



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

January 2017

Racing Across Mongolia

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.

Santa Fe Sheriff's Posse

3213 Rodeo Rd., Santa Fe



Marcia Hefker

Photo credit: Mongol Derby

The longest horse race in the world is the 600-mile-long Mongol Derby. New Mexico's own Marcia Hefker was a winner in the summer of 2016. She visits from Raton to share her experience.

Marcia grew up riding horses on her family's cattle ranch in Carrizozo, New Mexico. About 15 years ago, Marcia traded barrel racing and roping for long-distance horse races. Today, she lives

and works in Raton, NM as a nurse practitioner tending to residents and cowboys in the rugged northeast.

To accommodate the AV requirements, please note **our venue will be the Santa Fe Sheriff's Posse building**. We'll have it warmed up with snacks and a few drinks available. Our speaker's presentation will follow a few, short general membership announcements.

It's also time for renewing your membership, which you'll be able to do at the meeting if you wish, so bring cash or check. See elsewhere in the newsletter for details.

As always, our meetings are free and open to the public, so if you have a friend who might be interested this would be a good meeting to enjoy! This presentation is sponsored jointly by NNMHA and Santa Fe County Horse Coalition.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

"Those who love horses are impelled by an ever-receding vision, some enchanted transformation through which the horse and the rider become a third, much greater thing."

--Thomas McGuane, "Horses"



My First Horse

Jane Davis

Riders of the Sage <http://www.ridersofthesage-nm.com>

[Ed. Note: This is a new year, so I'm beginning a new theme for periodic appearance in the 2017 Paddock Paper. Look for "My First Horse" or some variation throughout the year.]

I was five when I was introduced to the first horse I ever rode. He was all black. A bit intimidating for me, but gentle. Western saddle. I still have a picture of us. My little legs barely hitting the stirrups. The ear-to-ear grin on my face announced, "I'M IN!" I knew in a little girl's intuitive way that horses were a part of me. I felt completeness like none other. And so began my journey.



Jane Davis and Snickers Photo: Jennifer Esperanza

I was in Maine for the summer at a camp where I could spend a lot of time with the horses. I took "Blackie" to a horse show and won a few ribbons. Across the arena were a hundred girls dressed in khaki pants (jodhpurs), white shirts, black ties and red blazers. They seemed to be sweeping the ribbons. I got the name of the camp and brought it home to my parents. "I want to go there!" I declared.

And so it was. My sister and I changed summer camps and I was now drawn into the world of Hunter/Jumper. And at home, in Upstate New York, I also began riding at a place where I deepened my work with horses. Southland Farms in Rhinebeck, NY. My best friend had horses and after school we would go to the barn and ride and muck stalls. Sometimes we slept there too. I didn't think of the mice!!

And so it was. I always helped out with other people's horses. Maybe because I was the only one in my family who had anything to do with them. I went off to college. Found a barn. This repeated itself until I moved to New Mexico. Well, it continued here until one day the friend with whom I hung out with her horse said to me, "Did you ever think of getting your own horse?" BINGO! "WHAT?!" I thought, "No! Never!" (Con't. next)

2017 Officers and Board

President Eldon Reyer laespuela2@gmail.com 505-690-9465
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Facebook page manager Cindy Roper croper56@gmail.com
Website manager
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.



I called my 90-year-old father and asked, "Dad, why didn't you ever get me a horse?" "I don't think you ever asked," he responded.

And so I began the journey of looking. I knew I did not want a rescue for my first horse. I wanted to know that he (I ended up with a mare) came from a good family. It took about a year. I met many. Until my instinct told me, "This is the one." I had always dreamed of a paint horse and there she was on Dreamhorse.com.

When I met Snickers we bonded almost instantly. Her owner commented. She stood next to me and sniffed and nuzzled me. I haltered her and rode her. We seemed to have an ancient connection.

A few weeks later I returned to bring her home. On the drive back to Santa Fe from Roswell the trailer had a flat tire. It was close to five on a Saturday. We were nine miles outside of Roswell. Wal-Mart was open and had an auto shop. We turned around and my friend unloaded Snickers where we stood on a big patch of grass together for about an hour. That was another bonding time. At ten years old, she had never been off of her ranch where she lived with her whole family, two legged and four. Two weeks before I picked her up her mother was bitten by a rattlesnake and died. This was traumatic for everyone, including Snickers.

She settled in to her new home quite easily. Over the years I have worked with her on non-verbal communication. She now increases her gaits and decreases them with me moving my energy up and down and simple verbal cues like a kiss and a cluck. Communicating on this level feels so connected with her and makes our relationship even stronger.

As a psychotherapist and horse lover, I had heard about a new modality called Equine Assisted Therapy. It was a modality that connects humans and horses in a healing process. Taking the next steps, I got credentialed to do this profound work and recently spent six days at Standing Rock, ND and got credentialed in "Becoming One With the Spirit of the Horse."

My first horse, Snickers, has turned out to be my dream horse. She is an incredible teacher to all who come to Riders of the Sage. My hope is to increase the number of horse people who come experience our work. It is layers beyond just feeling good. She, along with me, teaches people to de-stress and work on communication and other issues. She has turned out to be an amazing partner and first horse!

Time to Renew!

Our memberships run January to December, so now's the time to renew! Remember that in addition to monthly meetings and the newsletter, members may enjoy free personal use of the grounds' arenas (simply contact a Board member), inclusion in members-only events like our organized group trail rides, and discounts for public events like clinics and shows. Plus, you're helping support the broader horsemen's community through education and advocacy programs. Following discussions at both Board and general meetings, dues have been raised \$5 to help cover rising expenses (including our event insurance). This is the first dues increase in many years, so we hope it doesn't deter you from renewing. Renew in person at the next meeting (cash or check, please), or download and mail your form and payment through the website link: <http://www.nnmha.net/membership.html>



Construction Expected at the Grounds

The NNMHA Board had a meeting in mid-December with the Santa Fe County planning manager and the engineering firm hired to replace sewer lines to serve the remodeled buildings at the County Fairgrounds. The permanent sewer line easement crosses the NNMHA Grounds along the east side of the property, passing through the Fair trailer parking area, the current round pen location, old trail course and angling under the fence near the northeast corner of the property. After discussing issues of concern to NNMHA including scheduling, safety, hookups, depth of trenches, and replacement of fencing and surface, the Board authorized a temporary construction easement about 40-foot wide. The timing of the project will depend on a number of factors beyond NNMHA control, but the firm's best estimate is that the project will disrupt our bathroom use for about one month and could begin around March 1. Gate locks will change soon; members in good standing may still use the grounds for personal use until construction, but call a Board member (Helen Newton, Eldon Reyer or Karen Denison) for entry so we can coordinate.

Board of Directors Changes

Sharp-eyed readers will notice our Board directory has changed since the last newsletter. For personal reasons, Rocco Fancellu has suddenly resigned and the remaining Board wishes him well on his next endeavors. We are grateful for his service as Board President last year. Eldon Reyer has stepped up from Vice-President to fill the vacancy and Director-At-Large Lisa Gordon has moved to VP. Following our bylaws (sections covering officer succession are unchanged from the 1989 original), the remaining Board members will seek to appoint a new Director At-Large promptly. If you would like to volunteer or have a member in mind who you think would be a good addition, please contact any Board member.

Proposed events for 2017

At the last couple of Board and general membership meetings, we've spit-balled ideas for programs and events we might like to do for 2017. Here's a partial list, some of which would be for members-only and some public events. Do you have a wish list item? Any interest in the ones listed? **We can't do everything**, so we'll put our efforts toward the activities which have support from members. Please call, email or talk with any Board member.

Open arena evenings in summer

Tack swap at the Grounds

Rails & Trails Show Series

De-spooking clinic for multi-use trails

More group trail rides

Barn tour day

Clinicians—any suggestions?

Big trail obstacle course (outside of arena)

Trailer Rodeo or trailering skill-building day

Basic groundwork for problem-solving

Potluck/movie night at the Grounds (summer)



Winter Trail Ride: Las Tetillitas Loop

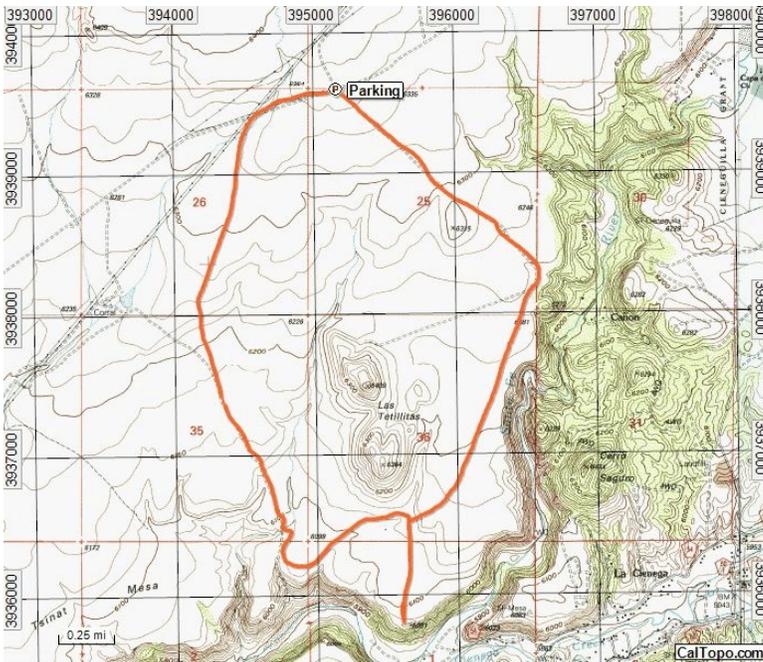
Karen Denison

When higher-elevation areas are socked in with snow and many mid-elevation trails are inaccessible due to muddy roads, it can be difficult to find places for a pleasant winter ride. Though not the most exciting location (mostly flat), the road and open terrain of the southern part of the Caja del Rio (part of the Cerros del Rio Volcanic Field) can offer a welcome diversion. The “Las Tetillitas Loop” circles two small volcanic cones on the eastern edge of the volcanic field with overlooks into the Santa Fe River Canyon along the approximately 6-mile route.



If you don't own it yet, lay hands on the very good Caja del Rio map <http://cajadelriomap.weebly.com/> or the USGS 7.5-minute Tetilla Peak topographic quadrangle map. Since there are so many user-made trails and two-tracks in the Caja, it can be very helpful to have GPS skill but not essential for this route. Although there are no signs, the BLM terrain is open enough that a map and a general sense of direction will get you around the two-track loop. Don't even think of going without a map, though.

As with all the Caja, this is a volcanic area with fine soil spread thinly over it. The two-tracks are not wildly rocky, but if your equine has particularly sensitive feet, boots or shoes may be in order.



Approximate route only

Directions: Take Airport Road WEST past HIPICO. Turn RIGHT onto gravel CR 56C. The first cattleguard is near the HIPICO back gate. Proceed carefully 3.1 miles farther, up the hill and making no turns; park on the left just past the 3rd cattle guard. Note: the BLM maintains a designated shooting range at the crest of the mesa in two old gravel pits. You are likely to hear shooting, especially on weekends. You will be two miles farther south.

The road can be rough in a few places, particularly the first, short hill. It can be slippery when wet but seems to dry sooner than other areas. After heavy rain or snow, give the road a few days to dry.

(Disclaimer: As with any trail ride, please go with a friend and be prepared!)

