



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

February 2017

Trail First Aid

General membership meeting, Feb. 22
Old Pecos Trail Inn
6 p.m. for dinner; meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

You're happily trail riding with a friend, but her horse spooks and she ends up groaning on the ground. What do you do?

David Varela, longtime instructor at the EMS Academy, knows the answer! Come hear his interactive presentation because we can all use a refresher before the better weather gets us back out on longer rides. See you there!



Internet photo

The Last Newsletter

If you haven't renewed, this will be the last newsletter announcement you'll receive. The membership list will be adjusted at the end of February and the new membership roster sent to members in good standing at the beginning of March.

Renew at the meeting or by mail using the form on the club's website:

<http://www.nnmha.net/membership.html>

My First Horse

Carolyn Hansen
Centaurus Ranch Boarding Stable

My first horse was a beautiful bay, Polish-type Arabian mare named Aalina.

When I was young, I rode with my cousins since no matter how I begged there was never a horse under the Christmas tree. Through the years I always managed to work with horses, and was fortunate to ride horses belonging to others.

While I was at University of Arizona taking pre-vet courses, I worked at an Arabian ranch during the summer. I fell in love with the beautiful, elegant, affectionate Arabians.

When I moved back to Santa Fe (I was raised here), I went every other year to the Arabian Nationals in Albuquerque. One year I attended a barn tour and on a stop at Woodcreek Arabians in Los Lunas, I met a young couple starting up a breeding/showing operation. We became friends and I purchased my first horse from them. They threw in a free breeding to one of their stallions.

We bonded quickly. She was very possessive and would come up to me in the pasture for loving and run off the other horses if they came up for attention also--she did not want to share. She had an easy going, laid back disposition so I could trust her with less experienced riders.

She had one big fault: she bucked when asked to go into a lope. With my previous experience I



felt confident I could deal with this issue—I always loved a challenge in my younger years.

So I proceeded to trot, never asking for a lope, as the many hours and months went by. One day, I felt ready to ask for a lope and it was a success, no bucking!

Trail riding has always been my favorite activity and she became a very steady reliable trail horse. But she did occasionally take me by surprise. I was leading a group ride at a trot, relaxed and happy. Next thing I knew I was on the ground. She bucked me off at a trot which was something I never expected! No injuries just major embarrassment. It was the only time she ever bucked me off. But she had to do the unexpected just once more. I had always been told horses can't buck going uphill. She proved that wrong on another group ride. While going up a steep incline, she



Aalina and her foal Aarora

bucked and I wound up in front of the saddle horn on her neck. I stopped her quickly still on the steep incline, completely stunned, wondering how I was going to get back in the saddle. No easy task but with the help of four people on the ground I was able to return to my saddle, never getting off.

I still had that breeding available and had always wanted to raise a horse from a foal. So she became a brood mare. Her first foal was a lovely bay filly I named Aarora. Aalina was such a great mom and my friend gave me a deal I couldn't turn down so I rebred her. Her second foal was a colt, I named him Aachatez which meant friend. We called him Chewy for short since he was very mouthy as a foal.

I tragically lost Aalina in a freak birthing with her third foal. She was a fabulous first horse and I will always cherish the time I had with her. She left me with two wonderful foals which helped soften the loss.



2017 Officers and Board

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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.



January 25, 2017 General membership meeting: Marica Hefker and the Mongol Derby Santa Fe Sheriff's Posse Building Karen Denison

As I was posting the notice for the last general meeting onto several online calendars, I was reminded of how many fascinating activities and events are available nearly every day in Santa Fe. So I was especially impressed and grateful for our outstanding turnout for speaker Marica Hefker's presentation. We filled the Santa Fe Sheriff's Posse building with a crowd of approximately 60 people, all seats taken with a few folks standing in the back!



Just part of the room for Marica's talk

In respect to the audience and speaker, we waived our usual general meeting and opened with just a speaker introduction.

Marcia explained that the Mongol Derby is an annual event staged by an adventure tourism organization called The Adventurists, and a large portion of their operation is earmarked for local programs and charities. A portion of the rider entry fees also goes to a charity chosen by the rider—in Marcia's case, a local Raton charity. Riders must go through a serious application process to be considered for the Derby, although long-distance riding experience is not required. Forty-two people arrived at Ulan Batar to begin the event.



Marcia Hefker and herder *Photo: Mongol Derby*

The course was 635 miles and ran roughly south to north last year, starting closer to the Gobi Desert and finishing in the mountains very close to the border with Russia. The course changes every year and is not marked with signposts or flags—riders are given GPS instruction on the first day as the route (which may be cross-country) is navigated solely with maps and GPS. Riders also wear SPOT trackers so race managers can keep in touch. Nearly all the gorgeous photos in her presentation were supplied by the professional photographers that followed the course.

Horses supplied by local herders run the gamut of colors but all were the tough, small ponies which Marcia described in their general appearance and ability as if fast, little Arabs had been mixed with tough mules. Riders met strict weight limits for themselves and gear, although the ponies are routinely used by much larger Mongol riders.

The race was broken into 25-mile legs with a vet check at each station. The horses needed to be found in good condition, or penalty delays were assessed to the riders. A new horse was chosen by the rider at each station from a highlined string and a goodly part of a rider's success on the ride was in choosing the right horse. Marcia supplied a wealth of anecdotes about how the Mongol herdsman would clandestinely help with the choice, then the ensuing rodeo as horses were saddled and mounted. It would be very safe to say that the typical training and handling that a Mongol pony receives is far less



than our horses!

Ride hours were set for an approximate 12-hour window and going over to reach a station was penalized--but there were ger (yurt) accommodations at each station and sometimes that was worth the penalty. Because of the length and difficulties of the race (there were numerous injuries, some requiring air-lift), it was natural and sometimes pre-arranged that riders would partner for portions of the course. Thus it was that Marcia had found herself in the company of two other riders the final couple of days--and they chose to finish in a tie together, seven-and-a-half days after starting. The next finishers were several hours behind and continued to straggle in over the next three days. Twenty riders (of the original 42) finished the race.

Marcia Hefker's presentation was co-sponsored by NNMHA and the Santa Fe Horse Coalition. If you know someone who would give a good presentation or demonstration, please contact a Board member because events like these only happen with member participation.

Thanks this month go to the Santa Fe Sheriff's Posse for low-cost rental of the venue. Particular shout-outs go to members Julie Belt for preparing the space and providing AV equipment, Piar and David Marks for overnight hosting of Marcia and her husband, Joyce Davis for some of the program coordination, and yours truly was responsible for coffee and cookie set up. See you next month!

Board and Committee Changes

At the February Board meeting, current elected officers appointed member David Marks to fill the open Director At Large position. This brings us back up to a full Board of Directors following the resignation of Rocco Fancellu in December. David and his wife Piar (who is current president of the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition) have horses and two charming miniature donkeys at their home near Lamy. David has been a volunteer and participant in numerous Association events in the past year and his input will be welcomed on the Board.

Betsy Walker has been induced to help keep our website up to date, and replaces Trish Hug who has gone on to bigger things as VP for Communications with the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition. Cindy Roper continues to do an excellent job with our Facebook page! Thanks are due to all of them for helping out.

Help Wanted!

Newsletter editor Karen Denison would really like some more help with publicizing our meetings and events. If you'd be able to post to online calendars, create flyers for distribution and/or write meeting announcements for the newspapers, would you please give her a shout?

We're also looking for someone who would help us look after the Grounds, so that we have someone to help coordinate maintenance and just keep tabs on the place. Happen to be in the neighborhood regularly? We'd love to hear from you.





Santa Fe National Forest Management Plan

Yes, it seems like an interminable process, but we're in the next public comment period for Santa Fe National Forest's planning process. To be useful, comments are requested by February 15th.

The "Initial Components" draft details the mission statements for all facets of the whole Forest and includes things like air/water quality, and management approaches for already-designated special areas like Wilderness, Wild&Scenic Rivers, and National Recreation Trails in SFNF. General recreation issues are discussed starting on page 46. Everyone is encouraged to comment and a form helps guide that process; equestrians should weigh in on trail/recreation use to avoid surprises later.

Initial Components:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd530212>

As a separate but parallel part of planning, SFNF must re-assess whether there are any parts of the Forest which should be recommended for changing to Wilderness designation. USFS cannot change the status themselves (that takes an act of Congress), but sections that they recommend must be managed to retain the wild characteristics which they have. That would likely mean no closings to current uses but that there would be no new development of roads, parking lots, expansion of the trail system or promotion of heavier use in those areas. Draft maps showing the areas under consideration may be viewed online and there is a separate comment form for the Wilderness recommendation process.

Wilderness:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd530212>

Grounds Construction Update

The county has put the sewer replacement project out to bid; deadline for bids is February 28, so nothing is likely to be happening with this project until mid-March. However until bids are received and reviewed, we won't have a time line for the work itself. The entry locks for the Grounds have been changed in advance of the work. Members are welcome to use the property as usual (personal use) until the work begins, but please call a board member ahead of time so we can tell you if anything else is happening and arrange for entry. Bathrooms will remain locked until warmer weather to protect the pipes.



New Mexico Horse Council

The NMHC is an organization which advocates for horse issues and legislation statewide. While their most obvious presence may be an informational booth during the State Fair, they also offer scholarships and low-cost gelding clinics. NNMHA supports the efforts of NMHC and encourages you to learn more and become a member via their website at <http://www.nmhorsecouncil.org/>



Association Wish List

While we're always interested in more people volunteering their time and enthusiasm, we also could use a few physical items which might be hanging around your barn or garage. So we're posting a "wish list" for those items! They don't need to be new, just need to have some useful life remaining. If you can donate, there will be more money for other events and projects.

A wheelbarrow – for mucking and using to move construction/repair supplies. Our last one bit the dust.

Muck rakes – You know, ones with a few more teeth left.

Saw horses – for cordoning off parking and construction work

Couple of large tarps – for helping collect and move weeds/trash or using as trail obstacle

Members-Only Longe Line Clinic

March 11th-12th 10am to 1pm, NNMHA Arena

Spring is almost here, making outdoor riding season around the corner! Trainer Marlow Morrison returns by member request with another opportunity for learning this fundamental groundwork technique. These reduced-fee, one-on-one lessons are offered as a special for NNMHA members only. From Marlow: *Proper longe line work will help get your horse fit and mentally ready for work from the safety of the ground on those windy spring days. This clinic will help you get started with a program tailored to you and your horse's needs, abilities and goals. If you're interested in working in side reins, ground driving and long lining, this work lays the foundation. Green horses and beginner handlers welcome!* For more information visit <http://www.longeforward.com> Please register directly by email marlowmorrison@icloud.com or phone 505-670-9374.

\$60 includes (1) 45 min session each day; \$10 audit admission includes both days

Sign up deadline March 7th, 6pm by phone or email

Day 1

Overview of goals for horse and handler

Assessment of equipment and horse's ability

Beginning training session for your horse that focuses on building strength and confidence in movements that translate to under saddle work.

Beginning development of handler's eye

Day 2

Build a short term program for your horse that will translate to riding to help reach your goals

Handler will longe under trainer's instruction to develop eye, timing, technique and build confidence on how to safely ask for more from your horse.

