

HISTORY OF RIVERSIDE RANCHEROS

The year was 1959 when an idea was born. The city of Riverside should have an equestrian club to enhance horse related social activities. A parcel of land was purchased for a non-profit horse club and the Riverside Rancheros was formed. The club was incorporated in 1960 and was established through family memberships.

The past and current members are proud of this facility, a facility completely maintained by the members through continuous hard work and participation. In 1961 a 300 foot arena was constructed and a clubhouse was built. The facility was now equipped with an arena, clubhouse and horse corrals giving its members and guests a place to ride and enjoy their horses. For nearly five decades, the Riverside Rancheros has been the headquarters for youth riding groups, mounted police and sheriffs' training center, rodeos, horse shows, team roping, barrel racing and team sorting. It has allowed youth groups such as FFA, 4H, Cub Scouts, Y-Indian Guides and Junior Rodeo to use the club facilities for benefit dinners, fundraisers and therapeutic riding programs. The Rancheros has its own Jr. Equestrian drill team performing in shows and parades throughout California.

Team roping has always been the prominent event at Riverside Rancheros. During the first 25 years Cowboys from around the country would compete in December in a three day event. The first day was calf roping which was followed by a two day 10 steer roping (Riverside 10 Steer). Back then there wasn't a handicap system it was an open to the world and the Rancheros was one of the first arenas to use an electric eye to time the event. In 1983 cattle penning/ team penning was introduced which has now been replaced with team sorting. Barrel racing has been a constant activity at the Rancheros. The arena was covered in 1987 and the Rancheros once again became a leading edge facility. Rain or shine the arena is always dry. Through the years the clubhouse and arena have seen many improvements, sprinklers, lighting, PA system, electronic timers, chutes, announcers' booth and an outside warm-up arena with a sprinkler and lighting system.

Pictures of all the past presidents, some serving two terms, line the walls in the clubhouse and fifty years later, the Riverside Rancheros members continue to work tirelessly and with great effort to maintain the same wonderful family oriented horse club begun so many years ago by a small group of extra ordinary horsemen.

By
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