

THE

WHICKER

AUGUST 2017

Monthly Newsletter from the Salt Lake County Equestrian Park



A Message from Jo Stowell

Park Director Welcomes New Challenge

I was very excited when I was offered the position of Director of Facilities at the Salt Lake County Equestrian Park. I knew this would be a big change for me personally and professionally, but being able to combine my passion for horses with my daily work was the chance of a lifetime. I visited the facility during the interview process and was impressed with all of the amenities offered and I found it interesting to witness how various groups utilized the Park and worked together as a cohesive community.

I appreciate the amount of work required to maintain this type of park, and I am thankful for our staff members who put in long hours. Our volunteers have shared a wealth of knowledge and the time they spend assisting with maintaining the facility is invaluable. I have learned so much from all of them.

I find our boarders to be some of the most unique and passionate individuals I have ever met, but those are the traits of horse people in general. It's a lifestyle, and when someone at the Park needs help there is always another boarder ready to step in and assist. Feeding, cleaning stalls and exercising your horse are daily activities and I respect the dedication required, especially when it is pouring down rain or below 20 degrees outside.

As I make my daily rounds, I've also gotten to know a lot of the horses in the Park. Some are shy, some call to you when they see you approaching, others bang on their stall doors for food. It is interesting to know that each has its own personality and characteristics, just as humans do.

Safety is high on my priority list for these magnificent animals because they bring so much pleasure to their owners and riders. It is exciting to watch the Quarter Horses being breezed on the track and I enjoy watching them as they dance around when they are on the walkers.

My goals are to assist in improving the Park and offering our patrons and boarders the best experience possible. I have met many wonderful individuals who have been very welcoming and I find Salt Lake City beautiful. Each time I land at the airport I feel as though I am home.

About The Whicker

"Whicker" is another word for whinny or neigh. It's horse talk, essentially, and that's the idea behind this newsletter. We want to talk about our great facility, patrons and friends. There are many exciting changes on the way and we want you to stay informed, be part of the dialogue and help us reach our potential as a park that serves our diverse clientele. If you have a story idea, please send it our way!

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SALT LAKE COUNTY
EQUESTRIAN PARK
& EVENT CENTER

A SALT LAKE COUNTY FACILITY





SALT LAKE COUNTY FAIR

81st Annual Event Runs August 2 - 5

This year's Salt Lake County Fair promises lots of action and entertainment throughout the Equestrian Park.

Country singer Joe Diffie performs Friday at 6:00 p.m., in the Grandstand area. Diffie is a Grammy and Academy of Country Music Award winner who has been on the country music charts for over 20 years.



Margie Chadburn will perform her hits on the Family Stage in the Event Center on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Each day, the Family Stage features fun for the whole family, including the ever-popular Hypno Hick, Hired Guns, *Salt Lake's Got Talent* show, magician Timothy, the FUN-de-MENTALS and many more great acts. See lots of displays and vendors in the Event Center, as well.



Don't miss all the great action sports, including the Monster Truck Show, Rodeo, Barrel Racers, BMX competition and Utah Horse Pullers.

The Fair features plenty of exhibits from local 4-H Clubs, Carnival Rides, Midway, a Classic Car Show and more!

FAIR HOURS

Wednesday & Thursday:

5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Friday: *noon to 10 p.m.*

Saturday: *10 a.m. to 10 p.m.*



Bike Race Will Limit Access to Park during Fair



Photo Credit: Jonathan Devich

The 2017 Larry H. Miller Tour of Utah bike race is running through South Jordan.

On Thursday, August 3rd, there will be roadblocks and barricades around the Equestrian Park for the safety of bikers and spectators.

From noon to 2:30 p.m., visitors cannot enter or leave the Equestrian Park.

There may be some livestock judging during this time period, so please plan your visit to the Fair accordingly.

Fair Board Provides Ideas & Guidance

Members of the Salt Lake County Fair Board represent a variety of interests, from 4-H to livestock, surrounding communities to businesses. Members include:

Lance Kingsford, Chair; Betty Naylor, Curtis Ashcroft, Karen Fullmer, Marcie Janzen, Kim Carter, Vernon Parent, Heather Anderson, Relda Sorenson.

The executive committee also includes the Equestrian Park Director Jo Stowell and Fair Manager Rob Dean.

The committee meets monthly.

Equestrian Park Advisory Board Represents Many Interests

Since its formation in May of 2016, the Advisory Board has played an important part in representing various stakeholders and providing valuable input for the future of the Equestrian Park. Members include:

Clay Partian—Visit Salt Lake
Robin Chalhoub—SLCo Community Services
Karissa Hendricks—Facility User
Roberta Chase—Non-equestrian Event
Michael Van Tassell—Non-equestrian Event
Sheri Young—Equestrian Event
Lee Whitehead—Equestrian Event
Marla Fadel—Equestrian Event
Stuart Pope—Track
Vernon Parent—SLCo 4-H
Sarge Froehle—Equestrian Community-at-large
Brett Tolman—Equestrian Community-at-large
John Brinkerhoff—Affiliated Industry
Brian Preece—South Jordan Gov. Rep.
Steve McIntyre—Adjacent Neighborhood Rep.



Welcome Visitors!

We have many Park users who haul their horses into the facility and we always look forward to seeing them. We appreciate their support and use of the Park.

For the Open Ride schedule visit our [website](http://www.visitsaltlake.com/slco-equestrian-center) at www.visitsaltlake.com/slco-equestrian-center or our [Facebook](#) page at [SLCOequestriancenter](https://www.facebook.com/SLCOequestriancenter). Questions? Call the front desk at [1.385.468.1600](tel:13854681600) and we will be happy to help you.

Parks Bond Dollars Set to Fuel Improvements at the Park

In November 2016, Salt Lake County residents voted to approve the Parks and Recreation bond, which authorized the county to issue \$90 million in bonds to build new parks, trails, recreational amenities and a recreation center, as well as renovate and improve existing facilities.

Five million dollars has been earmarked for improving buildings, grounds and infrastructure at the Equestrian Park. Several projects have been identified by facility management and currently under review by the Equestrian Park Advisory Board and Salt Lake County.

Construction of a **restroom/shower facility** adjacent to the **RV park** would add a much-needed amenity for patrons who spend multiple days at the Park. (Funding for the **RV parking area** with up to 40 stalls featuring water, power and possibly sewer hook-ups was approved in 2017, as part of the capital improvement budget .)

Another **restroom facility** just north of the outdoor covered arena is also being considered, as well as a **paved lot** for horse trailer parking.

An architectural study has identified necessary improvements on **Boarding Barns 400, 500 and 600**. Options are being weighed.

Improved **footing** for the arenas is also part of the funding discussion.

Less visible, but vitally important work on the **storm drain** system in the Park is also on the list of projects being discussed.

The bottom line is that major improvements are in store for the Equestrian Park that will enhance the experience of boarders and visitors, alike.



Salt Lake County Fair to Host Bloodmobile

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be on the Midway from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., on Friday, August 4th. Register in advance at: www.redcrossblood.org and enter the promo code:

SLCOFair

Walk-ins welcome!

2017 Capital Projects in the Works

We are pleased to be moving forward with several enhancements at the Park that are part of the 2017 capital improvements budget.



Race Track Soil Amendment —

Work continues on amending the surface of the race track. Footing is very

important to the performance and safety of the horses and their riders. A special mix of sand, clay and soil will improve certain areas that have degraded over time. Representatives from the racing industry and track users have helped identify these areas.

Sound System — The current sound system in the Event Center was never fully integrated throughout the rest of the Park. Patrons in the outdoor arenas or the show barns could not hear announcements over the public address system. Work on updating the sound system continues. This will improve communications with our user groups and will enhance the emergency notification system in the Park.

Parking Lot Repair — The main parking lot at the facility (directly south of the Event Center) will be resurfaced and new parking stripes added. Then, routine maintenance calls for a slurry seal to be applied every five years to seal cracks and prevent water damage.

Upcoming Events

- *Utah Heavy Athletes 8/12*
- *Utah Barrel Racing Association 8/12 & 8/16*
- *American Vaulting Association 8/24 to 8/27*
- *Utah Paint Horse Club 9/1 to 9/4*
- *Wasatch Horse Show Association 10/4 to 10/8*

Contact Us

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*If you have comments or content suggestions, please contact Gaylis Linville
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