



**New Mexico Horse Council**  
**P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184**



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**WINTER 2011 – EARLY SPRING 2012**

*“Levi’s we didn’t wash at all. They shrank too much, and it weakened the threads. So we wore them and wore them until they were shiny with mud, manure, tallow, cattle slobber, bacon fat, axle grease, and hoof oil—and then we wore them some more. Eventually, the Levi’s reached a point of grime saturation where they couldn’t get any dirtier, where they had the feel of oilskin and had become not just waterproof but briar-proof, and that was when you knew you had really broken them in. When Levi’s reached that degree of conditioning, they were sort of like smoke-cured ham or aged bourbon, and you couldn’t pay a cowboy to let you wash his.” Half-Broke Horses, Jeanette Walls, Scribner, 2009.*

**Calendar**

Nov 4 – 6, 2011, **Coalition of State Horse Councils Meeting**, Madison, Wisconsin.

Nov. 7, 2011, **NMHC Board of Directors Meeting**.

Dec. 3 – 4, 2011, **NMHC/NMSU New Mexico Equine Industry Summit**, in association with Joint Stockmen’s Convention.

Dec. 3, 2011, 4:45 PM, **New Mexico Horse Council Annual Meeting**, awards, election of directors.

Jan. 17, 2012, 12:00 noon to Feb. 16, 12:00 noon, NM Legislature in session.

Feb. 6, 2012, **NMHC Board of Directors Meeting**. Election of 2012 officers.

Mar. 5, 2012, 6:30 PM, **NMHC Board of Directors Meeting**. 66 Diner meeting room, 1405 Central NE, Albuquerque (just east of I-25), 247-1421. All Board meetings are open. (Future dates: Apr. 2, May 7, June 4, July 9, Aug. 6, Sep. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3.)

Mar. 5, 2012, 10:00 AM, **NM State Fair Commission Meeting**. African American Performing Arts Center on the Fairgrounds, 310 San Pedro NE. See [www.exponm.com](http://www.exponm.com) for agenda 24 hours prior to the meeting.

**New Mexico Horse Council Mission Statement:**  
**To act on behalf of the New Mexico equine community through education and promotion of activities benefiting all equine interests.**

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An award can be a way to appreciate at least a few of the people who help our horse organizations, and horse owners, prosper. The New Mexico Horse Council alternates its **Horse Person of the Year** award with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Previous winners are all instantly recognizable to New Mexico horse owners: Horse Persons Karen Reyer, Melanie Scholer, Elsie Shollenbarger, Val Cole, Carolyn Bader, and John Collins; Lifetime Achievement winners Suzanne Norton Jones, Blair Darnell, Eldon Reyer and Richard Hensleigh. We also award Certificates of Appreciation to those nominated for their excellent help.



**Lifetime Achievement 2011  
Leonard Blach, DVM**

Dr. Blach was one of the original founding members of the NM Horse Council and has served as director and President. He received his DVM from Colorado State University, moved to New Mexico and built the Santa Fe Equine Center, the first equine surgical center in New Mexico. Later, he designed and developed the Buena Suerte horse operation in Roswell for Harriet Peckham. He became a partner and resident veterinarian, and managed several famous stallions including Easy Jet and Go Man Go, as the farm bred 600 – 800 TB and Quarter Horse mares annually. He then established the Buena Suerte Equine Clinic, specializing in equine reproduction and surgery, lecturing worldwide on techniques he developed. His latest endeavor is performing stem cell repair involving tendons, joints and cartilage on race horses.

He has been President of the ENMU State Fair, Director and Veterinarian for the Ruidoso Horse Sale, Founder and director of Santa Fe Downs, and is a 4-H Youth Foundation Trustee. He has served on many horse racing committees and was inducted into the Race Horse Hall of Fame in Ruidoso Downs in 2010. America knows him as co-owner of Mine That Bird, long shot winner of the 2009 Kentucky Derby, second in the Preakness and third in the Belmont Stakes.

The directors of the New Mexico Horse Council are proud to recognize Dr. Blach's many contributions to the horse industry in New Mexico.

(Sallie Pennybacker died in November 2011.)

**Special Lifetime Achievement Plaque 2011**

***Sallie Pennybacker***

*"In appreciation of her activities with New Mexico horse groups, including helping to found the New Mexico Horse Council and serving often as director and officer; forming New Mexico Horserways, a trails advocacy group; publishing*

*The Horsemen's Voice beginning in 1982 and continuing for seventeen years; supporting and promoting the Rio Grande Horse Association and the New Mexico Hunter Jumper Association; helping to manage the Lions' Club and Saddlebred Charity Horse Shows, and providing a home for the Albuquerque Vaulters and the Cloud Dancers Therapeutic Riding Program. She truly cared for the horses and riders of New Mexico."*

Note: since the heirs will be putting the North Valley Pennybacker property on the market this Spring, Cloud Dancers is looking for a new home. They have four horses and will do the horse care and maintenance. If anyone knows of a host for this program, please contact Lynda Miller at [CloudDancersTHP@gmail.com](mailto:CloudDancersTHP@gmail.com).

**Certificates of Appreciation**

Nominations for Certificates do not begin to cover all that deserve this small memento of NMHC's appreciation. These names come from many sources, sometimes more than one. Contact ([nmhc@swcp.com](mailto:nmhc@swcp.com)) if you have someone who should be considered in 2012.

**Albuquerque Police Department Horse Mounted Unit:**

*"For presenting the friendly, outgoing and gentle protectors that are our horses to the public, to the advantage of the police force and the horse community."*

**John and DJ Collins:** *"As lifetime members of the New Mexico Horse Council, taking full charge and hosting the Horse Emporium at Cherry Tree Farm in 2011 for the second year. Thank you for the success!"*

**Jeff Bader:** *"Thank you for serving a term on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Horse Council and for being our resource in Cooperative Extension."*

**Jackie Bouker:** *"Your many years researching, exploring, and riding the trails of New Mexico benefit all trail riders. Your attendance and advocacy at innumerable meetings reminds planners that equestrians should always be considered."*





**Ron Morris:** “Your promotion of western stock and color breeds at the State Fair benefits all horse owners. As an NMHC director, your support of the 2011 fundraiser with vigorous raffle ticket promotion is appreciated.”

**Robert Perry:** “As the long-time chairman of the NM Department of Transportation Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Advisory Committee, for always welcoming horse owners and riders and encouraging equestrian presentations at each quarterly meeting.”

**Charlie and Mary Ann Poore of QUICKSTALLS:** “For providing another beautiful ‘Ultimate’ stall at the New Mexico State Fair to house the ‘Extraordinary Equines’ for the New Mexico Horse Council educational experience, for allowing us to raffle the stall to raise funds for NMHC projects, and for delivering the stall to its proud new owner.”

**Melanie Scholer:** “You are the prime mover for: The Ditch Pony Promenade, the Lefty Converse Memorial Horse Sho, and the Christmas de Caballos Toys for Tots Parade. Horses and people thank you!”

**Dr. Jason Turner:** “As a director and lifetime member of the New Mexico Horse Council, and Extension Horse Specialist at New Mexico State University, you planned and organized both NMHC/NMSU Equine Summit conferences in 2011, shaped every day at the State Fair Booth, and showcased ‘Extraordinary Equines’.”

### State Fair Booth

Finishing up September, the State Fair Booth with its “Extraordinary Equines” attracted fairgoers as before – in other words, whenever there actually was an equine in or around the booth. This is not to say that all those people who made it possible aren’t essential, and it is time to thank them again! But the horses are the attraction.

Organizer: Dr. Jason Turner of NMSU, assisted by Ron Morris of horse organizations too numerous to count.

Expo New Mexico Staff: Dan Mourning, Manager; Alison Haxton, Horse Superintendent; Kaylene Graham and Mary Lopez of the Stall Office; Raymond Loretto, DVM; Lois Seibel and Lillian Creel, Horse Show Office; Don Romero, Equipment Manager.

Stall: Charlie and Mary Ann Poore, Quickstalls.

Stall Roof: Metal Mart, Albuquerque.

Shavings: Ralph Walker, 4 Way Feeds.

### Thanks also to these Horse Groups and Owners

**Albuquerque Police Dept. Horse Mounted Unit**  
**Four Corners Equine Rescue**  
**Heartlane Farms**  
**Horse Whispering Savvy for People**  
**Juan Tomas Hounds**  
**La Espuela Ranch**  
**Land of Enchantment Miniature Horse Club**  
**Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding**  
**New Mexico Horse Council Foundation**  
**New Mexico Paint Horse Club**  
**NM Palomino Exhibitor’s Association**  
**NMSU Horsemen’s Association**  
**Ranch DuBois, Equine Assisted Therapies**  
**Rio Grande Mule and Donkey Association**  
**Sunset Farms**

We also are indebted to everyone who bought a ticket for the **Quick Stall** ([www.quickstalls.com](http://www.quickstalls.com)), which owner Charlie Poore set up in front of the Horse Arena before the Fair started. We wish you could all have won, and thank you for making this one of the best fundraisers ever for the Horse Council. The ticket was drawn on the final day of the Fair by Dr. Turner’s young son (because he can’t read) and Charlie delivered the stall to the proud new owner, Terry Coburn of Aztec. Terry and Debbie are the leading lights of Four Corners Equine Rescue, and in fact their group was at the Fairgrounds with a horse in the stall.

This year we also had more groups willing to participate in the booth. And next year the State Fair will probably be shortened to ten or eleven days, so if you want to put your name in that bucket, please contact Ron Morris ([lhrramorris@juno.com](mailto:lhrramorris@juno.com)). He has offered to handle this NMHC project in 2012.





## Expo NM, State Fair Commission

The State Fair Commission, and Expo NM, experienced a tumultuous Summer and Fall, largely due to events connected with a new lease for the Downs at Albuquerque, the race track on the Fairgrounds. Revenues from the racino are a major portion of Fairground income; as an enterprise agency it is expected to support itself. The Commission lacked a quorum before midsummer, and then members disagreed about the timeline on the request for proposals and the eventual selection for the lease holder. While the decision was apparently set for a meeting in December, Commissioners instead moved ahead with approval (4-3) of the Downs at Albuquerque proposal and awarded a 25 year lease on November 21. The lease appears to have many advantages over the previous agreement, but the process generated controversy. Governor Martinez has now filled the Commission appointments, but not all have been confirmed by the Legislature.

### State Fair Commission Chair

Larry Kennedy, Albuquerque

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Kenneth "Twister" Smith, Caballo

### Members:

Ruth Bitsui, Corrales

Kenneth "Buster" Goff, Hobbs

Charlotte Rode, Albuquerque

Matthew Rush, Portales

David "Hossie" Sanchez, Albuquerque

## NMHC Recent Meetings

November 7 Board of Directors. *Reports:* State Fair Booth, Fundraising Raffle, Coalition of State Horse Councils meeting, Normandy Equine Council tour, Trails. *Planning:* Equine Summit Dec. 3-4; NMHC Annual Meeting, NMHC Annual Awards December 4. *Discussion:* Election of directors, 2012 projects. If ad hoc committee of dissatisfied State Fair exhibitors holds a second meeting, a representative from NMHC may attend. *Announcements:* Bicycle, Pedestrian Committee meeting, November 10; Bachechi Open Space Ribbon Cutting, November 15; Bernalillo County ACORC, November 16; East Mt.

Trails, December 6, NM Legislative 'short' session, Jan. 17 – Feb.16.

December 4 NMHC Annual Meeting, Awards, and Election of Directors. *Reports:* Treasurer's annual report, Membership, ACORC, Trails. *Awards:* Lifetime Achievement, Certificates of Appreciation. *Discussion:* Update of federal horse slaughter regulations. *Elections:* Val Cole, John Collins, Charles Graham and Elsie Shollenbarger were elected to three year terms on the NMHC Board of Directors. Officers will be elected by the Board at the first 2012 meeting. *Announcements:* Dr. Jason Turner was commended for his efforts in producing the December Equine Summit.

February 6 Board of Directors Meeting. *Reports:* Annual Meeting, Treasurer's, Membership, Equine Summit, ACORC, Expo NM, Trails, Legislative Session. *Elections:* President, Rusty Cook; Vice President, John Collins; Secretary, Winona Kennedy; Treasurer, Charles Graham. *Discussion:* 2012 NMHC Projects: State Fair Booth, Equine Summit possibility, Board retreat, Directors visit NM Horse Clubs. *Action:* Appointment of committee chairs. Membership, Elsie Shollenbarger; State Fair Booth, Ron Morris; Annual Meeting, John Collins; Trails, Jackie Bouker; Newsletter, Val Cole; Legislative, Charles Graham; Equine Summit, Jason Turner (tentative). Also, reprint NMHC Horse Care brochure with updated contacts. *Discussion:* explore an "operation gelding" to be promoted or sponsored by NMHC; add NMHC history to website. *Announcements:* February Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian committee cancelled pending Transportation Commission discussion of enabling policy; Horse rescue groups planning a possible conference and public meeting; Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee again meeting, but needs equestrian position filled; American Horse Council following the progress, or lack of same, with the national Transportation Bill and possible exclusion of recreational trails funding. Next meeting will be at the 66 Diner in Albuquerque; directors will meet at public venues for the next few months in order to attract more attendees (all board meetings are open).





## December Equine Summit

At the first Equine Summit at Clovis in March 2011, results of a questionnaire showed solid support for a follow up event in Albuquerque. Organizers were able to join forces with the Cattle Growers Association and hold the Summit during the Joint Stockmen's Convention. Weather worked against attendance, and so did the holiday season. But Craig Wood of the University of Kentucky was the keynote speaker for a very good two days in early December. Short summaries of the seminars I was able to attend follow, and the first day was also taped.

Thanks go first to our sponsors: Village Mercantile in Corrales, AC Nutrition, and the individual members of the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Horse Council.

Dr. Jason Turner opened the Summit. His committee (of one) set up the NM State University collaboration with the Council, arranged the schedule and speakers, and sent out the e-mailings. He said that all present were involved in the equine industry, knew the problems common to all groups, and were committed to a diverse and robust horse industry. This is a state forum to exchange ideas, because we cannot look to our national organizations for a "fix". The NM horse industry is a "melting pot" and the first Summit, in Clovis in March, attracted 70 people representing 30 organizations. They reached a consensus to build on the energy in Clovis and work towards a follow up summit. Other livestock entities have vibrant groups working to promote their needs. Also proposed: an NMSU/NMHC advisory committee.

Val Cole summarized the 35 year history of the New Mexico Horse Council. Although it has not reached the size and influence of Councils in other states (which have a reliable funding stream from a profitable Horse Fair, feed checkoff, brand fees or other means). However, members of the Council have participated in many projects over the years involving all sections of the industry. NMHC is also a member

of the American Horse Council and of the Coalition of State Horse Councils.

Anna Fay Davis, Executive director of the NM Horse Breeders Association, described the formation of the group in 1961, to administer the New Mexico Bred incentive program. This provides jobs as horses are bred, raised, trained and raced in the state. NMHBA maintains the official registry of New Mexico bred horses, and awarded over \$4 million between December 2010 and October 2011. With the introduction of gaming in 1999, this industry grew. NMHBA publishes a magazine and a stallion register, reports on racing commission meetings, maintains a web site (nmhorsebreeders.com), and studies the economic impact of horse racing in the state. For instance, it is the # 1 spectator sport in New Mexico.

Gayla Drake McCulloch of Farmington, who breeds, shows, and races her horses and is a member of the New Mexico Racing Commission, gave a splendid powerpoint titled "Horse Racing in New Mexico: Will We Celebrate the Future or Commemorate the Past?" From the first official pari-mutuel law, passed in 1934, to the application process for the sixth and final racing license in 2011, a comprehensive overview was offered. In the mid 1990's, Indian gaming compacts plus the creation of a state lottery affected the racetracks. "Racinos" are an important tax source for the state and also fund purses. McCulloch concluded by discussing current issues: the 6<sup>th</sup> and final racino license, the Downs at Albuquerque lease with Expo NM, the Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act, designed to eliminate drugs from horse racing, and the history and function of the New Mexico Racing Commission.

Following session #1, the Stockmen's Luncheon featured Representative Steve Pearce as the speaker. An enthusiastic crowd showed what livestock groups working together looks like.

In the afternoon, session #2 began with State Veterinarian Dr. Dave Fly's review of the 2011 Equine Herpesvirus outbreak. He used the details of the spread of the disease to state that the





needed testing, quarantines, and economic impact of event cancellations all support the need for the horse industry to combine for a stronger voice. There is no money dedicated to equine disease research and control at either the federal or the state level. Since the US agriculture bill was passed without the usual ban on horse slaughter, what would be the problems to anticipate with opening facilities? Horse haulers need scrutiny at all stages of horse transport, not just the final segment to the processing plant. Also, many humane groups, which are extremely well funded, are unalterably opposed to the slaughter option.

Dina Chacón-Reitzel, Executive Director of the New Mexico Beef Council, spoke of the history and the impact of the beef check-off program, which “puts your industry in your own hands”. In 1988, the federal beef check-off passed, with a direction to promote and protect the industry, including beef safety, develop new products, and share information with consumers. There are some restrictions, such as a prohibition on lobbying. Even prior to the federal program, NM had adopted a voluntary assessment of 25¢ per head. It was not easy to pass, but now has the approval of 85% of the industry. An annual audit, a marketing plan, and a budget is necessary. Some programs funded with the assessment: the “gate to plate” bus tour, the State Fair booth. Estimated return: every dollar spent returns \$5.55 worth of economic benefit

After a break, we moved on to the keynote speaker, Craig Wood of the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Paint Horse Club. He presented “State-based Programs for promoting the Equine Industry”. In Kentucky, horses are not classified as livestock. Some activities were relocating to other states with incentive programs, so a broad based initiative united various horse groups with points (earned through showing or racing activity) leading to monetary rewards. Increased participation resulted from required membership in their breed or interest groups, and now the Kentucky horse industry is a one billion dollar business. The Kentucky Horse Council is also a well funded group with many



activities and programs, some in conjunction with the world famous Kentucky Horse Park. The Kentucky Equine Education Project, in conjunction with a drive to have an equine presence in each county, shares information with local governments and also funds projects at colleges. In other states, particularly with the current economy, horse groups must combine and create programs and funding streams for their mutual benefit.

In the final seminar for Session #2, “Opportunities for New Mexico Equine Tourism and Recreation” was discussed by Mike Hobbs, general manager of the UU Bar Ranch, and Terry Berg of the Santa Fe Equestrian Center. The UU Bar Ranch promotes the western lifestyle and cowboy heritage. Hunting and fishing were limited by drought and the forest fires this season, but they are expanding land use with trail riding. One innovation is outsourcing: the horses are rented from local vendors rather than raised and trained at the ranch. However, employees can bring their own horses. Challenge: the Forest Service is making horseback trail use more difficult. Eco-tourism will be promoted with advertising in several different venues.

Terry Berg talked about the difficulties when one is brought in to run a beautiful 75 acre equestrian facility, a real asset to Santa Fe and to horse people, that has been taken over by a bank which wants to sell it. She has expanded the activities sponsored by and held at the center, expanded the number of users, and opened the facility to visits from the public – as well as taking in an incredible variety of animals temporarily dispossessed by the summer’s fires.

The afternoon session was followed by the New Mexico Horse Council Annual Meeting. The Joint Stockmen’s Convention Dinner and Dance finished the day.

Steve Henry, President of C.H.A.M.P. (Corrales Horse and Mule People) opened Session #3 on Sunday, December 4, with “Tips on Working with your Local Government”. Essentially, present your goals as their desires. Corrales means “corrals”, and it has traditionally been a horse





community. But the economy is bad, and the Village sees a water and sewer system as a need to cope with septic problems. CHAMP's ten year goal is to still have a horse community there. Their process is to convince local government of the benefit: jobs, and aesthetics. Projects bringing the horse community together include the Ditch Pony Promenade and the Lefty Converse Memorial Horse show; projects appealing to the invited public are the annual Horse Extravaganza and the Christmas de Caballos Toys for Tots Parade. In the future, horse people will organize a "Hug a Horse" day with horses in the public schools. It is essential not to be antagonistic but to cooperate and not be a financial burden.

Kent Cravens, former NM legislator who is now a lobbyist for the NM Oil and Gas Association, followed with suggestions on "how to change the public's mind" on your issues and "how to engage legislators to make changes in law".

- Lobbying is not evil (whether professional or citizen advocates); it helps your industry connect to legislators.
- Use the interim. Don't sigh with relief when the session is over, start shaping your issues and communicating.
- During the sessions, "walk and knock" – it counts.
- Once citizen advocates create trust, legislators will believe what you say. Don't misrepresent.
- Bureaucrats are also important. Know the heads of the agencies that affect your interests.
- Know the process: how bills are assigned to committees, brought to the floor.
- Be concise, have a plan with priorities. Time is limited, theirs and yours.

Since the Joint Stockmen events were concluded, the luncheon consisted of a select group of Summit attendees. However, we were pleased to welcome Governor Susana Martinez and her husband, Chuck Franco, who stopped briefly.

Session #4 began with a talk on state fair facilities and management by Dan Mourning, Expo general manager, and Larry Kennedy, chairman of the

State Fair Commission. Mr. Mourning said from his own family's experience that kids love animals, and he does not want to lose the agricultural focus of the Fair. However, running at a deficit cannot continue. And drainage improvements, although not visible to the public, cost money. Improved biosecurity is also a necessity with so many animals gathered in a small space (as is manure disposal). He plans to involve the Association of Counties and improve facilities; McDonald's Farm could have a farmers market. Currently, they have a good relationship with both the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. They are also talking to the national Arabian group. The "dark days" will be gone, although the Fair may be shortened. However, moving the Fairgrounds to another location is off the table. Mourning and Kennedy responded to comments about working with the racing community, and having horse groups secure traditional dates. Information about the Fair is already late, making it difficult to secure livestock and horse show judges when dates are not set. Suggestions: work with state Department of Tourism to set up packages; make it easier to get on and off the Fairgrounds, especially with trailers.

The Summit concluded with a wide-ranging discussion of issues for immediate and long-term focus.

### ACORC

The Bernalillo County Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee continues to be a concern. NMHC opposed the adoption of the livestock regulations in the revised ordinance, to no avail. The first livestock criminal citations have been issued and NMHC is awaiting the outcome of any legal procedure. We are also on the distribution list for notices, agendas and minutes. Their "livestock subcommittee" was appointed at the January 11 meeting; members are Miguel Tavarez, City of Albuquerque Animal Care; Emily Esterson, a horsewoman known in the dressage community, and Sherry Mangold, who is senior cruelty case manager, Animal Protection of NM.





## 2012 Legislative Session

Originally, NMHC was watching one bill: Senator Mary Jane Garcia's SB 62, which stiffened penalties for animal cruelty and expanded definitions of cruelty. Late in the session, SB 326 popped up, which proposed eliminating the state Livestock Board and moving its functions to the NM Department of Agriculture. Senator Michael Sanchez was listed as its sponsor but said he introduced it for Senator George Muñoz. Neither bill survived committees.

Several NM legislators have announced they will not seek reelection, so the composition of the houses will change.

### Corrales Pet Mayor

In the previous NMHC newsletter, we described the approaching Pet Mayor election in Corrales, with various animals sponsored by businesses. With the motto **Vote Early! Vote Often!** money equaled votes in this election, right up front, and the funds were to be used for the Corrales Harvest Festival and other worthy projects. The winner was the horse **Aspen**, owned by Nancy Freshour and sponsored by Dan's Boots and Saddles. Although Aspen had to survive a residency protest (the horse lives in Corrales; the sponsor is in Los Ranchos) she is now, with her owner, an activist mayor, available for "parties, fund raisers, school events and parades". (She's already led one parade.) A special office, "Ministry of Eggs-ucation" was created for **Little Miss**, the chicken sponsored by Village Mercantile on Corrales Road.

### Coalition of State Horse Councils

At a wonderful meeting the first weekend in November hosted by the Wisconsin Horse Council, the delegates representing fifteen state horse councils, along with many other attendees, made great strides with the Coalition. CSHC already is distributing a Coalition newsletter, and in November they agreed to proceed with a website. Funding is yet to be collected, but the "bare bones beginning" can be viewed at

<http://sites.google.com/site/cshcsite>. Don't put in a www.

The attendees got right down to work with a four hour seminar on "building a visionary Board". Friday night, slides were shown from the tour of Normandy sponsored by the Normandy Equine Council for several state horse council members. Saturday, a full day of meetings was followed by an indoor tailgate party (Wisconsin loves its Packers) and Sunday was the CSHC business meeting. Even in these tough economic times, horse councils are providing incredible services to their members. The next CSHC meeting will be held in conjunction with the American Horse Council annual meeting and issues forum in June.

As this is written, coalition members are beginning to coordinate with state farm bureaus to minimize the effects of tornado damage in the Midwest.

### NMHC Membership

Declining memory is one of the exciting aspects of aging – I've heard it called A.A.A.D.D., or Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder, where tenth order interruptions prevent any work (like this newsletter) getting done. I'm amazed by the number of NMHC members that have sent in their 2012 dues, period, end of story. Some have old membership blanks with the dates changed, sometimes it's just bare checks. Thank you! But for the rest of us, there is a membership blank with this newsletter, and membership is on a calendar year (perhaps until Dec. 21? according to the Mayan calendar). We'd love to have you send it in and/or pass it along. Email to [nmhc@swcp.com](mailto:nmhc@swcp.com) can get a pdf of the newsletter mailed to your friends and potential members.

### War Horse

Have you seen the Steven Spielberg-directed film yet? Although it is the story of a horse who finds himself on the front lines of World War I, don't worry that any horses were hurt in the filming. Head trainer Bobby Lovgren (*Seabiscuit, Zorro, Racing Stripes*) says that ten horses played Joey, the star, and four played Topthorne, his friend.





Then there were “background horses” for transport in the towns and for the cavalry scenes. Although the injured and dead horses were computer generated images, “appropriate body condition” (i.e. thin) was a challenge to achieve with the horse actors. A department of equine makeup artists ended up brushing the hair backwards on the body, using shaving cream to make it stand up, and outlining ribs with a darker color. Teaching the horse to walk slowly with its head down contributed to “the look” but all the horses had, by the rules, current health certificates.

### ACTHA – Season Two

The American Competitive Trail Horse Association says that season 1 was so successful they are going ahead with Season 2 of “America’s Favorite Trail Horse”. Horses from all over the country can compete to win over \$100,000 in cash and prizes. (New Mexico horses did very well in Season 1, with at least one being a finalist.) They suggest a visit to their site [www.actha.us](http://www.actha.us) to register now.

### End Notes

Different Testing at Belmont Stakes. In June 2011, the Department of Homeland Security’s Domestic Nuclear Detection Office worked behind the scenes in partnership with the Nassau and Suffolk County police to test a new technology that could protect the public at large venues from illicit radiological and nuclear materials. The prototype units consist of mobile roadside trailers equipped with cameras on overhead booms. During the Belmont, officials performed sweeps on inbound (moving) traffic for six hours. Feedback from systems operators will allow improvements in checking traffic.

Crash. Bang! The History Channel premiered “Full Metal Jousting” in February. Backgrounds of the jousters ranged from stunt men to a polo player, a dinner theater jousting, and a bull rider, and included show jumper James Fairclough II. The jousting train and live together, and eventually go head to head on fully armored

horses, competing for a \$10,000 prize. I watched the first episode to see how the horses fared (fine) and decided it was a guy thing.

Equine Eve. Italian geneticists have announced that this ancestor of all modern horses probably lived about 140,000 years ago. Alessandro Achilli of the University of Perugia said they were able to reconstruct the *Ancestral Mare Mitogenome, or AMM*, representing the mitochondrial DNA of the most recent common female ancestor. Then it is a matter of counting the number of differences between this ‘mtDNA’ and the mtDNAs of modern horses. The modern horses involved a wide variety of breeds and geographies, from the American Paint Horse and Chincoteague pony in the Americas, to the Trakhener and Clydesdale in Europe, to the Akhal-Teke and Przewalski in Asia. 18 subcategories or “haplogroups” were identified, with 17 sites of domestication and the Przewalski, never domesticated but considered a modern horse.

Zebra Stripes: To keep biting flies at bay? Researchers in Hungary and Sweden report in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* that the zebra’s pattern of narrow stripes makes it “unattractive” to the flies. Dark horses, they report, are attractive because of the horizontally polarized light reflecting from their coats, while white (reflecting unpolarized light) horses are much less troubled. They then put plastic horses coated with a sticky substance in a pasture, painted in stripes, spots, or solid light and dark colors to test the hypothesis. The smallest number of trapped flies was counted on the striped model.

Sifrhippus is now thought to be the first horse, living about 56 million years ago. As the climate warmed over thousands of years, the horse shrank from about 12 pounds average weight to eight and a half, report scientists in the journal *Science*. Scientists have long known that mammals tend to be smaller in hotter areas, and theorize that it is easier to shed excess heat. The horse fossils were recovered in the Bighorn Basin area of Wyoming, and reflect a 30% decline in size as the temperatures rose 9 - 18° Fahrenheit.



# New Mexico Horse Council, Inc.

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## Calendar Year 2012 Dues Invoice

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website address or e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Club Delegate or Commercial Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Individual contact information is not shared with anyone. Commercial and Club information is published in the newsletter and also on the website. If desired, we will provide a link to your club or commercial website.

**Club or Commercial Dues:** \$30.00 per calendar year \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual Dues:** \$20.00 per calendar year \_\_\_\_\_

**Lifetime Individual:** one-time, \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEWSLETTERS:** We can send by regular mail or email but please indicate your preference – particularly if it has changed!

Prefer pdf attached to email \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer regular mail \_\_\_\_\_

As time permits, NMHC projects can include (and your help is welcome)

Lobbying  
Newsletter  
Board of Directors  
AHC contact  
NMHC Foundation

Trails and Land Use  
Emporium  
Awards  
Zoning  
State Fair Booth

Trail Ride  
Membership growth  
Annual Meeting  
Outreach tables  
Expo meetings

Send Dues To: New Mexico Horse Council  
Membership  
P.O. Box 10206  
Albuquerque, NM 87184-0206



**NMHC federal tax status: 501-C-4. NMHC is a state horse council member of the American Horse Council and of the Coalition of State Horse Councils.**