



# Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

May 2016

## An Introduction to Drill Team Riding: Who, What, When, Where & Why?

General membership meeting, May 25

Old Pecos Trail Inn

6 p.m. for dinner; meeting begins at 7 p.m.



Our speaker for the May meeting will be local trainer and instructor, Lynn Clifford, who's been coaching the Arrowhead Angels Drill Team (at Arrowhead Ranch in Santa Fe) since last year. With founding team member Peggy Pfeiffer, Lynn will be talking about the benefits of attempting precision riding as a team.

Lynn Clifford is a third-generation equestrian who began riding on her mother's training, teaching and boarding facility. She has a background in dressage, and trains both horses and riders; but she is also well-regarded as a counselor and life-coach with professional degrees in psychology, expressive arts therapy and Level 2 EAGALA certification. Learn more about Lynn: <http://lynnc Clifford.com/>

For an example of the Angels' performance from last fall, see the YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoXiZ8v4h-U>

## Gotno Morgan Ranch

Joyce Davis

*[Need a break next winter? NNMHA member Joyce Davis, husband Bob and their equine partners wintered in Arizona this past season. Here is her "vacation" report.—ed.]*

Gotno Morgan Ranch is located between Phoenix and Tucson near Florence, AZ. An historic town founded shortly after the Civil War, Florence currently is noted for its extensive prison complex which is home to an active training program for BLM mustangs. Many of these horses are trained for use by the Border Patrol to use in really rough country. Others are up for adoption at local rodeos and other horse-related events. There are currently around 600 horses at the prison facility--really nice-looking animals.

Gotno is a wonderful guest ranch surrounded on three sides by state land. Riders can go for hours into wildly beautiful Sonoran desert: saguaro cactus, palo verde, mesquite trees and tree-like teddy bear cactus abound.

The Ranch has 12 RV sites with water, electricity and mesquite trees, room for over 30 horses (most guests bring 2-3) and a lovely bed and breakfast suite in the main house for visitors. There is a large roping arena, 2 round pens, 3 turnout pens and ample parking for even the largest semi/LQ 4-horse rigs. Living arrangements for guests vary from LQ trailers to motorhomes to 5th wheel trailers. Several horsemen also have 3-horse trailers so they can trailer out to ride without having to move the





Part of the RV area

"home" setup. Everyone is happy to take an extra horse along so all who want to attend can participate in a trail ride off-site. These rides take place 2-4 times a week and vary in difficulty. Locations include the Superstition Mts. of "Lost Dutchman Mine" fame, SanTan Regional Mountain Park (my favorite, about 6X bigger than Cerrillos Hills with multi-use non-motorized trails), and several trails that are part of the Arizona Trail which runs north thru Florence from the border with Mexico.

Horsemen and women come here mainly from the northern U.S. and Canada: North Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, Oregon, Idaho, Nebraska, Illinois or Saskatchewan. Trainers come with futurity prospects. Mounted shooters come to take part in local meets and the very large ones staged at the Ben Avery Shooting Complex north of Scottsdale. Retired folks come to ride warm weather trails with other riders. Ropers have the opportunity to practice and compete non-stop if they wish. Roping is BIG here; there are at least 2 roping/sorting "camps" within 10 miles. The Pinal County Cowboy Church has jackpot roping after Sunday services at their OWN arena behind the church. First you pray; then you play! Nearby Coolidge, AZ has competitive carriage driving. Shelley Bachicha competed there with "Molly" in 2015.

A typical day might go like this: clean pens and feed 7:30-8:30; hitch up, load horses and go on a long trail ride or train / practice roping, obstacles, shooting and 2-hour ride from Ranch; 4 p.m. meet on barn porch to share the day's events and plan the next ones; 5:00-6:00 feed and clean pens. Monthly potluck dinners with live music and dancing under the stars provide lots of good food and fun. Sometimes riding groups from nearby towns come to stay overnight, ride, and enjoy the fun. A group of us went to Chandler to tour an exceptional exhibit of Western art at the Basha Supermarket Corporate Headquarters--all the premier artists and sculptors seen in museums and books--up close in one spot and free! A"Geezers Gymkhana" ended this years' season with a "Meet a Mule" type obstacle course and St Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage feast. Yum!



Everyone pitches in.

Most folks are here the mandatory three months (usually January-March) and form lasting friendships. Some have been spending winters here for 10 years. Those folks know where ALL the trails are! A fine, fine group of horsemen and -women who have made Gotno Guest Ranch a treasured experience. On-site owner Deb Smith makes sure everyone is welcome, included, and has an outstanding visit. I believe her warmth and considerateness is the key to everyone having a wonderful experience.

Gotno Morgan Ranch Owners Deb and Ben Smith 520-868-2351 [www.gotnomorganranch.com](http://www.gotnomorganranch.com)



### 2016 Officers and Board

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## **Minutes of the April 27, 2016 General membership meeting**

**Pecos Trail Inn** Karen Denison

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. sharp following dinner by President Rocco Fancellu.

Treasurer Helen Newton was absent at a show, so no treasurers report.

Minutes from last month's meeting as they appeared in the newsletter were approved.

Local trainer Loal Tucker has been diagnosed with a brain tumor and a long recovery is anticipated; a GoFundMe account has been started on his behalf.

We have an upcoming arena night on Friday May 6 from 6 - 8 p.m. Lisa Gordon is organizing and will likely include some fun obstacles/de-spooking and perhaps a feed race at the end. An email will go out with the announcement. We will come up with a different weeknight for the summer arena nights.

Mark Boutilier and Gus Jolley were commended for their good work on the grounds. The workday was sparsely attended but significant progress was made on spring cleaning chores and on re-roofing 16 stalls. Mark has reported that we're coming in just under budget on the repairs.

The Ridge Riders outing to Rowe Mesa Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> was well-received with nine riders participating. Next ride will be June 12; Julie Belt will have sign up at the May general meeting.

Thanks was given to Julie Belt for securing our payment from the Rodeo de Santa Fe for stall rental in 2015. She has drafted a letter asking for payment in advance for reserved stalls so we don't find ourselves in the same situation this year.

Rocco has been in contact with the owner of Moore's Cash Lumber in Espanola. He would be willing to supply sawdust for stalls by the ton if we want. Also slab lumber cut-offs for projects if we pick up. General meeting concluded in about 20 minutes.



## Evening Program: Riding and Writing, Cecilia Kayano

Although petite, Cecelia Kayano is an active, “can-do” person who quickly won over the audience with her “Cowgirl PowerPoint” presentation of maps marked with some of her favorite rides and stories about the people she’s met and places she’s had the opportunity to go.

She grew up in Washington state and took up riding in her 30s after having been a hiker and mountaineer, much of her backcountry experience coming through solo outings. Her first riding was three years of dressage before discovering how to combine her new passion of riding with her love of backcountry and transitioning to being a trail rider.

Her first long camping trail ride was a solo circumnavigation of Mt. Adams in the Cascades, the second-highest in the range after Ranier. She practiced high-lining her horse in the backyard, then went off tent camping, learning as she went. She also described rides at Whites Pass, WA (part of the Pacific Coast Trail), Eagle Cap and Steens Mountain Wilderness areas (Oregon), and an 18 mile loop in Nevada’s Great Basin. The unifying attraction appeared to be exploring the most remote, beautiful and challenging places she could find.

Needing a break from Washington’s perpetual moisture four years ago (“moss grows on all sides of the tree”, she said), she trailered her horse to New Mexico for a three-month sabbatical. As many stories go, the temporary stay became the realization that she didn’t wish to leave. After a stint in Cedar Crest, she and her husband now live in Pecos, NM with their horses.

When she lived in Washington, she strove to explore outside the state—now, she doesn’t much want to go elsewhere than New Mexico because it offers such diversity and beauty. She described rides in the Valle Vidal, Sandia Crest off the 10K trailhead, riding Trail Riders’ Wall in the Pecos from Jack’s Creek trailhead, the great riding on BLM land east of the Rio Grande near Caballo Lake State Park, 30 mile rides in the Gila Wilderness, and an 18-mile ride in one particularly remote area in the Guadalupe Mountains called “Lonesome Ridge”. As a woman trail rider, often solo, she has had to tell naysayers “don’t let the lipstick fool you” as she tackles yet another long, rough trail. She said she rides to experience the beauty, horses, and the people she meets along the journey.

Cecelia is a writer and publisher by profession. She has ghost written several books and magazines for native health services, been a contributing author to *Trail Rider* magazine as well as *Horse Around New Mexico*, which was founded and published by Karen Lehmann and Dennis Schartz. In 2015, Cecelia purchased *HANM* and has been working to focus articles on who she believes is her core audience: women who want to be braver and go on more adventures. Articles are becoming a bit more “how-to” rather than purely personal experience, and she and her staff of three are offering more editorial guidance to writers.

Writing for a magazine such as *HANM* is not a paying occupation, but solid contributing writers are always desired. (She’s also looking for a good copy proof-reader who is a horse person.) It’s a good way to gain some real-world experience, which could lead to something bigger for aspiring writers. Potential authors are encouraged to contact her.

Program was concluded and meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 p.m.



## Ridge Riders

Julie Belt

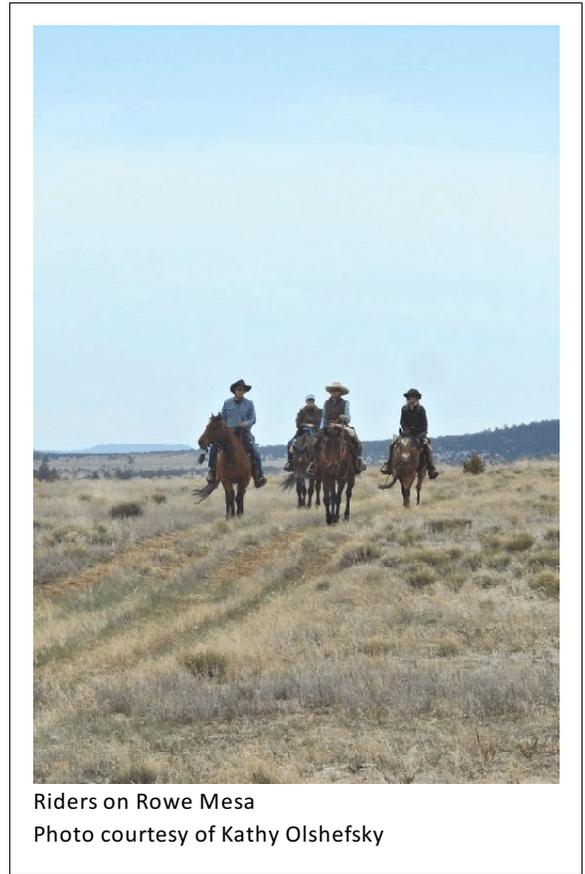
Saturday, April 23rd, was a beautiful day for the NNMHA Ridge Riders' first group ride of 2016. Nine members participated in the ride, which was held on Rowe Mesa. Spectacular mountain views, excellent dry and non-rocky trails, wonderfully behaved horses, and a group picnic lunch on the trail all added up to a relaxing and fun day ride enjoyed by everyone!

The next NNMHA Ridge Riders ride will be held on Sunday, June 12th, at La Tierra Trails (off Camino de los Montoyas, off NM 599). More details and a sign-up sheet will be available at the May 25th meeting. The ride will be limited to 12 members, so be sure to be at the meeting to sign up, if you are interested.

Tentatively, the following is the schedule for NNMHA Ridge Riders rides for the remainder of 2016:

- Saturday, August 13th -- Valles Caldera (Los Alamos)
- Sunday, September 18th -- Copper Canyon (Abiquiu)
- Sunday, October 16th -- Las Tetillitas Loop (Caja del Rio)
- Saturday, November 12th -- East Mountain Open Space (Cedar Crest)

The Association's organized group trails are open to members only and operate by guidelines designed to keep everyone safe while having a good time. Guidelines are found on the Association's website at <http://www.nnmha.net/ridge-riders.html>



Riders on Rowe Mesa  
Photo courtesy of Kathy Olshefsky

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## Spring Cleaning Report, April 16

Despite beginning the workday with a snow squall, several members made excellent progress on cleaning and repairing stalls. Thank you Eldon Reyer, Mark Boutilier, Greg Fuess, Rocco Fancellu, and Karen Denison for contributing. About half of last year's weeds were raked out, weed whacker fired up and run around a couple shed rows, and old shavings moved via pitchfork and tractor out of a dozen stalls. In addition, new wood was purchased and brought for re-roofing a number of the stalls which were damaged in the awful windstorm a few years ago. A team effort saw new rafters installed over all sixteen before the weather brought the proceedings to a halt.



New rafters put up over 16 stalls  
Photo courtesy of Rocco Fancellu



Besides finishing the roofing and cleaning of stalls, other tasks still on the “to do” list include painting the bleachers, re-setting some of the posts around the arena, and patrolling the grounds for trash (which seems to blow in from elsewhere). Gus Jolley has worked on brush-hogging around the property since the 16th.

There will be a couple of other work parties scheduled in the coming couple of months. Please do make some time to bring us back in good order!

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## Arena Fun Night Report

High winds all day on Friday, May 6 did not deter a handful of hardy souls from coming out in the evening. The footing was perfect, the sun was shining and warm (unlike the previous week) and the club picked up a couple of new members. We’ll be scheduling more of these through the summer, probably on either Monday or Tuesday nights to avoid conflicts with shows, 4-H/FFA meetings and barrel-racing practice nights. What would you like to do? Let us know!



Lisa Gordon and Julie Belt discuss proper transition cues.

## Manure Wanted!

NNMHA member Laurie Knight wants folks to know there’s somewhere in Santa Fe that wants your manure! She sent this from Reunity Resources:

Interested in supporting sustainable agriculture and resource use? Reunity Resources, a Santa Fe based non profit, has launched a moderate scale aerated static pile (ASP) composting program and is seeking a consistent supply of horse and cow manure. We are creating the most microbiologically rich compost in the area!

If you would like to donate your livestock manure on a recurring basis to this amazing project, please get in touch with us for details. In addition, organic compost is available in bags or bulk with on site pick up or delivery available. Call or write for information on compost pricing. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Trevor Ortiz, 505-901-1374 Reunity Resources [www.reunityresources.com](http://www.reunityresources.com)

## Endurance Ride

Don’t forget there is an endurance ride to benefit Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding on June 11-12 at the Caja del Rio. Register in advance for 30-, 50- or 12-mile routes each day. See more on their own website: <http://ridecaja2016.weebly.com/>





Lisa (L) with other riders at the February Winter Woolly Show.

## Why I Show

Lisa Gordon

A simplified definition of a horse show: a judged exhibition of equines. Different breeds and disciplines hold competitions to test various skills. Most shows consist of a series of classes. Horses with similar training or characteristics compete against one another for awards and sometimes prize money. But of course the real question is *why show?*

For me it took some reflection to answer that question. The show bug bit me when I was 12 years old. I would spend all year training, planning and preening my horse for the summer "open shows", events that any horse can enter. Every cent I could muster from babysitting and other odd jobs would be saved and applied to the entry fees. I was a child of the California suburbs and riding was confined to an arena. Showing was a way of making sense of riding.

Showing from a distance might look a boring endeavor. I must admit to a casual observer it must seem rather dull and stuffy going around in circles in an arena. Depending on the event, a horse needs to move a certain way, hold its head in the right position and carry its rider to a specific end.

But to me showing is more than that, it is about demonstrating the communication and partnership I have with my horse. It is not an easy feat developing the cues and subtle signals that create a dialogue with a horse; the show arena is simply a meeting place to showcase that communication. Showing gives horse and rider a chance to demonstrate what they have learned.

Because riding is a relatively personal and introspective pastime, being judged utilizes a fresh set of eyes; an outside opinion to help assess mastery of an agreed upon set of common skills. But more importantly there is a social aspect to showing. When I go to shows, I meet a group of like-minded people who have been working on the same set of skills as me. I can re-connect with old friends I normally wouldn't get to ride with and also get to meet new people with the same riding interests.

Horse shows are competitions, however they are not always about winning. To me they are about setting and then achieving goals. It starts with choosing a show, preparing, practicing and then demonstrating. Showing ends with evaluation, reflection and hopefully that blue ribbon. I personally ask myself questions like: what did my horse and I get out of this show, did it help in achieving a goal? Did we have fun? Did we do well? And so on. Why then, do shows give out ribbons if it is not about winning? Shows give out ribbons because they are a symbol of all the dedication it took to get to that moment. There is a priceless feeling of accomplishment that goes along with a ribbon.

So after careful reflection I can answer the question, "Why Show?" with a condensed answer: Showing is a social event that highlights a horse and rider's communication by demonstrating steps towards mastery of a common a set of goals.



## Rails and Trails Show Series Coming Soon!

Lisa Gordon

[Ed. Note: NNMHA will be hosting an all-breed 3-show series this summer for beginning and experienced "show riders", members and non-members welcome. Dates will be **June 4 (THIS IS A CHANGED DATE), July 16, and September 24.** Below follows a description of what to expect.]



Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association has had a long history of putting on all kinds of horse shows. Back in the day the volunteer-based organization gave away saddles for highest accumulated points of the year. Most of the shows followed traditional open show formats. This year we are offering a new show, Rails and Trails. Rails and Trails consists of six classes with three divisions and is loosely based on western stock horse events.

The day will start off with a simple reining pattern judged on correctness and control, not on speed or hard stops. All classes will be offered at a walk/trot or walk/trot/canter and separated into youth (18 and under) and adult. The next set of classes are pattern-based and will be clearly marked, no need to memorize here. Then it's on to the group rail class where each horse's gaits can be assessed along with the riders balance. Class four is a Mystery class and it's up to the judge as to what they want to see demonstrated.

Hopefully, close to noon, entrants will break for lunch. You may bring your own or you may order and pay for meal at registration. While you all are eating, volunteers will set up trail obstacles in the arena for the last two classes. After lunch, trail will have a series of "real world" obstacles that require horse and rider will navigate. (Please note: as the summer show series progresses, the obstacles will become more difficult but always with safety in mind.) The final class is in hand, where off go the saddles--no primping or preening here--just a plain halter and some obstacle to lead your horse through, again to demonstrate control.

Each show will have a High point of day for youth and adult along with door prizes. There will also be a High Point of the season for a horse and rider combination that enters all three shows.

**NNMHA will email a notice and post the premium and patterns on its Facebook page** one week before the first show. So please come and join us and spend the day with your horse, try something new, and meet some new friends. NNMHA shows are friendly and casual. Enter all six classes or try just one. Rails and Trails should be fun and move smoothly but remember we are all volunteers. If you would like to see another show format please step up and organize one--we would love to help.

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*Horses show people that there are other wills and other consciences. ~Klaus Balkenhol, Dressage Masters*

*When I hear somebody talk about a horse or a cow being stupid, I figure it's a sure sign that animal has outfoxed them. ~Tom Dorance*

