BITS-O-NEWS

altalomaridingclub.com

Straight from the Horse's Mouth

December 2016

HERITAGE Equestrian Center Events

Dec 4 - Rising Stars Christmas Show 8am

Dec 7 - ALRC Thoroughbred Lights Ride 6pm

Dec 17 - BOD Mtg 7pm

Dec 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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Message From The President

Merry Christmas! The end of the year is rapidly approaching and the Alta Loma Riding Club is closing its books on 2016. It has been an exciting and eventful year with new clinicians, demonstrations and shows. We learned new ideas about horsemanship, mini horses, hunters and jumpers at our newly formatted general meetings. We worked closely with the city on key issues such as: repair of the parking lot, use of city equipment for arena grooming, and allocation of funds associated with the equestrian overlay and maintaining the equestrian overlay in the city's general plan. On behalf of the Alta Loma Riding Club Board of Directors I would like to thank the members and community who supported our efforts in maintaining our equestrian lifestyle in Rancho Cucamonga.

As some of you know, the Alta Loma Riding Club is leasing the Heritage Park Equestrian Center as part of an agreement with the city to maintain the facility. This was done in an effort to keep the facility open and well maintained during a decline of funding for the parks two years ago. Clearly we could not accomplish this without the generous donation of time by our volunteers and board members. We will continue to strive for perfection in maintaining the facility, but we always need your help. If you can donate time or money to the efforts please contact Larry Henderson.

Finally, I was recently questioned about "free lunging" or "turning out" in the arenas and why it was not allowed at the equestrian center. I had heard that it damaged the footing, but decided to get more information. I contacted a manufacturer of arenas and was told that free lunging in an arena should not be allowed as it damages the sub-footing. The sub-footing is the hard surface under the sand, which determines the level of the sand. This occurs when the horse suddenly changes direction (which can be much more abrupt than under saddle), pawing or even digging. It is very expensive to repair and generally requires the arenas to be completely re-surfaced. In addition to physical damage to the arena, there are also safety issues both for the horses and the riding public. We all know that horses have been cast in the arenas before and one had to be rescued by being cut out of the railings. We also know that when there are horses lunging free in either arena it prevents all equestrians from using that arena. Also, even the most experienced rider can end up on the ground when their horse recognizes that there are horses running loose. So please, for the safety of your horse, the safety of the equestrian community and the maintenance of the arenas **DO NOT** turn your horse or horses loose in the arenas. You are more than welcome to do so in the round pens. The Alta Loma Riding Club Board thanks you for your cooperation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to the many events we have planned for next year!

Joe Cowan, President
Alta Loma Riding Club

RISING STARS EQUESTRIAN THERAPY

No Frills

CHRISTMAS HORSE SHOW

DECEMBER 4, 2016

Heritage Park Equestrian Center
5546 Beryl St.
Alta Loma

SHOW TIME: 9:00am

Snack Bar Opens: 8:00am
Lunch To Be Announced

~ *AWARDS & RIBBONS* ~

ENTRIES: Due November 27, 2016
All Classes $4.99
NO CROSS ENTRIES

JUDGES: Mary Voss (Trail)
Christina Willard (Equitation)

SHOW MGR: Pat Morris 909-987-9403

CHAPS AND HUNT COATS ARE OPTIONAL
HARD HATS REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE ON A HORSE

Trail Classes Run At Will Starting At 9:00am

1.	Showmanship	Open and Mini
2.	Showmanship Disabled	May Be Divided
3.	English Equitation	Open Adults Only
4.	English Pleasure	Open Adults Only
5.	Lead Line Disabled	May Be Divided
6.	Lead Line	Open
7.	Walk Only	Open May Be Divided
8.	Walk Only Disabled	May Be Divided
9.	Walk Trot	May Be Divided
10.	Walk Trot Disabled	May Be Divided
11.	Western Equitation	Open
12.	Western Pleasure	Open
13.	Walk Only Trail (Western & English)	May Be Divided
14.	Walk Trot Trail (Western & English)	May Be Divided
15.	Trail (Western & English)	Open Adults Only
16.	Trail - Mini	

THOROUGHBRED STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RIDE

CELEBRATE THE MAGICAL BEAUTY OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!

December 7, 2016
6pm

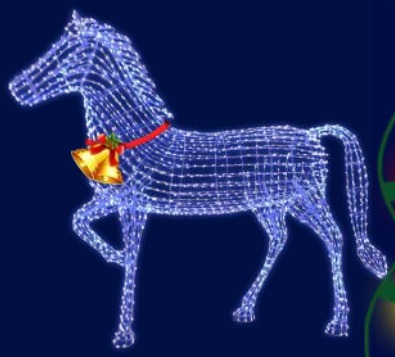
Join the ALRC for an evening trail ride to the Thoroughbred Street Lights Display

Meet at Heritage Park Equestrian Center and ride Demens Trail and side streets to Thoroughbred Street

A beautiful night to celebrate the Christmas season!

Dress warm!

Tack your horse with lights and bells!!



Barry Berg hosted a Horsemanship Clinic that was filled to the class limit. The clinic began with ground work in the round pen where Barry demonstrated that the horse's power comes from the hindquarters and that the key to gaining control of the horse, both on the ground and in saddle, is mastering the technique of disengaging the hindquarters. He also demonstrated control of the front end without using the reins. After a delicious spaghetti lunch prepared by Ora Berg, the participants spent the afternoon practicing in saddle what they learned in the round pen with Barry giving one-on-one instruction.

Thank you participants and support members who helped make this clinic a success. A special thank you to Ora Berg for preparing and serving her delicious spaghetti lunch. We also want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to Barry Berg for his generosity in donating his time, talents and all proceeds from this clinic to the ALRC! Thank you, Barry! We look forward to your next clinic!

HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC
WITH LUIS TORRES

Date: January 21, 2017
Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
(lunch included)

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

LT QUARTER HORSES
WWW.LTQUARTERHORSES.COM

Fees:

ALRC Members: $105.00
(includes $5.00 grounds fee)
Non-Members: $120.00
(includes $5.00 grounds fee and 1 year membership in the Alta Loma Riding Club)

Luis is providing a great opportunity for both beginner and advanced horseman to expand communication skills with their horse. Basic horsemanship will be covered with individual instruction for each participant according to their needs. In the afternoon, Luis will work with you on Ranch Pleasure which is a class designed to showcase the movement and versatility of the working ranch style horse. Currently, Ranch Pleasure is a fast growing class in the show arena. You don't need a bona fide ranch horse to compete and you needn't be a ranch hand yourself. Luis will also work with you on an interesting Ranch Pleasure riding pattern. The biggest thing to remember about Ranch Pleasure is to go out and have fun.

To register, contact Julie Bessert @ 909-240-9730
or Cassie Sanchez @ 909-560-2822

Sponsored by the
Alta Loma Riding Club

The end of the year is a wonderful time to look back at all our great horse events. It was a great and active year for the club. I want to thank all of the many volunteers who helped with the events and clinics, we could not do it without you. We always welcome new members and need your help at all our events so come and join us!

2017 promises to be an exciting year! Your show committee will meet in December to plan wonderful events for the new year. Be sure to let us know what kind of events you would like to have at the Alta Loma Riding Club so that your equestrian interests are represented.

We are starting off the New Year with another Luis Torres Clinic in January. Luis' last clinic was very successful and we are lucky to have him once again. Please see the flyer on page 6 for clinic details.

January is also our next Quarterly General Meeting which will be held on January 14th at 1:00 p.m. It will be another great meeting because after our short business agenda we will have an interesting and informative demonstration of the reining horse, and the training of a reining horse, given by Luis Torres. I am sure you will enjoy his demonstrations using several riders from beginning to advance reining. There will also be a discussion of western bits and equipment. Our meeting will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. with snacks and drinks available for purchase. Be sure to mark your calendar to come and enjoy the fun.

Happy Holidays!
Cassie Sanchez, 2nd Vice President

NEWSLETTER WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED STARTING JANUARY 1, 2017

Just a reminder that the Bits O' News monthly newsletter will no longer be sent by regular mail starting January 1, 2017. The newsletter will continue to be emailed to ALRC members, posted on the ALRC website (altalomaridingclub.com) and posted on the bulletin board at Heritage Park Equestrian Center. You can also find us on Facebook. Please update your email with Ali Smilgis, Membership Director, to receive your monthly copy. (asmilgis@yahoo.com or altalomaridingclub@gmail.com)

DISABLED RIDER MOUNTING RAMP NOW COMPLETE

Heritage Park Equestrian Center is finishing 2016 with the completion of a much needed repair. Reconstruction of the disabled rider mounting ramp is now complete and ready for use, perfect timing for the upcoming Rising Stars Equestrian Show on December 4th.

THANK YOU Rancho Cucamonga Public Works crew! Looks good as new!

The following article appeared in http://csu-cvmbs.colostate.edu/vth/Pages/horse-blanketing.aspx

By Luke Bass, DVM, MS, equine veterinarian at Colorado State University's James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital

TO BLANKET OR NOT TO BLANKET?

Much like a well insulated house, a fluffed up natural coat retains body heat which does not melt the snow attached to the horse's hair

The chilly months from late fall to early spring are generally a time of slowed activity for horse and rider, but attentiveness to horse health and management is just as crucial during the cold season. As an equine veterinarian, I'm often asked about blanketing during the cold months. Primary considerations in horse blanketing are hair coat and environmental temperature. Here is some information that will assist you in making the right blanketing decision for your horse.

First, it's useful to know that horses have an innate ability to withstand cold and wind, with the important caveat that they need shelter or a windbreak as well as proper cold-season feed and nutrition. Blankets tend to compress a coat's layers, which compromises their insulating properties. Horses that do not live in extremely cold environments – meaning routinely colder than 10°F – will do well without a blanket, provided they are either stalled during the coldest temperatures or have access to a protective shelter.

Feed and nutrition are also factors tied to blanketing, because a horse generates body heat through digestive activity. To help your horse live comfortably in cold weather, make sure calories are adequate; most important, provide sufficient forage, typically in the form of hay. As the horse digests forage, gut activity warms the body. This function, along with the natural insulating abilities of the winter coat, allows your horse to live comfortably in an environment that is not excessively cold, assuming shelter is available.

The decision to blanket your horse comes with pros and cons. A positive aspect of blanketing is that it helps maintain a short-haired show coat, thus decreasing your body clipping time if you are showing during the colder months. Performance horses may need clipping and blanketing to control winter hair growth, so they can exercise without getting too sweaty and so that sweat dries easily. Consider a partial rather than a full clip for the benefits of easily cleaned sweaty areas and heavy hair coat in other areas.

Blankets also are used in icy and snowy weather to keep your outside horse clean and dry, ready for you to ride. For horses living in very cold places – where the temperature is often colder than 10°F – blankets can provide the added warmth needed, especially when protective shelter is not available. Additionally, when a horse is moved from a warm climate to a much cooler climate, a blanket can help the horse become acclimated to the new environment.

Properly cleaning blankets is recommended for longevity of the product, but remember that most are line-dried, so either purchase a quick-drying blanket or have a backup. When cleaning or rinsing your blanket, check all the fasteners and attachments to make sure they are secured tightly to the blanket. A blanket that slips can cause your horse to spook, and may lead to injury.

This article originally appeared in the October 2009 issue of Practical Horseman magazine.

With a huge range of blanket options available, deciding what you need can be confusing. Here is a handy guide to help you find the right fit, size and weight to meet

Insulation

Insulation is a layer of synthetic fibers between the inner and outer blanket materials. Often referred to as fiberfill or polyfill, this layer traps warmed air in the spaces between fibers. Fiberfill translates into blanket weight as shown in **Table A.**

Table A

Polyfill	Weight
0 grams	sheet
100 grams	light weight
+/-200 grams	mid weight
300+ grams	heavy weight

Denier

Denier is the measure of nylon fiber density. The higher the denier the more durable and water resistant the blanket. "Ripstop" nylon features a checkerboard weave which helps prevent small rips from spreading. **Table B** shows how denier translates into blanket durability.

Table B

Denier	Strength
210	very light strength
420	light strength
600	medium strength
1200	heavy strength
1680	extra heavy strength
2100	super heavy strength

Temperature Gauge

To blanket or not to blanket? **Table C** is a starting point for deciding how to blanket your horse based on temperature. These recommendations don't factor in wind chill or precipitation, so adjust accordingly particularly for horses who are turned out. Keep in mind that layers such as blanket liners, stable sheets and blankets of various weights can be substituted to achieve equal protection and insulation.

Also remember you want to keep your horse warm but you don't want him to sweat which is worse than being a little cold. Some blanket materials, when soaked with sweat, cause the moisture to evaporate from your horse's skin faster than his body is able to warm it, causing his skin temperature to decrease and eventually chilling his body.

Find The Right Size

1. Have your horse stand square on a level surface.

2. Using a cloth tape measure, hold the end of the tape in the center of your horse's chest, even with the widest part of his shoulder (**Photo A**).

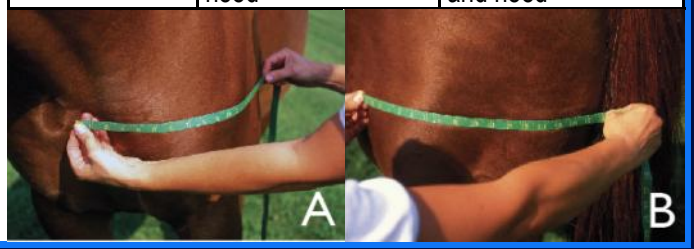
3. Holding the tape parallel to the floor, bring it around his shoulder, along the side of his body all the way until you get to the edge of his tail bone (**Photo B**). This will be the size blanket your horse needs.

Stable blankets and sheets and fitted coolers generally come in traditional or "American" sizing (2-inch increments, more contoured fit, shorter drop) while turnouts are usually in European sizing (3-inch increments, higher neck, more belly coverage). If your horse's measurement falls between sizes, choose the next size up.

One caveat is that blanket manufacturers have different sizing recommendations. Some companies suggest measuring from the center of the chest to the center of the tail or from the center of the chest to the point of buttocks. Other companies require you to subtract a certain number from the actual measurement. Check individual manufacturers' websites for measurement and fitting recommendations.

Table C

Average Temp (F)	Clipped/Stabled	Unclipped/Turned Out
60	nothing	nothing or turnout sheet if rainy and/or windy
50	stable sheet	turnout sheet or noth ing
40	light-weight blanket	light-weight turnout or nothing
30	mid-weight blanket	light to mid-weight turnout or nothing
20	heavy-weight blanket	mid-weight turnout or nothing
10	heavy-weight blanket and hood	mid or heavy-weight turnout or nothing
0	heavy-weight blanket and hood	heavy-weight turnout and hood
-10 and below	double blanket and hood	heavy-weight turnout and hood



Happy Holidays to all of you for 2016! I can't believe it is already nearing the end of this year and we'll be greeting 2017 before we know it.

This has been a challenging month for me with my equine partner, Riley. We attended the wonderful spook clinic the end of October with Christina Willard and it was great. I'm a bit of a wimp, but she talked me through several of the obstacles and before I knew it Riley and I were doing things I didn't think we could do. She is really patient and knowledgeable.

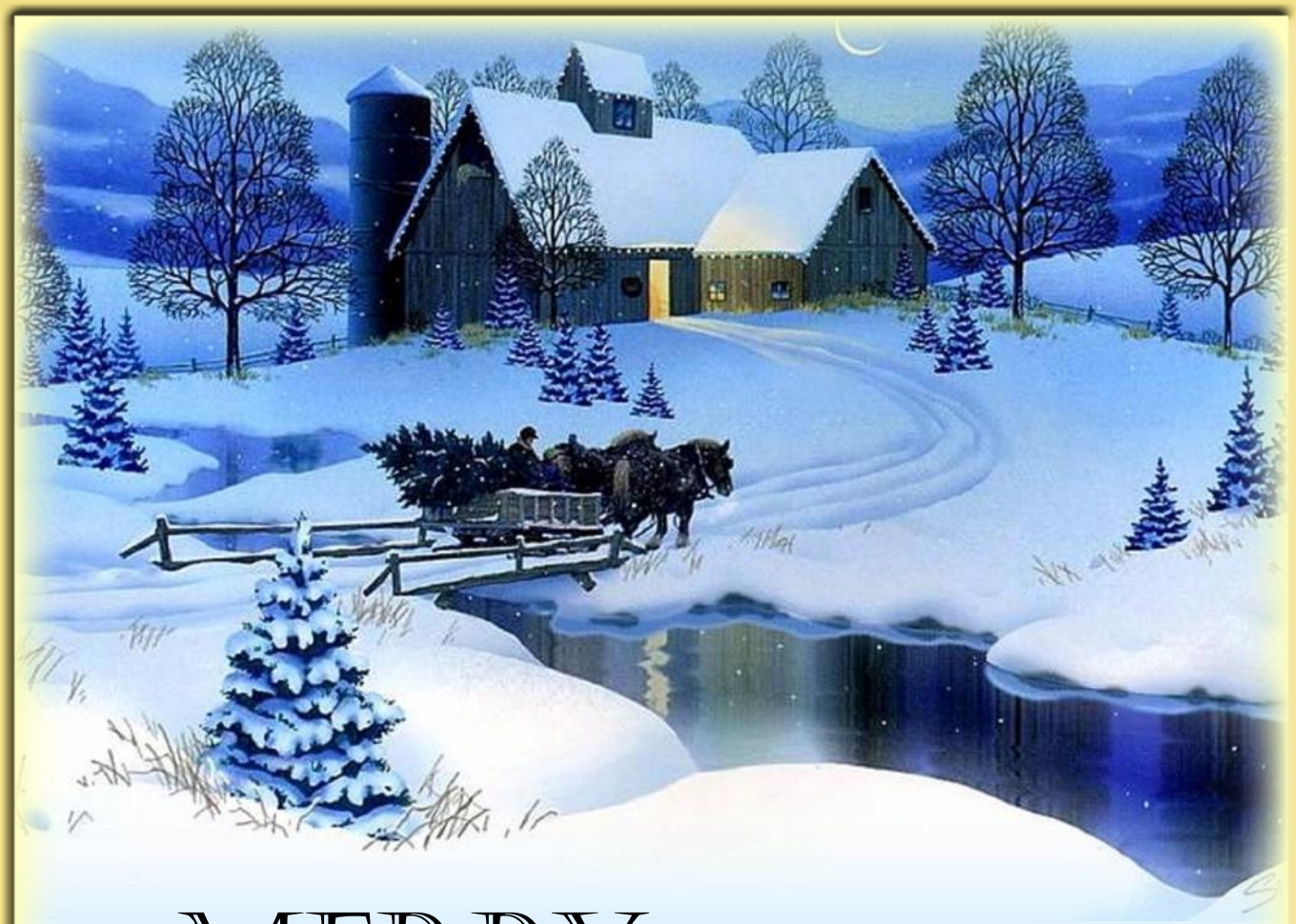
The very next week her training came into play for me as my friend and I were riding along Wilson Avenue. An ATV was pulling a small trailer with an outhouse sitting up in it and Riley went berserk! Fortunately my friend's horse remained calm and I was able to bring Riley under control using methods Christina had taught me. THANK YOU CHRISTINA!!!

Then just a couple of weeks later a fire engine came racing by us on Wilson in the lane closest to the bridle trail. Riley remained fairly calm but my friend's horse bolted several strides. The firemen have been instructed to be careful of horses on the trail, but this one obviously didn't get the message. Later my friend saw some firemen at the local market and told them about the issue and I wrote a letter to them asking that they be a bit more careful. After all, they want to GET to the emergency, not cause one.

Anyway, just a cautionary note to everyone to be careful out there when riding. We do the best we can to expose our mounts to all sorts of things, but it's a dangerous world out there and we need to be cognizant of it all the time.

Again, Happy Holidays to all of you and SAFE RIDING!

Ali Smilgis, Membership Chairman



MERRY *Christmas*

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Christmas Word Find

N	S	W	J	P	K	K	C	A	N	D	L	E	J	G
H	A	A	X	M	U	U	P	I	T	J	J	G	J	I
O	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	P	W	L	M	N
L	Y	L	L	O	H	Z	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G
I	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	S	R	Y	R	E
D	R	E	V	L	I	S	J	I	N	G	L	E	H	R
A	O	N	N	C	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	O	T	B
Y	D	T	W	X	G	P	E	L	O	N	O	T	A	R
E	E	R	T	A	R	N	B	O	B	H	K	U	E	E
E	R	B	D	E	T	E	A	R	G	M	O	V	R	A
R	O	R	S	S	L	N	A	M	E	R	E	H	W	D
W	A	E	X	L	A	T	A	R	W	R	E	Y	O	J
C	N	N	S	W	S	O	R	S	C	O	Z	E	W	H
T	L	D	R	L	N	Y	Z	B	H	P	N	Y	N	U
I	T	H	E	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	C	G

CHRISTMAS
HOLLY
ORNAMENT
MISTLETOE
GREEN
RED
SILVER
BELLS
JINGLE
HOHOHO
STAR
SANTA
HOLIDAY
STOCKING
JOY
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(24 Hours)

Equestrian Center Equipment Donations Needed

Please consider an individual or company donation for the following new or used equipment to help our equestrian center volunteers keep the facility in good condition.

- Small tractor with bucket and blade
- Utility vehicle similar to Artic Cat or Gator types
- The Rascal LGR™
- 2 Manure Forks
- 1 33-gal. rough neck trash container

Rascal 1

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Rising Stars Show 8a	5	6	7 Thoroughbred Lights Ride 6p	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 BOD Mtg 7p
18	19	20			23	24
25 Merry Christmas	26	27			30	31

Alta Loma Riding Club

P.O. Box 8116
Alta Loma, CA 91701

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

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