



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

January 2018

Mountain Man: James Ohio Pattie

General membership meeting, January 31
Pecos Trail Café

6 p.m. for dinner; meeting begins at 7 p.m.



Steve Dixon as James Ohio Pattie

Decades before New Mexico became an American Territory, 20-year-old James Pattie arrived in Taos to begin his stint as a fur-trapping, adventuring mountain man. But unlike many others of his era we have some of his individual history, as he shared his first-hand accounts with a writer who published them in 1831. Steve Dixon uses this material as a basis for re-creating J.O. Pattie in a Chatauqua-style presentation about the lifestyle and landscape of those early mountain men in New Mexico. Steve has been a regular presenter at Rancho de las Golondrinas, NM State Parks, Hunter Education programs and more.

As always, our meeting is free and open to the public so invite your friends to come. Steve's special presentation is also supported by the

New Mexico Humanities Council.

If you plan to come for dinner, please RSVP to NNMHA@live.com so we can let our restaurant hosts be prepared. Hope to see you there!

Ridge Riders

Julie Belt

A schedule for the Ridge Riders rides for 2018 is being worked up right now, and will be available at the January 31, 2018 meeting. We'll be sharing the task of hosting rides next year, so think hard about where you'd like to lead a ride and let me know. If you have a particular place you'd like to see on the ride list for next year, contact me at juliabelt@gmail.com and let me know!

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>

We sure hope you can join us next year and ride New Mexico's beautiful trails!



In training horses, one trains himself.

*—Antoine De Pluvinet,
French Riding Master to King Louis XIII*



Seasonal Substitutions

As some of you may know, last winter Joyce Davis and her family decamped for the season to GotNoMorgan Ranch near Florence, Arizona. Everyone seemed to enjoy it immensely and they decided to repeat the pattern this year. So until the end of March, Joyce and all the two- and four-leggers are enjoying even balmy weather than us. Joyce assures everyone that they shall return at the beginning of April.

While Joyce is away, member Tina Ossorgin has stepped up to help shepherd meeting programs for the coming three months. If you'd like to talk about speakers, or ideas for other programs this year, contact her at tina@ossorgin.com.

Joyce's secretarial duties will be fulfilled by yours truly, Karen Denison, through March. So for inquiries about the newsletter, membership and (at least temporarily) club history/records you may contact me redmule@kdt.net.

Just a mention that it speaks very well of Joyce's work for NNMHA that two people are required to carry her load while she's away! Best wishes for Joyce's "vacation" and we'll look forward to her return.

Classifieds

Do you have something equine-related to sell? Short classified ads may be placed by any member in good standing. Please send an email to Karen Denison, redmule@kdt.net

NORTHSIDE BOARDING AVAILABLE:

Ride out on miles of trails, 5 minutes from NM599/La Tierra Rd., reasonable rates and relaxed atmosphere. Prices from \$300-375 for pens 12' x 60' and larger. Arena, round pen, 3 tack rooms, wash rack and trailer parking. Horses fed grass mix or alfalfa twice daily. Owners provide extras, we feed. Owner lives on premises. Contact Carolyn, Centaurus Ranch, 474-0821.

2018 Officers and Board

President	David Marks	david.marks.sf@gmail.com	505-466-0306
Vice-President	Lisa Gordon	lisagordonsculptures@gmail.com	505-660-8014
Treasurer	Helen Newton	sfcolores@sprynet.com	505-470-1396
Secretary	Joyce Davis	carlotta_burra101@icloud.com	505-490-5390
At-large	Julie Belt	juliabelt@gmail.com	850-621-6811
<u>Adjunct/Committees</u>			
Grounds manager	Open		
Ridge Riders	Julie Belt	juliabelt@gmail.com	850-621-6811
Programs/speakers	Joyce Davis	carlotta_burra101@icloud.com	505-490-5390
Newsletter/Membership	Karen Denison	redmule@kdt.net	505-469-2698
Facebook page manager	Cindy Roper	croper56@gmail.com	
Website manager	Betsy Walker	betwalk@cybermesa.com	505-466-1643
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.



Trails Outlook

Karen Denison

To say the weather this season has been unusual is an understatement. The Sangre de Cristo range is currently running at 13% of average snowpack and the short-term outlook doesn't promise much change. Daily temperatures are two or more degrees above average leading to higher evaporation of moisture that does exist. Santa Fe Master Gardeners are recommending increased / continued watering of trees and other perennials which are being unusually stressed this year.

For those who trail ride, this quarter has been a guilty pleasure. Trails which would normally be unavailable in January continue to be in good shape and we've had a bounty of sunny, pleasant days to ride.

However, the downside is the continued drying of the landscape, most especially the backcountry. While we entertain dreams of mountain adventures come spring and summer, this may be a year where land managers are forced to order closure notices perhaps earlier than ever before. "Closure" is the strictest form of regulation and means no entry (there are a few exceptions but they must be coordinated with the land agencies). Closure orders typically come only after testing moisture conditions in potential fire fuels and issuing other levels of restriction (no backcountry fires, use of fire arrestors on engines, or no fires even in picnic areas).

Within recent memory, Santa Fe National Forest has ordered closures beginning in May or June which have lasted until monsoon rains have relieved some of the fire risk. And when conditions are bad enough for that agency to call for closure, other land managers tend to follow suit: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, state parks, and individual private business land owners. Since snowpack is so low and temperatures so warm, the idea has been raised that closures may need to happen as early as March or April unless conditions change dramatically.

As a former recreational permittee of SFNF (my company offered guided hiking and snowshoeing tours), I'm altogether too familiar with closure restrictions. But this is not a case where shooting the messenger is appropriate. Under dry conditions, brush fires can ignite with a single spark and as many as 90% of wildfires have human cause. As a group, the public is bad at fire prevention.

So go out and enjoy your public lands now. There are some seasonal road closures (check with agencies for specifics) yet there are still lots of places to ride. But pray for moisture soon!

Membership renewals

Now is the time! Please come to the January meeting to renew in person, or renew by snail mail. You can download a "fillable" pdf form from the website <http://www.nnmha.net/membership.html> which can be brought to the meeting or mailed per instructions on the website. Trail rides, clinics, newsletter, monthly programs and arena use are all benefits of membership.

