



New Mexico Horse Council
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Winter 2013/ 2014
The Year of the Horse

"One of my favorite mounts was a big chestnut Missouri mule named Edith. She stood eighteen hands high and weighed more than eighteen hundred pounds. (Several paragraphs describe Greer's developing relationship with a smart, honest, talented but quirky animal.).....A second storm was due in a matter of hours, and a dentist from Arizona had been missing all night.....I knew that finding the guy was a long shot, but with Edith I had a chance. There was about three feet of snow on the ground, and the next storm was supposed to be worse than the first one....No horse would have made it in snow that deep and country that rough. Even a mule will only move until snow reaches the shoulders, but all those years logging had given Edith tremendous muscular development.....On the trail, a mule's like a bloodhound, and as soon as Edith figured out what we were doing, there was no holding her. Finally I saw something on the hill ahead of us – just a dark speck on the skyline against the snow – and then it was gone. Edith saw him too, and really turned it on....there he was, lying in the snow. Suddenly he jumped up and yelled, scaring the hell out of both me and Edith.....Finally I got the guy up behind me and we headed out. Edith never liked to carry double, but after the half-hour wait, she was too stiff and tired to fight about it." Riding West: An Outfitter's Life, by Jim Greer with Charles Miller. University Press of Colorado, 1999.

Calendar

December 14: NMHC Annual Meeting, dinner, Awards, Election of Board Members. Vista Hermosa Farm (Steve and Penny Komadina), Corrales. See summary of meeting, awards, election of Directors.

Happy New Year!

January: No NMHC Board meeting.

January 21, Noon: NM 2014 Legislative Session begins. This "short" session in even numbered years ends February 20 at high noon.

February 11: NMHC Board meeting and Retreat in Santa Fe, preceded by lobbying. 6:00 PM: AgFest, Santa Fe Convention Center, with NMHC booth.

March 3: NMHC Board of Directors meeting (electronic), 7 PM.

May 5: Winning ticket drawn for Curtis Fort Sculpture "Night Horse", place TBA.

June 22-25: American Horse Council Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum, Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC.

The Year of the Horse

The Chinese Zodiac has a twelve year cycle, with each year named after an animal. There are also five elements (wood, metal, fire, water and earth) that interact with the animals – so the year of the water snake



Chinese New Year 2014 The Year of Horse

has ended and the year of the wooden horse (with the color blue, green or turquoise) has begun. The horse is a social animal who likes to show himself off. He also likes to travel, and quickly. He can be stubborn, so we may find people who hold fast to their principles and are unwilling to compromise. In China, the horse is connected to speedy success and is a symbol of traveling, competition and victory. Hmm – could that mean participating in horse shows, going on trail rides, having busy schedules and achieving your goals? In other words, being sure to enjoy your equine friend?



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We Love A Parade

The US Marine Corps Toys for Tots parade, aka **Christmas de Caballos**, is an all equestrian event held annually in Corrales. This year it was produced by NMHC member **C.H.A.M.P.**, the **Corrales Horse and Mule People**, and they asked me to be Grand Marshal. In spite of unfortunate and uncharacteristic weather (and even nastier predictions that kept many at home) it was lots of fun, people collected lots of toys, and all the horses and other equines, whether ridden or driven, behaved beautifully.

It was a nice lead-in to the **Tournament of Roses** parade on New Year’s Day. (Should you watch that on TV and have cable, tune to HGTV, the house and garden channel; you learn more than you want to know about flowers and seeds, but they don’t switch automatically to commercials when they hear hooves clopping.) The parade originated with the **Valley Hunt Club** in 1890. In an effort to promote the “Mediterranean of the West”, they created a program of chariot racing, polo, jousting and other events, inviting all their friends enjoying winter in other parts of the country. Since there was an abundance of fresh flowers available, they decorated their carriages with hundreds of blooms for a parade before the games. The 2014 parade featured 16 equestrian units, from the Budweiser Clydesdales to the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry of Berthoud, Colorado. The All American Cowgirl Chicks were all mounted on “rescue or former rogue” horses, and some were roman riding. Mounted police,

drill teams, Medieval Times, the War Horse Foundation, and the Martinez family ropers all enjoyed the gorgeous day. The Valley Hunt Club members drove Friesians, and we especially enjoyed the pinto Saddlebreds of Scripps Miramar ranch, driven by Michele Macfarlane three abreast in front of a circus wagon. Those of us who have been associated with the New Mexico State Fair since the old, great, horse show days will remember Michele arriving during Saddlebred and Arabian weekend and needing fifty stalls for the Scripps Miramar horses and their stuff.

One more note about horses: Bill de Blasio was elected New York City mayor before I saw that he intended to ban carriage horses from Central Park due to the “inhumane treatment of these animals”. He insists there will be no job losses; the carriage drivers will all pilot antique cars, and the horses will be sent to a farm upstate. A recent poll of New York City residents shows that 60% oppose the ban. Our carriage ride in Central Park on our honeymoon certainly was lovely.



Horses in the Movies, Museums, on Stage and in Art Galleries

50 To 1.

Where were you when you *didn’t* place a bet on **Mine That Bird** in the 2009 Kentucky Derby? You watched him zoom up the rail, same color as all the others (mud), heard the announcer struggling with his name, and found he was from New Mexico! He won at odds of 50 to one (understandable, except in hindsight). What a story! They should make a movie!

There is an invitation-only world premiere on **March 19** at the historic KiMo Theater in Albuquerque. Now retired in Roswell, Mine That Bird has been invited and will attend.

Beginning **March 21**, the movie will be shown in Albuquerque at Rio 24, Cottonwood, High Ridge, and Winrock. You will also be able to catch it in Santa Fe (Icon, Galaxy 8, Stadium 14); Rio Rancho (Premiere); Alamogordo (Avatar); Carlsbad (Mall); Clayton (Luna); Clovis (North Plains); Farmington





(Animas); Gallup (Red Rock); Hobbs (Eagle 7); Las Cruces (Cineport) and Ruidoso (Sierra Cinema).

Madelyn Millard of Lexington, chair of the Coalition of State Horse Councils and my fellow CSHC officer, reminds us that the colt was born in Kentucky in May, 2006. He began racing in Canada and won four of six starts, being named the Canadian Champion 2 year old Male Horse. He was then purchased by Buena Suerte Equine, finishing last of twelve in the Breeders Cup Juvenile in 2008 with trainer Richard Mandella.

The movie press release says his career “slumped” but perhaps he was growing up? Under new trainer Chip Woolley as a three year old he finished second in the Borderland Derby and fourth in the Sunland Derby, thus accumulating enough in earnings to be eligible for the Kentucky Derby.

One of his owners is Dr. Leonard Blach (Buena Suerte Equine), long time member of the Council and winner of our annual Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. He will travel up from Roswell with the gelding, and is looking forward to seeing his character as portrayed by William Devane (*Family Plot, Marathon Man, The Missiles of October*). Devane is an avid polo player. **50 to 1** is directed and produced by Jim Wilson, who also produced *Dances With Wolves*, winner of the Best Picture Academy Award. And the inimitable Calvin Borel, the Bird’s jockey in the Derby, plays himself. Several horses played Mine That Bird; Dr. Blach says one was “really like” him.

Arte en la Charrería: The Artisanry of Mexican Equestrian Culture

The Albuquerque Museum of Art and History (2000 Mountain Road NW, hours 9AM to 5PM Tuesdays through Sundays) is celebrating the elegance of the Mexican charro (cowboy) culture with an exhibit open through March 30. From a charro’s semi-gala suit, through a gala saddle and embroidered headstall, to charra (cowgirl) dresses, the origin of equestrian culture from Mexico back to Spain are celebrated. The charreada, or Mexican rodeo, originated as a sport competition; now it features roping and riding tricks and choreographed drill teams. An

estimated 900 equestrian societies have family members who sponsor charreada teams in competition. This exhibit, according to the Museum’s history coordinator Deb Slaney, not only honors the charros and charras but the artisans who created the magnificent costumes, saddles and tack, rebozos and serapes. Admission is \$4 for adults, with a \$1 discount for NM residents with photo ID, \$2 senior and \$1 for children aged 4-12. On March 20 (first day of spring!), Albuquerque custom bootmaker Deana McGuffin will give a demonstration – and there will be mariachi music as well.

History, Heroes and Horsemen

If you leave New Mexico and travel to Texas, the newest exhibit at the AQHA Hall of Fame and Museum in Amarillo is **“Buffalo Soldier: An American Horseman”**. The Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments of African-American cavalrymen and their equine partners served beginning in 1866 to “protect settlers moving west, build infrastructure, catch cattle thieves, escort stagecoaches, protect river crossings, guard supply wagons” and many other duties. See exhibit information at www.aqha.com.

War Horse (The Play)

The basis of the Steven Spielberg film of the same name, the play **War Horse** is still touring the US following its five Tony awards in 2011. Using magnificent horse puppets alongside the human actors, the story describes a boy’s love for his horse and their experiences when separated in World War 1. It can be seen at Popejoy Hall in Albuquerque (www.popejoypresents.com) from April 29 to May 4.

Spirit of the Horse

But that’s not all. Nance McManus, one of the many artists who are members of NMHC (and she competes her ranch horse at the national level) tells us that the **New Mexico Art League** will celebrate the Year of the Horse with the **Spirit Of The Horse**” from March 25 – April 14 with a lively reception on March 30, 11 AM to 5 PM. “Proceeds from the sale of select works of art will benefit New Mexico Horse Rescue at Walkin ‘N Circles Ranch. Exhibit location is 3409 Juan Tabo





Boulevard NE in Albuquerque; hours 10-4, Tue., Wed., Fri., Sat. www.newmexicoartleague.org.

March 2014 National Geographic

This issue has a terrific article called **People Of The Horse**, about the relationships of Native Americans and their historic equine companions. Besides actually finding it on the newsstands or in the library, digital subscriptions are available for your Kindle Fire, Nook, iPhone or iPad. Go to www.nationalgeographic.com/magazines/

It's Not the Upkeep

Remember when your parents used to squash your horse craving with "it's not the cost, it's the upkeep"? Here's a gorgeous creature that can live in the house, doesn't need the vet, the farrier, the hay guy, the truck and trailer guy, new tack – and he is so quiet! You might dust him once in a while, but you don't need to pick up after him every day. He loves coffee tables!

The cowboy's night horse was tethered close to the bedroll, saddled and with the bridle hung over the saddle horn. It was the quick start vehicle if you needed to check out a problem with the cattle herd.

You have an excellent chance to win this fine horse, because none of us is a good salesman and there are tickets left. We'll deliver him to your home in the US; his big crate is ready! This will fund various Horse Council projects, since we are totally supported by dues and fundraisers.

If you are the lucky winner and wish to personalize your bronze, for a small additional fee the sculptor, Curtis Fort, will add your own brand. New Mexico is a brand state, after all.



NMHC Annual Meeting and Awards

Vista Hermosa Farm in Corrales, the home of Dr. Steve and Penny Komadina, was the site of the NMHC Annual Meeting, election of directors, and awards. It was certainly the largest group ever attending the Annual Meeting (like all NMHC meetings, it was open to all) and we enjoyed a lavish potluck New Mexican dinner.

President Rusty Cook began the business meeting with a review of NMHC activities. Ron Morris reported on the State Fair and the NMHC booth; Kristin Darnell-Kreger spoke of Project Gelding. Steve Komadina showed off the bronze sculpture and described the fundraising efforts. Val Cole gave the membership report and welcomed new lifetime members. Jackie Bouker reviewed equestrian participation to preserve trails in New Mexico. John and Cat Parks summarized the success of a new group, the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition, which formed in November to oppose alarming regulations proposed by an uneducated public. The Coalition not only advocates for the horse and horse ownership, but strives to educate the entire community.

Election: members of the Board of Directors. Fifteen members serve three year terms, with five up for election every year. Elected for three year terms beginning in 2014:

- Alex Falter**, Albuquerque.
 - Dacodah Herkenhoff**, San Acacia.
 - Ron Morris**, Belen.
 - Cat Parks**, Lamy.
 - John Parks**, Lamy.
- Elected to the single year remaining when a director resigned:
- Bon Bagley**, Corrales.

We then proceeded to the Awards of **Certificates of Appreciation**. NMHC must receive reasons and nominations; neither the nominator nor the nominee need be members, but must be New Mexicans. Everyone obviously deserves a Certificate, but not everyone is nominated.

- **Senator Mary Kay Papan**. For leadership in passing legislation improving NM Horse Racing.
- **Representative Paul Bandy**. For establishing the first NM Horse Council day during the 2013 legislative session.

New Mexico Horse Council Benefit Raffle

WIN "Night Horse", a beautiful bronze Curtis Fort sculpture! SUPPORT New Mexico Horse Council Projects! 13 3/4" H x 14" W x 5 3/4" D. Only 384 tickets will be sold. Drawing held May 5, 2014. Horse will be delivered to your home.

Tickets \$20.00 each from NMHC Directors, phone 505-345-8959, or nmhc@swcp.com. Value \$2,500.





- **Steve Komadina.** Organizing the 2013 legislative day; managing the 2013 fundraiser; hosting the NMHC Annual Meeting.
- **NMDA Secretary Jeff Witte.** Organizing stakeholder meetings on NM Equine Welfare.
- **Myles Culbertson.** Directing NM Livestock Board efforts to resolve NM equine welfare issues.
- **Ray Baca, Shawn Davis, Troy Patterson, Bill Sauble, and the Field Staff of the NM Livestock Board,** for work on equine welfare.
- **Dave Fly, DVM.** As State Veterinarian, promoting close ties with horse owners statewide through the New Mexico Horse Council.
- **Foundation for the Pure Spanish Horse.** When need was recognized to produce Equine Liability Signs in Spanish, providing an immediate and accurate translation.
- **Mindy Turner.** The coordinator and force behind the scenes to ensure the success of the 2013 NMHC/NM State University Equine Summit.
- **Katie Clark.** For meetings and outreach to horse organizations prior to, and coordination during the 2013 New Mexico State Fair.
- **Ron Morris.** Managing the 2013 State Fair Booth planning, coordinating the outreach program.
- **Melanie Scholer.** For many years of effort promoting and managing entertaining horse events such as the Ditch Pony Promenade, Lefty Converse show for senior horses and riders, and the Caballo de Corrales Toys for Tots parade.
- **Kathy Falter.** Managing federal tax issues for both the NM Horse Council and the NM Horse Council Foundation.
- **Jackie Bouker.** For ongoing work with state and local government and trails interest groups to preserve equestrian trail access in NM.
- **Kristin Darnell-Kreger.** For work including data gathering, surveys, establishing contacts with veterinarians, horse owners and land managers, promoting the continued success of Project Gelding.
- **New Mexico Horse Rescue at Walkin 'N Circles Ranch.** For innovative and successful efforts to

retrain and place horses through the “Wild and Mild Rescues” trainer challenge.

★ **Lifetime Achievement Award** ★

Ruth Dismuke Blakely.

“Ruth was in on the ground floor of the American Quarter Horse Association and of the New Mexico Quarter Horse Association through her father Bill Dismuke and grandfather Leon Harms, and carries forward their hard work and dedication. Her enthusiasm for the American Quarter Horse is contagious. She founded Skyline Therapy Services, striving to improve the lives of children through individualized therapy with horses. Ruth has served as NMQHA President, Youth Advisor and Board member, and she initiated a saddle donor program to increase show participation. She is a director of AQHA, member and past Director of the American Hippotherapy Association, and works with the AQHA Foundation Council on Equine Assisted Activities and Treatment.”

Dr. Leroy Martinez is named New Mexico State Veterinarian

With the retirement of Dr. Dave Fly, the NM Livestock Board instituted a nationwide search for a replacement. Eventually, they selected Dr. Leroy A. Martinez of Canjilon, in northern New Mexico. Dr. Martinez graduated from Colorado State University in 1981, worked as a veterinarian in the Farmington area for ten years, and also spent a year with the Racing Commission as a track veterinarian for San Juan Downs. In Caniljon, in addition to breeding Angus cattle he has established and operated his own Rincon Blanco Veterinary Clinic, a large and small animal practice with many Spanish speaking clients. Ray Baca, Executive Director of the NMLB with over ten years in the agency, is also bilingual, and operates a ranch in San Miguel County.

Both Martinez and Baca cite the necessity of good working relationships with neighboring states, including states in Mexico.

Among other things, the Livestock Board is responsible for inspecting and certifying Horse





Rescues in New Mexico. (Any rescue not listed on their site, www.nmlbonline.com, is not legally allowed to solicit donations to assist in animal care.) Check before you send a check.

We are very grateful for all the help from Dr. Dave Fly on the Horse Council's Project Gelding, as we provided gelding vouchers to assist owners in need with the expense of gelding their colts. And we truly appreciated Dr. Fly's timely communications with NMHC on disease outbreaks, biosecurity, and other equine issues. At meetings of the Coalition of State Horse Councils, we found ourselves the envy of other states with our level of communication with the Livestock Board and State Veterinarian, and look forward to meeting and working with Dr. Martinez.

2014 New Mexico Legislative Session

Since the thirty day session in even numbered years is supposed to concentrate on the annual budget and the governor's call, few bills are proposed and fewer still proceed successfully through committees, revisions, and the full House and Senate to the governor's desk for signature.

These bills died at the end of the session:

SB 196: Long Term State Fair Solvency (Keller)

Created an office of the State Fair, attaching it to the tourism department.

SB 238: Four Corners Horse Disposition (Munoz)

appropriated \$500,000 to the Horse Shelter Fund but limited it to horses in the Four Corners area.

HB 120: Add Horses to Animal Cruelty Laws (Liz Thomson).

More accurately, it removed horses, unless intended for food, from the livestock exemption in animal cruelty laws.

Its companion bill, **HB121** (also Thomson),

Prohibits slaughter of horses for human consumption. We have not seen the last of this attempt to redefine horses as pets or companion animals rather than livestock.

This bill passed the Senate 41/0, the House 67/0 and was sent to the Governor: HB 51 (Herrell)

[SB 229 (Griego), the identical bill in the Senate, was withdrawn]: **Right to Farm Nuisance**



Changes. Prevents an agricultural operation from being declared a nuisance.

www.nmlegis.gov is the source for information about the legislature. All 70 members of the House of Representatives are up for election on November 4, 2014, along with state executives. However, over 10% of our Representatives (To date: Donald Bratton, R-Hobbs; Ernest Chavez, D-Albuquerque; Kiki Saavedra, D-Albuquerque; Nate Cote, D-Organ; Rick Miera, D-Albuquerque; Tom Taylor, R-Farmington; Bill Gray, R-Artesia; Ed Sandoval, D-Albuquerque and Anna Crook, R-Clovis) have announced they will not run for re-election in November.

Legislators also have the power to confirm (or not) the governor's appointees. During this session, they confirmed State Fair Commission members Bill Lee of Gallup and Charles Brown of Albuquerque, but not Larry Kennedy, who has been Commission Chairman for a year.

NMHC February Board Meeting Lobby Day and AgFest

Several Board members traveled to Santa Fe on February 11 to lobby our own legislators, gather for the annual Board retreat, and hold a regular Board of Directors meeting and elections. (The membership elects directors; at the first Board meeting following the Annual Meeting, directors elect their officers for the ensuing year.) Thanks to NMHC director Steve Komadina, formerly a state Senator, we were able to meet in a room in the Capitol building. And thanks also to Senator Mary Kay Papen and Representative Paul Bandy, who spoke about the NM Horse Council as the sessions began, and also introduced NMHC officers to the House and Senate.

Komadina supports increased lobbying by the Council at the state level (the American Horse Council is concerned with federal legislation and regulation) and his committee watched several bills this session, but expects to be busier in 2015.

Election of 2014 Officers:

President: **Ron Morris** Vice President: **John Parks**
Secretary: **Val Cole** Treasurer: **Alex Falter**





Note: With the resignation of Board member Oscar Simpson, there is a vacancy. Under current ByLaws, the President will appoint a replacement.

Rusty Cook (Past President) and Jason Turner (Past Vice President) were thanked for their many years of service and agreed to remain active with Board projects.

Major Projects in 2014:

- Helping to produce **First Responder Training in Large Animal Rescue**. (Director Bon Bagley, and C.H.A.M.P.)
- Continuing **ByLaws revisions** (Turner, Komadina). Proposed revisions have been distributed for Board review. Later, they will be presented to the general membership.
- **Expo New Mexico State Fair Horse Shows and NMHC Booth** (Morris heads this committee). Ron solicited comment on 2013 experiences at the horse shows from exhibitors and others; we have heard that many long-time (over 20 years) horse show participants say it is unlikely they will show in 2014. Send comments to Ron Morris, lhrramorris@juno.com. Morris meets often with Expo staff, urging early final schedules, expedited entries, stall assignments, parking.
- **Project Gelding**. (Darnell-Kreger). The voucher program will continue, with criteria to determine eligibility and with the assistance of NM veterinarians. However, unlike other states' programs, gelding operations are not limited to one location, one day in a year.
- **Fundraiser**. (Komadina). The Curtis Fort sculpture continues to travel; tickets are being sold through our website, via NMHC telephone, and Facebook. Drawing May 5.
- **Adding Value to NMHC membership**. (John and Cat Parks, Turner). Since NMHC is a State Horse Council member of the American Horse Council, NMHC members are eligible for the AHC Advantage Plan. However, committee members will move ahead on an *NMHC Partner Alliance* to solicit discounts across New Mexico that would help both our members and the merchants, and continue uniting the equine community.



- **Website, Facebook to "put NMHC forward"**. (Cook, Seybold-Smythe). Suggestions include horse of the month, horseman of the month, director profile; membership survey. Advocate "kids day" at State Fair. Develop a list of speakers and topics to offer to clubs. Keep horses defined as livestock.
- **(2015) Legislator bus trip**. (Komadina, et al). Similar to the Cattle Growers' "Gate to Plate", this will acquaint NM legislators with different aspects of the horse industry. Komadina had a ballpark budget and destination suggestions; was instructed to move ahead with planning.
- **Deferred**: NMHC had intended a follow-up postcard survey on member attitudes to the option of humane horse slaughter (with a 68% return, 93+% of our members in the previous survey supported the need for the option).

However, in Washington **both the Senate and the House passed, and the President signed, the Consolidated Appropriations Act on January 17, 2014. It did not include funding of USDA inspectors required for the operation of any US horse processing plants.**

This budget covers only the 2014 fiscal year, through September 30, unless amended. In 2014, through Feb. 18, 12,286 horses destined for slaughter have been transported to Mexico.

AgFest. Following the Board meeting, directors traveled the short distance to the Santa Fe Convention Center for the NM Farm and Livestock Bureau event. It showcases the state's agricultural enterprises and the various programs of NM State University. Horses are agricultural, so this is an excellent fit for NMHC. Our membership outreach booth distributed brochures, spoke about options for the unwanted horse, and clarified many aspects of horse ownership. We also showed the Curtis Fort "Night Horse" bronze, which is being raffled for our fundraiser. Other booths offered lamb, beef, pecans, cheese, chili and other wonderful New Mexico agricultural products; we handed out lots of chocolate hearts. Many legislators and staff members attended and visited our booth with questions. Or for the chocolate.





Expo New Mexico

Expo New Mexico is the “home of the New Mexico State Fair” and the entity that manages the 200 plus acre property located in Albuquerque between Central Avenue on the south, Lomas on the north, Louisiana Blvd. on the east and San Pedro on the west. It is also the location of the Downs at Albuquerque racetrack and casino.

Immediately following the election of Governor Susana Martinez, the NM Horse Council Board sent a letter requesting that a professional livestock event manager be hired, citing a long decline in horse and livestock shows during the past dozen or so managers, all political appointees. She chose to go a different way. In the horse show area, despite an encouraging meeting with exhibitors soliciting criticism and suggestions for improvement, State Fair horse shows continued to decline in numbers and also the percentage of satisfied participants. Additionally, the State Fair Commissioners had always been accessible through regular scheduled meetings. Noting that they were meeting statutory requirements, Commissioners met only once in 2013, on January 7.

Expo New Mexico is an Enterprise Agency and must generate all its own funds for operations, staffing and maintenance. Funding has always been a problem, and dissatisfaction is growing. “New Mexico deserves more than a marginal Fairgrounds”, editorialized the Albuquerque Journal in January. And the perception of irregularities in the awarding of the 25 year lease to the Downs at Albuquerque racetrack continues to cause concern. “You could make a good argument that the Republican administration’s process of issuing the lease was politically tone-deaf, rushed, clumsy and poorly managed”, said Thom Cole of the Journal. However, Expo management insists it followed all the rules.

NMHC Board members Rusty Cook, Ron Morris and Bon Bagley attended the January 6 State Fair Commission meeting, and Cook submitted this report:

“The Commission met at 10 AM at the African American Performing Arts Center on the NM State Fairgrounds. New Commissioners Xavier Jurado (Las Cruces) and Bill Lee (Gallup) were introduced. Returning Commissioners are Larry Kennedy (Albuquerque), elected Chair; David “Hossie” Sanchez (Albuquerque), elected Secretary-Treasurer; Matt Rush* (Las Cruces); Kenneth “Twister” Smith (Caballo) and Charles “Chuck” Brown (Albuquerque). [**Note: Matt Rush has since resigned from the Commission.*]

General Manager Dan Mourning and Operations Manager Ken Salazar reported the troublesome storm water drainage system is now complete and meets all EPA requirements, receiving a gold star for compliance. In other actions,

- The Commission named the Natural Resources Building in honor of Bob Gerding.
- Twister Smith was reappointed Chair of the Livestock Committee, and Chuck Brown will work on getting APS children to visit the Fair.
- There were no other committee reports.
- CFO Bill Nordin reported that audited financial reports for 2012 and 2013 will be released shortly. The financial position has improved; the Fair has been profitable for the past two years. 2013 State Fair attendance was down 4%, perhaps due to heavy rain. The Downs of Albuquerque rent increases in 2014 from \$2 million to \$2.75 million, and that will be the annual lease amount for the 22 years remaining on the contract.

The 2014 Fair dates are **September 10-21**. Rodeo dates are Sept. 15-20 and entertainment Sept. 17-20.

The Commission will meet quarterly in 2014. Future dates are **April 7, July 7 and October 6**.

Five people spoke during public comment period, all complaining about unfair judging, and insufficient entry numbers, particularly in the junior livestock shows. There needs to be a concentrated effort to solve these problems.”

NMHC Foundation

The NMHC Foundation will offer its annual \$500 scholarship in 2014. Deadline for the application is **April 4, 2014**, so the winner can be announced





prior to high school graduation. Visit the NMHC website www.nmhorsecouncil.org for forms.

Horse Trailer license

In the previous NMHC newsletter, we reviewed the current NM law regarding licensing horse trailers. There is some “wobble room” in definitions, and in enforcement. However, Morey Liebling of **Sandia Trailer Sales**, a longtime member, has offered two compelling reasons for completing the procedure: (1) you can’t sell it without a proper title and paperwork; and (2) should the trailer be stolen, law enforcement hasn’t a chance of recovery and return without proof of ownership.

Land Use and Trails

New Mexico has an active riding community using and advocating for equestrian trails in the national forests, BLM lands, rural and even semi-urban communities. **Albuquerque**, the largest city, has recently distributed “Let’s All Share: A Guide to Trail Etiquette”, containing material provided by NMHC. There are seven active chapters of the **Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico** enjoying and monitoring the “back country”, and listed in our brochure “Equestrians and Multiple Use Trails: Design Guidelines and Recommendations”. **AMAFCA**, the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, welcomes riders and other users on its trails – although it insists on a 36” distance between bollards and boulders preventing motorized traffic. The **Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District** welcomes non-motorized recreational use, and has installed “log walkover” barricades next to many of its gates. Some **US Forest Service** managers have been very accommodating about equestrians, although their budgets for trail construction and maintenance are nearly nonexistent.

NMHC has filed comments on these four:

The **Rio Grande del Norte National Monument**, some 242,000 acres near Questa and Taos, was created last year. Until **March 6**, BLM is soliciting public comment on concerns that should be considered as a management plan is created. Mail comments to Shasta Ferranto, 226 Cruz Alta



Road, Taos, NM 87571; fax to 575-758-1620 or email blm_nm_tafo_comments@blm.gov.

In a recent survey, a majority of New Mexicans want to see management of the 89,000 acre **Valles Caldera National Preserve** turned over to the National Park Service. Hikers, cross country skiers, fishermen, riders and bird watchers enjoy the ancient volcanic landscape, forests and mountain streams. Over 65% of those polled felt that the NPS would improve public access and run the preserve better than the current manager, the Valles Caldera Trust.

Following some heavily attended and “raucous” meetings last fall on proposed “improvements” in the Rio Grande Valley bosque, the focus is now on data gathering about current conditions. **ABQ The Plan: Rio Grande Vision** can be found on the Albuquerque City website www.cabq.gov.

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (formerly Price’s Dairy in Albuquerque’s South Valley) is now holding monthly open houses and tours. See at www.fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro/.

NMHC Membership: To Do

We belong to and support the **American Horse Council** (www.horsecouncil.org), in Washington, D.C. and its committee, the **Coalition of State Horse Councils**. We have:

- **New Mexico Equine Liability Act Signs:** In English, 16 x 20 metal; in Spanish, 12 x 18 plastic. Each is \$16.00 plus shipping.

Brochures:

- **New Mexico Horse Care**
- **Equestrians and Multiple Use Trails.**
- **Equestrian Awareness** (partner: NMDOT).
- **Are You Ready to Own a Horse** (bilingual): **¿Estás preparado para ser Dueño de un Caballo?.**
- **Criminal Consequences of Equine Neglect and Abuse in New Mexico** (bilingual): **Consecuencias Criminales resultante al Abandon y Abuso Equino en Nuevo Mexico.**

Flyers:

- **“Can’t Care For Your Horse: Options”**
- **“What is the NMHC and What Does it Do?”**
- **“NMHC: About Project Gelding”**

Please join – and help spread the word.





NEW MEXICO HORSE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, NM 87184

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

Dues Invoice 2014

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, Organization Dues: \$30.00 per calendar year _____

Commercial Dues: \$30.00 per calendar year _____

Individual Dues: \$20.00 per calendar year _____

Lifetime Individual: one-time, \$200.00 _____

Curtis Fort Sculpture Raffle ticket, \$20.00 each _____

Donation (any amount welcome): _____

Preference? Project Gelding, NMHC Foundation, Outreach, Unrestricted?

Total Enclosed: _____

(Using PayPal? Go to www.nmhorsecouncil.org and follow directions.)

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

As time and finances permit, NMHC projects can include: (contact us if you would like to participate)

Project 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

Send 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.

