



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



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LATE FALL & HOLIDAY 2015

“Then he pointed at me again and said, ‘So that means you’re taking the first fall, kid.’ I knew from what Steve Deets had told me that this was not good news: the first one to fall has to lie there and play dead while the rest of the horses run by him. ‘You got to quit rolling as quick as you can,’ Steve had said to me. ‘It’s easier for a horse to keep from kicking you if you’re not moving. If you stand up before all the others have come through, you’re liable to get run over.’

We walked back to where the rest of the riders were waiting, and as soon as we were mounted up, Cab called for action. The whole bunch of us, fifteen or twenty, went galloping across that field like lives were at stake, pretending to shoot our fake guns back over our shoulders. I was at my mark so fast I didn’t have time to get worked up about it, I just bailed off like I’d been shot, smacked the ground hard with my arms tucked into a hedgehog roll the way I’d been coached, and then lay on the ground like a corpse while all the hooves went flying by me and over me like a rain of damp clods.

When the whistle finally blew, I wobbled to my feet, and I was standing there half-dazed when Steve walked up to me. ‘You’re getting the hang of it,’ he said.” Falling From Horses, Molly Gloss, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2014.

Calendar

Wednesday December 16: Please have your RSVP’s to Jessica Smith, jasmith@nmsu.edu by the 16th. You can bring your dinner money to the Annual Meeting. If you leave a message on the NMHC phone, 505-345-8959, it will be given to her as well.

Saturday, December 19, 6:00 PM: New Mexico Horse Council Annual Meeting and dinner, awards, elections, vote on Bylaws revision. Dr. Steve and Penny Komadina residence, 475 Corrales del Norte in Corrales. It’s just a tad more than six miles north of the Alameda Road/Corrales Road intersection to the right turn off Corrales Road on to Corrales del Norte, then ahead to the parked cars on the left. 505-328-4696 if you need help.

Our hosts are catering in a barbeque dinner for \$15.00 per person, payable at the door if necessary. You can also pay dues, buy liability signs, and win a door prize. The agenda should be on the website soon.

All are welcome, members or not, but only members may vote for directors, the Bylaws

revision, or other matters. We will present a “Lifetime Achievement Award”. It’s usually an open secret, but one of our member groups has already found out and published it, so – it will be given to Max Evans. Certificates of Appreciation will also be awarded. Check the website for more. All current members received the proposed Bylaws with their meeting notice.



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Thank you Joyce Fay! for allowing us to use the gorgeous horse on the front page for our “NMHC” and “New Mexico Horse Care” brochures.

We asked Corrales photographer and author Joyce Fay if she would allow NMHC to use one of her pictures on the front of our brochures. She graciously went to her “white horses” file and provided the one we use today. Many know it as “Joyce Fay’s Horse Council horse” but one man once picked up the brochure and said “that was my horse!”

Tis the Season of Giving

And shopping too. If you are dealing with Amazon, they will help you with a tiny percentage of your purchase donated to your favorite organization. Go to smile.amazon.com/ and (first time only) designate the **New Mexico Horse Council Foundation** - a 501(c)3 charity. Amazon will take care of the donations until you remove the designation. You can also help the foundation by sending a check to P.O. Box 10513, Albuquerque, NM 87184. Currently, the Foundation funds one scholarship per year to a graduating New Mexico high school student, sending the funds to the college the student chooses. As a member of the Foundation Board, I can share that the bank account is low, as little fundraising has been done. However, I can also guarantee that expenses are extremely low, with just a P.O. Box rental and a few copies to set against contributions.

If you want to concentrate your giving on 501(c)3 New Mexico charities with an equine focus, please also consider these groups that support us with NMHC memberships:

Horse Rescue:

The Horse Shelter Walkin N Circles Ranch

New Mexico law requires that the New Mexico Livestock Board license, inspect and approve equine rescue, retirement and sanctuary operations in the state. These facilities have subscribed to the standards of care for horses detailed in the **Care Guidelines for Equine Rescue and Retirement Facilities** published by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Find the current list, including the two listed above on the Livestock Board website, www.nmlbonline.com.

Therapeutic Riding:

Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding Loving Thunder Therapeutic Riding

You may want to check out these and other groups in the state that are certified by, and follow the standards of, PATH International, the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (www.pathintl.org)

Trails and Land Use

Valles Caldera. New Mexico riders were well represented at all of the listening sessions scheduled around the state in last spring, and on October 10 the Valles Caldera National Preserve was officially welcomed into the National Park Service family. Present at the ceremony on a beautiful, warm early fall day were US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, US Senator Martin Heinrich, former US Senator Jeff Bingaman, and other tribal, state and local officials. There were many horse people there with tales of riding on the Valles Caldera over the years. NMHC member Evalyn Bemis, who is also a photographer, was taking pictures. Many of us know Dr. Raymond Loretto, DVM for the livestock and horse entries at the State Fair for many years; he is the current governor of Jemez Pueblo and one of the tribal speakers. Senator Udall pointed out that at one point in 1962, the owners offered Valles Caldera to the National Park Service for \$2 million; the eventual cost in 2000 to purchase the Preserve was \$101 million. “Buy land when it’s for sale!”

Alameda Drain Trail Master Plan. This is an impressive example of cooperation among agencies (the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District – MRGCD – and the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority – AMAFCA – with Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque). Eventually, a multiple use trail will be constructed over a nine mile stretch of the Alameda Drain, from I-40 north to the North Diversion Channel. There have been several public meetings for the plan, which is expected to be finalized in the spring of 2016. Then it will proceed to design and construction. Planners have been meticulous in meeting with the public and with various neighborhood associations and recreational committees, and are always ready



for comments. The project engineer, Diane Sholtis, can be reached at dsholtis@bernco.gov. For the first stage, equestrian advocates are asking that a soft surface trail be created on the west side of the Drain. On the east side, Second Street is five lanes wide, and there is a wide shoulder as well between the road and the drain.

Bosque Trail in Albuquerque. But then there's the Bosque Trail. Public meetings established that a lot of people really care about the Albuquerque Bosque. Eventually, a protocol was accepted by the public and presented to the City of Albuquerque *which agreed to provisions* for experts to "take an inventory" of existing plants and animals, keep studying alternatives, and keep accepting public comment. In fact, there was a good deal of startled comment when City workers proceeded to build a stabilized crusher fines trail in March, between Central and I-40. However, the new trail section has been well received, particularly by those using wheelchairs and strollers.

And now, the City is moving ahead with constructing the section between I-40 and Montano Road. Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry said that, although the City had agreed to the protocol, "it is too late to impose those requirements now. This section needs to be completed before nesting season in the spring, and the public comment has already been extensive." A measure passed by the City Council, attempting to formalize the original protocol, was vetoed by the mayor.

North Albuquerque Acres zoning. This area in far northeast Albuquerque has always been rural, particularly towards the northern border (Sandia Pueblo land). However, the neighborhood association recently proposed zoning changes that would have essentially eliminated all agricultural use in A-1 zoning. City planners were skeptical that everyone was in favor, and sent 2500 postcards to landowners. The result was an overcrowded room where those present made it clear that they were not willing to give up their animals or gardens. Next step will be a hearing at a Planning Commission meeting. The equestrian community worked for many years to establish the Vista Sandia Equestrian park in the middle of north Albuquerque acres; it would be a shame if horses were zoned out.

Rio Grande Trail Commission. Bon Bagley, on the NMHC Board of Directors, is attending meetings in an advisory capacity. At this point, the Committee is looking at basic needs such as funding, communication and a website.

State Trust Land Fee Increase. The **New Mexico Game Commission** has approved paying \$1 million next year to the **State Land Office** for hunter access to state trust lands. Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn (an NMHC member) said at the NMHC 2014 Annual Meeting in January that he felt the current easement was priced far too low, and made the change one of his first orders of business. The agreement expands the number of designated areas available for hunter camping, and assures critical access points to hunting lands are kept open with appropriate signage.

Approximately eight million of the nine million acres the Land Office oversees are suitable for hunting, and Dunn pointed out that the fees benefit New Mexico's public school children.

However, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation protested that the negotiated amount was far too high for users. They also accused Dunn of "fair market value discrimination". For instance, those using Colorado state trust lands for grazing are assessed \$11.88 per animal unit month; New Mexico's fees are \$4.80 per AUM, though that reflects a recent increase. And considering oil and gas lease rental, New Mexico's is capped at \$1 per acre per month (by the legislature); Texas rentals start at \$5 and federal rates start at \$1.50. And other sportsmen's groups said the increased fees should be accompanied by more camping availability and a guarantee that hunters would not encounter locked gates on trust lands.

Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015. **NM Senator Martin Heinrich (DM)**, along with Alaska Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski and others, have cosponsored the **Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 (S405/S556)**, which would establish an "open unless closed" policy for hunting, fishing and recreational pursuits. It would also permanently reauthorize the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, which expired in September, and dedicate part of its budget to secure public access to existing lands. Said Senator Heinrich, "This has been a huge issue in New Mexico. I



have experienced firsthand the frustration of running into a locked gate on roads that used to be open to the public and are necessary to access public lands.” And Senator Murkowski stated that “our public lands should be open unless closed, not closed until opened or closed by bureaucratic inertia.”

With one dissenting vote, the bill passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and goes to the full senate and, if passed, to the House.

Santa Fe National Forest Plan Revision: “Need for Change” meetings. Luckily many horse people use Facebook, so NMHC members received word of these scheduled meetings just prior to the final two. It was reported that many horse owners attended the meeting in Santa Fe, where they were disconcerted to find themselves outnumbered by mountain bikers, many of whom wanted horses, and in many cases hikers, prohibited from sharing most trails. At the final meeting in Rio Rancho, however, horse people outnumbered all other users, thanks to a large contingent from Acacia Riding Adventures. This meeting was characterized by a spirit of cooperation between riders and motorized users.

“Who Needs Conflict Resolution When You Can Prevent It?” Wisconsin Horse Council, funded well enough to send three delegates to the International Trails Symposium, in Portland, Oregon, were shared these notes:

Montana avoids multi-use trails conflict because the equestrians and motorized users meet constantly to work on solutions and improvements, therefore avoiding problems.

While discussing accepted trail signs, specifically the signs indicating which user should yield, it was clear that in many areas of the country there is some reluctance on the part of bikers to accept the need to yield to horses and even to sharing the trail....

State Fair Final Report

NMHC Booth. The real crowd pleasers were our amazing horses, mules and donkeys, always entertaining children and adults alike, drawing a crowd whenever the pen and stall were occupied. The button machine also attracts people, but takes one person away from talking to visitors

about horses and the NMHC. In fact, it requires a minimum of three people to properly handle the booth and the equine. Expo staff Sally Mayer, and Gabe Garcia and his crew, were fabulously helpful. **If** the booth has enough volunteers, we should consider demos next year of saddling, grooming, picking up feet and so forth.

Thanks to all the booth volunteers: Ron Morris, Val Cole, Bon Bagley, Ralph Abeyta, Judy Larsen, Linda Linfoot, Julia Sargent, Jim Satterwhite, Berniece Zielke, Mallory Olisar, Kim Fay, Twuana Raupp, Jessica Smith, Pam Bishop, Kristen Kreger, Margret Henkels, Jennifer and Allen Black, Michele LeRae and Barb Maxam. And to Wayne Epsteen, who acquired for us a 10 x 10 stall that will be auctioned off online at a later date.

By: Nancy Freshour, chair.

NMHC received many positive comments about the **Horse Hospitality Hut**. Welcoming exhibitors and others to the “north end” were Loraine Harding, Deborah Mora-Nieto, Margie Billau, David Martinez, Kim Fay, Maria Montoya and Shandan Everage. Once inside, the show team from Excel Associates featured manager Dauane Elkins, Heidi Lane and Chris Howell. It’s unfortunate that so many shows had a very low number of horses and riders, but some pointed out that other larger competing shows lured possible fellow exhibitors away. But with show days ending at noon (and that stretched out) for some breeds, how long may we expect the State Fair management to offer them?

One notable exception was **Western Dressage**, a fast growing competition nationwide and one that took up a very long and lively day. Organizers worked very hard to get this new sport going, and they kept the judge busy.

Out in the roping arena, the Whispering Pines 4-H club and the Bernalillo 4-H Horse Council offered a ride of a different sort. It was rather like a mechanical bull, but smaller, and worked by the 4-H kids – who matched the ability of the long, long line of eager child riders.

Elections

It’s difficult to know how directors will be sorted out if the Bylaws revision passes. When will it go into effect? The terms of five directors expire in 2015, and all five have decided to move on to



other things. We thank Ralph Abeyta (Treasurer), Rusty Cook (website manager), Steve Komadina (Vice President), Kristen Darnell-Kreger (Project Gelding) and Jason Turner (Equine Summits) for their many years of service to the Horse Council. The following names will be on the ballot handed out at the Annual Meeting (and of course other nominations can be offered from the floor):

Terry Bogle, Dexter
Teddie Bruce, Corrales
Juliana Cojo, Ramah
Pat Green, Tatum
Dan Key, Corrales
Don Newport, Los Lunas

Since Teddie Bruce and Dan Key are current NMHC members, I know that they are very involved in trails and land use. And we met Terry Bogle and her husband Don when they hosted the legislative bus tour at their therapeutic riding facility, Reins for Life. She indicated interest in participating in NMHC and called to ask about the Board. I understand also that Juliana Cojo's motto is "I'd rather be barrel racing." And I'm looking forward to meeting the other candidates.

The Board will elect NMHC officers at its first meeting.

All current NMHC members (and those 2016 members who joined in the past month) are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. Please welcome, first, a 2015 member who was difficult to categorize: **Sharon Hernandez**, commercial member from El Paso, Texas. She is creating an online retail store and can currently be reached through her website pvt.sharonluna@yahoo.com.

New 2016 members are: (Individual): **David Allen, Terry Bogle, Teddie Bruce, Jane Davis, Margret Henkels, Anaclaire Hunter, Sharalon Runyon, Jessica Smith and Gail West.**

Commercial members:

Connie Sue Jessup, 82 Emblem Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507 | 505-670-6294; website is www.horsetalk.rocks and she is the contact for this business.

Medicine Massage, Jennifer and Alan Black, 3809 Atrisco Drive NW, Suite D, Albuquerque, NM 87120. 505-615-3487. Website address is www.medicinemassage.org.

Bylaws Revision/Survey

For years, the Bylaws revision committee has been working to bring the existing Bylaws (the horse council, after all, was incorporated back in 1970, and the first bylaws have been revised several times to reflect the organization's changing needs and goals) in line with a vision for the future. All current members received a paper copy of the proposed revisions along with their official notice of the 2015 Annual Meeting. And the current Bylaws are posted on our website. So do your exciting homework, please, and decide whether to vote the revisions in – or not. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you can send your proxy vote to President Ron Morris, lhrramorris@juno.com. A vote up or down, without further discussion or revision, is scheduled for the Annual Meeting.

Whether or not the Bylaws revisions are passed and become the guiding principles of the state horse council, it may well be time to survey the membership again to see what they want out of the organization.

NMHC did a single question mailed survey in 2010 on member attitudes towards humane horse slaughter as an option for dealing with the problem of unwanted horses. (68% return, 93% in favor.) There was a large Trails Project Questionnaire in 2006. And an informal survey of members with questions on the membership blanks found that, of those answering, 60+% have backyard, trail, pleasure, or retired horses; the others breed, show, race, train, or ranch.

Interestingly, the Zoetis animal health company has funded a 2015 Equine Industry Survey conducted by American Horse Publications. Although complete results are available to their members, they have released some trends. With over 10,000 responses, results seem to show stability and positive signs of growth, particularly among young adult horse owners: 89% expect to own or manage the same number of horses or more horses next year. And most intend to participate in the same number or a greater number of competitions. Respondents were most likely to view their horses as family members (67.4%), companion animals (62.7%), performance partners (57.6%) or best friends (55.9%). A smaller percentage viewed their



horses as an investment (22.4%), livestock (21.1%) or employee (7.8%). One of every three horses owned or managed by respondents is idle, retired or otherwise not working.

There is a 2016 Dues form in this newsletter, with a few survey questions on the back side. Feel free to answer – it won't be anonymous, of course, but most horse people are not shy about offering opinions.

(Jane) Blair Darnell **Dec. 28, 1932 – Nov. 18, 2015**

While Blair was a long time member (she always claimed to be “around” when the New Mexico Horse Council was born and thought of), was a vigorous member of the Board of Directors for many years (NMHC's only Director Emeritus, in fact), and the recipient of the NMHC Horse Person of the Year Award, most think of her full time involvement with young people (her “kids”) in 4-H, Quarter Horse and other groups. She and her husband Casey built Alamo Farm just across the Rio Grande (“with access to the Bosque!” where literally hundreds of young people visited to attend camps, lessons, and meetings while the work of breeding and training quarter horses and thoroughbreds went on around them. “What a huge number of kids Blair got through the show pen”, one mature student mused at the services on November 28. I knew her as a Board member and an enthusiastic participant in the Horse Council booth during the New Mexico State Fair. She could hold those school classes rapt with the thrill of meeting a horse....“where are his hands!” One kindergarten class shouted. “They said this horse had fourteen hands! We don't see any!” After Blair sat them down and talked, their teachers found it difficult to take them away.

Blair is survived by her son Cliff (Cindy) Darnell and daughters Emily (Joe Bob) Nuñez, Mary Darnell, and Kristen (David) Kreger, and many grandchildren, step-grandchildren, a great granddaughter, and other relatives in addition to her many, many friends.

Equine Salt Spa

If you thought salt therapy was just seeing that the horses had a usable salt block, think again. Equine Salt Spa owner Sofia Benke has built a mobile therapy room (a modified horse trailer)

and visits her clients, loading the horses into the trailer for their sessions, where they munch hay while listening to relaxing music while fine salty dry air is pumped into the sealed compartment. The thirty minute treatment is designed to reduce inflammation, kill bacteria and break up mucus. “It's beneficial if the horse has breathing issues or skin conditions”, claims Benke. “And they can't wait to get loaded into the trailer the next time.”. www.equinesaltspa.com.

What Happened Next? We'll Never Hear the Rest of This Story

(This shows my age) Paul Harvey used to have a radio program. He often featured “the rest of the story”, giving details that were not generally known about some event, and satisfying our need to know what happened next. He's gone now, so this actual legal ad in the Albuquerque Journal last spring must remain a mystery.

“Please take notice that xxxx, in foreclosure of a livestock lien, will sell the following horses at public sale outside the front entrance to the xxxx, in xxxx, New Mexico. One wild black and white pinto mare, fifteen plus years old, not halter broke; one wild ghost pinto mare, fifteen years old, not halter broke; one wild bay pinto colt weanling, not halter broke, and one wild gray filly weanling, halter broke but does not lead. To the highest and best bidder for cash to satisfy a lien of \$4200 plus one month's board and care.”

I do wonder if the ghost mare is visible, though.

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year!

It rained on the Corrales Toys for Tots parade this year, but about fifty horses (some in disguise as reindeer, unicorns, elves, My Little Ponies) came out anyhow, and many times that number of people lined the road. Because people always do turn to look at a horse.

December is a busy month, but we hope to see you at the Annual Meeting and that you can join and participate in the Horse Council next year. If you have horses, it's always a new day for good rides, better training, lessons, shows, baby horses. If you can, introduce someone else to this wonderful world.



New Mexico Horse Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, NM 87184
www.nmhorsecouncil.org 505-345-8959 nmhc@swcp.com

2016 Dues Invoice – Welcome! (includes rest of 2015)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Website address or e-mail _____

Two Delegates (for club) or one Contact (for business) _____

Note: Contact information for individual members is not shared with anyone. Commercial and Club information is published in the newsletter and also on the website. 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 (if you wish; any amount welcome) _____

Total Enclosed _____

(Using PayPal? Follow directions at www.nmhorsecouncil.org.)

NEWSLETTERS: We send by pdf attached to email if possible. Otherwise, check here if regular mail is necessary or preferred _____

What is the Horse Council? What do we support?

Founded in 1970, the New Mexico Horse Council is an all volunteer group supported by dues, fundraisers and donations. **Mission:** "To act on behalf of the New Mexico Equine Community through education and promotion of activities benefiting all equine interests."

- **Support the Horse:** Preserve horses as agriculture; Project Gelding; 'NM Horse Care'.
- **Support the Owner:** Equine Summits, newsletters, lobbying, brochures, liability signs.
- **Support the Rider:** Support trails and recreation; publish and circulate information.
- **Support the Horse Industry:** Communicate with state and local agencies; monitor equine event facilities; ally with other livestock and agricultural groups including outreach tables; distribute information from American Horse Council; maintain website, Facebook page.
- **Connect with the general public at the NMHC booth, Annual New Mexico State Fair.**

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



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



Survey

Do you now own or have the use of a horse or horses? Yes _____ No _____

If not, were you involved earlier in your life as a horse owner, rider, family member of riders or owners? Yes _____ No _____

What are your current activities with horses? (Check all that apply)

Pleasure Riding _____

Trail Riding _____

Shows _____

Competitions _____ (other than horse shows)

Teaching _____

Ranching _____

Breeding _____

Training _____

Racing _____

Other _____ (i.e. admiring my lawn ornaments)

Where should the horse council's energies be concentrated? (Check all that apply)

Lobbying _____

Growing membership _____

Developing dedicated funding _____

Outreach, booths, State Fair _____

Working with other horse groups _____

Zoning, Land Use, Committees _____

Any other comments for NMHC?

