



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

December 2016

Next General Meeting

There is no general meeting in December—enjoy the holidays with family and critters! The next general meeting will be Wednesday, January 25th and feature Marcia Hefker-Miles describing her experience riding in the the 600-mile Mongol Derby last summer. *NOTE: there may be a venue change for the January meeting. Stay tuned for an announcement early next month.*

Election Results

All the 2016 officers were persuaded to stand again for their positions through 2017 and were re-elected. The by-law changes proposed in order to bring us up-to-date with the club's mission, activities and organization (as well as state regulations) also passed. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Why I Volunteer at The Horse Shelter

Tina Ossorgin



Photo credit: Evalyn Bemis

The reason I volunteer has an easy answer: 71 horses.

When I started some seven years back, The Horse Shelter was pretty much an all-volunteer operation. There were maybe 30 to 35 horses

2017 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@kdtt.net 505-469-2698
At-large/Events calendar Lisa Gordon lisagordonsculptures@msn.com 505-660-8014

Adjunct/Committees

Grounds manager Open
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 the Shelter was just experimenting with having a hired ranch manager run the place after founder Jan Bandler died of cancer a few short years after getting it off the ground. Bob (her partner) held the strings together pretty well while that process unfolded. But to make a long story short, since that time seven years ago, through a number of ranch managers and inevitable growing pains, there's now an amazing operation with a married couple as ranch managers, three hired hands, a full time trainer, and a multitude of volunteers all working together taking care of a lot of horses!

So 71 horses (give or take a few depending on the week) that someone, somewhere have given up on, opened the gate and said, "good luck," if they said even that; horses that some non-thinking folks have left tied for a week without food or water; horses that people just don't understand you really have to feed regularly, a certain quantity and quality; perfectly good horses with all kinds of hidden talents that people just didn't realize what they were getting into when they took on that half-ton animal; race horses that were "too much trouble" to fix or care for after an injury from being pushed too hard--that's what got me down there, although I wasn't aware of all the various ways and means that horses actually came to the Shelter. All I knew was there were a bunch of forgotten horses that needed good food and lots of TLC. How can your heart not reach out to those poor overlooked, yet wonderful, animals?

And staff and volunteers give great care: from pulling them back from the dire conditions many arrive in (which unfortunately, not all survive), to just getting them to trust humans again, to even presenting them in our now-famous annual Gimme Shelter-Trainers Rally For Rescues! (check the website, thehorseshelter.org for more on that!)

I have to say there are so many angles to what makes volunteering at the Shelter a delight. From the lovely drive down State Rd 14 towards Cerrillos, the "escape from it all" feeling when you turn down that 5-mile dirt road that parallels the Galisteo River; to the zen calmness of being amid the wonderful energy of all those beautiful animals while you do the daily mucking; to the comradery you develop with the group that comes out each week on your given day; to the patient guidance you get from Ranch Manager Michele Wolford in our "classes"--they are all rewarding. But the most reward comes from the horses themselves when you see their personalities come out from hiding as their trust builds and bloom into something that often gets a second chance at life frequently ending up hopping on a trailer towards a whole new, loving, life!

I have to warn you, there is a risk! It's very hard not to fall in love with them and want to bring them home. As I did with my Oliver, a beautiful flea-bitten, Anglo-Arab gelding that just happened to get too late a start in life. So he's not my riding horse, but he's a great buddy to my aging old boy, JJ, and a MUCH-more-relaxed pal of mine now that he has his forever home. 

*I love the horse from hoof to head.
From head to hoof and tail to mane.
I love the horse as I have said—
From head to hoof and back again.*

James Whitcomb Riley (American Poet, 1849-1916)



Christmas Party

Thank you to members Helen Newton and Terry Berg for opening their lovely home and barn to host the Christmas party December 4th. We had a wonderful time!



November General Meeting

The general meeting on November 16 (following dinner and conversation) was small but interactive, convening at 7 p.m. As reported before, the office roof is fixed and heaters have been placed in the comfort station to keep pipes from freezing. Votes for 2017 officers were counted; board was re elected and bylaw amendments passed. Bylaws will make it into the office files and onto the website sometime in next month.

There was a general review of the activities of the preceding year, including: meeting programs & demonstrations (Joyce Davis); three Rails to Trails shows (Lisa Gordon & Tamara Rymer); Ridge Riders group trail rides (Julie Belt); re-organizing the Association's accounting, insurance and banking (Helen Newton); helming our Rodeo stall rentals—which is our major money-maker (Joyce Davis); reviving regular communications, including a monthly newsletter (Karen Denison); and maintenance and repairs to the grounds—although much more is needed! (Mark Boutilier, Gus Jolley, Rocco Fancellu, Joyce Davis, Nick Martinez and several others). A general THANK YOU was expressed to everyone who participated in activities during 2016 and an invitation to do so again in 2017. There are lots of great ideas being bounced around this winter so if any member has an interesting idea, they're encouraged to share.

With the clearer picture of our finances, raising dues by a nominal \$5 per membership was discussed. Also, our bylaws have never supported the award of "life" memberships as gifts for service to the club and we have quite a number under that category through board decisions prior to 2016. An informal poll of several "life members" indicated that they'd be willing to pay regular dues to stay involved. Others may be inclined to "retire". A majority of members at the general meeting favored the idea of both raising dues and abolishing life gift memberships. If board members concur, dues for 2017 will increase for the first time in many years and "life" members will be invited to return to the regular membership rolls, having been granted gift memberships for some period of year(s).

Meeting concluded 7:45 p.m.



Ridge Riders

Julie Belt

Saturday, November 12th, was a warm and beautiful day for the last NNMHA ride of 2016. Six members participated in the ride, which was held at Cerrillos Hills State Park. Spectacular views of the surrounding mountain ranges and dry, well-marked trails all led to a very relaxed and enjoyable morning ride for the entire group. Thank you to all the members who rode this 2016 season with the NNMHA Ridge Riders!



Photo credit: Piar Marks

The draft schedule for the NNMHA Ridge Riders rides for 2017 is set below. Sure hope you can join us next year -- mark your calendars now!

Saturday, April 22nd:	La Tierra Trails
Saturday, May 20th:	Diablo Canyon
Sunday, June 25th:	Rowe Mesa
Saturday, July 22nd:	Copper Canyon/Abiquiu
Saturday, August 12th:	East Mountain Open Space/Cedar Crest
Sunday, September 17th:	Pecos Wilderness
Sunday, October 15th:	Valles Caldera National Preserve
Saturday, November 11th:	Galisteo Basin Preserve

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>

The **Santa Fe County Open Lands, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC)** is looking for a couple more good members. This committee serves to advise the County Commission on properties the county owns and other issues affecting open space. Deadline for application is December 16. See more on the original announcement:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NMSANTAFE/bulletins/1742403?regfrom=share>

Carson National Forest is holding two "Recreation Partner Summit" sessions in early February. These are intended for fostering better relationships among volunteer groups and helping plan specific recreation goals and projects. If you ride in Carson, you might want to make a little room in your schedule. Registering in advance is requested. See more on their announcement:

<https://www.nationalforests.org/get-involved/events/recreation-partnership-summits>



Classifieds

Any member who has items for sale is encouraged to send information to include in the newsletter!

Well cared-for 2004 Bison Horse Trailer for sale. Many special features and photos. See the link:
http://nnmha.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/2/0/26200067/2004_bison_for_sale.pdf

Comfortable home and 5+-acre horse property for sale in Lamy. See the link:
http://nnmha.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/2/0/26200067/reyer_home.pdf

