



# Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

November 2018

## Santa Fe Pony Club

General membership meeting, November 28

Pecos Trail Café

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



Like the Boy Scouts and 4-H programs, the United States Pony Club began as an organization aimed at youth. Chapters have operated in the Santa Fe area since the 1980s, but now Pony Club embraces

an adult division, too! They focus on horsemanship education and training with monthly field trips, lectures, and mounted exercises. And they welcome members who don't yet have their own horse. Come learn a little bit more about them from a member of Santa Fe Pony Club at our next meeting.

Elections will also take place at our November meeting, along with a mention of other Club business. It's right after Thanksgiving, so take a break from leftovers and come meet your fellow members for a nice evening.

As always, the meeting and program is open to the public. *If you plan to come, please RSVP to [NNMHA@live.com](mailto:NNMHA@live.com) so we can let our restaurant hosts be prepared.* Hope to see you there!

## Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.

Rufina Taproom, 2920 Rufina St, Santa Fe



Come join NNMHA members for a Christmas celebration at Second Street Brewery's RUFINA TAPROOM, Saturday, December 1 starting at 6:30 p.m.. Order food and drinks as desired (separate checks), we'll have a Naughty Santa gift exchange (maximum \$20) and a nice, casual toast to the holiday season!

This event replaces our December meeting. And it's at 6:30 so you can see the Madrid Christmas Parade and still make it to the party.

We hope to see you all there!

*We have almost forgotten how strange a thing it is that so huge and powerful and intelligent an animal as a horse should allow another, and far more feeble animal, to ride upon its back.*

*—Peter Gray, 1988 Olympic Equestrian*



# Equine Trail Sports Trail Challenge

December 8-9, 2018

Shelley Bachicha

Competitive trail riding just got more interesting and more fun! For the first time in New Mexico, riders can compete the same way they learn, by adding skills as they are acquired. With Equine Trail Sports, the rider can choose the level of difficulty they attempt at each obstacle. Does your horse love water? Choose level 3, the highest level of difficulty for a water obstacle. If you can't jump a fallen log, showcase how well you can walk over the log by choosing level 1 for a jump obstacle. Does your equine have more difficulty on cold and windy days? Adjust your difficulty level during those weather conditions to maximize your fun and safety, one obstacle at a time. Customize your ride experience to best fit you and your equine on that day, at that time.



There are three events the weekend of December 8th and 9th in Santa Fe. These include ALL equines at all levels of training. This is a two day event with three chances to compete. Saturday's events will be held at the NNMHA arena. Event One is In Hand Obstacles in an arena. This gives owners a chance to showcase good ground manners and maneuverability while in hand. We would love to see minis, donkeys and horses for this part. All sizes are welcome. At each obstacle there are three different levels of difficulty from which you can choose based on your equine's skill set. Event Two is Mounted Obstacles. This gives owners a chance to showcase good manners under saddle in an arena setting. There are still three varying degrees of difficulty at each obstacle that you declare at the time of the obstacle. The third event is on Sunday when we will take all the skills out to the Caja Del Rio for a real trail ride with judged obstacles along the way.

Riders experience the Equine Trail Sports "Ride for Fun, Ride to Learn" motto during each event's awards ceremony. Each Judge shares with the group the criteria the judge used to judge the obstacle and the judge offers tips for improvement. During "Judges Shout Outs" individual riders are recognized for

## 2018 Officers and Board

President David Marks david.marks.sf@gmail.com 505-466-0306  
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Treasurer Helen Newton sfcolores@sprynet.com 505-470-1396  
Secretary Joyce Davis carlotta\_burra101@icloud.com 505-490-5390  
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### Adjunct/Committees

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Programs/speakers Joyce Davis carlotta\_burra101@icloud.com 505-490-5390  
Newsletter/Membership Karen Denison redmule@kdt.net 505-469-2698  
Facebook page manager Open  
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.



special achievements by each obstacle judge. It may be that the Judge wishes to recognize a rider who experienced a “train wreck” but kept composed or the Judge may wish to recognize a rider that shows amazing skills.

An event like this judges and volunteers to keep things running smoothly. Judges are asked complete an online tutorial and webinar before the event so they will be consistent with other judges nationwide. People who would like to help judge can go to [www.equinetrailsports.com](http://www.equinetrailsports.com) and choose the “Judge” tab. It will walk through the training and once a few people are ready we will do a webinar to get everyone on the same page.

There is a membership fee for ETS and that registers you and your horse(s) and they keep track of all competitions and awards. Since we are coming in at the end of the year it will be best to pay a “day” fee for this event, then join in 2019 for the whole year. I plan to host at least four weekends like this in 2019 if not more!! I will have a High point over all prize for this weekend plus loads of other prizes!!! Come out to join the fun!

Planning an event like this for December the weather is very much a concern. I will make any weather-related cancellation decisions on Tuesday Dec 4th. I want all involved to have fun and learn and be safe. If it is too cold or dangerous the event will happen next year.

Equine Trail Sports promises to bring a challenging and fun time to New Mexico. Any questions feel free to mail your ride host, Shelley Bachicha – [ShowDogGal@msn.com](mailto:ShowDogGal@msn.com)

[Ed. Note: More information on Equine Trail Sports events, judging criteria, and examples are also available on their website: <https://www.equinetrailsports.com/>]



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## **Ridge Riders Wrap-Up**

**Julie Belt**

The last Ridge Riders' ride of 2018 was enjoyed by a very small group of riders on an absolutely gorgeous day up on the Rowe Mesa. Miles of beautiful scenery were appreciated and the riders had the added adventure of exploring a unique and hidden US Forest Service petroglyph site.

The NNMHA's Ridge Riders are looking for a new ride leader for organized trail rides in 2019 -- is that you? If you're interested in taking up the reins of this group, let us know by contacting Julie Belt at [juliabelt@gmail.com](mailto:juliabelt@gmail.com).



## Report on October Ranch Riding Clinic

Karen Denison

Because of concerns about weather and footing, the members' Ranch Riding Clinic taught by Terry Berg Oct 13 was moved indoors from the NNMHA arena to Terry and Helen Newton's own arena near the Santa Fe Downs, about seven miles away.



*Terry Berg gives instructions*

Their balcony lounge overlooks the indoor arena and we began with coffee and donuts. Introductions were made, then everyone received handouts printed from the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and Appaloosa Horse Association (ApHA) describing the rules for their show events in Ranch Riding: what a judge is seeking, and what is considered a flaw. Although this stuff is aimed at those who show, Terry was using it to outline the basic characteristics of a good working ranch horse: a forward-moving horse that is responsive, calm, and balanced for the rider. Of course in order for a horse to become those things, the rider must be trained and give consistent cues for things like turns, stops and lead changes. Hence a clinic!

After warming up, the participants formed a skirmish line and attempted to perform simple transitions of walk–stop–walk–stop at precise points from one end of the arena to the far wall. Well, for most of the riders “simple” isn’t so simple. Taking extra steps to transition, drifting from a line or stopping crooked was obvious for those like me auditing from the balcony. With just a bit of discussion and practice, performance improved. Progressively, Terry asked riders to add trot, extended trot, backing and lope (if riders were willing) on that straight line. At each new stage, Terry discussed ways to cue for transitions or how riders could help balance their horses.

Joyce Davis and her daughter Annarie brought a big pot of chili with fixings for lunch (thanks, gals!) then the afternoon was spent working on circles, bends, and getting correct leads (for those loping). The “final exam” was riding a simple show pattern one-at-a-time to test how well riders had progressed over the course of the clinic.

The members who attended certainly got their money’s worth, as Terry was very generous with her time and expertise. **She’s offered to do another members’ clinic on November 17<sup>th</sup>. [See the flyer for details.](#)**

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*Riding is a partnership. The horse lends you his strength, speed and grace, which are greater than yours. For your part you give him your guidance, intelligence and understanding, which are greater than his. Together you can achieve a richness that alone neither can.*

*– Lucy Rees, writer, equine ethologist and horse trainer, and videographer*

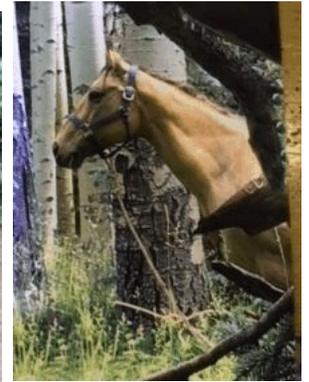


## Classifieds

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](mailto:redmule@kdt.net)

### FOR SALE

I'm selling my 13 yr old Mare, Jazzy Boston Miss. Poco Bueno and Alexander Hand bloodline. Needs to go to an experienced rider. 14.3 hands, loads & trail rides. Call Warner Johnson, 505-470-5134 asking \$2,500.00



EQUINE BODY BALANCE GIFT CERTIFICATES are available for equine bodywork--ask about special for buying three at once. Susan Smith, [info@susansmithsantafe.com](mailto:info@susansmithsantafe.com) 505-501-2478 [www.susansmithsantafe.com](http://www.susansmithsantafe.com). Offer also extends to human Ortho-Bionomy bodywork.

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### LYNN CLIFFORD

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<https://www.santafehorse.com/>

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