



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

July 2016

An Introduction to Drill Team Riding: Watch or Participate

General membership meeting, July 27
NNMHA Arena 6 p.m.



NNMHA member Lori Daggett and coach Lynn Clifford at a recent Arrowhead Angels practice.

Trainer and coach of the Arrowhead Angels drill team Lynn Clifford will direct a drill team clinic for our members. Learning to control speed at any gait, turns on forehand, leg yields and side-passing – all maneuvers which have value for any riding, even trail

riding.

Trailer your animal or just bring yourself to the NNMHA grounds for a try at this activity. We'll have a hotdog potluck afterward; bring your own sides & beverage. Non-members are invited to attend, but riders must be members; you may pay your membership at the meeting if you'd like to participate. **Boot in stirrup at 6:00 p.m.** for those riding. **LIMITED NUMBER OF RIDERS AND RSVP REQUIRED** for riders and appreciated for other attendees (so we have enough hotdogs) to Joyce Davis carlotta_burra101@icloud.com 505-920-3865. There is no charge for this event, but a donation for Lynn from participating riders would be appreciated.

What I Did on my Summer Vacation

Sue Murphy

[Ed. Note: NNMHA member Sue Murphy loves to ride and explore New Mexico with her husband, Ron. She's been induced to write an account about one of her trips this year which she enjoys with friends.]

For a couple of years we (about ten of us) have been hauling to Chama for a two- or three-night stay to ride the state wildlife areas and private lands in the area. Each year, some of the same people return and new people join the group for an ever-changing mix of friends and horse enthusiasts. This year, our third, was no different.



Some of the Chama area's wide open rolling terrain.

We were greeted at the Quinlan Ranch by the professional staff including Austin, the gourmet chef serving us three delicious meals a day and his dog Gunther (a gentle giant Bull Mastiff). They accommodated our horses in pipe corrals,





Some of the group ride out into another meadow.

and for spouses without horses, Jeff Kennedy, Ghost Ranch Wrangler, kindly brought some of his string of horses. Once we settled the horses, we checked into the Lodge to find lunch waiting for us. Over lunch, we made plans for our first ride that afternoon around the ranch.

The highlight of this year's early June trip was evening entertainment: Russell who is a cowboy poet and country singer entertained us each evening with familiar cowboy songs and his own poetry, which for me, was the best part. David and Scott took up a game of horseshoes in the front yard while the rest of us looked on from the porch with a beer or glass of wine as the sun set and hoping for clear skies during our stay.

For riding options, the state wildlife areas in the Chama area include Humphries, Sargent, and Rio Chama --all within 20 minutes of the Lodge. The 16,000 acres of contiguous Quinlan/Garcia Ranches back up to Sargent and the Colorado border. Pagosa Springs is less than an hour away with yet another list of beautiful trail rides.

While we didn't see any newborn elk this year, we saw an abundance of cow elk each morning on our way to the corrals to feed the horses. In the early mornings before the Lodge started to wake, a small group of cow elk grazed their way through the front yard.

Each year, we watch for elk sheds in the meadows on the ranches. Last year and again this year, we were lucky enough to snag one or two which the Lodge permits us to keep. This trip, we were surprised to ride up on a large bull elk carcass that had been killed a few months earlier. The wrangler told us a mountain lion has been taking down more bulls this year than in the past. He must have had 6 or 7 points on each side. We have never seen a mountain lion, but two years ago we saw a mama bear and her cub, and another solo bear.

If you decide to make a trip to Chama, keep in mind historical weather patterns and hunting seasons. By September, bow season starts, although the wildlife areas allow horseback riding until November. To access the state wildlife areas, which are managed by New Mexico Game and Fish, you must have a G.A.I.N. permit and a Habitat sticker or risk a fine by the game wardens. Both permits can be ordered online at <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/recreation/g-a-i-n/>. Humphries has no facilities at trailhead; Sargent's has pipe corrals and port-a-potty; Rio Chama has pipe corrals only. For more information or reservations at Quinlan Ranch, see http://quinlanranch.com/Location_Lodging/index.html.

*There are many wonderful places in the world, but one of my favourite places is on the back of my horse.
~ Equestrian photographer Rolf Kopfle*



Why I Volunteer (with Back Country Horsemen)

[Ed. note: I asked Eldon Reyer why he was still so involved with trail building and maintenance at an age when many folks would be taking a short ride around the neighborhood, at the most, and received this rather lyrical piece as justification. And the next time you ride a backcountry trail, please thank the folks who volunteer to help keep trails open and available to riders.]

The Place

Eldon Reyer

There are places I know where time stands still. There is nothing behind you and everything ahead. But you don't really think about what is ahead, you think of now. This relationship I have entered into is one of the moments, of now. Now has me in the saddle, on a gray horse, heading down the trails of pines and spruce and mountains and stream and meadow.

Behind me, connected to me by only my hand and a lead rope, is another gray horse, an almost identical match to the one I am riding. I call them by name, as if they were human compadres. We talk as we make our way along the ridge trails, their heads nodding and all I have to do is ride, and ride I do.

The evening dusk brings my compadres and I to a chosen camp. It is a good place with a meadow spread before me, room for the horses out in green grass and camp back with the lodge poles, and my kitchen down a ways. I ease off the gray's back and stretch my muscles with that stiff-good, worked-hard feeling and straighten my back and begin to unload the packhorse. Thanking him. In a while, the horses have the hobbles and picket ropes on and are out there munching grass and swishing their long white tails. It's time to get camp set up before dark.

The tack and packs are all stowed away for the night. The campfire is safely made on the gravel bar with the sound of a hawk circling in the dimming sky above, and all is right with the world. This is my world. I haven't thought about anything but this world and I don't think about not thinking about the other world. Lying on my bedroll with a warm cup of chocolate, I count my blessings. I give thanks for the place

2016 Officers and Board

President Rocco Fancellu curlybeau2005@gmail.com 505-699-7773
Vice-President Eldon Reyer laespuela2@gmail.com 505-690-9465
Treasurer Helen Newton sfcolores@sprynet.com 505-470-1396
Secretary/Newsletter Karen Denison redmule@kdt.net 505-469-2698
At-large/Events calendar Lisa Gordon lisagordonsculptures@msn.com 505-660-8014

Adjunct/Committees

Grounds manager Mark Boutilier thundermark@yahoo.com 207-538-1786
Ridge Riders Julie Belt juliabelt@gmail.com 850-621-6811
Programs/speakers Joyce Davis carlotta_burra101@icloud.com 505-920-3865
Facebook page manager Cindy Roper croper56@gmail.com
Website manager Trish Hug trish_hug@hotmail.com 505-670-3446
Website <http://www.NNMHA.net>



I am in and the compadres I share it with.

At dawn I rise in the cool and soak it in. A cup of coffee steams in my palm and it is cool enough to wear wool and I watch the horses and stand, and sip. I turn an ear to the sound of the hawk somewhere down meadow. From somewhere down there and the horses have their heads up at the peculiar sound and I tell them, "Don't worry, Socorro and Leo Silver, it's only a bird that doesn't eat horses" and they go back to their grazing, their peaceful munching and calm snorting, as if they understand what I just said and maybe, just maybe.

As the day warms and the wool is packed away, I work fluidly and quickly. Everything has a routine: the packing, the padding, the hefting, and weighing. It must balance and feel right and go well on those straight, good equine backs or it will be off and my day will be long and uncomfortable. There is a lesson here, I think. A life of balance and padding and going right with the world. Too long between pack trips in the mountains and there is no balance and I wobble through the world off-kilter like a horse with a stone in his hoof.

I turn out of camp, saddle the horses and kick their manure around so it will break down quickly and look around, satisfied. The place looks untouched except for a little chewed grass. I swing up and feel those tight muscles again and damn, it feels good to be on a horse headed into wild country. Once again on the trails we swing to the squeak of saddle leather.

As the day warms and the sky opens up I smell the dust of the trails and the taste of it on my tongue. The smell of horse sweat and my own and the feel of soft muzzles nuzzling me as we stop for a cool lunch under a pine next to a gentle stream. Muscles turning hard with the riding. Eyes sharp for wildlife and riding, always riding. In camp, meals quickly eaten and my belly full and the satisfied feeling of everything going well and of the present. And I ride.

What an amazing thing to have an animal carry my hide up and over and through and far. And I grasp that here is the connection, the element that is everything: a partnership. A bond between man and animal that has lasted for thousands of years and only in the last one hundred has been forgotten by most. This is the animal that has carried our people to war and peace and beyond and then home and here is the connection and I think how damned lucky I am to have found it. It is a good, rich life, this life of mine. It is here before me and the partnership brings the balance to my being, the straightening of things so I can walk right and do well.

I've spent my life in the mountains and desert of National Parks, outside where a Park Ranger is at home and can breathe. You never really can see the country until you see it from the back of a horse. It's an incredible feeling, moving down a trail on an animal you care for, looking ahead, seeing elk, deer and bear, traveling timber and meadow, fording streams swollen with snowmelt. Horses and wildlife fit. Aldo Leopold, the father of the wilderness concept, used horses to define wilderness. In 1921, he wrote, "By wilderness, I mean a continuous stretch of country preserved in its natural state, open to lawful hunting and fishing, big enough to absorb a two weeks' pack trip...."

I believe there's something about mountains and horses. Taken alone, they move your soul. Taken together, they move your life and take you to "the Place".



The 'Why I ...' Series

Karen Denison

Observant readers may have noticed a pattern in this year's Paddock Papers. I've taken advantage of being editor this year to ask other members why they do what they do with their equines. And I think the range of activities and the motivations behind them demonstrate the huge variety of reasons and ways to be involved with horses and with Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association. We really are a diverse bunch of folks. Personally, I've learned a tremendous amount by hearing stories and techniques coming out of other disciplines than those with which I'm familiar. And that has been very helpful as I try to become a better horsewoman.

What do you do? Will you share, too?

Ridge Riders Report

Julie Belt

The NNMHA Ridge Riders ride scheduled for June 12th had to be cancelled at the last moment, and has not been re-scheduled at this time.

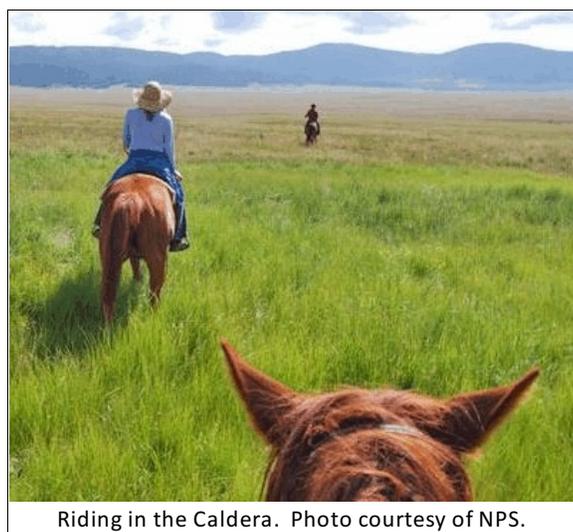
The next NNMHA Ridge Riders ride will be held on Saturday, August 13th at the Valles Caldera. More details and a sign-up sheet will be available at the July 29th meeting. The ride will be limited to 12 members, so be sure to be at the meeting to sign up, if you are interested.

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

Sunday, September 18th -- Copper Canyon (Abiquiu)

Sunday, October 16th -- Las Tetillitas Loop (Caja del Rio)

Saturday, November 12th -- East Mountain Open Space (Cedar Crest)



Riding in the Caldera. Photo courtesy of NPS.

The Association's organized group trail rides 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>

REMINDER: Don't forget the beginner-friendly Rails & Trails Show on Saturday, July 16th. See more on the series in the May Paddock Paper (last page).

<http://nnmha.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/2/0/26200067/2016-05news.pdf>



Rental Rodeo

Joyce Davis

Well, partners, another Rodeo de Santa Fe has come and gone. And it was a big success judging from the full parking lot each night.

BUT, there was another, unpublicized rodeo next door on the NNMHA grounds, equally exciting! Yep, 30 brave souls working to corral over 200 horses in rented stalls, ropin' in the strays, sortin' 'em according to days needed, pennin' the overflow critters. Some cowboys got a little "bronky" when they had to fork over cash, but later agreed it was a good deal all around.

Some of the top hands worked injured as is often true of bronc and bull riders. Laurie Knight was attacked by an enraged centipede hiding under a trash can. She (not the centipede) survived to empty more cans. She qualifies as a "can chaser". Mark made a monumental shavings run with one hand in bandages from a recent surgery. Joyce Davis evacuated for the Gold Mine fire in record time. Trish Hug rode herd on the office with an injured knee as did Jane Davis, recovering from hip surgery. David Marks rode in sound, but pulled up lame after too many stall runs in 100F degree heat. Blame it on the boots!

Some stall wranglers didn't belong to the NNMHA outfit but drifted in and pitched in. Dick Kimberly of the Mule and Donkey outfit came to pick up some fence material and stayed to wrangle stalls. Marlow Morrison pulled 3 shifts, a REAL top hand.

The NNMHA outfit was lucky to field many experienced hands: Eldon Reyer rode in daily and rode herd on the operation, Julie Belt and Kathy Olshefsky took care of everything and anything that needed it, Karen Denison, a rookie, proved to be MVW (most valuable wrangler) as did another rookie, Leanne DeVane. Joy Czmyrid rode hard, doing duty every lunch hour and then coming back for a full shift in the evening. She's the Mum of Rodeo Royalty. No wonder! Betsy Walker, no stranger to the rental rodeo, jumped in when the herd started to scatter, cutting out the drifters and organizing the bunch. Nick Martinez another Top Hand wore out his boots finding and organizing stalls...a runner first class. Bob Oldakowski, another experienced hand, returned to give good suggestions to the newbies adding some humor as does a good rodeo announcer. Donna Theirsch, another top hand, tackled whatever tough job came up and ran it down in record time. Judi Kahl's second go round at rodeo rental involved stall running, not stall cleaning... A welcome change.

Every rodeo has the essential pickup riders. NNMHA is no different. EXCEPT ours picks up something different. Yup! Those stall cleaners are ALL top hands: Howard Gershon, Shellie Follmer and husband, Jeff, Lori Daggett, Joyce Davis. Lots of talent here!

Rodeos draw contestants from all over. NNMHA welcomed Ron and Pat Rundstrom from Chamisa, NM also members of the Mule and Donkey Association who helped organize vacant stalls, haul trash, and ride herd. Sue Murphy and husband Ron Vallenggia worked their first rental rodeo. Ron is well on his way to MVW runner. Sue gave invaluable info on topics for programs and ways to improve and streamline the rental extravaganza. Piar Marks manned the office with grace, humor, and efficiency. ..another MVW candidate.



No rodeo lasts without \$\$\$\$. Thankfully, NNMHA has treasurer Helen Newton to ride herd on our finances. She's ready and able to hogtie any bad check writers or malfeasors.

Last, but not least, every herd needs its rest, but Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding members gave up theirs for 4 nights to see that all was well with the operation. Thanks to them, it was!

Sadly, we have to wait another full year for the thrill of RENTAL RODEO to stir our souls again. Stay patient, my friends.

2015 Rodeo de Santa Fe: 98 registered contestants with 223 horses registered for stalls.

2016 Rodeo de Santa Fe: 113 registered contestants with 241 horses registered for stalls.

County Fair/ Meet-a-Mule Weekend

The weekend of August 5 - 7 will bring a lot of activity to the NNMHA arena! We are expecting to host up to 40 horses in stalls for a state 4-H event taking place next door at the Rodeo Grounds. And it's also the final weekend of the Santa Fe County Fair: herding dog competition is in our large arena on Friday with Meet-a-Mule there on Saturday.

The Rio Grande Mule and Donkey Association (Northern Chapter) welcomes brave NNMHA members to participate in their sensory obstacle course event. It's free to watch or participate, but please consider a small donation for the tip jar. And to thank NNMHA for allowing use of the arena, RGMDA will leave the more durable obstacles in place for a week following Meet-a-Mule so members can practice on their own time. Please remember to be careful for the sakes of you, your horse, and the loaned obstacles. We've posted the Meet-a-Mule flyer on our website at <http://www.nnmha.net/calendar-of-events.html>, or see more on the RGMDA website. <http://www.rgmda.com/>

Open Arena Night

The gate of the NNMHA grounds was thrown open on Monday, July 11 for a number of riders, some spectators, and a nice collection of equines including two donkeys and three mules. The evening breeze was fresh but not a gale (like last time) and although it was a completely unstructured affair, several folks worked on specific tasks while others simply used the time to socialize their animals as they most often ride alone. Our large arena had great footing (as usual) and lots of space for everyone's practice.

We'll be doing this again Monday, August 22. If you want some ideas for your arena practice, the books [101 Western Dressage Exercises for Horse & Rider](#) or [101 Dressage Exercises for Horse & Rider](#) by Jec Aristotle Ballou were mentioned as a good possibilities. Come join us!



Classifieds

Have something to sell? Looking for a particular item? Let me know, and I'll get it in the next newsletter.

Horse Property for Sale

Dear New Mexico Horsemen

It is time to turn the page, so we have selected you as horse folks from NM to receive this ad for our horse property. We have known many of you through the horse industry since 1979. Gosh has it been that long? Yes, indeed it has. We would be happy for you to share this ad with like minded horse owners, but please keep it within your circle of horsey friends. We are currently planning on taking the animals to our next residence so there are no donkeys, horses, tack, or packing equipment available at this time.

We have loved living on this mesa top with 360 degree views of seven mountain ranges since 1990. On clear days you can even see Mt. Taylor. The 1970's adobe brick clad, modular home, was the main ranch house for the La Espuela Longhorn Ranch of Lamy, NM. There are five adjacent properties, who all own horses or donkeys. Four of the properties are 12.5 acres each. The larger parcel below the mesa is over 300 acres and is in some kind of conservation trust which protects it from subdivision. None of the properties may be further subdivided.

The home is 2446 SQ. feet on 5+ acres with light oak floors in the LR, DR, and hallway. Floors in the Master Bedroom and both baths is tile in NM earth tones. The guest bedroom is tan Berber. The kitchen has large square tiles, again in neutral tones. The foyer is set in Italian tile that is whitish.

The gas filled windows provide an environment that is 15 degrees cooler or warmer than the outside temps. Adobe bricks, which were made on the property, face the modular home making it snug. The exterior was re-stuccoed this past May. The property is on a well shared with two other properties. Spur Ranch Road Association does have an annual upkeep charge. There have been no HOA fees to date.

The paddock adjacent to the barn has four pipe stalls. There is a lay-up paddock, with stall under the barn. There another paddock with room for one horse with a three sided shelter. There is adequate hay storage in the open barn for a one-year supply of 70# bales, which serves our two horses and one donkey. The detached 2 car garage has one side that is all work bench with drawers, while another side is cedar lined closets.

The property has available riding for an hour or so from the house. It is 15 minutes from the Galisteo Basin Preserve trails by trailer. Forty five minutes would take you to Caja del Rio where there are well mapped trails, used annually for endurance rides. Santa Fe National Forest is one hour by trailer. The Santa Fe Horse Coalition has much more information on availability of activities in Santa Fe for horse people.

The MLS is listed with Santa Fe Properties. Contact Melissa Adair or Abby Salinas at 505-699-9949. It has just been listed on www.horseproperty.net this week.

Karen & Eldon Reyer

La Espuela Ranch, 288 Spur Ranch Road, Lamy, NM 87540

***La Espuela means "The Cowboys Spur in Spanish"

