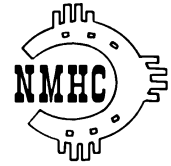


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FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2013

“Horsemanship through the history of all nations has been considered one of the highest accomplishments. You can’t pass a park without seeing a statue of some old codger on a horse. It must be to his bravery, you can tell it’s not to his horsemanship.” Will Rogers, April 2, 1934. (Will Rogers Memorial Archives)

Calendar

March 4: New Mexico Horse Council Board of Directors Meeting, Capitol Annex, Santa Fe, 1:00 PM. All day: Board members to visit legislators.

March 16: New Mexico 2013 Legislative Session ends, 12:00 Noon.

March 23: New Mexico Equine Industry Summit (invitation only), **Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces. “Focus on Equine Welfare in New Mexico”.**

April 19: NMHC Foundation scholarship applications due.

May: NMHC Board Meeting, go-to-meeting

June 10: NMHC Board of Directors meeting, location to be announced.

June 15-18, American Horse Council Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum; Coalition of State Horse Councils Meeting; Washington, D.C.

September 6-8: NMSF Hunter Jumper Show, prior to opening of the State Fair.

September 9: NMHC Board Meeting

September 11-22: State Fair, with horse shows every day.

October 25-27: Coalition of State Horse Councils Meeting, hosted by the North Carolina Horse Council. “The Big Picture”.

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From the President

The New Mexico Horse Council Board went to Santa Fe on March 4. It was a busy and productive day. Members met many Senators and Representatives, and members of their staffs, and distributed literature about the Horse Council. NMHC officers were the guests of Representative Bandy at the start of the day in the House, and were introduced. Then they went to the Senate to be introduced by Senator Woods. The Board held its quarterly ‘face to face’ meeting after lunch in a conference room in the Capitol Annex.

For the first time, NMHC was represented at AgFest this year, a conference sponsored by the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau and held in the Santa Fe Convention Center on February 19. Members Karen and Eldon Reyer, Val Cole, and Rusty Cook manned the booth. It was interesting to meet and interact with other agricultural groups from around the state. Several new members were recruited, and we plan to participate again next year.

The five committees set up at the Board retreat in December, 2012, have been hard at work. The third Equine Summit will have taken place by the time you read this, with the focus on Equine Welfare and about 85 people from around the state in attendance. Planning is under way for Operation Gelding 2013. A fundraiser is to announced soon. Sadly, our plan to raffle off a **Quickstall** at the 2013 State Fair (as was successfully promoted and awarded in 2011) came to an abrupt end with the decision by Charlie and Mary Ann Poore to dissolve their company, **Quick Stalls, Inc.** after eleven years. Ever decreasing sales with the struggling economy, coupled with ever increasing costs, forced the closure. The Poores have been helpful to NMHC for a number of years by lending one of their stalls





(including transport and installation!) for NMHC outreach during the State Fair and we truly regret the end of this business.

Oscar Simpson, current Board member, and Eldon Reyer, former Board member, made presentations to the recent national Professional Trail Builders Conference held in Albuquerque. We are very proud of the expertise and contributions of these gentlemen.

The shortened State Fair dates in 2013 (September 11-22) presented extreme challenges in planning the State Fair horse shows, but Expo has now released the schedule. Breed and discipline representatives, in addition to NMHC, are working with NMSF management to make the horse shows the best they have been in years. If you show your horse, please plan to support these events!

Spring is here (we can tell by the wind!) and it's time to go have fun with your horse!

Rusty Cook

Land and Trails

On March 25, President Obama designated the **Rio Grande del Norte National Monument**. Located in Northern NM near Taos, the 242,000 acres, the monument ranges mesas to the Rio Grande Gorge. A large coalition including local officials, sportsmen's organizations, the Taos Pueblo, Land Grant members, grazing permittees and others worked with members of Congress to protect the area with National Monument status.

Sally Jewell has been appointed by the President as Secretary of the Interior, and spent her first full day in office on Monday, April 15. "Our public lands are huge economic engines for the nation. From energy development to tourism and outdoor recreation, our lands and waters power our economy and create jobs." The interior department has over 70,000 employees, and serves as steward for 20% of the nation's lands, including national parks, national wildlife refuges and other lands; it is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western states, and upholds trust responsibilities to the 566 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

Prior to her confirmation, Jewell served most recently as President and CEO of Recreational

Equipment, Inc. (REI). During her tenure, REI was consistently rated as one of the 100 best companies to work for by Fortune Magazine.

The **Valles Caldera Trust** has announced its Record of Decision to implement **alternative 3 A** from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). NMHC and other horse groups had supported Alternative 2, the only one that specifically mentioned retaining existing horse and rider use. However, Marie Rodriguez of Valles Caldera has told us there will be no change in horse use planned at this time.

The federal government is also seeking dismissal in US District Court of a lawsuit filed last summer by the Jemez Pueblo, seeking to gain possession of the Valles Caldera Preserve. According to the US Justice Department, such land claims had to be filed prior to August, 1951, with the Indian Claims Commission. Jemez, Zia and Santa Ana pueblos did file a claim seeking compensation for some 520,000 acres of land, and agreed in January 1974 to a financial settlement. But this land was separate from the Valles Caldera, which was given to the Baca family in 1860 to settle a land grant claim.

ABQ the Plan. Albuquerque mayor Richard Berry has initiated a process to "improve quality of life for Albuquerque residents" by creating Bosque improvements within the levees controlling the flow of the Rio Grande, as well as new facilities outside the levees. He has emphasized public/private partnerships, and NMHC was approached about the feasibility of a horse operation using the existing and planned trails. Such planned improvements could include boardwalks, viewing platforms, hardened trails, artwork and picnic areas; conservation groups worry that such improvements might not be designed to withstand flooding, needed for cottonwood trees to regenerate. Keep track at www.riograndevision.com/project-documents.

Ranchers will benefit if Robert Hockaday's **Energy Related Devices** company, recently relocated to Tucumcari, can successfully finance an assembly operation that melds standard industry solar panels with ERD's unique backing that not only keeps the cells cooler and more efficient, but strengthens the panels to stand up to high winds. Because of their toughness, the panels could be mounted on windmills or water





towers to power pumps for watering cattle. Hockaday says they could even be mounted on old rubber tires to be moved easily to other locations.

The New Mexico Court of Appeals recently ruled that a sixty acre parcel of land operated by the **Pecos River Open Spaces, Inc.** for “conservation” was a legitimate charitable purpose qualifying for property tax exemption. Since the “Legislature has made conservation of land a significant goal and has enlisted charitable organizations to achieve that goal”, the court decided that it “provides a benefit of real worth and importance to the public”. The San Miguel County Attorney said the charitable exemption should not be allowed for “land that is idle, unimproved and not in actual use”, but the county did not seek review of the decision from the state supreme court. Santa Fe attorney Richard Hughes emphasized that this would not apply to a private person.

“**New Mexico Population Growth Slows**” was the headline, with the article stating the state’s growth rate of 0.3% was less than half of the national average. Why isn’t this a good thing? We’re in the third year of a drought, the water supply can’t support the current state population, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District has already cut off the water to one class of users, and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District’s wildest hope is for 39% of average runoff flowing into Elephant Butte reservoir. What will horse owners be paying for hay?

Ride now! Several of our group members (BCH chapters), Cedar Crest Stables, and individual members are pushing Spring rides (in spite of those April breezes) because they anticipate trail closures early this year due to increased fire danger. In fact, officials in Cibola National Forest and Sandia and Mountainair Ranger districts will implement Stage 1 fire restrictions on Monday, April 22.

One ride on April 27 is sanctioned by the AERC (American Endurance Ride Conference) and hosted by Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding, a 501 (c) 3 organization located in Santa Fe and a member center of PATH Int’l (formerly NARHA), the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.



(www.listeninghorse.org) The rides (50, 30, and 7.7 mile distances) will be held on the Caja del Rio Plateau. More details and registration available at: <http://ridecaja2013.weebly.com>.

Corrales riders need “crosswalk awareness” (by Corrales drivers!). A large, lively and involved bunch of riders lives in, or travels to, the village of Corrales for some really pretty riding. The *Corrales Equestrian Advisory Commission* has tentatively scheduled its Crosswalk Awareness Day for Saturday, June 8, 10 AM to 12 Noon. In the past, CEAC and others (CHAMP, the Corrales Horse and Mule People, and Back Country Horsemen, Northwest Chapter) have promoted a large horse and rider presence at popular Corrales Road crossings, including Via Oreada. According to state law (Corrales Road is a state highway) and village ordinance, all intersections anywhere in Corrales are supposed to be treated by motorists as if they had a painted or signed crosswalk, but this is imperfectly understood by drivers. However, horses and riders are at least visible and hard to ignore, and the majority of drivers are cooperative.

2013 State Legislative Session

HB 224, Animal Cruelty, Veterinarians and Counseling: Died. **SB 83, Animal Cruelty, Definitions and Penalties:** Died. **SB 155: Expand Animal Cruelty Definitions:** Died. **SB 389/HB 476: Horse Rescue Programs:** Died. **SB 139: Disposition of State Owned Animals:** Passed and Signed. **HJM 16: Study Feasibility of Horse Processing Plant:** Died. Voting for the Memorial: Alcon, Bandy, Bratton, Brown, Clahchiscilliage, Crook, Dodge, Espinoza, Ezzell, Gentry, Hall, Herrell, Irwin, Jeff, Larranaga, McMillan, Powdrell-Gilbert, Rehm, Roch, Saavedra, N. Salazar, Sandoval, Strickler, Taylor, Tripp, White, Wooley, Youngblood. Voting against the Memorial: Anderson, Archuleta, Baldonado, Chasey, Chavez, Cote, Easley, Egolf, Fajarki, D.Y. Gallegos, M.H. Garcia, M.P. Garcia, Richard Garcia, Gonzales, Kane, Louis, Lundstrom, Madalena, Maestas, R. Martinez, W. Ken Martinez, McCamley, Miera, Pacheco, Rodella, Roybal Caballero, T. Salazar, Smith, Stapleton, Steinborn, Stewart, Thomson, C.A. Trujillo, C.H. Trujillo, J. Trujillo, Varela. Excused: Gray. Absent: Cook, D.M. Gallegos, Hamilton, Harper, Lewis. **SB 194/HB 652:**





Agriculture may not be deemed a nuisance. Died. **HB 187:** *Race Horse Testing Fund and Standards.* Died. **HB 509:** *Horse Racing Definitions and Investigations.* Died. **SB 72:** *Racehorse Testing Standards.* Passed and signed. **SB 274:** *Horse Shelter Rescue Fund (Tax checkoff).* Passed and signed. **SB 459:** *Animal Cruelty Law Training.* Died. **SB 552:** *Livestock Operation Interference Act.* Died.

Horse Legislation, Regulation, other

H.R. 1518, “Prevent all Soring Tactics Act of 2013”, has been introduced by Representative Ed Whitfield. It is intended to strengthen the Horse Protection Act of 1970, and is endorsed by the American Horse Council, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and other major horse groups. However, the United Horsemen group (which promotes the business use of equines including horse processing) points out that Whitfield’s wife is head of White House Initiatives for the Humane Society of the United States, and that this is an HSUS bill. **H.R. 1094/S541**, the “Safeguard American Food Exports Act”, uses the recent ‘horsemeat sold as beef’ in Europe as a slightly different angle to “prohibit the sale or transport of equines or their parts into or out of the United States, by any person who knows or should have known that such equines are to be slaughtered for human consumption.” (According to the USDA Market News, this year 29,795 horses were shipped to Mexico for slaughter through April 18.)

USDA Secretary **Tom Vilsack** has introduced the department’s 2014 Agriculture Appropriations Request, and it proposes to defund inspectors for U.S. horse processing facilities planning to open in **New Mexico** (Valley Meats, Roswell), Missouri, Tennessee, Iowa and Oklahoma. Oklahoma’s bill ending the ban on horse slaughter handily passed both houses of the legislature and was signed last month by governor Mary Fallin. Vilsack says “another option” is needed for unwanted horses. He does not offer an alternative, but suggests horses “might help veterans returning from war or equip prison inmates about to be released with job skills”. And on April 17, HSUS and Front Range Rescue filed notice of intent to sue the USDA if the department does provide the needed plant inspections.

Tim Sappington of Roswell will not be charged for actions seen on a year-old YouTube video showing him euthanizing his horse with a gunshot to the head while cursing “animal rights activists”. He later processed the horse for his own consumption. Horses are livestock under New Mexico law, and owners may kill and butcher their animals for personal use. Many found the video both shocking and offensive, and while Sappington certainly deserves a “boor of the year” award, the horse was calm - and then it was dead.

New Mexico Equine Industry Summit

“Focus on Equine Welfare in New Mexico” was the topic for the third Equine Summit presented by New Mexico State University and the New Mexico Horse Council. Held on March 23 at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, some 85 to 90 invitees represented New Mexico Government Agencies (NMDA, NMLB), County Extension, Horse Organizations, the Cattle Growers, Tribes, NM Racing Commission, veterinarians, Animal Protection of New Mexico, the Bureau of Land Management, and directors of the NM Horse Council. Featured speaker **Cindy Schonholtz**, President of the Animal Welfare Council and Director of Industry Outreach for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, spoke on *Equine Welfare: Separating Fact from Fiction*. Topics included equine stakeholder meetings, tribal “trespass” horses and efforts to control them, industry funded programs in other states, equine welfare in New Mexico horse racing, biosecurity impacts on options for unwanted horses, and a lively panel discussion. As always, sponsors are essential, and we thank the NM Livestock Board, the NM Department of Agriculture, the NM Farm and Livestock Bureau, and the Southwest Border Food Safety & Defense Center, and Hi-Pro Feeds. Dr. Jason Turner, NMSU extension horse specialist and NMHC Vice President, did all the planning and heavy lifting with assistance from Mindy Turner.

NM State Fair 2013 Horse Show Schedule

Sept. 6,7,8: State Fair Hunter/Jumper Shows
September 11: Fair opens. Carriage Driving, Equine Services for Heroes.
 September 12: Donkeys and Mules.
 September 13: Miniature Horses.
 September 14, 15: AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association).





September 16: Paints, Appaloosas.
 September 17: Pintos, Buckskins.
 September 18: All Breed Horse Show.
 September 19: 4-H State Championship Show.
 September 20: Draft Horse Classes and (evening) Draft Horse Pull.
 September 21,22: Arabian, Half Arabian, Morgan, Saddlebred, Hackney. **Fair ends.**

The coordinator has been reaching out to all horse groups to help make these shows successful. When premium books are out (target: early June) look for them at www.exponm.com.

Other Expo News: Barrel racing, hosted by Expo New Mexico on one Thursday evening per month, has been very successful – in spite of ugly weather for the first event. I am informed by Wayne Epstein, who helped organize the series and obtained sponsors, that last month 59 rode in the jackpot (which was \$1880), 120 did exhibition rides, and the sponsors were thrilled. For those spectators hooked on barrel racing, the National Barrel Horse District Finals will be held at Expo April 19-21.

We're waiting for the next State Fair Commission meeting to be announced on the Expo web site. During the previous meeting (January 7), the commissioners felt they should wait until after the legislative session ended March 16. Mission accomplished!

Horse Racing

SunRay Park in Farmington will start the racing season on April 19, running through June 23. They will be racing on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays with post time at 3:00 PM on Fridays and Tuesdays and 12:55 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. For further information phone 505-566-1200 or visit their website at www.sunraygaming.com. – Anna Fay Davis

Ruidoso Downs is the home of the world-famous All American Futurity and will start their racing season on May 24 and run through September 2. They will be racing Friday through Monday with post time at 1:00 PM. For further information phone (575) 378-4431 or visit their website at www.ruidownsracing.com. Anna Fay Davis

Mine That Bird, owned by Dr. Leonard Blach and Mark Allen, was the stunning longshot winner of the 2009 Kentucky Derby under jockey Calvin

Borel. Since retirement, the gelding has lived at Allen's Double Eagle Ranch in Roswell, but the owners have hauled him to Kentucky to stay at the Kentucky Derby Museum through the end of the Churchill Downs spring meet. Blach, Allen and trainer Chip Woolley think the horse is a great fit for the museum – the horse likes the museum's miniature horse Winston, and has always loved posing for visitors. Museum executive director had longed for a Derby winner to display, but must leave for careers at stud. Said Blach (NMHC lifetime member) "I know the people will enjoy him. He's a real people horse".

Horse Related...

When musician **Dave Brubeck** died, much was written about his career spanning all American jazz since World War II and his innovative and exotic tempos merging classical influences with a new, adventurous sound. But Brubeck himself was fascinated by the rhythms of everyday life.

In a discussion with biographer Doug Ramsey, he recalled working as a boy on cattle drives on a ranch managed by his father. He said the first time he heard polyrhythms – the use of two rhythms at the same time – was on horseback. "The gait was usually a fast walk, maybe a trot, and I would sing against the constant gait of the horse....there was nothing to do all day but ride and think, and I'd improvise melodies and rhythms."

Horse Around New Mexico is a new magazine created and published by Karen Lehmann. It's free and distributed in feed stores and some other places; the first issue, March 2013, is out. We wish her the very best! We all want that horse news, but it's difficult to break even – especially at first. www.horsearoundnm.com can reach her.

"Cowboys Real and Imagined" opened April 14 at the Natural History Museum in Santa Fe. Augmented by archival footage, oral histories, music, artifacts and screenings of classic westerns filmed in New Mexico, the exhibit covers the period from 1598, when Don Juan de Onate brought the Spanish horse culture to the territory, to the present day. Did you know Tom Mix performed in more than a hundred western movies filmed in Las Vegas, New Mexico? The exhibit will run through mid-March 2014.





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Please thank these members if you see them! We certainly do....shop for a trailer, a horse, have it trained (you can appraise it too!), a clinic, a barn or shed, or flowers....join a club, go on a trail ride, participate in a show, help a horse rescue. Don't forget to get your horse passports from the Livestock Board! And if you haven't joined NMHC in 2013, it is *not* too late. Membership forms are on the website, and we have PayPal too.





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Can't care for your horse? What can you do?

Are you a horse owner who can't afford to feed and care for your horse? A conservative estimate of the monthly cost is more than \$100 per horse for food alone – not counting veterinary and farrier (shoer) bills. You simply don't have it, and the horse can be expected to live – and require food and care – until about age 30.

What are your options?

- **Sell the horse to a willing buyer.** There is still a strong market for the top horses – those that are high quality, sound, athletic, and trained, with years of usefulness ahead of them. Otherwise, particularly if the horse is aged or unsound, your chances are not good. There are a lot of those, and transportation more than a few miles away may be prohibitive.. You may not even be able to give the horse away.
- **Donate the horse to a charity** such as a therapeutic riding group, police department, equine college or university. They are unlikely to be interested in a horse that is of no value to a private buyer.
- **Send the horse to an equine rescue** or retirement facility. These are overfilled, underfunded, and at least in New Mexico, being pressured to take (without compensation) additional horses seized by the Livestock Board or local authorities.
- **Turn it out on public land** to fend for itself. This is illegal. Competition with other animals is severe, making chances of survival poor, and death by injury, disease or starvation is not what anyone wants.
- **Keep it and let it starve.** This is illegal animal abuse. Temporary, short-term assistance may be available from www.equineprotectionfund.org.
- **Care for it at the expense of your family.** This is illegal domestic abuse.
- **Have the horse humanely euthanized¹.** Done legally (by a veterinarian with proper disposal of the carcass by rendering or at a landfill) this will cost several hundred dollars. Some authorities hold that it is illegal animal abuse if the horse is healthy.
- **Send it to an auction.** In most cases, this means that the horse will be sold on for **slaughter²**. Because there are currently no legal slaughter facilities in the United States, horses destined for slaughter must be shipped to Mexico or Canada. Neither the transport nor the slaughter can be assured to be humane.

You aren't alone. There are thousands of horse owners currently in this situation. There are also many apparently ownerless horses on public and tribal lands. The numbers are reported to be in the tens of thousands, and a census would cost at least a million dollars. This amount of money might be better spent in other ways.

What's the answer?

- **Reduce the number of horses born.** This is a viable long-term strategy, and NMHC supports and contributes to Operation Gelding, but the effect won't be seen for years. Reputable breeders of all the major registered equine breeds in the United States have already cut their production dramatically, but casual or accidental breeding continues mostly unchecked.
- **Increase funding for equine rescues.** A positive option, and the tax refund check off program can help but will deal with only a small fraction of the problem. \$30,000 would feed the current population at equine rescues for less than one month.
- **Allow domestic horse slaughter.** Nobody would be forced to send a horse to slaughter, and the processing plants would be inspected and regulated by the USDA.
- **Pray for a miracle,** or at least for the revelation of an alternative that no one else has seen.
- **Ignore the laws and the math,** and allow things to continue as they are now.

There is no solution that will satisfy all parties, and a requirement to do so would make the problem insoluble. The options actually available may be repugnant to many, but we are dealing with living, breathing, eating creatures, and **we can't just "do nothing"**.

1. **Euthanasia** – defined by Webster as painless killing to relieve suffering; the act or practice of killing an animal that has an incurable illness or injury. Note: almost no part is usable for another purpose.

2. **Slaughter** – defined by Webster as the killing of animals for their meat and other products. Note: almost all parts are usable.



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