, to threatening sounds. Some horses get nervous or jumpy around certain sounds even though there is no predator. This happens if a horse associates the sound with negative prior experiences.

Horses can respond to a training command given at a very low volume; we don't need to shout to be heard. Also, horses are very sensitive to our tone of voice. We need to use a confident tone and avoid overly emotional tones and shrill, high pitches. Voice commands can be given in a way that allows the horse to distinguish them. For example, if you are lunging a horse at a walk and want to transition to a trot, divide the word "trot" into two syllables and raise your voice an octave as you say "to – rot"! When transitioning from the trot to the walk, lower your voice an octave on the second syllable of "wa – alk."

So there you have it. Our horses are just trying to tell us that they hear something we don't. Happy trails and watch those ears!

Ali Smilgis – Membership Director



**Next  
Month: Smell!**



**CONGRATULATIONS**

To my trail/instructor/  
riding buddy/friend Christina Willard, who is now Christina Rose Willard Hilton! She had a beautiful wedding in Joshua Tree National Park on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. I know all will wish her best wishes for the future.



Winners of the General Meeting raffle: Alice Waters and Ali Smilgis. Thank you Joe Cowan for making those wonderful horseshoe pumpkins!



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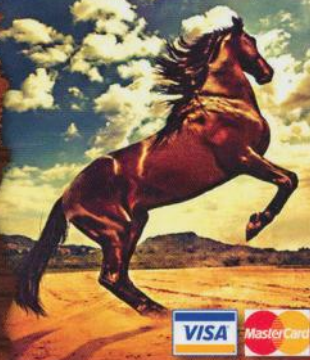

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*Happy Thanksgiving!*



# ALTA LOMA RIDING CLUB

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