



# Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

August 2016

## Longeing Done Right (Live Demo)

General membership meeting, August 31  
NNMHA Arena 6 p.m.



According to Google, LONGEING is a "technique for training horses, where a horse is

asked to work at the end of a line and respond to commands from a handler on the ground who holds the line".

Oh, yeah? Sounds simple. But examine the definition: "asked to work" - How does one ask? How subtle can a command be? Can the command transfer to a ridden command? "At the end of the line" - What's he doing out there? Does she stay out at the end or weave and zoom about? "Respond to commands" - What kind of commands? What about the whip? How can these relate to riding? When and why would one want to use longeing? *How can this type of groundwork help me and my horse?*

Trainer and riding coach Marlow Morrison will address these questions during a longeing demonstration at our arena. She will highlight gear and safety, assessment of the horse, stopping and yielding, good circles, the warm-up, rhythm and transitions, and the mental questions the handler should ask him/herself to get the most out of every minute.

Don't miss this one! Demonstration at 6 p.m., general meeting to follow. Bring a brown bag supper. Drinks and cookies provided.

## Why I Participated in the "Gimme Shelter" Trainers' Rally

Greg Russell

My name is Greg Russell, and I am originally from New Zealand where I began working with horses as early as I can remember. I decided to come to this country about 20 years ago to pursue and expand my horse training career, starting in New Mexico, eventually moving to Texas, and then Florida as my horse training skills and business developed across various equine disciplines.

After arriving back in New Mexico in 2015 and beginning to re-establish my training business, I heard of the "Gimme Shelter" fund-raising project begun in 2014 by The Horse Shelter. My wife, Star York, and I were very impressed by this program, which is intended to help young, abused or poorly started horses by giving them enough training to have a better possibility of finding good homes. As lifetime horse people, this philosophy was especially appealing to us both. With several decades of training horses behind us and recognizing how much horses have added to our lives, we have a strong desire to do what we can to give back to the horses. The more I learned about The Horse Shelter in Santa Fe, the more I felt I wanted to participate and support their efforts.

Both Star and I became much more enthusiastic about our involvement after our first visit to the Shelter's ranch complex. We were able to meet management and volunteers alike. Immediately



we recognized the immense effort and professionalism that was being put into the running of the shelter and taking care of these rescued horses.

Because I had already been approached about participating as a trainer in the event, we were able to view the 10 horses chosen for the trainer's draw in this year's challenge. We left excited about the possible prospects. The next step in the process was to go back for the draw to determine which horses went with which trainers. As it happened, I ended up with a very small and young filly. At this point, it was helpful to have Star involved since my large stature for such a horse would be limiting at first. As Stella stood just under 14 hands, Star's small build turned out to be a real benefit.

Stella's arrival at Rancho Verde was an immediate success. The preparation training that the volunteers at the shelter had instilled in Stella (Thanks, Zoe!) had catapulted Stella down the path to success. Moving along with my training processes, Stella continued to show great progress. There was no doubt that at the end of the ninety days, Stella was going to represent the shelter, Rancho Verde and herself exceptionally well at the final showing and auction.



Greg and Stella at the 2016 Trainers' Rally

In closing, Star and I have been pleased that there is such a wonderful outlet in Santa Fe, where when needed, young or old horses have a place where they can get a new start. I would definitely enjoy being involved with this organization moving forward.

"THANK YOU, STELLA."

[Ed note: The Horse Shelter "Gimme Shelter" Trainers' Rally features local trainers paired with sound, young horses for 90 days of training. The annual event continues to grow and helps support not only the horses in training (which are auctioned at the end of the day) but all their other rescues. You may see more about The Horse Shelter at <http://www.thehorseshelter.org/> . See more on Greg Russell at <http://www.gregrussellhorsetraining.com/> ]

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*A horse has no future. It cannot greet the sun and say today will be better. It can only reflect upon days of past experiences. It is our job to create a positive past.*

*– Karen West*

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## Rails and Trails Show

Tamara Rymer

What a great day it was at the July Santa Fe Rails & Trails Show July 16<sup>th</sup>! The second of the series of three shows had a great turnout with youth and adult participants in all classes. A low stress show to encourage the beginner as well as give the more advanced a place to keep tuned up.



Since the classes are loosely based on western stock horse classes and are different for some folks in this area, we hope to provide an opportunity to try something new. **The last of this year's series will be Sept. 24.** Come join in the fun and ride with us, or just come and cheer! The show bill is on the website at <http://nnmha.weebly.com/calendar-of-events.html>

[Ed note: Stock horse or ranch classes emphasize natural, forward movement of horses, their willingness to rate their speed within and between gaits, and their ability to stop or turn neatly on request. Fancy show clothes or tack are discouraged—this is all about a “working style” partnership. Here’s a clip from AQHA (championships, not beginners) talking about the Ranch Pleasure class. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7XfhckFS80> ]

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## Next Open Arena Night: Monday, August 22, 6 - 8 p.m.

Summer is passing quickly, so take advantage of the remaining days. There’s no itinerary, no pressure, just trailer in and have a do-it-yourself good time in the company of other members. Exchange information, ask questions, socialize yourself and your animals, and have fun!

### 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>

Remember, you may contact any Board member with questions or comments about activities. Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, usually at the NNMHA office. Members are welcome to attend; please contact a Board member to confirm the time and place.

**And ELECTIONS are coming! Would you be willing to help next year? Contact any Board member.**



# Minutes of the July 27, 2016 General membership meeting

## NNMHA Arena

Thank you to trainer and NNMHA member Lynn Clifford for providing a wonderful opportunity for our limit of ten members to experience riding drill team figures. Horses and one mule (and their riders) practiced several basic maneuvers at walk and trot including “threading the needle”, “goggles” and a modified pinwheel to the amusement of spectators. Learning to practice effective communication with the animals and other riders allowed for the precision required. The exercises and demonstration were aided immensely by use of the club's PA system which made it possible for riders and audience to hear Lynn from one end of the arena to the other.



Lynn Clifford gives preliminary instructions to riders.



Working on maintaining a straight line abreast.

Lynn indicated that if dates could be arranged, she would be willing to do more of this for members who were interested. She also invites members to join the Arrowhead Angels at Arrowhead Ranch on Friday evenings. Contact her directly at [lynn@lynnclifford.com](mailto:lynn@lynnclifford.com)

Lisa Gordon and Joyce Davis put on a nice hotdog spread in the office trailer after the riding for all who attended.

A very short general meeting followed which outlined upcoming events for August and September. The Ridge Riders group ride for August 13<sup>th</sup> will be at the Valles Caldera; contact Julie Belt to sign up. President Rocco Fancellu said that the meetings regarding the Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding contract have been fruitful and he expects the 2016 contract to be signed soon. A run-down of our yearly rental week for Rodeo de Santa Fe competitors generated some discussion on the need for better communication between NNMHA, Santa Fe Sheriff's Posse (who directs competitor parking on the Rodeo grounds) and the Rodeo de Santa Fe Board so we may avoid some of the confusion of the last two very-well-attended years. A bylaws review committee has formed to draft amendments and bring our bylaws up-to-date (last changed in 1989). The past two boards have tried to prepare amendments for voting, but missed the annual voting date. If you are interested in helping with bylaws, contact Secretary Karen Denison.

Meeting adjourned to a gorgeous sunset over the Jemez Mountains at about 8:30 pm.



## Cow Sorting

Sue Murphy



A very accomplished cutting trainer told me years ago, "I can get non-riders to cut very quickly" (meaning half a day) because it's about the task rather than the rider focusing on the horse and all the things he/she doesn't know about horses. He tells the rider, "Cutting is like basketball--go play defense. Go where the cow is headed."

Cutting is much more extreme than the sortings I have attended locally as the cutting horse is trained to cut and move so quickly. At first, hanging on is priority one, then the rider begins to relax and finds their seat. For sorting, there is no need to move faster than a jog (unless you want to) but you also greatly increase the chances of losing the cow. The more pressure you put on the cow, the more likely the cow will bolt instead of moving where you wanted him to go.

A celebrity cowboy and great horseman told me something similar. "My son was a reluctant rider until I made it a tag game from the backs of two horses, then he suddenly came alive on the horse." So using a task can be a confidence builder for a rider as it opens up what's possible.

I'm a trail rider. It's always been my favorite thing about horses. Trail is good for horses minds. Cow sorting amps that up another 3 or 4 times requiring greater focus and quicker reactions. It changes up the horse's routine and gives them something new to focus on. This is probably most valuable to the disciplined show horse due to their more structured life.

Most horses realize that it's a new game pretty quickly. Horses that have worked cows previously recall their experience and, like getting on a bicycle again, it comes back pretty quickly. There are specific skills in a horse that will make sorting more fun. The ability to move laterally, and moving the front end and back end separately. Without that, you are limited to forward and reverse, but even a horse without those lateral skills can have fun sorting cows.

There are a couple of places in town set up for this kind of horse fun. Clint Mortenson keeps cows and has a huge arena to move them around. And you can practice your hand at roping too if you wish. Will Lann out in Eldorado also keeps some cows and offers sorting clinics Sundays and Mondays. Both prefer smaller groups of about 6 riders and are inexpensively priced for a clinic. For an extra charges, both have a couple of horses around if you want to ride a trained horse.

So for a change of pace, and an opportunity to learn something new, put cows on your horse's fun day list. While your horse will have a new experience, there is no telling what nuggets of discovery you might pick up about your horse, or about the minds of cows.

