



New Mexico Horse Council
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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

“Riding a horse is not a gentle hobby, to be picked up and laid down like a game of solitaire. It is a grand passion. It seizes a person whole and once it has done so, he or she will have to accept that life will be radically changed”. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Calendar

August 6: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 PM. 66 Diner, Albuquerque.

September 10: NMHC Board “virtual meeting”, committee and officer reports submitted.

September 12 – 23: New Mexico State Fair, Horse shows every day; see NMHC tent and “meet the horse” in the **Quickstall** in front of the Horse Arena. www.exponm.com. And:

- Knights of Mayhem Jousting**
- International Indian Finals Rodeo**
- State Fair Queen contest**
- State Fair Parade**
- PRCA Rodeo**
- Live Horse Racing, www.abqdowns.com**

October 1: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 PM. Cole’s, Albuquerque.

November 2 – 4: Coalition of State Horse Councils Fall Symposium and Meeting, Denver, CO. Theme: “Putting the Pieces Together”. <https://sites.google.com/site/cshcfall/home>

November 10: New Mexico Horse Council Annual Meeting, Dinner, Awards, Election of Board Members, Roper’s Restaurant, Albuquerque. Draw winning Raffle Ticket for Custom Portrait of Your Pet.

Operation Gelding: Watch NMHC website for details of time and location.

December 6 – 8: NMHC Booth at Joint Stockmen’s Convention. Marriott Albuquerque Pyramid North.

December 14-15: NMHC Board of Directors retreat, Las Cruces

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

Table of Contents

“New Mexico Horses in Crisis” 1-2
NMHC Annual Meeting..... 2-3
Elections and Awards.....3
Horse Portrait Raffle3
Animal Care Ordinance Revisions 3-4
And Rabbits.....4
And Goats4
Corrales Pet Mayor and Christmas de Caballos 4-5
State Fair/Expo5
Roundabout Update 5-6
Trails and Land Use..... 6-7
Speaking of Water, and Bugs7
Horse Racing News 7-8
Coalition of State Horse Councils.....8
Stephen Colbert’s Dressage Lesson8
Gelding Clinic Flyer.....9
Dues 2012/2013.....10

“New Mexico Horses in Crisis”

NM Horse Council President Rusty Cook wrote an article for the NM Stockman describing the plight of horses nationwide and particularly in the state. It appeared in the September 2012 issue, which is available online at www.aalivestock.com.

Cook said the national economy with its job losses and troubles in the housing market, the drought, and increased prices of feed, gasoline for transport and all other items needed in horse care have contributed to a “perfect storm” for horses. In New Mexico, more horses are underfed and neglected, and the Livestock Board has seized many in recent months. Horse rescues



are bursting at the seams. To care for all estimated unwanted horses, at the AAEP average figure of \$2300 per year (probably higher now in New Mexico), would cost \$400 million annually in the US. Cook covered the “tough decisions” faced by horse owners: sell, if you can find a buyer, but at a low price; euthanasia by a veterinarian and carcass disposal, which costs at least \$300; sale at auction for whatever the animal will bring. They might also choose to give away their animals (to a caring new owner), donate to a therapeutic group or surrender to a horse rescue, or simply turn them loose on public or private land to become someone else’s problem.

Many of the animals sold at auction go to slaughter. Five years after US slaughter plants closed due to elimination of USDA funding for inspections, there are as many, or more, being shipped to slaughter in Mexico or Canada. Although recent Congressional action approved USDA inspections for horse slaughter plants, no permits have yet been issued.

Even PETA (the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) says domestic slaughter facilities are preferable to shipping to Mexico or Canada.

In a recent survey of NMHC membership, nearly 94% are reluctantly in favor of humane horse slaughter and 6% vehemently opposed to slaughter in any form. Governor Susana Martinez has stated her opposition, but offers no funding for alternatives.

In the long term, careful breeding will be the key. We need good replacement horses, fit for both a primary and secondary job. Not every mare should be bred; not every stallion can produce good offspring. Most colts should be gelded. The NMHC is setting up a “gelding clinic” this fall with a grant from the Unwanted Horse Coalition and funds from the NM Horse Council to help defray costs of the operation and the immunizations and health checks needed for a successful outcome.

(See the entire article in the September New Mexico Stockman online or email us at nmhc@swcp.com for a copy.)

The US Department of Agriculture “Market News” publishes a weekly summary of animals shipped to Mexico. It can be found at www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/AL_LS635.txt

The week ending October 6 saw 2,958 horses shipped to Mexico for slaughter, for a year-to-date total of 81,564 (compared with 50,761 by the first week in October in 2011).

NM Horse Council Gelding Clinic. A Horse Council project this fall will be a gelding clinic for owners unable to afford the cost of castrating their stallions. NMHC has been awarded a grant from the Unwanted Horse Coalition and will match it from our budget, to help defray costs of the operation and the needed examinations and immunizations. The horses need to have two descended testicles, be between four months and eight years of age, and able to be handled and loaded to be brought to the site. See the “gelding clinic” flyer in this newsletter for the contact. Sponsors are welcome!

Jeff Witte, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, has set up a “stakeholders group” to discuss the problem and arrive at possible solutions. Included are NMSU, horse rescues, NM Horse Council and others. Funding, as always, is seen as a major problem; however, workshops are also said to be concentrating efforts on education.

**NM Horse Council Annual Meeting
Awards, Election of Board Members**

November approaches, so it must be time for the NMHC Annual Meeting. John Collins researched restaurants in the central New Mexico area pretty extensively, and again proposed **Roper’s Restaurant** to the Board. Many more of our alternatives from last year now charge pretty hefty room fees in addition to dinner, and we are not going upscale in this economy. Ropers will again close their restaurant except for the NMHC party. So,

Date: November 10, 2012
Time: 6PM to 9 PM
Place: Roper’s Restaurant
8810 Central SE, Albuquerque 87123
(just east of Wyoming, on the south side)





Menu: New Mexican buffet

Cost: \$12.00 per person, including tax and tip; wait staff will serve alcohol from a no-host bar.

Elections and Awards. Under our Bylaws, NM Horse Council Board members serve three year terms, coinciding with the calendar year. Officers are elected annually by the Board of Directors at its first meeting in the New Year. We have attempted to become a more regional and statewide organization instead of one centered in the Albuquerque Metro area. In 2011 and 2012, some Board meetings were enhanced by “go to meeting” software, which would permit Board members to participate without climbing into their vehicles. Directors set their meetings, but one proposal is to meet “face to face” quarterly and gather by laptop or smart phones in between. It is hoped that each Board member will also chair a subcommittee, take some “ownership” of a horse council project, be a resource at the NMHC tent during the State Fair or accept an officer’s position.

After the elections, we have the fun of presenting NMHC Certificates of Appreciation and our big biannual award, the Horse Person of the Year. (In alternate years we give a Lifetime Achievement Award.) This is your chance to nominate someone who makes a real difference to the horse community of New Mexico. It’s hard to narrow it down! We’ll need a short bio of your nominee (neither the horse person nor the nominee need be a member of the Horse Council) and a summary of the reasons for the nomination. And we must receive them before the end of October, so the selection can be made and the plaque ordered. Past winners of the Horse Person and the Lifetime Achievement Award, starting at the inception, are: **Karen Reyer, Melanie Scholer, Elsie Shollenbarger, Suzanne Norton Jones, Blair Darnell, Val Cole, Carolyn Bader, Dick Hensleigh, Eldon Reyer, John Collins, Leonard Blach and Sallie Pennybacker.**

We would also like to give an NMHC Certificate of Appreciation as a recognition to those who have done something special for the horse community. Send those names to nmhc@swcp.com.

Make reservations on the dues form included with this newsletter, or send information to nmhc@swcp.com.

Raffle – Portrait Of A Horse (or Dog)

The New Mexico Horse Council relies on dues, donations and fundraisers for its operating expenses, and squeezes every penny. We have been fortunate to have some very, very generous people step up with possible fundraisers, and this Fall is no exception. **John David Kreger** has agreed to create a custom portrait of your horse or dog. Look at www.johndkregerartist.com. In a flyer, he says he “begins with your description, then meets the animal and shoots a series of photographs, capturing all the vital details. The final 15” x 20” (for a horse) or 10” x 15” (for a dog) is completed in graphite on gessoed illustration board, creating an archival work you will enjoy for years to come.” From sessions to finished artwork, value is several hundred dollars.

Such an artwork demands a great frame, and Steve and Karen Burke of **Ranch Frames & Things** (www.ranchframesandthings.biz) have agreed to create one for the lucky winner. If you were at the State Fair, you saw their booth just inside the Horse Arena, and a gorgeous frame in the NMHC tent with a picture of NMHC honorary equine member Mine That Bird.

Tickets are a true bargain at \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, and can be ordered on the dues form included in this newsletter or by email from nmhc@swcp.com. Send us money, we’ll fill out your tickets! The winner will be drawn at the NMHC Annual Meeting November 11, but you don’t need to be present to win. What a Christmas gift this would make.

Bernalillo County Animal Care Ordinance Revisions Enter Public Comment Period

Last year, the Bernalillo County Commission passed a new Animal Care Ordinance over the opposition of many livestock owners. They stated that “any problems” with the provisions could be repaired with the creation of an “Animal Care Ordinance Review Committee”, on which livestock interests would be represented. When finally created, the committee met monthly. The





livestock representative was not a professional breeder or trainer, and the observers we sent to the meetings were worried. However, the committee completed its work, and revisions were presented at the October 9 County Commission meeting and approved for a period of public comment. To access the revisions, go to the County website (www.bernco.gov); click “ordinances” on the top bar, go to “proposed and amended ordinances on the left, and open “Animal Ordinance Chapter 6”. The lead paragraph says : NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners on NOVEMBER 27, 2012, at the hour of 5:30 PM at the Vincent E. Griego Chambers, One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102, will consider adopting amendments to the following Ordinance: **CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS.** Open the “Animal Control Ordinance” and you can read the revisions and comment while you are there, or send a letter or fax later.

The revised ordinance is an improvement on the original, but there are still some sections livestock owners might find an undue burden. And one that could really be troublesome. Look at:

- 6-37 b. Impounding; seizure, return, adoption.
- 6-37 B. Seizure of **Livestock.**
- 6-40: Animals biting persons.
- 6-54: Animal Waste. ***It is unlawful to permit an animal (defined earlier as any vertebrate member of the animal kingdom except humans) to defecate on public or private property other than the property of the owner of the animal unless such animal waste is immediately removed and properly disposed of by the person having custody of the animal.*** What about trail riding? This could be solved simply by changing “animal” to “companion animal”.
- 6-56 B Care and Maintenance of Livestock. “...no sand burrs, goat heads, anthills, wasp’s nests...”
- 6-56 B “regular, basic, necessary and emergency professional veterinary care and dental or hoof care when needed...”
- 6-56 B “shelter for equines shall include two sides and a roof...and easy access to adequate shade..”
- 6-61: Hobbling (seems to be prohibited).

- 6-64 C No animals given as prizes;
- 6-64 D No animal exhibitions or rides without permits.

Incidentally, bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians use the recreational trails associated with the MRG Conservancy District every day. Some have told us that Animal Control officers are issuing owners of any dogs seen off leash with a \$100 citation.

More on animals: Rabbits. One change in the Bernco Animal Ordinance revisions is a switch in the classification of rabbits – they are defined now as “companion animals”. Rabbit owners, especially those interested in 4-H meat projects, will need to explore the implications in housing, use, and spay/neuter..

Even more on animals: Goats. Mary Smith, a veterinarian and professor at Cornell Vet School (and a relative) has been heard to say “friends don’t let friends get male goats as pets”. Knowing that many horse people consider goats ideal companions for horses, I asked her to expand on this comment. Her reply: “Castrated male goats make marvelous pets and stall companions for horses BUT the anatomy of their urinary tract means that they are always at risk for developing stones that block their narrow urethra. Veterinarians will give you advice on how best to feed them to avoid stone formation (absolutely clean water available 24/7, salt fed free choice and also sprayed on their hay, don’t feed plants high in oxalates, keep the dietary minerals [calcium, phosphorus, magnesium] to what they need and no more, avoid feeding more protein than they need). Still, owners that try to follow these directions sometimes have a beloved goat develop a life threatening condition that will require very expensive surgery. The owner who can’t afford surgery will be faced with hard decisions. A female goat also makes a great pet and is very unlikely to develop urinary obstruction because it has a wide urethra.”

And yet more: Animals as politicians in Corrales. The village’s second annual “pet mayor” election was held recently. As before, money worked – one dollar per vote (vote early and often), with the Kiwanis club named as the charity. Last





year's winner, Aspen (the Rocky Mountain Horse owned by Nancy Freshour), was an active participant in village life all year, visiting schools, kissing babies, schmoozing at parties and helping to pick up trash. So it is fitting that the 2012 winner is also a mare. Elektra the quarter horse (sponsored by Dan's Boots and Saddles) will also be a great ambassador, according to owner Kathryn Sikorski. The runner up was Cece the goat ("a great communicator and vocalist"). Several dogs also were nominated.

No doubt Elektra will participate in the famous ***Christmas de Caballos: A Parade for Horses, Riders and Horse Drawn Vehicles.*** It will be held Sunday, November 18, with participants assembling at noon at the Wagner Corn Maze, 6445 Corrales Road. The parade will start at 1 PM and proceed two and a half miles south to the Top Form Arena, 500 Jones Road. Entry Fee: One unwrapped new toy, for a child aged 14 and under. This parade benefits the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program, and is a production of the Corrales Horse and Mule People (C.H.A.M.P.).

State Fair/Expo

A Territorial Fair (called the New Mexico Agriculture, Mineral and Industrial Exposition, and later the New Mexico State Fair even before statehood was formal) has been held here since, at least, 1881. Following statehood, the NM State Fair started in 1912, ran annually until 1916, and was revived in 1938. (Possibly the successful revival had to do with the passage of legislation allowing pari-mutuel horse racing.) The Fair enabling legislation also mentioned "promoting registered livestock". Fun fact: the newly named State Fair Queen, Stephanie Bailey of Curry County, says the very first State Fair Queen contest in 1950 also named a young woman from Curry County.

The Fair dates were not formally announced until June, which is difficult when planning horse show dates, judges and staff. However, the general manager reported more visitors in the shortened 2012 Fair, in spite of bad weather the first two days. Horse show numbers were down, most show days were short, and the premiums and

entry forms were available on the website much later than exhibitors wanted. General Manager Dan Mourning and Senior Manager Sally Mayer have stated repeatedly that they "want to improve the horse shows", and an open meeting is to be held October 17 to gather suggestions. The Horse Council again sponsored the popular tent with the Quickstall (www.quickstalls.com) lent by Charlie and Mary Ann Poore and we welcomed many horse groups to present their equines. Breed groups (Arabians, Paints, Pintos, Palominos), ranch ambassadors (La Espuela), therapeutic groups (Listening Horse) and horse rescues (Walkin n Circles) were all represented.

Roundabout Update

The proposed roundabout at Rio Grande Boulevard and Candelaria Road continues to be strongly opposed by many area residents and horse trailer owners in the North Valley, the Village of Los Ranchos, and Corrales.

A second public meeting, held September 27 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (the first one in July was overfull and lacked a microphone) was packed with opponents and proponents – the opponents apparently predominating, judging by signs and muttering, although the facilitator repeatedly refused to allow a show of hands. At the conclusion of the engineering presentation and many comments purposely evenly divided between supporters and opponents, City Councilor Debbie O'Malley announced there would be no change in the plan to begin construction in 2013. However, Albuquerque will need to reapply for the grant since there is now significant recorded opposition.

One ad hoc group fighting the roundabout has named itself the *Rio Grande Boulevard Preservation Coalition* and has produced an alternative to the proposals put forth in the Rio Grande Corridor Master Plan.

I cannot obtain a copy of the corridor master plan produced by the 2010 charette at Los Duranes elementary school from the City website (the computer hangs). However, the Alternative group objects to many of the changes intended to produce a "high caliber experience for





pedestrians”, including lane reductions, planting rows of “street trees”, mandating that “brick or stonework, window and door surrounds, and intricate cornices be used to express local architectural styles”. All these would require a “form based zoning code” that will support “appropriate infill development” along Rio Grande Boulevard. The Corridor plan also envisions a “Village” area at Rio Grande and Griegos, with “slightly more intense development with one and two story structures with an appropriate mix of commercial uses”. And, of course, the Corridor Master Plan envisions the roundabout. The Alternative Plan suggests, instead, installing protected left turn signals at the intersection, along with “no right turn on red” allowed where walls block the driver’s view. Law enforcement and radar signs would help as well.

For more information or to comment on the **roundabout** section of the project, visit www.roundaboutabq.com. Contact the Rio Grande Boulevard Preservation Coalition (anti roundabout) through NMHC member Martha Buddecke, mbuddecke@msn.com.

Many in the North Valley devoted months of time, blood, sweat and tears to produce the **North Valley Area Plan**, adopted by the City of Albuquerque to “preserve the rural character of the historic North Valley”. Color it gone.

Trails and Land Use

Roadless Rule. On October 1, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a request by the State of Wyoming and others to review the legality of a federal rule that protects roadless National Forest Lands. The 2001 Rule therefore remains the law of the land after a decade of challenges. The Roadless Rule forbids road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands, protecting about 30% (58.5 million acres) of National Forest lands in 38 states and Puerto Rico.

Recreational Trails Program Funding. NMHC heard from the American Horse Council and our partner, the Equine Land Conservation Resource, that the state was considering rejecting the RTP funding included in the recently signed national

highway bill MAP-21. NMHC, and others, wrote letters and spoke to officials, and the RTP funding is now renewed through 2013.

Pecos Wilderness Inventoried Roadless Areas. After a presentation to the NMHC Board by NMHC member Oscar Simpson and BCHA’s Carol Johnson, the Board agreed to sign a letter supporting the conversion of 125,000 acres adjacent to the Pecos Wilderness to full wilderness designation.

Valles Caldera Draft Environmental Assessment. NMHC commented to the Valles Caldera Trust supporting EA Alternative #2, the only alternative allowing equestrian use of the land.

Prices Dairy Property now Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. A mix of funding from Benalillo County, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service was used to acquire this property in the South Valley as the nation’s first urban wildlife refuge. This will be a tremendous resource of open land wildlife habitat close to the City of Albuquerque

We certainly are losing good irrigated land that has been producing hay (New Mexico’s major agricultural crop) but the refuge won’t be developed (and that acreage lost) for a year.

New Mexico Water 2012. “It was a miserable year for sure”, says Phil King, NMSU professor and adviser to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District. The “water year” runs from October 1 through September 30, beginning with snowpack accumulating in the fall and continuing with farmers and cities using the runoff during the spring and summer – until it runs out. 2010/2011 was very bad, but 2011/2012 is worse, with a “promising” snowpack blowing away in dry spring winds. Flows of native water on the Rio Grande were a bit less than 50% of the long term average. In fact, without the “imported” San Juan-Chama water, the Rio Grande through Albuquerque would now be dry. Riders using the ditch trails noticed very early reductions in irrigation water. And the forecast for next year is even worse; New Mexico is facing three problems.





- The *El Niño* weather pattern, which improves our chances of extra storms to make up some of the shortfall, has been slow and weak;
- After two consecutive drought years, the state's watersheds are, according to King, "a dry sponge" and will soak up a good bit of the snowpack before runoff can start;
- In recent years, water managers have seen a smaller percentage of snowpack making it into New Mexico's rivers. Although the "why" is still a mystery, it is consistent with what one would expect given New Mexico's temperature rise. What would help? "A storm of biblical proportions", according to Carlsbad Irrigation District manager Dudley Jones. "But at least *La Niña*, the weather pattern causing the past two dry years, is gone."

Speaking of Water....and Bugs

State Veterinarian Dave Fly has said this has been a terrible year for insect-borne diseases. One is *Vesicular Stomatitis*, the confirmation of which requires quarantining the horse on the premises until recovered. The outbreak also drove many changes in horses being transported, and arriving at competition event venues. *West Nile Disease* has also been a problem for horses this year, although there is an effective vaccination available. (People are another matter. They don't have a vaccine – why is that? – and the cases recorded this year have been serious, sometimes fatal). Even with the drought, it doesn't take much water to support mosquitoes. For these sources, *Mosquito Dunks* (available at garden and home improvement stores) are harmless for pets and plants, but lethal to mosquitoes. Although some mosquitoes may overwinter, the risk is considerably reduced after the first hard frost.

Horse Racing News

Federal Asset Seizures. In June, the IRS (having tried and failed to force "current caretakers" to continue maintaining quarter horses supposedly purchased with illegal drug profits) seized 466 horses after issuing fourteen indictments of suspected Zeta cartel members and horse owners in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The cartel

allegedly laundered more than a million dollars a month through their US enterprise, Tremor Enterprises, in horse racing and breeding.

The horses were seized as the largest percentage of the assets forfeited. (This is in spite of a federal official who offered this advice: "never seize anything you have to feed".) And put money into them they did. Less than two months later, the government had spent over \$500,000 in caring for the animals; six had died, and more were ill or receiving inadequate hoof care or veterinary attention. In early August, a federal judge ordered the sale of the seized animals. The money from The 99 horses already sold brought \$32,000. 379 more horses are scheduled for sale November 1-3 at Heritage Place in southwest Oklahoma City. Federal officials seemed amazed that the cartel owners were "hiding in plain sight", with many of the horses even having "cartel" as part of their names (as did three of the ten finalists for the 2012 All American Futurity). They perhaps do not know that names often reflect ancestry, and the accused have been purchasing and naming horses for several years.

And in New Mexico. In March, the New York Times published a long article titled "Mangled Jockeys, Maimed Horses – Death and Disarray at America's Racetracks" about horse racing in general and citing New Mexico's tracks as having the worst safety record in the nation. And US Senators Ed Whitfield (KY) and Tom Udall (NM) continued their efforts to ban medications given on race day with a federal law. Here in New Mexico, there seems to be a growing feeling among the horsemen – the vast majority of whom just want to raise, train and race their horses honestly – that a few use procedural delays, "paper" trainers of record, and other means to avoid penalties when found guilty of infractions. One article by Ed Johnson of the Albuquerque Journal stated that "The majority of horsemen operate appropriately, but many have been largely silent. They have preferred to mind their own time-consuming business.

No more. The New Mexico Racing Commission has adopted doping regulations, fines and penalties developed by the Association of Racing





Commissioners International. These went into effect July 31. (They retained their own existing rules with tougher penalties, such as a one-year ban passed in February, effective in April, on the use of the drug clenbuterol at New Mexico tracks. This ban was passed, by the way, before the New York Times article appeared in March.) The Racing Commission switched test labs for some samples, and embraced a new test for synthetic dermorphin (“frog juice”). Four trainers receiving hefty suspensions when their horses tested positive in samples taken in May for dermorphin (and additional banned drugs in two cases) would have received even harsher penalties had these infractions occurred more recently. Also, R.D. Hubbard of Ruidoso Downs, followed by William Windham of the Downs at Albuquerque, have announced that trainers with drug infractions will not be allowed to race at their tracks.

Nationally, in the 2012 Breeder’s Cup in November, two year old horses will not be administered medications on race day. Lasix (a powerful diuretic) should be phased out as a race day medication nationally within two years. Says veterinarian Sid Gustafson, “Drugs generally have not been helpful to any sport. Raceday drugs have been proven statistically harmful to horses and to their riders....The racing competition in Europe seems to flourish without raceday medications....although Europeans will drop their ethics to run on Lasix and all the other drugs still allowed at Churchill Downs in this year’s Breeder’s Cup.....Progress is at hand.”

Coalition of State Horse Councils

The Coalition (formerly the State Horse Councils Advisory Committee of the American Horse Council) has made great strides in the past year. It has a website and a newsletter, and is seeking sponsors. The Colorado Horse Council is hosting the November meeting, taking it out of the Midwest and East for a change – New Mexico and Arizona, hopefully Utah, will have delegates attending. In June (this meeting held in conjunction with the American Horse Council Annual Meeting and Issues Seminar) officers were elected for two-year terms. They are: Chair, Madelyn Millard (KY); Vice-Chair, Jean

Ligon (MI); Secretary, Val Cole (NM); Financial Liaison, Glen Eaton (MN) and Parliamentarian, Lee Sackett (WI).

The theme of the November 2-4 Meeting is “Putting the Pieces Together”, and New Mexico will be represented by at least delegate Val Cole and alternate Elsie Shollenbarger. Strategic Planning will be discussed Friday afternoon, with an evening presentation from Temple Grandin. Saturday covers welfare, liability, the unwanted horse, “Building a Better Future for the Horse Industry”, equestrian volunteer programs, riding schools, equine rehabilitation, certifications, insurance, and the “legal, legislative and liability handbook”. The CSHC business meeting will be held Sunday morning, and the symposium adjourns at noon. For more information, see <http://sites.google.com/cshcfall/home>

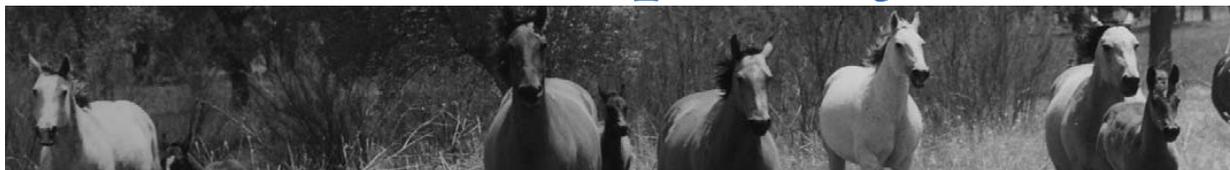
Stephen Colbert’s Dressage Lesson

Comedy Central’s Stephen Colbert continued his coverage of dressage, his “official sport of the summer”, all the way through Ann Romney’s horse Rafalca’s appearance in the London Olympics. Determined to *piaffe* after a lifetime (twenty minutes) of training, and properly outfitted in a shadbelly coat, breeches, helmet and boots loaned by SmartPak after originally appearing in a fancy western fringed outfit, Colbert found trainer Michael Barisone of Long Valley, New Jersey, and the kindest mare (Conchita) in the state – if not the country.

The crew filmed for over eight hours, and condensed the feature into two seven minute segments. Barisone commented that the Colbert show “could have spun this any way they wanted. They could have made everyone look like dummies, but it was light, it was funny and interesting, and it made everyone involved look really great. Stephen looked like he had some skill.....” although he had only ridden a few times as a child. Conchita cooperated by producing a few steps of piaffe (or perhaps passage) with the trainer’s help, and Stephen took home the tiara he coveted from Barisone’s trophy case. “[Dressage] might not get another such moment for fifty years”, Barisone commented. See the lessons at www.ColbertNation.com.



Own Responsibly



Tens of thousands of horses go “unwanted” in the U.S. each year.

Who is responsible for them?

WE ARE.

NEW MEXICO HORSE COUNCIL

is sponsoring “Operation Gelding”
in the late fall to assist stallion owners in having their stallions gelded,
supported by a grant from the Unwanted Horse Coalition.

If you own a stallion not needed for breeding, have him castrated.

Contact Kristin Darnell Kreger, NMHC Board of Directors
and Operation Gelding Chair, phone 505-400-7438,
or email mytenthousandhorses@windstream.net

The Unwanted Horse Coalition was organized to promote awareness and education about the issues involved in owning a horse and the long-term responsibilities of owners to their horses.

We all must learn to Own Responsibly. What does that mean?

- It means that you understand and consider all options available to your horse before it becomes unwanted, including retirement, adoption, donation, and alternative programs and uses.
- It means you don't use up your horse so that it is unable to do something else.
- It means you support adoption, retirement, and retraining facilities with time, money, and aid.
- It means that you consider end-of-life decisions, including veterinary decisions, euthanasia, and disposal, before you buy or breed.
- It means you have a responsibility to work with your federal, state, and local officials to ensure there are viable options available to dispose of horses.
- It means that if you are an organization, sales company, or service provider in the industry, you point out these responsibilities to newcomers.
- It means that the industry must continue to work together to make progress on this problem.

That's what it means to Own Responsibly!

For more information about the unwanted horse issue, your responsibilities, and available options, visit the Unwanted Horse Coalition online at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.



NEW MEXICO HORSE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, NM 87184

www.nmhorsecouncil.org 505-345-8959 nmhc@swcp.com

Join NOW for the Remainder of 2012 and ALL of 2013 Purchase raffle tickets; Purchase tickets for the Annual Meeting

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Club or Commercial Contact _____

Website address _____

Note: Individual contact information is not shared with anyone. Commercial and Club information is published in the newsletter and also on the website. If listed, 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 (any amount welcome): _____

Raffle tickets: \$2 each or \$5 for 3 tickets # of tickets _____

Hand drawn image of your horse or pet by John D. Kreger, <http://www.iohndkregerartist.com/>

NMHC Annual Meeting Nov. 10, 6 PM, \$12/person # of tickets _____

Roper's Restaurant (just east of Central & Eubank); No host bar

Total Enclosed: _____

NEWSLETTERS: We send by email (if you prefer regular mail please check here ____)

As time and finances permit, NMHC projects can include:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Operation Gelding | Membership growth | Trails and Land Use | Lobbying |
| Newsletter | Emporium | Trail Ride | Zoning |
| Board of Directors | Outreach tables | Annual Meeting | Awards |
| NMHC Foundation | State Fair Booth | Expo NM Meetings | AHC Contact |

If you would like to help with any of these, or have other ideas for projects, contact us!

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

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