



ALRC NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2021



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

BITS of NEWS

the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Natalie Beechler,
ALRC President

New Year and updated look! Heritage Park Equestrian Center got a little lipstick and rouge in January when our ALRC volunteers brought to fruition a beautiful new Gate Entry sign and new Bulletin Board. We are so blessed with our ALRC volunteers, and have continual irons in the fire. If you or someone you know is interested in getting out of the house, giving back to their rural/equine community, and becoming a part of our team of volunteers (even for one project!) please reach out to AltaLomaRidingClub@gmail.com, remember—you do not need to ride or even own a horse!

The City design plans are moving forward for the main entrance bridge into Heritage Park Equestrian Center. ALRC has been in communication with Rancho City staff and requested gate design options for future park access to include a keypad and/or remote gate option to maintain safety while improving ease of vehicle entrance and exit from the equestrian parking area. More information to come as this project develops.

ALRC was able to get over to Gavilan Hills for a fantastic trailer-out ride in January. ALRC met up with another local equestrian group, and 33 riders headed down the trail to experience amazing views, historic structures, and mysteriously blocked off mines. A huge shout out and thank you to our trail guides from "Gotta Ride Riders" for both their hospitality and efforts in strategizing such an impressive and well planned route!

Valentine's Day is coming up, and it's time to share the equestrian love across social media! Showcase the object(s) of your equine affection in our Know Your "Niegh"bors challenge. Whether they are frisky firecrackers or "more whoa than go" we want to meet the four legged partner responsible for enriching your life. Spend quality time with your horse for our 21 in 21 challenge (see enclosed details), quality time does not always mean working time—sometimes it is profoundly quiet time. Finally, get ready to warm up those



finer skills in our upcoming online pattern activity. Each of our online activities is designed to encourage time spent with your horse in different capacities—so get out there and have fun with it!

Natalie 🐾

LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR "NEIGH" BORS!



Make a short video on your smart phone (under 30 seconds) featuring the challenges listed to the right and post to your social media. Here is the important part...to reach the most neighbors make your post public, BE SURE to tag your friends and include these hashtags **#horsesofALRC**, **#AltaLomaRidingClub**. This will be a great way to get to know the "NEIGH" bors living in our community!



February 2021

- Week 1:** Post video — Introducing yourself and your horse
- Week 2:** Post video — Favorite horse activity
- Week 3:** Post video — Favorite gait (riding or leading your horse)
- Week 4:** Make and Post "time-lapse" video (an option on the camera setting) of you and/or your horse. Be creative...ie... tacking up, grooming, turnout, bathtime...this will be fun!



"No philosophers so thoroughly comprehend us as dogs and horses." -Herman Melville



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Claudia McNeill, Newsletter Editor

Meet Cara Watkins! There sure is a lot of horse sense packed in to this tiny young rider! It was an absolute delight and privilege to interview her for our February Member Spotlight.

At nearly 16 years old she rides calm and fearless and her horses trust her and give her their all. Cara loves, riding at top speeds competing and winning barrel races. It didn't start there though, so let's look back at how it all began...

Cara has been riding since she was 5 years old— not racing around the barrels, but sitting behind her mom atop Reno, her mom's horse. For nearly as long as she can remember Cara has loved riding and connecting with horses. At that time boarding at Bonelli Equestrian Center, there were a lot of opportunities for long trail rides in the hills of San Dimas while embracing the equestrian life. When Cara was 7 years old she got her very own horse, Julie! A lot of responsibility for young Cara but she was thrilled and up for the challenge! She rode and cared for Julie until she literally outgrew the little POA mare. (Pony of the Americas [POA] is a pony breed developed in Iowa. The foundation stallion was an Arabian/Appaloosa/Shetland pony cross. Although called ponies, POAs have the phenotype of a small horse, combining mainly Arabian and American Quarter Horse attributes. -Wikipedia.org)

One summer, while visiting a friend in Falbrook, Cara got the opportunity to ride her friend's horse Chianti, and learned to participate in Gymkhana. Gymkhana literally means "Games on Horseback." Horse and riders compete individually and are timed to see how fast they can run through a set pattern of poles, barrels or other obstacles. The fastest time is the winner. It is fun, exciting and family oriented. Cara got to compete on Chianti and started winning events...she was hooked!

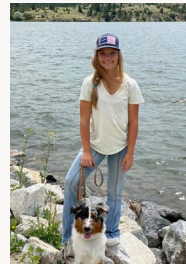
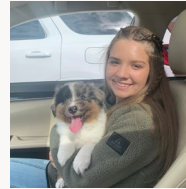
Next, through friend connections, they found and bought a new horse for Cara, Dakota—a beautiful quarter horse mare. "She is my heart horse", Cara says with a smile, her eyes sparkling. Focusing on barrel racing, Cara and Dakota competed regularly. In their first season, (2017) they started at the bottom rating of FC, but quickly climbed through the ranks of A then AA and finished the year at the top bracket AAA qualifying for state finals! This rapid advancement wasn't typical—Cara obviously possessed a natural talent. The following year they were back at it—starting at AAA and qualifying for the State finals again in Hollister, California. In her 3rd season, their AAA standings and qualifying points earned them a 3rd trip to the State finals. But before they could complete the season and go to the finals, the COVID-19 quarantine hit and shut it down. Then it was discovered later in March of 2020 that Dakota



sustained a hematoma on her hind leg and the decision was made to retire her from her racing career. Heart broken, Cara knew it was best for her "heart horse". The Watkins retired Dakota to Montana in July. She now enjoys a beautiful pasture with a view of a lake! It was a lot for Cara to deal with as she missed her partner but her family took a trip to Montana later that summer to visit Dakota and the pair were reunited for trail rides and time together.



2020 of course brought all kinds of unique challenges, but in spite of it all last year, Cara had the amazing opportunity to ride in a very large charity event in Las Vegas known as "Buckles for Bailey". Meadow was the horse she got to ride to victory! She brought home some big money!! Yet another highpoint in this young rider's thrilling life!



Australian shepherds are Cara's dream dog. Last year she picked out Duke to be her very own! Nearly a year old now, she has raised him and trained him. "He goes everywhere with me", Cara says, "He is my best friend!" She is the perfect owner for this busy breed as he is always running a long side her and her horse. You will often see them together on the local trails or at the Heritage Park Equestrian Center.

Back in 2019, Cara got a 4 year old "green broke" quarter horse named Remi Rose from her trainer who had her on consignment. With Dakota now retired, Cara turned her focus on this young red roan mare. Remi is now 6 years old and the pair's busy schedule has ramped up and includes trailering to Mira Loma for a weekly training lesson and competing at "Jackpots" on Tuesday nights in either Riverside or Temecula. And of course, riding as often as she can at Heritage and on the local trails. Watch for Cara and Remi to make a big splash in Barrel Racing this year! "Remi is an amazing horse" says Cara, "She has a very calm and quiet mind and knows how to get down to business and bring up the speed in races!"

When Cara is not in the saddle, she attends Western Christian High School as a sophomore (now on line during the pandemic). She would love it if her school counted Barrel Racing as PE or a high school sporting event. "I too train hard and am dedicated to my sport", Cara reasons. Goals this year include joining Riverside Jr. Rodeo as she will need to gather sponsors to compete. And Cara and Remi are also working toward qualifying for the Vegas Super Show to be held early summer 2021.



Post high school dreams include attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where—you guessed it—she can ride in Rodeo representing her college! The future looks very bright for this talented girl! She recently caught the eye of a reporter who did a story on her and she was taken back by the attention...she humbly shared with me, "I'm just a girl who rides a horse." I assured her she is not the typical 15 year old. And if spending time outside with her dog and following her heart on the back of her horse is part of what makes Cara so special, then I say the world has a bright future if more kids followed in her footprints...or for that matter—hoofprints!! 🐾

LOCAL FEBRUARY RIDES with Heather

**Save the date
and plan to join
us for a local
trail ride.**

**The route is to be
determine.**

**More information
to come!**

DESCRIPTION OF TRAIL RIDE:

Date: Saturday, February 20, 2021

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Staging Info: Meet at Heritage Park around 9am and plan to leave by 10am

Route: To be determined

Distance: 5ish miles

Time: approximately 3 hours

Elevation: If we go into the hills, it'll be on the fire roads.

Terrain: Relatively smooth

Technicality: Crossing streets, shared trails

Contact: Heather if you have questions: LocalTrailofALRC@gmail.com

No Stallion or Dogs on the Trail Ride.

FULL MOON RIDE!

The second full moon of the year is commonly referred to as the Snow Moon, a month often with the largest accumulation of snow. There shouldn't be any snow where we were going, but grab some reflective gear and check the weather to decide what to wear. The sunset is at 5:46pm and the moonrise is at 6:25pm.

Heather McGee Decauwer, Local Trail Director

DESCRIPTION OF TRAIL RIDE:

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2021

Time: 5:00pm – 7:30 or 8 pm

Staging Info: Meet at Heritage Park around 4pm and plan to leave by 5pm

Route: To be determined

Distance: 4 to 5 miles

Time: 2.5 to 3 hours

Terrain: Relatively smooth

Technicality: Riding at night

Contact Heather if you have questions:

LocalTrailofALRC@gmail.com

No Stallion or Dogs on the Trail Ride.



One of my favorite things is riding at night! The best time to do this is near or on a full moon. If you haven't ridden at night, let me share some important information with you.

You already know your horse is amazing, but did you know on a night lit by a partial moon or by bright stars alone, normally sighted horses can see as well as you do in full daylight? It's true! Horses actually have excellent night vision and flashlights or headlamps are not needed as they interfere with your horse's night vision. Of course,

RIDING at NIGHT

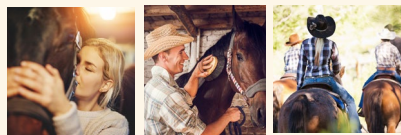
have one with you for emergency situations, but with a full moon, most of us normally sighted humans should be able to see well too.

Another important thing to know about your horse's night vision is sudden brightness takes an equal amount of adjustment. When moving between differently lighted environments, horses need approximately 15 minutes for their vision to adjust. So give your horse a few minutes to adjust when going from the bright barn to the dark trail or vice versa.

Being seen at night is a key safety measure. You can improve your chances of being seen by wearing reflective clothing and attaching a "glowstick" to your saddle or breast collar.

See you on the trail! Heather – Local Trail Director

ALRC 21in21 CHALLENGE



ALRC 21in21 CHALLENGE

As Trailer Out Director, it is my mission to get you riding! Our horses deserve our time and attention. I developed this challenge to encourage myself and others to work on our connections with our horses. 21in21 Challenge begins February 21. The rules are simple:

1. Spend 21 meaningful hours with your horse per month (Beginning February 21 and continuing from the 21st to the 21st of each month.). The definition of meaningful is up to you: training, petting, grooming, walking, riding... just not feeding and mucking.
2. Start by documenting the hours from 02/21/21 to 03/21/21 (on your phone or a scrap of paper - your choice!) and continue monthly, 21st-21st, in 2021!
3. Submit your hours to TrailerOutofALRC@gmail.com or in the **ALRC 21in21 FB group** on the 21st of each month.
4. Strengthen your relationship with your horse and WIN prizes! Names will be drawn and prizes awarded monthly!

TO JOIN email Julie at: TrailerOutofALRC@gmail.com

FEBRUARY TRAILER OUT

with Julie

Julie Bradley, Trailer Out Director

WILDWOOD CANYON PARK RIDE • YUCAIPA, CA

Wildwood Canyon is about 45 miles away from Alta Loma in Yucaipa and offers miles of trails through hills that lead to panoramic views. We may encounter deer or other wildlife as well as other equestrians, hikers, and dogs. There is no water in the large dirt parking lot so bring some water and snacks for yourself and your horse. As always, there will be photo ops. Let's Ride!



SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN IN THE FUN: WILDWOOD CANYON PARK RIDE

Date: Saturday, February 13, 2021

Time: 8:00am - 2:00pm (approx.)

Staging Info: Meet at Heritage Park at 8 am.



Staging Area: 12241 Canyon Dr. Yucaipa, CA 92399

Time in the saddle: 3-4 Hours

Terrain: Hills, Fire Roads, Single Tracks

Contact: Julie if you have questions: TrailerOutofALRC@gmail.com

Please no Stallions or Dogs.

Track your rides with Apps!

Did you make some goals to ride more in 2021? If so, apps can help you keep track of your time in the saddle. Most of them are free (with premium upgrades or in app purchases available for additional cost). The apps are very user friendly. Simply start the session as you begin your ride and stop it when finished. The apps map the course, record some stats, and stores the rides for monthly recaps and totals. It is great to see the distances of the various trail rides in the area, as well as the other info tracked as you ride.

The collage features several app icons: Horse Riding Tracker (4.8 rating, 4+ years old), Equilib Equestrian Tracker (4.8 rating, 4+ years old), AllTrails: Hike, Bike & Run (4.9 rating, 9+ years old), and ViewRanger: Hike, Bike or... (4.5 rating, 4+ years old). To the right, a smartphone screen displays ride statistics for Nov 20, 2020: Distance: 4.61 mi, Duration: 02:00.00, Avg speed: 2.31 mph, Max speed: 5.23 mph, Avg pace: 26:00/mi. Below the stats is a map showing a yellow trail route in a wooded area.

LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORTING ALRC

FEBRUARY BUSINESS FOCUS: MY RANCHO FEED AND PET SUPPLY

Cindy & Glenn Mocabee are long time members, friends, and supporters of Alta Loma Riding Club. Their business has met the needs of our local community for 38 years, WOW! They started in 1983 primarily as a feed and tack store, caring for the thriving horse community of Alta Loma. But when the aerospace industry left the San Gabriel valley in the late 80's, the decrease in the numbers of horses and riders in the area created the need for the Mocabees to expand their product offering to include pet items too. Today you can get food, supplies, and friendly advice for every thing from fish to chickens—as well as for your horses—all in one place! "If we don't have it, and we can get it", Cindy says, "we will order it in for you no problem—just ask us". In March of 2020 the store moved across to the northeast side of the Sunrize Shopping Center parking lot (Baseline & Carnelian). So if you haven't been by lately, stop in and say hi! The knowledgeable, friendly owners and staff treat you like family...what a welcome and needed shopping experience! Store hours: Mon-Fri 9AM-6PM & Sat 9AM-5:30PM

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@gmail.com

Business card ads: \$15/month or \$120/year* *Annual advertisers will also receive a printed copy of the newsletter each month and the business focus write-up will feature an annual advertiser.

Owners Glenn & Cindy Mocabee, Friends & Members of ALRC

my **RANCHO FEED** and
PET SUPPLY
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goldenoaksvethospital.com

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bob and Bea Farmer
Mike and Robin McKee
Marissa Palmer
Marty Salzbrunn
Vicki Voss

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
email: SecretaryofALRC@gmail.com

Membership: Joe & Martha Cowan
email: MembershipofALRC@gmail.com

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

City Liaison/ALERT: Larry Henderson
email: CityLiaisonofALRC@gmail.com

Local Trail Director:
Heather McGee Decauwer
email: LocalTrailofALRC@gmail.com

Trailer Out Director: Julie Bradley
email: TrailerOutofALRC@gmail.com

Food Services: Joe Cowan
email: FoodofALRC@gmail.com

Publicity: Martha Cowan
email: PublicityofALRC@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Claudia McNeill
email: NewsletterofALRC@gmail.com

GET SOCIAL WITH US!



Be in the know! Make sure you follow us on Instagram and Facebook at altalomaridingclub for up to the minute information and happenings.



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

ALRC FEBRUARY EVENTS

ALL MONTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KNOW YOUR "NEIGH" BORS Weekly Hashtags & Posts • Make your post public, tag your friends and include hashtags #horsesofALRC, #AltaLomaRidingClub
TUES, FEB 9, 7:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALRC Board Meeting (via Zoom)
SAT, FEB 13, 8AM-3PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailer Out Ride, to Wildwood Canyon in Yucaipa • Stage at Hertigage Park Equestrian Center
SAT, FEB 20, 10AM-1PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local trail ride, trail TBD (approx 5 miles) • Stage at Hertigage Park Equestrian Center
SUN, FEB 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALRC 21in21 CHALLENGE begins • To join email Julie at: traileroutofALRC@gmail.com
SAT, FEB 27, 5PM-8PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local trail ride, FULL MOON RIDE (approx 4-5 miles) • Stage at Hertigage Park Equestrian Center 4PM



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

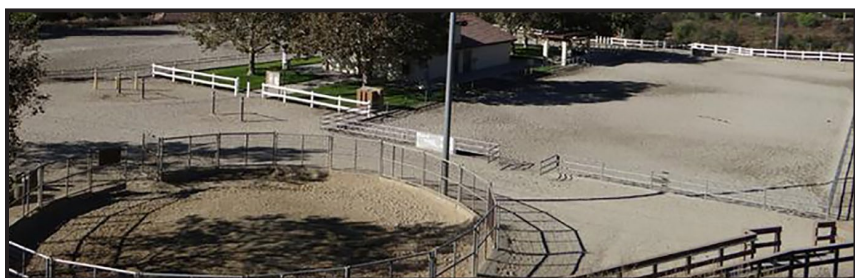
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CONTACT

Larry Henderson

(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) 745-4906 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
MembershipofALRC@gmail.com
for more information



Alta Loma Riding Club

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www.AltaLomaRidingClub.com

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