



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

June 2016

Rodeo de Santa Fe Volunteers

June 22-26, 2016

The annual Rodeo de Santa Fe brings the excitement and spectacle of professional rodeo along with lots of visiting contestants, organizers, and vendors. If you haven't been—or been for a while—be sure to catch one of the evening performances as well as some of the afternoon “slack” competitions.

In addition to the action at the Rodeo grounds, the event helps fund the majority of our club's operating expenses through renting stalls to overnighting competitors. Were it not for the work of club volunteers to help with rentals over this five-day event, we'd have to raise dues and hold other kinds of fund-raisers.

So like those public radio or TV stations who promise to end fund drives as soon as goals are met, we'd ask that you make time to man a four-hour “shift” during the Rodeo so we don't have to hold raffles or bake sales.

It's not too hard, mostly paperwork and unlocking stalls. Joyce Davis is organizing a schedule, so please contact her to let her know when you can step in.

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No June Meeting

Because of the Rodeo de Santa Fe, there will be no general meeting until July 27.

Why I Race

Rachel Czmyrid, NNMHA member



Whether you've ever driven a convertible car or not, take a moment and imagine what it's like speeding down the road, the wind blowing past your face and having a feeling of never wanting to slow down.

Did you suddenly get a sense of invincibility and exhilaration?

This is the exact same feeling I get when I'm barrel racing. The only difference is that my horse has a mind of its own, and there aren't any barriers between me and the ground.



The idea of ending up face first in the dirt behind your horse as she runs off past the first barrel might turn-off the faint of heart. But for me it's a challenge that makes barrel racing infectiously interesting. Because, although it may seem like it is a sport devoted just to speed, there are in fact so many more components that go into a successful run.

Teamwork is one of these crucial components. As we enter the arena for our race, my horse and I must instantly become one moving unit. She may have run the pattern a thousand times, but no matter what, she will always be waiting for my cues before making any decision. This is incredibly important if you plan on making a "clean" run.

When I first began barrel racing, I thought that it was as easy as going out and buying an ex-racehorse and then running the pattern as fast as I could. Having had very little prior experience with thoroughbreds, I had to find out the hard way what happens when they are given any chance to run at a full gallop.

For a while, my races were followed by me dragging my prancing, dripping with sweat and completely hyped up monster back to the trailer where I would hope and pray she would calm down enough to get back in the trailer to leave.

I knew this wasn't the right way to be going about things.

That's when I started doing my research.

Every single article and video on training for barrel racing that I came across explained the importance of working on the pattern at a walk. Not a run.

'A walk?', I thought. But the sport's all about speed!

I decided to follow the pro's words of advice, however, and began practicing the barrel pattern with my horse at a much slower pace. Suddenly it was like I was riding a whole new animal.

This was when barrel racing actually became fun for me.

As my horse and I became one team, our race times became faster and our chances for disaster diminished. I also gained a new understanding and appreciation for the sport as I realized how much work goes into every clean run.

I guess then the moral of the story here is, riding in convertibles can be an exhilarating experience, but what makes it enjoyable is the confidence that the brakes still work.



2016 Officers and Board

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NNMHA and Listening Horse

Authored by NNMHA Secretary Karen Denison with approval by your Board

As many of you know, Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding, LLC has been using the NNMHA's grounds for approximately six years to further their mission in offering equine-assisted therapy to active military, veterans and their families, and anyone else facing challenges. This is a worthy undertaking and LHTR and its volunteers are to be commended.

NNMHA has been hosting LHTR with no charges for utilities or other costs in exchange for help with labor and maintenance of the grounds. This has all been by handshake agreement and to the benefit of both parties.

However, the NNMHA board believes the time has come to formalize the agreement by contract. As LHTR has been able to grow their program, increasing their usage days and shifting from a daily haul-in to a boarding operation, misunderstandings and conflicts have arisen over what is appropriate use and what is not.

Contracts, at their heart, are useful tools for reducing conflict because they lay out expectations and consequences ahead of time so no one party should find themselves taken by surprise. They protect both parties by sanctioning some activity and barring other use. They guarantee a time frame which allows scheduling activities without the threat of fundamental changes within that frame.

The board has been negotiating in good faith to reach an equitable contract since January. We believe having the ability to hold activities on the grounds for our members or access our own stored supplies and equipment without extra impediment is a reasonable expectation and requires changes to LHTR's past usage practices. There have been concessions made on both sides on items such as storage and the control of dogs. Despite some temper-testing on both sides, we seem close to agreement and hope that this may be resolved without further contention. However, the process is dragging and in the end it is the right of NNMHA as the property owner to dictate final terms.

Since there has been no previous signed contract, the unfortunate reality is that we have no other tool to use in bringing negotiations to their conclusion but the threat of eviction—which we would like to avoid as LHTR operations are a valued service to the community. We are very hopeful that we'll have a contract signed by next month so that we may all go on and focus on other activities.

As always, your board invites members to comment, participate, and be involved as this is a member organization. Board meetings are open to members who wish to attend; or contact any board member for more information.



Minutes of the May 25, 2016 General membership meeting

Pecos Trail Inn

[Submitted by Karen Denison from notes taken by Joyce Davis. Any errors or omissions are Karen's.]

Club business followed by our speakers' presentation.

Agenda items:

Preparations are underway for Rodeo Week (June 21-25). Joyce Davis will contact and schedule volunteers for stall rentals. Other equine organizations can be contacted for volunteers (Santa Fe County Horse Coalition, Rio Grande Mule & Donkey Assn.). Rocco will arrange for vinyl "Stall Rental" signs with appropriate arrows; Joyce will post signs indicating rates for stall rentals. NNMHA will sell shavings, storing them on a trailer located at the far end of the grounds to eliminate bottlenecks at office check-in. Rocco will order shavings thru Tractor Supply. They will be sold via ticket purchase at office; tickets will be redeemed at the shavings trailer. Helen Newton said she would purchase any leftover shaving bales if helpful or NNMHA could also keep them for next year. Also discussion of barricade to funnel trailers past office. Listening Horse has in the past covered night rental shifts.

Helen volunteered to help out that week whenever needed. Joyce will schedule new volunteers in AM so they can be trained during that less busy time.

The Rodeo Parade will take place June 18. Rocco suggested NNMHA participate with some form of distinctive shirt or vest. He will look into this.

Eldon explained the treasurer duties during the Rodeo. Also the shavings should be stored in the tractor shed.

Julie gave particulars about up-coming trail ride at La Tierra Trails, June 12.

Evening program: Drill Team and Why You Should Try It

Lynn Clifford, trainer and coach of the Arrowhead Angels (based at Santa Fe's Arrowhead Ranch boarding stable)

If you missed this meeting, you missed a fabulous program. Keep reading because you might get a second chance in a month or so. Trainer Lynn Clifford's presentation included lots of variety: a power point about synchronized riding in general (put together by Peggy Pfeiffer of Black Dog Graphics and founding member of Arrowhead Angels Drill Team). We also enjoyed seeing film clips of the top British Mounted Police Drill Team (not sure about exact name) who jumped their horses thru flaming hoops at a gallop and then removed bridles and saddles, still at a gallop. Wow! Another part of the presentation showed the number one high school mounted team from Washington state. Excellent, also. Their website contains volumes of info about synchronized riding and is an excellent resource for further study.

Lynn didn't let us merely sit and observe either. Halfway through, she divided the audience. Led by Peggy and Paula Rosemond, another long-time Arrowhead Angel and NNMHA member, we did some maneuvers common to drill team practice right there in the dining room! Not especially easy even without being mounted! At the end of this delightful and informative program, Lynn took sign-up info from those



interested in trying this activity...a good bridge for horse and rider from riding alone to trail riding or showing in a larger group. Lynn invited us to view practice sessions at Arrowhead Ranch and also volunteered to conduct session(s) at the NNMHA arena if scheduling permits.

Lynn has agreed to do a live demo with Arrowhead Angels at the JULY 27th NNMHA meeting on the NNMHA grounds.

[Ed. Note: During the meeting, NNMHA members were invited and several able to attend practice sessions with the Angels at Arrowhead Ranch on May 27 & 28. I observed riders being coached at walk and trot to utilize techniques of good horsemanship which would be very useful regardless of venue. Horses were asked to flex and bend, move faster or slower, and keep to a precise route chosen by the rider. The riders were well-coached as a group and individually in how to ask for all these things with the end result that both the horses and riders became more skilled as the session continued and all seemed to be having a good time.

Lynn and the Angels will be holding sessions at 5:30 p.m. at Arrowhead Ranch each Friday for the time being. If any NNMHA would like to join in, they are welcome please RSVP to Lynn in advance for the details including haul-in fees. Lynn's contact info: phone (505)231-5353. Email : lynn@lynnclifford.com]

Rails and Trails Show Report

The first of our Rails and Trails show series was held for a small but enthusiastic group of participants. We added three new members, and our youth participants enjoyed some personal attention. Thank you to our judge, Sandy Benson, who was able to offer good feedback and coaching.

The next Rails and Trails Show will be held at the NNMHA arena on **July 16th**. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!



Thank you so much for doing the special Birthday ribbon for Riley, he was so excited that we all sang to him!!! It was a great day!!
--NNMHA member Melissa Caldwell

In Westerns you were permitted to kiss your horse, but never your girl.
– Gary Cooper, screen actor



Ridge Riders

Julie Belt

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). There are a couple of spots left—contact Julie Belt if you'd like to come.

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>

Call for News

Summer is upon us and members are doing some great riding trips and shows. Please send news and photos to Karen Denison redmule@kdt.net for the newsletter, or share on our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/Northern-New-Mexico-Horsemen-Association-137611936266544/>



Rodeo de Santa Fe Parade

In years past, NNMHA has entered as a group to ride in the Rodeo parade which is being held this year on Saturday, June 18th. Because of the challenges of riding downtown with many distractions (including street sweepers), it's suggested for only very experienced horses and riders. If you are interested in riding, please contact Karen Denison redmule@kdt.net or 505-469-2698 by June 14th.

